

Kilmer Center student Paco Morales dances with Oakton High School student Maddie Farmer at the May 9 "Day Prom" held at the Fair Oaks Waterford. It's 12th year, the event is held for students with special needs that might not be able to attend their general education prom.

# 'Day Prom' Celebrated

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## Celebrating 'Everyday' Heroes

NEWS, PAGE 4

## Incumbents Retain Town Council Seats

NEWS, PAGE 3






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## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Teens on the Green Concert

Enjoy the talents of three local bands during the Teens on the Green concert on Saturday, May 18, at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Madison High School Jazz band will perform at 11 a.m., followed by the Vienna Jammers at noon and the Pat Sommers Rock Shop at 1 p.m. This event is free and appropriate for all ages.

In case of inclement weather, call the rain line for up-to-date event information at 703-255-7842. For more information, call Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360.

### Town Offices Observe Memorial Day

Town of Vienna offices will be closed on Monday, May 27, in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. The Vienna Community Center will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and no classes will be held. Refuse collection will operate as normal on Monday, May 27.

### Family Scavenger Hunt In Vienna

The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's Vienna Scavenger Hunt is back again this year and starts May 22. Have a family adventure as you discover little known places in town in seven categories:

Play in a Safe Place; Explore Nature; Celebrate the Arts; Follow a Trail; Play a Sport; Explore History; and Make a Lasting Memory.

Find places described in these categories and take a digital picture of a family member, the whole family or family pet participating in the activity described. Submit the photos on a CD by Aug. 16, to be placed in a drawing for recognition as Vienna's No. 1 Recreating Family and have your pictures posted on the town website and in the next recreation brochure.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

## Visit These Houses of Worship To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

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**9:00 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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Music: grades 3 - 7  
**10:25 a.m.** Sunday School Grades 3 to 12  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
**11:15 a.m.** Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
**5:00 p.m.** Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service

Nursery care provided at 9:00 a.m. service

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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**  
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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

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# NEWS

## Incumbents Retain Town Council Seats

**Voter turnout 9.2 percent.**

**S**tanding under umbrellas, the four candidates running for three Vienna Town Council seats greeted voters in a rain steady throughout most of the morning and early afternoon. The rain wasn't torrential but neither was voter turnout throughout much of the day. Candidate supporters along the W & OD trail said voter traffic was steady. At the end of Election Day, 989 people, out of 11,084, had cast their votes, a 9.2 voter turnout.

Three incumbents—Laurie DiRocco, Carey Sienicki and Howard Springsteen—and newcomer Ryan Thomas vied for three open positions on the Town Council.

DiRocco received the highest number of votes at 807, Sienicki received 711 and Springsteen 712. First-time candidate Thomas received 440 votes and there were 28 absentee ballots.

When asked what he thought resonated the most

with voters, Thomas said he walked door-to-door since January, covering Vienna's four precincts. "I think the main thing is that they had someone willing to come to them, who listened to their concerns," Thomas, a CPA living in Vienna since November 2012, said he is looking into committees and civic clubs to join. "I always liked the small-town community of Vienna," said Thomas.

**VIENNA'S ELECTION PROCESS** is this: the top three vote-getters win a seat on the council.

Since the 2000 election, voter participation has ranged from a low of 5 percent of registered voters in 2012 [although several years hovered at a similar mark] to a high of 22.3 percent in 2007 [followed closely by 22.2 percent in 2006].

Voter turnout has averaged approximately 8 percent of registered voters in the Town of Vienna.

—DONNA MANZ

### VIEWPOINTS

**What issues facing Vienna are most important to you?**

—DONNA MANZ



**Niall Leogue, owner Caddie Tours**

**"Sidewalks are important. I go walking every day and the kids need to walk to bus stops. There's too many pharmacies, banks and mattress stores ... no more.**

**I want a 'Niall's pub' in Vienna. Vienna needs a pub, a casual place just to stop by and have a drink.**

**I love the small-town feel in a metropolitan area. I would love to see a Trader Joe's where Magruder's was."**



**Tammy Cohen**  
**"Keeping Vienna small-town and, yet, current, updated ... new restaurants, new businesses. It feels warm and cozy here and I want to keep that feeling."**



**Kathy Underhill, attorney**

**"I like the small-town feel so I'm looking for people whose long-term planning goals are consistent with that."**



**Rosalie Dobbs, hair stylist**  
**"I think community affairs ... crime, parking, traffic, speeding. I want to maintain the small-town atmosphere, keep Vienna the way it is. I still think it's the best place to live."**



**Nicole Martin**

**"I've got kids in elementary school and I want to walk them. I want sidewalks in Vienna. I like Church Street building up but parking there is a concern."**



**Nidza Vazquez performed her original song, En tu Corazon Hay Sabiduria (In Your Heart There is Wisdom) at the May 10 concert at Unity of Fairfax in Oakton.**

## Unity of Fairfax Concert Benefits Women's Center in Vienna

**T**he Unity of Fairfax fourth annual "Who is My Neighbor" benefit concert, entitled "Breaking the Silence: Finding Your Voice," raised funds for The Women's Center in Vienna while promoting awareness of the issues of abuse, bullying and mental illness on May 10.

Produced by Unity of Fairfax Director of Music Carole Tomhave, the program featured songs, prose and remarks from Carol Lofthur-Thun, The Women's Center CEO and executive director.

Rev. Russell Heiland, senior minister of Unity of Fairfax, talked about the importance of forgiveness in the healing of wounds prior to the final song by the Unity of Fairfax choir.

