

Vienna's Best Friends

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

Ryan Odell, of Vienna, with
his 4-month-old dog Jet.

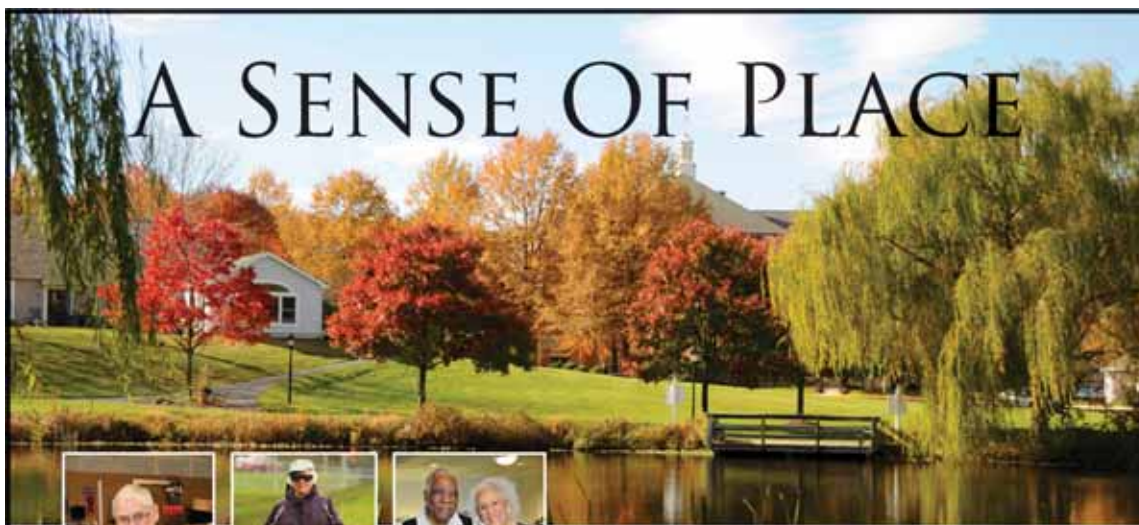

Vienna
Mayor
M. Jane
Seeman
Dies

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Secrets
of 911

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A Community Grieves for a Much-loved Citizen

Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman succumbs to cancer.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Vienna Mayor M. (Madena) Jane Seeman, diagnosed with Stage 4 lung cancer in spring of 2013, died Sunday, Feb. 23, surrounded by family. Her passing was mourned by residents, businesspeople, young adults taught by her and all those whose lives were touched by her presence.

Seeman continued as mayor through chemotherapy treatments since her diagnosis in June. Four days before her death, Seeman attended a Vienna Rotary Club meeting.

Visiting hours have been set for Thursday, Feb. 27, from 1 to 4 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m. at Money and King Funeral Home, 171 Maple Avenue W, Vienna. A funeral will be held on Friday, Feb. 28, at 2 p.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park Street NE, to be immediately followed by a burial at Flint Hill Cemetery and reception at Vienna Presbyterian. In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations be made in Mayor Seeman's memory to the Rotary Club of Vienna, Inc. or the American Cancer Society.

In a January interview with the Vienna Connection, Seeman expressed her plans for retirement and reflected on her tenure as mayor, preschool teacher, gardener and library volunteer.

A Vienna resident since 1968, Seeman was active in the Ayr Hill Garden Club and Patrick Henry Library as a volunteer. She taught preschool in Vienna.

It was 1996 when M. Jane Seeman stepped in to fill her husband's unexpired term on the Council after his death. She ran and won seats on the Council in 1997 and 1999. When then-mayor Charles Robinson approached Seeman about running for mayor in 2000, she had some trepidation.

"I was thinking I wasn't capable at all," Seeman said. "I felt as if I swallowed a rock."

"If you really believe in something, you have to step forward and do it. I believe in Vienna and that's what this was all about."

On Jan. 6, Mayor Seeman publicly announced that she was retiring from politics when her term



Mayor M. Jane Seeman, election day, 2012.



Black bunting drapes the Vienna Town Hall in memory of Mayor M. Jane Seeman.

