

Vienna Youth Football Kicks Off New Season

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Vienna Wolfpack players Norman Boykin, Zachary Butler, Jack Emory, Jonathan Grubbs, Dhylan Henry, Parker Knowlton, Toby Kuhns, Jace Lemm, Brandon Merski, Jack Morningstar, Will Morris, Drew Nayak, William Parrish, Hunter Pena, Roman Pena, Abraham Pezzutti, Connor Scinto and Justin Wood. Vienna Wolfpack is coached by head coach Troy Grubbs, asst. head coach Brent Emory, and assistant coaches Brian Knowlton, Allen Morningstar, Tim Nayak and Dave Pezzutti.

A New Beginning For County Libraries?

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Vienna Commemorates 'A Day to Remember'

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NEWS

The Vienna Choral Society sang "Shenandoah," "The Star-Spangled Banner" and "America the Beautiful" at the September 11 commemoration ceremony.

PHOTOS BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



Vienna Commemorates 'A Day to Remember'

Town, American Legion Post 180, pay tribute to lives lost on September 11, 2001.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

On a hot and humid September 11, 2013, people in Vienna—as they did in towns and cities across America—reflected on the horrific terrorist attacks that altered the lives of Americans from that date forward 12 years ago. More than 3,000 innocent human beings lost their lives when jetliners slammed into the World Trade Center twin towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania. Patriot Day pays tribute to lives lost, lives impacted and to the living who put themselves in harm's way to protect the nation.

The Town of Vienna and American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180 of Vienna hosted "A Day to Remember," a "community commemoration," on the grounds of Freeman House on the anniversary of 9/11. Mayor M. Jane Seeman, Town Manager Mercury Payton and Town Council members attended, as did approximately 30 area residents. Ron Miluszewski, National Sergeant-at-Arms of the American Legion and admissions director at Virginia Hospital Center on 9/11/2001, gave the keynote speech.

THE BELLS at Vienna Presbyterian Church tolled at 8:20, 9:30 and 9:45 am, in tribute to the victims of the three plane attacks.

"Men and women, good and decent people, died as a result of terrorism," said Miluszewski, a U.S. Navy medical corpsman from 1967 to 1972. "Right here in our own backyard, the Pentagon was attacked." Virginia Hospital Center, in Arlington, received the greatest number of Pentagon victims, 44, of any D.C. area hospital.

Miluszewski was making his rounds in the hospital, director of hospital admissions for only two months. In the outpatient surgery waiting room, people's attention was focused on the television. A plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. The news motivated Miluszewski to review the hospital's disaster plan. At about 9:45 a.m., the emergency department of the hospital was alerted that there was a possible plane crash at Pentagon. Almost immediately, Miluszewski said, Virginia Hospital Center implemented its code yellow, the hospital's disaster plan. Non-critical emergency room patients were transferred, admitted or discharged to make way for the unknown number of casualties. Within



Mayor M. Jane Seeman and "A Day to Remember" keynote speaker Ron Miluszewski listen as American Legion Dyer-Gunnell Post 180 Commander Ron Patterson gives opening remarks at Vienna's community commemoration of September 11, 2001.

the hour of the attack on the Pentagon, almost 50 physicians, more than 100 nurses and numerous support staff stood at the ready. The first patient arrived at approximately 10:35 a.m. And, then, more arrived ... by emergency vehicle, by private vehicle. Casualties were color-coded according to the severity of their wounds.

"One of the most moving moments was when I noticed two young servicemen [classified as non-life threatening], each with a minor injury, watching the events at the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on the TV in the waiting room," said Miluszewski. "As tears rolled down their cheeks, they ripped off their disaster tags and wanted to go back to the Pentagon because their comrades needed them ... which they did."

MAYOR M. JANE SEEMAN read the Town of Vienna proclamation identifying September 11 as a day to remember.

The Vienna Choral Society opened the program with the National Anthem and closed it with "America the Beautiful." The Vienna Police Department Honor Guard, wearing heavy dark uniform, presented the colors and withdrew them.

"On that day, indeed, the hospital staff and, on a larger scale, our community, demonstrated an unshakable character and a rich fabric of unity in the wake of the disaster," Miluszewski said. "... And, in doing so, we honored the memories of those who lost their lives."

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The Vienna Wolfpack and Ft. Hunt Titan mostly fought a ground war at Waters Field on Sept. 14.

Vienna Youth Football Season Kicks Off

County league plays seven regular-season games.

There's pro football, college football, high school football ... and then, there's VYI football. On a crisp fall day, it's a long-time Vienna Saturday tradition. And now, Fairfax County's youth football season is in full swing.

Vienna Youth, Inc., aka VYI, kicked off its regular season on Sept. 14. Waters Field was busy all day with games, one after another. Waters is not the typical youth football field, either: it's made of artificial turf, has a huge lighted scoreboard and it has stadium lights for night games. And, unlike Washington's professional team, VYI teams have a winning record. Youth football divisions are based on weight and age together.

Garbed in Vienna black/red/white, the 80-pound division Wolfpack took the field in Saturday's opening game. The Ft. Hunt Titans came in from Alexandria and, in a close finish, lost to the Wolfpack 13-12. Twelve-year-old Zachary Butler, number 66, ran for Vienna's first touchdown and extra point. Drew Nayak, 9, scored the second touchdown for Vienna. Jonathan Grubbs, 9, recovered a fumble for the Wolfpack.

Play-by-play "reporters" Tommy Grubbs and Andrew Butler, both 13 years old, ran along the sidelines giving an account of the plays and downs. Butler, whose own game was scheduled for early evening, plays for the 115-pound division. Asked if it was harder to be an NFL player or a youth football player, Butler was quick with a response. "It's harder for us because we have school all day and practice to juggle," Butler said. "And we're not getting paid."

Butler and Grubbs each had siblings playing for the Wolfpack, who made big plays for the team.

Grubbs said he thought Vienna's strength was its defense. Butler thought Vienna's strength was its offense. Both said the offense had some "amazing" plays.

With less than one minute left in the game, the Titans had the ball and were marching to the goal line. As the defense made substitutions, a coach pulled aside one of his tackles. "No one gets past that line," the coach said. "Hold them." The defense did, the offense got the ball back, and closed out the game with a win.

—DONNA MANZ

Arrest Made in Homicide in the Vienna Area

Police are investigating an overnight homicide that occurred outside the Residence Inn, located at 8616 Westwood Center Drive. Officers were called to the location around 2 a.m. on Sept. 15 for the report of a person who was shot. They located the victim on the sidewalk and began efforts to resuscitate him; however, he was pronounced dead at the scene with injuries to the upper body.

The deceased has been identified as Gerard Gomez, 16, of the Mount Vernon area.

Police have made an arrest in this case: Jose Alberto Blanco-Calzadilla, 23, of 8625 Woodward Avenue in Alexandria, turned himself into police the same day and was charged with murder. Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Oktoberfest Returns on Oct. 5

The Vienna Business Association has assumed the responsibility for Oktoberfest 2013 which takes place on Saturday, Oct. 5. This will be the sixth anniversary of the Vienna Oktoberfest.

Vienna Oktoberfest 2013 will offer fun for all from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on the Vienna Town Green. Entertainment has been arranged for the children, food concessions have signed up to deliver great food, the Birgermeister (ceremonial mayor for the Vienna Oktoberfest) has been appointed, the Lone Ranger has agreed to appear and perform, vendors have committed to space, and the local German car dealers have agreed to display selected models.

The event sponsors include: Vienna Paint & Decorating—Platinum Sponsor, Whole Foods, Urban Mattress, Elements Therapeutic Massage, Business Bank, Family Magazine, On the Ave. Marketing, Sandy Spring Bank, The Connection Newspapers and VivaTysons Magazine.

Children's Activities at Farmers Market

Free activities for children in

SEE WEEK, PAGE 15

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PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Tresa Schlecht, a member of the Board of the Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, was one of five public speakers during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. She criticized the library's process for discarding books and urged board members to reconsider the "beta" plan. 250 people attended the meeting.