Concert proceeds will benefit The Women's Center's "Let's Talk" educational programs, which aim to improve the psychological, career, financial and legal well-being of women, men and families in Northern Virginia, regardless of their ability to pay.

Unity of Fairfax is a progres-



**Carole Tomhave, Unity of Fairfax director of music (left) and Carol Lofthur-Thun, CEO and executive director of The Women's Center, located in Vienna and Washington, D.C., at the concert.**

sive Christian church and a local ministry of Unity, a movement founded in 1889 that provides spiritual publishing, education, prayer and events for over three million members worldwide. Unity's best known publication, Daily Word, a magazine of inspirational messages, is distributed to nearly one million people in more than 100 countries. For more information about Unity of Fairfax, visit [unityoffairfax.org](http://unityoffairfax.org) or call the church office at 703-281-1767.



**Rev. Russell Heiland, senior minister, talks about the spirit of forgiveness before the Unity of Fairfax Choir performs its final song.**





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left, Wanda Rixon, director of operations of Molina Healthcare of Virginia; Community Champion award recipients Hank Chao, Ann Louise Lainge Bailey and John Horejsi; and Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia.

# Celebrating ‘Everyday’ Heroes

Molina Healthcare honors local residents for making a difference in the community.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

In the 1980s, Vienna resident John Horejsi and a “ragtag” group of social justice pioneers learned that Virginia was charging sales tax on food stamps. They discovered the sales tax boosted the state’s coffers by \$9.5 million every year, money that they believed belonged to poor families for food or other necessary items.

He and his “gang of eight”—which Horejsi had formed into a non-partisan group called Social Action Linking Together (SALT)—lobbied Virginia lawmakers to stop the practice. While most agreed the tax was horrible policy, the talks ultimately failed. Undeterred, SALT took a leap of faith and reached out to one of the most powerful and influential members of the U.S. Senate, Senator Edward M. Kennedy.

Kennedy helped SALT push legislation to stop the tax. Through that effort, Virginia and 18 other states removed the sales tax on the federal food stamps program. SALT, which influences public social policy and legislation on behalf of low-income Virginia families, especially in the areas of homelessness and hunger, now has more than 1,200 members and is a recognized force in social justice reform.

Hank Chao came to Vienna from Taiwan in 1984 when he was 25 years old. He arrived without a college degree and did not speak much English, but he believed that Asian Americans needed to “help build the bridge to the mainstream society.” In 2003 Hank joined one of the largest Chinese organizations, Hai Hua Community Center

(HHCC), and eventually became its president. Chao started the annual Chinese Lunar New Year celebration, a popular multicultural affair, with Chinese, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian and Filipino groups presenting cultural performance, demonstrations, and arts and crafts activities.

He said that the Lunar New Year event “not only educates area residents about cultures in Asia, but also plays an important role in reconnecting those removed from the geographic area to the culture of their ancestors.”

Anne Louise Lainge Bailey of Alexandria believed it was important to improve mental health services for children and families. So she became the volunteer coordinator of The Nexus Committee, which focuses on improving the mental health of children through prevention, intervention, education and research, and as its name implies, brings together stakeholders to share information and ideas which can translate into effective action to advance government and private assistance to needy individuals and families.”

**ALL THREE** have something important in common. They are unheralded heroes—everyday people who saw a chance to make a difference and did.

For their volunteer efforts, they were recognized as “Community Champions” by Molina Healthcare on Thursday, May 9, at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center.

“It is our pleasure and honor to recognize John, Anne Louise and Hank, individuals who go above and beyond the call of duty to help others in our communities,” said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director

of Molina Healthcare and Community Health Care Network. “Whether it’s advocating for social justice on behalf of those in need, coming up with ways to improve the mental health of our youth or providing culturally-sensitive resources and education to the Asian community, these Community Champion winners are inspiring and commendable for all that they do.”

Established to honor the memory of Molina Healthcare’s founder, Dr. C. David Molina, the Community Champions program spotlights the good deeds of everyday heroes in the communities served by Molina.

“The third annual awards dinner brings together a group of three individuals whose leadership, volunteerism and advocacy embodied Dr. Molina’s spirit of service, family and community,” Glossa said.

Each winner, who was nominated by a community-based organization, received a \$1,000 grant to give to a deserving nonprofit organization as part of his/her award.

“This kind of award is not why we do the work that we do in the community,” Chao said, “but it’s nice to be recognized and I hope it will encourage and inspire others to join us in doing giving back to the community.”

Horejsi said he wanted to thank Molina Healthcare for “recognizing our community service and activism.

“To us it’s just democracy, but when Molina recognizes us it recharges our batteries and reminds us to keep going,” Horejsi said.

“Mental health is such an important issue for young people and at Nexus our mission is to build to-



John Horejsi, with wife Mariann and volunteer Robert Stewart, attended the Molina Healthcare Community Champions celebration at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax on Thursday, May 9.



Hank Chao of Vienna, recognized as an “everyday hero” for his work with the Hai Hua Community Center, addresses the audience.



Dr. Debra Deven and Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia.



Dr. Gloria Addo Ayensu, director of the Fairfax County Health Department, and Dr. Marwa El-Menshawi attended the celebration.

“Whether it’s advocating for social justice on behalf of those in need, coming up with ways to improve the mental health of our youth or providing culturally-sensitive resources and education to the Asian community, these Community Champion winners are inspiring and commendable for all that they do.”

—Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director of Molina Healthcare of Virginia

gether better ways to improve the mental health and wellbeing of the young,” Lainge Bailey said.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY CONTRACTS** with Molina Healthcare to operate three Community Health Care network (CHCN) health centers, which serve residents of Fairfax County who are low income and uninsured. The Fairfax County Health Department

operates the centers located in Falls Church, Alexandria and Reston.

Dr. Gloria Addo Ayensu, director of the Fairfax County Health Department, said the Community Champions inspire others to make a difference.

“These are people who make a difference in our community and they deserve recognition,” she said.



# BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

## FRIDAY/MAY 17

**Bike to Work Day.** Pit stops at various locations throughout Northern Virginia; go to [www.biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org) for details.

**Silver Line Playbook.** 8-10 a.m., at 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna. As part of Leadership Fairfax's 2013 Speaker Series, Brian Winterhalter, an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group at Cooley LLP, speaks on the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project (the Silver Line), focusing on land use and zoning matters.

**Nextstop Theatre Company Open Call Auditions.** 4-8 p.m., at 269 Sunset Business Drive, Herndon. Performers of all ethnic and racial backgrounds (both non-Equity and Equity) ages 16 and up are invited to audition for dramatic, comic and musical roles for the inaugural season; individuals will have up to three minutes to perform a monologue and/or song that best showcases their talent (bring a photo and resume). Apply by emailing name, contact number, preferred date and two hour audition timeframe.

**casting@eldenstreetplayers.org.**  
**Great Strides Walk for Cystic Fibrosis.** 7:30 p.m., at Brown's Chapel Park, 1575 Browns Chapel Road, Reston. Walk to benefit those

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7



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# OPINION

## Vote in Spite of Election Fatigue

### Primary Voting, Absentee Voting, Republican Convention.

**A**bsentee voting, including “in-person” absentee voting, is already underway for the June 11, 2013 primary, a statewide Democratic party primary for lieutenant governor and attorney general, plus one delegate race in Northern Virginia.

Voters in the Democratic primary will choose between Ralph S. Northam and Aneesh Chopra for lieutenant governor; and between Mark R. Herring and Justin E. Fairfax for attorney general.

Because voters do not register by party in Virginia, any voter can vote in the Democratic primary, but cannot vote in a Democratic and Republican primary on the same day.

The Republican party will nominate their candidates for statewide office in a convention to be held on May 17-18, 2013 in Richmond. Delegates to the convention were elected by locality in March and April.

Each locality is entitled to one Republican convention delegate vote per 250 Republican

votes for governor and president at their last election, so that Fairfax County is entitled to 1,392 delegate votes; Arlington County is entitled to 215 delegate votes; Alexandria City is entitled to 133 delegate votes; the City of Fairfax is entitled to 32 delegate votes; Falls Church City is entitled to 14 delegate votes. Localities choose up to five times the number of delegates as votes, plus an equal number of alternates.

In Fairfax County, there is also Democratic primary for District 86, between Jennifer Boysko <http://www.jenniferboysko.com/> and Herb Kemp <http://www.herbkempfordelegate.com/>, with the winner facing incumbent Tom Rust (R). Democratic voters in the 86th House of Delegates District will find this on their ballots along with lieutenant governor and attorney general. (Precincts: Floris, Fox Mill, Stuart, Herndon #1, Herndon #2, Clearview, Herndon #3, Hutchison, Sugarland, Coates, Kinross West, Lees Corner #1, Carson)

The polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on June 11, 2013.

Absentee voting allows qualified voters to participate in upcoming elections even though they may not be able to go to the polls on Election Day. Absentee voting in person began on April 26, 2013.

Most people in Northern Virginia qualify to vote absentee under this provision, although there are many others:

“Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for eleven or more hours of the thirteen that the polls are open (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.).”

In Fairfax County, in-person absentee voting is ongoing through June 8 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.; Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturdays (June 1st and June 8th): 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Closed Monday, May 27, 2013 for Memorial Day.

Here are some good sources for information on upcoming elections:

Virginia State Board of Elections, <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/>,

Virginia Public Access Project, <http://www.vpap.org/candidates?display=state>,

Fairfax County Board of Elections, <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/ecalendar.htm>.

— MARY KIMM.

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Campaigning in Support of Homeless Solutions

BY SYLISA LAMBERT-  
WOODARD  
PRESIDENT AND CEO  
PATHWAY HOMES, INC.

**A**s Pathway Homes joined our nonprofit colleagues, local officials and Fairfax County partners in the 100,000 Homes Campaign to raise awareness and support for the homeless in our area, I felt renewed hope that we will eradicate homelessness in our community.

Since the 100,000 Homes Registry Week in February, the outpouring of support and interest from citizens and friends has been nothing less than inspiring. I witnessed the amazing surge of community support and show of corporate responsibility that is characterized by the Fairfax community. In preparation to meet the needs of those identified through this community-wide event, local non-profits partnered and purchased new housing stock in anticipation of using subsidized housing vouchers to assist those most vulnerable in our community to get housing and stay housed.

While energized by public awareness raised around the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

needs of homeless individuals and families encountered during Registry Week, there is much left to do. The good news is that this campaign successfully educated many caring neighbors and

raised the awareness of many to the plight of the homeless. Pledges of support and creative partnerships are emerging to house the 1,350 individuals who are homeless in Fairfax County on any given day.

In the midst of such progress towards ending homelessness, few could have predicted what has evolved into a quiet storm involving deep cuts from sequestration that impact the homeless; and impending Medicaid cuts to supportive services for those with mental illness and substance use that help these individuals remain in housing.