Mayor J. Jane Seeman with granddaughter Hannah Seeman Colbert of Vienna.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

expires in June 2014. In her final Connection interview, Seeman said she is leaving as mayor with no regrets. Perhaps, Seeman's words take on deeper meaning now. "I have faith in the people of Vienna. They'll make sure the town is run the right way."

"It's time."

At Tuesday night's Town Council meeting, Seeman's empty chair was draped with a white ribbon and a yellow rose. "Our beloved colleague passed away," said Councilwoman Carey Sienicki. "We are privileged to have known such a fine person who will live forever in the heart of Vienna."

Reflections on the life of M. (Madena) Jane Seeman

Ron Balderson, President, Rotary

Club of Vienna

"This is such a great loss to the members of our club and those who loved and admired her."

The Rotary Club of Vienna was privileged to have Mayor Jane as an honorary member.

As with everything she did, she served with a passion; whether it was arranging the bell ringing at Christmas time to raise money for the Salvation Army or volunteering to help with security on the bike path for Viva! Vienna. She was serving the club and thus community charities Rotary supports with the funds raised.

Rotarians have a motto, which is, 'Service Above Self' and Mayor Jane exemplified our motto. She will leave a void in our club, our town and in our hearts."

James Cudney, PostNet owner, Vienna Rotary

"To me, Mayor Jane personified Vienna. Big town smarts, small town charm."

Not only was she intimately involved in helping to shape the image and lifestyle of our town as a strong political leader, she was unselfish and truly gave back to the community.

My friend Jane was actively involved in community, business, and service groups, yet she was always humble and caring. She helped spearhead major events like Viva! Vienna! and the Halloween Parade, yet had time to volunteer thousands of hours to the library.

She has left an indelible mark on our community. Her warm and friendly presence will be felt forever."

Bob McCahill, President, Northeast Vienna Citizens Association

"Jane was an extraordinary person and an inspiration. Her selfless interest in serving others made Vienna a better place to live. She will be sorely missed and long remembered by those who had the

good fortune to know her.

On a personal note, in the 1980s Jane was 'Miss Jane' to our children, who took tumbling/exercise classes led by her at the Community Center. She was always so interested in them when we'd visit the library for books, too."

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)

"Jane was such a classy lady and a great leader. I identify her so strongly with the Town of Vienna. She knew absolutely everybody and had a kind word for all. Her graceful and ready smile is what I will remember best."

Sally Recinos, President, Ayr Hill Garden Club

"One of my favorite recollections of Jane was working with her and Maud Robinson at The Bike Trail Garden, which Ayr Hill Garden Club has designed and maintained for 32 years. Jane was dressed in her club t-shirt and had newspaper plastic bags covering her arms as we pulled poison ivy growing among the bushes. It perfectly captured the essence of Vienna as small, involved and dedicated small town."

The mayor and a town council member weeding and digging is not a sight one would see in many towns."

Bob and Tracey Zillian, Vienna residents

"Here is my favorite Jane story.

When our daughter was in elementary school, we took a group of her friends to Amphora for dinner before her sleepover. Jane was there having dinner with a friend. When Jane found out that we were celebrating Ashley's birthday, she stopped by our table to wish Ashley a happy birthday. Ashley's friends were so impressed that she knew the mayor and we were touched, as always, by Jane's kindness. It has been a privilege to be her neighbor and to have her as the mayor of our town."

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11)

"Jane was a partner in local government and a gracious presence in Northern Virginia. I counted Jane as a friend. Her passing creates a void in the Town of Vienna that will be difficult to fill. Her presence will be missed."

Cutler Dawson, President and CEO of Navy Federal Credit Union

"The passing of Mayor Seeman comes as a great loss to the town of Vienna and to Navy Federal Credit Union. She was a joy to work with—always in a cooperative spirit—and was, most of all, a

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Flowers, Herbs, Vegetables and More

Vienna plans to create a community learning garden.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Someday, spring will come again. And when it does, the Town of Vienna will be busy creating a new garden for its residents.

Previously, the town and School Board established a 30x100-foot garden, just for school use, at Vienna Elementary. Now, the Town Council has given a thumbs-up for a new garden to be built on the same site.

"We'd like to expand what we have and create a community learning garden," said Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Salgado. "It's a volunteer project, and we hope this site will provide two or three Scout projects a year. It's also a great way to bring people together for the community."