From left—Library Board of Trustees member Charles Fegan, Board Chairman Willard Jasper and Library Director Sam Clay listen to public testimony during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. More than 250 people attended the meeting.

A New Beginning for Fairfax County Public Libraries?

Library trustees vote to discard beta plan in favor of more public outreach sessions.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

On Wall Street, a "beta" test refers to assessing the risk, volatility and expected return of a particular portfolio.

If Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) officials had a crystal ball to assess the volatility of its planned beta tests this fall, it's likely they may have steered clear of the project that became a quagmire of epic proportions.

"Yes, absolutely, this is the worst PR nightmare," said Library Director Sam Clay, in an interview with The Connection Tuesday, Sept. 10. "I've been amazed at the power of social media, and the inaccuracies in all the blogs, emails and reporting. There's no one magic button to press to correct all the inaccuracies."

There may not be a magic button, but Library Board Chair Willard O. Jasper spoke the magic words that more than 250 critics of the plan turned out to hear during the Library's Board of Trustees meeting on Sept. 11 at the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale.

Jasper announced that the library board had voted to immediately halt the beta tests until the board could schedule more outreach and communication opportunities for employees and patrons. The crowd, which spilled out into a hallway where they could watch the proceedings on a video monitor, applauded as the board approved Jasper's



The Clements family of Fairfax held up signs protesting proposed "beta" changes during the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale. More than 250 critics of the plan attended the meeting.

motion to suspend consideration of the plan, a motion submitted by library Director Sam Clay.

"This is a new beginning for us," Clay said after the two-hour meeting. "This is an opportunity to get more feedback and people involved in the process."

Karrie Delaney, the Sully District appointee to the Library Board of Trustees, acknowledged "challenges ahead," but added that it was "great to see people so engaged and to know that our public libraries are treasured. ... With the support of our community, and the expertise of our library staff and administration, I believe we can build



Michele Sendow of Herndon and Anita Ramos of Centreville, both longtime library supporters and patrons, attended the Sept. 11 Fairfax County Library Board of Trustees meeting held at George Mason Regional Library in Annandale to urge board members to put the "beta" plan on hold. More than 250 critics of the plan attended the meeting.

and sustain an exceptional library system that serves all the people of Fairfax County." Delaney has already planned a series of public town hall forums at Centerville and Chantilly libraries in October.

SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC spoke briefly before the board's vote, imploring board members to put the beta plan on hold.

"Libraries are sacred space. Books are sacred vehicles that transmit our culture,"

Scheduled Public Library Outreach Forums

- ❖ **Sunday Sept. 29** at 2 p.m. at the SEIUVA office 3545 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 106, Fairfax
- ❖ **Thursday, Oct. 3** at 7 p.m. at the Centreville Library
- ❖ **Monday, Oct. 7** at 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library
- ❖ **Thurs., Oct. 10** at 7 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, 22042

said Kathy Kaplan, a longtime Reston resident and member of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. "You are the trustees of the library. You have a sacred trust to protect the libraries for the people of Fairfax County," Kaplan said to applause from the audience.

Criticism of the beta plan had been building since July, when Clay unveiled a program that would test a new organization model at the Burke Centre Library and the Reston Regional Library, the busiest library branch in the county. The reorganization, Clay said, streamlined staffing and eliminated redundancies while retaining a high level of service.

But the plan, which include reduced staffing, cross-training staff members and lowering the education requirements for librarians sparked outrage among library volunteers, staff and patrons who call the plan "disastrous," "a library meltdown" and "the end of our libraries as we know it."

Clay said he was taken aback by the tone and tenor of the criticism.

"Everyone has difficulty with change. When all is said and done, when you have been in a job for a while, change is quite rightly a concern. I understand that," Clay said.

Clay, who has a Master's of Library Science degree and has been head of the Fairfax library system for 31 years, said a

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OPINION

Addressing Virginia's Economy

Ending gridlock in Congress and supporting health care reform would be huge steps in supporting economic recovery in Virginia.

The strength of Virginia's economy, especially Northern Virginia's economy, comes significantly from federal spending.

So while the governor and other elected officials claim that Virginia's success is because Virginia is a low-tax state with fewer regulations, it's worth considering that the sequester and continuing gridlock in Congress threaten Virginia's most important resource, federal spending.

Virginia receives more federal money per capita than any other state except Alaska. Virginia received \$136 billion in federal funds in

EDITORIAL

2010, more than \$17,000 from the feds per capita, and paid \$2,807 per capita in federal income taxes. (Data from Consolidated Federal Funds Report for Fiscal Year 2010 by state and county from the Census Bureau.)

Two examples: \$1.3 billion in federal transportation money came to Virginia. Virginia was on the receiving end of more than \$5,000 per capita in defense spending.

Current Virginia elected officials have barricaded the doors against expansion of an industry that would add more than 30,000 quality jobs in Virginia at no cost to taxpayers. The

expansion of Medicaid, which would provide healthcare to as many as 400,000 Virginians who currently cannot afford health insurance, would give Virginia's economy a significant boost, and create more than 30,000 jobs. Virginia taxpayers will still pay the taxes that will fund the expansion of Medicaid in other states without reaping the benefits of a healthier population and economic stimulus.

Private sector growth in Virginia depends on its educated and sophisticated workforce, on top school systems and universities. It depends on reliable transportation systems and access to high-speed Internet. And it depends on continuing to attract federal contracting dollars.

Virginia's U.S. Senators Tim Kaine and Mark Warner both work in the best interests of the commonwealth when they work to promote a culture of moderation and compromise in Congress.

Combatting Human Trafficking in Our Own Communities

BY DELEGATE BARBARA COMSTOCK
R-34TH DISTRICT



“You're pretty. You could make some money.”

That was the headline of a recent Washingtonian Magazine article about young girls in our region who are lured through social media into the terrifying world of human trafficking.

The piece featured the experience of a Fairfax County girl who responded to that message on Facebook only to find herself utterly vulnerable in a car with four complete strangers. One of the men told her they were going to prostitute her as a type of initiation. She pushed the man's hands away when he offered her cocaine. When the white powder spilled over the car seat, the man then smashed her head into the window.

She was pulled out of the car and led around the corner of an apartment building. Her nightmare was just beginning to unfold. The man held a knife to her neck and when she refused his sexual demands sliced her across the forearm with the knife. She was raped 15 times that night—first by the man in the car and then subsequently by a string of other johns. Early the next morning, the men called her a “whore” and a “slut” as they drove her home and threatened to kill her if she ever told anyone what happened.

These horrific events happened in Fairfax County—right in our community. That is why over the past four years, we in the Virginia

General Assembly have put together a bipartisan coalition that is working with groups like the Polaris Project, a leading anti-trafficking organization which administers the national human trafficking hotline, US Attorney Neil MacBride, and The Richmond Justice Initiative to pass new laws to combat human trafficking.

Our legislation cracks down on these predators and the gangs involved in this activity; increases penalties for those engaged in any way in this inhumane industry; and provides more public information and outreach to victims as well as parents, teachers and faith communities so this crime can no longer operate in the shadows. We used to think human trafficking only happened in foreign countries (which of course it does) or to women illegally smuggled into this country (which is also true). But this growing criminal enterprise knows no boundaries—it is present right in our backyard and must be battled on all fronts.

Since new laws have been implemented, police and federal agents have arrested 28 juvenile sex traffickers in Northern Virginia, and have identified 41 juvenile victims, and 100 reported adult victims—all of them American citizens, a majority from middle or upper-class families. We know this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Three years ago, Virginia was at the bottom of the Polaris Project's Anti-Human Trafficking State Rankings. Since we began our work with the coalition, my col-

leagues and I have been successful in passing significant legislation and finding partners in the law enforcement, business and religious communities to collaborate with in fighting this growing crime. Just last week, the Polaris Project announced that Virginia is now ranked in the top category (Tier 1) for our efforts in fighting human trafficking.

