

Pancakes For a Cause

NEWS, PAGE 8

Lauren Stalnaker, 5,
enjoys her pancakes,
sausage and eggs. Some 200
people attended a fundraising pancake
breakfast, Saturday morning, at American
Legion Post 177 in the City of Fairfax.

Jara Honored as Officer of Year

NEWS, PAGE 3

Fairfax Ends Historic Basketball Season

SPORTS, PAGE 12



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News



PHOTOS BY JOHN NASH/OLLI

OLLI Vice President Stephen Canner, Dr. William E. Pomeranz and OLLI Executive Director Jennifer Disano.

Presentation on Putin at George Mason University

Distinguished Russian scholar and lecturer, Dr. William E. Pomeranz, addressed members of the George Mason community last week on the current political climate created by President Vladimir Putin in light of recent Russian actions in Syria and Ukraine.

Dr. Pomeranz described how Putin desires to make his country a major player in world politics. "The Russian economy is in bad shape," however, because of the impact of dropping oil prices and the effect of economic sanctions resulting from Russia's adventurism into Ukraine.

While the Russian people are feeling a serious economic pinch, Putin's popularity within the country remains high as he has been able to mask the deteriorating economic situation faced by the Russian people with a strong sense of nationalism derived from Russian actions in Ukraine and the Middle East. How long this imbalance can continue is unpredictable, Dr. Pomeranz noted. One of Putin's diplomatic goals is to split the U.S. and European Union's solidarity in applying economic sanctions as a result of conflict in Ukraine. The sanctions come up for review this summer and already some E.U. businesses want them relaxed to open markets.

Other internal problems Russia is facing are a poor technology base, continued government and business corruption, declining international trade and investment, and minority population unrest. "Russia must begin to solve these and many other internal problems before they can present a serious opinion on the world stage," said Dr. Pomeranz. Putin wants to maintain an in-



Dr. William E. Pomeranz, addresses members of the George Mason community.

ternal status quo and hopes that time is on his side. Both of these remain to be seen, he noted. It was clear from Dr. Pomeranz's presentation that understanding Russia today continues to be as challenging as it was during the Cold War when Russia was a part of the former Soviet Union.

Dr. Pomeranz currently serves as deputy director of the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies of the Woodrow Wilson Center. The presentation was co-sponsored by the Mason Office of Global Studies and the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Mason. OLLI Mason provides first rate educational, social, and cultural opportunities for active seniors in Northern Virginia. More information about OLLI Mason and its events can be found at olli.gmu.edu.

—JOHN NASH/OLLI

FAITH NOTES

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

An Easter Cantata, "Risen," will be presented at **Jubilee Christian Center** on Easter Sunday, March 27, 8:45 and 11 a.m. services. The center is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Road,

Fairfax. There is no Easter Sunday evening service. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org.

Lenten Soup Supper. Fridays from Feb. 26-March 18. 5:30-7 p.m. will be offered at **Holy Spirit School Cafeteria**, 8800 Braddock Road, Annandale. Meatless soup suppers on Fridays during Lent, followed by the Stations of the

SEE FAITH NOTES, PAGE 3

Jara Honored as Officer of Year

Feted at City Police Department's awards ceremony.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Officer Alex Jara is just 26, yet he's already served with the military overseas and with the City of Fairfax Police Department for three-and-a-half years. And, he has done such an outstanding job that he was just honored as the department's Police Officer of the Year.

While pleased with the recognition, though, he is quick to share it with others. And as a patrol officer, he knows the value of teamwork.

"I was genuinely, very surprised to hear that I was nominated for the Officer of the Year award," said Jara. "I honestly wasn't expecting it, especially not after the conclusion of the City's involvement with the Jesse Matthew [attempted capital murder] case, and the outstanding work conducted by the CID [Criminal Investigations Division] and Det. Michael Boone."

Furthermore, said Jara, "I, in no way, believe [that] award should be given to any one individual. I wouldn't have been able to accomplish what I have accomplished if it wasn't for the best squad on the street, Night-1. Everything we do is as a team, from responding to robbery calls to eating dinner."

Jara was feted during a Feb. 28 ceremony before his parents and fellow officers. Chief Carl Pardiny said the City Police Department focuses on consistently providing the highest levels of service to the community.

"Our members maintain a broad range of skills, demonstrate professional conduct and provide exceptional value in law enforcement services," he said. "I challenge each member to work hard, both as an individual and as a member of their team, in order to surpass the expectations of our citizens and distinguish themselves as exceptional law enforcement professionals."

DURING 2015, Pardiny told Jara, "You rose to the challenge and provided superior service to both the community we serve and to the Department. I take great pleasure in recognizing you as Police Officer of the Year."

Actually, Jara decided to go into law enforcement after serving a tour in Iraq as a Navy medic with the U.S. Marines. There, he said, "I observed the 'Iraqi Police' terrorizing the communities in which they were involved. Instead of protecting the citizens of their country, they themselves would commit heinous crimes. However, in Iraq, they were not charged for their crimes and were essentially 'protected thugs.' It was very sad to see the people suffer, knowing they had nowhere to turn."

"I know Iraq and the U.S. are different in very obvious ways," he continued. "But see-



Police Officer Alex Jara with his parents and Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne (wearing tie) at the awards ceremony.

ing someone truly suffer alone – especially knowing there was no help offered during such a traumatic event – bothered me. What concerned me all the more were the cowards who got away and were never prosecuted. I want to help people. I want to help provide comfort and security, and I want to go after criminals who are hurting the innocent. This is why I decided to pursue a career in law enforcement."

And Jara is certainly making his mark with the City of Fairfax. During the ceremony, Pardiny shared several examples of Jara's "superior service" to the local residents and spoke directly to the young officer.

"Beginning in March 2015, we began to receive reports of harassment, unreported thefts and robberies, and assaults occurring in and around the Americana Grocery," said Pardiny. "At nearly the same time, crimes of disorderly conduct, assault and burglary increased at the Oak Knoll Apartments. The close proximity of both locations led you and other patrol members to suspect that the root cause was an influx of gang members to the area."

"As CID investigated the burglaries and assaults, you provided valuable translation services because many of the victims and all of the suspects were Latino and primarily spoke Spanish. [Besides] translating during interviews, you spent dozens of hours reviewing and translating social media posts made by the suspects. You also showed great initiative and acted as a liaison with the owners and staff of the Americana Grocery."

Pardiny said Jara's efforts prompted the

Americana Grocery staff and the Oak Knolls residents to provide invaluable information about the gang members committing these crimes. The information Jara gathered helped secure multiple arrest warrants for the perpetrators. And that December, the intelligence he obtained on local gang members helped solve a murder in Alexandria.

Pardiny also noted a July 19 shooting during a drug transaction at a home on Chain Bridge Road. Through a thorough investigation conducted by the CID, the suspect was identified and warrants obtained for his arrest. Patrol members learned that the suspect had relatives and close friends living in the Ardmore area. So during each shift, Jara and other patrol members diligently searched there and in other areas of the City.

More than a month later, on Aug. 27, Jara was patrolling near the Americana Grocery when he saw a male walking toward the Maple Street 7-Eleven, a business frequented by Ardmore residents. Jara chose to investigate further since that person resembled the general description of the shooting suspect.

"Your consistent dedication to duty ... brings credit and distinction to the entire agency."

—Carl Pardiny, Fairfax City Police Chief

"As you neared him, you visually confirmed the person you were observing was, in fact, the suspect," said Pardiny. "Immediately, you radioed for additional units to assist and, moments later, you and other patrol members were able to safely apprehend a violent felon."

"The community we serve expects to have a Police Department that is responsive to its concerns and aggressive on combatting and preventing crime," said Pardiny. "Your consistent dedication to duty and self-motivation serves not only to enhance your professional reputation, but also brings credit and distinction to the entire agency. Congratulations for a job well done, and thank you for your service to the citizens of Fairfax."

AFTERWARD, Jara said he likes being a City police officer because, even though he's assigned to the Field Operations Division Patrol Section, he's gotten the opportunity to be part of the Emergency Services Team (SWAT) as well as to assist other sections, such as CID, with various cases and investigations. "This is an opportunity I likely would not have received at another agency," he said.

Moreover, said Jara, "I wouldn't have the confidence to do this job if it wasn't for my squad mates. They know me, whether it be the sound of my voice on the radio or the stance I display while speaking to a suspect; they can interpret my responses and respond accordingly. They've always had my back. It's an overwhelming feeling when you hear those sirens and you know your co-workers – friends, family – are on their way to help you. I understand that I'm obviously a little biased towards my squad and dispatchers, but who isn't? Again, it was an honor to receive such an award."

FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

Cross in the Church at 7 p.m. Free. Contact Lambie Renner, lrenner@holyspiritchurch.us.

Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is restarting its "Living Free" support groups for the Spring on Wednesdays, starting on Mar. 30, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will

cover "Stepping into Freedom," "Concerned Persons Group" (for family and friends of addicts), "Understanding and Overcoming Depression," "The Image of God in You," and "Handling Loss and Grief." There will also be support groups meeting on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or seewww.jccag.org.

Commission Recognizes Outstanding Women in Fairfax County Government

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Edwyna Wingo of the Chantilly area began her career with Fairfax County as a nurse in the Health Department on Sep. 1, 1965 and worked her last full day Oct. 1, 2011.

Wingo graduated from the University of Virginia nursing school in 1964 and decided she didn't much care for rotating and night shifts. Looking for a more regular schedule, she found work in "Home Health," providing health services for individuals outside the hospital.