In September 2013, the town received a \$4,000 Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program grant to bring water to the garden. The money will partially fund an underground water line.

THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT will develop the new garden, which will be fenced and will be comprised mainly of raised beds hosting different types of gardens.

"We hope to break ground in late March, and we're asking for advice from the garden clubs on what to plant," said Salgado. "The goal for this project is to provide an interactive display of the various types of gardens you can have in Vienna, no matter how large or how little space you have."

Bob McCahill, president of the Northeast Vienna Citizens Association met with Salgado and others last fall to discuss possible kinds of gardens to plant there. For example, butterfly or pollinator gardens would be planted with particular flowers and herbs to attract bees and butterflies to pollinate them.

Gardens such as these may be comprised of a variety of flowering plants that provide food for monarch butterflies, black swallowtails, native bees and more. A bee box may also be placed in the garden.

Straw-bale gardens are being considered, as well. Conditioned straw bales would be placed in rows or another shape to create the bed for planting. And herbs including rosemary, chives, basil, oregano, sage, thyme, parsley and dill could be grown in raised, garden boxes.

Those types of boxes would also make it easier for wheelchair-bound people to garden. The boxes would be between 24 and 32 inches tall and wouldn't require excessive bending to maintain their contents.

A mixture of beds would give the garden a homey feel, with each bed having a different focus, such as plants, vegetables or flowers. And an arbor entwined with native vines could serve as the entrance to welcome people to the garden.

Different types of paths – such as permeable pavers/bricks, mulch, flagstone, fieldstone or porous concrete – leading to the various parts of the garden would also add interest. And porous concrete works particularly well in handicap-accessible gardens.

"We're excited; it's going to be great," said McCahill. "We'll grow native crops and ornamental plantings that grow in our climate, and we'll also experiment with some things. A learning wall could



An example of raised garden boxes.



Site plan of Vienna's new, community learning garden.

"The goal for this project is to provide an interactive display of the various types of gardens you can have in Vienna, no matter how large or how little space you have."

— Parks and Recreation Director
Cathy Salgado

be created along part of the fence. We could make one with 4x8 plywood boards with PVC pipes or gutters on them so children could grow things."

VOLUNTEERS AND TOWN STAFF would maintain the garden. "We envision students, citizens and garden clubs participating in the planting," said McCahill. "The garden plot will be pie-shaped, an estimated 44x30x90 feet. The fencing is for security and to deter deer."

"I think this project will be a great collaboration between the Parks and Recreation Department, Northeast Vienna Citizens Association and other community-service organizations," added Salgado. "It will be something that will grow over the years and can change and evolve."

Secrets of 911

Police agencies refuse to release audio from 911 calls, prompting questions about transparency.

BY MICHAEL LEE
POPE
THE CONNECTION



MICHAEL LEE POPE/THE CONNECTION

When city officials in Alexandria released the audio of a 911 call in a high-profile murder case, many people interpreted the move as a step forward for transparency in a commonwealth known

for opaque government. But then reality set in. The release was a mistake. The city attorney's office failed to consult with the police department, which carefully guards its privilege to withhold information from the public.

"It was a clerical error that the 911 call was released," said Crystal Nosal, spokeswoman for the Alexandria Police Department. "We didn't waive the privileges under FOIA, so they are not going to release it again."

Across Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information and documents available in other states. One key example of the lack of transparency is audio from 911 calls, which are regularly released in most states across America. But not in Virginia, which is one of the reasons why the commonwealth got a failing grade for transparency from the State Integrity Investigation in 2012. Advocates for open government say audio from 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is — or isn't — working on their behalf.

"If anything, it seems the more public input that can be sought on this the better, and the more information the public has the better," said Emily Grannis, a legal fellow at Arlington-based Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press. "This is a scary kind of case, and it's a scary kind of case to have open and the more the public can know about it the better the public will be equipped to be able to help police investigate."

POLICE AGENCIES in Virginia don't see it that way. The Virginia Freedom of Information Act gives them sweeping

Across Northern Virginia, police agencies routinely deny access to basic information such as audio from 911 calls.

power to withhold documents and information, a power that is unprecedented in any state in America. And even though part of the law talks about public records being presumed open, Virginia police officials tend to view them as presumed closed because they have the power to prevent the public from having access.