While there is no doubt that our 10-year-plan to end homelessness will find a detour ahead, I maintain hope that it will not be a dead end that takes a severe toll on the resilience of our local community partners. Sequestration is having a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable in our community, and the “collective voice” creates change. While the Fairfax local housing authority and elected officials are actively identifying short term solutions to temporarily mitigate additional reductions, we are left with the uncertainty of the extent of the impact of additional cuts on the individuals we serve and our community as a whole.

travelers inconvenienced and angry over airport delays. How impactful it would be to use our collective voice to show that this quiet storm of sequestration and Medicaid cuts will result in conditions that eclipse those caused by travel delays. These cuts will lead to increased homelessness, reduced and limited support services to the most vulnerable, and loss of new vouchers that were intended to support individuals in the homes recently acquired by non-profits and private landlords in their efforts to provide affordable and sustainable housing in our community.

With continued community advocacy directed towards local, state, and federal elected officials, I believe our voice can be as influential and successful as our “frequent flyers” in averting a most devastating impact to our community.

At Pathway Homes we remain committed to advocacy and education and are committed with other non-profits, to developing innovative partnerships that will create needed housing and support to those most vulnerable in our community. We remain inspired by those we serve.

At the same time, it will take a great deal of innovation, collaboration, and faith to continue to help the most vulnerable in our communities. Pathways’ forecast for our community remains bright and hopeful with a strong belief that eradicating homelessness in our community is possible. As a community, we must remember that collective advocacy can change the course of time and result in positive outcomes for the individuals we serve.

*Pathway Homes Inc. provides non-time-limited housing and recovery-based supportive services to adults with serious mental illness and co-occurring disabilities in Northern Virginia.*

## Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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# BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

with Cystic Fibrosis. [www.reston.org](http://www.reston.org).

## THURSDAY/MAY 16

**Avoiding Divorce Court II.** 6:30-9:30p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. Information regarding both standard provisions and unique. \$40. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**AAUW Used Book Collections.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women collects gently used books, CDs, DVDs and software (no records or textbooks) for their next book sale; children's books are in demand. 703-527-4206 or [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

## SUNDAY/MAY 19

**The 16 Inner Arts Series: The Art of Developing.** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., 8020 Georgetown Pike, McLean. This workshop explains how to develop into the people we wish to be. <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/6199100677>.

## MONDAY/MAY 20

**College and Beyond: Mapping the Future.** 6:30-8:30 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. This seminar is designed for young adults (parents also welcome) who are wrestling with career and directional choices. \$35. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

## TUESDAY/MAY 21

**Change Lives with Shelter House Open House.** 5-8 p.m., at the Patrick Henry Family Shelter, 3080 Patrick Henry Drive, Falls Church. Community members can learn about how they can be an agent of change in ending homelessness in the community with Shelter House. <http://shelterhouse.givezooks.com/events/changing-lives-open-house-patrick-henry-family-shelter>.

**The Woman's Guide to Investing.** 7-9 p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. This course is designed specifically for women who want to learn the basics of investing and making smart financial decisions. \$35. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org).

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### THURSDAY/MAY 16

**Charity Lunch Series "Care to Lunch."** 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at Marriott Tysons Corner, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. The May luncheon is dedicated to children; a speech on vision and mission of the organization accompanies an upscale lunch and networking hour. \$25. [www.caretolunch.org](http://www.caretolunch.org).

### FRIDAY/MAY 17

**Leadership Fairfax Speaker Series: Brian Winterhalter.** 8-10 a.m., at LFI Offices, Suite 350, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Vienna. An update on the happenings in Tysons from the perspective of a commercial real estate attorney, with a focus on zoning and land use changes. \$30; \$25 for members. 703-752-7518 or [danielle@leadershipfairfax.org](mailto:danielle@leadershipfairfax.org).

### SATURDAY/MAY 18

**The Fresh Market's Cupcakes for a Cause.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Fresh Market, 150 Branch Road S.E., Vienna. Purchase and decorate a delicious cupcake from The Fresh Market to support No Kid Hungry. \$3. **Mister G at Jammin' Java.** 10:30 a.m., at the Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Award-winning children's musician Mister G will be returning to perform. [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

**Vienna Arts Society's annual**

#### Benefit Raffle and Silent Auction.

4:30-6:30 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W., Vienna. Arts Society is donating a portion of the proceeds to the Committee for Helping Others; wine and light refreshments provided. 703-319-3971 or [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Art in 14 Directions.** 5:30-8:30 p.m., at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road N.E., Vienna. An opening reception featuring the work of 14 studio artists with 60 works in multidisciplinary art ranging from realism and expressionism all the way to encaustics. [www.theframefactory1.com](http://www.theframefactory1.com).

### SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Gaby and Brent Thompson Speech.** 9:30 a.m., Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. The speakers will cover "Communication in Relationships." <http://www.antiochdoc.org/>.

**Vienna American Legion Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-noon, at 330 Center St. N., Vienna. Includes omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, and bacon. \$8, adults; \$3 for children. 703-938-1379.

**18th Century Spring Market Fair.** 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Celebrate spring at a local museum and working farm's first Market Fair of the season, featuring goods and wares, produce, gifts, colonial characters, animals, dancing and singing, and demonstrations of colonial-era work. \$6; \$3 for children 3-12 years old and seniors. 703-903-9330 or [www.1771.org/directions.htm](http://www.1771.org/directions.htm).

**Violin Recital: Jehshua**



"Solitude," collage, "15 X 20," by Madeline Chen is part of the Insight and Inspiration exhibit at the Vienna Arts Society Gallery, open Tuesday through Saturdays until June 1.

