

Summer's in Session in Vienna

NEWS, PAGE 10

Coach Cotton, Willie Bob and Boogie-woogie Benny – no kidding – are Rocknuceros. And the children just love them, as evidenced by the last weekend concert on Vienna's Town Green.

A Decision Time for Silver Line

NEWS, PAGE 3

Vintage Baseball Game Draws Fans, History Buffs

SPORTS, PAGE 12

Public Meeting Set to Present 2012 Park Bond

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority will hold a joint public comment meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 106/107 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA. This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about plans for a bond referendum this fall and to comment on the bond program highlights.

In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a \$75 million Park Bond referendum as part of the Fiscal Year 2013 through 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This referendum, if approved by voters this fall, would provide \$12 million for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$63 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has worked hard to create a balanced approach to capital improvements. Using the Needs Assessment 10-year capital plan, facility condition assessments, park master plans and stakeholder input as tools for project selection, the allocation of park bonds would fall into three categories: stewardship and land acquisition, facility renovations, and park development. The project list balances priority needs, reinvestment in aging facilities, advancement of phased projects and improving the park experience.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority utilizes a similar approach to allocating park bond funds, taking into account user needs, the capital improvement program, the strategic plan and existing facility conditions.

At the July meeting, staff will present the categorical highlights of the bond and will take public comment. Individuals and groups are welcome to speak. Individuals may speak for three minutes and representatives from groups may testify for five minutes. To sign up to speak in advance or for more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. You may also sign up to speak at the meeting. The public may also submit written comments to the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 Fairfax, VA 22035-1118 or at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To submit comments to the Regional Park Authority write to 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or pladev@nvrpa.org. All comments will be taken until August 10, 2012.



If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



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Crews continue to use a huge bright yellow horizontal crane to build the bridges for rail from Route 7 to the median of the Dulles International Airport Access Highway/Dulles Toll Road. This work is expected to be completed in July.



PHOTOS BY
CHUCK SAMUELSON/
DULLES CORRIDOR
METRORAIL PROJECT

A Decision Time for Silver Line

Deadline approaches for Loudoun County Board vote on extending the rail into county.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK
THE CONNECTION

Whoever coined the quip “like herding cats,” must have had in mind the financing of the Dulles Rail Project. It requires getting consensus from two county boards of supervisors, Fairfax and Loudoun, the Federal government, the Virginia government and therefore the governor and state legislature and the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority.

The project’s course, so far, brings to mind another quip; “the perils of Pauline.” From an argument over a tunnel under Tysons Corner to disputes about underground facilities at Dulles Airport, the project has slipped from one crisis to another. Even if the rail project’s second phase were to go smoothly from here on out, it will take as long to build the 23 mile metro line as it took to build the Transcontinental Railroad.

However, the word “smoothly” does not seem applicable since the most recent “peril” is the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors.

In the 2011 elections, Republican candidates won every seat on the board in a voter rejection of the spend-thrift actions of their predecessors.

THE NEW BOARD has approached the funding question with suspicion, but must make a decision to opt in or out of the project by July 4. If the board supports the project, the county will have to pay some \$270 million in construction costs and \$11 million a year to help finance Metro’s operating costs.

The members have met several times over the past few months trying, without success, to find methods to fund the county’s share.

The board has set one more meeting before the fourth.

Vice Chairman Janet Clark (R-Blue Ridge) wrote a letter to her constitu-

ents on June 7 setting out her concerns. She said although the line’s extension was considered for years, the “prior boards merely endorsed the concept of rail to Loudoun, they did nothing to establish a means for paying for it.”

She said the original concept was that the rail line would be paid for by federal dollars and state funds, but now there are no federal dollars and Virginia’s one time contribution of \$150 million will only be enough to “buy down the Dulles Toll Road/267 tolls for two years,” she said. Some 54 percent of the funding must now come from Dulles Toll Road revenue, she said. The tolls, which will grow astronomically as the costs of the rail grow, are considered a tax on the people of Loudoun. There is a lawsuit in federal court that may threaten the tolls as a funding source for the metro. The class action suit challenged MWAA’s authority to level taxes under Virginia law and may be decided later this year.

Clark writes the Silver Line Metro won’t be running until 2017 so the county will have to build the stations before the revenue from station parking begins.

Clark warned her constituents that there could be tax districts formed in the rail areas and “possibly a county-wide tax on commercial and industrial properties.” In some incorporated towns, she said, there could be three levels of tax, a development “that could put some of our small businesses out of busi-

SEE LOUDOUN BOARD, PAGE 5



Tysons Corner Station.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia Bobby Mathieson, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force Ray Colgan, Congressman Frank Wolf, Falls Church City Police Chief Harry Reitze, Leesburg Police Chief Joseph Price, FBI Special Agent in Charge Ronald Hosko, and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia Neil MacBride attended the ceremony June 22, in which a check for \$850,000 was presented to the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund.

Gang Task Force Receives \$850,000

The fight against gang activity in Northern Virginia received a financial boost last week in the form of an \$850,000 check from the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund. U.S. Marshal for the Eastern District of Virginia Bobby Mathieson presented the check to Ray Colgan, executive director of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force. The raid of an illegal gambling operation in Falls Church in August 2011 led to criminal asset forfeiture of more than \$1 million.

The Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force is a multi-jurisdictional partnership of local, state and federal law enforcement agencies that address gang activity in Northern Virginia through dedicated officers and resources, thereby making the region inhospitable to gang activity.

The funds received last week will be used for expenses such as a tattoo removal program, car leases, police overtime, equipment and training.

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) attended the presentation and spoke about his appreciation for the hard work of law

enforcement officers on the task force and how their efforts have made the community a much safer place.

The Department of Justice Asset Forfeiture Program encompasses the seizure and forfeiture of assets that represent the proceeds of, or were used to facilitate, federal crimes. The primary mission of the program is to employ asset forfeiture powers in a manner that enhances public safety and security. This is accomplished by removing the proceeds of crime and other assets relied upon by criminals and their associates to perpetuate their criminal activity against society. Asset forfeiture has the power to disrupt or dismantle criminal organizations that would continue to function if we only convicted and incarcerated specific individuals.

Law enforcement equitable sharing payments, such as the one made to the task force last week, are paid to state and local law enforcement agencies for assistance in forfeiture cases. Equitable sharing payments are calculated using the degree of direct participation in law enforcement efforts resulting in forfeiture.



Alexandra Smith waves to her family as she enters her Oakton High School graduation ceremony, held at the George Mason University Patriot Center on June 19.



Graduating senior Gabrielle Tate gives the "Reflections" address during the June 19 Oakton High School graduation ceremony held at the George Mason University Patriot Center.