"The bug of public health really stuck," she said. "And I was on the cutting edge of public health back then. Home visits, community clinics, I did it all. And I never gave up on my love of patient care."

Wingo now works as part-time on special projects for the Fairfax County Health Department, including a car seat program for families whose income is low enough to make them eligible. She started with the project four years ago and said to date thousands of car seats have been given out.

Wingo is the longest-tenured of 12 women honored by the Fairfax County Commission for Women on March 1, Super Tuesday, at the Government Center prior to the Board of Supervisors regular meeting.

"I was absolutely floored when I got the email," Wingo said. "Fairfax County has been very dear to me. I've had opportunities in Fairfax County with the Health Department."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova spoke to the group before moving into the Board's auditorium to begin the regular business meeting.

The Chairman opened with her response when people ask her what the obstacles were to her achieving her success in public elected office.

"I've benefitted from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County," Bulova said, referencing the late Jean Packard, the first woman to serve as Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Audrey Moore and Kate Hanley.

"They've paved the way for me," Bulova continued. Then transitioning and acknowledging the 12 women being recognized by the Commission, she thanked them each for "your knowledge, and the way you served Fairfax County."

Eleven women, each having spent 40 years or more with Fairfax County govern-



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova addresses the Fairfax County Commission for Women recognition program.

"I've benefited from years of wonderful leadership of women in Fairfax County."

—Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova

Laura Sizemore, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School and in her second year as the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women, was in the audience for the recognition ceremony.

"I bring the perspective of teenagers to the commission," Sizemore said, "I know the school side of issues like dress code and sexual harassment."



Lake Braddock Secondary School junior Laura Sizemore is the student representative to the Fairfax County Commission for Women.



Pat Harrison is Deputy County Executive for Human Services and spoke on behalf of the Commission for Women during the proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.



Donna Bird a business analyst for Special Projects with the Department of Public Safety Communications.



Pat Burton is a management analyst II with Department of Cable and Consumer Services.



Beth Imming is a public health nurse II with the Department of Public Health, Annandale office.



Linda O'Brien is an administrative assistant III with the Reston District Station of the Fairfax County Police Department.



Mary Rezzarday-White is currently library assistant II for youth services in the Fairfax City Regional Library.



Doris Robey is a manager in the Department of Tax Administration, Personal Property and Business License division.



Nancy Stallings is an investigator for the Departments of Planning and Zoning, and Code Compliance.



Deanna Velasco is an administrative assistant IV in the Department of Family Services, Self Sufficiency Division, Fraud and Investigation Unit.



Edwyna Wingo works as a public health Nurse II with the Department of Public Health.



Susan Woodruff retired Jan. 21, 2016, as Director of the Department of Human Resources.

ment, represented a collective 433 years of service.

The 12th, Deputy County Executive for Human Services Pat Harrison, was scheduled to speak on behalf of the Commission for Women during a proclamation ceremony with the Board of Supervisors recognizing March as Women's History Month.

To see the 12 women honored for their vast careers with Fairfax County, Sizemore said it inspires her to work hard and do what she wants with her life, "not what people want me to do," she said.

The junior said computer science is a big passion and she plans to pursue a career in science, technology, engineering and mathematics, or government.

Time to Spring Forward

Daylight Saving Time begins this Sunday, March 13, at 2 a.m. So before going to bed Saturday night, make sure to turn all clocks, watches and the time on electronic devices forward one hour.

Real Food for Kids Expo at Robinson Secondary

Kate Sherwood, Executive Chef for Center for Science in the Public Interest, will be the emcee for the March 12 Real Food For Kids Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo and a culinary competition judge. The event is free to the public and will be fun and informative for the entire family. The Expo will be held on Saturday, March 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Rd, Fairfax. Register at <http://www.realfoodforkids.org/expo.html>.

You can learn about food writing, promotion and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. And, everyone will enjoy watching a culinary competition among 11 student teams challenged to prepare a delicious and nutritious school breakfast, lunch or snack. Fairfax County Public Schools Food and Nutrition Services director Rodney Taylor, a pioneer in farm-to-school dining programs, and executive chef Paul Davis will present their new specialty salad and sandwich lines for students and teachers as well as sample creative new school lunch dishes. Free admission. Drawings for prizes from Williams-Sonoma and Earls Kitchen + Bar. Lunch available for nominal prices.

Paul VI High Redevelopment

The second community meeting on the future of the Paul VI High School site is set for Thursday, March 10, at 7 p.m., at American Legion Post 177, at 3939 Oak St. in Fairfax. At that time, the IDI Group Cos. will present its master plan for the property's redevelopment.

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Bringing Back the Electric Chair

In a word: Barbaric.

No doubt Virginia and Texas will be the last two states to continue with the death penalty until, in evitably, evolving standards of decency lead the U.S. Supreme Court to declare that the death penalty is unconstitutional.

But fear of loss has motivated the Virginia General Assembly to amend a law that allows prisoners facing execution to choose between lethal injection and the electric chair so that the electric chair is used if drugs for lethal injection are not available.

It's barbaric, and execution debacles with electrocution and unproven drugs for lethal injection could speed overall rejection of the death penalty.

Most representatives from our area voted against, but in the House of Delegates, which voted 62-33 for the electric chair, Dave Albo, Jim LeMunyon and Vivian Watts voted in favor; Tim Hugo didn't vote but registered that he intended to vote yes. (Voting no were Jennifer Boysko, David Bulova, Eileen Filler-Corn, Charniele Herring, Patrick Hope, Mark Keam, Paul Krizek, Mark Levine, Alfonso Lopez, Bob

Marshall, Ken Plum, Mark Sickles, Marcus Simon and Rip Sullivan. Kathleen Murphy didn't vote but registered that she intended to vote no.)

The Virginia Senate voted for the electric chair 22-17. From our area, only Dick Saslaw voted in favor of the electric chair. Voting no were George Barker, Adam Ebbin, Barbara Favola, Janet Howell, Dave Marden, Chap Petersen, Scott Surovell and Jennifer Wexton.

EDITORIAL

Residents of the 35th Senate District could rightfully question whether they are getting the repre-

sentation they expect from Senator Saslaw (D), who without doubt will continue to be reelected until he chooses to retire. Saslaw voted for mandatory use of the electric chair if lethal injection drugs are not available, worked to kill legislation that would protect consumers from predatory lending and interest rates of more than 200 percent, and was chief patron of the notorious proffer bill, which, if signed by Gov. Terry McAuliffe as passed, will result in localities losing the ability to temper costs of development and likely property tax increases.

Making Good Choices On Saint Patrick's Day

Washington Regional Alcohol Program (WRAP), will offer the 2016 St. Patty's Day SoberRide program, providing free cab rides to would-be drunk drivers throughout the Washington-metropolitan area next Thursday, March 17.

SoberRide will be available for 12 hours starting 4 p.m. on St. Patrick's Day and continuing until 4 a.m. on Friday, March 18 as a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

Make your own plans to celebrate safely by having a designated driver, celebrating where you can take public transportation or spend the night. But if those plans go awry, area residents celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI (8294) for a no-cost (up to a \$30 fare), safe way home.

For more information, visit www.soberride.com.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

A Step Backwards for Virginia

Virginia New American leaders respond to the nomination of Ken Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court.

Today (March 8), the Virginia Senate Republican Caucus nominated former attorney general and 2013 gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli for the Virginia Supreme Court.

After the Senate failed to secure the votes necessary to put Appeals Court Judge Rossie D. Alston Jr. onto the State Supreme Court, the Senate Courts of Justice Committee promptly certified Cuccinelli by a party line vote for the position. He will be voted on by the full Senate tomorrow and it appears that the Republicans have the votes to secure his placement on the Court.

Despite the fact that Governor McAuliffe's pick, Justice Jane Marum Roush, is an eminently qualified and highly regarded jurist who has presided over many high-profile cases, including the trial of D.C.-area sniper Lee Boyd Malvo, Republicans have refused to give her a full 12-year appointment.

From immigration to contraception to climate change denial to LGBT rights, Ken Cuccinelli has built a career on extreme conservative positions that are out of step with Virginia today. He also has a long and sordid history of antipa-

thy towards New Americans, immigrants, and Latinos in particular:

❖ In 2013, gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli went so far as to compare immigration to pest control and immigrants to RATS.

❖ He drafted a bill that would deny unemployment benefits to employees who do not speak English.

❖ He derided the 2013 Congressional Immigration Reform Plan as legalization and "amnesty."

❖ He threw his full support behind Arizona's anti-immigration SB1070 law.

❖ As a state senator, he sponsored legislation aimed at stripping U.S.-born children of undocumented immigrants of their right to citizenship.

❖ As attorney general he embraced policies that would authorize police to check the immigration status of anyone they stop or arrest.

❖ He has been a strong opponent of in-state tuition for undocumented immigrants brought to the country at no fault of their own and at a young age by their parents.

J. Walter Tejada, Community Leader and former Elected Official, stated, "From Donald Trump

inciting his supporters by calling Latino immigrants 'thieves' and 'rapists' or candidates calling for a divisive southern wall or hateful rhetoric being used against New Americans, it seems all we've heard is anti-immigrant nonsense spewing from Republican politicians. The proposed placement of Ken Cuccinelli on the Virginia State Supreme Court would represent a very significant step backwards for Virginia."

Alfonso Lopez, Democratic Member of the Virginia House of Delegates, stated, "As the son of a Latin American immigrant and the first Latino Democrat elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, it's incredibly difficult to hear the vitriol that Republicans use against immigrants day in and day out. Today, by proposing Cuccinelli for the State Supreme Court, Republicans are endorsing a person with a long history of doctrinaire, 'Trumpesque' positions that are out of step with a modern Virginia."

