

A float with a Great Falls gazebo replica was one of many festooned vehicles in the annual Fourth of July parade.

Great Falls Hosts Hometown Celebration

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Petersen to Governor: Explain, Deny, Return or Resign

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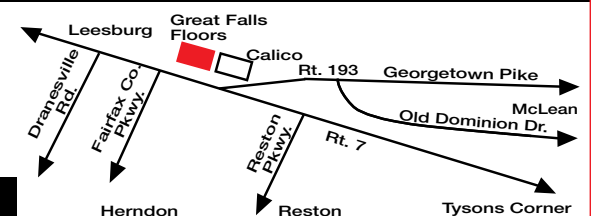
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Petersen to Governor: Explain, Deny, Return or Resign

Petersen first Virginia legislator to suggest McDonnell resign over alleged wrongdoing in accepting gifts from prominent donor.

By VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The tipping point for state Sen. J. Chap Petersen (D-34) was the \$6,500 Rolex watch.

Reports about the Rolex, one in a series of lavish gifts reportedly given to Gov. Robert F. McDonnell (R) and members of his family by a major campaign donor, told Petersen it was time to send a stern letter to the governor asking him to “come clean on this matter” by explaining the gifts, denying the reports, or resigning from office.

On Tuesday, July 2, Petersen sent his letter, becoming the first Virginia lawmaker to suggest McDonnell’s resignation in the wake of the deepening controversy.

“When I heard about the Rolex watch and the circumstances of that gift, that was when I knew I had to speak out,” Petersen said on Friday. “I actually drafted my letter a couple days before, but did not send it right away. I was waiting to see if somebody else would step up, but nobody did. So we mailed it out on the morning of July 2. I also called the governor’s staff and emailed them a copy.”

LATER THAT NIGHT, Petersen appeared on MSNBC’s Rachel Maddow show, featuring Maddow’s liberal and animated take on the political news of the day.

Maddow asked him if it was the “overall weight of the allegation, the long list of things he has ... allegedly received in his capacity as governor” or one item in particular that prompted the letter.

“I have three daughters, so when I heard about the \$15,000 spent on the wedding reception, that kind of took me aback,” Petersen told Maddow. “There was a lot of joking about it, and I guess people thought maybe this was a one-time thing, maybe there’s an explanation.” But Petersen said as the weeks went by with revelations of “one item after another,” he was dismayed by the deafening silence.

“There’s been no explanation from the governor ... and hiding behind ‘no comment,’ that’s not working. The people of Virginia deserve better,” Petersen said.

In an interview Friday, Petersen said he didn’t know why other members of his party had remained silent about the gifts McDonnell reportedly received from Jonnie R. Williams Sr., CEO of Star Scientific, which manufactures dietary supplements.

“Because of that continuing silence, I felt compelled to step forward. I didn’t understand why everyone was afraid to speak out, when this was so obviously wrong,” Petersen said.

For the past several months, reports have



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) in his Fairfax office.



Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) at a 2012 legislative conference.

Petersen’s Letter

Dear Governor McDonnell:

In recent weeks, I have read numerous reports regarding gifts your family reportedly received from Mr. Jonnie Williams and his company Star Scientific, Inc. The substance of these reports gives the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company, at least over the past two years. Few, if any, of these gifts were reported in the public disclosures that you (like all of us) must file with the Secretary of the Commonwealth. In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company. That is unacceptable.

I am writing you directly to ask that you come clean on this matter. If you or your family has received gifts of the type alleged, then you should disclose that fully and immediately.

If those gifts are consumer items which you have retained for personal use, then you should return them immediately to the donor — or sell them and donate the money to the Literary Fund. That is the only method by which the public can regain trust in your Office. Without that trust, there is no purpose in continuing to serve.

If you are unable to explain (or deny) these reports or return the items, then I humbly suggest that you should step down as Governor and permit the Lieutenant Governor to serve out the balance of your term, pursuant to Article V, Section 16 of the Virginia Constitution.

Chapman Petersen
Member, Senate of Virginia

surfaced about the lavish gifts Williams gave to McDonnell and first lady Maureen McDonnell, including clothing, money and trips. The gifts included \$15,000 in catering for the 2011 wedding of McDonnell’s daughter at Virginia’s historic Executive Mansion.

McDonnell has said he did not disclose the catering because it was a wedding present to his daughter, and he has been thorough in his annual financial disclosures regarding gifts. In January, he told The Richmond-Times Dispatch that the Rolex was a gift from his wife.

The ongoing revelations about the gifts, and the lack of disclosure from the governor, are at the crux of ongoing state and federal investigations.

On April 29, it was first reported that federal authorities were interviewing

McDonnell and the first lady about their relationship to Williams, as well as actions the McDonnells may have taken that benefited Williams and his company.

In May, it was reported that Richmond Commonwealth’s Attorney Michael Herring is investigating whether McDonnell violated state gift and disclosure laws.

According to The Virginia Public Access Project, Star Scientific and Williams gave \$130,000 to Virginia officials and a PAC that supports McDonnell from 2009 to 2012.

“It is not illegal to accept gifts,” said Del. Dave Albo (R-42), the most senior delegate from Northern Virginia. “They are just supposed to be reported.”

According to Virginia state law, McDonnell must disclose all gifts to him worth more than \$50. But he does not have to disclose gifts to immediate family mem-

bers or gifts received from family or “personal friends.”

“I’m not saying it’s illegal,” Petersen said. “I’m saying it’s unacceptable.”

Petersen said he was also bothered by the quid pro quo nature of the gifts. In August 2011, the first couple hosted a launch party for one of Star Scientific’s products at the governor’s mansion.

“The reports give the strong impression that your family was materially and systematically benefited by this person and his company. ... In return, it appears that you allowed this person to use the Governor’s Mansion and the Governor’s Office for the purpose of giving unique credibility to his company,” Petersen wrote in the letter.

Petersen said the only response he’s had to his letter from the governor’s office was a call from McDonnell’s lawyer. “His lawyer called me and basically told me that his client could not talk because of the investigation. My response was ‘this is not just a legal issue. Your client needs to tell the people of this state what’s going on.’”

“As an attorney, certainly Senator Petersen understands this office’s not discussing the details of matters pending in the legal process,” said Tucker Martin, a spokesman for the governor, in a statement released last week. “And, as a legislator, certainly Senator Petersen is aware that Virginia’s disclosure requirements do not pertain to the families of elected officials.”