**Karunakaran.** 3 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The 18-year-old violinist and graduate of the Juilliard School pre-college division, and a senior at Harvard, plays Bach's Partita No. 2, a movement of the Sibelius concerto, a sonata by Ysaye and works by Kreisler, Paganini and Brahms; the concert is sponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax Library. 703-620-9535.

**Synchrony.** 4 p.m., at Saint Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Edvinas Minkstimas, an

emerging European young pianist, joins the Amadeus Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 2 in B-flat major; the orchestra also performs Serenade No. 1 by Brahms. \$30; free for students 17 and under. <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>.

**Opera for the People.** 4:30 p.m., at Our Lady of Good Counsel in DeSales Hall, 8601 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. The Vienna Choral Society and The Reston Chorale present an accessible concert of Verdi and Copland. \$25; \$20 for seniors/students; free for

youth, 15 and under accompanied by an adult. [www.viennachoralsociety.org](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org).

### TUESDAY/MAY 21

**Great Falls Coffee Social.** 9:30 a.m., at Riverbend Park Visitor's Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Celebrate Great Falls will present Friends of Riverbend Park with a \$2,000 donation to help fund their summer internship program at the co-hosted community-building event open to all Great Falls residents and businesses. [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org).

### THURSDAY/MAY 23

**The Vienna American Legion Auxiliary Memorial.** 10 a.m., at Flint Hill Cemetery. The Vienna American Legion Auxiliary will place flags on the graves of veterans. 703-938-1379.

**Interfaith Forum on Social and Economic Justice.** 6:30-8:30 p.m., United Christian Parish of Reston, 11508 North Shore Drive, Reston. A panel of representatives of the Buddhist, Christian, Jewish, Muslim and Sikh faith communities will discuss how they address justice issues; refreshments included. [www.restoninterfaith.org](http://www.restoninterfaith.org).

### FRIDAY/MAY 24

**A Prairie Home Companion With Garrison Keillor.** 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Special guests Aoife O'Donovan and Howard Levy join the ensemble cast through comedy sketches and musical interludes with the Grammy-winning storyteller and humorist Keillor. \$25-\$60. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/MAY 25

**A Prairie Home Companion With Garrison Keillor.** 5:45 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Special guests Aoife O'Donovan and Howard Levy join the ensemble cast through comedy sketches and musical interludes with the Grammy-winning storyteller and humorist Keillor. \$25-\$60. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Cathy Ponton King: Blues and Sweet Ballads.** 7 p.m., at the Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Cathy Ponton King and his team will perform some blues and ballads at VIVA! VIENNA! 703-255-4742 or [info@vivavienna.org](mailto:info@vivavienna.org).

### SUNDAY/MAY 26

**Memorial Day Concert.** 5 p.m., at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The National Men's Chorus puts on their annual concert, featuring trumpet, piano, organ and harp; a reception follows the concert. 703-780-7945 or [knightspassage@aol.com](mailto:knightspassage@aol.com).

### MONDAY/MAY 27

**Memorial Day Ceremony.** 11 a.m., at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A commemorative event featuring a Marine Corps Color Guard, patriotic songs, remarks from retired Marine Corps Lieutenant Gen. Norman H. Smith, and a reading of the names and bell-ringing for each of the 25 residents who fell in service; a wreath-laying by local dignitaries and raising of the flags by Boy Scout Troop 55 follows. 703-248-0390.

### THURSDAY/MAY 30

**Langley High School Chorus' "Get On Your Feet."** 7:30 p.m., Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The choir will be performing songs from all the decades: from the 50's (Shake, Rattle and Roll) to current pop hits of Kelly Clarkson, Colbie Caillat and Plain White T's. \$10. 703-287-2700.

### FRIDAY/MAY 31

**Postage Stamp Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Dr, McLean. Eighty dealers buying, selling, and appraising stamps and envelopes; 45 exhibits, 10 postal administrations, and a youth table. [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org).

**Langley High School Chorus' "Get On Your Feet."** 7:30 p.m., Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The choir will be performing songs from all the decades: from the 50's (Shake, Rattle and Roll) to current pop hits of Kelly Clarkson, Colbie Caillat and Plain White T's. \$10. 703-287-2700.

**The Mikado.** 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players and Artistic Director Albert Bergeret present a timeless comedy about love and political entanglements set in Japan. \$12-\$50. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/JUNE 1

**Flea Market.** 8 a.m.-1 p.m., at Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. A flea market with food and a bake sale; vendor space available. 703-281-4411 or [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org).

**Postage Stamp Show.** 10 a.m.-6 p.m., at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Eighty dealers buying, selling, and

appraising stamps and envelopes; 45 exhibits, 10 postal administrations, and a youth table. [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org).

**The Mikado.** 8 p.m., at Wolf Trap, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. New York Gilbert & Sullivan Players and Artistic Director Albert Bergeret present a timeless comedy about love and political entanglements set in Japan. \$12-\$50. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 2

**Postage Stamp Show.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Eighty dealers buying, selling, and appraising stamps and envelopes; 45 exhibits, 10 postal administrations, and a youth table. [www.napex.org](http://www.napex.org).

### TUESDAY/JUNE 4

**Earth, Wine & Fire.** 8 p.m., at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Soul-pop and six-time Grammy-winning band brings their well-reviewed show featuring new songs from their 2012 Now, Then & Forever album, along with hits. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### THURSDAY/JUNE 13

**Code 20: Proceed to Improv.** 7-9 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Studio Rep, the only professional teen repertory company in the McLean area, hosts an ongoing event where high school students and adults can watch comedy, join in improv games, perform at an open mic and enjoy entertainment from some of Washington's best improv groups. 703-744-9353 or <http://bit.ly/14Tgz52>.