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority, stated, "On International Women's Day, the Republican Party could not have nominated a more divisive anti-immigrant, anti-choice individual to serve on Virginia's

highest court. Cuccinelli's extreme views have no place on the Supreme Court. Virginia's judicial system should not be the victim of political maneuvers."

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia, stated, "I am extremely disappointed that Republicans in the General Assembly would nominate an individual to Virginia's Supreme Court with such an extensive track record of radical opposition to immigrants and New Americans. Someone who has so ardently campaigned to amend the U.S. Constitution to end birthright citizenship should not be allowed to serve on our Supreme Court and trusted with defending Virginia's Constitution."

The Honorable J. Walter Tejada, former Member of the Arlington County Board

The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, Virginia State Delegate, 49th District

Leni Gonzalez, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Marvin Figueroa, President of the Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia

Tram Nguyen, Executive Director of New Virginia Majority

Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Chair of the Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations



LETTERS

How Come Cat 'Beats' State Champions?

To the Editor:

Really? How come?

Your Feb. 25-March 2 cover story was about a cat and buried on page 12 was the article on both Robinson Boys and Girls swim teams winning State Titles!

How your cover story could be more important and newsworthy than the Robinson title wins is a mystery to me.

We in the Burke area are very fortunate to have two great high schools in our area. For most of

the Connection's history, Lake Braddock events/sports have always taken precedent for the Connection even when Robinson has had similar outstanding achievements. However, even when it is just a Robinson achievement the Connection sees fit to not recognize it.

These students and their hard won accomplishments deserved to be on the front cover—not a cat.

Mickey Garrelts
Burke

Lifting Stigma from Drug Users

To the Editor:

I believe that your in-depth look at Northern Virginia's heroin subculture ("Police Arrest 20 for Heroin Use in One Day," Connection, March 2-8, 2016) was a step in the right direction towards helping to lift the stigma from drug users. You chose to expand upon the stories of the 20 people recently apprehended for the possession and/or distribution of heroin instead of simply focusing on the crime itself. I applaud how the fine men and women of the police departments of Loudoun, Fairfax, and Prince William counties chose to opt for rehabilitating those arrested instead of simply detaining them and risking that they return to drugs. Instead of placing a "bandage" on the chronic issue,

they decided to treat the wound itself in order to prevent it from happening later on. It was very thoughtful and sensitive of them to realize that this wasn't just a private trouble in the lives of the addicts, but instead a public issue in their community that needed to be rectified. Helping the victims out of their addictions instead of just incarcerating them may have also helped in reducing the number of deaths attributed to heroin and the health consequences that result from its use as well. All in all this was a very well written paper and your dedication to providing the whole truth about the situation is refreshing and welcomed.

Preston Taylor
Springfield

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
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Mark your calendars now EASTER PAGEANT DATES

Friday, March 18, 7:30pm
Saturday, March 19, 2pm & 6pm
Sunday, March 20, 6pm
Friday, March 25, 7:30pm
Saturday, March 26, 2pm & 6pm

Immanuel Bible Church is located at the corner of Braddock and Backlick Roads, just off the Beltway in Springfield, Virginia. We invite you to worship with us this week. Sunday morning worship services are held at 8, 9:30, and 11 am. Sunday evening worship service at 5:15 pm. Spanish language service at 12:30 pm.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

The Prentice siblings (from left) Luke, 2, Emma, 4, and Connor, 6, have fun at the breakfast.

Pancakes for a Cause

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Some 200 people enjoyed a pancake breakfast, Saturday morning, at American Legion Post 177 in the City of Fairfax. But besides offering tasty food, the event also raised money for Ellie's Hats, which collects and donates hats to children with cancer.

Organizing it were Ellie's Hats founder and president, Jay Coakley, board member Brian Drummond and volunteer Kristen Dallhoff. And attendees included local residents, City Mayor Scott Silverthorne, Councilwoman Janice Miller, Police Chief Carl Pardini and Fire Chief John O'Neal.

"The American Legion generously donated the space, did all the cooking and contributed money toward the food," said Dallhoff. "And we did a 50-50 cash raffle, and the winner donated everything back to Ellie's Hats."

The March 5, buffet-style feast featured red velvet, plain and apple cinnamon pancakes; salted-caramel and strawberry-cream cheese toppings; blueberry, strawberry and apple compotes; whipped cream, chocolate chips, bacon, sausage, eggs, hash-brown potatoes, biscuits, juice and coffee.

FAMILIES AND FRIENDS visited while enjoying a relaxing meal together. And in one corner of the room, Minh Kinsey and Gwen Wotring – who both crochet hats for the organization – sold Ellie's

Hats T-shirts, sweatshirts, ball caps, knit caps, tote bags and car magnets.

"This is such a nice event for such a worthy organization," said Miller. "I'm overwhelmed and overjoyed with the turnout," added Drummond.

Also delighted was Coakley, a schoolteacher who started Ellie's Hats in 2013 to cheer up one of his students, a then-5-year-old named Ellie, who'd been diagnosed with leukemia. When she lost her hair from her treatments, she wore hats to school every day, so Coakley organized a hat drive to get her more. Realizing he could bring similar joy to other young, cancer patients – and also raise awareness about the disease – he founded the nonprofit Ellie's Hats.

"The majority of our hats come from hat drives from schools and various groups, such as churches and scouts," he said. "It's a great community-service project. We also have people in every state, plus Canada – and even a lady in South Africa – who knit and crochet hats for us."

In January, for example, Ellie's Hats sent out 44 boxes, each containing three to five hats. Coakley said Wotring, alone, made and sent more than 200 hats, in the past couple years.

"We send the hats to hospitals and clinics, as well as to the individual children," said Coakley. "And we don't just send them to the kid with cancer – who gets all the attention – we also send hats to his or her siblings."

Not many people donate hats for

spring and summer, but they're needed then, too. So Ellie's Hats purchases baseball caps, sunhats and crocheted-cotton hats for warm weather, plus cartoon-character hats. "Most of our hats are donated, but we buy some, such as a particular superhero or cartoon character a child wants," said Coakley. "We want them to be special hats because they're something that a kid's going to wear every day."

In addition, the organization supports hospitals such as Inova Children's Hospital that treat pediatric cancer patients. And it recently donated \$10,000 to that hospital for its Pediatric Oncology Family Support Fund.

Often, parents will write Ellie's Hats and tell its volunteers how much the gift of a hat meant to their child. "For example, a mom will say, Johnny was having a terrible day, and then his hat arrived – and it put a big smile on his face," said Coakley. "So our hats also let children know that someone cares."

As for Saturday's pancake breakfast, he was pleased with both the turnout and the generosity of those attending. "Today was great," he said. "It was a family event, and that's what made it so much fun."

Besides that, said Coakley, "We raffled off 20-some items, ranging from \$100-\$500. And the 50-50 raffle raised \$800, yielding \$400 for us and \$400 for the winner. But the woman who won – former Fairfax High School teacher Marilyn Larsen – gave back her half."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Fundraiser attendees included (from left) Mayor Scott Silverthorne, Councilwoman Janice Miller and Fire Chief John O'Neal.

Breakfast event raises funds for Ellie's Hats.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Woodson High sophomore Lindsey Filbey and dad Kevin both chose red velvet pancakes, sausage, bacon and fruit.

Wotring also had a special time because one of the children she crocheted a hat for came to the breakfast wearing it. Ben Bellavia-Cortezi is 8 and the son of Leslie Bellavia and Meg Cortezi. "I had the first of two brain surgeries and was on a treatment path which included in-patient physical rehabilitation, 30 radiation treatments to his brain and spine and high-dose chemotherapy, basically a very long road ahead."

Nonetheless, she said, "Ben's inquisitive nature, maturity and love of all things silly have made him a hospital patient favorite. And his bravery and positive attitude are incredibly inspiring to his family and friends."

When Bellavia discovered Ellie's Hats last July, Ben hadn't lost his hair yet, but she was researching all organizations dedicated to helping children. "I wanted Ben to smile and have moments of happiness during this difficult ordeal," she explained. "When we received our first shipment of hats last summer, he was excited to receive the T-shirts and hats and just know that



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAY COAKLEY

Ellie's Hats volunteer Gwen Wotring and cancer patient Ben Bellavia-Cortezi, wearing the Star Wars hat Wotring crocheted for him.

someone else out there was thinking of him."

SHE SHARED a picture of Ben in his new hat with Coakley, who posted it on the Ellie's Hats Facebook page. Ben was wearing a Star Wars T-shirt in the photo and Coakley asked if anyone could find him a Star Wars hat. "We then received a few shipments of Star Wars hats, but there was one in particular that Ben loved," said Bellavia. "It was the hand-crocheted R2D2 [that Wotring made], and it's his favorite."

For more information on Ellie's Hats, go to ellieshats.org.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

George Bass fills his plate with red velvet pancakes and toppings.

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Gifted Dancers, Thrilling Artistry

George Mason University School of Dance presents Dance Gala.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

“These are exciting times for the Mason School of Dance; we want to share our excitement with all of Northern Virginia,” said Susan Shields, director School of Dance, George Mason University. Shields was describing the upcoming Mason School of Dance concert as an opportunity to watch and meet with Mason’s talented student dancers.

Shields also noted that the Gala supported scholarships for Mason’s “exceptional dance students.”

“We want everyone to know that the evening of dance will have something for everyone and every taste,” said Shields. “This year’s gala event will feature four works from the best of contemporary choreographers performed by Mason’s gifted dancers.” And there will be a celebratory dinner with a very special guest speaker; Robert Battle, artistic director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.