Martin also called the letter “blatantly political.”

SOME LOCAL OFFICIALS agree.

“Chap’s letter was political grandstanding,” said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock). “I am disappointed to see this issue out there. It is absolutely important to maintain integrity in government. But right now no one has proved any wrongdoing, so we just need to let the process [investigation] play out.”

“Honestly, I would prefer that someone else be doing this,” Petersen said. “I take zero joy in staking out this position.”

Petersen added that he has known McDonnell for 12 years and considers him sincere, forthright and unfailingly courteous.

“I still can’t believe that he would permit this type of dealings in his household. That’s why the Star Scientific reports are such a shock,” Petersen said.

During a gathering at Reston’s Lake Thoreau pool during the 4th of July holiday, several people were discussing the issue.

While some residents were highly critical, Peggy Hancuff said the issue of the governor’s alleged gifts was relatively unimportant. “There are politics that are important, such as voter ID and the governor’s election coming up, and then there are politics that are a distraction. This is a distraction. There are bigger issues out there,” Hancuff said.



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The Celebrate Great Falls float makes its way down Columbine Street during the annual Great Falls Fourth of July parade.

Hometown Celebration

Great Falls annual 5K, parade, festival highlight holiday events.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

One year ago, the annual Great Falls Fourth of July Hometown Celebration was a welcome respite from almost a week with no power for the Nelson family of Great Falls.

"We were without power because of the derecho, sweltering with no air conditioning and throwing out the food in our fridge, and while the parade was fun, it was still more than 90 degrees and we couldn't exactly go home and cool off," said Marc Nelson, who comes to the parade every year with his wife, two daughters and one dog. "This year was much more fun, because even though we were sweating, we knew we could go home to a cool house and a working stove."

The Nelsons were one of hundreds of families that descended on the Great Falls Village Centre Thursday, July 4 for the annual celebration. The morning began at 8 a.m., where more than 150 people par-

ticipated in a 5K run.

The run started at the Freedom Memorial and went along the Lucy Hanes trail, which goes from Leo Santaballa Field to Great Falls Elementary School.

The Little Patriots parade featured children dressed in a variety of red, white and blue regalia, which led into the main parade.

"I love to see what all the businesses come up with for their floats each year, and they certainly didn't disappoint this year," said Evan Norton of Great Falls. "My favorites are the ones with live music."

Several floats this year featured live music. A brass quintet rode on the old Great Falls fire truck, the Old Brogue truck sported a dance floor with traditional Irish dance and the Celebrate Great Falls float had a country singer with an acoustic guitar.

The parade route started on Columbine Street before circling around the village centre. Local organizations such as the Boy Scouts, horse riders, bicyclists and dog lovers also participated in the parade.

"It's nice to see everyone come out and show off what they're passionate about, whether it's dancing, or their animals, or whatever," said Maria Gonzalez. "And my kids loved the landscaping float, because the sprinklers were a great way to cool off. They were able to get it twice, first on Columbine, then they ran up the hill to get it again when it passed through the parking lot."



The Old Brogue float in the Fourth of July Parade features traditional Irish dancers.

"It's nice to see everyone come out and show off what they're passionate about, whether it's dancing, or their animals, or whatever."

—Maria Gonzalez



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Seventy flower baskets, containing four colors of double wave petunias, have been placed around the Great Falls business areas.

Flower Baskets Return

Seventy baskets placed around Great Falls.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

For the second straight year, Great Falls businesses and individuals came together to place hanging flower baskets around the Great Falls Village Centre. Last year, 50 baskets were placed, this year that has been increased to 70 baskets, to include the Safeway shopping center, Leigh Corners, the Shell station and Olivers Corner.

"The baskets have been placed near almost all of the light poles around the village centre," said Glen Sjoblom, who helped coordinate and plan the placement of the baskets. "The baskets are made of coconut fiber, and we put down a protective lining to help keep the water from flowing through, which should keep them from drying out."

The baskets were installed on May 15, and contain pink, purple, red and white double wave petunias. The Great Falls Citizens Association purchased the baskets from Joanne Shumpert of Treefrog Nursery, who grew the flowers in the Treefrog greenhouse.

SGB Land Management will

water the plants. The baskets are currently being watered three times a week, but George Benza of SGB said it could increase. He said by late summer last year they were watering two out of every three days.

"It adds an extra touch that I think is very appropriate to Great Falls, which prides itself on keeping nature as a priority," said Jean Palgrave of Great

SEE FLOWERS, PAGE 5



From left, George Benza of SGB Land Management and Glen Sjoblom, next to one of the 70 flower baskets in Great Falls.

MILITARY NOTES

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

Navy Seaman Recruit **Alex J. Phillips** of Great Falls has completed U.S. Navy basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Ill. During the eight-week program, Phillips completed a variety of training which included classroom study and practical instruction on naval customs, first aid, firefighting, water safety and survival, and shipboard and aircraft safety. An emphasis was also placed on physical fitness. The 2010 graduate of Dominion High School is the son of Kathy Phillips of Charles Town, W. Va. and Steve Phillips of Great Falls.

Army National Guard Spec. Sri V. Iyer has graduated from basic infantry training at Fort Benning at Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Viji Iyer of Lewinsville Road, McLean. Iyer is a 2005 graduate of Langley High School and a 2009 graduate of Boston University in Mass.

Flowers Return

FROM PAGE 4

Falls. "The color is a nice accent to the area, and I'm glad to see it's expanded over most of the business areas."

Last year's baskets contained two different colors of double wave petunias, as well as sweet potato vine.

"We decided not to bring back sweet potato vine this year, because as the summer went on, they grew so much they choked out the other plants," Sjoblom said.

Members of the Village Centre Condominium Association, Olivers Corner Office Condominium Association, Great Falls Shell, Great Falls Center, Leigh Corners Condominium, Dante's, Friends of Riverbend Park, Village Green Day School and Great Falls Citizens Association contributed, as well as individuals Bill Harvey and Doug Neuman.

The baskets will hang until the flowers decline at the end of the summer, at which point they will be stored for the winter, to be replanted next summer.

The GFCA recognized Sjoblom for his efforts at their June meeting.

"Because of his extraordinary commitment to developing and promoting a program to install and maintain flowering, hanging baskets throughout our community, Great Falls now has a unifying theme of beauty," said Jackie Taylor, outgoing president of the GFCA.

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Saturday's Seminars:

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Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

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Great Falls Village Centre Green at the Gazebo



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The annual fireworks show in Great Falls is held at Turner Farm Saturday, July 6.