"A lot of the time, what you get with 911 tapes is someone calling in is someone who is afraid of being identified," said Dana Schrad, executive director of the Virginia Association of Chiefs of Police. "They want some kind of understanding that they are not going to have their name released."

Advocates for open government disagree with that perspective. They say 911 calls should be available to the public so people know how their government is working on their behalf. Instead of denying access to public records altogether, which is how Alexandria is now handling subsequent requests for the 911 audio in the Ruthanne Lodato murder, those who support public access to government documents say the information could be partially redacted to protect sensitive information. But that's not how the Alexandria city government is handling the situation. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request from Connection Newspapers, the city attorney's office said the record was being "entirely withheld" even though it was already released to the Washington Post.

"They can't discriminate from one media source to the next," said Ginger Stanley, executive director of the Virginia Press Association. "And they can re-

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Kids and Healthy Relationships

A free, parent workshop, "How to Talk to Your Kids about Healthy Relationships," will be held Wednesday, Feb. 26, from 7:30-9 p.m., at the Club Phoenix Teen Center, 120 Cherry Street SE.

This workshop is designed to help parents understand what a healthy teen relationship looks like and the warning signs of an unhealthy relationship. Preregister by contacting Tammy Funk at 703-255-5736 or tfunk@viennava.gov.

Hunter Mill District Summit

The public is invited to attend the Hunter Mill District Community Summit hosted by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). It's set for Saturday, March 1, from 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m., at the Frying Pan Park Visitors Center, 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Slated are discussions and presentations by local officials and Fairfax County agencies, with an emphasis on the Hunter Mill District.

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911 Controversy

FROM PAGE 4

dact parts of the call they think might jeopardize the investigation, but they aren't supposed to redact the whole thing."

IN VIRGINIA police agencies have the ability to withhold a variety of information from the public, including "documents and information, including complaints, court orders, memoranda, notes, diagrams, maps, photographs, correspondence, reports, witness statements, and evidence." Police agencies regularly use this part of the Freedom of Information Act to prevent the public to having free access to information.

"I think they are exercising their discretion too broadly," said Grannis. "This sort of information should be made public by default, particularly in this situation where they have already released the tape and it has already been made public, there really cannot be a justification for withholding it from future requesters."

Alexandria police officials say the justification is that the transparency was a mistake — that they never intended on sharing the audio with the public. Perhaps most importantly, police leaders underscored, they did not ever waive their privileges to withhold information from the public. Across Northern Virginia, government officials say the public's right to know is tempered by the government's desire for secrecy. That means that the presumption is that 911 calls associated with criminal complaints should be secret.

"If there are any kinds of criminal charges tied into a case or if it's an ongoing investigation or if it's ever been part of an investigation, then it's exempt from release under FOIA and can only be released under a court order," said Erik Daniel, custodian of records for Fairfax County Department of Public Safety. "Once there's a criminal incident associated with a record, then it's exempt from FOIA."

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Public Notice—Convention to Select an 11th Congressional District Republican Nominee for the U.S. House of Representatives and a Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee

Republicans residing in Northern Virginia's 11th Congressional District will meet in a Convention on May 10, 2014, at West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA, to select a Republican nominee for U.S. House of Representatives from the 11th Congressional District; and to elect a Chairman for the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee.

Any person seeking the nomination for U.S. Representative from the 11th Congressional District must notify, in writing, Mr. Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count), and at the same time convey to Mr. Tamargo a non-refundable filing fee of \$1,500.00, payable by check or money order, made payable to the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee. Further details are specified in the Official Call for the 11th Congressional District Convention; this Official Call can be found on the 11th Congressional District Committee's website (www.vagop11.org) Similar information pertaining to the submission and consideration of any Committee resolutions is also found in the Official Call.

Any person seeking election as Chairman of the 11th Congressional District Republican Committee must notify, in writing, Mauricio J. Tamargo at 6448 Lake Meadow Drive, Burke, Virginia, 22015, prior to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 25, 2014 (postmark shall not count). Further details are specified in the Official Call

for the 11th Congressional District Republican Convention, which is found on the Committee's website (www.vagop11.org).