We have a great local partner in this effort, Fairfax County Detective Bill Woolf, whose work in cracking down on this crime led him to recommend numerous pieces of legislation to the General Assembly. HB546, which I introduced on the recommendation of Detective Woolf and other law enforcement supporters, provided additional penalties and tools for prosecutors pursuing traffickers, particularly in the area of gangs such as MS-13, who are now operating prostitution rings in our area that exploit local girls.

We also passed legislation that makes the soliciting of a minor a Class 5 Felony. Another bill passed this year, HB1870, would allow a multi-jurisdiction grand jury to investigate human trafficking activities in cases where the suspect received money for procuring another individual to engage in prostitution.

In May we hosted a Human Trafficking Forum to raise awareness of this growing issue. I was joined by our Congressman Frank Wolf, a leader in Congress on this issue; Detective Bill Woolf, our local law enforcement champion battling this crime; our House Republican Caucus Chair Delegate Tim Hugo; Sara Pomeroy, director of the Rich-

mond Justice Initiative; and Dr. Courtney Gaskins from Youth For Tomorrow, a residential facility that works with at risk youth—including those who have been victims of human trafficking. This forum was held as part of our continuing efforts to ensure that residents are educated on recent developments and can help us in preventing and exposing the human trafficking in our area.

This summer, I brought Sara Pomeroy as a guest speaker to our Young Women's Leadership Program Event. I established this summer program for young women currently enrolled in middle school or high school in the Northern Virginia area. The program's aim is to provide an opportunity for the participants to meet a variety of women leaders involved in various sectors, roles and occupations so that they can ask questions and engage in their own personal and career development. Sara Pomeroy was able to share with the young women her story, talk about how she became a leading advocate against human sex trafficking and educate the women so that they are better equipped to become leaders themselves on halting sex trafficking amongst their peers.

Our community efforts can and will have a real impact on the health and safety of our children and neighbors. Stopping this modern day slavery is very much a 21st century abolition effort. With increased tools to battle this growing crime and a growing group of partners, we can work together to halt this violence in our own communities and throughout the world.

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OPINION

Joining Forces to Prevent Homelessness

To the Editor:

You can prevent homelessness, you can end chronic homelessness, you can move people rapidly out of homelessness. What you cannot do is stand aside and let people fall.

This simple belief—that together we can change the rate and severity of people losing their homes—brings together nonprofits, for-profits, civic leaders and government staff. We each play a special role, depending on our location and mission. For United Community Ministries (UCM), prevention is the key.

What does that look like day-to-day? Consider the children. They need early learning and safe care to get a good start. They need parents that understand how to help them. The children need early intervention for any physical or mental delays.

So programs such as the Bryant Early Learning Center, full-day care for parents of diverse incomes and backgrounds, ensures a good start. Healthy Families, operated by three nonprofits in Fairfax County, provides in-home education and support to new parents. And caring professionals in all these programs ensure that children receive the care they need and deserve.

Consider the adults. In Northern

Virginia, a minimum wage job does not get you far. Rent, transport, food and medicine, clothing... workers need help, not just to get a job, but to get training and support to move on to a career.

Without long term increases in income, workers fall further behind every year.

I have not mentioned housing. Many low cost options, such as boarding houses, have been zoned out of existence. We struggle to create enough homes for the workers in our midst. Land is expensive, businesses need profits and neighborhoods worry about property values.

We have had some notable successes in producing affordable units, especially nonprofit partners like Cornerstones and Wesley Housing. But to make an impact on the large number of families struggling to stay out of homelessness, we must do much more. We must increase our prevention efforts while we find new incentives for affordable housing development.

Homelessness literally is a lack of housing. Whether a family keeps their home through more earning power or through lower rent, the benefit to the community is the same: stability, security and success.

Shirley Marshall
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And the Winner Is ...

Joe Gittinger of Dunn Loring wins fishing tournament.

Joe Gittinger of Dunn Loring won this year's historical first known fishing tournament in the country to offer a designated cash purse for individuals with intellectual disabilities. He collected \$250 with the 1st place prize of the Travis Smith Special Angler Award. The designated cash purse was added to this year's Lancaster County Little League Spanish Mackerel tournament on Saturday, Aug. 24th. The tournament is based in Kilmarnock, Va., located in Virginia's Northern Neck, with 56 vessels competing in the waters of the Chesapeake Bay.

Joe, along with his father Bruce Gittinger, competed for over \$35,000 in prize money aboard the Liquid Assets II (LA 2), a 46' vessel captained by Billy Pipkin and mated by his son Billy Pipkin, Jr. His mother, Jone Gittinger, was also on hand dockside dispatching leader board updates from the weigh station at the Chesapeake Boat Basin.

Joe is a 2013 graduate of the Options program at Paul VI High School in Fairfax, where he excelled in a number of sports that included soccer, basketball and track and field. Although he came into the tournament with little saltwater fishing experience, he quickly caught on to the nuances of landing Spanish mackerel.

He and his family declared in May for the Liquid Assets II team, sponsored by Fish Dispatch USA. They competed alongside four other families with special needs children. The Gittingers having been hosted for the tournament weekend by a family in White Stone, Va., had to awake at 5 a.m. Saturday morning for a clandestine departure at 6:15 a.m. from the Ingram Bay Marina located in Wicomico Church.

THE SPECIAL ANGLER TEAM, loaded with pre-tournament fish catch intelligence data, had kept the departure location secret to avoid tipping off other competitors that large schools of mackerel were available just south of the Smith Point Lighthouse near the mouth of the Potomac River.

Early catches of Spanish mackerel and bluefish were made by the team.



Joe Gittinger

Captain Billy Pipkin reported that "The team had to overcome early obstacles that most novices experience. They made great strides in learning how to catch and carefully reel in mackerel without losing them."

Although the historical feat seemed all but certain by 9 a.m., the team continued to compete for additional catches and prize money up until the 3 p.m. deadline. They also created a bit of additional drama. By 3 p.m. the Liquid Assets II was still near the mouth of the Potomac River, some 15 miles away from the official tournament weigh station in Kilmarnock. The entire success of the effort was now totally upon the LA II crew to get the vessel to the dockside weigh station. Having undergone a recent \$34K + overhaul of the Caterpillar engine the previous week, the LA II, whose engine was not fully broken in, was not permitted to run full steam. Captain Billy Pipkin called in to say that arrival by the deadline would be "touch and go." With a raucous crowd having formed on the docks, the LA II cruised in past the designated Boat Basin buoy with no more than five minutes to spare.

BY SEVEN O'CLOCK that evening, four Special Anglers would receive the coveted tournament award plaques: Gittinger, 1st (1.45 lbs, \$250), Sarah Capp of Centreville (1.40 lbs, \$150), Jessica Dietrichson of Dumfries, Va., 3rd (1.35 lbs, \$100), and Tasha Adkins-Blanch of Arlington (1.2 lbs, \$100).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY IRMA CENARO

From left—Michelle Scott, executive director of SCOV, and Tracy A. Zambito, Whole Foods Marketing Team leader. SCOV will be presenting their annual fundraiser on Oct. 27 with a return engagement of nationally recognized humorist and speaker, Jeanne Robertson.

Whole Foods Supports the Oakton-Vienna Shepherd's Center

Several times a year, the Whole Foods Market stores hold community giving days (otherwise known as "5 percent days") where five percent of that day's net sales are donated to a local nonprofit. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) in partnership with Our Daily Bread were the recipients of a recently held Whole Foods "5 percent Day" at the Vienna store where \$4,338 was raised.

Quoting a 2013 Congressional Commendation Presented by the office of the U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly (D-11) to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna honoring their volunteers, "the services and programs offered by this extraordinary organization (SCOV) help to ensure that our seniors stay connected to the community through promotion of active lifestyles, ongoing social integration and availability

of resources for older residents to use their experience, training and skills in significant roles in society."