The dance works to be performed include “Impetere” from award-winning choreographer Nick Pupillo. It is a fearless, invigorating work about human relationships performed by ten dancers, both male and female. There is also “Bhangra Fever” developed by choreographer and Tony nominee Donald Byrd. It is a high-energy, colorful, cross-cultural work set to infectious music from northern India.

Audiences will also witness “Vespers,” an absorbing, provocative, athletic work for two dancers by David Grenk set to music by Grammy Award winner Tom Waits. And finally, Mark Morris’ “V,” a modern work performed to the classical music of Robert Schumann. “V” refers to the Roman numeral for five as in a quintet. The performance by the Mason dancers is the first of “V” to be performed outside of the Mark Morris Dance Group.

Mason students Taylor Pasquale (Northern Virginia) and Joey Day (Herndon) spoke of their hunger to dance. For Pasquale, dance allows her “to express feelings through movement; using my body as an instrument of expression.” Dancing provides an opportunity to visually “communicate ideas that can be difficult through language



PHOTO BY TIM COBURN/
COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

George Mason University School of Dance students Donyae Bush and Charlotte Samaroo.

Where and When

George Mason University School of Dance presents 2016 Mason Dance Gala Concert, Mason Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performances: March 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$15 for seniors and Mason students, \$25 for adults. Tickets by phone 888-945-2468 or online at www.cfa.gmu.edu.

❖ Note: There is a George Mason University Dance Gala Concert Celebration and Dinner on March 19. Tickets start at \$150 per person. For information regarding sponsorships or tickets for the Mason Dance Gala Concert Celebration, contact Cody Clarke at cclark17@gmu.edu or 703-993-4749. The program for the March 19, Celebration and Dinner:
5 p.m. Champagne reception, preview and insights with guest choreographers, students and faculty
6 p.m. Dinner with special guest Robert Battle, artistic director, Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater. Battle will speak about his career and the art of dance.
8 p.m. Mason Dance Gala Concert Performance

alone.” Pasquale will perform “Bhangra Fever.”

Day described how Mason welcomed him “with open arms, even with my unconventional hip hop background. The school seemed like a community, and I found that appealing.” For Day, “dance brings a certain fulfillment, it challenges mentally, physically and emotionally” as he delves into an art that is so human. Day will perform in “Impetere” and “Vespers.”

An opportunity to witness choreography that is joyful, soulful and visually arresting is coming at the 2016 Mason School of Dance Gala with performances by an emerging generation of accomplished dancers.

CALENDAR



PHOTO BY GREGOR EISENHUTH

Singers, Irish dancers and actors tell the story of the spirit of Ireland on Sunday, March 20 at George Mason University’s Center for the Arts.

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.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Woodbridge Flute Choir “A Touch of Irish.” 8 p.m. Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Twenty-five members who play flute, piccolo, alto flute, bass flute and contrabass flute. Part of Bonita Lestina Performance Series. www.fairfaxva.gov.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Real Food for Kids-Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Culinary Challenge and Wellness Expo: Learn about food writing and photography, family meal planning, school gardening and school food. Watch 11 student teams compete to create a delicious school breakfast, lunch or snack. <http://realfoodforkids.org/expo.html>.

Richmond Ballet II. 7:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. A performance of classical and contemporary dance, including “The Friar’s Tale,” “Excerpts from Stolen Moments,” and “Rachmaninoff Rhapsody.” \$20-\$34. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Sarah Kaufman. 6:30 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Pulitzer Prize winning dance critic Sarah Kaufman talks about her book, “The Art of Grace.” Free. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3075.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Jewish Plays Project Contest. 6:45 p.m. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Readings of three plays selected from the top 10 Jewish Plays Projects plays of 2016. The audience will vote on the winning play. \$10-\$18. www.jccnv.org. 703-537-3000.

Silhouette Artist. Noon-5. Dawn Price Baby, 2905 Distinct Ave., Fairfax. Original silhouettes are \$25, duplicates are \$15, and framing is available for \$20. Reserve a spot at <https://fairfax2016.eventbrite.com>.

The Saga of Martha Washington’s Will. 2 p.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Katrina Krempasky with the Fairfax County Circuit Court Historic Records will relate the travels of the First Lady Martha Washington’s will following its removal from the Courthouse by a Union soldier during the Civil War until the document was

returned to Fairfax County in the early 20th-century. Free. 703-385-8414.

Jewish Plays Project. 6:45 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Part play reading and part American Idol, the Contest is a night of theater, drinks, and conversation which invites audience members to help decide the future of Jewish arts by using their cell phones to vote on the best new play. \$10-\$18. jccnv.org.

TUESDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 15-20

Used Book Sale. 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. On Sunday, book sale is open from 2-5 p.m. Geshur Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Gently read books for sale from \$0.50 to \$3. 703-978-9789.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Lunch N’Life. Noon-2 p.m. Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. The guest speaker will be Fairfax County Supervisor, Mr. John Cook (R-Braddock). Reserve by March 11 by calling 703-620-0161. 410. If you need a ride to the event, call 703-323-4788.

Out of the Past. 10 a.m. Green Acres Senior Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Susan Gray, Curator of the Fairfax Museum and Visitors Center, will discuss how First Lady Jackie Kennedy selected new china and crystal for the White House and the reasons behind the choices. Attendees may bring 1960s crystal glassware for show and tell. Non-members welcome. Free. 703-273-6090.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

City of Fairfax Senior Center Appraisal Event. 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Proceeds go to the City of Fairfax Senior Center. \$5 admission. \$5 per appraisal. 703-273-6090.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 18-19

2016 Mason Gala Dance. 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Event supporting scholarships for School of Dance students. Special guest Robert Battle artistic director of Alvin Ailey

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 11

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 10

American Dance Theater. \$15, \$25.
cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Music at the Box Office. 7:30 p.m.
Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run,
Fairfax. City of Fairfax band
welcomes the coming of spring with
an evocative selection of classic
compositions for the silver screen.
The program features music of
famous 20th-century Hollywood
composers. \$10, \$16.
www.fairfaxband.org.

The Peace that Almost Was. 2 p.m.
The Civil War Interpretive Center at
Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee
Highway, Fairfax. Author Mark
Toohey, president of the Institute on
Religion and Democracy, will tell the
story of the 1861 Washington Peace
Conference, a bipartisan, last-ditch
effort to prevent the Civil War. 703-
591-0560.

SUNDAY/MARCH 20

**Celtic Nights: The Spirit of
Freedom.** 4 p.m. Center for the Arts
George Mason University, 4373
Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. Cast of
14 accomplished singers, Irish
dancers and actors tell this story of
the spirit of Ireland to more than 50
communities in the U.S. \$29-\$48.
cfa.gmu.edu. 888-945-2468.

Easter Event. 3:30 p.m. King of Kings
Lutheran Church and Preschool,
4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Lots of fun
activities, picture with the Easter
bunny, egg hunts for different ages,
and decorating Easter trees. Eater
Egg hunt for special needs children,
too. Children up to sixth grade.
kofk.org. 703-378-7272 ext. 225.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Children's Performance Series.
10:30 a.m. Old Town Hall, 3999
University Drive, Fairfax. Good
Gollie, It's Mollie. Free.
fairfaxarts.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

LUNAFEST 2016. 5:30 for VIP. 7:30
p.m. Angelika Film Center, 2911
District Ave., Fairfax. \$25/\$35/\$55.
Celebrates and inspires women
through the art of film and
community fundraising. This national
film festival features short films by,
for and about women. Proceeds go to
Girls on the Run of NOVA and Breast
Cancer Fund. lunafest.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

**Local Civil War Sites in Fairfax
Station, Clifton and Centreville.**
8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Departs from Fairfax
Station Railroad Museum, 11200
Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station.
Local Civil War Historian, John
McAnaw, will lead the tour. Good
walking shoes advised. Brown bag
lunch or eat at a nearby Centreville
restaurant. events@fairfax-
station.org. 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Hands On Activities Day. 1-4 p.m.
Fairfax Station Railroad Museum,
11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax
Station. A variety of education
activities including train modeling
and history will be featured. Local
experts may be available to
demonstrate techniques with track
layouts, scenery design, building and
painting. Other activities might focus
on artifact restoration and
preservation. Materials are included
in the admission. Free-\$4.
www.fairfax-station.org. 703-425-
9225.

Ongoing

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War
Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500
scholarship to a high school senior who resides in
Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend
college or community college in fall 2016.
Information and application instructions can be
found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

Cell Phones for Soldiers. March 1-April 18. Liberty
Tax, 5622-G Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Donate
unwanted cell phones to help active duty military
and vets call loved ones. 703-323-5580.

Carolina Shag. Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/
Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax.
Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner
menu. \$8. Under 21 free. nvshag.org.

Palingenesis. Feb. 19-April 9. Epicure Cafe, 11104
Lee Highway, Fairfax. New art exhibition. Curated
by Mojdeh Rezaei pour and Hannah Son, Palingenesis
brings together an eclectic group of local and D.C.
artists working in a variety of media. 571-212-7227.
epicurecafe.cart@gmail.com.

"Shrek the Musical JR." April 22, 23, 29, and 30.
Burke Community Church, 9900 Old Keene Mill
Road, Burke. Come see this talented group of young
actors ages 8-18 as they travel Far Far Away with
everyone's favorite ogre, a wise-cracking donkey,
and a cast of fairy tale misfits. \$14.
www.nvplayers.com.

