

and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

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Puppy-raisers Heidi Lesinski with
Stormin' Norman and Giselle
Sundwall with Neil [Armstrong].



Vienna Youth Soccer Celebrates Award Winning Season Receiving Prestigious Coach of the Year and 11 Outstanding Sportsmanship Awards

VIENNA, VA – February 9, 2013 – Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) receives acclaim from the soccer community as Camile Louis is recognized by Virginia Youth Soccer Association as Boys Recreational Coach of the Year and 11 Travel Teams receive outstanding sportsmanship by the National Capital Soccer League, Old Dominion Soccer League, and Washington Area Girls Soccer League.

VYS is committed to creating a positive culture in which coaches, parents, fans, officials and players have the tools and training to work together to achieve our mission. For the past five years, VYS has partnered with Positive Coaching Alliance (PCA), a national nonprofit organization committed to providing all youth and high school athletes a positive, character-building youth sports experience. As a result, more than 50% of VYS coaches have attended PCA workshops or taken online courses about positive coaching and sportsmanship. www.positivecoach.org

According to Margaret Kerfoot, President of VYS, “Vienna Youth Soccer is extremely proud of our players, coaches and parents for demonstrating both competitive athleticism and outstanding sportsmanship. We are very pleased that our VYS teams strongly represent positive ideals and our players are learning important life lessons through sports.”

In addition to their outstanding sportsmanship during the fall season, the U15G Strikers Red Team has decided to “pay forward” their recognition by sharing their love of the game with others through a donation to the charity DC Scores.

Virginia Youth Soccer Association Coach of the Year
Camile Louis,
Boys Recreational Coach of the Year

National Capital Soccer League Sportsmanship Award Winner:

U10B Spartans Black
Coach: Kevin Yam
Assistant Coach: Raoul Tecala
Manager: Amy Yam
Players: Michael Bath
Jose Cabrera
Ridley Coyte
Jonathan Guo
Justin Heller
Aaron Jackson
Lawrence Norman
Aidan Shannon
Owen Stevens
John Tecala
Alan Zhang

Old Dominion Soccer League Randy Rawls Sportsmanship Award:

U9 Boys Vipers Silver
Coaches: Ran Whittle and Kristin Quackenbush
Manager: Jackie Indelicarto
Players: Daniel Lychak
Benjamin Quackenbush
Christian Schipma
Connor Sevy
Alexander Triaca
Matias Turunen
Andrew Vossler
Tyler Whittle
Alexandre Winkler
Charles Wise
Matthew Indelicarto

U9 Girls Fire White
Coaches: Simon Hamilton
Assistant Coaches: Linda McDonald and Ed Radgowski
Manager: Catherine Wright
Players: Erin Brodnik
Caroline Carpenter
Madeleine Hamilton
Rylie Hughes
Catherine McDonald
Eve McDonough
Carol Radgowski
Madaline Radgowski
Grace Rose
Olivia Stalnaker
Grace Wright

U10 Boys Spartans White
Coach: Nick Makrigiorgos
Assistant Coach: Sanjay Tolani
Manager: Anita Tolani
Players: Merrick Adams
Gavin Bundy
Lukas Dalakis
Miko Dalakis
Joshua Defilippis
Carson Kourtessis
Phillip Lesjak
Dionisi Makrigiorgos
Walker Oetti
Brennan Palmer
Akskay Tolani

U10 Girls Fury Silver
Coach: Christopher Nardotti
Assistant Coach: Prescott Noone
Manager: Kirk Hammock
Players: Kelly Brodnik
Sarah Campbell
Hannah Collins
Catherine Cryan
Elizabeth Frazier
Taylor Hammock
Erin Harder
Jennifer Karl
Isabella Nardotti
Emily Noone
Audrey Perry
Elizabeth Sypal

U11 Boys Lightning White
Coach: Todd Perry
Assistant Coach: Steve Arner
Manager: David Finkbeiner
Players: Ben Abrahams
Karim Al-Kouraisi
Colin Arner
Patrick Di Tullio
Jonathan Finkbeiner
Thomas Flood
Josh Foster
Ali Kamel
Sean Mclellan
Edward Peabody
Jack Perry

U11 Girls Pride Silver
Coach: Kathy Clark
Trainer: Gerardo Ramirez
Manager: Ed Thompson
Players: Isabella Bollini
Whitney Bowen
Kelly Clark
Gillian Dumont
Sherrie Feng
Regina Pizzano
Alex Price
Lucy Rodgers
Ashley Schmidt
Emily Swanekamp
Rachel Thompson
Carly Williams

Washington Area Girls Soccer League Sportsmanship Award Winners:

U12 Girls Freedom Black
Coach: Curtis Wilson
Assistant Coaches: Brandi Brummer and Gary Kocis
Manager: Brian Billett
Players: Carly Billak
Gabriella Billett
Mallory Brodnik
Emma Brown
Bailey Brummer
Amirah Endar
Megan Keady
Emmalyn Kim
Julia Kocis
Maura Leverone
Ryley McAuliffe
Amanda Piro
Emily Serveiss

U12 Girls Freedom White
Coach: Christian Clifford
Assistant Coaches: Eric Herbold and Tim Donaldson
Manager: Susannah Frazier
Players: Gabrielle Brinkmann
Lauren Clifford
Julia Condon
Claire Cwalina
Margaret Donaldson
Helen Frazier
Megan Harder
Olivia Herbold
Cristina Javens
Jackelin Paredes
Grace Reback
Bailey Tiller

U14 Girls Thunder Red
Coach: Stevie Alabi
Assistant Coach: Allan Haye
Manager: Tiki Gaugler
Players: Anna Bonaquist
Nicole Carrillo-Vallejo
Emily Daly
Tyler Gaugler
Emily Lockwood
Charis McClain
Stefany Melgar
Sita Nair
Tara O'Connell
Ceara Redd
Jacqueline Rothey
Samantha Sechser
Gracie Slye
Tori Traxler
Lexi Warner
Campbell Wilson
Macy Young

U15 Girls Strikers Red
Coach: Gerardo Ramirez
Assistant Coach: Jennifer Wiley
Manager: Phil Kenny
Players: Madison August
Julie Carey
Olivia Dabich
Elise Dirkse
Sam Flowers
Alivia Gharib
Anneliese Goetz
Susie Hyland
Megan Kenny
Jessie McHenry
Ana McMenamin
Patricia O'Reilly
Michelle Paredes
Alex Sorrell
Vickie Spina
Julia Walker
Madeline Walker
Lindsey Wiley

Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS): Established in 1974, VYS' mission is to provide the opportunity for children of all abilities living in and near Vienna to be involved in a high-quality soccer experience. With over 3500 players each season, VYS is committed to creating a positive culture in which coaches, parents, fans, officials and players have the tools and training to work together to achieve our mission. www.vys.org

Special Thanks to The Connection Newspapers

WEEK IN VIENNA

Experience Northside Park at Night

Experience the outdoors at night and get to know the nighttime wildlife at Northside Park (entrance by the W&OD Trail) on Sunday, Feb. 17, beginning at 4:45 p.m.

Led by Fairfax Master Naturalist Wendy Cardany, “Owl Walk” will provide participants with the opportunity to experience the park at night and use their ears instead of their eyes to identify our wild neighbors. The tour will include a presentation on the animals you might hear or see in the park. The presentation will begin at 4:45 p.m. with the children’s portion beginning at 5 p.m., followed by a 20-minute walk through the park.

Participants should meet at the Northside Park entrance off of the W&OD Trail. The tour will follow a rocky and uneven path along the perimeter of the park. In addition, participants will be asked to be silent during parts of the hike in order to hear wildlife. Participants should bring a flashlight and wear good walking shoes.

Owl Walk is free and no registration is required. You do not have to be a resident of Vienna to participate; appropriate for all ages. For more information, contact Cathy Salgado at 703-255-6356 or e-mail csalgado@vienna.gov.

