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DEC. 31, 2015-JAN. 6, 2016

N.Va. Homes Market Sees Higher Sales, Prices in 2015

With Interest Rates Rising, Are Headwinds on Horizon?

SCOTT McCAFFREY
and DAVE FACINOLI
Staff Writers

How the final 2015 real-estate sales data across Northern Virginia will rank on the all-time list will be known in mid-January. But one thing is for sure: It took 2015 only 11 months to surpass the total sales and volume recorded in all of 2014.

Home sales for the region totaled 18,713 from January to November, according to figures reported by Real Estate Business Intelligence, an arm of the local multiple-listing service. That's slightly above the 18,696 sales reported across the region during the entire year of 2014.

(Sales data represent transactions in Arlington and Fairfax counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax and Falls Church.)

Total sales volume for the first 11 months of 2015 totaled \$10.42 billion, also an increase from the \$10.31 billion recorded for the entire year of 2014.

Being conservative and assuming 800 sales in December, total sales for 2015 would reach 19,512, which would be the second-highest sales total in the past nine years, behind only the 20,355 transactions reported in 2013.

"Buyer confidence seems to be high, and they are encouraged that home prices have remained fairly steady," said Craig Lilly of Long & Foster Real Estate in Vienna, a

Continued on Page 14

HOOPS ACTION KICKS INTO HIGH GEAR



Washington-Lee's Gene Jones shoots over McLean defender Zachary Glissman in recent action. See holiday basketball coverage inside in Sports. PHOTO BY DEB KOLT

Fresh Faces to Enter Office as 2016 Kicks Off

Christian Dorsey, Katie Cristol Will Succeed Tejada and Hynes

The arrival of a new year brings a 40-percent turnover in the Arlington County Board.

Christian Dorsey and Katie Cristol will take their seats with incumbents Jay Fisette, Libby Garvey and John Vihstadt on Jan. 1, when the County Board holds its annual New Year's Day organizational meeting – a tradition dating back to the 1950s or before.

Democrats Dorsey and Cristol easily defeated independents Michael McMennamin and Audrey Clement on Nov. 3 to win the seats that Tejada (who was first elected in 2003) and Hynes (2007) opted to retire from.

The change will not alter the political composition of the board, which will remain four Democrats and independent Vihstadt. But it could have an impact on board policies in ways not yet known.

Dorsey, Cristol and other board members will have the chance to lay out their priorities in speeches on Jan. 1, but first will elect a chair and vice chair.



Christian Dorsey



Katie Cristol



RELATED

Departing incumbents Walter Tejada and Mary Hynes look back at their County Board service. See story, Page 7.

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Arlington-based real estate firm **Buck & Associates** recently presented a \$5,000 donation to support work at the Culpepper Garden senior-living facility. Shown with Culpepper Garden's Linda Kelleher are Buck chief operating officer Delk Hamaker and chief executive officer Billy Buck.