Any Republican who is unsure as to whether he or she resides in the 11th Congressional District should consult his or her Commonwealth of Virginia Voter Card. If the notation "CONG 11" appears on the card, he or she is eligible to register and vote at the 11th District Convention.

Delegates to the Convention must register through their local county or city Republican Committees. Those 11th District Republicans living in Prince William County (PWC) will register through the Prince William County Republican Committee (www.pwcgop.org/wordpress). The PWC deadline for Registration is March 1st. Those having questions about this process can call 703-680-7388. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax County (FC) will register through the Fairfax County Republican Committee (www.fairfaxgop.org). The FC deadline for registration is March 15th. Those having questions about this process can call 703-766-4467.

At this time, no registration procedures have been established for those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City. Those 11th District Republicans living in Fairfax City should monitor the Fairfax City Republican Committee's website (www.fairfaxcitygop.com) to obtain instructions for filing as a delegate to the 11th District Convention.

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Budget Process: Get Involved

Chairman gives blueprint for community engagement in Fairfax County budget process.

BY SHARON BULOVA



In Fairfax County, when we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities and needs of the community. At the center of this open and transparent process is community engagement. It is critical that we have the community at the table with us when we are considering changes to the budget that the County Executive released for advertisement at our Board Meeting on Feb. 25. Below are some opportunities to learn about the budget, ask questions and make suggestions during the months of March and April. I look forward to hearing from you.

❖ **Ask Fairfax Chat:** The Ask Fairfax Chat is a great opportunity for residents to submit questions about the County's proposed Fiscal 2015 budget directly to County Executive Ed Long. The chat takes place online from 2-3 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 28. To submit questions and join the chat visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/askfairfax.

❖ **Track BOS Budget Questions:** You can view the answers to budget questions asked by the Board of Supervisors throughout the budget process at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/qa_search.htm.

❖ **Sign up to speak:** All public hearings take place in the Board Auditorium at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia 22035) and are open to the public. To sign up to speak at a hearing, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speaker_bos.htm or call 703-324-3151.

❖ **Important public hearing dates:**
 Effective Tax Rate Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 8, 2014
 Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 6 p.m., April 8, 2014
 Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 9, 2014
 Public Hearing - Board Auditorium - Govt. Center - 3 p.m., April 10, 2014

BUDGET FORUMS AND TOWN MEETINGS will be hosted by Supervisors and community organizations throughout the county. Below is a list of currently scheduled meetings. Information on additional forums, as well as a current full budget calendar, will be listed in the coming weeks at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

❖ **Hunter Mill District Meeting,** Frying Pan Park, 2709 W. Ox Road, Herndon — Sat-

urday, March 1, 9 a.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls — Wednesday, March 5, 7 p.m.

❖ **Braddock District Budget Meeting,** Kings Park Library, Braddock Hall, 9000 Burke Lake Rd, Burke — Wednesday, March 12, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Herndon Town Council,** Herndon Town Council Chambers, 765 Lynn Street, Herndon — Thursday, March 13, 7 p.m.

❖ **Mason District Budget Meeting,** TBD — Tuesday, March 18 - 7 p.m.

❖ **Providence District Budget Meeting,** Dunn Loring Admin Center, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring — Tuesday, March 18, 7 p.m.

❖ **Dranesville District Budget Meeting,** McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean — Thursday, March 20, 7 p.m.

❖ **Lee District Budget Meeting,** Franconia Government Center, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria — Wednesday, March 26, 7:30 p.m.

❖ **Braddock Town Hall,** Robinson Secondary School, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax — Tuesday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

I hope you will take the time to learn about and participate in this year's budget process. You can contact my office directly by calling 703-324-2321 or emailing chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Oakcrest Community Hopes for Approval

To the Editor:

Disappointment was the general sentiment of the Oakcrest community when we heard that no action was to be taken by the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 11 concerning our SEA.

However, we appreciate the responsibility displayed by Supervisor Hudgins in her motion to defer, because we understand the importance of a thorough, fair review of our application.