Town Offices Observe President’s Day

Town of Vienna offices will be closed on Monday, Feb. 18, in observance of the Presidents’ Day holiday. The Vienna Community Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; no classes or drop-in programs will be held. Refuse will be collected as normal.

Business License Deadline March 1

Town of Vienna businesses are reminded that the annual business, professional and occupational license tax (BPOL) is due on Friday, March 1. All businesses in the Town of Vienna, including home occupations, must renew their business licenses each year.

License tax forms are available in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S., and online at www.viennava.gov. For more information or assistance in calculating license taxes, call 703-255-6321.

The amount of the tax is based on gross receipts, and the rate varies according to the type of business. The gross receipts threshold is \$50,000, below which the tax does not apply. Those businesses with total annual gross receipts of \$50,000 or less pay only the minimum license fee of \$30 per year.

Vienna Church Publishes Lenten Devotional

The Church of the Good Shepherd, a United Methodist church in Vienna, celebrates the publishing of its 14th annual Devotions for Lent booklet. The booklet of daily devotionals written by members and friends of the congregation will be dedicated at Sunday, Feb. 10, worship services and available then as well as on the Feb. 13th Ash Wednesday service at 7:30 p.m. at the church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Road.

More than 19,000 of the booklets will be mailed to church neighbors, and the booklet also will be available on the church’s website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com. The church also will distribute the daily devotionals by e-mail, and the community is invited to sign up via the church’s

Town Council Candidates Filing Deadline

Tuesday, March 5, is the filing deadline for candidates in the May 7 Vienna Town Council election. This year, voters will elect three Town Council members for two-year terms beginning July 1.

Candidates for office must meet certain qualifications and are required to file specific documents in order to qualify to appear on the ballot. The information packet for candidates is available on the State Board of Election’s website, www.sbe.virginia.gov. For more information, call 1-800-552-9745 and ask for the Election Services Division.

Recycling at Northside Property Yard on March 2

Vienna residents may recycle used automotive items at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill Street NE, on Saturday, March 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries may be dropped off to be recycled. For more information call the Department of Public Works at 703-255-6380 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Men’s Softball League Deadline

Feb. 22 is the registration deadline for the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department’s 2013 men’s softball league. Games will begin on Monday, April 22, at Vienna’s Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive S.W.

The fee is \$600 per team and registrations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. A \$100 non-refundable deposit and a temporary roster are required at the time of registration. For a league information package, call Enrique Guzman at 703-255-6352 or e-mail eguzman@viennava.gov.

Family Skating at Vienna Community Center

Family Skate Night will be held on Fridays, through March 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, S.E.

Admission is \$1 per person. Bring your own roller skates or in-line skates (no scooters) and safety equipment. Parents are required to stay with their children and are welcome to participate. No registration required.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

website for the devotionals.

The Rev. Mark Burgess, pastor at Good Shepherd, invites readers to use the booklet to spend some time alone with God.

“Lent is a time of year to step back from our busy lives,” the Rev. Burgess said. “We do so in imitation of Jesus who also, from time to time, withdrew to quiet places where he could be alone with God. We pray that you may find a place like this yourselves this Lenten season and that these devotions may assist you as you likewise seek God’s presence.”

For more information, call the church office at 703-281-3987 or visit the church website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Veterans Moving Forward Inc. puppy-training Coordinator Michele Khol with four of her Guiding Eyes for the Blind fostered dogs.

Raising Puppies for Veterans

Veterans Moving Forward pairs disabled U.S. vets with therapy dogs.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Wanted: supporter of U.S. veterans, likes to be licked and take long walks, looking for a committed relationship. Reply to Michele Khol, puppy-raiser training coordinator for Vets Moving Forward, Inc. [VMF].

"I've seen through Guiding Eyes [for the Blind] the difference dogs make in people's lives," said Khol, of Oakton. "Not just the blind but people suffering from other conditions, as well." Khol and her family dedicated 11 years with Guiding Eyes for the Blind, raising multiple puppies who went on to become heroes. Last summer, Khol, a working nurse, was ready to try something new. Her dad and husband were military and the Khol's son Curtis is a junior at the U.S. Naval Academy.

In VMF, Khol said she found a way to "marry" her military background with her love of dogs. She wanted to help veterans returning from combat zones.

"We have more than enough puppies," said Khol, adding that breeders "donate" puppies to the program. "What we need are puppy-raisers. That's what we're looking for now."

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, several nonprofits

have been established that recognize the therapeutic value of pets for disabled veterans suffering from PTSD [Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder] or physical disabilities. Some of these focus on pairing dogs or cats, primarily, rescued from animal shelters, with vets suffering from PTSD. Other veterans-support groups accept dogs, gratis, bred for therapy services. Veterans Moving Forward, Inc. is one of the latter. Before the dogs are adopted by veterans, however, they are taken in by foster "parents" as puppies and raised in a family atmosphere.

VMF, founded by retired Naval Commander Karen D. Jeffries three years ago, provides comfort dogs, therapy dogs, facility dogs and assistance dogs to eligible veterans.

Jeffries does not reveal her inspiration for VMF or her own disability, saying only that it is "illegal" to ask her that. She does acknowledge, however, she has witnessed firsthand the therapeutic miracles of the dog-veteran relationship.

Puppy-raisers foster an 8 to 10-week-old puppy for 18 months, housebreaking the dog, socializing him, caring for him and loving him. It is, Khol said, a "major commitment."

Khol herself knows the commitment puppy-raising takes. She works

two nights a week as a hospital nurse, tending to her pup during the day. Her husband has pup night-duty. How do other people do it? "Basically, people who currently have dogs in our program take their dogs to work with them," Khol said. The employer agrees to partner with the puppy-raiser.

"It's a unique opportunity for businesses without them having to make a financial commitment," said

SEE PUPPIES, PAGE 5

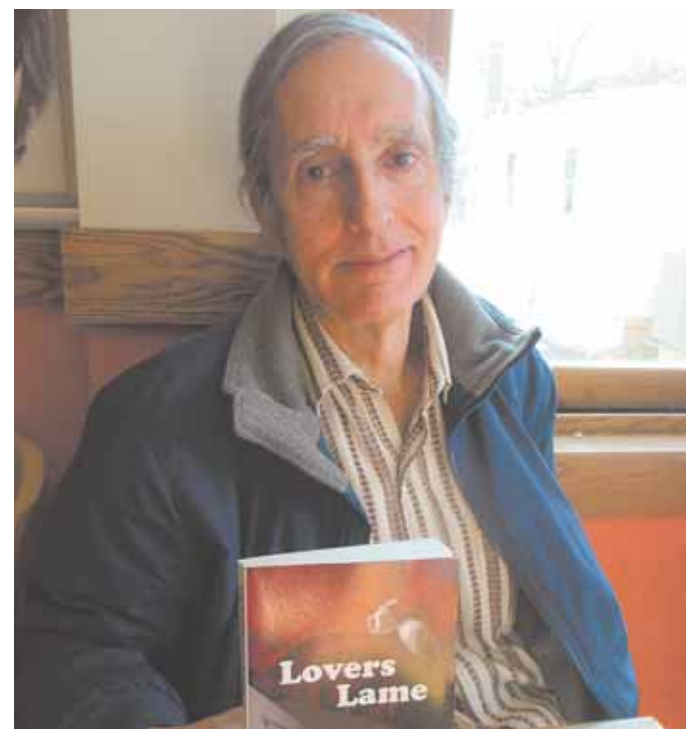


PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Bob Rudney of Vienna wrote "Lovers Lane" to bring into focus the lives of disabled people as adults seeking an intimate relationship.

A Novel Idea

Vienna author focused on love story of two disabled people.

DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

She was impetuous, passionate and a bit on the wild side, a shady past behind her. He was sensitive, introverted, a bit shy, with very little "past" behind him. Like night and day, their lives intersected briefly. Like many star-crossed lovers, they forged a relationship despite obstacles that obstructed their paths. It wasn't religion, race, class or family feuds that thwarted intimacy. It was their disabilities. And their struggles anchor the plot of a new novel by Vienna author Robert "Bob" Rudney.

"Someone in a wheelchair walks into a room and everyone focuses on the wheelchair, not the person," said Rudney, author of "Lovers Lane," a romance novel that addresses the roadblocks that disabled people frequently face when trying to build personal and professional relationships.

"It's critical to focus on people's personalities, not just their disability, and the issues they face."

RUDNEY, defense and intelligence analyst and co-author of four books on international security, stepped out of his comfort zone when he wrote "Lovers Lane." In the 90s, Rudney worked with Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders, an Independent with a strong commitment to

social issues. While living in Vermont, he worked with disability activists there. The experiences inspired him.

Back in the Washington area in 1995, Rudney worked as a private consultant and at the Pentagon. As a volunteer, he led a disability employment self-help program, EXCEL!, for 15 years before closing it out in 2010. Fifty-seven million Americans have a disability, Rudney said. They face prejudice in the workplace and in their personal lives. "Lovers Lane" was conceived shortly after the dissolution of EXCEL! Toasting at a farewell party in Vienna, Rudney suggested—after several glasses of wine—someone write a novel based on people with disabilities. He turned out to be that person.

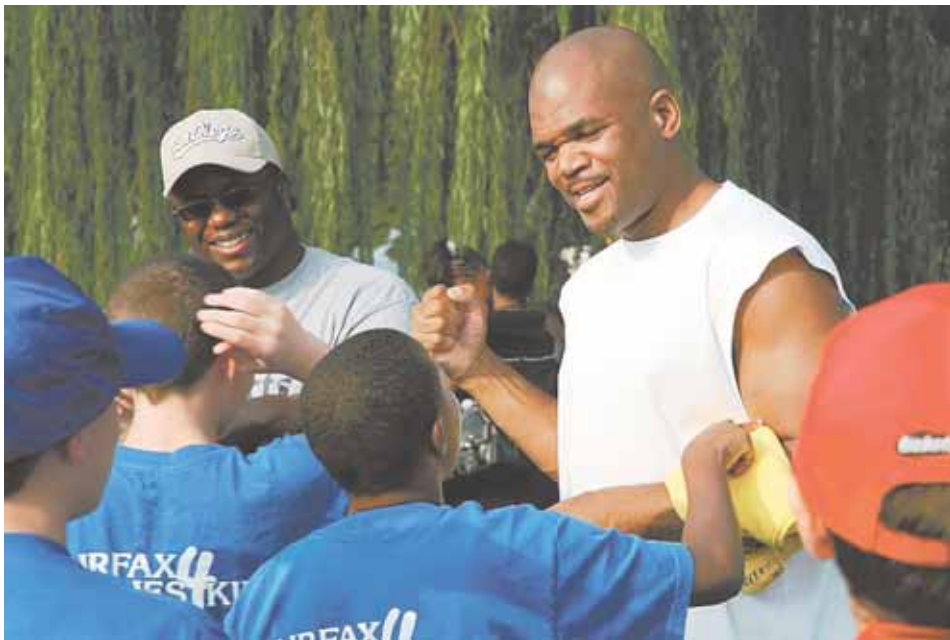
The narrative of "Lovers Lane" comes mostly from his experiences with Excel! "My audience is the disabled community," said Rudney. Just about everyone knows a disabled person, someone in the family, a relative, Rudney said.

"Robert Rudney's book is labeled as a disability novel, but I forgot about that by the time I had finished the first chapter," said friend Kay Menchel. "This is just a human story. It is, of course, about people who have different challenges from those of us who are temporarily-abled, but they have the same

SEE NOVEL, PAGE 5

THE COUNTY LINE

During a fundraising walk in 2006, youth in Fairfax Families4Kids were greeted by rapper Run DMC, who grew up in foster care. Pastor Dan Rhodes (left) organized the event.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOAN BRADY

A Positive Reflection

Joan Brady gives foster children needed exposure.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The last in a series.

On Monday, Sept. 10, 2001, Joan Brady of Great Falls had just started a three-month sabbatical from her job with an Internet company. Newly-married, Brady, who was 36 years old at the time, was exhausted from 80-hour work weeks in a rigid corporate environment. She wanted time that fall to contemplate what to do next with her life.

The next day provided answers and a sense of urgency. It was Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001.

The terrorist attacks, and the moving stories of heroism and tragedy on 9/11, indelibly left their mark. Brady, like many Americans, was inspired to do something new, to take more chances, to change direction.

"After that tragic day, it was hard to imagine going back to a job that had seemed critically important, but now felt largely meaningless," she said.

She thought she might become a social worker or a teacher, a job where she could make a difference in other people's lives. She decided to volunteer as a homework tutor at a group home for foster children.

As she struggled to find a way to motivate her students, she began "bribing" them with her photography. "Some teachers gave kids candy in exchange for com-

pleting homework assignments. I thought I'd try taking their photos and giving them copies," Brady said.

Their reaction to having their photos taken surprised her. "It made me realize that they didn't have pictures of themselves, other than the one snapshot for their official file," Brady said. "I came to understand the connection between their having their picture taken and self-esteem."

According to child development experts, photos say "I'm important in this family." They show a child he or she is meaningfully connected to others, and provide a visual symbol of nurturing, love and caring. Foster children, who are frequently shuffled from one home to the next, rarely have family photos.

"In those days, I actually wasn't a professional photographer, just a gal with a point and shoot digital camera, trying to get through a three-month commitment I had made," Brady said. "I took pictures of the kids in the group home, mugging for the camera, playing basketball, bike riding, playing on the playground and occasionally holding up a good report from school."

She gave her students little \$1 photo albums she purchased at Michaels so they would have a place to store their photos.

She realized just how important the photos were to her students when she showed up at school one day and learned the photo albums had caused some trouble.

"It turned out that the kids weren't allowed to take anything to bed with them and several had been caught taking their little photo albums that we were filling with pictures to bed with them," she said. "It was in that moment that I realized I was doing something more than getting through the three-month commitment that I had made to be a homework tutor. I stayed on well beyond my three-month commitment."

By 2004, she combined her love of photography with her ability to connect with children and started Joan Brady Photography. She also began photographing foster children featured on Wednesday's Child. During a shoot in 2005, she met Beverly Howard, the director of a small Fairfax County foster-mentoring program called Fairfax Families4Kids.

In Fairfax County, about 400 children are in foster care, and about 20 children, most of whom are 14 and older, are in the Fairfax Families4Kids program. According to Howard, these children are considered more difficult to place in adoptive homes because they are typically teens who have a range of special needs. Mentors provide one-on-one support and participate in monthly group activities.

"I got involved with the program when I met Beverly Howard, the director. She is a force of nature, a person no one can say no to. I have learned so much from her and have been so inspired by both her wisdom and her spirit," Brady said.

She became the group's volunteer photographer, shooting the children during their outings with mentors. Many of the children, especially the girls, didn't like to



Fairfax Families4Kids hosts a number of events for foster youth and mentors. In the photo, a 14-year-old boy in the program is getting his face painted at a Fairfax festival.

Consider Mentoring

Fairfax Families4Kids is actively seeking mentors to connect with older children in foster care, those most at-risk for homelessness. To find out more about the Fairfax Families4Kids program or to become a volunteer or mentor, contact Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the Fairfax Families4Kids program at 703-324-7518.

be photographed. They thought they were ugly, unworthy of a photographer's time.

Brady often carries photographs of the program's children with her. In one photo, Kenny, a 14-year-old from Reston who was recently adopted, is high in the air, all legs and arms, about to make a powerful slam dunk. In another photo, Serena, 17, flashes a warm smile, her face framed in a cascade of long brown curls.

"Serena is a really interesting story. She's a tough girl whose initial reaction of 'don't take my picture!' evolved into 'take a picture of me!' and 'How come there aren't more pictures of me in the book!' She is such a sweet and thoughtful girl," Brady said.

Howard said Brady's photos capture the children's creativity and give them a positive reflection, something most of them have never had. She said the children are empowered by getting their photos taken.

"Joan sees well beyond the labels that so many of our youth have gathered along their journey

in foster care," Howard said. "She can see the gifted artists, the aspiring scientists, the comedians, the athletes, and the beautiful children waiting for an opportunity to bloom."

Becoming an Advocate

Brady doesn't look like a fighter. She is petite, quick to laugh, and looks younger than her 48 years. But spend five minutes with her, and one quickly finds out how passionate and relentless she is about Fairfax Families4Kids.

"Actually, [fighting for children] started when I became a court appointed special advocate for a 9-year-old boy in foster care from DC in 2002. And yeah, I was surprised ... surprised that doing what was right by children was something that most often required a fight," she said during a recent breakfast.

"This is not just mentoring.

SEE MENTORS, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Puppies for Veterans

FROM PAGE 3

Khol. "It's a way to show support for our veterans and our community by allowing a disciplined dog to be present in their workplace."

VMF is looking for companies, as well as individuals, to serve as puppy-raisers to make the program work most effectively. "Needless to say, the goodwill a business earns cannot be overestimated."

Khol notes that there are quite a few corporate donors from the Tysons area. Trax recently donated \$25,000 to VMF.

VMF IS YOUNG ENOUGH that it can think outside the box to create solutions to challenges, Khol said.

"Say you can take your puppy to work but you live somewhere that does not allow pets. Someone else may be able to keep pets but cannot bring them to work. Perhaps, the two people can partner so that one has the dog during the workday, the other at night."

Khol said VMF will work with people who are willing to make the time and duration commitment.

"The people who participate are provided with the tools to be successful."

VMF dogs are trained to the standards of the Delta Society and Khol manages the assistance dogs in training program.

Everyone with VMF is a volunteer, including the puppy-raisers. There is no financial compensation, just the compensation of knowing you've helped. "You are doing this for the love of service and making a difference in a veteran's life," said Khol.

The puppy-raisers accept that, someday, the dog they grew to love will leave them. "He's going to be a service dog, helping veterans," said Giselle Sundwall of Annandale. "We're honored to be part of the program."

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RAISE A VMF PUPPY or would like to learn more about the program and its services, go to www.vetsfwd.org or e-mail Michele Khol at kholcm@verizon.net.

Vienna Author Publishes Novel

FROM PAGE 3

emotions, complications and issues as everyone else. The characters are well drawn, and the dialogue flows naturally, particularly when it's enlivened by Robert's deliciously dark humor."

THE PROTAGONIST'S DISABILITY mirrors Rudney's own, a left-side paralytic condition. Unlike protagonist David Levin, however, Dartmouth-educated Rudney married, raised a family of three children and worked steadily in professional roles, retiring from the Pentagon in 2012. He received the 2008 Kennedy Foundation Congressional Fellowship. In 2011 he won the Defense Department award as the "Outstanding Employee with a Disability."

In "Lovers Lane" Rudney draws from his life experiences to create a love story set against the backdrop of people with disabilities fighting for acceptance. He was, as he described himself, "historically, a wallflower," self-conscious of his disability.

"The novel is focused on the relationship between two people with completely different psychological make-ups. She's looking for an anchor in her life. Even with the lesser characters, I deal with issues of isolation. They're trying to form intimate relationships."

"Disabilities are central to the plot but I wanted to focus on the characters as human beings," Rudney said.

TO BUY ROBERT RUDNEY'S NOVEL "Lovers Lane," go to www.booklocker.com/books/6101.html.

The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras



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OPINION

On Transportation

Compromise, in the works, should include indexing the gas tax to inflation.

Virginia needs more options, not fewer, in developing revenue to pay for roads and transportation. Compromise on a plan to increase transportation revenue should not include making Virginia the only state in the nation without a gas tax. The current, ridiculously low gas tax should be indexed to inflation. The last thing the commonwealth needs is to do away with an existing, major source of money for roads.

Sen. Dick Saslaw proposed raising the tax, now 17.5 cents a gallon, by five cents each of the next two years and then indexing it to inflation. At the least, the tax should be indexed to rise with inflation from its current level.

Possible proposals to cut the tax in half along with increases in the sales tax miss the point, but are still far preferable to eliminating it.

The gas tax is a user fee. It raises money for roads from people and businesses who are using the roads, including drivers who pass

through Virginia from out of state.

We agree with Del. Scott Surovell, who says: "Funding roads exclusively with sales taxes disproportionately burdens the elderly who drive less than others and people who do not own cars."

Medicaid Expansion Progresses

The Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce said it well when it issued a statement in favor of the commonwealth embracing \$10 billion in federal money to expand the number of people eligible for health insurance under Medicaid:

"Northern Virginia businesses and taxpayers are already paying for health reform through new taxes levied by the Affordable Care Act. If we do not take advantage of Medicaid reform [and expansion], roughly \$10 billion in Virginia taxpayer dollars will go to the federal government to fund coverage extension in other states. If the General Assembly approves the reform and extension plan, nearly all those taxpayer dollars will remain in-state where they can be put to good use for the benefit of the commonwealth, its businesses and its citizens."

Sex Trafficking in Our Backyard

Northern Virginia is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking.

BY TIMOTHY D. HUGO
STATE DELEGATE (R-40)

A couple of years ago, I became aware that sex trafficking of children was not solely an international issue, but one that was happening in our own backyard. Unfortunately, the truth is that it is one of the fastest growing criminal industries in the world, in the United States and, yes, here in Virginia. In 2011, I began working with Shared Hope International. This organization strives to prevent sex slavery, restore victims of sex trafficking, bring justice to vulnerable women and children, and strengthen Virginia's laws.

Since that time, the fight against human trafficking has become a top priority of mine. I am committed to fight against those who would do harm to our young people by enacting harsher penalties to those convicted of these horrendous crimes and by increasing public awareness.

According to the Polaris Project, a leading organization in the global fight against human traffick-



ing, over 100,000 children alone are victims of the sex trade in the United States each year. It ranks Virginia seventh in the nation in the percentage of calls received reporting human trafficking. This is not a top ten category that any state seeks. Northern Virginia itself is seeing increasing numbers of reported cases of sexual trafficking occurring in massage parlors, online escort services, and gang-related activities among other av-

enues. Just last year, members of a Fairfax-based gang were arrested for soliciting Fairfax County high school girls for sex trafficking.

Virginia lawmakers have responded and enacted several pieces of legislation including my HB 1898, which raised the penalty for abducting any individual for the purposes of prostitution or abducting a minor for child pornography. In addition, the General Assembly currently has before it my HB 1606, which would stiffen the penalty for soliciting a minor for prostitution. I will continue to look for ways to make Virginia one of the least desirable states for those who seek to harm our young people.

I am not alone in combating this evil. I will continue to work closely with Governor McDonnell, Attorney General Cuccinelli, my colleagues in the General Assembly, Shared Hope International, the Polaris Project, the Richmond Justice Initiative, law enforcement agencies and others to increase awareness of this issue and to institute harsher punishments for those who seek to harm young

Call for Photos for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish at the end of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, Feb. 21.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Please identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description of what is happening in the photo and of your pet, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name). We also welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, and drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

To see our last pet edition, visit:

<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Great%20Falls.pdf>

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<http://connectionarchives.com/PDF/2012/072512/Reston.pdf>

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Residents from Vienna-Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, or Herndon areas should send submissions to:

north@connectionnewspapers.com.

people for financial gain.

Corporations are also participating in efforts to battle human trafficking. Just last year, AT&T granted the Richmond Justice Initiative \$25,000 to develop educational programs to help prevent human trafficking in the Richmond area.

I believe there is no worse crime than one committed against a child. I am dedicated to ensuring child sex traffickers remain behind bars longer for such horrific behavior, so that no child falls prey to those who seek them harm.

One child taken from his/her home, one young person falling prey to this evil, is one too many.

If you would like additional information on this issue, please contact me at 703-815-1201 or delthugo@house.virginia.gov

The writer is a majority caucus chairman at the Virginia House of Delegates.

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Local Media Connection LLC**

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Multi-zone Lower-level Solution Wins Grand Award

Clever space plan and warmly rustic interior capture kudos for Sun Design Remodeling.

By John Byrd

Converting a previously finished lower-level into a suite custom-configured to satisfy the sometimes contrasting wishes of a five-member Oakton family recently won Sun Design Remodeling of Burke a “Contractor of the Year” Grand Award for “Best Residential Basement Interior.”

The coveted prize—which acknowledges excellence in home remodeling in an area-wide competition—is conferred annually by the National Association of the Remodeling Industry’s metro D.C. chapter.

Among the winning project’s particular merits: a solution that augments natural light and visual continuum in a lower level suite by removing interior walls, relocating a critical structural support and re-configuring several rooms.

Sun Design Remodeling, a full-service residential design-build firm, also created and fabricated several complex built-ins to specification.

“I wouldn’t have thought many of these changes were even possible,” homeowner Don Irwin said, on learning of the award.

“We had moved into this house about two years ago—pretty resigned to several fixed elements in the downstairs that obstructed our plans. Sun Design not only showed us what could be done, but also accommodated our wide-ranging family requirements. It’s a really skillful execution.”

AT MORE THAN 2,000 sq. ft., the lower level to the four bedroom house the Irwins had purchased in 2009 seemed ideal for a host of leisure pursuits; once in residence, however, the family soon found that many of the existing activity zones didn’t really suit and weren’t easy to adapt to new uses.

For starters, there was the U-shaped bar and full kitchen at the foot of the stair which consumed more than 80 sq. ft. of valuable floor space.

The corner guest room, which linked to the only bathroom via a long interior corridor, was not a critical necessity either.

Moreover, the bathroom itself was too small, and wrapped by a sprawling L-shaped “mystery room” that had inadvertently become a repository for the 4-year-old daughter’s playthings.

An inviting recess on the rear north side of the house featured a



PHOTOS BY BRYAN BURRIS

Sun Design Remodeling’s interior engineering solution helped to better rationalize a previously unused rear recess to the Irwin’s lower level. The now open area has been transformed into a TV viewing zone. As part of the interior design scheme, columns have been wrapped with reclaimed wood. The flagstone backwall, built-in cabinets and adobe wall coloring help to build a warm southwestern-style ambiance.

working fireplace—and might have sufficed as a TV-viewing nook, but for a mid-space structural support that made it impos-

sible to position furniture for the desired hearth-side view.

Still more vexing, the offending column hampered sightlines to a

west-facing two-panel sliding glass door that offered both a pleasing vista and ready access to the beckoning outdoors.

“The column ruined the space, so the rear recess just became cluttered,” Irwin recalls.

“Chairs were turned in towards the mid-room...where we kept the television. The fireplace and glass slider were out of view. We wanted an open plan with designated activity areas; instead, things were spilling into each other.”

Despite these seemingly intractable challenges, the Irwins held fast to one wish at the top of the lower level makeover agenda: a family fitness suite—one that would include a work-out room directly linked to a spa bath and a sauna.

“Was this even feasible?” the homeowner recalls wondering. “I wasn’t sure.”

IT WAS AT THIS JUNCTURE that Irwin summoned Sun Design, the firm he had hired to makeover the lower level of their previous residence several years back.

“They understood our vision,” Irwin says. “We reviewed our program point by point, and they im-

SEE OAKTON, PAGE 9

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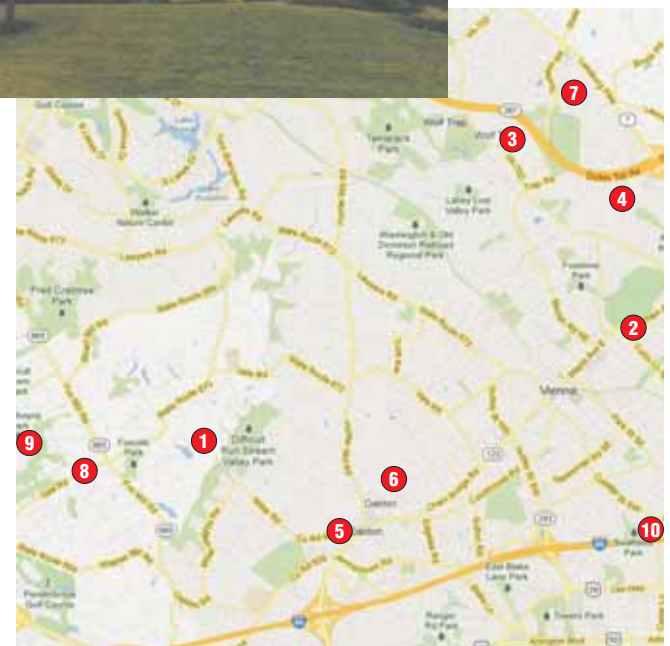
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© Google Map data

Oakton Home Wins Remodeling Award

FROM PAGE 7

mediately began developing plans showing where new rooms should be located and how to integrate the whole. Better yet, their interior design sketches really helped us make informed choices.”

On this score, an early decision to eliminate the wall sequestering the guest room proved particularly fateful.

“Bob Gallagher, the company president, showed us how we could augment available light throughout the suite by deleting a wall shared by a room we didn’t use much anyway,” Irwin says. “I speculated that there might be occasions when we’d want an extra room for guests, and that’s when Bob came up with the idea of a rolling modular door.”

Essentially, what evolved from Gallagher’s proposal—a three-panel circa 1890s barn door on mounted rollers—not only proved functional for privacy as needed, but also introduced an aesthetic element that moved the entire interior design scheme forward.

“The hanging barn door showed us some ways in which we could use ‘reclaimed’ wood to create unique interior accents,” Irwin said. “From here we began to envision a kind of rustic, textured interior.”

The homeowner said that the resulting “lodge-style” has proven to be a good move—a warm, welcoming ambiance the whole family naturally gravitates towards.

To make better use of the north-facing recess, Sun Design introduced concealed structural supports that eliminate the need for the midroom vertical shaft, allowing the Irwins to comfortably arrange furniture for a view of the hearth and the slider.

Once the space was opened up, it was feasible to re-design the recess for family gatherings—complete with a bold flagstone back wall, custom storage built-ins and a 70” flat screen TV.

To configure a footprint for the family fitness center, the design team deleted both an interior closet and the hall linking the guest room to the bathroom, then trimmed back the daughter’s playroom and tripled the space allocated for the new bathroom.

The 12’ x 12’ exercise room—which is equipped with a treadmill, workout bench and weight system—now opens directly into the spa bath which features an infrared sauna for four and a large walk-in shower with bench.

The spa bath is finished in tumbled “Picasso” stone with por-



By re-configuring several existing rooms, Sun Design created a footprint large enough for a family exercise area directly linked to a spa bath equipped with a walk-in shower and four-person sauna. The bath is finished in “Picasso” stone and porcelain. The entire family uses the facility regularly.



As a space-saving alternative, Sun Design Remodeling created a highly functional wet bar, with two refrigerated drawers and a microwave, to owner specification. The piece complements other “built” elements in the new interior.

celain detailing. There’s a Bacino vessel sink next to the walk-in shower. The warm sponged-on “adobe” wall coloring picks up the golden highlights of the textured finishes imbuing the room with a softly restful glow.

Irwin says the entire family uses the fitness center regularly.

As an alternative to the out-sized U-shaped bar, Irwin had Sun Design create a highly functional wet bar with two refrigerated drawers and a microwave. With its marble surfaces, glass-facing cabinets and crown molding, the piece is a perfect complement to the reclaimed wood, antique brackets and other style-specific interior accents.

The space-saving solution also allowed the family to introduce a broader array of gaming tables including billiards, ping pong, chess—all of which claim floor space of their own.

A room below the stair, behind

swinging saloon doors, was created specifically for the daughter’s play needs.

Several new acquisitions—leather upholstered chairs, sofas and draperies—reinforce the textured ambiance. The Irwin’s decorator, Sharon Kleinman, worked closely with Sun Design in the finishwork process.

“This is really everything we had wanted in a family activity environment,” Irwin said. “Obviously, it takes a large range of skills to make something like this happen, so it’s gratifying to learn that other professionals acknowledge that something special has been accomplished.”

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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Centreville
13849 Wakley Ct.....\$349,900.....Sat 1-4.....John Hilton.....Century 21..703-599-1351

Fairfax Station
6321 Barsky Ct.....\$729,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Leesburg
43074 Shadow Terr.....\$395,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ritu Desai..Samson Props..703-625-4949

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Vienna
620 Tapawingo Rd SW..\$1,199,900.....Sun 1-4.....John Saab.....Saab..783-288-4877
9811 Oak Valley Ct.....\$875,000..Sat/Sun 1-4.....Robin Butler.....Prudential..703-281-8500

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To add your FREE Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please contact Don Park at 703-778-9420, or donpark@connectionnewspapers.com All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.

ENTERTAINMENT

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/FEB. 14

Valentine's Day at Lofty. 2-5 p.m., at Lofty Salon and Wellness Center, 354 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Visiting Valentine's will be showered with roses, wine and sweets; a complimentary makeup application and scalp treatment are available in addition to 50 percent off closet sales and a gift bag provided with purchase. 703-242-0609.

Valentine's Day Dinner. 5:30-9:30 p.m., in Bistro, at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An elegant evening of gourmet culinary creations in an intimate setting with live music duo accompaniment—or eat at the Sushi Bar where chefs prepare a customized meal. \$125 per person for gourmet dinner. www.ritzcarlton.com.

Wildfire Valentine's Day Weekend. 5-10:30 p.m., at Wildfire, 1714 International Drive, McLean. For a romantic dinner in a cozy booth or a special treat while celebrating with the family, the four course menu offers gourmet choices in the starter, salad, main course and dessert portions of the meal, offered every evening through Sunday, Feb. 17. Reservations. 703-442-9110.

FRIDAY/FEB. 15

America's National Parks Through the Artist's Lens. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A multifaceted presentation of visual arts and music showcase the

country's most beautiful places. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Chocolate and Jazz. 8:30 p.m.-midnight at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An evening of live jazz, rich chocolate from the Chocolate Buffet Bar and a bottle of champagne. \$25 per person or \$85 per couple (champagne included). www.ritzcarlton.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

50th James A. Bland Music Contest. 1-4:30 p.m., at the Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave., Vienna. The Vienna Lions Club holds a contest for area high and middle school vocalists and instrumentalists (each student has up to eight minutes to perform); refreshments served during the intermission. 703-938-7716 or n.volpe8@verizon.net.

Comic Book Appreciation Day. 2-6 p.m., at EG Comics, 142 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Koons Tysons Scion hosts a costume contest with cash prizes, a comic book signing by indie comic Unit 5's creators and complimentary food and drinks. facebook.com/unit5comic.

Chef Matt's Cooking Class. 5-7 p.m., at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. An evening of gourmet cooking classes for two teaches couples how to make a full Valentine's Day dinner and offers a space for them to enjoy their creations. www.ritzcarlton.com. \$150 per couple. www.ritzcarlton.com.

Color Wheel Gallery 65 Grand Opening. 5-8 p.m., at Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The inaugural grand opening of a new art gallery in McLean features sculpture, abstract, figurative, realism and impressionistic art in an auction to benefit Fisher House



Drew Kopas as Aldo in the 1st Stage production of "Italian American Reconciliation."



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Foundation, Inc. 703-356-6345 or www.cwgallery65.com.
Casino Night. 7 p.m.-midnight, at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Enjoy a fun-filled night at the Monte Carlo-themed casino night with silent auction, raffle prizes, food from local

restaurants and a cash bar; a portion of proceeds benefit the Women's Center of Vienna. \$85 in advance; \$95 at the door. 703-281-1333 or www.tysonschamber.org.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Jazz pianist and vocalist plays his signature fresh

takes on timeless works at a favorite venue. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

Chocolate Bar and Live Music. 9 p.m.-midnight at the Entyce Wine Bar & Lounge at The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Live music and rich chocolate define the evening, where champagne and a chocolate buffet tempt the palate. \$25 per person or \$85 per couple (champagne included). www.ritzcarlton.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center Street North, Vienna. Omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon and all the fixings open to the public. \$8 for adults; \$3 for children. 703-938-1379.

Brew-ku Book Signing. 2-4 p.m., at Sweet City Desserts, 131A Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Enjoy poetry, coffee and Japanese treats at Tarun Reddy's, author of the coffee-infused haiku book Brew-ku: Where Coffee Intersects with Life, poetry reading and book signing. facebook.com/brewku or sweetcitydesserts.co.

TUESDAY/FEB. 19

Bringing Bees to Your Garden. 9:30 a.m., at lower level Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street N.E., Vienna. Denise Shree, the apiarist for Meadowlark Gardens, will talk of American's native mason bees. 703-988-9324.

Battle of the Wines: California Winemaking Region. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, 1714 International Dr., McLean. A five-course menu paired with varietal wines from Sonoma County or Napa Valley, Calif. \$85 per person. 703-442-9110.



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SPORTS

"It's definitely the greatest win of my career."
—Oakton senior Michael Fradette



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton senior Michael Fradette scored 18 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against Westfield on Feb. 8.

Oakton Boys' Basketball Secures Concorde's No. 2 Seed

Cougars beat Westfield in regular-season finale.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Oakton's Thomas Tribble and Westfield's C.J. Hill spent a portion of the third quarter talking trash to one another as the Concorde District foes battled with hopes of securing a Northern Region tournament berth.

Emotion spilled into the fourth quarter as Oakton's Will Smith and Westfield's Chris Mullins were involved in a tussle that resulted in each being assessed a technical foul.

The Oakton Cougars and Westfield Bulldogs entered Friday night's game in a three-way tie for second place, and the two teams played with passion as they attempted to improve their position in the district standings. But when the final buzzer rang, it was fired-up Oakton head coach Dave Brooks hugging guard Robert Bacon and Cougar fans rushing the court in celebration.

The Oakton boys' basketball team defeated Westfield 61-57 during both teams' regular season finale on Feb. 8 at Oakton High School. With the victory, the Cougars secured the No. 2 seed in the Concorde District tournament, which came with a berth in the regional tournament.

Bacon, Oakton's primary offensive threat who finished with 13 points, fouled out with 3:52 remaining in the fourth quarter, but the Cougars found a way to get the victory. Oakton led 59-57 with 12 seconds remaining and senior Michael Fradette buried a pair of free throws to secure the win.

"What I'm most proud of is that we really fought through adversity," Brooks said. "Everybody knows how valuable Robert is to our basketball team. When he fouled out with four minutes to go, we were playing an even basketball game and [junior guard] Brandon Wiseman really stepped up and was a floor general out there. We did a great job valuing the basketball late in the game and we got a lot of good looks because of our execution as a basketball team. We rely so much on isolation sets, but we really played team basketball when Robert was out of the game."