Oakton Graduates Urged to Question

Oakton High School seniors received diplomas on Tuesday.

BY ERIN HODGE
THE CONNECTION

The Patriot Center filled with families and friends on Tuesday, June 19, each seeking out the best vantage point from which to watch their children, siblings, and friends graduate from Oakton High School. The burgundy caps and gowns started to file in at precisely 7:30 p.m. to the traditional "Pomp and Circumstance," staring at the stage as they took their seats.

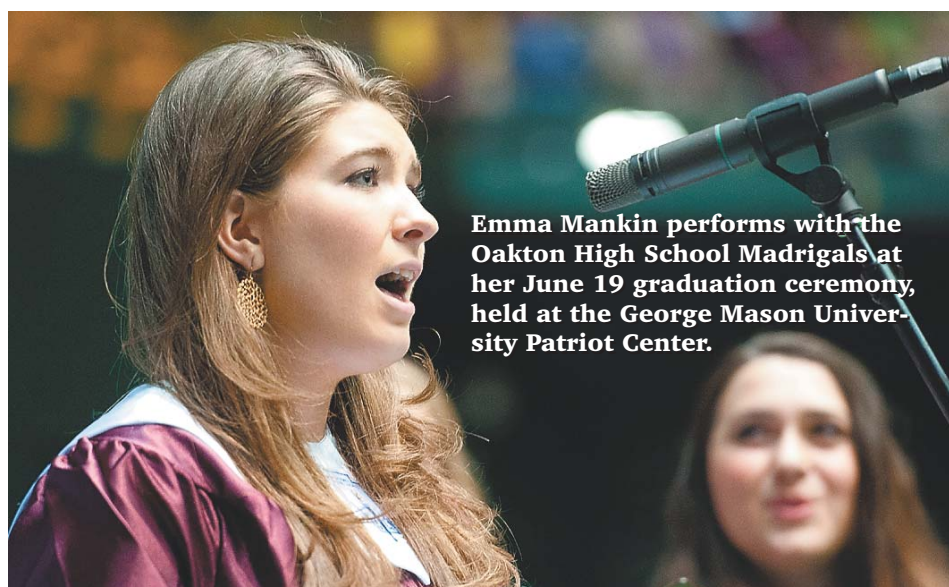
Of the 576 graduating seniors, 111 were "Honor Graduates," or students who finished their first seven semesters with over a 4.0 GPA. Among her peers, Sarah Smith was chosen to receive the Faculty Award for her contributions to the Oakton community as well as personal integrity. As they readied themselves for the next step, the graduates listened to the reflections and advice of a few chosen speakers.

"We can get old, lose our canvas or our books," student speaker Gabrielle Ruth Tate reminded her peers. "But our knowledge will always be with us." Some of her audience nodded, others stayed staring in rapt attention. "The difference between freshmen and graduates of Oakton," she said, "is what's in your head, and in your heart."

Guest speaker Richard Wormeli, a National Board Certified Teacher, award-winning author and father of graduate Lynn Wormeli, gave his advice in an interesting and grounded speech. "You need to know how to question," he said. "Do things that



Ankit Gulati, President of the Oakton High School Class of 2012 welcomes his classmates, school administrators and faculty, guests and the hundreds of family members who attended the school's June 19 graduation ceremony at the George Mason University Patriot Center.



Emma Mankin performs with the Oakton High School Madrigals at her June 19 graduation ceremony, held at the George Mason University Patriot Center.

scare you." His speech brought many laughs from crowd and graduates alike, and many more understanding smiles. He left them

with the words: "You are the legacy of Oakton High School—be worthy of it, and enjoy the ride."

VIEWPOINTS

Where Would You Like to be in 10 Years?

— ERIN HODGE



Mehdi Fadli: "By then I want to have a wonderful family, and a pretty nice job."



Tian Hou: "Maybe working on Wall Street, at a reputable firm."



Danielle Fitzgerald: "Hopefully just starting out in the physical therapy field."



Naila Taha: "At that point I hope to be graduated from college, and have a steady job."



Jeanne Evans: "I hope to get a job working in the sciences."

NEWS

Loudoun Board to Vote on Silver Line

FROM PAGE 3

ness.”

On Tuesday Clarke and two other board members said they wanted an extension of the deadline until December, but BOS chairman Scott York (R-At large) said there would be no extension and the decision must be made on July 4.

At this juncture, people who followed the debate believe that there are four members of the nine member board in favor of the Silver Line and four members against. Board member Suzanne Volpe of the Algonkian District, a Republican, is reportedly uncommitted. Volpe is a resident of Sterling, Va. The vote is so unclear, however, that nobody wanted to be quoted guessing the outcome.

AS THE DEADLINE NEARS, there is growing ire on either side of the debate. Right wing groups have attacked the Silver Line project as a tax. According to the Washington Post, a group funded by the Koch brothers, a pair of conservative Kansas billionaires, have conducted robo calls in the county saying that funding the Silver Line will mean a “bailout for developers.”

Clark and other opponents claim they have faced “strong-arming and veiled threats by some developers and elected officials.”

Stephen S. Fuller, the director of the George Mason University’s Center for Regional Analysis, prepared a report in March which warned, if Loudoun does not go along with the Silver Line, “the county’s economy will grow more slowly, driven by gains in

lower value added employment and imported income earned by residents commuting to jobs located outside the county.” He saw a loss of \$11.2 billion in foregone economic activity in 2030 and \$25.6 billion lower gross county product in 2040 “than had Metrorail been extended to the county as planned.”

Throughout there has been major criticism by Republicans of the MWAA’s unwillingness answer to any level of government. MWAA was forced to abandon an extensive underground welcoming facility at Dulles and late last week agreed to cancel a labor rule that favored organized labor under pressure from the governor and Rep. Frank Wolf, (R-10). Wolf has urged a federal inspector general be appointed to oversee MWAA’s finances.

But Wolf said earlier this month that he firmly supports the Silver Line serving Loudoun County. He called it the most important project since the original Metro system.

Fairfax BOS chairman Sharon Bulova has called upon Fairfax’s federal representatives to work harder to reopen the question of federal funds for Phase 2. Some \$900 million in federal money contributed to Phase 1 of Dulles Rail which runs through Wiehle Avenue in Reston and will be completed in 2013.

She quoted Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood saying that Metro is “America’s system providing millions of riders to the nation’s Capital” and the federal government needs to find money in its 2013 and 2014 budgets to complete the project.

Jack Potter, president and the chief executive officer of MWAA, has said that even if Loudoun opts out of the project the Silver Line will be built.

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OPINION

Case Closed. Why the Secrecy?