There has been an intense level of community involvement in this SEA process, coordinated by Supervisor Hudgins. Oakcrest met with the surrounding community in a series of well attended meetings with the Hunter Mill Land Use Committee from January through March of 2013. We met directly with representatives of the Hunter Mill Defense League and had discussions with their traffic consultant in order to engage in healthy dialogue about our amendment proposal. From

September 2013 through January 2014, Oakcrest participated in a special community outreach committee formed by Supervisor

Hudgins to continue reviewing and analyzing options. County DOT and/or VDOT were present at each of those meetings. During this process, at least 22 alternatives were studied. None of the alternatives mitigates traffic and improves existing conditions as well as the proposed traffic signal outlined in our SEA.

We want to publicly address our opponents' latest proposal. A full movement school entrance onto Hunter Mill Road has been extensively evaluated and rejected by both VDOT and FCDOT.

Conversely, the Crowell Road entrance shown in our SEA application has been deemed to be safe and meets all applicable standards. County staff has also concluded that the installation of the traffic signal mitigates any traffic generated by our School and substantially improves a currently failing intersection. Finally, despite voices to the contrary, our SEA proposes no change to the Comprehensive Plan or the existing zoning.

The persistent focus on alternatives that do not fix the critical

intersection reflect a view held by some that an improved intersection somehow leads to future redevelopment on nearby land. This speculation hijacks the earnest discussion of substantive issues and unnecessarily obscures the uncontroverted facts.

An approval of our SEA will enhance the Hunter Mill district, both by alleviating traffic congestion and by giving it a beautiful school, with a design that compliments the surrounding area and a mission of service to young people, families and its surrounding community.

As we approach the fourth anniversary of our SE (March 23,

2010), we find ourselves waiting rather anxiously to see if we can continue serving the families of Fairfax County. Oakcrest is a small school, with deep and profound ties to its current families and a commitment to service.

We remain confident that the process is fair and objective and that the Board of Supervisors will make a correct, informed decision. We eagerly hope that this process will end on Feb. 25 with a resolution that objectively recognizes the hard work, good faith, and prayers we have invested in these years.

Mary T. Ortiz, Ph.D.
 Head of School

Bus Route Disputed

We live near the newly established Fairfax Connector Bus 432 route to the Spring Hill metro station. The bus will begin running when the Silver Line starts operating in a few months. This one-way bus route will run along residential streets in Fairfax County and the Town of Vienna. A portion of the route connects Old

Courthouse Road and Beulah Road via Creek Crossing Road, East Street NE, and Church Street NE. Last May, 95% of residents of these three streets and contiguous side streets signed a petition to the County requesting a route adjustment. Among many alternatives acceptable to us, we proposed

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WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 5

Vienna Candidates Filing Deadline

Tuesday, March 4, is the filing deadline for candidates in the May 6 Town of Vienna election. This year, voters will elect a mayor and three Town Council members for two-year terms that begin July 1. Candidates must be qualified to vote for and hold the office sought, be a Virginia resident for one year immediately preceding the election

and a town resident by the time of filing. Candidates are required to file specific documents to appear on the ballot. The information packet is available at the State Board of Election's Website, www.sbe.virginia.gov, or call 1-800-552-9745 and ask for the Election Services Division.

Nominate Top Volunteers

Town of Vienna invites Vienna-area residents to nominate an outstanding volunteer

by March 3 in recognition of his or her service to the Town. These volunteers will be honored at a special ceremony Tuesday, April 8, at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

Nomination forms for outstanding community volunteers are available at the Vienna Town Hall, 127 Center Street S, online at www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=850 and in the January and February Town Newsletters.

Submit completed forms to the Mayor's Office. For more information, call 703-255-6311, e-mail mayor@viennava.gov or visit www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=850.

Recycle Oil, Car Batteries

The next quarterly recycling day for used motor oil, antifreeze and car batteries is Saturday, March 1, from 8 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill Street NE (entrance at the dead end of the street) in Vienna. This service of the Public Works Department provides citizens a convenient and environmentally responsible way to dispose of vehicle waste products. For more information, call 703-255-6380.

60-75% Off Pottery
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703-573-5025
Open 7 days a week
Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com

Happy St. Patrick's Day!

You've heard about St. Patrick who drove the snakes out of Ireland, but did you know about St. Patrick, who saved the kittens out of shelters? Now's your chance to find out! Join Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation for a St. Patrick's Day celebration, and learn how you can help save lives.