FUN-Exercise. Thursdays, noon-12:50 p.m. Grace
Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St.,
Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a
moderate level exercise class with music and current
events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength
Training using stretch bands and weights both
standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is
\$5. Contact Chris Moore at moorefitt@yahoo.com or
703-499-6133.

Adventures in Learning. Mondays, 8:30 a.m.-2:45
p.m. April 4-May 9. Lord of Life Lutheran Church,
5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. community, personal
development, finance, and more. Afternoon
breakouts are book club, bridge, and canasta. Bring a
brown bag lunch. \$30. www.scfbva.org. 703-426-
2824.

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. April 15-May 9.
Various locations. Celebrates three decades of arts in
the City of Fairfax. fairfaxspotlight.org.

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703-569-9862 www.messiahumc.org

Holy Week and Easter Schedule
March 20 - worship at 8:15, 9:30, and 11:00 am
March 24 - Holy Thursday service at 7:30 pm
March 25 - Good Friday service at 7:30 pm
March 26 - Easter Egg Hunt at 10 am
March 27 - Easter Sunday worship at 8:00, 9:30, and 11 am
Servicio de Alabanza y Resurrección a las 11 am

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Fairfax senior Noe'll Taylor dribbles the ball up the floor against Cosby in the 6A state quarterfinals on March 4 at Robinson Secondary School.



Junior guard Karah Murphree will be one of Fairfax's top returning players next season.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Ends Historic Season in State Quarterfinals

Rebels finish 27-3,
including undefeated
regular season.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax girls' basketball team made history and got a taste of the big stage during the 2015-16 season. Head coach Pat Deegan said the Rebels laid the foundation for a successful future.

Fairfax's season came to an end on March 4 when the Rebels lost to two-time defending state champion Cosby 53-44 in the 6A state quarterfinals at Robinson Secondary School. Facing a pair of Division I recruits in 6-foot-3 center Tyra Whitehead (Wake Forest) and guard Jocelyn Jones (North Carolina), Fairfax trailed by three in the fourth quarter but wasn't able to come all the way back.

The Rebels were down 34-31 late in the third quarter when guard Karah Murphree drove to the basket, made a shot and an official called a foul. However, rather than having a chance for a three-point play and to tie the score, the official called Murphree for an offensive foul and the bucket was waived off.

"I definitely thought," Murphree said, "I had the and-1..."

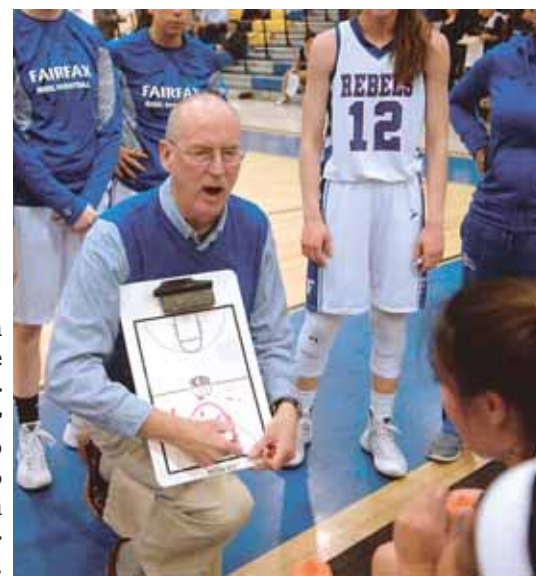
Cosby followed with a 3-pointer at the other end, extending its lead to six.

"It certainly blunted our charge at that time, but that's basketball," Deegan said.



Fairfax senior Jalita Montgomery was a primary contributor for a team that finished the season with a 27-3 record.

Fairfax head coach Pat Deegan led the Rebels to an undefeated regular season and trips to the Conference 6 and 6A North region championship games.



"I think we accomplished so much," said Taylor, Co-Conference 6 Player of the Year. "We made history at our school and I couldn't ask for better teammates."

Fairfax will graduate a trio of starters — Taylor, Montgomery and Alexandra Wendling.

"What these kids did was pretty awesome," Deegan said. "If I go back and look at the preseason predictions, a lot of people didn't even have us in the top four in our conference to start the year off. When you look at what we put out in the floor — [5 feet 3], 5-4, 5-5, 5-8, 5-8 — we're pretty small, but they didn't realize that. They like to play the game of basketball, they're great teammates, they bought into the whole thing ...

"What they did was I think they built a foundation for the kids to have even more success next year."

Murphree and junior Dominique Webster figure to be two of the Rebels' top returners next season.

"Hopefully [the seniors'] greatest legacy will be kids like Emma [Heslep] will sit there, and Dom will sit there and say, 'I'm going to be next year's Jalita and Noe'll,' and if they do that, their legacy will continue on."

Deegan, who has also coached at Westfield, Madison and Bishop O'Connell, said he has enjoyed his time with the Rebels.

"I've coached for 34 years," Deegan said. "I probably haven't had as much fun as I did with this group in the last 20 — maybe never. They were just a really special group to work with."

SPORTS ROUNDPUPS

Spartans Lose in State Quarterfinals

The West Springfield boys' basketball team, the No. 3 seed from the 6A North region, lost to 6A South runner-up Oscar Smith 48-41 in the state quarterfinals on March 4 at Old Dominion University.

The Spartans ended the season with a 23-6 record. West Springfield finished atop the Conference 7 regular-season standings, finished runner-up in the conference tournament and took third place at the region tournament.

The Spartans will lose forwards Lewis Djonkam and Brock Vaughn, and guards Andrew Storr and Spencer Askew, among

others, to graduation.

Robinson Lax Teams to Open Regular Seasons

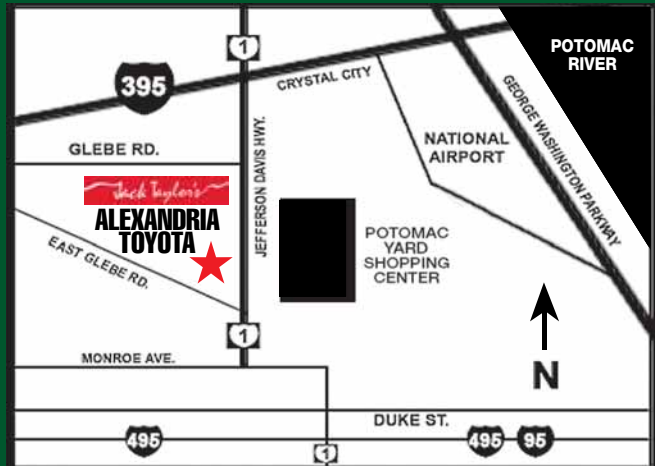
The defending state champion Robinson

lacrosse teams will open their respective regular seasons next week.

The boys' team, which has won the last two state titles, will host Broad Run at 7:15 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15. The Rams are led by head coach Matt Curran. The girls' team, led by head coach Liz Case, will travel to face Broad Run at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday.

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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.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Finding Balance When a Parent Movies In. 3 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Learn how to balance your time and establish boundaries while caring for your children and your aging parents. Free. RSVP to 703-204-4664. InsightMCC.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 11-12

Free Dental Services. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. NOVA Medical Education Campus, 6699 Springfield Center Drive, Springfield. NOVA MEC partners with the Northern Virginia Dental Society to provide free dental services for low-income residents of Northern Virginia. Schedule a spot at 703-642-5297. To volunteer as a dental professional, go to nvds.org/.

TUESDAY/MARCH 15

Saturday Night in the Suburbs. 7 p.m. W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. The program features a panel of high school seniors who talk openly about alcohol and drug use, teen parties, social media, parent supervision and enabling, and communication with parents. Middle school and high school parents are encouraged to attend. www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org. www.facebook.com/unifiedpreventioncoalition.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 16

Aging-in-Place Seminar. 10-11:30 a.m. and 2-3:30 p.m. Hilton Springfield, 6550 Loisdale Road, Springfield. Learn about a program, designed for active adults 55 and older, is supported and managed by Goodwin House, a mission-driven, nonprofit organization with two residential properties in Northern Virginia. Free. RSVP not required but space is limited. Reserve at 703-575-5202 or at athome@goodwinhouse.org.

Taking Care of Me. 1 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Mary Ellen Gizzie, a certified Thanatologist, will discuss how to define and deal with stress, recognize and understand guilt and how it affects us physically, emotionally and mentally. Free. RSVP to 703-204-4664. InsightMCC.org.

Teen Trafficking Awareness Event. 7 p.m. West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield. West Springfield High School, in cooperation with the Just Ask Prevention Project, invites the community to join us for an awareness night to address the issue of sex trafficking in the region. Speakers from public services, organizations and police. justaskprevention.org. 571-348-0231.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Budget Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. Community Room, West Springfield Government Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. County Executive Ed Long and representatives from the Department of Management and Budget will be available to answer questions. Sponsored by Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield). 571-585-4540.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Breathe Out. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Fairfax United Methodist Church, 10300 Stratford Ave., Fairfax. Breathe Out has been developed to address teen stress. Registration required. breatheoutnow.wix.com/goldaward.

FRIDAY/APRIL 29

Annual Spring Event: Luncheon & Silent Auction. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Hosted by Assistance League of Northern Virginia to benefit its Operation School Bell programs. Event will feature a presentation on Identity Theft and Personal Safety. \$65, \$30 is tax deductible. lindamshilts@gmail.com or 703-424-6652. www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

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THE CONNECTION
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HomeLifeStyle

Buying or Selling?

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Here we are, once again right on the edge of the Spring/Summer real estate season when it seems like “For Sale” signs become the most common lawn ornament or condo window decoration.