No reason for police to exercise “blanket” approach, shielding every document in every case.

Connection readers know that we respect and appreciate our public safety professionals. Members of local police and fire and rescue departments are motivated by their deep commitment to serve and protect our local communities. We honor those with our coverage of valor awards, features on police efforts to curb drunk driving and distracted driving, and tragically sometimes a death in the line of duty.

While police earn and deserve a special consideration, police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold

“complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

EDITORIAL

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth have spoken out against any effort to undermine their broad power of exemption.

Senate Bill 711, originally introduced in 2010 by state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) and up for discussion again this week, would limit the blanket withholding of information to ongoing investigations. This could allow for the public release of documents in closed cases such as the one conducted by the Arlington Police Department about the death of Hailu Brook. In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot

him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean.

The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Minds Wide Open for Arts

Arts play a vital role in educating children and preparing them for the future.

BY ELIZABETH MURPHY
PRESIDENT/CEO, FAIRFAX SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

As we all know, reading, writing and arithmetic are building blocks of childhood education. However, what is less widely acknowledged is the role that the arts play in educating children and preparing them for the future.

Knowledge of the arts benefits every child, whether the child grows up to be a scientist, artist or baseball player. Youngsters' exposure to the arts supports the work of classroom educators by enhancing academic performance, nurturing a passion for learning, and providing an outlet for expression and creativity. A report from the National Governors' Association states that children who study the arts are four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement and three times more likely to win an award for school attendance. The findings also note that the benefits of a solid arts education are even more dramatic for at-risk youngsters. In recognition of how children and communities positively benefit, more than 200 not-for-profit arts organizations and hundreds of individual artists across Virginia, including the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, provide arts education activities for children in school, after school, and during the summer.

Virginia is fortunate that Minds Wide Open, a public/private partnership, was developed to recognize and celebrate the positive impact

of artists, arts organizations and cultural institutions across the commonwealth. All ten living First Ladies of Virginia serve as Honorary Chairs, and the high-profile initiative involves state government, business corporations, individuals and not-for-profit cultural organizations who understand the value of the arts in relation to our children's education, as well as the community and economic welfare. In 2010, Minds Wide Open: Women in the Arts presented an unparalleled succession of plays, dances, musical programs, exhibitions, films and literature focusing on women in the arts. This year's collaboration, Minds Wide Open: Children and the Arts, showcases impressive statewide events and cultural activities spotlighting programs on, by, and about children.

Here in Fairfax, the Fairfax Symphony's May 12 concert fell under the Minds Wide Open umbrella. Prior to the concert, the orchestra held a family reception and instrument petting zoo for the members of its Student Passport Club, students ages 6-18 who receive \$5 tickets to every concert. Over 200 people attended, while in the lobby of George Mason University's Center for the Arts, the FSO displayed artwork created by fourth grade students at Woodburn Elementary School in Falls Church. The artwork was created as a collaborative project — students listened to recordings of the music on the program during class time in school, and made art that reflected their

feelings about the music. They were invited to attend the concert, not only to be recognized for their hard work, but so they could hear the pieces played live.

In McLean, the McLean Project for the Arts held several celebrations around Minds Wide Open, for Youth Art Month in March. The first featured the colorful and exuberant artwork of students from nine McLean-area elementary schools: Chesterbrook, Churchill Road, Franklin Sherman, Haycock, Kent Gardens, Lemon Road, Spring Hill, Timber Lane and Westgate. The second displayed art from McLean middle and high school art students. The opening night reception attracted over 500 people.

Minds Wide Open (www.ArtsVA.com) clearly demonstrates Virginia's commitment to the arts for the wellbeing of our children, citizens and communities. I join my colleagues in recognizing and thanking all who contributed to another Minds Wide Open success.

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:

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THURSDAY/JUNE 28

Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce LeadShare Meeting. 7:30 a.m. Chesterbrook Residences, 2030 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. LeadShare events will be held the 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month. Register at 267-346-1885.

Sierra Club/Great Falls Group Activist Night. 7-9 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. If you are concerned about the environment, consider committing two hours a month to working with staff and volunteers on current Sierra Club campaigns at Activist Nights. Free. 703-352-2410.

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Federal Job Application Workshop. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. The Women's Center, 127 Park St., NE, Vienna. In this workshop a federal expert with over 25 years of experience in the federal sector will guide you. Registration Fee \$35, Members \$25.

SUNDAY/JULY 1

Dog and Cat Adoptions. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Every Sunday. Sponsored by Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. www.lostdogrescue.org.

MONDAY/JULY 2

Week-long Chess Camp. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Learn from Silver Knights chess coaches: basic rules to advanced tournament strategies. All chess supplies provided. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

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Flint Hill School's Coach Attends White House Celebration of Title IX

Jody Patrick, Flint Hill School's head varsity girls' basketball coach and PE teacher, was invited to attend a special function at the White House on Wednesday afternoon, June 20, to mark the 40th anniversary of Title IX, the landmark statute that ensures equity between boys and girls for all educational programs that receive federal funding. The event was hosted by Valerie Jarrett, Senior Advisor to President Obama and Chair of the White House Council on Women & Girls, and the Council's Executive Director, Tina Tchen.

The invitation was extended to "notable women and men from the fields that have been greatly impacted by Title IX, from athletics to education." Participants celebrated the achievements afforded by Title IX, and a panel that included tennis icon Billie Jean King discussed "the past, present, and future of this landmark legislation." During her remarks, King called for all the coaches in attendance to stand and be recognized for their hard and



Jody Patrick with the FHS Girls' Varsity Basketball team.

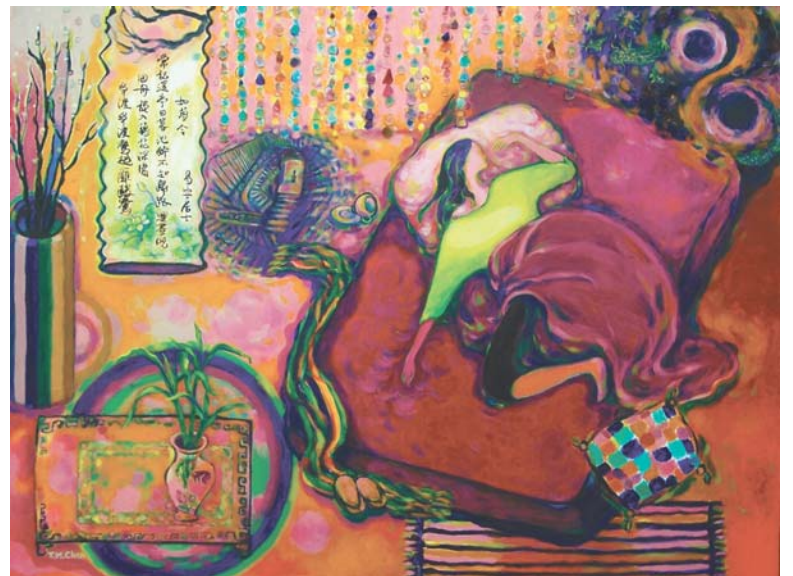
needed work at the grassroots level. "It was pretty amazing," Coach Patrick said, "to tip our caps before BJK!"