Founded in 1997, SCOV is a 501 c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing opportunities for adults (50-plus) to seek rewarding lives and to live independently in their homes for as long as possible. In 2012 SCOV provided services and programs to more than 3,000 older adults in the Oakton, Vienna, Dunn Loring, Merrifield and portions of Reston and Fairfax areas. In 2012 it was voted the Best Nonprofit of the Year (2012) by the Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce.

To learn more about the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, visit their website at www.scov.org or contact Michelle Scott, executive director at 703-281-0538 or director@scov.org.

Town Launches Shop Vienna Initiative

In July of this year, the Town of Vienna launched the Shop Vienna initiative, an online directory listing all in-town businesses. The directory is organized by category and individuals who "claim" their business will have their own micro-site on the town's website.

Shop Vienna is designed to give residents and visitors fast and up-to-date access to all of the town's businesses, from restaurants to shoe repair, from architects to hair salons, and everything in between. Businesses benefit from being included in the directory as they will have full control over their micro-site and can link to their business' website, social media platforms and list job openings, sales and coupons. Visitors to the site have the option to "follow" particular businesses and receive notifications when the business' site has been updated. In addition, the

more that a business updates their portal, the more visibility the business profile will receive in the directory.

There is a \$25 annual fee for businesses to participate in the Shop Vienna program. Businesses who claim their business in the Shop Vienna directory from May 1, 2013 through March 30, 2014, will be billed a pro-rated fee of \$15. Businesses will have the opportunity to opt in to the Shop Vienna program each year during the annual business license renewal process.

The Shop Vienna directory is mobile. Access businesses on the go by downloading the free Shop Vienna app in the Google Play or Apple App Store.

Residents and visitors can view the Shop Vienna directory and owners can claim their business by visiting www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=1034.

Historic Church Gets New Roof

The historic Antioch Christian Church is getting a new roof. The structure getting the new roof was built 1902-1903. Antioch Christian church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. The church services include: Starting Point contemporary worship at 9:30 a.m.; classic/traditional worship at 11 a.m.; Sunday school Bible studies at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.




Vienna Among Top-earning Towns, Best for Families

In addition to being one of the top three “Best Places to Live,” Money Magazine has named Vienna on its list of “Top-Earning Towns.” Vienna is ranked 24 in a list of 25 towns across the country that have above national average household income and home prices. Vienna is joined on the list by Falls Church, at number 18 on the “Top-Earning Town” list. For more information, visit money.cnn.com/gallery/news/economy/2013/08/12/best-places-top-earning-towns.moneymag/24.html. Money Magazine also ranked Vienna as number 12 on the list of “25 Best Places for the Rich and Single,” which was compiled by looking at the percentage of the community who is single, the median family income and quality of life. According to the magazine, 35.2 percent of Vienna’s population is single. Two other Virginia localities also made the list with Falls Church ranked at number six and Tysons Corner listed at number 14. For more information, visit money.cnn.com/gallery/real_estate/2013/08/12/best-places-rich-single.moneymag/12.html. Vienna was also recognized earlier this year by NerdWallet as the number two “Best City in Virginia for Young Families.” NerdWallet considered public school standardized test scores, affordability, including real estate taxes, insurance costs, utilities, fuels and other monthly bills, and the community’s local economy, and compiled a list of the best communities in Virginia for young families. Vienna was behind Glen Allen, VA in Henrico County and followed by Fairfax City. For more information, visit www.nerdwallet.com/blog/2013/best-cities-virginia-young-families/.

Volunteers Needed for MPAartfest

McLean Project for the Arts needs volunteers for its 7th annual MPAartfest in McLean Central Park, Sunday, Oct. 6. Volunteers are needed to help with pre-event promotional activities and, during the event, setup and breakdown of artist tents, volunteer check-ins, greeting and counting visitors, entertainment setup, assisting with creative activities and projects for attendees and assisting artists with miscellaneous activities. Sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/70A054EACA6283-mpaartfest or e-mail at mpaartfestvolunteers@gmail.com.

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MiRan Powell as Helen and Dylan Myer as Oliver in "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st Stage.



From left—James Miller as Harry, Alden Michels as George, Ryan Alan Jones as Young Lad, Dylan Myer as Oliver and Jason Tamborini as Jimmy in "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st Stage.



Matt Dewberry as Lyon and MiRan Powell as Helen in "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st Stage.

PHOTOS BY TERESA CANTACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

Artistic Talents Unlocked

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Stimulating "The Pitmen Painters" at 1st stage.

A quiet stunner. Under the fine eye and caring direction of Stevie Zimmerman, the 1st Stage production "The Pitmen Painters" by Lee Hall is inspired. It is a fleshing-out of the mysteries of creativity from quite unlikely sources. Audiences will lean forward admiring what is set before them as this insightful production takes hold.

Hall based the play upon the

lives of the Ashington Group; British miners from the 1930s-1940s. They worked long hours in difficult conditions. Then they unexpectedly unlocked their artistic talents while taking an art appreciation course offered by their union.

For Hall, the play is "a play about real conflict." He is fearless in probing the usually unspoken question; "Is it possible to be a working class person, an ordinary person, and still be an artist?" His pedigree in-

cludes the Tony Award winning "Billy Elliott, The Musical" and the screenplay for the Academy Award winning "War Horse."

Zimmerman has a pleasing brush stroke level touch as the production quietly lassos the audience to care about the miners' journey even as some of Hall's Act II dialogue can sound a bit like stale dry political rhetoric from a by-gone time. Zimmerman is a miniaturist painter with her eight-member

ensemble. Each actor provides distinctive personality for their "archetype" character, even when dialogue is sparse.

The cast includes 1st Stage veteran Matt Dewberry as Lyon, the upper-class, at first impermeable teacher who helps awaken the miners to their talents; Dylan Myer as Oliver, with perhaps the deepest creative talent and questioning mind; Alden Michels, a union steward played like the comic Dilbert's

boss and James Miller, giving group-think Marxism some heart. MiRan Powell plays the impervious, moneyed woman dabbling in people's lives as if they were just art to be bought and hung up. Ryan Alan Jones has a formidable outburst at the top of Act II that brought Picasso's iconic, anti-war "Guernica" to bleeding, breathing life.

Steven Royal's set design with Tewodross Melchishua's video projections provide lovely visual clues

like silent dialogue using actual Ashington painting images. Lighting by Kristin Thompson and sound by Bradley Porter seamlessly support the verbal action and during the many "brown-out" scene changes. A shout-out to Alexander Strain for his British dialects coaching as well.

"The Pitmen Painters" is a handsome evening that takes the audience on a feisty journey. Don't let "thought-provoking" scare you away. Don't pass up this production.

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The event helps to fund programs run in the region's clubs. These range from daily homework help, participation in local sports leagues to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics) programming and financial skills building. Our clubs are helping members build confidence, develop character and learn skills that will help them become productive, civic-minded, and responsible adults.

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF ART AT THE CENTER

Students in the Art Explorers class at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon explore mediums like clay, collage, painting and drawing. Experts say creating art helps children build relationships.

Art Matters Local experts say art classes help children develop new skills.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

If you walk into Art at the Center in Mount Vernon on a Tuesday morning, you might find a group of preschool students and their parents or caretakers squishing potting clay with their fingers. In the same room, several other tots could be brushing an array of paint colors across art paper, making a mess but having fun. The children are part of the Center's Art Explorers class, designed for children ranging from 18 months to 5 years old.

"Parents say it is their happy place where they can explore with their child without worrying about a mess," said Kathryn Horn Coneway, director of Art at the Center. "It brings both parent and child into the present moment."

In addition to having fun, art educators say that art can help children develop a myriad of skills and abilities that range from self-expression to self-confidence.

"Creating art can help them work through their emotions," said Gioia Chilton, an art therapist who teaches art at Marymount University in Arlington. "It gives them a place where they can be confident, and where they can feel powerful and in control over something."

Creating art teaches patience, said Coneway. "When children are working with clay, for example, there is little instant gratification. You make a piece, it has to be fired and then glazed. It is a process. But at the end, they can tell the story of how they made it."