With help from some knowledgeable sources like the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR), the National Association of Realtors (NAR) and some respected local experts, here’s a bit of a primer on buying or selling a property. We’re going for the basics here with a few comments about our local market.

Let’s start with our sellers, since for the most part, they have the most work to do to get the job done.

Let’s assume that you are working with an agent. Hopefully, you asked all the right questions before signing an agreement to sell. Don’t be shy. It’s okay to “interview” several agents and ask for references. Ask to make contact with their last two or three clients – not just the ones that they offer up as testimonials.

Be realistic about your asking price. “Don’t be too aggressive,” cautioned real estate agent Jennifer Boyce of Long and Foster in Burke.

Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker vice president Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon, agrees with that advice, and adds that sellers around the Wiehle Metro station in Reston shouldn’t expect a big bump in sales price just because of Metro’s arrival. Lasansky has seen sellers factor in 5-10 percent increases on that basis, but “it just hasn’t had that effect,” she said.

Think about getting a pre-sale home inspection. This could cost a bit. Think at least \$500, depending on the size and age of the property. Being proactive could help locate potential problems that might stall, or even end a sale. Even if you don’t go for the professional inspection, take a look around and get on with those repairs or more affordable upgrades you’ve been meaning to tackle. While you’re at it, locate those warranties and manuals - something that really impresses those buyers, while last-minute searches could pose a problem at closing.

Clean and get organized. Here’s where you need that thick skin. Your agent isn’t casting aspersions on your personal taste or “dissing” your kids, pets, hobbies, etc. when she tells you to neutralize as much as possible, put away the toys and pet paraphernalia, and all the other stuff that is part of our comfortable living. Your agent is merely looking out for you, and making your home appealing to the widest pool of potential buyers. Pay special attention to closets and bathrooms, and no, don’t use

the spare bedroom as the storage catch-all. If there isn’t space inside the house, consider the smallest space at a storage facility for the extra boxes, furniture, gadgets and whatnots while your property is on the market.

First impressions. That means check out curb appeal, from the condition of lawn and landscape to the front entryway. Trim those bushes. Edge that grass. Put down some new mulch, and clean up those oil spots on the driveway.

Photos. Let the professionals handle this one. Most buyers today do their scouting online. Lots of quality photos attract the most visitors.

YOUR REAL ESTATE AGENT can give you a more comprehensive checklist and do a walk-through before an Open House or to prepare for showings, but here are some of the “musts” as advised by some of our area experts:

❖ Double check for clutter, and clean, clean, clean. A thorough cleaning by a professional service is much recommended. Don’t forget the windows and the carpets.

❖ Do the “Sniff Test.” This one is critical for homes with pets or smokers. Again, put on your thick skin armour. Refrigerators, garbage disposals, trash cans and carpets can be odoriferous stumbling blocks to a good showing. Give your home a thorough airing out before show time, especially in the kitchen.

❖ Double check for minor repairs like sticking doors, burned out light bulbs, loose knobs.

❖ **Stage it** – Consider a professional “stager” or at least give each space a neutral, de-cluttered living “story” that helps buyers visualize themselves right at home. To highlight upgrades or bring attention to items/features in a room, you might add an attractive picture frame with a few well written and formatted sentences on classy writing paper. Of course, a little light music and a plate of yummy cookies make everyone feel welcome.

❖ **Put away** small valuables, jewelry and medications.

❖ **Don’t hang around** – and take Fido or Fifi with you if possible. If not, confine pets to crates or one room and be sure to warn agents in advance. Be sure you have left contact information in case of questions or issues.

❖ **Make your property accessible** – If potential buyers can only see your property from 10 a.m. until noon on Tuesdays and Thursdays, prepare for a long wait before a successful closing. Selling a home is often a numbers game. As disruptive as it can be, the more people who look, the better chance of a sale.

SEE BUYING OR SELLING. PAGE 5

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Remodeled Home Tour Set for March 12

Home evolves from center hall colonial to open plan with boldly original finishes.

BY JOHN BYRD
THE CONNECTION

A dramatic “kitchen-centric” first floor interior design solution in a 30-year-old Colonial-style production house will be featured on a “Remodeled Home Tour” sponsored by Sun Design Remodeling on Saturday, March 12.

The house at 7990 Oak Bridge Lane in Fairfax Station is owned by Andrew Smith and Madelynn McCarthy. The residence will be opened to the public from noon-4 p.m.

Purchased by Smith and McCarthy in 2002, the original house was a traditional center hall Colonial with four bedrooms. The couple, now in their late 50s, have occupied the home for 14 years.

While the 4,000-square-foot house (the couple’s second) has been satisfactory to the owners in many respects, the first floor’s comparatively small rooms, narrow doorways and builder-grade finishes had come to seem dated and cramped as the couple looked ahead to retirement years.

“We wanted our house to be more of personal residence that reflects our tastes,” Andy Smith said. “A place we can really enjoy for another 10 years, or more.”

As longer occupancy became a consideration, the production house limitations seemed glaring.

“The kitchen was space-constricted and pretty drab,” Smith said. “There was a small island with a cooktop that didn’t provide a useful working surface. Doors to the hall closet and powder room frequently obstructed traffic at the kitchen archway,



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

Fairfax Station homeowners Andy Smith and Madelynn McCarthy relocated an adjacent dining room in order to gain 78 feet for a gourmet kitchen that accommodates a large food prep island and a three-stool wine bar a few steps from the back deck. The island surface is “blue flower” granite.

which was too narrow. The kitchen clean-up area was too exposed from the family room. Overall, we wanted a more balanced, aesthetically-pleasing interior.”

An addition off the back of house was an earlier space-enhancement consideration.

“We had plans to remove the rear wall and add 800 square feet,” Smith said, “but when we looked more closely at our real requirements this approach didn’t make economic sense. Fundamentally, we just wanted a larger kitchen and pantry, and a

warmer interior that would work well for entertaining; we weren’t sure how to accomplish this.”

A seminar by Sun Design Remodeling last year unveiled to a new way of assessing priorities.

“The program prompted us to explore ideas of re-purposing space within the home’s existing footprint,” Smith said. “I suddenly recognized we were getting almost no use from our 200-square-foot formal living room. It was just wasted space.”

Details

Sun Design Remodeling will be sponsoring tour of a recently remodeled Fairfax Station home on March 12, 2016. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

Soon after the seminar, the couple contacted Craig Duroske at Sun Design Remodeling for an on-premise meeting.

“A center hall Colonial has long been one of the most popular floor plans in northern Virginia” said Craig Duroske, Sun Design’s founder and chairman. “The way people now use their homes, however, has changed dramatically in the past few decades. There’s a movement towards open, well-defined, interactive spaces, and departure from interior walls that may not be strictly necessary.”

Duroske sees his role as one of helping owners develop a plan tailored to how they want to use their home in the foreseeable future — one that will also present an appropriate interior design solution.

Once Smith and McCarthy established that the front-facing living room could be incorporated into a broader floor plan reconfiguration, Sun Design’s team began re-assigning “use zones” within the existing first floor template.

Several critical decisions followed in rapid



The bow front farm sink, six-burner stove and food prep island form the three sides of a work triangle that facilitates cooking and clean-up tasks. The custom-designed barn door (right) leads into the new formal dining room.



With its coffered ceiling and Wedgwood interior treatment, the dining room explores 18th century (Colonial-era) themes. The circa-1890’s glass-and-wood barn door mounted on rollers was created by Sun Design. The innovation provides privacy, yet allows light from the home’s west-facing rear elevation.

HomeLifeStyle

Nanny Suites Add Value

High-end live-in quarters attract au pairs and can increase property values.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Peggy Delinois Hamilton relocated to the Washington, D.C. area and began working full-time after spending eight years as an at-home mother of two children, childcare was one of her top concerns. She decided that a live-in au pair was the best choice for her family.

"I like the live-in because I don't have to worry about issues with transportation on the caretaker's part," said Hamilton. "I don't have to worry about them having competing obligations."

Finding and keeping a live-in nanny in a competitive childcare market can be a high stakes game. To lure and retain experienced, nurturing caregivers, many families shell out as much as \$100,000 to create stylishly appointed living space for their au pairs. From kitchens with marble countertops and stainless steel appliances to bathrooms with luxury showerheads and rich wood cabinetry, local designers create living quarters so enchanting and thoughtfully designed that a nanny wouldn't dream of leaving.

"If you're a live-in nanny, you want your own space. In fact, nannies won't take a job from a family that won't provide it," said Jackie Wood-Gobuluk, owner of Metropolitan Nannies in Herndon, Virginia.

The spaces most often used for nanny suites are the lower level or attic, says Christopher Dietz of Dietz Development. "We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house," he said. "We don't do Formica or IKEA cabinets. We generally use ... granite, marble or Silestone. You don't



PHOTO COURTESY OF TRUPLACE

The space serves as a nanny suite in an Alexandria home. Additional living areas can increase a property's value, say real estate agents.

want people to say, 'Wow, we can tell you really cut corners on this space.'"

Maintaining a continuity in quality while being budget conscious requires judicious planning. "We may splurge on custom window treatments and a bedskirt and save on things like furniture using retail pieces," said Marika Meyer, principal of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda.

When an Arlington, Va. family enlisted architect J.P. Ward of Anthony Wilder Design/Build, Inc. to design an au pair suite for their home, they wanted him to maintain continuity in both color and materials. A cathedral ceiling, granite countertops, and under cabinet lighting were key as he blended the rich aesthetic quality of the original home with the new space. "We used

a higher end tile and materials that blended with the rest of the house," said Ward. "It turned out to be like a high-end studio apartment that you could get high rent for."