The annual Fourth of July fireworks show takes place at Turner Farm.

PHOTOS BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

Neighbors Foundation Hosts Annual Fireworks Show

Turner Farm is site of festivities Saturday, July 6.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

More than 2,500 people gathered at Turner Farm Saturday, July 6, for the annual fireworks show held by the Neighbors Foundation. This was the second year the fireworks haven't been on July 4 itself—last year's move to July 14 was due to the derecho's effects.

"After last year, we had a number of families give us positive feedback about the move, saying by the time the fireworks would roll around on July 4, their kids were wrecked," said Jeff Rainey, who chairs the event. "The parade starts at 9 a.m., then there's the festival, then a day of barbecues, and by 8, 9 p.m. it's been quite a day."

The Saturday night fireworks seemed to be a popular change for many in attendance.

"Saturday is a good night for something like this,

it's a nice weekend thing, we don't have much to do on a Sunday, it's a nice conclusion to a holiday week," said Adrienne Gilhart of Great Falls, who attended with her family Saturday.

Sam Sheridan of Vienna said this gave him a chance to get in a second fireworks show to celebrate the Fourth of July.

"We went to see the fireworks in Vienna on July 4, and it was nice to get another show in, especially one of this quality," he said. "It's nice when my neighbors fire some off in our cul-de-sac, but nothing beats a full-on professional show."

The fireworks got underway just before 9:30 p.m. and lasted more than a half an hour, which several attendees said was the longest they've been to.

"I went to the show at Langley on Thursday, July 4, and it was a nice show, but this one felt much longer, and the finale was something to behold," said Barry McKnight of McLean. "Plus, a farm is a much nicer venue than behind a high school at the football stadium."



Visitors to Turner Farm watch the annual Fourth of July fireworks show.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Davina Friedlander, a native of Great Falls, was featured in a recent episode of TNT's "72 Hours," an outdoors competition.

Great Falls Native Goes '72 Hours'

Davina Friedlander tries for \$100,000 on reality competition.

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

When Great Falls native Davina Friedlander got a chance to spend three days in Hawaii, it wasn't exactly how she envisioned it. Instead of relaxing on a beach, sipping a drink and soaking up some rays, she fought hard to make it across the desolate, uninhabited sections of Lanai.

Friedlander was part of the pilot episode of TNT's "72 Hours," a competition where three teams of three people, equipped only with a bottle of water and a GPS tracker, try to make their way across the wilderness to reach a briefcase containing \$100,000.

She got her opportunity when a friend went to a casting call and was asked if she knew anybody who was into extreme sports and the outdoors. As a self-proclaimed "total tree-hugger hippie" who says she would like to one day live in a tree house in Hawaii, Friedlander jumped at the opportunity.

"When we were preparing, I told the producers that my one goal was not to be the weakest link. There were people on the show with a lot of skills, survival and otherwise, so I think they were a little skeptical," she said. "But I knew I was never going to quit, that I would keep going as much as possible."

AFTER FLYING TO HAWAII, the group took a ferry to Lanai, where they got their first

glimpses of what awaited them.

"It definitely wasn't the type of paradise one thinks of when you hear Hawaii. Half of the island is uninhabitable, and that's where we were," she said. "There were ridges, deserts, thorny patches, forests, it was pretty wild."

Her first glimpse of the island came as she and her team were hanging from a harness from a helicopter and dropped off on the beach.

"That was really scary, because I have a slight fear of heights," she said. "But the view was absolutely breathtaking, and I kept telling myself that this was the kind of experience you could never buy."

She was teamed up with two men, Jordan and Jason, to race against two other teams. Teams could only hike for 12 hours per day, and there were three supply drops they had to make it to. To call for food and extra water meant an hour penalty.

"It's not uncommon for me to go until 5 p.m. before eating, so the lack of food didn't effect me as much as it did others," she said. "But being so dehydrated was a different story. And we didn't get much sleep. We had these crinkly emergency blankets that made noise every time someone moved, and it was windy and freezing."

Friedlander and her teammate Jason were able to get along fairly well during the process, but their other teammate Jordan got on both their nerves early.

SEE FRIEDLANDER, PAGE 13

REAL ESTATE

A Very Good Year in McLean, Great Falls Area

In the first half of 2013 all price points experienced a gain in number of sales.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The numbers have been tallied for real estate sales in the first half of 2013 and total sales are up over the same time period in 2012 in McLean and Great Falls by 7.6 percent. That is very good news indeed.

Delving deeper into the data, it reveals that all price points experienced a gain in number of sales in this market segment. The largest gain was in the up market segment of properties sold for greater than \$1.25 million. I believe that the lower price ranges would have seen a larger gain had there been the inventory available.

In terms of my predictions for the rest of 2013, the biggest issues continue to be related to supply versus demand in the various market segments.

In the under \$1.25 million mar-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

ket, there is a shortage of supply in both McLean and Great Falls. As was the case at the end of the first quarter 2013, presently in McLean and Great Falls there is a two- to three-month supply of properties available to purchase in the under \$1.25 million category. Most real estate market experts consider a balanced market to be a six-month supply. With supply running at generally one-half of

the current demand some homes receive multiple offers, escalation clauses and contingency-free contracts. This is a great time to be a seller in the under \$1.25 million price range in McLean and Great Falls. Homes priced correctly and in top condition for the current market are selling rapidly and in some cases with multiple offers.

The up market is considered to be that for properties over \$1.25 million market. The good news is that in McLean we are in a much closer to a balanced market with a nine-month supply. The up market segment in Great Falls experienced great progress this quarter, with currently only a two- to three-month supply in some price points.

The Northern Virginia area saw real estate values peak in 2005-2006. The typical interim between market cycles is seven years from peak to peak. Therefore, my prediction for this area that values

McLean & Great Falls Market Analysis of Homes Sales

1ST HALF 2012 COMPARED TO 1ST HALF 2013

(Based on Final Closed Price)

	>\$3 Mil.	\$2-3 Mil.	\$1.25-2 Mil.	\$750k~ \$1.25 Mil.	<\$750k
1ST HALF 2012					
22101	3	12	53	75	87
22102	4	8	18	37	82
22066	3	4	24	43	31
Total	10	24	95	155	200
Combined Total		129			355

ALL SALES 1ST HALF 2012: 484

1ST HALF 2013					
22101	4	18	51	93	52
22102	4	9	29	31	92
22066	7	8	34	66	23
Total	15	35	114	59	167
Combined Total		164			357

ALL SALES 1ST HALF 2013: 521

would return to market peak in some segments beginning in 2012 was right on track. The first half of 2013 show similar market conditions, thus 2013 should be a very good year for the McLean and Great Falls real estate market.

