

Happy 100th, Virginia Realtors

Scott McCaffrey/Sun Gazette Newspapers

It all began at a 5,000-watt radio station in Fresno, Calif.

No, wait, that was the introduction to the life story of fictional anchorman Ted Baxter on "The Mary Tyler Moore Show."

For the Virginia Realtors trade group, it actually all began a century ago in Richmond.

Founded at gathering on Oct. 22, 1920, the organization – first known as the Virginia Real Estate Association and later the Virginia Association of Realtors – was established to standardize the real-estate business, cultivate and enforce fair dealing, and encourage the business of owning, buying, selling, renting and managing real estate in the commonwealth.

At that initial meeting, Paul T. Collins of Norfolk was elected to be the first President.

Today, the organization represents 35,000 members spread over 28 local Realtor organizations across the commonwealth.

"Over the past 100 years, the Realtors of Virginia have become one of the greatest contributors to the state economy while also striving to help ensure that the American Dream of homeownership and housing opportunities are available to all Virginians," said the organization's 2020 president, Kemper Funkhouser of Harrisonburg.

"The fact that wars, depressions, recessions and now even a global pandemic have not stopped the progress of our association is a testament to the strong foundation we have established," he said.

Over its history, three past presidents of Virginia Realtors have gone on to serve as president of the National Association of Realtors, including Dorcas Helfant-Browning, who in 1992 became the national association's first female president.



Gutshall Tapped for Business Hall of Fame

Sun Gazette Newspapers

Erik Gutshall, who served on the County Board from 2018 until his death earlier this year, will be the 2020 inductee into the Arlington Business Hall of Fame, the Arlington Chamber of Commerce announced on Oct. 14.

He will become the fifth former County Board member enshrined in the business pantheon.

Gutshall, who died in April at age 49, was the owner of Clarendon Home Services, a business he founded in 2008 and which in 2012 was honored by the Arlington Chamber as the organization's Small Business of the Year.

Gutshall was elected to the County Board in 2017, and "was able to call upon his experience as a small-business owner and years of community volunteer leadership to advance conversations about the role that Arlington's businesses play in strengthening our community," Chamber officials said.

The award presentation will be made posthumously to family members at the Chamber's 34th annual Best Business Awards, to be held Oct. 27 in both in-person and "virtual" formats. For information, see the Website at www.arlingtonchamber.org.

Previous inductees into the Arlington Business Hall of Fame have included Giuseppe Cecchi, Robert Smith, William Buck, John Shooshan, Emerson Reinsch, Russell Hitt, Sidney Dewberry, Ashton Jones, W. Sydney Albrightain, James Cole, Jonathan Kinney, Joseph Wholey, Mort Zetlin, Dr. Kenneth Haggerty, Fred Burroughs, Preston Caruthers, Joel Broyhill, Herb Morgan, Elizabeth Campbell, Dr. Jack London, Neal Nichols, Henry Lampe, David Guernsey, Bob Peck, Rich Doud, John Milliken and Scott McGeary.

Wholey, Haggerty, Milliken and Peck – like Gutshall – saw service on the County Board.



N.Va. Homes Market Catching Up to 2020 Sales Totals

Sun Gazette Newspapers

With three-quarters of the year now in the record books, the five largest jurisdictions of Northern Virginia have effectively shrugged off the COVID crisis, from a real-estate perspective, and are nearly on par with sales during the same period in 2019.

Buoyed by the outer suburbs – where year-over-year sales are actually up – there have been 27,813 homes that went to closing between Jan. 1 and Sept. 23, less than 1 percentage point behind the 28,066 transactions occurring in the same period in 2019.

Figures represent home sales in Arlington, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties and the city of Alexandria. Figures from RealEstate Business Intelligence, based on data from MarketStats by ShowingTime, were analyzed by the Sun Gazette to come up with the comparison.

Much of the region found itself economically locked down during the March-April-May period, but subsequently the real-estate market has bounced back. As a result, two jurisdictions are ahead of last year's sales figures:

- For the first nine months of the year, Loudoun County reported 5,618 home sales, up 4.6 percent from 5,369.

- Prince William County reported 6,018 sales, up 1.1 percent from 5,952.

Alexandria was relatively flat – its 1,946 sales were down less than a percentage point from 1,957 – while the two remaining jurisdictions still have some ground to make up to reach par with 2019:

- Fairfax County reported 12,215 home sales during the nine-month period, a decline of 3.3 percent from 12,630.

- Arlington saw 2,016 sales for the period, down 6.6 percent.

While the trajectory of sales varied, every jurisdiction posted higher median sales prices, led by an increase of 13.6 percent (to \$585,000) for Alexandria and followed by a bump up of 9.2 percent (to \$580,000) in Fairfax County. Arlington saw a boost in median sales price of 9.1 percent to \$668,026, while Prince William saw an increase of 8.6 percent to \$415,000 and Loudoun posted an increase of 8 percent to \$540,000.

Figures represent most, but not all, homes on the market. All figures are preliminary, and are subject to revision.



McLean Little League Adding to Hall of Fame

Dave Facinoli/Sun Gazette Newspapers

McLean Little League recently selected three new members into its Hall of Fame, which honors those who have contributed the most to the success of the league.

The Class of 2020 recipients are Chris Shue, Jen Nance and Scott Nance.

Shue has been a part of the league since 2005. He has managed teams on all levels and served on the board from 2010-15, including two years as president. He is the co-founder of the league's Challenger Program, was named the District IV Volunteer of the Year in 2014 and umpires in the league.

Scott Nance has managed or coached some 25 different teams and consistently volunteered behind the scenes.

Jen Nance was the president for two years, the bat-a-thon coordinator and in 2017 was chosen as the Volunteer of the Year.



From this week in history

- Back this week in 1942, not a single rental-housing unit was available in Arlington, and the wait list keeps on growing.

- Back this week in 1963, Arlington's police chief said he had no explanation why the county's crime rate has spike 25 percent over the past year.

- Back this week in 1974, mail to members of Virginia's congressional delegation is running against the confirmation of Nelson Rockefeller as vice president.

- Back this week in 1989, it was down to the wire for Virginia gubernatorial candidates Marshall Coleman and Douglas Wilder.