The au pair's space has a separate entrance, something that offers privacy to both the nanny and the family. "We made it so that the au pair has an independent way of

coming in and so they're not working 24 hours a day," said Ward.

Contractors say the cost of adding a nanny suite can range from \$5,000 on a property where there is an existing bathroom and space for a bedroom to more than \$100,000 on properties where plumbing must be installed or an small addition is required. "[A] bathroom is the biggest expense because of the plumbing," said Ward.

"We try to create a close mimic of the main house and the primary kitchen and bathrooms of the main house."

— Christopher Dietz,
Dietz Development

Because such an addition requires a significant investment, Kai Tong of Hopkins and Porter Construction in Potomac, Md. encourages clients to think long term. "One of the most important and useful realizations

SEE NANNY SUITE, PAGE 7



PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

The colors of this au pair suite bathroom are similar to those used in the rest of the house.



PHOTO BY MORGAN HOWARTH

Families create spa-like living quarters to attract and retain live-in

Buying or Selling?

FROM PAGE 2

FOR BUYERS. Just as with the sellers, buyers should shop around for a trusted real estate partner. Again, ask those questions, get those referrals and be sure that your agent understands your needs and expectations and that you understand the process as they describe it.

Buyers don't have to do all that physical prep work until it's time to get ready for their actual move, but there are a lot of considerations to deal with on this side of the real estate fence, as well. The best starting place is making sure that you know what you are looking for. Single family house with an enormous backyard or a "zero lot?" A condo in an urban setting with Metro access, or a more resort feel with access to walking/biking trails or other amenities? The National Association of Realtors suggests developing a "Home/Neighborhood Wish List," prioritizing from "must have" to "it would be nice if ..." and reviewing the list after a few viewings to see if your thoughts have changed.

Some of the basics as advised by the NVAR and NAR and some of their area experts:

❖ **Get pre-qualified.** Better yet, get pre-approved by a lender before you start looking. That way you will know what you can afford, be ready to make an offer and be a more attractive buyer since the seller knows you can make good on that offer. In many markets within Northern Virginia, buyers still out number inventory, so pre-approval can help set your offer apart. Megan Bailey of Bailey Fine Properties says "Buyers must be pre-approved before going out to look at homes with me. It's important to know that they feel comfortable ... by having the lender provide them with a "Good Faith Estimate" to break down the costs and to make sure the lender can finance the home. Taking someone to look at homes out of their price range ... sets the client up for disappointment."

❖ **Be ready to move** – sounds simple, but buyers have lost out on deals because they weren't ready. Worse yet, they may put their "Earnest Money Deposit" at risk if they can't go through with a sale as contracted.

❖ **Think about resale.** This SEE BUYING OR SELLING, PAGE 7

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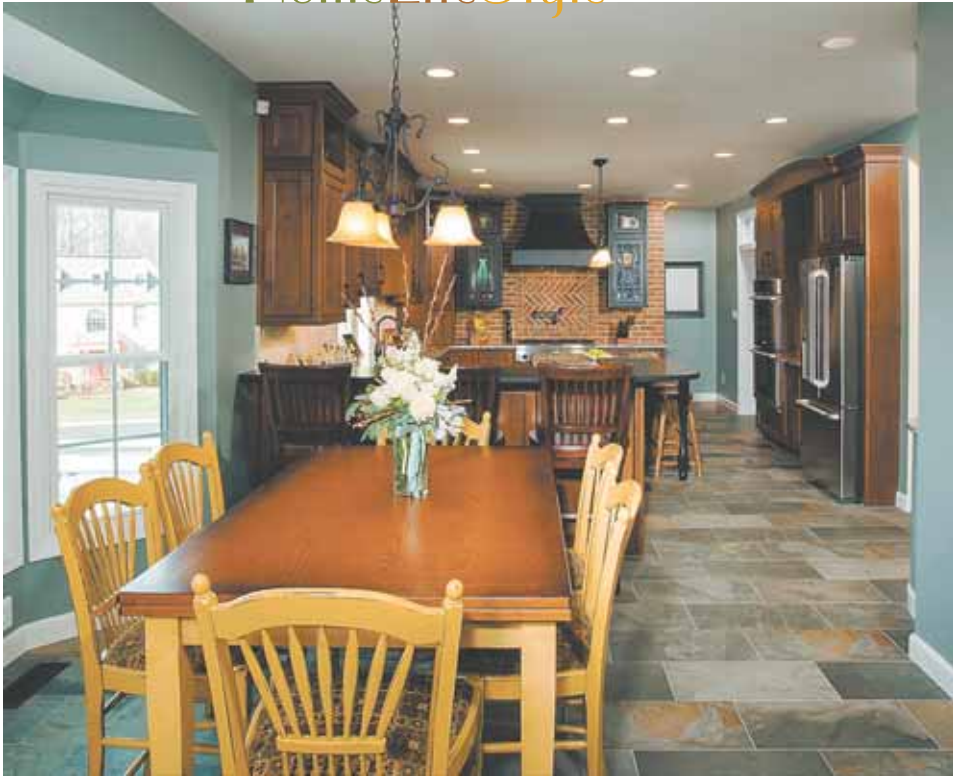
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The exposed brick, tile floor and raised square panel cabinet facings create a softly textured, elegant-but-casual interior. The floors conceal a radiant heating system which keeps the room comfortable in cooler temperatures.

Remodeled Home Tour Set for March 12

FROM PAGE 3

succession:

❖ The wall between the kitchen and the dining room would be removed, extending the kitchen by 78 square feet while allowing generous square footage for a walk-in pantry and a new powder room;

❖ The hall powder room would give way to an enlarged and upgraded laundry room/mudroom linked to the garage and only accessible from inside the kitchen;

❖ All 200 square feet of the old living room would be re-purposed as a distinctively finished formal dining room accessed directly from the new kitchen;

❖ With the cluster of doors between the foyer and the kitchen relocated or replaced with pocket doors, front-to-back access from the foyer is now unencumbered and free

flowing, an effect aided by improved sightlines.

Simultaneously, a series of interior design conferences evolved into an inspired collaboration.

“In a finish work elaboration, the details are everything,” Smith said, noting that his enthusiasm for design extends from a life-long interest in architecture. “Maddie and I had done a lot of research into the kinds of materials, colors and textures we wanted, but Katie Coram at Sun Design really helped us narrow and refine our choices, assembling the pieces into a coherent whole.”

Some highlights of the makeover’s interior design solution include:

❖ **A custom-designed barn door between the kitchen and the new**

dining room. While the interior makeover generally explores rustic, early American sensibilities, a glass-and-wood barn door created to specification by Sun Design carpenters is an iconic stand-out that keeps the dining room private as needed while allowing light from the west-facing rear windows;

❖ **A dining counter/wine bar situated at the back door accessing the deck.** Equipped with a wine rack and wine refrigerator for easy access to the rear deck, the wine bar also obstructs sightlines from the family room to the kitchen sink, making the fireside space a visually-independent entertainment zone.

❖ **A food prep island and dining counter.** Topped with blue flower granite and equipped with an under-cabinet microwave and a warming drawer, the built-in is positioned for easy access to a circumscrib-

ing U-shaped counter completing useful work triangles in several directions.

❖ **Six burner gas stove with hood.** Designed in black mocha glazed wood, the distressed facing picks up several of the kitchen’s rustic themes, including the exposed brick, and flagstone-accented tile flooring which conceals a radiant heating system.

❖ **Dining room with coffered ceiling; Wedgwood interior design.** In a nod to the 18th-century (Colonial era) sensibilities, the new formal dining room’s elegant wall elevations include raised panels, crown molding and wainscoting.

“From room to room, the new first floor explores a lot of style elements in well-balanced combinations,” Andy Smith said, “It’s a much warmer, more inviting interior. People will enjoy seeing what we’ve done.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@gmail.com; www.HomeFrontsNews.com) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.



A wine rack and wine refrigerator are convenient to a serving counter convenient to the family room and back deck.



Exposed brick, a cooktop hood and glass-facing cabinets in distressed black mocha glaze are elements in the kitchen’s distinctively rustic interior design.



Relocating the hall powder room added square footage needed for a laundry and mudroom that links to the garage.



The home’s new rear footprint accommodates walk-in pantry with pull-out storage racks — as well as a larger powder room

Nanny Suites Can Add Value

FROM PAGE 4

when considering nanny suites is that, unlike your kitchen or bath or bedroom, the nanny suite will only be a nanny suite for a finite amount of time in your lives," he said. "As your children grow, the nanny will move on, and the nanny suite is destined to become something else."

In the Washington, D.C. area, adding an au pair suite to one's home can make a property more appealing. "Particularly in neighborhoods with lots of young, affluent families, nanny suites are a popular, although not essential, amenity," said David DeSantis, Partner and Managing Broker of

TTR Sotheby's International Realty. "Ideally these suites are somewhat separated from the family sleeping quarters and have their own entrance so the nanny can come and go freely."

A nanny suite can offer a good return on investment. "The fact that it could be used as a nanny suite is a plus, but it's the same sort of thing as an in-law suite. It offers the ability for multigenerational living with some level of privacy," said David Howell, Executive Vice President and CIO of McEneaney Associates in McLean. "Because these suites are pretty uncommon in this area, it's a real draw for those who really need one."

Having a nanny suite, particu-



The materials and fixtures used in this nanny suite by Dietz Construction mimic those in the in the main part of the home.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DIETZ DEVELOPMENT

larly one with high-end amenities, can increase a property's value.