Coach Patrick, who in January notched her 200th career win, also serves on the USA Basketball Women's Developmental Under-16 National Team Committee. Last October, the School hosted a group of female athletes from Tajikistan who are working as coaches and hold fighting expertise in the areas of Free-style Wrestling, Boxing, or Tae Kwon Do. Coach Patrick helped to facilitate their three-week visit through the U.S. State Department's SportsUnited program; she and other members of

the FHS Girls' athletic program spoke with the delegates about the history of women's sports in the U.S., including the 1972 Title IX legislation, credited for initiating a major turning point in gender inequality.

"So much of who I am, how I teach, and how I help young student-athletes find themselves rests on the shoulders of the women who attended this White House Title IX Celebration," Coach Patrick said. "Living history took on a deeper meaning for me through this gathering. I am truly blessed. Billie Jean King, Donna de Varona, Nancy Hogshead, and the other pioneers, we thank you!"

ENTERTAINMENT



"Napping," mixed media by Madeline Chen. The Vienna Arts Society's Gallery in the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave. West, Vienna, will display the exhibit "Free and Independent" through July 14. Twenty artists have been encouraged to interpret the words broadly in different styles and media. The gallery is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-319-3220 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/JUNE 28

Daylily Exhibit, Sale and Tour. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. The Northern Virginia Daylily Society will exhibit a variety of daylily blooms. Bare-root plants offered for sale. Daylily walking tour at 10 a.m. Free. 703-255-3631.

The Skatalites and Murphy's Kids. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Vocal Colors. 6:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Filene Young Artists perform. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

Ted Garber. 7:30 p.m. Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Blues, Americana and rock. Free. 703-324-7469.

Sierra Club/Great Falls Group Activist Night. 7-9 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. If you are concerned about the environment, consider committing two hours a month to working with staff and volunteers on current Sierra Club campaigns at Activist Nights. Free. 703-352-2410.

FRIDAY/JUNE 29

Marah. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

"The Prince and the Troubadour." 8 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. All tickets are for general admission seating. \$10. 703-854-1856 or email boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 30

Children's Shows: The Smithsonian and Jammin Java present Billy Jonas. 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

John Wesley Harding. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. www.jamminjava.com.

Eric Brace and Peter Cooper. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Country melodies and lyrics. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.

"The Prince and the Troubadour." 2 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. All tickets are for general admission seating. \$10. 703-854-1856 or email boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org.

SUNDAY/JULY 1

Wolf Trap Opera Company: Don Giovanni. 3 p.m. Wolf Trap Center for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Preshow talk one hour before performance. www.wolftrap.org.

Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Adoption Event. 1-4 p.m. PetSmart, 8204 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. Adoption events every Sunday. <http://lostdogrescue.org/> and click on Adoptions.

25th Annual International Holy Convocation of the New Born Lighthouse Church of the Apostolic Faith, Inc. Services at 10 a.m. and 7 p.m. The Sheraton Premiere at Tyson's Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. www.nblchurch.org or 301-499-2105.

"The Prince and the Troubadour." 2 p.m. 1st Stage Theater, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. All tickets are for general admission seating. \$10. 703-854-1856 or email boxoffice@1ststagetysons.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 3

Dance Every Tuesday. 7:15 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Introductory dance lesson 7:15 p.m., dancing 8-10:30 p.m. Swing, Latin, waltz, country and more. \$10 per person, includes lesson and snacks. No partner necessary. colvinrun.org or Ed Cottrell@macp.org.

DinoRock. 10:30 a.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Giant colorful puppets created by the Emmy Award-winning puppet designer Ingrid Crepeau offer songs, skits and

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dances. \$8-\$10 at 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org/TITW.
Crosby, Stills & Nash. 8 p.m. Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$30-\$45. www.wolftrap.org

WEDNESDAY/JULY 4

Town of Vienna Celebrates July 4th. 5 p.m. Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Activities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. will include food and drink for sale, games and rides, arts and crafts vendors, community organization booths, antique cars, a chili cook-off and music. Fireworks show will begin at 9:15 p.m. Spectator seating areas open at 5 p.m. www.viennava.gov.

OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS

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SUMMER FUN 2012



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



The Vienna Town Green fills up with families and friends during the summer's free concerts. Picnics and dancing children highlight the music.

Stories and sprinklers on the Town Green in summertime draw in preschoolers and young school children.

Summer's in Session in Vienna

Fun abounds throughout town.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

From toddler to teen, 20-something to Social Security, there are activities and events in Vienna to please any age demographic. Most, unbelievably, are free. You see neighbors, friends and fellow-club members. You can be active or passive. You can even dance through sprinklers if you are a child, although, a prancing 80-year-old would be a delight to see.

From May through August, the Town Green becomes the place to be on Friday and Sunday nights. The free concerts, from classic rock to jazz and bluegrass, provide live musical entertainment from 6:30 to 7:45 p.m. unless noted otherwise.

On June 20, Rocknoceros led off the children's Wednesday evening concert series. Occasionally, the Town Green hosts open mic night on a Saturday evening.

What makes the Town Green concerts so small town-ish is that families, friends, couples and teens spread out over the lawn, frequently armed with picnics.

Local businesses, nonprofits and individuals sponsor the concerts. If inclement weather arises, call the weather line at 703-255-7842 or the Vienna Community Center at 703-255-6360 two hours before the event for cancellation information.

The upcoming events include:
June 27, Louis the Magician;



Scott and Marcie Schaefer write sentiments on the July 4 celebration banner that goes on to our troops in the Middle East.