- ♣ Foster Crew Members will answer questions about the most important thing you can do to help.
- ♣ Adoption Center Coordinators will provide information about volunteering at PetSmart centers.
- ♣ Our Transport Coordinator will explain how you can help with little more than some time and a car.

Join us at Lost Dog Café-McLean Saturday, March 15, 3-7 p.m. Enjoy snacks & soft drinks while learning how you can help. 1690 Anderson Road, McLean (near Safeway) www.lostdogandcatrescue.org



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Former IRS Attorney
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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

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Get Tickets Now!
Friday, March 7th, 2014
6:30pm – 11:30pm
The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner

<p>Tickets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$95 Per person \$175 Per Couple Special Overnight Room Rate of \$119 	<p>Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Open Bar • Dinner Buffet • Casino • Dancing 	<p>Live and Silent Auction Prizes Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekend Get-a-ways • Dinners at Award Winning Restaurants • Hotel, Dinner and Limo Packages • Pro-Sporting Event Tickets • For More Information Visit our Website www.bgcgw.org/fairfax/casino-night
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Guests receive funny money and a bidder number
Use your winnings from Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, Craps towards raffle tickets for fabulous prizes. The more chips you accumulate at the gaming tables the better your chances to win GREAT RAFFLE prizes at end of evening.

Benefit the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

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PET CONNECTION



My daughter, Carrie, likes to dress up our dog Roxy in princess clothes.
— ANDREA L. MANCUSO, VIENNA



Love 15! Maddie likes to play tennis. She is an 8-year-old cock-a-poo.
— HOWARD AND SHARON LEWIS, VIENNA



This is our dog, Fido, pictured shortly before Dec. 14, 2013, when he reached the end of a long and happy trail. He was 13 1/2. He is pictured sleeping peacefully on his favorite bed. We hiked many places with Fido. Particularly on the W&OD trail in Vienna, Nottoway Park, and Shenandoah national park. Fido was present at many Vienna little league games, when our son, Alex played.
ANDY RUDIN, VIENNA



Our rescue granddog, Lu Lu enjoys the view while visiting Vienna.
ENID AND DON PARK, VIENNA



Roxy's favorite place to sleep is in the clean laundry basket.
— ANDREA L. MANCUSO, VIENNA



Georgia is a rescue we adopted about a year ago in anticipation of our impending empty nest. She is approximately 5-years-old and only barks in her sleep. We walk on the W&OD every morning and afternoon and I refer to this time as 'Georgia TV'... there is so much to see. We have come to love Georgia's worldview of enjoying the sights and smells of the great outdoors.
— JANE AND MARK EULER, VIENNA

COMMUNITY Spay & Neuter FREE WORKSHOP

- Getting cats and kittens spayed/neutered and vaccinated FREE!
- Detering unwanted cats from your yard
- Accessing free and low-cost spay/neuter and vet services
- Practical aspects of trap-neuter-return
- Be part of the humane solution!
- Meet other concerned animal lovers & learn how you can help cats & kittens in your neighborhood.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter
4500 West Ox Road,
Fairfax, VA 2203
703-830-1100, ext. 2
fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/trapneuterreturn.htm

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

Adopt Donate Volunteer

lostdogandcatrescue.org

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Our dog, Roxy, joined the Halloween theme of Star Wars, as Princess Leia with Carrie and Tony Skywalker.
— ANDREA L. MANCUSO, VIENNA

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LETTERS

Bus Route Disputed

FROM PAGE 6

routing the bus to continue up Old Courthouse to Beulah, maintaining service for our neighbors on Old Courthouse and Beulah Road who want the bus. Our repeated requests have been denied.

We support public transportation, but we are against the portion of a route that uses our neighborhood as a bypass and, probably, a free parking lot since parking was not constructed at the Tysons stations. Our community doesn't need this bus because, being close to Maple Avenue, we already have bus access on MetroBus 2T or could walk to the metro station faster than the 40-minute ride on Bus 432 will deliver us. This bus is built to carry about 45 people per trip and if it runs by empty, other people that want and need the bus are losing out.