"I would say that they may make a difference in price from 5 to 10 percent as they ... would count as an additional bedroom," said Nancy Itteilag, of Long and Foster Christie's International Real Estate.

Ann Dozier Michael, an Alexandria-based associate broker with McEneaney Associates, has a current listing that includes a nanny suite. "When you have a property listed that can serve the various needs of buyers, then that will add value because you have a larger buying pool," she said.

Tips for Buying or Selling

FROM PAGE 5

may sound counter intuitive at this point, but especially for first-time buyers with an average of 10 years in the home, it's good to think ahead and consider what the area and the home might be like when it's time to move on.

❖ **Keep repair, maintenance and running costs in mind.** Even a brand-new home may require some work or customizing to suit your lifestyle, so consider those costs. You may have the approval for that attractive "McMansion" but are you prepared for the electric bills, mowing that acre, and the property taxes on top of the monthly mortgage? Ask the seller for details on utility costs and other maintenance that the property requires, i.e. pool upkeep.

❖ **Don't go "house-blind."** When you are so taken with the house that you might ignore factors that will ultimately make for a poor buying decision. Visit the property several times, inside and out, at various times of the day and on different days of the week to get a real feel for the neighbor-

hood. It may seem like your peaceful oasis at 10 a.m. on Wednesday morning, but it could turn into the scene of the local playground by 4 in the afternoon. Or maybe it's the only cut through for traffic heading to a major commuter route. Maybe you didn't notice on that first visit that the neighbor three doors down seems to be operating a kennel in their backyard, or that the next street over is a major commercial zone? Track travel distance for more than your work commute. Take a ride through the entire neighborhood and even its surroundings to see if you like what you will be seeing for a long time to come.

❖ **Research.** Your agent can direct you to resources where you can check out local schools. Even if you don't have school-aged children, it's something to think about for re-sale down the road or any kids you may be adding to the family.

For those buyers considering a condo or property with an HOA (Home Owners Association) there are even more questions to ask and things to be considered. These can

get pretty specific and detailed, so your best bet is to ask that agent.

Now, about the local market. Checking the data from RealEstate Business Intelligence (RBI), an arm of the local MLS system, Fairfax County had the most closed sales in 2015, up 14.6 percent from the previous year. Alexandria, Fairfax City, Arlington and Falls Church round out the top five markets in the area for closed sales last year. The figures for January 2016 show an uptick in sales volume, but a slight decrease of 2.5 percent in median sales price across the Metro region. Average DOM in January was 44 days, an increase from last year, but analysts feel much of that number can be attributed to the effects of Storm Jonas. The best news for sellers was that the homes sold in January averaged 96 percent of their asking price. Maybe even more pleasing for sellers to hear is that RBI forecasts inventory growth in 2016 will likely turn negative at some point. Buyers be prepared. This could lead to those multiple-offer wars we have seen in the past. Sellers be cautioned. That doesn't mean your best strategy is to over-price your property. "A properly priced

property in good condition is still the fastest mover," are the words to the wise from Anita Lasansky CRB, managing broker-VP, Long and Foster Reston North Hills-Herndon with her more than forty years of local experience.

Whether you are the potential buyer or the seller, there are plenty of resources out there to get you started. For the financial and statistically inclined researchers, check out RealEstate Business Intelligence at www.RBintel.com or the data supplied by George Mason University's Center for Regional Analysis at www.cra.gmu.edu. The National Association of Realtors and the Northern Association of Realtors websites both offer helpful information and guidance for buyers and sellers at www.realtor.org and www.nvar.com. Most of the real estate inventory sites also include sections on how to gather neighbourhood information, as well as details on the sales history of a particular property, condo and association fee information, taxes, and lots more than just the pretty pictures. www.realtor.com, www.zillow.com, and www.trulia.com are just a few to explore.



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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2016 Assessments by Area

Also home values for members of
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**

2015 — \$638,100

2016 — \$674,430

5.69%



Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)**

2015 — \$2,939,290

2016 — \$2,788,330

- 5.14%



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)**

2015 — \$462,630

2016 — \$478,490

3.43%



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**

2015 — \$774,620

2016 — \$728,080

- 6.01%



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**

2015 — \$664,480

2016 — \$677,950

2.03%



Mount Vernon Supervisor **Daniel Storck (D)**

2015 — \$579,700

2016 — \$585,460

0.99%

Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**

2015 — \$645,830

2016 — \$665,090

2.98%



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herry (R)**

2015 — \$599,600

2016 — \$587,370

- 2.05%



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**

2015 — \$611,280

2016 — \$617,810

1.07%

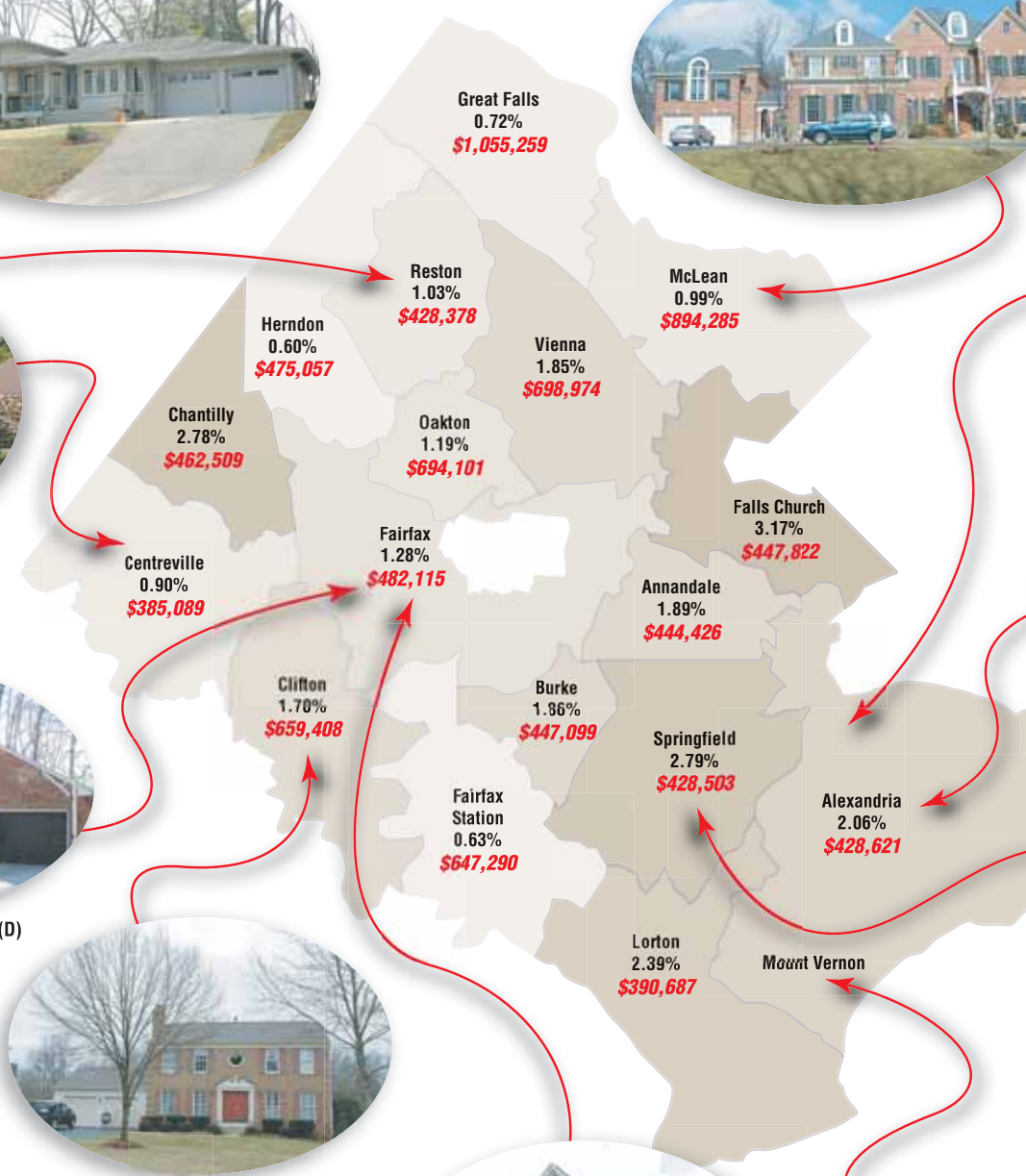


Sully Supervisor **Kathy Smith (D)**

2015 — \$579,780

2016 — \$607,140

4.72%



0% Percent Change 4%

2016 Countywide average for all homes — \$527,648

Single family-detached homes — \$632,507, up 1.69 percent

Townhouse/duplex properties — \$392,951, up 2.05 percent

Condominiums — \$261,792, up 0.73 percent

ZIP CODE AREA	2015 MEAN	2016 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	419,966	428,621	2.06
Annandale	436,194	444,426	1.89
Burke	438,919	447,099	1.86
Centreville	381,645	385,089	0.90
Chantilly	450,015	462,509	2.78
Clifton	648,374	659,408	1.70
Fairfax	476,037	482,115	1.28
Fairfax Station	643,207	647,290	0.63
Falls Church	434,062	447,822	3.17
Great Falls	1,047,755	1,055,259	0.72
Herndon	472,236	475,057	0.60
Lorton	381,572	390,687	2.39
McLean	885,556	894,285	0.99
Oakton	685,967	694,101	1.19
Reston	424,021	428,378	1.03
Springfield	416,853	428,503	2.79
Vienna	686,293	698,974	1.85

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a
single family home in Fairfax County
for 2016 is \$632,507, up 1.69 percent

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY