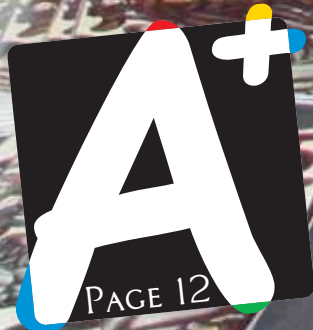


Comic Books Are No Laughing Matter

NEWS, PAGE 3

E.G. Comics
owner Edwin
Gumel hosts
"Unit 5" creators
Alex Robson and
Skip Winter. Koons
Scion of Tysons Corner
sponsored the launch
event at the comic book
store, with prizes and
refreshments, on
Saturday, Feb. 16.



Circus Artwork Wins International Award

NEWS, PAGE 3

Honoring Dick Fisher, Former Vienna Delegate

On Tuesday, Feb. 19, Del. Mark Keam (D-35) will lead a "Center Aisle Presentation" in the Virginia House of Delegates in honor of the late Del. Richard Leland "Dick" Fisher who died in 2012.

Fisher was a Republican who served three terms in the House of Delegates from 1990-96, representing the same 35th House District seat currently held by Keam. Fisher had also served three terms on the Vienna Town Council prior to his time in the General Assembly. Fisher was particularly known for his passion to speak on behalf of children with special needs.

In January, the House of Delegates and the State Senate adopted House Joint Resolution 735 to memorialize and to celebrate Fisher's life. On Tuesday, Keam will be joined by Fisher's widow Tina, his former Legislative Aide Mike Polychrones, and many friends in a formal ceremony on the Floor of the House of Delegates to honor his passing.

FY 2014 Budget Meeting Schedule

Town Council will hold two work sessions during March to discuss the Town's Fiscal Year 2014 Budget. The public is invited to attend; however, public commentary is not permitted during work sessions. The work sessions will be held at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S., on Saturday, March 9, beginning at 9 a.m. and Monday, March 11, at 7:30 p.m. If necessary, a third work session will be held Monday, April 22, at 7:30 p.m.

A public hearing on the FY 2014 budget will be held Monday, April 1, and a public hearing on the proposed tax rate, and water and sewer rates will be held Monday, April 15, at 8 p.m. in Town Hall. The public is invited to attend and provide their input during the public hearing process. The adoption of the budget, tax rate and water and sewer rates is scheduled for Monday, May 13, at 8 p.m.

The FY 2014 budget will be made available to the public on the Town's website prior to March 9. In addition, a hard copy will be available for public inspection in the Finance Department at Town Hall and in the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E. If you are unable to attend a meeting, e-mail your comments to mayor@viennava.gov prior to the April 1 public hearing. For questions regarding the budget process, contact the Finance Department at 703-255-7824.

Club Phoenix Offers Tobacco Use Prevention Program

In partnership with the Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, Club Phoenix Teen Center is offering a free tobacco use prevention program through the Take Charge/Project Towards No Tobacco Use Program for teens. Program participants will learn what is in tobacco, the stages of tobacco addiction, how to say "no" to peer pressure, how to advocate for no tobacco use in their communities and more.

The program is free and will be held at the Club Phoenix Teen Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., at 3:45 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays on March 19, 20, 21, April 2, 3, 4, 9 and 10. If you are interested in having your teen attend this informative and engaging class, call Tammy Funk at 703-255-5736.

Free Concert at Community Center

The Vienna Community Band will perform at 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. Admission is free and seating is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Space is limited.

Selections include "March" by Paul Hindemith, "El Capitan" and "King Cotton" by John P. Sousa and "First Suite in Eb for Military Band" by Gustav Holst.

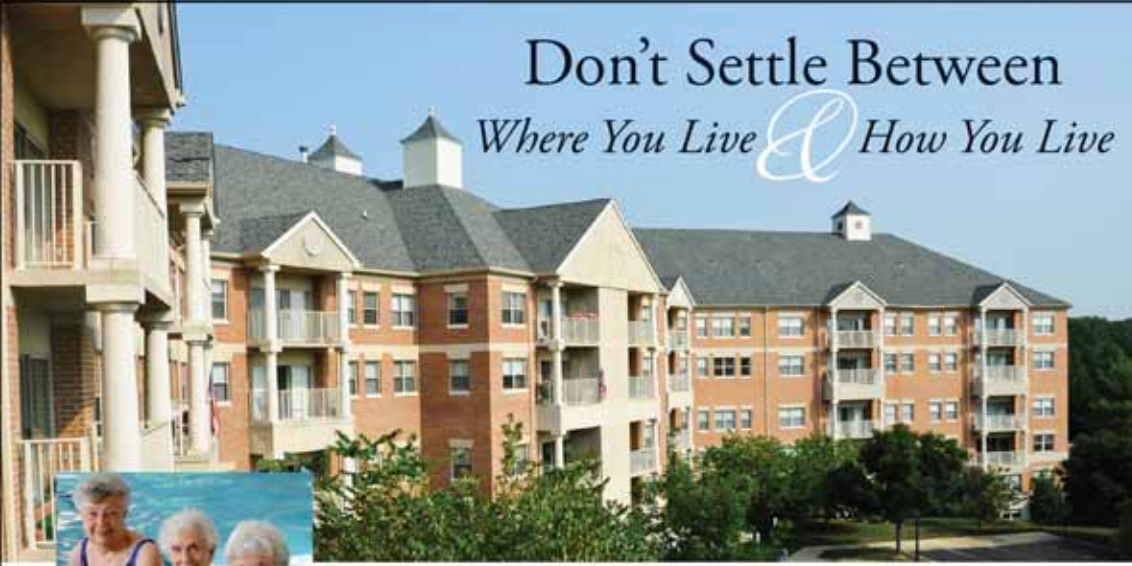
Call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennacommunityband.org.

Spring Co-Ed Softball Begins April 28




The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's spring co-ed softball league begins April 28, 2013. Games will be played on Sundays beginning at 10 a.m. at Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive S.W.

The registration fee of \$550 per team includes 10 regular season double-header games, umpire fees, two softballs per game, post-season tournament play and awards.

For more information or a league packet, contact Enrique Guzman at eguzman@viennava.gov or 703-255-6352.



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Cristo Es Mi Refugio ... 703-675-0144

Baha'i

Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ...
703-821-3345

Baptist

Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134

Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church ... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center ... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

Oakton Church of the Brethren
... 703-281-4411

Catholic

Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828

St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555

St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991

St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church ... 703-938-2119

Christ The King Lutheran Church ... 703-759-6068

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church ... 703-455-4003

Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509

Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987

The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336

Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494

Great Falls United Methodist ... 703-759-3705

Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233

Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594

Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680

Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

Non-Denominational

Celebration Center for Spiritual Living
... 703-560-2030

Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ...
703-560-6336

Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577

Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

Quaker

Langley Hills Friends ... 703-442-8394

Seventh-Day Adventist

Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ...
703-242-9001

Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ...
703-938-8383

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

United Church of Christ

Emmaus United Church of Christ ...
703-938-1555

Unity

Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

Individual comic books in a series can combine to create a graphic novel, a complete story arc. E.G. Comics in Vienna has thousands of titles in the shop. The store is in the Vienna Drug Center/ Panera Bread center.

PHOTOS BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



Comic Books Are No Laughing Matter

E.G. Comics in Vienna features thousands of titles, from vintage to current.

Edwin Gumel really knows his comics. His store, E.G. Comics, has served Vienna and the surrounding area since 1990. He doesn't just sell comics and graphic novels; he grades their condition, he catalogues them, he knows what back issues are worth. Among his stock are niche collections and the more well-known ones, such as Marvel Comics, DC Comics, Image Comics, and Dark Horse Comics.

"Archie" and his friends look the same as they did 50 years ago. Batman is still "big," and Mickey Mouse and his club still attract kids.

To clarify the distinction between a comic book and a graphic novel, Gumel explains it succinctly. A comic book is an individual episode. A graphic novel, said Gumel, is the complete story arc, several issues bound to produce a complete narrative. Most comic books nowadays are written for adults, Gumel said, but there's still a market for young readers. E.G. Comics offers new and back-issue comics, specializing in Golden Age comics.

John Enggren, of Vienna, is the father of a 6-year-old and a 10-year-old. He was at E.G. Comics shopping for comic books for his children. "I'm trying to pique their interest now," said Enggren. "Trying to steer them toward more imaginative ideas."

On Feb. 16, E.G. Comics hosted creators of a new series, "Unit 5," a squad of government-endorsed global anti-terrorists. Koon's Scion of Tysons Corner sponsored the "Unit 5" event with prizes, complimentary refreshments and support. Scion sponsors the grassroots tour, and, in fact, the gadget-y car plays a role in the comic series. "Unit 5" creators gave out signed copies of the first issue at no charge. Co-creator and editor Alex Robson and co-creator and writer Skip Winter spent the afternoon at E.G. Comics talking to customers and signing the comic book. Issue two has already been written and will be released by early summer.

"Unit 5" distinguishes itself from most of the genre in that the unit's men and women are not super-heroes. They are ordinary people moved by personal loss of 9/11.



John Enggren, of Vienna, is the father of a 6-year-old and a 10-year-old. He was at E.G. Comics shopping for comic books for his children.

When the creators were at NY Comic-Con, many NYC firefighters attended the event, and what the creators learned is that New York's volunteer firefighters had no professional insurance. A portion of the net proceeds will be donated to a New York City firefighters' fund, "Unit 5" writer, Skip Winter, said.

E.G. Comics customer, "David," from Columbia, Md., was there to buy some Batman books. A web developer by career, David said he reads Batman, Ironman and Captain America. "I love the characters and the stories that go with them," said David. "I like reading their evolution."

E.G. Comics is located at 142 Maple Ave. W. in Vienna, in what used to be known as the Magruder's shopping center. Phone number is 703-938-4977. The store is open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday; 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday; and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday.

— DONNA MANZ



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Sara Applegate won first prize for her framed circus piece at an international competition in January.

Circus Artwork Wins International Award

Applegate Gallery owner creates whimsical piece for picture-framing competition.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Sara Applegate, whose framing and art gallery sits on Church Street, won an international competition in late January for a framed artwork. To call Applegate's interpretation a "frame," is akin to calling a Ferrari just a car. The piece, whimsical yet complex, features five three-dimensional circus vignettes. The individual components are mostly vintage lead collector pieces.

"Once I found those, I fell completely in love," said Applegate, who picked up several character pieces at the Frederick Antique Emporium. Two pieces were created in 1948 by Britains, a lead soldier manufacturer that produced a circus collection series. The remaining three vignettes were produced by the same company in 1998. Applegate bought those on E-Bay.

Her fanciful design and creation is multi-media, with hand-wrapped fabric on individual pieces of matboard, and the highest grade of acrylic covering the finished piece. The zig-zag frame, boxing the matted vignettes, is of compressed wood made by an outside supplier according to Applegate's computer-designed template.

THE COMPETITION, sponsored by the Professional Picture Framing Association, was held in Las Vegas from Jan. 25-30. Applegate won the regional competition, hosted by the Na-

tional Capital Chapter of the framing association, in late fall. Pieces at the Las Vegas finals were not identified for judging. Applegate entered her framed piece in the "open" category.

The mother of two young children, Applegate owned her first custom-framing shop in Oakton for four-and-a-half years. Her gallery on Church Street has been open for four-and-a-half years, as well. Applegate described her gallery as a "custom-frame shop that also features the works of local artists." Her own finished personalized box frames hang among the works of dozens of Northern Virginia artists.

Many of Applegate's framed pieces are works of art themselves. She frames traditional art and non-traditional art, such as mementos from weddings. A little girl, a toddler, is immortalized there, her photo at 18 months old snuggling in a corner of the box framing. She's wearing a fancy scarlet dress, the same dress preserved in the glass frame holding the photo. The toddler in the photo wore that dress, handcrafted by Sara Applegate's mother, to Sara and Scott Applegate's wedding in 2006. The toddler had just learned to walk, and walk down the aisle she did as the Applegates' flower girl. The framed memento hangs high on the gallery wall.

APPLEGATE estimated she spent about 40 hours designing

SEE APPLEGATE, PAGE 5

NEWS

New Approach to Helping Chronic Homeless

County joins “100,000 Homes” effort as chronic homelessness rises.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The number of chronically homeless individuals in Fairfax County is on the rise. Currently, nearly 300 individuals are considered chronically homeless, many living in cars or sleeping in tents. In an effort to find permanent homes for these individuals, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Partnership to Prevent and End Homelessness is joining the 100,000 Homes Campaign, a national movement to find permanent homes for 100,000 chronically homeless throughout the nation.

“While we have generated some exciting results by rapidly moving families and individuals into housing with services, those experiencing chronic homelessness have been harder to help,” said Dean Klein, director of Fairfax County’s Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH). The 100,000 Homes movement is designed specifically to help identify and address the needs of those who continuously struggle with finding a safe and consistent place to call home.

“The campaign provides concrete, innovative tools and infrastructure that will help us end homelessness in our community,” Klein said.

Klein said that while many may think the chronically homeless don’t want to leave the streets, the reality is that the majority of chronically homeless individuals endure serious illness, and physical and

mental disability on a daily basis.

“Outreach to this community has shown that many would like to have a home, if all they needed to do was pay rent and be a good tenant,” Klein said.

The 100,000 Homes model provides homeless individuals with caring, individually tailored support services at each stage of their journey from homeless to housed. As of Dec. 10, 2012, the national campaign has already housed 23,151 people, with more than 90 percent of those helped remaining stably housed.

100,000 Homes Fairfax: A Home for All

Fairfax County’s local campaign kicks off on Feb. 23 with Registry Week, when volunteers will create a registry, by name and photograph, of everyone experiencing homelessness in the county. The personalized stories about these individuals are designed to help the county and community partners make decisions about how to prioritize and allocate housing and support resources.

“This registry will be a first of its kind for Fairfax, putting a real face on homelessness,” Klein said. “Nearly 300 people are chronically homeless in our community. Through this campaign, we anticipate getting half of them in housing in three years.”

To help make Registry Week a success, a variety of volunteer opportunities are available. We need your help to make Registry Week a success. To learn more, go to: About Registry Week and Volunteer Opportunities at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/100khome/registry-week.htm.

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PERFORMANCES

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Tuesday, Apr. 16, 2013
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

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Applegate Wins International Award

FROM PAGE 3

and making the circus piece. A lot of that time, she said, was spent cutting the designs and making adjustments. Her mat machine is hooked up to her computer. From there, she programs shapes into the computer, “telling” it where to cut. Her award-winning frame is saved on the computer.

If a customer would like to have Applegate create a replica of her winning framed art, she’s happy to do so. What she won’t do, however, is sell her winning original entry. “Oh, no,” Applegate said. “This is my pride and joy.”

Applegate Gallery and Custom Framing is at 101 Church St., Suite C, on the upper level. For further details on Sara’s services, visit www.ApplegateFraming.com or call 703-281-1364. Her e-mail address is info@ApplegateFraming.com.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

This box-framed piece holds the dress the flower girl wore to Sara and Scott Applegate’s wedding.

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OPINION

To 'Get That Vote We All Deserve'

From Fix Gun Checks tour to White House.

BY OMAR JOSEPH SAMAHA
BROTHER OF REEMA SAMAHA

GUEST EDITORIAL



After my sister Reema was killed at Virginia Tech on April 16, 2007, our lives changed forever. I say "our lives" changed forever because gun violence doesn't just affect the direct family of the person killed, but an entire community. As I learned more and more about gun violence, I found that on a daily basis, this ripple of pain and suffering is repeated 34 times in 34 communities around the country, that's a Virginia Tech massacre every day.

This all became even more apparent when I drove around the country on the Fix Gun Checks tour. The campaign promoted respect for the second amendment and fixing our background check system on gun purchases to prevent dangerous, prohibited purchasers from acquiring them.

The campaign began shortly after the Tucson, Ariz. massacre where U.S. Rep. Gabby Giffords was shot along with many other innocent Americans. For months I campaigned across the country, holding public events in small towns and big cities. When I made it to Tucson, Gabby was still recovering from her gunshot to the head, yet I had the opportunity

to meet her sister and those affected by the shooting. Her sister gave me a bright blue bracelet that had inscribed on it, "Gabby," along with a peace sign and a heart. I've cherished it and worn it ever since along with my "Hokie Hope" bracelet as I've hoped and prayed for her recovery and for all those affected by gun violence.

IN EVERY STATE I traveled to, I met with families and survivors of gun violence, mayors, congressional members, law enforcement officials, doctors, gun owners and NRA members. From the rural countryside, to the suburbs, to the inner cities, I witnessed the same thing; gun violence affects people in every community and from all walks of life. The resounding plea

from everyone I met along the way is that we must do more to prevent gun violence in our country while respecting our second amendment rights. This can and must be done in a comprehensive manner in order to have real results.

After the Newtown shooting, everything changed, and Americans could not bear the thought of inaction. We can see that a push from citizens could cause the president and Congress to finally act to prevent these tragedies from occurring.

I went to the White House last Tuesday to speak with the first lady and other policy advisors and on Capitol Hill I spent much of the day meeting with congressional members. Everyone is now committed to working on the

complex issue of gun violence prevention around our country while making sure our Constitutional rights are not infringed.

On Capitol Hill, U.S. Rep. Jim Moran has been a very strong vocal leader in gun violence prevention and has worked closely with us over the years. He invited me to be his guest to the State of the Union. I was honored to attend along with many others who have experienced gun violence in their lives and even more so when President Obama acknowledged our presence.

The president spoke strongly about how the time for talk is over and the time for action, to vote on gun violence prevention measures, is now. He reiterated, "They deserve a vote!" when referring to those who have been murdered in the growing number of massacres, for the 34 Americans killed every day, for the families and communities affected, and for the survivors who live their lives with permanent injuries and trauma.

SHORTLY AFTER the State of the Union address, as I was leaving, I randomly got to meet one of those survivors, Gabby Giffords. She was being escorted by her husband, Capt. Mark Kelly. I had the feeling that one day we would cross paths. I introduced myself to her and though I don't believe she knew who I was, when I showed her the bracelet with her name on it her expression changed to one of excitement and enthusiasm.

Although Gabby is still recovering and re-learning how to speak, the words we exchanged were enough to give us more hope and energy, to continue on until we get that vote we all deserve, for our safety, for our children, and for our families and communities.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Vote On Gun Control

To the Editor:

A powerful moment was reached during the State of the Union address when President Obama spoke of America's responsibility to survivors of gun violence. The president said, "they deserve a vote" — on gun reform. Representatives from Virginia should heed this call.

"They" also applies to the countless Americans who, like myself, remain concerned and disheartened by horrific gun violence. Though I was hundreds of miles away at school in Washington, D.C., on the day of the Virginia Tech massacre, just watching the images on television and knowing I had friends at Va. Tech at the time invoked a tremendous sense of shock and sadness that I still have to this day.

Congressman Bob Goodlatte (R-Va.) has the responsibility, in his capacity as chairman of the House

Judiciary Committee, to make a serious effort to find ways to make our communities safer. Our Congressman Frank Wolf (R-10) should, too, take this opportunity to strengthen our state's, and our nation's, gun laws.

The time for a vote is now. It is time to close loopholes and increase preventative measures that were not, but should have been, in place.

These are just some of the meaningful reforms that will reduce gun violence.

Some lawmakers may declare that today's most pressing issue is the economy and looming sequester, but that should completely not rule out a plan for gun reform. Simply sweeping any chance for gun reform under the rug is foolhardy. It's time to tackle the issue head on, because we, as concerned citizens of Virginia and of the nation, deserve a vote.

Velginy Hernandez
Great Falls

Alarmed and Saddened

To the Editor:

I participated in the public hearing on school discipline last week and was alarmed and deeply saddened to view the document Students Rights and Responsibilities for K-12, which lists pages and pages of all the "bad" behavior a student could possibly have, and the consequences for each violation. The really big consequence is for marijuana use, which merits immediate 10-day suspension and a referral for consideration of expulsion on the first violation.

While the striving for clean, unbiased, and even-handed treatment of each specific offense is certainly well intentioned, the approach falls short of educational best practices. Schools have begun to move beyond a focus on "discipline" to a focus on "pedagogy."

Pedagogy comes from the Greek words "paidos" which means "child," and "ago" which means

"lead" — to have a "pedagogy" rather than a "punishment policy" means to lead the child somewhere — it aims to develop the humanity of the student in addition to developing cognitive skills.

We live in an increasingly diverse world made up of people from many religions and cultures. The religious values and cultural glue that bound members of community in the past can become scrambled these days. Behaviors of the "very different" among us can alarm. However, one leader, Stephen Covey, has a proven track record in applying his Seven Habits of Highly Effective People approach to professional development within major global corporations around the world with good effect. His approach is currently being brought to school systems including the public schools in Potomac, Md.

Schools where Stephen Covey's educational approach as described in The Leader in Me —

SEE MURPHY, PAGE 7

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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OPINION

Circus Comes to Town

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

I am going to be taking two of my grandchildren to the Barnum and Bailey Circus at the Richmond Coliseum tonight. It is really amazing how quickly the circus can move into its venue; amaze, entertain and hold in suspense its audience; and then pack up and move on. Just a few blocks from the Coliseum, the General Assembly opened at the State Capitol the second week in January and will pack up this week and members will go back home. For the last six weeks the 140 members of the House of Delegates and State Senate along with their staff and about a thousand lobbyists have been holding forth on Capitol Square for the annual legislative session. The agenda is serious, and the activities over the past several weeks have been humorous, suspenseful and in a term used by the circus ringmaster, "unbelievable."

As we pick through the pieces of a legislature getting ready to adjourn, we find that there have been almost 3,000 bills and resolutions dispensed within a short period of time. Fortunately the legislature has gone paperless with most of its functions, saving the hundreds of trees that were killed in the past to support the process. By going online, citizens have greater access to what is going on at www.virginiageneralassembly.gov. Less than a third of the introduced legislation will make it to the governor's desk, and some of that will be duplicate bills from the House and Senate. Even more fortunate is the fact that most people will be unaffected by the legislation as much of it relates to the operation of government and the courts.

Some of the bills that got media attention luckily will not be becoming law. Bills have to pass both houses in identical form to go to the governor for his signature. The House plan to study a currency for Virginia (that I opposed) was defeated in the Sen-



ate. A Senate bill that would have regulated fox penning (that I supported in committee) died in subcommittee. A bill that passed the Senate that would have outlawed discrimination in state employment based on sexual orientation was killed in the same House subcommittee that has killed my bills on the same subject for many years. The governor's effort to restore voting rights to offenders (that I supported) was defeated in a House committee. A resolution warning of the evils of the United Nations Agenda 21 passed the House

(without my vote) but was defeated in the Senate.

These bills and others like them were but sideshows when compared with the bills in the center ring. Adjustments at the midpoint of the biennial budget would have been simple enough if not for the opportunity for the state to expand Medicaid to provide insurance for almost 400,000 more of the working poor in the commonwealth. The health benefits and the quality of life and economic benefits of the expansion are clear, and the expansion has been endorsed by the Virginia and Fairfax Chambers of Commerce. The opposition comes from the governor and other conservatives who got themselves out on a limb in opposing the Affordable Care Act or "Obamacare." A conference committee continues to work on a solution to resolve the matter.

Responding to the estimated \$1 billion per year in transportation needs with revenue-neutral bills as demanded by many will require a magic act worthy of any big tent performance. Our congestion is the worst in the country, but a group of legislators consider their no-tax commitment to Grover Norquist to be more important than their constituents' interests. A conference committee is trying to work out this issue.

When these two big issues are resolved, the legislature will fold its tent for the off-season but will return again next year for some of the same acts.

Murphy

FROM PAGE 6

How Schools and Parents Around the World Are Inspiring Greatness, One Child at a Time has been applied have had a tremendous reduction in school incidents, and a tremendous increase in remarkable performance and accomplishments by students.

Working from the virtues we wish to inculcate, rather than the

vices to be punished, will go a long way toward creating the positive spirit of community that so many children, parents, and educators long for. The proposed encouragement of personal leadership as defined in "The Leader in Me" program engages school administrators, teachers, parents and students in a united purpose of cultivating the virtues of leadership, integrity and compassionate character in each individual

child. Such a shift in focus would transform the spirit of community in our public schools. I would like to see the contract document between school and student be an inspirational document that celebrates the school community and defines the child's leadership role in being a valued contributing member.

Kathleen J. Murphy
Great Falls

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

BULLETIN BOARD

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Dulles Silver Line Update

Luncheon. 11:30 a.m., at the Sheraton Premiere, 8861 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner, McLean. MWAA Project Director Sam Carnaggio provides a construction update to the Committee for Dulles. RSVP. \$45 for members; \$65 for non-members; tables available. 703-430-8749 or info@committeefordulles.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Avoiding Divorce Court II. 10 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Learn about standard and non-standard creative

provisions that are respectively found in all agreements and that are available to those negotiating or mediating an agreement. \$40; \$30 for members; \$70 per couple; \$50 for member couples. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Resume Development Workshop.

10 a.m.-noon, at the Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. Learn the ingredients and format of a successful federal or private sector resume including how to define measurable successes, how to market successes through a resume and how

to be responsive to job expectations identified in a vacancy announcement. \$35; \$25 for members. 703-281-2657 ext. 276 or www.thewomenscenter.org.

Technology Job Fair. 3-6 p.m., at the Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E., McLean. WIT (Women in Technology) holds a job fair where men and women alike can bring their best pitches about why they should be hired to recruiters and hiring managers from 50-plus local companies seeking candidates for open positions in a wide range of positions (from sales to managerial to consulting to computer science, etc.). Register. <http://bit.ly/XKWncr>.

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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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 20

Photography Competition Meeting. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Andrew Jezioro, digital photography lecturer at the Northern Virginia Community College, will judge Architectural photographs for the Vienna Photographic Society. www.vps-va.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 21

Happy Giving Hour. 5:30-8 p.m., at Iris Lounge, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Mix and mingle with Northern Virginia networking groups to benefit Doorways for Women and Families; bring a guest. \$5. www.leadershipfairfax.org.
Life as the Daughter of a Vietnam War MIA Father. 7:30 p.m., at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Pam Cain, daughter of Col. Oscar Mauterer, USAF, lost while



Great Falls Columns, watercolor, by Jeff Gorrell, 24" X 30."

Great Falls State of Mind

On display with other original artworks of the Vienna Arts Society are Jeff Gorrell's large and small paintings featuring panoramas and close-ups of the nuances of Great Falls; open Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. through March 2, at the Vienna Arts Society Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. 703-319-3220 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.



A seated couple enjoys the evening at a McLean Community Center Soiree.

Sunday Soiree, an Occasion to Dance

The afternoon is both casual and elegant at the themed dances at the McLean Community Center Sunday Soirees. The next, to be held Sunday, Feb. 24, from 3-5 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, is a themed, open dance session with casual dancing, practicing and live music from The Wayne Tympanick Trio. \$5. 703-790-0123 or www.waynetympanick.com.

flying over Laos during the Vietnam War in 1966, shares the story of her life as daughter of a missing-in-action father. 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardofoz.

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational parodies are the mainstay of New York City's longest running comedic act. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

The Wizard of Oz. 7:30 p.m., at the Madeira Chapel/Auditorium, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Madeira Arts Department brings the classic with puppeteering, colorful misfits and a local wizard in their winter musical. \$10 for adults; \$5 for children. www.madeira.org/wizardofoz.

Chicago City Limits. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Improvisational parodies are the mainstay of New York City's longest running comedic act. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.



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



Anne Nottage as Janice in the 1st Stage production of "Italian American Reconciliation"

1st Stage Presents 'Italian American Reconciliation'

"Italian American Reconciliation" at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Performances: Now through Sunday, Feb. 24. Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sunday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15-\$25. Call 703-854-1856 or visit: www.1stStagespringhill.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Speed Stacking Tournament. 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at North Springfield Elementary School, 7602 Heming Court, Springfield. Single and double (parent and child) cup stacking competitions held concurrently with prizes; food for sale to benefit the school \$4. 703-658-5563 or semetz@fcps.edu.

Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author "Moonstruck" and "Doubt" follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn't enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. 8 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Wander into the 1930s and get into the swing of Calloway, Gershwin and Berlin with Doc, Chou Chou and the gang. \$30, \$20 for residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Italian American Reconciliation. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. A romantic comedy from the author "Moonstruck" and "Doubt" follows Huey Bonfigliano as he takes to the arts after his divorce, but bad poetry isn't enough and he decides to try and win back his ex with the help of friends. \$25; \$15 for students. 703-

854-1856 or www.1ststagetysons.org.
28th Annual Black History Forum. 3-5 p.m., at the Flint Hill School, 3320 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Trivia Game which features black history related topics, including history, language, literature, the arts, the sciences, popular culture, geography and wordplay; light refreshments included. www.flinthill.org.

Sunday Soiree: My Funny Valentine. 3-5 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A themed, open dance session with casual dancing, practicing and live music from The Wayne Tympanick Trio. \$5. 703-790-0123 or www.waynetympanick.com.

MONDAY/ FEB. 25

Anne Barber's Cape Town. 1 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Ayr Hill Garden Club will feature a presentation by world traveler and landscape designer Anne Barber, who will share photos taken at the gardens of Cape Town, South Africa. latripp24@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 26

The Langley HS Orchestra in Concert. 7 p.m., at Langley High School in the auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The public is invited to hear music of Italian composers from the orchestra's recent trip to Rome—the Cooper Symphonic Orchestra will perform, as well as the Cooper Concert Orchestra with the Langley Chamber Orchestra. www.fcps.edu/LangleyHS/.
Cisco Adler at Jammin' Java. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. Musician and entrepreneur Cisco Adler is scheduled to perform; also performing will be Mod Sun, Tayyib Ali, Choo Jackson and Pat Brown. <https://jamminjava.com/events/road-trippin-tour>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Foot-stomping Irish beats and literal step dancing under dramatic lighting at a bluegrass-gypsy-jazz performance. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Celtic Crossroads. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Foot-stomping Irish beats and literal step dancing under dramatic lighting at a bluegrass-gypsy-jazz performance. \$27. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Essay Contest: What freedom do I enjoy most? The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 180 accepts submissions from third through 12th graders through March 1; call for rules, prize amounts and info. 703-242-7082.
Parker String Quartet. 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Grammy Award-winning quartet plays Mozart, Britten and Dvorak. \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

Roald Dahl's Willy Wonka. 7:30 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Roald Dahl's timeless story of the world-famous child and comes to life in this stage adaptation of Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. \$10 for adults; \$5 for students. www.oakcrest.org/student-life/fine-arts/upper-school-show/index.aspx.

SATURDAY/MARCH 2

McLean Symphony Orchestra. 3 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Songs from the latest generation of Broadway musicals and Hollywood hits presented with student compositions arranged for full orchestra in cooperation with the Northern Virginia Music Teachers Association. 703-790-0123 or www.mclean-symphony.org.

Buskin & Batteau. 7:30 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The humorous folk-pop duo debuts tracks from their recently released album Love Remembered, Love Forgot. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Golden Calidore String Quartet. 4 p.m., at St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A concert of masterpiece quartets including Haydn's Op. 76 No.1 and Mendelssohn's Op. 13 No. 2. \$30; free for students 17 and under. www.amadeusconcerts.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Virginia's American Legion Irish Dinner. 5:30-8 p.m., at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. 703-938-9535.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Capitol Steps. 4 p.m., at James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. A quick-witted, multi-faceted congressional staffer-acted musical political satire benefits the Class of 2013's drug and alcohol-free All-Night Grad Party. \$25-30. madisoncapitolsteps2013@gmail.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 12

MoveMENT: Christopher K. Morgan and Artists. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. As part of the Artist-in-Residence at the Alden program, choreographers and dancers bring athletic, contemporary dance; a collaboration between male choreographer and composer/cellist Ignacio Alcover perform with special guests. \$25; \$18, MCC residents. www.aldentheatre.org.

ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

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LeDuc's Buzzer Beater Gives Madison District Title

Warhawks hold on to beat No. 2 seed McLean

ALEX VAN REES
FOR THE CONNECTION

The Madison girls' basketball team repeated as Liberty District champion on Feb. 15, beating McLean 48-46 on a Megan LeDuc layup in the closing seconds of the district championship game at South Lakes High School.

Madison was in control the entire first half and led 30-20 at halftime. It looked as if the Warhawks were headed toward their eighth title in the last 13 years without a fight. However, McLean fought back and pulled to within eight points by the end of the third period, 37-29.

WITH 27 SECONDS LEFT in the game, Madison senior guard LeDuc sank two free throws to give the Warhawks a 46-43 lead. Seconds later, McLean senior post Lisa Murphy dropped the first 3-pointer of her high school career and she tied up the game at 46-all. Murphy finished with a season-high 27 points, leading the team.

"I feel like we showed a lot of heart out there tonight," said Murphy, who was named the player of the year in the Liberty District after the game. "It proves how far we have come this season as a team and I'm very proud that we are making a name for McLean girls' basketball. We had a great season and I'm proud to be a Highlander."

However, for the second night in a row, with time dwindling, LeDuc came to the rescue as she made a layup with less than five seconds left, fueling the Warhawks to the 48-46 win.

Madison won back-to-back Liberty District championships for the third time since 2001.

"I need to score," said LeDuc. "We have to win right now and there's no other option. I don't want to have to go into overtime."

Like the night before, LeDuc took control of the game and ended it the way she wanted to; it was a picture-perfect way to end an unlikely season for the Hawks.

Madison lost their two leading scorers, Kelly Koshuta and Megan Henshaw, to anterior cruciate



Madison's Megan LeDuc cuts off a piece of the net after the Warhawks won the Liberty District girls' basketball championship.

ligament injuries last summer, making it unlikely the Warhawks would reach the district championship game, let alone win the title.

"I think we played really well tonight and the entire season," said LeDuc. "No one expected us to be here at this point in the season. I knew we could win the district and I'm glad we got the chance to go out there and prove it."

Freshman guard Aidan McWeeney led Warhawk scorers with 15 points, while LeDuc finished close behind with 13. After sealing the deal two nights in a row for Madison, LeDuc was named the MVP of the tournament after the game.

"It's nice being named the MVP of the tournament," said LeDuc. "But, I'm more happy that we won the game and are advancing to the regionals."

"We started off not really knowing our particular roles on the team," said head coach Kristen Stone, who was named the Liberty District coach of the year for the girls. "They've really learned what they are supposed to do individually and what they need to do if they are going to win as a team."

OF THE TOP FOUR TEAMS in the tournament, three of them (Madison, McLean and Fairfax) sported 12-4 conference records. So, although the Highlanders were technically the second seed and the Warhawks were ranked fourth, both teams were very evenly matched on paper, and that proved to be the case Friday.

McLean senior guard Shellie Kaniut and Madison junior guard Katie Kerrigan were named second-team all-district.



Madison's Megan LeDuc, left, made a layup in the closing seconds to lift the Warhawks to a 48-46 victory over McLean in the Liberty District championship game.



McLean's Lisa Murphy scored 27 points against Madison in the Liberty District championship game on Feb. 15. Murphy was named the player of the year in the Liberty District after the game.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Langley Hockey Completes a Historical Undefeated Season

On a night when six Langley Saxon senior hockey players were honored for their four years of participation on the team, Langley completed the first 10-0 season in team history.

Langley beat Osbourn Park 8-1 on Feb. 15 behind the strong play of those six seniors on both offense and defense. Langley's senior captain Evan Sterling, who was recently named to the NVSHL all-star team along with senior assistant captain Kevin Diner and junior Drew Schneider, had a massive game, with a hat trick and four assists. Not to be outdone, Schneider had one goal and five assists while Diner had his own hat trick along with one assist. The other seniors all registered

points with Derick Paxton having the other goal while the three defensemen, Peter Nam, Logan Pontell and Zach Shames, all had one assist.

Langley enjoyed a large supportive crowd that came out to cheer on the team and its senior class. Each senior has been a member of the team since his freshman year. Sterling (15 goals and 12 assists) and Schneider (14 goals and 13 assists) both finished the season with 27 points, while Diner had 17 points and Paxton 15. Langley will be seeded No. 2 in the NVSHL playoffs, behind Stone Bridge, which also had a 10-0 record but took a few less penalties than Langley to lock up the top seed. Langley will get a bye in the first round this Friday and will have its first playoff game in the quarterfinals on Monday, Feb. 26.



Langley's Drew Schneider brings the puck into the offensive zone with Evan Sterling in front of the supportive crowd.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NEWS

A Lesson in Stomach Flu Survival

The ABCs of recognizing, treating and preventing stomach flu.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Maeve McGrail couldn't leave her home for more than a week last month. She spent most of that time dragging herself between her bed and the bathroom.

"It was horrible," said the Oak Hill resident. "I was so nauseous and I couldn't keep any food down. Plus I had to quarantine myself so that I wouldn't get anybody else sick."

McGrail had the stomach flu, an illness medical experts say comes from a virus that causes swelling or inflammation in the stomach and intestines. The good news is that while it is highly contagious and causes severe discomfort, it is generally not serious.

Dr. John Symington, an internist and infectious disease specialist at Inova Hospital, says the most common type of stomach flu for adults is Norovirus, while Rotavirus is most often seen in children.

"The viruses are transmitted by fecal and oral contact," said Symington. "People don't always wash their hands or wash them thoroughly, and then they bring their hands to their mouths."

When the virus is contracted, the symptoms are often distinct. "It comes on very suddenly with di-

arrhea, nausea, vomiting, maybe a fever and body aches," said Kathleen Dickman, who holds a doctorate in nursing and is an assistant professor of nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax, as well as a clinical practitioner at the Jeanie Schmidt Free Clinic in Herndon.

Dickman says the stomach flu is highly contagious. "When these symptoms occur, a child or person should stay at home. Classes and day cares have been known to close it down because it can be epidemic. They should not expose other children."

Experts say soap and water are the strongest defense against the illness. "The best way to prevent the stomach flu is by washing your hands, especially after using the restroom," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director for Molina Healthcare and the Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County. "Most viruses and bacteria are passed from one person to another by unwashed hands. Also, it's important to handle food properly."

IF ONE CONTRACTS the stomach flu, what is the best course of treatment? "If a child is vomiting, then you really want the child to rest their stomach," said Dickman. "Just taking small sips of clear liquids like popsicles, Jell-O and Pedialyte until the stomach begins



Medical experts say that most viruses and bacteria are passed from one person to another by unwashed hands.

to settle." Dickson also recommends the BRAT Diet: "Bananas, rice, applesauce and toast are helpful if a child has diarrhea."

For adults, Symington adds, "Try to keep up with fluids that have salt and sugar in them. Chicken soup is a classic. It has protein and is something that many people can keep down. Sleep is an important factor in people getting better."

How does one know if what they perceive as stomach flu is actually something more serious? "The bottom line is that when the amount of nausea vomiting and diarrhea leads to light-headedness, you need to go the emergency room," said Symington. "You know that you're not able to keep up with your fluids."

SCHOOL NOTES Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Mark Christopher Wilson is a president honor roll designate and on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus honor roll for the fall 2012 semester.

Mitchell K. Kelleher is on the University of Oklahoma Norman campus honor roll for the fall 2012 semester.

Oakton residents **Sarah Grace Brooks**, junior exercise, sport and

health education major; **Stephanie Fitzgerald**, junior interdisciplinary studies major; **Amanda Fox**, freshman psychology major; **Colleen Gillooly**, freshman management major; **Sean Edmund Karoly**, junior geology major; **Sophia Nicole Montenegro**, senior anthropological studies major; and **Rebekah Elizabeth Willetts**, junior communications major, have been named to the Dean's List at

Radford University.

Julene Latter, daughter of Steve and Debbie Latter of Vienna, has been named to the Dean's List at Duke University for the fall 2012 semester. Julene is a 2009 graduate of Madison High School in Vienna. Currently a senior at Duke, Julene is completing a double major in mathematics and French and is a member of the Duke Dancing Devils dance team.

The Capitol Symphonic Youth Orchestras



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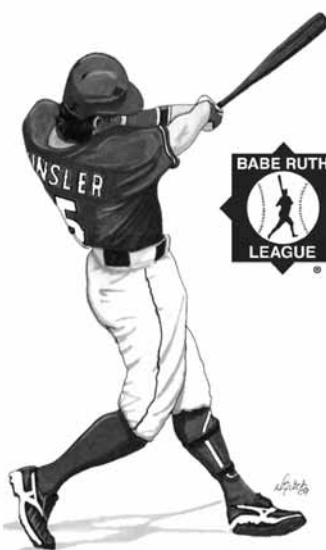
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Choosing a Summer Camp

Region offers programs to tempt children with interests ranging from sports to drama to science.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

While most of Washington is braving the winter weather, April Toman has been planning for summer. At the top of her list: choosing a camp for her two children, Claire, who is in fifth grade, and Will, who is a second grader.

"I start thinking about it in January," said Toman, who lives in Alexandria. "I talk to my kids about what they are interested in taking. There are so many options and the popular camps fill up quickly."

Education experts say summer camp is an important part of a childhood experience, and parents should start considering options well before the end of the school year.

"I think summer camps are wonderful for kids," said Tammy Davis, a doctor of education and a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "Sometimes kids lose ground over the summer, especially with regard to their mental activity. Summer camp can continue brain development, especially with regard to creativity, mental activity, physical activity and social activity."

Davis, who is a former camp counselor, elementary school teacher and school counselor, said children who are not exposed to new social activities could become isolated. "If your kids are only playing video games or going to the pool every day, they run the risk of cocooning themselves," she said. "Choose a camp that expands your child's horizons, that will be stimulating and engaging and where they will develop new friendships without the pressure of an academic environment."

Toman, whose children will attend summer camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria, says that from traditional day camps to specialty camps, the options for children are plentiful. "My children have done junior veterinarian camp in the past, and this year we might try an eco-adventures camp."

FROM SPORTS TO SCIENCE, the Washington region is filled with camps that will suit almost every child. For example, Annie Moyer, director of the Sun & Moon Yoga Studio in Arlington and Fairfax, says yoga camps are options for children who have never practiced yoga. "No yoga experience is necessary," she said. "We do yoga games and poses, breathing, artistic expression and, weather permitting, outdoor playground time."

For youngsters with a passion for all things artistic, Jeanne Loveland, education director for the Greater Reston Arts Center, suggests art camp. "Our camps are based on the GRACE mission, which is contemporary art" she said. "There are some discussions and there are art projects. There is one camp of messy art projects that your mom would never let you do at home. The camps are educational, but also fun. We will bring in local artists."

Loveland added that during one session, students will learn about public art, and "will create a public art work that will be displayed publicly after the camp."

Jim Supple, director of summer programs at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, encourages parents to consider specialty camps as well as traditional day camps. "Specialty camps are great ways to try new



Students show projects that they made during a physics camp at SummerTimes Camp at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School last summer.

things, to expand horizons, and to challenge yourself," he said. "Children are naturally curious and specialty camps provide a way for children to learn more about their interests. If a child is not the most athletic and would rather learn about fashion or photography, acting or magic, specialty camps provide that outlet. They allow children to find things that they are good at and lets them be proud in that activity."

While the thought of academic camps might cause some children to cringe, Mollianne Logerwell, Ph.D., director of science education at George Mason University's Virginia Initiative for Science Teaching and Achievement, says that does not have to be the case. George Mason hosts science camps, and "students frequently tell us that camp was not only fun, but also increased their interest in science," she said. "Additionally, classroom teachers have told us that students who attended a VISTA camp ask higher-level questions and are more engaged in science lessons than students who did not attend camp."

Logerwell said VISTA camps are geared toward low-income students. "It's also a great way to expose families with limited knowledge to the possibility of attending and affording college."

WITH SO MANY OPTIONS for summer camps, choosing the best camp for your child can be overwhelming. "When parents are looking for a camp, they should try to find a camp where they're comfortable with the facility, the programming, and counselors and staff," said Kevin Rechen, camp director for the Norwood School in Bethesda, Md.

Gabrielle Summers, who is planning to send her children to summer camp at the Norwood School, says that she considers safety first. "Second, [I consider] the qualifications of counselors and leadership and their love of the children. [Then] I look at cost, early bird discounts, payment due dates and cancellation policies."

For those who may not be able to afford the cost of summer camp, Rechen suggests that parents do a little research. "Many summer camps offer financial aid," he said. "There are also foundations that give grants for camps."

No matter which camp a child attends, however, Davis has one caution: "Be careful about over-scheduling camps, doing back-to-back camps and not giving children down time," she said. "Some people use camp as day care and that is not always a good thing."



Elementary school students at the Potomac School, in McLean, celebrated Black History Month by researching, writing and reading essays about famous African-Americans.

Learning From the Past

What some local schools are doing to celebrate Black History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The sound of steel drums vibrates through the air of a crowded auditorium in Potomac, Md. In McLean, elementary school girls share their understanding of the struggles of Rosa Parks. A group of second graders from Alexandria treks to downtown Washington to see the massive memorial statue of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

Local schools are celebrating Black History Month with activities like these. They range from student-led faculty meetings to music and food-filled festivals. In fact, some local school officials say acquiring knowledge of the history of the African-American community is a significant part of a well-rounded education.

"I think acknowledging and celebrating Black History Month is important because we're not yet in a place where we can say that we're paying attention to the contributions, perspectives and experiences of African-Americans in this country on a consistent basis," said Rodney Glasgow, head of the Middle School at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md.

A group of eighth-grade boys at St. Andrew's led a faculty meeting and told teachers and staff what it's like to be African-American teenagers. "The boys helped our faculty understand a little bit more about where they come from and some of their unique perspectives and challenges," said Glasgow. "It is

different way to celebrate Black History Month, but we're hoping to do something meaningful and really address the state of African-Americans in our culture."

Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission for The Madeira School, in McLean, said students there shared a school tradition: "We had an all-school meeting in which a team of eight Madeira students who had attended the Student Diversity Leadership Conference [in Texas] ... discussed their experiences. Madeira has sent a team of students to that conference for the past 10 years."