Chris Haggerty, a professor of fine and applied arts at Marymount University, says research shows that art develops the right side of the brain, which affects perception rather than logic. "Creating art teaches problem-solving skills," she said. "They get to try things out, see if they work, change their minds and start over."

Coneway, who is also an art

therapist, said she has seen first-hand how art can help children share feelings that are difficult to verbalize. "Making things is a wonderful way for kids to connect ideas, express emotions and share what is going on with them," she said. "Additionally, art is noncompetitive. Children progress at their own rate."

Art also helps establish a sense of community, she added. "Sometimes connections happen when children share their art," she said. "It is neat when kids ask questions of each other. The sharing of what they make is as important as what they make."

Carolyn Webber, an art teacher at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md., said, "Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them. [It] provides life-long learning in areas of visual arts, art history, interdisciplinary connections, multiculturalism and job opportunities."

Haggerty said, "The most successful people are creative thinkers, people who don't just think linearly, but who think outside of the box."

Coneway hopes that both her classes and others establish a life-long appreciation for art. "One of the things that I hope is happening is that parents and children are leaving my classes, going home and asking, 'Can we set up a corner of our basement and have an art studio at home?'"

"Art is a universal language. Art education enables students to make creative connections with art and the world around them."

— Carolyn Webber, art teacher,
St. Andrew's Episcopal School



Creating art projects, such as these, which were made by students at Art at the Center in Mount Vernon helps strengthen artistic behaviors such as observation, persistence and reflection.

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NEWS

The three co-directors of Friends of the Earth Middle East on the banks of the Jordan River. From left: Gidon Bromberg (Israel), Munqeth Meyhar (Jordan) and Nader Al-Khateeb (Palestine).

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED



Environmental Peace Makers to Visit Unity of Fairfax in Oakton

Few bodies of water in the world are as revered, as fought over, or as polluted as the lower Jordan River, whose vital waters are shared by Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians. Yet this river of historic conflict has become a symbol of peaceful cooperation, largely through the efforts of Friends of the Earth Middle East (FOEME), a unique, award-winning, tri-national organization that unites Jordanians, Palestinians, and Israelis around one very simple idea: the peaceful stewardship of the Earth. On Monday, Sept. 30, these gentlemen, who were named Heroes of the Environment by Time magazine, will be making a rare visit to the U.S., stopping in Oakton to speak to faith communities to raise awareness, build political momentum, and share their reasons for hope with Americans possessing strong spiritual

ties to the Holy Land. They will be appearing at churches, mosques, synagogues and houses of worship in the Washington area from Sept. 27 to Oct. 5, followed by events in Chicago and New York.

The event at Unity of Fairfax will begin in the sanctuary at 7:30 pm on Monday, Sept. 30 at 2854 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, followed by a brief reception. The event is free and open to the public, and members of the news media are welcome.

For more information on FOEME, visit [www. http://foeme.org](http://foeme.org). For updates on their speaking engagement at Unity of Fairfax, visit <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/s-friends-earth-middle-east-seminar>. The supplemental information included is available to use for news organizations along with the press release.

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HAPPENINGS

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SEPTEMBER 21, 2013 – 8 PM

Ricardo Morales, Clarinet

Copland: Music for the Theatre
Copland: Clarinet Concerto
Beethoven: Symphony No. 7



NOVEMBER 16, 2013 – 8 PM

Carrie Koffman, Saxophone

Grieg: Peer Gynt Suite No. 1
Larry Alan Smith: Concerto for Soprano
Saxophone and Strings
Rachmaninoff: Symphonic Dances

Program and artists subject to change



OCTOBER 26, 2013 – 8 PM

Tony Arnold, Soprano

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Stravinsky: Pulcinella Suite

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

VPS Photography Competition. 7:30-9:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Alan Goldstein, a specialist in architectural judges the show with theme of "children." www.vpsva.org.

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 18-22

Balducci's Free Chocolate Days. 8 a.m.-8 p.m., at Balducci's McLean, 6655 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. A chocolate and wine tasting event on Saturday, Sept. 21 from 2-5 p.m., and free samples along with the chance to win a Chocolate Lover's Gift Basket. 703-448-3828 or Balduccis.com.

WEDNESDAY-FRIDAY/SEPT. 18-OCT. 4

Artists Atelier Exhibit: Carol Howard and Lisa Tureson. Reception Saturday, Sept. 28, noon-4 p.m., at The Artists Atelier, 1144 Walker road, Suite G, Great Falls. Meet the artists at the reception and view Tureson and Howard's work highlighting contrast as seen in both artists' style.

WEDNESDAY-TUESDAY/SEPT. 18-OCT. 15

Shari MacFarlane's Student Art Show. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Saturday, Sept. 21 reception. 6:30-8:30 p.m., at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The art of 22 students, ages 4 to 12 will be displayed. A reception is slated for Sept. 21.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 19

Meet the Artist. Morning hours, at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Terri Parent's fine art photographs are displayed in a



"Church Street," plein air watercolor by Harris Miller. The Vienna Arts Society "Around Town!" plein air event is open to all artists, Sept. 21-29, where artists can paint pieces inspired by Vienna to compete for \$700 in awards.

show during the month of September. Meet and chat over coffee with Parent Thursday mornings.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 19-29

Home of Distinction Tour. Thursdays-Saturdays 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays noon-5 p.m., with parking at The Surge Community Church, 1988 Kirby Road, McLean Thursdays and Fridays; Saturdays and Sundays at Longfellow Middle School. See a McLean-area ABC 7 Home

of Distinction. \$10 tours, proceeds benefit Easter Seals Veteran Staffing Network program.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 20

Encaustic Art Talk. 7-9 p.m., at the Emerson Gallery at McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Susanne K. Arnold gives an art talk on her three dimensional encaustic techniques. <http://www.mpaart.org/exhibitionsfutr.php>.
Tony Denikos. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Maryland-based contemporary singer-songwriter Tony Denikos, the grand prize winner in the 2012 Mid-Atlantic Song Contest, is among the artists from Maryland, Virginia and Washington, D.C. paying tribute to Bruce Springsteen and Van Morrison during a special "Dream Discs" show. \$25. www.jamminjava.com/events/dream-discs/seats.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Encaustic Art Workshop. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., in the Susan B. DuVal studio at MPA, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Artist Susanne K. Arnold works with artists interested in the medium of encaustic, or hot wax and pigment, also using charcoal, tools and brushes to create works on panels; bring additional paper, tools, pastels, collage material, if desired, and a smock. \$60 per person (max of 10). info@mpaart.org.
Painting Demonstration: Robert Thoren. 1-4 p.m., at Color Wheel Gallery 65, 1374 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Robert Thoren presents a painting demonstration and talk about painting and the "En Plein Air" artistic process. He will be demonstrating the painting process from initial drawing, to blocking in, to refinement and completion. 703-356-6345, X165.
Pickling Day. 1-4 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the colonial farm wife prepare vegetables and other tasty treats for pickling. Learn how to combine salt, water, vinegar and spices to preserve summer crops. \$3 for adults, \$2 for children. <http://www.1771.org/directions.htm>.
Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m., lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance at Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. American Tango lesson followed by a dance with DJ music by Bill Powers & TJ Ra playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/SEPT. 21-29

Around Town: A Plein Air Event. Various times, around Vienna; enter at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society calls artists to enter a plein air painting competition to win up to \$700 in

awards. For entry details, artists may either drop by the Vienna Art Center, call 703-319-3971 or check the website www.ViennaArtsSociety.org. The paintings inspired by Vienna will be judged, with awards presented at a reception at the art center on Oct. 5, 3-5 p.m.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