Oakton senior Thomas Tribble scored nine points against Westfield on Feb. 8.

Fradette and Tribble were two Cougars who came up clutch. Fradette, a 6-foot-5 senior, finished with 18 points and 12 rebounds, and made a huge hustle play with less than 30 seconds remaining. Smith made the first of two free throws to give Oakton a 58-55 lead, but missed the second. The ball was knocked toward the sideline and Fradette ended up on the floor, securing the ball in front of the Oakton student section and the Cougars called timeout.

"It was just a loose ball and I went all out for it," Fradette said. "... It's definitely the greatest win of my career."

Tribble scored nine points and took part in some trash talking—something he said he enjoys.

"I feel like it just helps my teammates get more into the game and be more confident in themselves that [the opponents are] not intimidating me," Tribble said. "I just try to get in other people's heads."

Even fans chanted Tribble's name across the gym at one another as the schools' student sections engaged in a war of words. Tribble's highlight came in the third quarter when he buried a 3-pointer after Hill, who was guarding Tribble and engaging in some trash talk with the Oakton guard, slipped and fell.

Hill finished with a game-high of 23 points. "[Hill] played a hell of a game," Tribble said, "but not good enough."

With the loss, Westfield received the No. 4 seed and played No. 5 Chantilly in the opening round of the Concorde District tournament on Tuesday, after the Connection's deadline.

"It was just a lot of hostility," Hill said about playing against Oakton. "We're known rivals, so it was a big game for us. Everybody was talking trash, but the main focus was to win the game and we just couldn't come through."

Tre'Von Walton scored 18 points for Westfield and Christian Gray added 10.

No. 2 Oakton will play the winner of No. 3 Robinson and No. 6 Centreville in the district tournament semifinals at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 14, at Robinson Secondary School.

Marshall's Stahl Earns State Berth

Stahl wins two events in the Northern Region meet.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After the Washington-Lee gymnastics team finished its bar routines during the third rotation of the Northern Region meet, Generals coaches stood in a small group and watched their primary competitor, McLean, go through its beam routines with a region champion yet to be determined.

W-L moved to beam for the fourth and final rotation. After watching Maia Mandel and Mary Lynn Clark deliver stellar performances, head coach Joe D'Emidio had no doubt the Generals were back on top of the region.

Mandel posted a 9.6 on beam, Clark followed with a 9.65 and Washington-Lee repeated as Northern Region gymnastics champion with a score of 147.15 on Feb. 6 at Lake Braddock Secondary School. McLean finished runner up for the second consecutive season.

D'Emidio said he already knew the Generals had wrapped up the title after their performance on beam.

He wasn't the only one feeling good about W-L's chances.

"I felt we were in pretty good shape because everyone had such solid routines," Mandel said. "Everyone was really confident."

Last year, the Generals became the first W-L sports team to win a region championship in more than three decades. This year, they were even better.

"It was a team effort," said D'Emidio, who called the experience of repeating as region champion "exhilarating." "If you saw the awards, [just one] of the W-L kids were in the top three of any event. How do we win it? It was a team effort. ... From the best girl all the way to the fourth girl, they all did well."

McLean placed second with a score of 143, earning a state berth.

"They did good," McLean coach Courtney Lesson said about the Highlanders. "They fought for everything."

McLean's Jackie Green finished eighth in the all-around



PHOTO BY LOUISE KRAFT/THE CONNECTION

Marshall's Morgan Stahl won vault and floor championships, along with qualifying for states in the all-around competition at the Northern Region gymnastics meet on Feb. 6.

with a 37.425. She took fourth on floor (9.475) and sixth on beam (9.55). Lizzy Brown-Kaiser tied for third on vault (9.6) and placed eighth on bars (9.15).

Delaney Gallagher and Madi Schuman also competed for the Highlanders.

Chantilly finished third in the team competition with a score of 142.45. Woodson took fourth (141.45), followed by Stone Bridge (136.275), Yorktown (132.175), Oakton (131.75) and Lake Braddock (119).

Woodson senior and Patriot District all-around champion Simone Freidman won the Northern Region all-around title with a score of 38.35.

Centreville's Ciara Hoernke and Hayfield's Molly Overstreet tied for second at 38.05, and Marshall's Morgan Stahl placed fourth (37.575).

Hoernke won bars with a 9.9, the highest score by any gymnast in any event. Freidman finished first on beam (9.85), and Stahl won floor (9.725) and vault (9.7).

The VHSL state meet will be held this weekend at Centreville High School. Team competition will begin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 15, and individual competition will start at 12:20 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 16.

Make A Difference in Your Community!

Run for a seat on the McLean Community Center Governing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS

McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT 1A OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

This **NOTICE** of elections to select members of the 2013-2014 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) is officially given to residents of Small District 1A of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District 1A"). The McLean Community Center operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and MCC. On February 8, 1984, the Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The McLean Community Center is funded by residents of Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A-Dranesville bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 18, 2013**.

Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Only Small District 1A residents are eligible to run for seats on the 11-member Governing Board and to vote in the election. Residents are not required to be property owners in Small District 1A in order to run for the Governing Board or to vote in the election.

Candidate Qualifications: Each resident who lives within Small District 1A is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category. (If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District 1A, please contact the Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

The Governing Board seats to be filled through the election are:

Three (3) Adult Governing Board Seats: Adult candidates must be residents of Small District 1A and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board.

Two (2) Youth Governing Board Seats:

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area

Teen candidates must live in Small District 1A and must be between fifteen (15) and seventeen (17) years of age on McLean Day. One candidate from each high school boundary area receiving the highest number of votes will serve a one-year term on the Governing Board. High school boundaries are set by the Fairfax County Public Schools. You can find your high school boundary area by entering your home address in the Fairfax County Public Schools' boundary tool at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary>.

NOTICE TO TEENS: You must live within Small District 1A. However, you *do not* have to attend either McLean or Langley high schools. You may attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District 1A, or you may be home schooled.

In some cases, you might live within the boundary of one of the two high schools, but attend school in the other high school boundary. For example, you could attend McLean High School, but live in the Langley High School boundary, or vice versa.

***You must run for the youth board seat for
the high school boundary area where you live.***

Remember: No matter where you attend school, you must still live within Small District 1A and run for election in the correct high school boundary area. (If you need help, please contact the McLean Community Center at 703-744-9348 or elections@mcleancenter.org.)

Candidate Petitions: Nominating Petitions may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Tuesday, February 19, 2013**.

Adults seeking to become candidates for a seat on the Governing Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 18 years old or older (on McLean Day). Teens seeking to become candidates for a youth seat on the Governing

Board must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are between 15 to 17 years old (on McLean Day), **and** who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate lives.

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board shall file a completed petition with the MCC at the address shown below **on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22, 2013:**

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA 22101

All petitions will be certified on **Friday, March 22, 2013**; candidates will be notified whether their petitions have been certified on the same date. The names of certified candidates will be published in newspapers having general circulation in the Dranesville District.

Voter Qualifications: Each resident who *lives* within Small District 1A is eligible to vote in the Governing Board elections (within the adult or youth categories, as appropriate).

When voting in the elections, the qualifications are:

Adults: Any Small District 1A resident who is eighteen (18) years of age or older on McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Adults may vote for up to three (3) adult candidates.

Teens: Any resident who is fifteen (15) through seventeen (17) years of age on McLean Day is eligible to vote in the elections. Teens may vote for one youth candidate from each high school boundary area (but not for two candidates in the same high school boundary area).

High school students who turn 18 on or before McLean Day must vote as adults and may not vote for youth candidates.

Verification of age and residence shall be determined from a driver's license, student identification card, birth certificate, or other satisfactory evidence. A verification process also is required for residents choosing to apply for absentee voting.