June 29, Cletus and Lori – Folk; June 30, open mic night; July 6, FLYNN – Celtic; July 8, Chris Polk Band - Blues/Classic Rock; July 11, Emy Tseng - Brazilian Jazz; July 13, Black Sombrero Brass - Herb Albert Tijuana Brass Tribute Band; July 15, Richard Walton Group – Jazz; July 18, Oh Susanna - Children's Entertainment; July 20, Sarah Bennett Swanner - Soulful

Blues; July 21, open mic night; July 22, Vienna Community Band; July 25, Ed McDade - Interactive Song and Story The Rhythm and Rhyme of American Folk Music; July 27, Kitty and The Fat Cats - Rockabilly, Blues and Jazz Band; July 29, NOVA Brass Ensemble - 5:30 p.m.; Village Jazz Band - 6:30 p.m.; August 3, Kingsley Winter Band – Rock; August 5, Wayne

Tympanik -Jazz/Dixieland; August 10, Mama Tried – Bluegrass; August 12, Redstone - Classic Rock; August 17, Clarence Buffalo - Soulful Rock; August 18, open mic night; August 19, Blaskapelle "Alte Kameraden" - Bavarian Band

July 4th Independence Day celebration - festival and fireworks display

While Memorial Day weekend may kick off summer activities, it really is the 4th of July and Independence Day festivities and events that highlight a Vienna summer season.

The Town of Vienna sponsors its annual 4th of July festival on the grounds of the community center and baseball field from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Vienna's Independence Day celebration climaxes with fireworks at Southside Park.

The daytime festival includes a marketplace of arts and crafts, food and drink, music, family games, children's entertainment, antique and classic car display. At about 9:20 p.m., fireworks blast off at Southside Park. For more information, call 703-255-6360.

Movies in the Park

The next-best thing to a drive-in movie is a movie in the park ... Glyndon Park, that is.

Come to Glyndon Park in Vienna to watch your favorite family movies. All movies will be rated G. Everyone is welcome to bring lawn chairs or blankets or just sit in the grass and enjoy their favorite movie with the whole family. Parents and family members are required to stay with their children. In case of inclement weather, call

703-255-7842 two hours before show time for event information.

Show Dates and Times

July 20 - 8:45 p.m. - The Lion King; Aug. 24 - 8:45 p.m. - Kung Fu Panda 2

Tots and Teens On The Green

Wednesdays, 2 to 3 p.m. Vienna Parks and Recreation's Club Phoenix Teen Center hosts the 3rd Annual Tots and Teens on the Green. This event is open to children of all ages and led by Teen Center staff and summer volunteers. Each event is free and takes place on the Vienna Town Green.

In case of inclement weather, call the rain line at 703-255-7842 for cancellation information. Parents are required to stay with their children throughout the program.

Dinosaur Day, July 11 - crafts, games and a dinosaur egg hunt; Sports Day, July 18; Princesses and Superheroes Day, July 25; Dress-up, games, and arts and crafts; Nature Day, August 1; A Rockin Obstacle Course Party, August 8

Summer Stories and Sprinklers

Wednesdays, June 27 through Aug. 15, 1 p.m. Vienna Town Green.

Children sit on the grass and listen to stories at the Historic Vienna Little Library located behind the Freeman Store, 131 Church Street NE from 1 to 1:30 p.m. At 1:30 p.m. the Town of Vienna turns on the sprinklers watering the Town Green grass and children run through the sprinklers.

This event is free and children

SEE UPCOMING, PAGE 11

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SUMMER FUN 2012




Rocknoceros fans, particularly the youngest ones, just had to dance.



Vienna Moms, Inc. Rocknoceros concert organizer Kate Vincent, her children Maya and Avery, and her husband Paul. Kate Vincent called Rocknoceros “super-popular” with all the preschoolers.

Town Green Rocks with Kiddie-Rock

Rocknoceros Kicks Off Kids' Concert Series on Town Green with huge crowd.

 n June 20, local kiddie-rock stars Rockn'oceros kicked off the children's concert series on the Town Green. One could hardly find grass among the ground cover of blankets and lawn chairs and humans of all ages and heights, from newborns in carriers to grandparents.

Rocknoceros, whose CDs are well-known to preschoolers, performed their classics, such as “Brush Your Teeth,” to their new hit, “Pink.” The United States song and “Virginia” even had parents swaying.

While adults are encouraged to dance like nobody is watching, the

kids danced on the Town Green as if everyone was watching ... and everyone was. The kids jumped, twirled and clapped while their parents snapped photos and videos. It was a very-Vienna kind of event.

“We’re big Rocknoceros fans,” said Kate Vincent, who organized the concert on behalf of Vienna Moms, Inc. Vincent, with her husband Paul and their two children Maya and Avery, was delighted with the turnout but not at all surprised by the breadth of popularity. “They’re super-popular with all the preschoolers.” Vienna Moms, Inc. sponsored Rocknoceros in 2011 – the inaugural children’s concert series - as well.



A very warm Jacob Lucca, with his brother Logan, rest with mom Liz Lucca for a few minutes at the concert.

A woman with reddish-brown hair, smiling, is holding two young boys. The boy on the left is wearing a dark t-shirt with a red graphic and orange shorts. The boy on the right is wearing a blue t-shirt and orange shorts. They are sitting on a patterned blanket on the grass. In the background, there are other people, trees, and a stroller, suggesting a park or outdoor event.

Cory Dunn, with sons Matthew and Andrew, said that Rocknoceros plays music that appeals to both kids and adults. It's also fun to meet up with friends.

Cory Dunn, with Andrew, 3, and Matthew, 1, said that Rocknoceros plays music that appeals to both kids and adults. And meeting up with friends is fun for moms and their children, Dunn said.

"We love it, it's so much fun," said Liz Lucca, with Logan, 4, and Jacob, almost 2. "We've run into so many of our friends from playgroup and school."

The Rocknoceros concert was sponsored jointly by Vienna Moms, Inc. and Whole Foods of Vienna, who brought, and gave away for free, pounds and pounds of organic cherries and bottled water to treat the crowd. Across the street in the Whole Foods parking lot, store staff were grilling hamburgers for sale.

"It's nice that Whole Foods is not only sponsoring this but providing free water and cherries," said

Lucca.

Katie Wolfe, Vienna Whole Foods Community Relations manager, referred to the store's co-sponsorship as a "no-brainer."

"We're all about community and this is a big family-oriented community event."

"It's so hot, we decided to just give the water away to help people stay cool."

And staying cool was the order of the day as the thermometer peaked at 100 degrees. It was going to take more than heat and humidity to keep away Rocknocerous fans.

"It's a good day to be out in the evening and we love Rocknoceros," Vienna mom Liza Lara said, keeping an eye on her dancing little man, Leo.

— DONNA MANZ

Upcoming Events

FROM PAGE 10

of all ages are welcome, although it is preschoolers who dominate. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc.

Vienna Youth Theatre

In August, the Vienna Youth Players present "Foot-loose," a musical set in a small farming town.

Performances run on Aug.
2, 4, 10 and 11 at 7:30 p.m.
and on Aug. 12 at 1 p.m.