America's Adopt a Soldier 5K/10K Fun Walk/Run. 10 a.m., at Lake Fairfax Park, 400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Wear red, white or blue and run or walk varied terrain in support of America's Adopt A Soldier projects and programs; donate coats for homeless veterans or other items (see at <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>) for care package assembly during and after the event. Preregistration only. \$40. <http://run-walk.eventbrite.com/>.
Tea 101: The Basics of Premium Teas. 1-3 p.m., at Salud Healthy Pantry, 1137 Walker Road, Great Falls. Learn about white, wulong and pe erh teas, the difference between scented, blended and flavored, and taste teas from a variety of regions in the seminar. Advance reservations and payment required. \$25. 703-757-6209 or www.greatfallsteagarden.com.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

The Art of Bonsai. 1 p.m., at the Ayr Hill Garden Club Meeting, Emmanuel Lutheran Church-Front, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Dr. Joseph E Gutierrez will explain and demonstrate the art of bonsai at the next meeting of the **Ayr Hill Garden Club**. One of Dr. Gutierrez's favorite activities is collecting trees in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado, each to become a carefully-tended tree-in-a-pot. Besides finding and taming old trees that have been dwarfed by nature, he works bonsai magic on such readily available plants as azalea, maple and boxwood. Refreshments provided. RSVP. 1-203-400-3668 or Latripp24@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 25

Photograph Matting Workshop. 7:30 p.m., at Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. The Vienna Photographic Society holds a workshop. VPSVA@jnaman.com or mhfriedm@gwu.edu.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 26

Great Falls Writer's Group. 11:15 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Great Falls Public Library in the large conference room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Facilitator and author Kristin Clark Taylor will lead the group discussion on details of how to get published. Local writers and authors within the community are invited to take part in the twice-a-month meetings. 703-757-8560.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 28

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Proceeds benefit Project Enduring Pride and children's charities; to rent a table contact Richard Cunningham. drjazz777@mac.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 29

Ralph Covert's "Ralph's World." 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Grammy nominee performs songs from his eight Disney albums in two family-friendly performances. \$15. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.
"An Amazing American Immigrant Story." 7:30 p.m., Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Alexey Ivanchukow survived the Russian Revolution and Hitler's Germany as a child and then served in the U.S. army and the U.S. State Department. Free. For more information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit the web page at www.vva227.org.

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

District 97. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. One of the leading lights of the new generation of Prog Rock bands performs original work along with a selection of work from his legendary tenure with King Crimson, much of it not performed live in 40 years. www.jamminjava.com.



BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 18

Vinson Hall Low Vision Group. 10:30 a.m., at Vinson Hall, 6251 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. All are welcome; call for more info. 202-234-1010.

Vienna Woman's Club Meeting. 7 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. The club kicks off its first meeting of the club year; the program speaker, from Final Salute, shares on her mission to provide homeless female veterans with safe and suitable housing; non-members are welcome. 703-281-2664, 703-283-1070 or laine@live.com.

Civil War Re-enactment. 7 p.m., at the Great Falls Library Meeting room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Rick and Debbie Turner, Civil War re-enactors, make a live presentation in character. Refreshments served.

WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY/SEPT. 18-21

Stretch to the Cure. Various times, at Body Grace Fitness & Yoga, 215 Mill St. N.E., Vienna; other yoga studios. The National Foundation of Cancer Research's campaign partners with yoga studios to offer free classes in hopes yogis of all levels will donate proceeds to cancer research. www.nfcr.org/stretch.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Taste of Tysons. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., 8829 Boone Blvd., Vienna. The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce presents a day of food, wine and beer, community vendors, entertainment and the Kidz Zone. Vendors are welcome to showcase their businesses. For information regarding restaurant vending, 703-749-3141; exhibitors, 703-281-1333; logistics, 703-286-7735; publicity, 703-876-4848; sponsorships, 703-281-1333. <http://www.tasteoftysons.com/>.

WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 4

front of the Vienna Saturday Farmers Market located at 301 Center Street South (Faith Baptist Church parking lots) in Vienna, on Sept. 28 from 8 a.m. to noon. Parents bring your children to enjoy a Fun with Air Day: including a bouncy house, cotton candy and more. And on Oct. 5, TJ Michaels will be in the market creating balloon artistry for the kids from 8 a.m. to noon. For more information about the Optimist Club of Greater Vienna sponsored market please go to viennafarmersmarket.com.

Metro Launches Silver Line Website

Metro has launched a website—www.silverlinemetro.com—for information on the Silver Line.

The site will be updated frequently with new service details, destinations and partner information. If you have additions to suggest or links you would like Metro to include, email your comments to externalrelations@wmata.com.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

SUNDAY/SEPT. 22

10th annual Super H 5K Run, Walk & Wheel. 7 a.m. registration, 8 a.m. race, 9 a.m., after-race party at Tysons Sport & Health, 8250 Greensboro Drive, McLean. A walk/run/wheelchair course to benefit MedStar NRH Adaptive Sport Program, helping those with physical disabilities enjoy recreation. Those who register get a free two-week membership any Sport & Health Club. firstgiving.com/nrh/superh5k.

MONDAY/SEPT. 23

Park Authority Meeting: McLean Central Master Plan. 7 p.m., at MCC, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a public meeting to present changes to the McLean Central Park Master Plan, made in response to comments from the June 2013 public meeting and afterward. 703-356-0551 or Jane.Edmondson@FairfaxCounty.gov.

TUESDAY AND THURSDAY/SEPT. 24, 26

Registration for ESL. 7 p.m., at St. Mark Christian Formation Center, 9972 Vale Road, Vienna. All students wishing to take fall ESL classes in the 10-week term with seven proficiency levels, from Beginner 1 to Advanced 2, must be registered and tested. A citizenship preparation class will be available to students eligible to apply for citizenship who have attained at least an intermediate proficiency level (6:30-8 p.m.). \$25 (optional English conversation group 7-7:45 p.m. for registered intermediate and advanced students for an additional \$10.) 703-626-3585 (English or Spanish); 703-994-8510 (Korean); 703-879-7296 (Mandarin); 505-400-7026 (Vietnamese), st.mark.esl@gmail.com, or <http://service.www.stmark.org/esl/>.

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

Immanuel Presbyterian Church in McLean holds an "Immanuel in the Evening" service Sundays at 5:30 p.m. This informal service with faith-sharing moments features music led by guitar and piano, and the same sermon offered during the morning service. Great for families with Sunday morning conflicts or those who just like a later start. The "Second Season Premiere" of "Immanuel in the Evening" at 5:30 p.m. on Sept. 22 has an ice cream social to follow. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. <http://ipcmclean.org> for additional information. Author Brian McLaren discusses his book, "Why Did Jesus, Moses, the Buddha and Mohammed Cross the Road? Christian Identity in a Multi-Faith World" at Immanuel over the weekend of Oct. 19 and 20 (see <http://ipcmclean.org/> for additional details).

Passages at Vienna Presbyterian Church, on the corner of Maple Avenue and Park Street, offers a 15-week Divorce Care series Tuesdays, 7-9 p.m., beginning Sept. 24 for those going through the pain of separation or divorce. \$20 (covers materials, scholarships available). 703-938-9308, Passages@ViennaPres.org or www.viennapres.org.

GriefShare, a weekly support group for adults grieving the death of

a loved one, meets Sundays 6-7:30 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Part St., Vienna with a video/discussion format through Dec. 8. \$20 for workbook. GriefShare@viennapres.org.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and

children. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.org.

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. mmthomas211@hotmail.com or 703-759-3509.

The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. ShalomDC.org.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children Saturdays and Sundays. 703-281-4230.

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

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What's Wrong With This Picture?

County suspends discarding of library books.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Just when Sam Clay, Fairfax County's Public Library director, thought FCPL's public image couldn't get any worse, Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) released photos of bins filled to the brim with discarded library books.

Acting on a tip from a volunteer Friend of the Library member, Smyth drove out to the library's technical operations center in Chantilly, glanced into a bin and saw hundreds of discarded books. A few days later, she made a second trip, found twice as many tossed books and filled a box full of rescued books.

Clay admits the photographs Smyth (D-Providence) took of books in seemingly good condition paid for by taxpayers tossed in trash bins are a powerful, startling image.

But he insists the story is more complex than the photographs suggest.