Karen Briscoe is principal of the HBC Realty Group-Keller Williams. Contact: www.HBCRealtyGroup.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCRealtyGroup.com.

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OPINION

More Than Disclosure Needed

Time for limits on campaign contributions as well.

At least until after November's election, most candidates in Virginia seem to think that there should be some reform to Virginia's campaign finance and disclosure rules. At least it seems likely that most will support expanding disclosure rules to require disclosure of gifts to immediate family members as well as candidates/officials.

Up until recent news reports about gifts to family members of Gov. Bob McDonnell, almost all elected officials would defend Virginia's notoriously unregulated system of allowing candidates and elected officials to take unlimited amounts of money and unlimited gifts from anyone or any company at all. Because Virginia has such strict disclosure requirements, elected officials seem to think that it's OK to be awash in all that money. Voters can

look up who is giving money and draw their own conclusions. How could it hurt if the details are all out in the open?

Discovering that the system is entirely self-regulated with no independent auditor, no ethics commission and no penalties for failing to report gifts or contributions should give voters some pause.

Consider that only four states, including Virginia, have no limits on contributions. Most states have limits; for example, in Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total in a four-year election cycle.

Pet Connection

The Pet Connection will publish July 24.

Send us your photos by July 18.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience. You can also take this opportunity to memorialize a pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets/.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Concerts on the Green: Impossible to Enjoy

To the Editor:

We could not agree more with Jan Heginbotham about the Concerts on the Green having become impossible to enjoy ["Concerts on the Green: Bad Habits on Display," Great Falls Connection, June 26-July 2, 2013].

Parents enjoy the concerts because they can socialize with other parents while the music plays. Meanwhile, because their children are running wild for all to see, they don't feel they have to worry about them.

Great for the parents, rotten for anyone who wants to hear music, or see the musicians through the screen of whirling dervishes. We also quit going a few years ago for the reasons Jan so reasonably outlined.

What parents seem to want is sort of a dog park, except with kids and chilled wine. Perhaps they could have Saturday night on the Green, with a DJ?

Lynn and Robert Mobley
Great Falls

Human Trafficking In Our Backyard

To the Editor,

I was ecstatic to learn of the progress local leaders like my delegate, Barbara Comstock (R-34), have made in raising awareness on human trafficking and sex traffick-

ing right here in our backyard. This serious issue was brought to my attention about a year ago through several newspaper articles, and it seemed to me as though the majority of locals were not aware of this egregious violation of human rights occurring under their noses. As an intern in the office of Congressman Frank Wolf (R-10) last year, I was shocked to learn of how widespread and severe human trafficking is, not only throughout the world, but within our area. We cannot stand idly by as this blatant violation of human rights continues, particularly given the spreading awareness of its presence. As a Vietnamese-American, this cause resonates heavily with me, as throughout my life my mother and relatives have emphasized its prevalence within their homeland and beyond.

Thankfully, the new bill proposed by Delegates Comstock and Hugo (R-40), which was signed by Governor McDonnell earlier this year, makes soliciting sex from minors a felony, and it will create additional barriers for local sex traffickers, which hopefully will help stop this hideous process. I am proud of our local leaders for taking such steps towards reversing intolerable, illicit practices taking place in a civilized, educated area where no such thing should be allowed to exist. Events like the Human Trafficking Forum hosted by Del. Comstock help educate people in the area and bring this despicable issue into the spotlight. We in Northern Virginia are lucky to have such committed legislators that focus on issues that affect us. This principled form of representation is the reason that I

support Del. Barbara Comstock.

Arielle Swett
Great Falls

Legislation to Harass Impoverished Virginians

To the Editor:

Does the "Every Child Matters" mantra by Virginia legislators apply to all Virginia children except for those receiving benefits via TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families)?

TANF benefits average \$267 per month for a family of three, an amount incapable of providing the bare essentials needed for the survival of a family. What legislator's family could be living on \$267 a month? However, legislators in Virginia, instead of being concerned about the adequacy of the paltry sum received by the most impoverished in our state, have turned their attention to possible abuse, alleged abuse that has not been established by any evidence presented to support the legislation.

In legislation introduced by Virginia Delegate Riley Ingram, concern is expressed that this paltry sum will be misspent by recipients, so legislation has been introduced to prevent possible abuse by prohibiting the use of the assistance amount "for the purchase of alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or lottery tickets ... or (at an) adult entertainment establishment in which performers appear nude or partially nude" (HB 1307 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)); restrictions on use

of cash assistance).

Where is the evidence that TANF recipients are purchasing alcoholic beverages, tobacco products, or lottery tickets ... or frequenting adult entertainment establishments in which performers appear nude or partially nude? Is this a legislative effort analogous to the voter fraud concerns, concerns for which Virginia legislators enacted legislation to address a non-problem and at a cost of millions for Virginia taxpayers? How much will this new legislation to harass impoverished Virginians cost Virginia taxpayers?

We already know of one abusive practice that does unnecessarily cost Virginia taxpayers: the trips Virginia legislators take at the expense of taxpayers. That information is readily available. Why have we not heard of a call to end this offensive practice, a practice that is a real misuse of taxpayer money?

John Horejsi, coordinator
Social Action Linking Together
(SALT)
Vienna

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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Residents participating in the car portion of the parade lined up on Columbine, waiting eagerly for the event to start. Antique cars decorated with stars and stripes are a staple in this annual celebration.

Parading in Great Falls



Representatives from several local Girl Scout troops helped lead the parade, carrying the banner and waving dozens of American flags. Girl Scouts of all ages participated in the event.



This decorated 1967 Chevelle wrapped up the first portion of the antique cars section of the parade. Spectators were showered with candy, bubbles and small toys from the passengers in the vehicles.



During the last stretch of the parade, passengers in the antique car section threw the last of their candy to the spectators. The cars were followed by an assortment of floats and bikes to close out the parade.



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Sea-themed accessories can add a beach-like tone to a backyard party, says Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg in Fairfax.



PHOTOS COURTESY
ANN O'SHIELDS
OF THE NEST EGG



Ann O'Shields of The Nest Egg suggests serve wear made of melamine for outdoor entertaining. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering," she said.