Tickets for adults under 65 are \$14. Students and seniors 65 and over pay \$12.

Tickets go on sale July 9 at the Vienna Community Center.

Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

Wolf Trap is a hundred acres of the sound of music. In the summer, under stars, world-renown artists come to Wolf Trap to perform. From rock to opera, swampfest to musical theatre, the Filene Center showcases almost every musical genre in existence. The lawn is a favorite spot to picnic, lie back and listen to the performances, but, when it rains, lawn seats are pretty mushy.

Prices for performances vary.

On summer mornings, the venerable Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods presents musical performances geared to young children, from DinoRock to puppetry and ethnic beats. Mature shade trees surround the theatre's bleachers and it's not unusual to see kids dancing around. Families and summer-campers come from throughout the Metro region.

For more information on Wolf Trap's summer schedule, go to <http://www.wolftrap.org/> or <http://www.wolftrap.org/Education/~media/206489044BCE7B2C9650A> for schedule and details of The Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods.

Tickets available at the Box Office and online at www.wolftrap.org/woods. All shows start at 10:30a.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Children under 2 are free admission.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

1864-rules baseball players had little shade as they played round-robins during the 90-degree weather but fans found some respite under shade trees.

Vintage Baseball Game Draws Fans, History Buffs

Baseball played by 1864 rules comes to Vienna.

A Mid-Atlantic Vintage baseball tournament and living history exhibition on June 23 continued Vienna's sesquicentennial commemoration of the Civil War. Baseball fans and history buffs alike, more than 150, found relief under the sweltering sun beneath shade trees around the community center. The players, clad in long sleeves and heavy pants, weren't so lucky but they made it through the three-game day on Caffi Field.

"We're big baseball fans," said David Safran of Vienna. "It's intriguing to see how it was played 150 years ago."

The game was played on flat lawn, no pitcher's mound, because the pitcher throws underhand when

playing by 1864 rules. The scorekeeper keeps score by-hand on a standing board. Since all teams were "visiting" clubs on June 23, there was no home team. Teams chose game-starting ups or fielding with captains fingering the bat to determine who picked first.

The Vintage Baseball Game and Living History Exhibition was co-sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc. [HVI] and the Town of Vienna, and conceived by local historian and baseball fan Sarah Jane Brady.

There were not many children present on Saturday but the ones who were there appeared to be enjoying themselves as they learned about Civil War life. "It's pretty cool how they're playing baseball the way it used to be," said 13-year-old Danny Kaplan, visiting from Florida. "I like all the tents teaching you stuff, like the activities like the telegraph. I want to stay here. It's pretty cool."

— DONNA MANZ



Youngster learn to send messages via telegraph during the Living History Exhibition.



Civil War-era ladies Sherri, Hannah Yerger [front], HVI president Anne Stuntz and Rebecca Stricker, were knowledgeable and happy to describe their goods.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

All-District Baseball: The following Madison High, Oakton High, and Marshall High baseball players earned All-District accolades this past 2012 spring season.

From Madison (Liberty District), First Team All-District selections were Nate Favero (Second Base); Johnny Graham (Outfield); Ben Socher (Outfield); Tim Davis (Pitcher); Andy McGuire (DH); and Dan Powers (Utility). Earning Second Team honors for the Warhawks was Matt Livingston (First Base).

From Oakton High (Concorde District), First Team honors went to Dale Good (Third Base); Brian Burns (Outfield); and Matt Gregor (Pitcher). Second Team Cougars were Mason Hauser (Outfield); Joey Bartosic (Utility); and RJ Garcia (Pitcher).

From Marshall High (Liberty District), First Team honors went to Kent Blackstone (Shortstop) and Mitch McKeith (Pitcher). Second Team recognition for the Statesmen went to Kekeo Yamaguchi (First Base); Michael Nassoly (Outfield); Michael Evans (Pitcher); and Ryan Medrick (Utility).

Marshall head coach Joe McDonald was named the Liberty District Coach of the Year.

Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) Div. 2 action kicked off on Saturday, June 23 with the Vienna Aquatic Club (VAC) Gators hosting the Fairfax Station Flyers. The final score was: VAC 226.5, Fairfax Station 192.5. VAC double winners were: Gavin Levay, Leaya Ma, Julia Downing and Tyler Johnson. Fairfax Station double winners were: Kelly Broderick, James Anderson, John Orsa, Roman Lowery, Genevieve Munch, Bo Ilgenfritz, Katie Munch, Faith Lowery and Ashley Weldon. Single winners were Ella Galbraith, Christopher Card, Jack Galbraith, Julia Capobianco, Anna Keating, Phillip Sullivan, Darby Galbraith, Marcus Card, Alli Haufler, Tyler Hazard, Alex Saffran, Elaine Chua, Allen Frazee and Cory Hanson.

The Marshall High Youth Lacrosse Camp will help young players learn about the game as well as help them develop their on-field skills. The camp is still open for a few more weeks. All equipment will be provided for new players to the sport. (Be sure to bring a mouth guard). Experienced players will have the opportunity to learn more about the sport under the guidance of

Marshall High coaches who have helped build the Statesmen into one of the area's top growing programs (ranked No. 8 in Laxpower State Polls for 2012). Camp Coaches will include NCAA Div. 1 players. To register, go to: <http://www.gcmhsboosters.org/productimages/Summer2012YouthFlyer.pdf>

Cougar Baseball Summer Camp will take place throughout July on the following dates: July 9-12 (Little Leaguers ages 6 to 11); July 16-19 (ages' 11-through high school); July 23-26 (Little Leaguers ages 6 to 11). Camp sessions will be held at Oakton High's Tom Hall Baseball Field; with daily camp times from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Camp Director is Oakton High varsity baseball coach Justin Janis. Cost is \$140 per camper, with all funds being used to support Oakton High baseball. Checks should be made to OHSABC, and sent to: Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, Va. 22181. The Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp is intended to teach players solid fundamental baseball skills. The primary goal is to provide each player with the instruction, knowledge, and evaluation necessary to raise their level of play. Instruction will emphasize the core values of Oakton Cougar Baseball: Excellence, Teamwork, and Integrity.

McLean High School, this past school year, announced the hiring of its new head football coach, Dennis Worek. Coach Worek has successful past experience as a head coach in the Northern Region, having been at the helm of both the Langley and Madison High programs in past years.

Worek led the Madison Warhawks to a region championship and state runner-up finish in the fall of 1996. He has been honored as District Coach of the Year three different times, as well as Northern Region Coach of the Year in 1996.

Coach Worek has spent the last two years as the defensive coordinator at Thomas Jefferson High School. In 1998, he left coaching to serve as an assistant principal at Chantilly High School, a role that he served for 10 years.