"The books that were in the dumpster were materials that, in a professional librarian's opinion, a librarian who holds an MLS degree, that these books were no longer usable," Clay said.

"Have we never thrown away a book that was [usable]? Have we ever made mistakes? Of course we have. ... But we go through all kinds of processes and options before the books go to the recycle bins. ... So the material that was discovered, those were carefully reviewed and vetted by our best minds, by MLS librarians," Clay said.

Clay said FCPL's collection includes nearly 300 million books.

"It's an incredible library asset that requires extensive library management; it's not just about acquiring, but de-quiring. We don't build enough shelves to house all of our books, no library does, because a certain number is always in circulation," Clay said.

"But you see a dumpster full of books, and you think 'My God, what are they doing?' They are being efficient and good stewards of the taxpayer's money by maintaining a vibrant collection, a great collection. We've done that in the face of 50 percent budget reduction in past five years for books."

Smyth is not quite satisfied with that answer. After hearing allegations about trashed library books from members of the Friends groups, Smyth decided to investigate the claims herself. On Aug. 29, she drove to the Fairfax County Public Library's technical operations center in Chantilly.

WHAT SHE FOUND, she said, was mystifying and dismaying.

"I found stacks and stacks of books tossed away in these bins behind the center," Smyth said. A few days later, she went back and found that the pile of discarded books had grown.

Furious, she collected a box of books, several in seemingly good condition, and dumped them on the desk of Fairfax County Deputy County Executive David J. Molchany. Molchany is in charge of the county's libraries and archives. The next day, Mochany issued a directive to all branches suspending the practice until the Board of Supervisors can gather more information, and the public can give its feedback.

According to Smyth, the library suspended the



Discarded children's books in a dumpster.

PHOTOS BY SUPERVISOR LINDA SMYTH (D-PROVIDENCE)



Dumpster filled with discarded library books.

sharing of books with Friends of the Library groups from October, 2012 until May, when the library shifted to a "floating collection" system. Smyth said she estimated about 250,000 books have been thrown out since October.

"What really bothers me is the incredible waste of taxpayers' money. We're in Fairfax County, for Heaven's sake, and our libraries and books are important to us."

"Every system has discards, I assure you they all have discarded books," said Sam Clay, Fairfax County's library director, during an interview with The Connection on Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Although the discard issue was not part of the beta plan discussion, Library Trustee Chair Willard Jasper said he was going to launch an "evaluation and communications committee that now will determine where we are right now and where we want to go."

He said David C.F. Ray would head the committee and that Susan C. Thorniley and Mary Petersen would also be on it, along with members of the public and library staff.

On Sept. 2, Tresa Schlecht, a member of the Friends of Tysons-Pimmit Library and one of five public speakers at the Library Board meeting on Sept. 11, sent an email to Smyth thanking her for investigating the matter:

"Apparently, there are several interpretations of the facts surrounding disposal of excessed books during the past year... I personally visited Tech Ops in Chantilly to request that we be allowed to pick up discarded books, especially children's books, before the books were placed in the dumpster by Tech Ops. I was told that my request would be considered, but that it was unlikely that TY Friends could obtain discarded books, as it would be unfair to let TY Friends have books simply because we were willing to pick the books up when other Friends groups could not."

... TY offered to share the books with any other Friends groups, or to use the discarded books as directed by FCPL. Thus, our request for books would not have required FCPL personnel time, other than an e-mail to me naming the time/dates for pick-ups, nor would it have involved any cost to the county. TY Friends was not granted permission to pick up discarded books at Tech Ops ... "

Library Trustees Suspend Beta Plan

FROM PAGE 5

makeover of the of the library system was necessary to deal not only with diminishing budgets, but also a digital world, where the Internet has replaced newsprint, e-books have supplanted paperbacks, and the latest films stream directly to your laptop.

Clay noted that in the past five years, the libraries' budget has been cut by 23 percent and library visits have declined about 10 percent. Circulation is down about 6 percent over that time.

"We have a responsibility to look at the future of libraries and find ways to evolve and compete," Clay said. "It's a constant question—'can you try to change too much?' The beta plan was not etched in stone. It was a test," Clay said. "And it seemed to me it was prudent, to say, 'let's try these things out. Let's look at things like appropriate staffing levels.'"

But certain measures in the beta plan, such as giving the county the flexibility to hire librarians who may not have a master's degree and reshaping the role of youth services librarians—infuriated employees and patrons and sparked a storm of protest.

Clay said he is committed to "starting from scratch," getting feedback and input from stakeholders and employees. "New beginnings are always good. We welcome everyone's input," Clay said.

Michele Endow of Herndon said she looked forward to participating in the outreach meetings. A lifelong library patron, Endow said she was disappointed that Fairfax County seemed to be losing ground when it came to keeping up with library innovations.

"I signed up for computer classes, and instead of computer terminals, the instructor had just a slide machine. These classes should be hands-on, with computer terminals for students."

BUT SOME library staff and members of the volunteer Friends of the Library groups remain skeptical of any real change as a result of outreach efforts.

"I'm glad they put this on hold," said Anita Ramos of Centreville. "But I won't be happy until this entire beta plan is dead. Dead, dead and dead. Fairfax libraries have played an important role for ethnic minorities and people who don't speak English. We need specialists who can provide the knowledge that the Internet doesn't."

Another longtime library advocate who asked not to be named



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Several George Mason Regional Library staff members as well as patrons gathered in the lobby of the George Mason Regional Library in Annandale Sept. 11 to watch the proceedings of the library board of trustees broadcast on a video monitor. More than 250 people attended the meeting. The main meeting room was so full that the library set up an overflow area in a hallway lobby.

because of possible job repercussions said much of the damage has already been done.

"Trashing thousands of perfectly good books, proposing the elimination of librarians, proposing the elimination of services for kids, proposing the downgrading of library staff both in literal grade and in the variety of depth of their work, sidelining the staff and Friends in the planning process—it is almost a posture of resignation and despair," he said. "There is already a ruptured trust and lack of confidence from almost every stakeholder group which makes it hard to envision a bright, hopeful new future for FCPL under this leadership."

"My 32 year commitment has been to produce the very best public library services in Fairfax County and the City of Fairfax," Clay said. "There's no way I would jeopardize that."

Clay said the criticism stings—"It is hard. ... I can't say this whole thing doesn't bother me"—but what he needs to focus on is helping navigate the future of the library "at an incredibly perilous time."

"Here's the bottom line for me. I want the Fairfax County Public Library to be so vital and so vibrant in five years that no one could imagine going a day without interacting with our library," Clay said.

SPORTS

Beckford Carries Episcopal Football Past Flint Hill

Senior running back runs for 312 yards, 5 touchdowns.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Episcopal head football coach Panos Voulgaris stood on the field at Flint Hill School and described Maroon running back Nigel Beckford following the team's season opener on Sept. 13.

"He's a Division I running back," Voulgaris said. "Someone's going to get real lucky when they get him at the next level."

While Beckford's future appears bright, the senior from Bridgeport, Conn., showed on Friday the Episcopal football team is lucky to have him now.

Beckford rushed for 312 yards and five touchdowns on 33 carries during Episcopal's 48-28 victory over Flint Hill. Ripping through the Huskies as part of the Maroon's no-huddle offense, Beckford scored on runs of 1, 5, 18, 1 and 36 yards.

"He's the best running back I've coached," Voulgaris said, "and as long as he stays disciplined, he can have a great year."

Episcopal's potent, up-tempo offense was on display early, as the Maroon marched 70 yards in eight plays during the game's opening drive. Beckford punched it in from 1 yard, capping the 2-minute, 20-second drive and giving Episcopal a 7-0 lead.

AFTER FLINT HILL'S ENSUING DRIVE stalled at the Episcopal 11-yard line, the Maroon drove 89 yards in five plays, taking just 66 seconds off the clock. Beckford's 5-yard touchdown gave Episcopal a 14-0 advantage.