PHOTO COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

The international food court at McLean Day includes Greek favorites from Nader's Bistro & Grill.

## McLean Day 2013, Saturday, May 18: "Celebrating Our Hometown"

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual community festival McLean Day 2013: "Celebrating Our Hometown" draws a large crowd of residents and local businesses and organizations together once a year to celebrate their "hometown." Although the festival has grown over the years, the essence of what makes it great is the hometown feel that emanates throughout the park. Neighborhood children take rides together, old friends catch up with one another and the entertainers on stage are the relatives, friends and co-workers of the people in the audience. McLean Day 2013 will be held on Saturday, May 18, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road. Admission is free.

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Vote on McLean Day

McLean Community Center  
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Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Your Vote is Your Voice!

All qualified residents of Small District 1A  
Dranesville are encouraged to vote for members  
of the 2013-2014 MCC Governing Board.

- You need not be registered to vote in the general election
- Proof of residence, such as a driver's license, is required

Absentee Ballot

Vote now by absentee ballot and avoid the crowds!  
View the candidate statements on the Center's Web site.  
Call the Center or send an E-mail message to "[elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)" to request a ballot package be sent to your home. Or, stop by the Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue and pick one up. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15 to be counted.

The McLean Community Center

703-790-0123/TTY: 711

Sign up for E-mail Updates:  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

McLean Day

Celebrating our Hometown!

Event Time:  
11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Voting for the MCC  
Governing Board:  
10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

Events and Activities

- Arts and Crafts Sales
- Business and Community Groups
- Carnival Rides and Midway Games
- Live Entertainment by Local Performers
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THE CONNECTION  
NEWSPAPERS



## News

# Spring Into Summer Fashion Show to Benefit Artemis House

The OLGC Women's Club hosted a Spring into Summer Fashion Show in DeSales Hall, located on the parish campus of Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church in Vienna Thursday, May 2. The clothing sponsor for the event was Chico's of Reston Town Center. Chico's provided the evening's colorful spring and summer fashions which featured a dazzling line up of Women's Club models wearing a number of different casual and formal looks for daytime and evening events.

During the show, co-hosts Karen Ryan, an OLGC parishioner and member of the Fashion Show Committee and Michelle Bowles, the store manager of Chico's Reston location, provided fashion commentary. The two women kept the evening lively with their banter and by giving away a number of great door prizes throughout the evening. OLGC Women's Club President and event planner Renie Langan-Richie said, "It's a wonderful evening of fun, fashion and fellowship with the community and, at the same time, it is about helping out a great organization like the Artemis House. It is a very good feeling."

Proceeds from the event's ticket sales will be donated to the Artemis House, Fairfax County's only emergency shelter for families and individuals fleeing domestic and sexual violence and human trafficking. Artemis House Director Laly Goodmote attended and spoke to the crowd of over 100 during the show's intermission about the work that the Artemis House is doing in Fairfax County to support victims of domestic and sexual violence.



**From left—hosts Karen Ryan and Michelle Bowles from Chico's, models Ann Streb, Renie Langan-Richie, Mary Pat Egan, Sandra Richie, Rachel Richie, Carleen Knauf, Marti Campo and makeup artist Robin Sailer.**

Several local businesses, including The Palm Restaurant, the Dandelion Patch, Vienna's Whole Foods and The Fresh Market, Vienna Inn, Massage Envy, Maplewood Grill, Norm's Beer & Wine and Donatos Pizza donated door prizes for drawings throughout the evening. OLGC Parishioner Robin Sailer, an executive sales director for Mary Kay, provided makeup for each of the models.

For more information about the Artemis House, go to: <http://www.shelterhouse.org/Programs/Artemis-House.html>.

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**The full Jazzercise of McLean and Tysons Corner group.**

## Jazzercise Raises \$12,525 for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Over 100 dancers participated in Jazzercise of McLean and Tysons Corner's Dance for a Cure fundraiser, which raised \$12,525 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society by staging a benefit dance-fitness marathon on Saturday, April 20, 2013. The event featured three unique hours of aerobic dancing and strength training, including a Ballet Body class, a Jazzercise "Pop Icons" class, and a hip-hop, street jam class taught by professional choreographer Tim Roberts. In addition to donations from dance participants and students at Jazzercise of McLean and Tysons Corner, local businesses donated over \$4,000 in merchandise, gift certificates, gift baskets and services for the event's silent auction. Dance for a Cure was held at Jazzercise of McLean

and Tysons Corner in McLean and hosted by center owner, Nancy Griswold. Seven of the center's other instructors and five class managers also donated their time. Jazzercise of McLean and Tysons Corner has a long history of supporting the community and hosting and participating in fundraisers; however, this was their first time partnering with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Jazzercise of McLean and Tysons Corner is located at 1524 Springhill Road in McLean, and offers 36 classes per week. For more information, contact Nancy Griswold at [mcleanjazzercise@gmail.com](mailto:mcleanjazzercise@gmail.com), or visit <https://www.facebook.com/jazzercisemcleantysons>. For class times, go to <http://jcls.jazzercise.com/facility/jazzercise-mclean-fitness-center>.

PHOTO BY CYN DY PORTER STYLE & PHOTOGRAPHY



# Teaching Healing Through Altruism

**Marymount students learn counseling technique by helping U.S. troops.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**A** group of counseling students got to experience a therapeutic technique while also helping service men and women serving in Afghanistan.