In recent years, the McLean High football team has been under the direction of Jim Patrick, who led the Highlanders to the Div. 5 region playoffs in each of the past two years. Patrick currently serves as the McLean High Director of Student Activities.

ViennaTysons Chamber Presents Annual Awards

ViennaTysons Regional Chamber of Commerce has announced the recipients of the Annual Business and Service Awards: U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) presented the recipients with copies of their award having been read into the US Congressional Record.

Dr. Gerald Gordon, President and CEO of the Economic Development Authority of Fairfax County was Master of Ceremonies.

Kevin Reynolds, recipient of the Business Executive of the Year – Large award, said, “This award represents the success of the wonderful partnership between Cardinal and the VTRCC and our continued efforts to build a community that thrives.”

The Finalists for and the Recipients of Annual Business and Service Awards are:

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR - LARGE

Northwest Federal Credit Union
Transurban
Gannett
Northrop Grumman

BUSINESS OF THE YEAR - SMALL

Home Exteriors Energy Consultants
Bazin's on Church
Washington Landscapes
Commonwealth Home Remodelers

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR - LARGE

Brian Kelleher - Hilton McLean Tysons Corner
Kevin Reynolds - Cardinal Bank
Scott Finberg - PS Business Parks
Kristina Bouweiri - Reston Limousine

BUSINESS EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR - SMALL

Keith Turner - Tysons Partnership
Diana Carlin - Damon Galleries
Soumy West - The W Salon
*ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR
Fern Hernberg, Eagle HR
Maureen Loftus - LearningRX
Julie Bazin - Bazin's on Church
Mark Rogoff - Title One Settlement

WEEK IN VIENNA

Town Offices Closed

Vienna Town offices will be closed on Wednesday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. The Vienna Community Center will observe abbreviated operating hours and will be open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; no classes or drop-ins will be held.

Refuse Will be Collected on July 4

The Town of Vienna's new refuse collection program will go into effect Monday, July 2. The new program will divide the Town into five equal-sized

districts and will simplify household refuse collection by picking up all materials- trash, recycling, bulk items, brush and yard waste- on the same day each week. Under this new program, refuse will be collected as normal on all Town-observed holidays except for Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day.

Refuse will be collected on Wednesday, July 4, for residents on the Wednesday Collection Route as identified in the new refuse collection program. Your collection day may have changed. If you are unsure what your new collection day will be effective July 2, visit www.viennava.gov, view your June Town Newsletter or contact the Department of Public Works at 703-255-6380 or dpw@viennava.gov.



Rich Irons going to stage to accept award.



Fairfax County's EDA CEO, Dr. Gerald Gordon and VTRCC Chairman of the Board Kevin McCoy.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Jane Seeman, Mayor, Town of Vienna
Tana Keefe - Long & Foster (Earman)
Rhonda VanLowe - Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program
Mark Keam - Delegate/Verizon

NONPROFIT OF THE YEAR

Fairfax Public Access
Our Daily Bread
Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna

EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR

David Reynolds, Vienna Elementary School

LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD

Georgen Scarborough Associates
Rich Irons - First Citizens Bank
Jerry Magri - Magri & Associates
Dr. Bishnu Poudel



Charlotte sharing a laugh with 3-year-old orphan "Wichian."

Madeira Student Reaches Out to Orphans in Thailand

Charlotte Heffelmire, of Vienna, is a freshman at the Madeira School and spent her spring break in the tropics, but not to sunbathe and enjoy the beach. Instead, she presented several thousand dollars to the Pattaya Orphanage near the Gulf of Siam in Thailand. For the last several years Charlotte has been working and saving her money as well as collecting donations to help the orphans in Thailand.

Upon arrival at the orphanage, the director led her on a tour and explained that most of the orphans were abandoned by mothers with drug or other problems. After a tour of the facilities, Charlotte was able to see directly who her donation would affect. It was heartbreaking to see the children who grabbed at her legs, hands, shirt, and anything they could get a hand on - tugging for attention that they normally are not able to get. This sort of reaction from the children was not out of deliberate neglect by the caretakers, but it was clear the orphanage just did not have enough hands to go around and tried to do the best they could.

After spending some time with the children, Charlotte could not help but wonder if the little bit she was able to donate at the time would be enough for a lasting impact. It was very clear that the orphanage needed much more than just the occasional visit from a concerned visitor. It needed people who would care enough to donate their time as well as some of the basic needs like food and medicine to make sure these children had at least the essentials requirements.

Charlotte encourages everyone to visit Pattaya Orphanage's website at <http://www.thepattayaorphanage.org/> to learn more about the history of the orphanage, donate time, supplies or even sponsor a child. Charlotte was originally hesitant about donations because you can never be sure that they will help the ones that truly need it, but after visiting and seeing how her time and charity directly affects these children's lives, she hopes everyone can find it in their hearts to give just a little, because it truly does go a long way.

—ERIC HEFFELMIRE



Charlotte offers donation to orphanage director Khun Siriphen.

A GAP In My Thinking

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Recently, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was forced to buy a new car (in this instance, "new" means different, not a current model year). Estimated repairs at 137,000 miles that could have escalated into the unknown – and unaffordable – thousands compelled me to fish so I wouldn't have my bait cut (and I don't even like to fish). As a result of this unexpected commitment, the light at the end of the financing tunnel has all but disappeared (I had one year left on our previous car). Where once I was nearly right-side up, I am now upside down, inside out and no longer counting the months until my final payment. Now, I am counting the days until my second month's payment (there's too many months remaining to count months). All that I had anticipated as being old is once again new: the bank/lien holder, the payment amount/terms and the inch-thick payment booklet. Seventy-two months can really stack up.

But I really didn't have a choice, unfortunately. In fact, I was dealing from a position of weakness (my car was undrivable). The dealership, after examining the car's engine, sort of knew that fixing my car, given its age and mileage, was probably unlikely, so they made me an offer – as a trade toward the purchase of one of their vehicles. It wasn't ideal by any means, but given the mechanical troubles, I didn't feel as if I had any practical options (I wasn't going to tow my car to various dealerships for offers, was I?) so I swallowed hard and tried not to bite the hand of the seller as the deal (and I use that term loosely) was presented to me. I accepted. And so the damage/I mean deal was done. I wasn't happy about it, although I did receive fancy, and expensive, floor mats for free. However, I wasn't quite finished.