Absentee Voting: Residents may vote by absentee ballot. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages will be available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101 beginning on **Monday, April 8, 2013** at 9 a.m. Applications for Absentee Ballot packages may be requested in-person, by email at elections@mcleancenter.org, and by telephone at 703-744-9348. Please also refer to the Center's Website for updated information regarding the absentee voting process (www.mcleancenter.org). The **DEADLINE** for returning a **completed and signed Application for Absentee Ballot and the Absentee Ballot** to the MCC is **Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 5 p.m.**

Election Results: Election results will be posted on the door of the McLean Community Center on the evening of the elections. The McLean Community Center's Elections & Nominations Committee will report the results of the elections to Dranesville Supervisor John W. Foust, who will present the successful candidates to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors at its next regular meeting following the elections. At that meeting, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, after determining that it is in the public interest to do so, shall appoint to the McLean Community Center Governing Board:

The three (3) adult candidates who received the top three (3) highest number of votes

Two (2) youth candidates – the candidate who received the highest number of votes in each of the two (2) high school boundary areas

The appointment of new Board Members shall be effective upon action by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Newly appointed Board Members will take office when they attend their first meeting of the 2013-2014 Governing Board. The 2013-2014 Governing Board's term runs from May 2013 through May 2014.

For more information about the elections, please call 703-744-9348 or email the McLean Community Center at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Chair
Elections & Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board



**McLean
Community
Center**
The Center of It All

THE COUNTY LINE

Joan Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications.



PHOTO BY ELLEN ZANGLA

Mentors Seen as 'Family'

FROM PAGE 4

Beverly has created a family, a family where one would not otherwise exist. It's a family where kids are loved unconditionally, which, in my experience, is very rare for children in foster care who are most often judged by their worst behaviors with a blind eye turned toward their attributes."

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, a champion of the program, was quick to praise Brady's role in the program.

"While the mentors and volunteers are definitely the heart of FF4Kids, Joan Brady is definitely its soul," Frey said. "I can't imagine where the program would be without her."

Neither can anyone else connected to the program.

In 2009, when the program was in danger of being eliminated because of across-the-board cuts in the county budget, Brady marshaled an army of supporters, launched a "save the program" blog, and cajoled, begged and nagged officials to keep the program. (In 2010, the program, fueled primarily by the work of the mentors and volunteers, cost about \$133,000 in a social services budget of more than \$200 million.)

Brady appeared before the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during the budget hearings. Her plan was to let the program's youth speak directly to the supervisors.

County officials said no. That answer was not acceptable to Brady.

"That's when we began fighting. I may have led the effort, but it was very much of a group commitment," Brady said. "We knew that these kids were virtually invisible to the community. We knew that they could not stand up for themselves. We wrote letters and emails and met individually with members of the Board of Supervisors. We went directly to the Human Services Council, writing to them as well."

Supporters scheduled their testimony so that they had a block of time, and they coordinated their speeches so that each of them covered a different aspect of the program.

And Brady made sure supervisors heard from the children, by having supporters read comments from their audio testimony.

Molly Pell of Fairfax spoke about adopting one of the children in the program, and included the comments of a youth she mentored

"None of us in this room can fully understand what Families4Kids means to the youth involved, but I

believe one of our youth stated it best, when she told us:

"[If I didn't have FF4Kids], I would lose my mind ... I would lose my sanity. I wouldn't be able to function much. Cause even now I don't have very much. I get teased on at school. I get teased at the place where I'm supposed to call home. If I lost here ... it would be like there was no reason to do anything anymore."

In their short lives, so much has been taken from these youth. Please don't take away Fairfax Families4Kids," Pell said during the hearings.

"We stood together as unified members of the community," Brady said. "We achieved a stay of execution during those budget hearings in 2010."

Being Part of the "Family"

Brady is an award-winning photographer whose images have appeared in many publications, including "The Washington Post," "NYTimes.com," "Washingtonian" magazine, "Children's Voice" (the magazine of the Welfare League of America) and "O Magazine."

She is justifiably proud of her work, and will talk about it when prompted.

But she quickly steers the conversation back to the children, and how much difference mentors make in the lives of foster children. What she is not always quick to talk about is that the children in the program consider her an important part of their "family," too.

During a celebration for mentors last month, Jorge, 17, stood up to address the group: "I don't have a mentor, but Joan is always there for me ... I check in with her and she checks in with me, nagging me about school and work," he said. "I know she cares."

"Honestly, I probably am in touch with him every week-and-a-half, and I think he usually checks in and when I respond, I do totally nag," she said, laughing. "Ok, I do follow the kids on Facebook, so occasionally I check in to admonish, but it's not much."

"But see. Just that tiny bit of interaction he has with me—something that I hadn't even noted—makes a big difference for him. It just takes a tiny bit of attention to make a difference," Brady said. "That's why I want the story to be about what's really important: the children, definitely not me ..."



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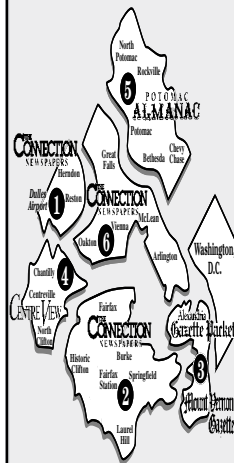
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Warranty Warranted?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For life, absolutely! As to what happens to my mattress in 10 years or my television in five years – as but a few examples, pales in comparison to what I worry (you'll note I didn't say anticipate) will have happened to me in five or 10 years. Nevertheless, I'd definitely pay extra for that warranty. However, there are no warranties for life, extended or otherwise – and no guarantees either, as I discovered in late February, 2009, when I was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer (or as those of us in the know "acronym it": NSCLC). "Death and taxes," as the old joke says, are the only guarantees. The rest are "hope-to-bees" and "wanna-bees."

A cancer diagnosis (and terminal prognosis – for yours truly, anyway) has a way of sharpening your focus and narrowing your perspective. Initially, after meeting with my oncologist, and for a while thereafter, quite frankly, the three most important people in my life were me, myself and I. For many months post-diagnosis, the three of us didn't care or consider – too much, about what might happen down the road, a road never before traveled. Life's discussions – and decisions – were all about the here and now, not the there and later. What might have been was replaced with what it is and what are you going to do about it.

However, as life – and I, have continued, so too has my understanding and appreciation of my amazing good fortune. To have survived for as long as I have is a blessing and somewhat perplexing to my oncologist. And in that continuing survival and evolution, opportunities have regularly presented themselves that have forced me to consider my past, present and future ("what there is of it"). As much as I don't want to – and quite frankly, prefer not to, have every day-type decisions impacted by my cancer diagnosis, they are. If I didn't/don't consider the context of every decision I make, I would be short-changing myself and forfeiting the future for the present. And even though I had my guarantee pulled in 2009, I'm still trying to live as if any thing's possible.

Certainly there are exceptions to every rule, statistical anomalies in every manner of study and research. Life is not a straight line. Sure death is inevitable, but there shouldn't be any hurry to get there. It will happen soon enough (too soon for some), whether you like it or not. Now whether I outlive my mattress or my television or my car is unknown, but as a cancer patient, I sort of think about whether I will or not. This thought process is a problem – for me. It may be a problem of my own making but as far as problems go, it's a Hall-of-Famer. And by that I mean, it dominates.

Garden variety-type decisions become landscape design-type problems. Previously inconsequential, mundane-type presumptive choices become minefields of negative possibilities/regrets. The short version being: do I really need to do that/buy that/warranty that, if I'm not going to be the true beneficiary – meaning/accepting that some of these rather ordinary decisions might not be about me. And for a terminal cancer patient who has often heard "It's all about you, Kenny," on more than one occasion – from more than one person, assimilating an unanticipated future into an apparently productive present where others matter as much if not more than you do, is almost counter-intuitive. Nevertheless, life certainly appears to be worth living; I'm just not sure how much of it I should pay for in advance.

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



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