"[This offense is] a new thing for me coming to Episcopal under Coach Voulgaris," Beckford said. "It's a fun offense. I'm new to the zone [scheme]. I'm a downhill-type runner, but ... [it has made me more] versatile."

Beckford's 18-yard touchdown run with less than 9 minutes left in the third quarter gave Episcopal its largest lead of the day at 28-6.

"I think he's a very good running back," Flint Hill head coach Tom Verbanic said. "I think he does a lot of things very well. ... To go along with that, we were out of position and against a back like that, when you put yourself out of position, you're in real trouble."

After falling behind by three scores, Flint Hill showed resiliency. A 28-yard pick-six by Jake Salewski and a two-point conversion cut the Episco-



Flint Hill running back Christian Martey carries the ball against Episcopal on Sept. 13.

pal lead to 28-14. Beckford scored on a 1-yard run to push the Maroon lead to 21 with 4:02 remaining in the third, but the Huskies quickly answered when Jonny Howard returned the ensuing kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown.

Flint Hill running back Christian Martey broke a 33-yard touchdown run with 10:17 left in the fourth quarter, pulling the Huskies within one score at 35-28, but Episcopal closed the contest with a pair of touchdowns, including a 68-yard interception return by defensive back Gary Williams, who picked off a pair of passes.

"We didn't do many things well today," Verbanic said. "... I just think that they came out and they outplayed us today. We fundamentally did not play very well. ... It was almost chaotic, to be very honest with you, which means that I didn't do a very good job, either."

Episcopal senior quarterback Will Hollister (Leesburg) completed 11 of 17 passes for 128 yards, one touchdown and one interception. He also rushed five times for 38 yards.

Maroon receiver Brian Chase (Baltimore) hauled in a 30-yard touchdown recep-

tion.

FLINT HILL'S MARTEY carried 24 times for 120 yards and a touchdown. Sophomore quarterback Justin Saleh completed 15 of 32 passes for 205 yards, one touchdown and two interceptions.

Episcopal will travel to face Bishop Ireton at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 21.

Flint Hill dropped to 1-1, including a 27-18 victory against Paul VI on Sept. 6. The Huskies will travel to face Collegiate at 4 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20.



The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won Maryland's August Cup. Pictured are: Coach Yuri Bogdanov, Jaz Bisset, Philip Bogdanov, Christopher Coppola, Hayden Evans, Michael Fields, Ian Gresenz, Jad Kanaan, Nico Karagounis, Luke Maloney, Luke Micale, Sami Qusrawi, Aidan Singer and Ryan Wiener.

McLean Galaxy Green Wins August Cup

The McLean Galaxy Green U11 boys' soccer team won a championship in Maryland's August Cup on Aug. 25.

The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against Loudoun Soccer Red, DC Stoddert Blue Metros and Maryland Rush Academy Blue. They went on to beat Braddock Road Youth Elite 4-0 in the finals. The team is coached by Yuri Bogdanov.



The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship over Labor Day Weekend. Pictured are: Coaches Blake and Davorin, Elsa Billingslea, Lynley Birchard, Isabel Butler, Raya Davidson, Alexa Gianoplus, Macey Jacobs, Maya Kanaan, Avery Perez, Lexie Perez, Gianna Russo, Teresa Ryan and Caitlyn Shumadine.

Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue Wins Title

The Great Falls Soccer Courage Blue U10 girls' soccer team won a championship in the Pride Division of the PWSI Toys for Tots Tournament over Labor Day Weekend. The team advanced to the finals undefeated by winning against McLean Gold, and two PWSI teams. They then beat McLean White U10 Girls 1-0 in a hard fought final championship game. The team is coached by Langley High School girls' soccer head coach Billy Blake and Coach Davorin Husazinovic.

McLean Football Beats Marshall

The McLean football team defeated Marshall 32-3 on Sept. 12. The victory improved the Highlanders' record to 1-1. Marshall dropped to 0-2.

McLean will travel to face Falls Church at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 20. Marshall will host Freedom at the same time.

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Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

Green Paradise, LLC trading as New Grand Mart, 6326 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church, VA 22044.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Beer and Wine off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Lydia Lee, Director

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

ABC LICENSE

Northern Virginia Deli and Restaurant Corp. trading as Deli Italiano, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, VA 22066. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises/Delivery Permit license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Yasser Baslios, Member

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC trading as Thaiphon, 1301 S. Joyce St, #D4, Arlington, VA 22202.

The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverages on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Vinai Kulnarong, Managing Member of V@P of Pentagon Row, LLC

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY

Robert Ray, III passed away February 6th, 2013 at 90 years of age. A funeral service will be held September 30th, 2013 at 2:45 PM at the Old Post Chapel on Ft. Myer, followed by burial at Arlington National Cemetery.

21 Announcements

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A Study in Contrasts



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The decision for yours truly to participate in a Phase 1 Study at N.I.H. or Johns Hopkins (depending upon availability and qualifications) discussed in last week's column has been put on hold, temporarily. It seems that my oncologist was thinking about me over the holiday weekend and called me on Wednesday following Labor Day to say he had a diagnostic idea concerning me: a 24-hour urine collection (a "Creatinine Clearance Study") which would provide a more accurate reading (than the regular lab work I have; from blood) of my kidney function. Although the logistics haven't been worked out – insofar as exactly how I get a sample to their lab – "the idea" as my father used to say, "has merit," so I happily agreed in principle and awaited a phone call from my oncology nurse to explain the dos and don'ts.

Apparently, there is yet one more chemotherapy drug – of recent vintage, and design, that my oncologist would like to try. He hasn't suggested its infusion previously, because like many drugs, it is filtered through the kidneys; and after four-and-a-half years of varying types of chemo/targeted therapy, (I.V. and oral) the damage to my kidneys – particularly as evidenced by my elevated creatinine level and below-average "glomerular filtration rate" (45 when 60 is normal) is and always has been cause for concern and caution. Collateral damage as I call it, is still damage, and renal failure/kidney dialysis is all it's cracked up to be: not good, so diagnosis-to-date, we've avoided the risk. I've always agreed that since trouble has already found me, I'm hesitant to look for it. Perhaps there will yet be a reward for our prudence and patience.

Per the over-the-phone instructions I eventually received, I submitted my 24-hour sample on Monday morning. At 10:11 that evening, my oncologist e-mailed my test results. Although the colors were not flying, the test results were nonetheless improved, sufficiently so that we are indeed going ahead with I.V. chemotherapy once again. Therefore, for the immediate future, anyway, N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins are "back-burnered." Alimta, the I.V. chemotherapy drug which I will be infusing, is my new best friend. A drug designed specifically for the treatment of patients with non-small cell lung cancer (me); every three weeks living forward, I will be infused at the Infusion Center. The entire process will take about two hours, I was told. "Two hours" I can do in my sleep, which sometimes is exactly what I do (the BarcaLoungers are extremely comfortable and the warm blankets are super cozy). So here we go, again. Nevertheless, it feels right.

If I had been accepted into a Study, my treatment would have been experimental and as much – if not more, about the next person. As it was explained to me by my oncologist, I would have been sort of a guinea pig, being injected with an experimental, non-FDA-approved medicine that previously had showed some promise when treating mice. I have no problem with this process and understand that such pursuits occasionally provide miraculous outcomes, and I'm certainly open to reconsidering should the opportunity present itself. However, going from a definite maybe at N.I.H. to an FDA-approved for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer drug seems like a no-brainer, even for me. Granted, I'm still a long way from anywhere, but it feels good to be back in the game, rather than being on the sidelines, sort of (with all due respect to N.I.H. and Johns Hopkins).

My future is now and thanks to this most recent diagnostic test, my treatment with Alimta can also be now; Friday the 20th, actually.

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

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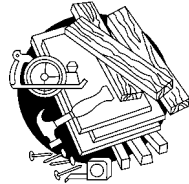
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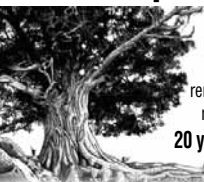
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