As any car-purchaser knows, the deal isn't really done until, as they say, the paperwork is finished. And "paperwork" means sitting down with the finance manager to sign and seal that "deal." Only after doing so will you know what your "new" car is actually going to cost (with miscellaneous "add-ons" like undercoating). For me, my monthly payment increased by nearly \$100: extended warranties, prepaid service contract and tire replacement insurance, all of which sounded like a good idea – and prudent, at the time. Now I'm not so sure, but what's done is done and the less said about it the better. I really do have other things to worry about, as you regular readers know.

One of the offers the finance manager made to me, which I had no regrets refusing, was GAP insurance. My understanding now is that GAP Insurance pays off the balance of the outstanding loan in the event an accident "totals" the car, far exceeding the settlement offered by standard coverage, often suggested/encouraged/required when a low down payment is made and the borrower is approved for a significant percentage of the cost of the vehicle. Given the other add-on commitments I had already made and my impatience at considering additional dollars, I passed and so we finalized the paperwork.

Maybe I was too hasty. Incorrectly, I thought GAP Insurance had more to do with the balance of the loan being paid off in the event of death and/or disability. Since I'm already disabled and have sufficient life insurance – and don't want to think about death, if possible, I declined. I never even gave the finance manager an opportunity to explain or to give me a quote. For all I know, the price might have been right. I should have at least listened since, as an a cancer patient, still undergoing treatment, I'll never be able to buy insurance any other way. Had I listened, I would have learned of my misunderstanding, and considering what I now know to be the meaning/purpose of GAP Insurance, I might have considered it.

But it's too late; I called, and now I'll never know if the benefit was worth the cost. But that's what happens when you're terminal; there's only so much you can worry about. It's somewhere between picking your spots, being mentally overwhelmed and self-preservation. It's a regular three-ring circus – without the clowns. I hope I live to regret my decision – and never need to fill the gap caused by my "hasty" decision.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

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Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2013 Budget and New Schools Opening

New School Buildings Opening in September

Students in three Fairfax County communities are eagerly anticipating the first day of school on September 4. Two new schools, Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale and South County Middle School in Lorton, will open their doors for the first time. Graham Road Elementary School will move students from the old school location to a redesigned building previously used as an administrative building. All three projects were funded by bonds approved by Fairfax County voters.

Mason Crest Elementary School

Mason Crest Elementary is located at the site of the old Lacey Instructional Center at 3705 Crest Drive in Annandale. Members of the community participated in naming the school which combines the name of the old Masonville school and the Broyhill Crest neighborhood.

"We are excited to already be working with our parents and our community," said Brian Butler, principal at Mason Crest. "Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all our students and it will take all of us, parents, teachers, and the community, working together to honor every student."

More than 470 students in grades K-5 are expected to attend Mason Crest. The school will

host programs and services including a Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP/Headstart), advanced academic local level IV services, special education preschool and School-Aged Child Care (SACC).

The two-story building was designed with sustainable and environmentally friendly features including a ground source heat pump, the first one installed in a Fairfax County Public School. The heat pump uses 96 geothermal wells buried 400 feet under the ground to exchange heat to or from water in pipes as it travels to and from the building. Electricity helps move the heat back and forth, but the pump does not burn fossil fuel. This process helps reduce the school's carbon footprint because there are no harmful emissions to the environment.

South County Middle School

South County Middle School was built in one the fastest growing areas of Fairfax County. It sits on 40 acres of land located at 8700 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton and was constructed on property obtained from Fairfax County Park Authority.

Many of the students attending the new middle school previously attended South County Secondary School (SCSS), which is adjacent to

the new school property.

"We look forward to keeping many of our SCSS traditions as we create a new identity as a separate middle school," said Marsha Manning, principal of South County Middle School.

The middle school is a two-story building with more than 176,000 square feet. It will have 40 general education classrooms and additional elective rooms for students in grades 7 and 8. By obtaining land from the park authority and using the same design as was used for Glasgow Middle School, FCPS was able to achieve cost savings for the development and design of the project.

The new middle school will be home to state-of-the-art technology and facilities and host an Advanced Academic Level IV Center Program and a program for intellectually disabled students.

"We're thrilled to move into a new building that we will make into our home," said Manning. "We will strive to make every student feel capable, connected, and a contributor at South County Middle School."

Graham Road Elementary School

Graham Road Elementary is moving to a new location that will increase the school's capacity for more students and provide improved athletic fields and playground facilities. The new location will be at 2831 Graham Road in Falls Church.

In 2008, the Fairfax County School Board decided it would be less disruptive to renovate the administrative center than to renovate the elementary school since students would not be on the campus during the renovation. The new site also offered less traffic congestion, better traffic flow, and an opportunity to keep the Head Start-Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP) together with the K-6 students in one building.

"The opening of our new school building is very exciting for our students, parents, and staff," said Terry Dade, principal at Graham Road. "We are eagerly anticipating the day when the doors officially open and the students' faces light up as they enter a building that is bright and inviting and provides the latest technology and resources to enhance their learning. We sincerely appreciate the community support during this process and we're really looking forward to the first day of school in September."

The renovated building has been transformed with all new interior and exterior finishes, energy efficient windows, and a new roof. In addition, a new HVAC system has been installed along with a new fire alarm and other life safety systems.



Getting To Know Us

IT Operations Cathy Sells

As you watch a building being constructed over time, you notice the concrete being poured, the roof being built, and the windows installed. Each person working on the school building plays a significant role in the process and is relied upon by the whole team.

Opening a new school building requires coordination by a team of skilled professionals, from the areas of design and construction, transportation, food service, human resources, information technology, safety and security, instructional services, special services and many others.

Behind the scenes there is much going on that may not be visible or noticeable. Cathy Sells, director of operations for information technology (IT) at FCPS, works with the entire IT department to ensure that the technology required for a school building is available when and where it is needed.

"Technologies such as network connectivity, voice services, wireless access, data storage, computer equipment, printers, and copiers ensure a contemporary learning environment for 21st century instruction," said Sells.

"Our IT team works very closely with the school principal on the technology plan for the school. Our mission is to provide technology leadership and services to ensure a safe and secure environment for 24/7 learning.

"It is really fascinating to see the coordination of the people involved when we build a new school," she said. "Everyone works together to ensure that the new site will be the best possible place for the students and staff in that community. We all rely on each other and it's one of the best things we do as an organization."



Fairfax County School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the Fairfax County Public Schools 2012-13 school year (FY 2013) Approved Budget of \$2.4 billion that includes:

- compensation increases for employees.
- the elimination of student athletic fees.
- more than 700 new positions to address enrollment growth.
- extended learning time for at-risk students.
- the expansion of the World Languages program in elementary schools.
- a phase in of mandated employee contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

The FY 2013 Approved Budget is an 8.2 percent increase over the FY 2012 Approved Budget. For more information visit www.fcps.edu and click on FY 2013 Budget.

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