Graduate students in the pastoral counseling program at Marymount University in Arlington assembled care packages for U.S. troops as part of a community service requirement. One of the project's goals was to teach the future therapists how altruism can have long-term mental health benefits.

"The research has shown that if a person goes outside of themselves to help others it can be a therapeutic experience, especially for those who have depression or other mental health challenges," said Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Ph.D., chair of the Department of Counseling and founder of the Pastoral Counseling program. "We want students to experience what a client would experience."

Students are required to perform 30 hours of community service as part of their program. The class of 11 students formulated, planned and implemented the task. "I think everyone thought of the assignment as not just a project we had to complete, but a chance to actually, in some small way, let men and women in the military know that people here at home do appreciate their



**Marymount University professor Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Ph.D., discusses an altruism project with her pastoral counseling class.**

service and sacrifice," said Annandale resident Nina Angeles.

The students collected an array of items like games, magazines, books and DVDs. They gathered nearly enough items to fill their classroom and exceeded their professor's expectations. "I was expecting five or six boxes, but it became more than

what the entire university could have put together," said Jackson-Cherry. "We had almost a roomful of supplies. The students solicited from their churches and from family members across the country."

Pastoral counseling students learn to incorporate spirituality into their work with clients. They wrote personal letters to the

troops and included information on stress relief practices like meditation and breathing exercises. "We could not help but feel for the brave men and women who ... face stressful and sometimes traumatic situations away from home," said doctoral student Maya Georgieva of Alexandria. "... It was essential that we send notes of encouragement and support."

Jackson-Cherry said the most powerful learning experience came when she delivered the boxes to a VFW Post in Maryland: the feeling that comes from seeing the impact benevolence has on others. "The place was packed for lunch, and I was planning to slip in the back door and drop off the boxes," she said. "There were veterans there from World War II and Vietnam ... they became teary-eyed as they were telling me stories of how the acts of strangers had impacted them when they were serving overseas. It was quite touching. I wish the students could have been there to see how their acts of kindness touched so many more people than they would have thought of."

The students did get an opportunity to experience gratitude first-hand, however, when the military unit that received their supplies wrote a thank you note to the class. "The unit was overwhelmed by the generosity and the kindness of strangers, especially because they were away from their families," said Jackson-Cherry.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

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# SPORTS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MADISON LACROSSE

The Madison girls' lacrosse team won the 2013 Liberty District championship.



The Madison boys' lacrosse team beat four-time defending state champion Langley to win the 2013 Liberty District title.

## Madison Girls', Boys' Lax Win Liberty District Championships

Over a remarkable 24-hour stretch, the Madison boys' and girls' lacrosse teams faced a mighty challenge: Find a way to win back-to-back Liberty District championship games against Langley on the Saxons' home turf.

In the boys' game, the Warhawks jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, defeating the four-time defending state champions, 10-2.

The Lady Warhawks did it the hard way, taking a come-from-behind 17-9 win after waiting out lightning delays on consecutive nights. On Friday night, the Lady Warhawks trailed at halftime, but came out after the break with increased intensity and quickly took a 9-8 lead. With 16:36 left in the game and the momentum swinging in Madison's favor, severe weather rolled in, sending fans and players scrambling for cover. As the lightning lingered, the game was postponed until the following evening.

After another weather delay on Saturday, the girls finally returned to the field and the Warhawks immediately took command. Tough defense by Rachel Brennan, Maddie Roberts and Christina Rusinski, numerous key stops by winning goalie Sigourney Heerink, along with aggressive play on the offensive end, lead to a decisive 17-9 win. This was the Lady Warhawks' third consecutive Liberty District title, all coming against Langley.

Six Lady Warhawks found the back of the net, including Alex Condon (5 goals), Kierra Sweeney (4 goals, 1 assist), Melissa Kellan (3 goals), Carly Frederick (2 goals, 3 assists), Erin Callahan (2 goals) and Katie Kerrigan (1 goal, 3 assists).

The Madison boys' and girls' teams competed in the first round of the Northern Region tournament on Tuesday, after the Connection's deadline.

—COURTESY OF MADISON LACROSSE

## Oakton Girls' Lax Finishes District Runner-up

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

Cougars fall to Westfield in overtime.

The defending state champion Oakton girls' lacrosse team would live to see another day, but not before experiencing the sting of letting a potential third consecutive district title slip away.

Facing the Westfield Bulldogs in the Concorde District championship game, the Oakton Cougars led by a goal late in the second half when Westfield junior and district Offensive Player of the Year Molly O'Sullivan was forced to the sideline with a yellow card for a dangerous shot. The Bulldogs managed to tie the score in regulation and went to win 14-13 in overtime on May 10 at Chantilly High School.

Oakton, which won the 2012 district, Northern Region and state championships, had to settle for district runner-up in 2013 and faced West Springfield on Tuesday in the opening round of the region tournament, after The Connection's deadline.

"It's disappointing to lose this tournament—you never want to lose in over-



**Oakton junior Tori Anderson scored four goals against Westfield in the Concorde District girls' lacrosse championship game on May 10 at Chantilly High School.**

PHOTO BY  
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
THE CONNECTION

time," Oakton head coach Jean Counts said. "... They know that there's a tomorrow, but the sting of today is still very, very fresh."

Tori Anderson and Danielle Palmucci each scored four goals for Oakton. Lydia Montanino and Katie Scoggins each scored two goals and Kelsey McWilliams had one.

O'Sullivan led Westfield with seven goals, tying a career high. Katie Manning finished with three goals, Meghan Heick had two, and Katie Matz and Katelyn Rennyson each had one.