Kindergarten through third grade students at the Potomac School in McLean researched, wrote and read essays about famous African-Americans. "Each homeroom teacher selects one black American each week whose achievements have had a positive impact on our nation," said David Grant, the school's director of diversity and inclusion. "The students write a report about that person. Three or four students from each class will do a short presentation during a school assembly on each Friday during February. Students will have learned about 12 important African-Americans by the time the assembly is over."

Educators say that while Black History Month activities are important, they hope the events spark a dialogue that extends beyond February. "It is important because many people may not understand how important the African-American experience is to our country's history," said Grant.



BRTRC, an organization providing services to federal-government agencies, moves into Vienna at 8521 Leesburg Pike Sept. 1, 2013.

BRTRC Moves to Vienna

A 27-year-old, steadily growing government contractor will move its corporate headquarters to a new home in Vienna next year, in a deal brokered by two executives with The Ezra Company.

One of the leading commercial real estate firms in the nation that exclusively represents tenants, The Washington, D.C.-based Ezra Company, has negotiated on behalf of BRTRC in a 28,308-square-foot lease relocation at 8521 Leesburg Pike in Vienna.

In this long-term transaction, The Ezra Company Senior Vice President David Kinney and Principal/

Executive Vice President Gene Martin represented BRTRC, which is presently based at 8260 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive in Fairfax.

BRTRC, which began operations in 1985 and provides high-level professional services to numerous federal-government agencies, plans to occupy its new space around Sept. 1 of 2013.

The privately held company employs several hundred people, including more than 100 workers at its main office. BRTRC has additional locations in Abingdon, Md., Burlington, Mass., St. Robert, Mo., and Warren, Mich.

Volunteers Needed to Help Count Homeless

Volunteers organized by FACETS and other local nonprofits will spread out across Fairfax County to count, photograph, and get names and histories for everyone experiencing homelessness for the county's first ever "Registry Week," a component of the 100,000 Homes Campaign, beginning on Monday, Feb. 25, at various locations around Fairfax County. Geo tracking will be used to help pinpoint where the homeless live so they do not get counted twice. The personalized data will help the nonprofits and local governments make important decisions about how to prioritize and allocate housing and support resources.

More than 200 volunteers are needed countywide.

Partners include: FACETS, Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, New Hope Housing, Pathway Homes, Reston Interfaith, Volunteers

of America Chesapeake.

Fairfax County has nearly 2,900 homeless—of these about 300 are chronically homeless. Supporting the county's 10-year plan to end homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign is focused on building efficient local systems that target resources to the most vulnerable individuals quickly and predictably. An important part of the campaign focuses on creating profiles of people to ensure that the homeless are counted as real people and that their progress in finding housing and services can be better tracked. By using the campaign's tools and metrics, the county's partners anticipate getting half of the most vulnerable, chronically homeless in supportive housing in three years—which will save money and possibly lives.

Interested volunteers should call 703-352-5090 or visit FacetsCares.org.

Police Warn Public of 'Inheritance Scam'

Fairfax County Police (FCPD) has received numerous reports from residents across the U.S. involving a phony inheritance proclamation.

These typically arrive in the form of an unsolicited email announcing that the recipient has been awarded a multi-million dollar inheritance but they must contact a FCPD police investigator in order to claim the funds. Presently, the scammers are identifying themselves as authentic FCPD personnel and using official email addresses, phone numbers and street addresses in order to appear more convincing to the victim.

The Financial Crimes Unit is aware of at least a dozen reports that have taken place since Thursday, Jan. 10. Detectives warn residents that due to the potential international origin of this scam, there is

little that can be done to re-claim funds that have already been wired: Do not wire money based on instructions received in unsolicited emails.

The FCPD does not send unsolicited emails concerning inheritance, monetary funds, or transactions. If someone receives these emails, they should delete them immediately and do not open any files associated with the email.

If anyone has questions concerning the validity of unsolicited, suspicious emails requesting monies to be wired or personal information to be sent, that appear to be from the FCPD, contact police.

If someone within Fairfax County has already sent money involving this scam, report it through the Financial Crimes electronic reporting site.

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Definition of "Slippery Slope"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Figuratively speaking, of course. That definition being: a late stage cancer patient/survivor previously characterized as "terminal" awaiting the results of their most recent diagnostic scan. A scan that will indicate whether the tumors have grown, moved or God forbid, appeared somewhere new. If your life hung in the balance before the scan, waiting for results of this however-many-months-interval-scan will most assuredly loosen your figurative grip on your equilibrium and your most literal grip on your sanity. This is a domain, unlike the one referred to in one of the more infamous Seinfeld episodes, that one cannot master. To invoke and slightly rework Dan Patrick's "catch" phrase: You can't stop it, you can only hope to contain it.

Unfortunately, for many of us cancer patients, cancer is the big dog, and if it wants to get off the porch, it will. Our staying put on the porch, however, won't likely protect those of us inflicted with this most insidious disease. In fact, standing pat – on or off the porch, isn't likely to have much effect, either. In many cases (make that individuals) cancer is in control. In the medical profession, as much as it has researched and studied, and as many dollars as it has committed in the pursuit of eradicating cancer, the reality is there is much work yet to be done. Though many improvements in diagnosis and treatment have occurred, thereby lengthening life expectancies (I'm living proof of that); still, in many (make that most, let's be honest) instances, "cancer" is the last word anyone wants to hear associated with whatever symptoms manifested themselves that led to their seeking a medical evaluation in the first place.

I wouldn't say that a terminal patient's day-to-day existence is chaotic, but neither would I characterize it as the most predictable set of circumstances. I imagine it's a bit like living in the wild, where you have to live by your wits and trust your instincts. Moreover, I don't know of any Living with Cancer for Dummies-type book full of wit and wisdom that exists for the newly diagnosed cancer patient. Being there – diagnosed and treated for cancer previously – and currently, and having already done that (lived/evolved with a terminal prognosis), certainly helps moving forward, but it's hardly a desirable location and certainly not a cure-all (I wouldn't mind if it were a cure-this-one, though). However, given the choices, I'd rather have the experience (meaning I've survived) than not (the definition of DUH). Avoiding it altogether is the goal. However, as this lifelong non-smoker with no immediate family history of cancer can attest: that is much easier written than realized.

But as you regular readers know, I don't complain. It's a miracle/amazing/extremely fortunate/inexplicable almost, that I am still sitting here – upright and fairly productive, four years into a "13-month to two-year prognosis." I wouldn't describe my diagnosis-to-date, Kenny-with-cancer life as having been a walk in the park; more like a series of mini challenges, akin to crossing a stream dotted with stepping stones. Still, it is life, and I am living it, and I'm certainly not going to let a few stones – figuratively or literally, get in my way. Cancer be damned.

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

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