A jewelry box that is kept in a bedroom is one of the least safe places for storing valuable jewelry.

MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Safeguarding Jewelry During Summer Vacations and Beyond

Experts offer simple safety suggestions for protecting valuables.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Kenzie Campbell left her home recently for a week-long trip to care for her ailing father. While she was away, her Northern Virginia home was burglarized, and in addition to a flat-screen television and an iMac computer, the thieves got away with all of her jewelry.

"I could care less about the television and the computer," she said. "But they took a Cartier ring that I bought during a family trip to Paris, my grandmother's wedding ring and almost all of the gemstone jewelry that my mother had given me, like a pair of denim sapphire earrings, which were my birthstone," she said. "It is heartbreaking, not because of the monetary value, but because of the sentimental value."

Summer is a time when many go on vacation and leave their homes unattended. In fact, according to the FBI, more burglaries occur during summer months than any other time of the year. The U.S. Department of Justice further reports that an American home is broken into about every 15 seconds. However, experts say there are simple precautions the average person can implement to safeguard valuable jewelry from potential burglaries.

"A jewelry box is the worst place to store valuable jewelry," said jeweler and goldsmith George Kaufmann of Robert Bernard Jewelers in Potomac, Md. "A jewelry box is an invitation for a crook. Essentially, you're packaging all your valuables in one obvious place and making it easy for a crook to take."

In fact, the Jewelers' Security Alliance, a nonprofit trade association that provides crime prevention information, advises homeowners not to store their most precious jewelry in a bedroom or jewelry box. Statistically, it's the first place a burglar will look.

Campbell says that was her experience. "The burglars never went into my bathroom," she said. "They took all of the jewelry from drawers in my bedroom."

Diversion safes are clever options for hiding valuables. "There are a lot of items out there like books that are not really books but spaces for valuables or picture frames that are really security for jewelry," said Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington. There

are even safes disguised as household food containers complete with barcoded wrappers, as well as decorative, wax candles that are made with interior metal storage compartments.

Kauffman says certain pieces of furniture also work well for hiding jewelry. "I had a client who has a piece of furniture that was an antique and it had a secret drawer that rotated," he explained. "It was something that nobody would ever find."

He also recalls a clever hiding place from his childhood home. "When I was a kid, my mother wanted a vanity, so she took shelves out of the linen closet and made a little dressing table. It was deeper than what she needed, so she hid valuables in the shelves that were hidden. Every home has some kind of nook and cranny where you can hide valuable jewelry. Unless a crook has time to spend hours combing through your home, these usually work."

It's also a good idea to consider adding covert jewelry storage spaces, such as those suggested by Kauffman, during a home remodeling project. Unfortunately, Bob Gallagher of Sun Design Remodeling in Burke said, "It is not something that people are thinking of when they go into a remodeling project. Clients don't bring it up often. People want to remain hopeful that they aren't going to be a victim."

However, says Gallagher, jewelry storage is not a complicated process during a construction project. "You build a safe into the actual construction project, inside the framing of the house. Sometimes people ask for safes to be recessed into a closet so people can't walk away with it, and you could hang a picture over the safe to cover it."

Fairfax resident Susan Hergenrather, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University agrees, offering a caveat about traditional safes. "You can buy a safe, but if it is one that can be picked up and taken out, it is not much good."

Knowing the value of your jewelry is another component of safeguarding it. "You have to have it tested to determine whether the stones are real and [to] determine their quality," said Kauffman. "Sometimes a ring might be stamped 14k gold, but that doesn't guarantee that it is real. Have jewelry appraised and that will tell exactly what you have."

Valuable pieces of jewelry should be insured through one's homeowner's insurance policy, say experts. "If something is really valuable and irreplaceable, keep it in a safe deposit box at the bank," said Hergenrather. "Keep a photo and written inventory of your valuables and put that in the safe deposit box. That way if something is stolen, you have an accurate record."

Ideas For Summer Outdoor Entertaining

Local tastemakers offer design, decorating ideas for alfresco soirees.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Summer is a time when many enjoy outdoor gatherings with friends and family. From soirees in small courtyard spaces to poolside barbecues for a crowd, warm weather is often synonymous with alfresco entertaining.

From shatterproof platters and plates to furniture that can withstand the elements, outdoor accessories are plentiful. Local décor and design experts offer ideas for chic summer entertaining.

Robin Wagner, an associate professor of interior design at Marymount University in Arlington, says function and safety are top priorities when designing an outdoor space. "In talking about outdoor spaces, people view it as an extension of their home," said Wagner. "There are ways of making it feel like your home, but you have factors like weather impacting it, for example, the sun fading the fabrics or rain making things problematic. Companies now make furniture specifically for outdoor spaces."

Ann O'Shields, of The Nest Egg in Fairfax, says options for outdoor furniture are abundant. "The past few years have brought a huge introduction of outdoor materials that allow you to create an outdoor living space that is as beautifully decorated as your interior space. Indoor-outdoor rugs, seating, entertaining pieces and even artwork allow you to introduce wonderful color and texture to your deck, patio and garden spaces. Comfortable seating invites guests to linger long after the barbeque is over to enjoy cocktails and the evening air."

Wagner offers a caveat when purchasing furniture for outdoor use, however. "You don't want to end up with something that might look fine on the outside but that is holding in mold or mildew on the inside," she said. "Make sure

it has the correct inside component of foam or fill that is impervious to mold or mildew."

When choosing colors for outdoor furniture, experts say to consider your surroundings. "If your garden is vibrant in color, you want neutral fabric to let the flowers stand out," said Wagner. "If it is an open space, say a pool or grassy area, then you want the furniture to be the focus and you use vibrant colors and patterns."

When it comes to lighting, designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., suggests LED lights. "They come in the form of pillar candles and small votives and you don't have to worry about them catching fire or the wind blowing them out."

Wagner said, "Solar lighting has come a long way from what it was years ago. There are some great solar components out there. Don't think of lighting in the way you would inside your house. Use ambient lighting to set the mood for sitting outside and talking with your friends."

Susan Hergenrather, an assistant professor of interior design at Marymount University suggests stringing LED lights. "[They] can add sparkle. [They're] not just for winter holidays."

Candles are another lighting option, but they can serve multiple purposes. "Using candles not only helps keep the bugs at bay, but adds to the ambiance," said O'Shields.