"Meghan and Molly are excellent players on their team," Counts said. "They cannot

be stopped in a very easy manner."

Oakton led 11-9 after Anderson scored with 8:58 remaining in the second half. O'Sullivan's goal with 4:26 remaining cut the lead to one, but she would head to the sideline with 3:25 remaining after receiving a yellow card.

With their top offensive threat out of the game, the Bulldogs tied the score when Heick found the back of the net with 2:04 on the clock.

Westfield scored the first three goals in overtime, including two by O'Sullivan. Oakton's McWilliams scored a goal in the first overtime period and Scoggins added one in the second period, but the Cougars fell short.

"You can't let them get ahead by three in two minutes and try to fight back," Counts said.

Oakton's Anderson (attack), Palmucci (midfield), McWilliams (defense) and Val Daniels (goalkeeper) received first-team all-district accolades. Mei Pionke and Scoggins were named to the second team as midfielders, and Karlie Cronin, Sami Pleasants and Olivia Townsend were named to the second team for defense.



## News

# 'Day Prom' Celebrated

**O**n Thursday, May 9, Herndon High School hosted a very special prom at the Waterford at Fair Oaks in Fairfax. Called the "Day Prom" the event is held for students with special needs that might not be able to attend their general education prom. In addition to great music, dancing and food, the dance is also a learning event. Students get a socialization experience and practice skills that will transfer to any social or family event, from the RSVP, to how to dress, how to behave, dancing, eating and interacting with new people. Now in its 12th year, the Day Prom was conceived of by two teachers at Herndon High School—Chris Pascarella and Anna Albsta. Four schools attended the inaugural Day Prom. This year, students from Herndon High School, Oakton High School, Fairfax High School, Westfield High School, Lake Braddock High School, Kilmer Center School, South Lakes High School and Centreville High School participated in the event.



Fairfax High School students Sayed and Kendall dance with Lake Braddock senior Stephanie Masters at the May 9 "Day Prom" held at the Fair Oaks Waterford.



South Lakes adaptive cooking teacher Jennifer Brown brings her 4-month-old son Sam to the May 9 "Day Prom" that many of her students are attending. The event is held for students with special needs that might not be able to attend their general education prom.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION

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**When:** Saturday, May 18, 2013, 8:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.  
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**Where:** Lake Accotink Park (rear entrance)  
5660 Heming Avenue, Springfield, VA.

**Cost:** \$30 registration fee • Picnic lunch provided

**Steps to Walk – or Support the 5-K Walk**

1. Log on to: [www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml) to register
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- For more information, visit the Web site at  
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All listings are due by Monday at 3 P.M.



# A Fluid Situation

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



I don't mean to be the least bit paranoid, but I suppose that's because, as a stage IV non-small cell lung cancer "diagnosee," I'm already the most bit paranoid. A terminal diagnosis of incurable cancer has a way of doing that to you (at least to me it has). Not to blame cancer totally for my behavior, but can you think of a more deserving and appropriate cause of this effect than the "leading cancer killer in both men and women in the United States." In fact, according to the American Lung Association, "Lung cancer causes more deaths than the next three most common cancers combined (colon, breast and prostate)."

So call me crazy (at least you can still call me – and I will answer, because I am STILL ALIVE). However, as a four-years-plus cancer survivor, if I've learned anything during my treatment, it is that symptoms manifest themselves – at their discretion, and presumably their appearance means something (as opposed to nothing which would of course be my preference). Ergo, an increase in the fluid in my lungs is nothing to sneeze at; that's because I've been too busy coughing (just kidding). But what does the existence of this fluid mean? Hopefully nothing, but it could mean something; something problematic.

An outpatient procedure: a needle aspiration of my lungs, will provide the answer. Although learning that answer comes with risks: aside from analyzing the fluid for active cancer cells, there's a possibility of a collapsed lung followed by a week-long stay in the hospital due to the penetration of the lung. And it could be all for nothing. It could simply be, as it is in 40 percent of the cases, a side effect of the targeted treatment tarceva pill I have taken every day without interruption going on nine months now. Unfortunately, we're dealing with 100 percent of it, and the other 60 percent could contain cancer cells, which opens up a whole host of "unpleasantries," none of which have as yet been discussed. Aspirate and learn my fate or sit tight and be willing to wait. It's not exactly Shakespeare, but that is my question. Made easier – to me, in that I don't have any compelling/indicating-type symptoms: no shortness of breath, no persistent cough, no weightiness in my chest, to confirm this potential life-changer. Is the cancer spreading, or is the tarceva doing what tarceva does: harmlessly side-effecting while saving my life my life, but leaving behind this "fluidy" residue? Do I even want to know or can I continue to keep on living believing that it's nothing because it's not something? (For this cancer patient, ambiguity is a way of life.)

This is another one of those mental moments, one of the many emotional cross-roads that cancer/terminal patients face. It's not exactly "The Price Is Right" where what's behind Door #2: "A New Car!" – or a tube of toothpaste (as but one of many examples) could make your public humiliation worthwhile – or not. For cancer/terminal patients however, these decisions could make your life worth living again, or it could make it worse. Where's that studio audience when you need them?

If I delay the procedure, will what I don't know now hurt me more than what I do know later? I don't know. Right now, I feel fine. Can't I just keep on pretending? I don't want to look for trouble. Besides, trouble has already found me. I don't need or want any more. Until I'm told otherwise, that is.

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

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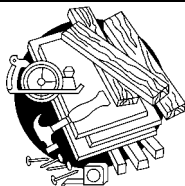
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