While Hergenrather says homeowners should be mindful of candles that are unattended or if children are present, she also offers a decorative idea: "If you do use candles, vintage wooden spools make cool candle holders for tapers."

When it comes to casual serve ware, varieties are vast. "Melamine is a wonderful choice for outdoor serving while entertaining," said O'Shields. "Bright colors help set the tone for a festive gathering."

Proxmire adds that melamine can almost replicate indoor place settings. "There are melamine cups and plates that are patterned like Portuguese ceramic pieces," she said. "I had a client who went on [the website] Etsy.com and found navy blue and hot pink whale plates, monogrammed cozies and monogrammed disposable plates."

Unorthodox vessels can be used to hold accessories ranging from plants to utensils as well, allowing homeowners to expand their creativity. "Unexpected containers like a planter lined with plastic can be filled with ice to hold cold beverages," Proxmire said. "Mason jars are casual and [can be] used for flowers."

Chic and aesthetically appealing containers don't have to come with a high price tag, however. "The local flea market, yard sales [or] thrift shops ... have very cool 'found objects' you can use as containers," said Hergenrather. "I found a great old metal pail that is perfect. [I] love anything metal like old wash basins for ice and beverages."

In fact, when it comes to accessories, Hergenrather says inspiration and materials can often be found in one's own backyard. "Use greenery, flowers, sticks [and] rocks [that] you have readily available in your yard to create interesting decorations," she said. "Use sea shells in glass containers to add interest to flower arrangements."

Evelyn Kinville of The Behnke Florist Shop in Potomac, Md., suggests using zinnias, dahlias and delphiniums in warm weather floral arrangements. "Usually in summer there are things like mountain mint which has a minty aroma to the leaf and a small puffy looking flower," she added. "Many people have daisies and hydrangeas in their yard and, of course, the real classic is sunflowers."

Kinville adds that summer arrangements are often casual and colorful. "But they are also geared to the general décor that the person doing the entertaining might be using in the linens," she said. "Generally, though, bright colors are more popular in summer than paler flowers."

Hergenrather says that even though outdoor furniture, flowers and accessories help create an aesthetically appealing design, they are not the most important element for a successful outdoor event, however.

"Remember it is the people that make the party special, not the décor," she said. "Make your space comfy and welcoming, keep the mood happy and festive ... enjoy your family and friends."

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Robert F. Dorr after a flight in a Marine Corps AH-1W Super Cobra attack helicopter at Marine Corps Air Station, Little River, N.C.

Local Author to Speak at Senior Center August Event

One of World War II's great air battles and the experiences of American bomber crews who fought it are the focus of the Great Falls Senior Center's (GFSC) Aug. 6 event. Local author Robert F. Dorr will tell both the personal and historical story of the airmen who appear in his book "Mission to Berlin," about the eighth Air Force assault of Feb. 3, 1945.

Dorr is an Oakton resident, Air Force veteran and retired U.S. diplomat. He is author of more than 70 books, and countless magazine articles and newspaper columns about the Air Force, aviation and military affairs. He also is co-author of "Hell Hawks! The Untold Story of the American Fliers Who Savaged Hitler's Wehrmacht," the best-selling book ever offered at the Air & Space Museum.

The author says his books are about people. He brings to center-stage the stories of American airmen who fought the battles. Research comes primarily from mem-

oirs and first-person interviews, not just official records. One reviewer called Mission to Berlin "Band of Brothers With Planes" to reflect the personal insight Dorr brings to his books.

Event sponsors are Home Instead Senior Care and Sunrise Senior Living, Oakton.

The Aug. 6 event takes place at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna,

11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch will be served; a modest contribution is appreciated. To reserve, e-mail Joyce Trickett at joygoodshepherd@verizon.net or call 703-887-5772. Guests who require transportation to attend should call Gene or Maddie McCabe at 703-438-0810.

Autographed copies of the book will be available for purchase—at a not-for-profit rate—of \$20 (retail \$30).

Friedlander Tries Reality Competition

FROM PAGE 6

"I knew I wanted our team to have positive interactions, because I figured working together was going to be how we'd win," she said. "It was a lot more difficult than I'd have liked though. We butted heads with Jordan a lot."

Their team spent much of the first two days in second place before, unbeknownst to them, they took first place close to the final supply drop. But then Jordan decided he'd had enough, and quit the contest, causing the group to forfeit.

"Once he quit, I just exploded. The show is edited obviously, so when I watched the actual show, even [though] they showed me swearing and screaming and yelling, I think they still made me look calmer than I was," she said. "That was tough to swallow, he just quit on us. We even told him early on in the contest if he was going to quit, that he should do it early, so we didn't have to go through it," she said. "I've spoken to Jason a few times since the show was filmed 15 months ago, and a few other people, but not Jordan. He hasn't even apologized."

She said it took her a while to get over her anger, especially knowing how much the money would have helped. But she also says she wishes she had been a bit more level headed when it all went down.

FRIEDLANDER was born in Africa, and moved to Great Falls in second grade, where she lived through her high school years. She moved to Arizona for college, and then California, where she is a caterer and valet, while also trying to make it as a comedienne and actress.

Her IMDB page lists 20 different credits, mostly horror movies, as well as a few TV shows.

"I definitely have the acting bug, and I love getting onstage to do stand up comedy," she said. "Overall, the show was a great experience, I made some close friends, even if the end result was disappointing. If they decide to bring people back for a second season of, I would definitely be up for doing it again. It was an amazing experience, and definitely qualifies as the craziest thing I've ever done."

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Robert F. Dorr will tell both the personal and historical stories of the airmen who appear in his book, "Mission to Berlin."



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Center hosts the annual Fourth of July fireworks show at Langley High School.

MCC Hosts Annual Fireworks

Thousands watch fireworks at Langley High.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Community Center hosted their annual Fourth of July fireworks show for the 29th year at Langley High School. "This event is to ensure a sense of community, to ensure people can be a part of something that is uniquely McLean, and that cultivates that sense of community," said Chad Quinn, chair of the MCC's governing board. "When you think about the families that come here every year and get to watch their children grow and make it a part of their family tradition, it's a wonderful thing. We're grateful for everyone that comes out to celebrate with us."

The gates at Langley opened at 8 p.m., while the sun was still up. Before it went down, guests could pick their spots around the school, or on the bleachers of the football field.

"The best part is being so close to the fireworks, you pretty much just look straight up, there's no such thing as an obstructed view," said Kerry Williams of McLean. "I like sitting in the bleachers next to the football field, and seeing the fireworks get launched a couple hundred feet away."

Visitors couldn't sit on the football field itself due to construction,



Visitors sit on the Langley High School bleachers to watch the annual Fourth of July fireworks.

but the grass surrounding the track and field hockey field were filled with people on blankets and camp chairs.

"I was sort of hoping to be able to sit on the artificial turf, because I figured there wouldn't be as many bugs or grass stains," said Rebecca Smith of McLean. "But maybe it's for the best, I don't think the turf would have been as soft

as the grass."

The show lasted about 25 minutes, with the loudest and brightest coming in the finale.

"It's all about the finale, when the booms come one after the other," said Victor Bayless, 10, of McLean. "The best part of the show is when the explosions are so bright that it lights up the whole field like it was daytime."



The Traveling Players teen ensemble performs three classical plays on Friday, July 19 at 4:30 p.m. in The Madeira School's outdoor amphitheater. Bring picnic items, lawn chairs, bug spray and flashlights and enjoy "The Bougeois Gentleman" and "The Doctor in Spite of Himself" before a 6:30 p.m. dinner break, followed by "The Merry Wives of Windsor" from 7:30-9 p.m.

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

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Instant Opera! 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Singers from Wolf Trap Opera Studio create a story on the spot using character and setting suggestions from the audience. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Encaustic Painting Demonstration. 7:30 p.m., Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society invites the public to watch artist Dick Neff show his unique method of working in this unusual medium. 703-319-3917 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

David Cole and Main Street Jazz. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. A favorite of the D.C. Blues Society, David Cole brings the full range of his experience as one of the area's most versatile musicians to his expression of the blues. www.davidbcolemusic.com/biography.html.

She & Him with Special Guest: Camera Obscura. 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. She & Him is comprised of the TV and film star Zoëy Deschanel and indie-rocker M. Ward. Camera Obscura, an indie-rock band, opens the evening. \$30-\$40. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

Instant Opera! 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Singers from Wolf Trap Opera Studio create a story on the spot using character and setting suggestions from the audience. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's Auction. 6 p.m., at VVFD Station, 400 Center

Street, Vienna. Volunteer Firefighters and EMTs will be auctioned off for a date, dinner, private tour of the VVFD and attending the Fire Ball. RSVP at <http://firefighterauction.eventbrite.com>.

Difficult Run Jazz Band. 6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Difficult Run Jazz Band plays jazz music on the Vienna town green. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

"Damn Yankees." 8 p.m., at The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden Theatre presents the classic musical-comedy. \$20. 866-811-4111 or www.McLeanPlayers.org.

Carmina Burana and More. 8:15 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The NSO, Choral Arts Society of Washington and soloists from Wolf Trap Opera Company present Carl Orff's Barmina Burana and Mussorgsky's pictures at an exhibition. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Surf's Up Water Fun Day. 8 a.m.-noon at the Vienna Farmers Market, 301 Center St. S., Vienna. Free water fun children's activities are the highlight. viennafarmersmarket.com.

The Deedle Deedle Dees. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. America's Ultimate Teaching Band combines guitar, bass, mandolin, drums, and bouzouki into a depiction of famous people, places, and events in U.S. history and folklore. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Oakton Church of the Brethren Community Concert Series. 7 p.m., Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road., Vienna. Violinist Dr. Rami Kanaan and pianist Bettye Cooley return to the Oakton Church of the Brethren in a lecture-recital. www.oaktonbrethren.org or 703-281-4411.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 14

SATURDAY/JULY 13

NSO Video Games Live: Bonus

Round. 8:30 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The National Symphony Orchestra presents an all-new show featuring music from video games such as Halo, Zelda, Tron, Sonic, Super Mario Bros., Final Fantasy and many more. \$22-\$55. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

Joanie Leeds & The Nightlights. 10 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Parents' Choice Gold and NAPPA Gold award-winning Joanie Leeds celebrates the release of her new CD, featuring her songs for children. \$10. <https://jamminjava.com> or 703-225-1566.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

The Potomac Fiber Arts Guild

Reception. 1-3 p.m., Craft Gallery of Artisans United, Annandale Community Park, 4022-C Hummer Road. Artists from the guild will be on hand to talk about their craft and discuss their fiber creations; refreshments included. 703-941-0202.

Red, Hot & Blue Reception. 2-4 p.m., at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., in Vienna. See art at an artists reception with refreshments and music from The Higher Ground String Band Sunday. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Aria Jukebox. 3 p.m., The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Artists perform selections from Puccini, Rossini, Verdi, Wagner, Gerswhin and Mozart. \$32-\$48. <http://www.wolftrap.org/Barns.aspx>.

Annandale Saxophone Ensemble.

6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Annandale Saxophone Ensemble performs traditional hits for all ages. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

Boz Scaggs and Michael McDonald.

8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Boz Scaggs & Michael McDonald play popular Motown covers like "I Heard it Through the Grapevine" and hits like "Lido Shuffle." \$25-\$42. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

The Potomac Fiber Arts Guild

Reception. 1-3 p.m., Craft Gallery of Artisans United, Annandale Community Park, 4022-C Hummer Road. Artists from Guild will be on hand to talk about their craft and discuss their fiber creations; refreshments included. 703-941-0202.

MONDAY/JULY 15

Jill Scott and Raheem DeVaughn and Fiveology.

8 p.m., Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. R&B soulstress Jill Scott is set to bring her provocative, passionate and intelligent brand of music to her Filene Center debut. \$40-\$95. www.wolftrap.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 16

Farafina Kan: The Sound of Africa.

10:30 a.m. at 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. This multi-generational dance company combines the excitement and energy of drumming with elaborate choreography and audience participation. \$8. www.wolftrap.org.

Jethro Tull's Ian Anderson.

8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The front man of the British



"Ballerinas I," oil, by Jill Banks, 16"h x 12"w is among the paintings in Banks' "Serendipity" exhibit. The pieces are up at Great Falls Library with a reception Saturday, July 20, 1-4 p.m.

rock group Jethro Tull, Ian Anderson, revisits his 1972 album, Thick as a Brick. \$30-\$40. 1-877-965-3872 or <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Recess Monkey.

10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. A trio of elementary school teachers sing about the fun of being a kid as they rock to fan-favorites from their newest albums Deep Sea Diver and Desert Island Disc. \$10. <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

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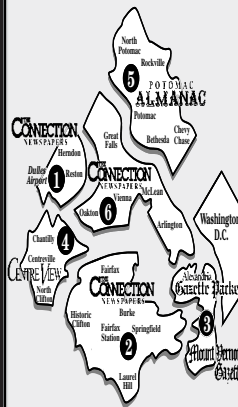
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21 Announcements

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In accordance with the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) public participation requirements of 9 VAC 20-160-120, the general public is hereby notified that the property identified as Monument View, located at 929 Long Bridge Drive, in Arlington, Virginia is working towards obtaining a Certificate of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) through VRP. This property is referenced by the Arlington County Real Property Code (RCS) number 34025007. The VRP participant is the property owner, MR Monument View, LLC., who performed remediation in 2012-2013 as a result of historical petroleum, arsenic and lead contamination resulting from the properties previous uses including an auto repair body shop, auto repair facilities and junk yard. The property has been successfully remediated through the removal of petroleum-impacted, arsenic-impacted and lead-impacted soils from the site for proper off-site disposal. An institutional land use control established by the property owner has been selected as an additional remedial action to satisfactorily protect human health based on the future use of the site. The institutional land use control specifies that "groundwater beneath the property shall not be used for any purpose other than environmental monitoring or testing." Anyone with an interest in this voluntary remediation who has comments or questions may call or write MR Monument View, LLC through their representative, Mr. David Bookbinder of ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 14026 Thunderbolt Pl, Suite 100, Chantilly, Virginia 20151 (703)471-8400. Comments will be accepted for 30 days following the publication of this notice.

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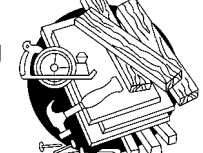
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Infused But Confused



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I titled and wrote about in last week's column, I have indeed been there (infused) and have done that, so why am I feeling as if I haven't? Sure, I have some things to do in advance and some considerations to be aware of infusing forward; so what? I need weekly lab work; that's nothing new. I may experience certain side effects: flu-like symptoms or a rash. OK. If I do, Call. I'm likely to feel "crappy," according to my longtime oncology nurse, Ron. Really? (If I didn't know any better, I suppose that would be a surprise. But I do know better. Hardly could I consider that news. I've probably written a half-dozen columns on that exact subject during my previous multiple lines of I.V. chemo-therapy over these past four-plus years.) Life is going on, just differently than before. That's as good as it gets for a terminal cancer patient, reasonably thinking. Only 16 percent of stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) patients survive beyond five years and I'm almost there (four years, five months). To say I'm lucky to be alive – and grateful for being so, is almost disrespectful the vast majority of previously diagnosed patients who've predeceased me.

Nevertheless, I feel a certain anxiety about this particular I.V. chemotherapy restart, a restart that I guess I didn't anticipate. It's as if I'm taking it personally, if that makes any sense. Previously, I think I took it more in stride, like I was one of many (which no doubt I was) and together we were all going off on this big life-saving adventure. Now, it feels – in my head, anyway (and probably more so in my head than anybody else's), that the adventure part is over and what's left is more a battle royal than a series of skirmishes.

Not that I feel weakened or fatigued by the previous four-plus years of the medical combat I've endured; rather, I feel humbled by the experience, sort of. So far, I've taken cancer's best shot (at least I hope it was) and survived way beyond any statistical expectation. I can't help wondering though, if my above-average life expectancy makes me somehow immune to cancer's reach or more susceptible to its grasp. Am I closer to the end or just further from the beginning? Moreover, does how long I've survived have an impact on how much longer I can continue to beat the terrible odds which us stage IV lung cancer patients face? I realize that past is often prologue, but at this juncture, I'm having a little difficulty not seeing the epilogue. I don't want to finish this book quite yet. But I fear cancer may have the last word, literally.

Perhaps returning to the original scene of the crime (so to speak), the Infusion Center, where my treatment began, is what's behind my stress. Weekly chemotherapy, as familiar as the process may be – to me, may simply be too much cause not to be concerned.

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

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SPORTS

Brooks Wins Mid-Atlantic PGA Junior Championship

Shannon Brooks of Vienna was the overall girls' winner of the 2013 Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Championship at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket.

Brooks earned a spot to play in the Junior PGA Championship presented by Under Armour and Hotel Fitness, which will be held at Trump National Golf Club in Washington D.C. on July 30-Aug. 2.

With a four-hour rain delay in the second round, all 25 female competitors finally completed their rounds. Brooks had a two-round total of 140. Brooks shot a course record of 68 on day one and finished day two with a 72, beating the next competitor by two strokes. She also took the title in the girls' 16-18 age division. In the girls' 13-15 age division, Victoria Tip-Aucha of Manassas shot a score of 154 and won over Sienna Ferrick (156) of Vienna.

Vienna's Amber Liu finished eighth in the overall competition with a score of 159.



COURTESY PHOTO

Vienna's Shannon Brooks won the girls' overall championship at the 2013 Middle Atlantic PGA Junior Championship.

Soccer Registration

McLean Youth Soccer fall 2013 registration has begun on MYS' website—www.mcleansoccer.org—for returning and new families. MYS offers programs for children ages 4 thru 18, including recreation, travel, U5 for pre-K players, and TOP soccer for children with special needs. The season will begin the week of Sept. 9 and run thru mid-November. Please contact the MYS club administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org with any questions, or call the MYS Office (703) 506-8068.

Soccer Camp

McLean Youth Soccer's 6th Annual Summer Camp is offered weekly through Aug. 30 at Spring Hill Recreation Center. Half- and full-day sessions are available for players age 5 to 16. Players from any community are welcome to attend the sessions, directed by MYS professional staff. Registration is on the website: www.mcleansoccer.org. For questions, please email the MYS club administrator at admin@mcleansoccer.org or call the MYS Office at 703-506-8068.

Cycling Events Enter 3rd Year in NVSO

The 2013 NVSO 10K and 20K cycling events will take place Sept. 8 at the Northern Fauquier Community Park, located at 4155 Monroe Parkway, Marshall, Va.

The competition is open to men and women in five-year age groups and is governed by the rules of the U.S. Cycling Federation (USCF). Medals will be awarded according to the best times in each age group.

The 2013 NVSO will take place Sept. 7-19 with more than 50 events being held in 17 venues throughout Northern Virginia. In addition to cycling, other events include: badminton; volleyball; racquetball; pickleball; tennis; table tennis; swimming; diving; bowling; Wii bowling; card games; board games; track and field and more. Registration is available online at www.nvso.us.

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