For two years our community has voiced opposition to this part of the route, and we documented it by submitting a petition signed by 450 people who live here. Superficial route analysis and highly subjective rationale form the basis for discarding other options. Generalizations like "we prefer that buses not turn left" or "that's not ideal" are tossed our

way while officials fail to show us, in any objective way, why we are getting this bus. At every turn, we hear from FCDOT that no compromise is possible because other communities' views are too important to ignore. Wait a minute! Don't the 450 people in our community matter? We formally signed the petition requesting a route change, but have been dismissed by County staff and elected officials. Why do FCDOT and Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins insist on putting this bus on our streets when other options are available?

Furthermore, the costs of this route, compared to alternatives, are prohibitive and cannot be disregarded. FCDOT's projected ridership of 12 people per trip, or 120 per day, would contribute about \$37,000 per year in revenue on costs of \$170,000, which doesn't include the \$2 million cost of bringing this part of the route into minimal compliance with ADA regulations. Another route considered, but discarded, would draw 312 people per day according to FCDOT. Fairfax County taxpayers deserve respect, and throwing away money to cram a money-pit bus on residential streets in the

face of very strong community opposition is very hard to understand. Obviously, this bus route is a drain on resources. It almost sounds as if FCDOT is rewarded for miles traveled by near-empty buses rather than reprimanded for selecting suboptimal bus routes that lose lots of money.

Our Supervisors must remember that they were elected to represent our interests, not those of the Tysons developers. This bus doesn't make sense for us and we are on record that we won't use it. Something has gone wrong in this process and it's time for our elected officials to stick up for us. Putting it bluntly, we are being used and abused, as planners eye our street as a source of free parking places and a cut-through for excess traffic. Supervisor Hudgins has promised us a Work Session in March with FCDOT to further try to provide explanation for this choice and we sincerely hope to receive real facts and numbers that support this routing.

Lynn G. Quinn, Vienna
Treasurer, Creek Crossing
Civic Association

Beverly Jurenko, Vienna
President, Creek Crossing
Civic Association



PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the
McLean Community Center's
FY 2016 Programs**
Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2016, which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to:
george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org



FROM IRELAND, FIRST U.S. TOUR
CALADH NUA
SATURDAY, MAR. 1 AT 8 P.M.

QR code

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1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

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WWW.ALDENTHEATRE.ORG

Don't Thank Me

To the Editor:

To all the neighbors (yes, neighbors, plural) on the south side of Old Courthouse Road between Course Street and Pine Valley whose sidewalks I shoveled today:

Don't thank me, I didn't do it for you. I did it for all the kids - including mine - who walk to school, or who would, if only there were a safe pathway to walk. I know the sidewalks probably don't seem important to you; after all, once you cleared your driveway, you're pretty much good, going straight from your car into your house through the garage or carport. You may even think the sidewalks aren't even your responsibility, being public property and all. (You're wrong on both counts. They are critical, and they are your responsibility, and if you're not physically able to clear them yourself, there's a teen job bank number you can call (703-255-6360) that will match you with a youngster to clear your sidewalks for a nominal fee.) Maybe you don't realize how hard it is to trudge through that foot-deep snow, which is thigh-high to a 6-year-old, or how much more difficult it is for them to have to wear snow boots to school, and carry sneak-

ers to change into (because those are required for gym class and recess, etc.). Extra items which, incidentally, the teachers have made sure to let us know they don't appreciate because of the time it takes to get a bunch of 5- and 6-year-olds into and out of all that gear.

So why not just drive my kids to school while there's all this snow? Heck, I'd love to! I'm as lazy as the next guy, by nature, and I don't really relish walking in cold, snowy weather myself. Unfortunately, the County's horrendous inability to plow anything but a barely-passable two-traffic lane to Westbriar has made passage to the school by car a complete nightmare. The Kiss & Ride line, normally a good 30+ minute wait, is now twice that long because of all the parents who have to drive their kids rather than walk, and that line essentially stretches almost half the way back to my house, making the drive seem a bit silly since the walk takes a whopping 6 minutes. Of course, I'd be happy to park on the school block and walk in from there to get my kids, but unfortunately there are no parking spaces anymore (because that's where the County left all the snow), not that the absence of cleared spaces stops people from just parking there anyway, usually

half out into the already narrow driving lanes. Assuming I wanted to just park in a snow bank like so many others do, I'd be putting my kids at considerable risk with all the excess traffic, trying to access my car without having to dig through a snow bank to get to it. But that's all rather beside the point. We should be able to walk to school. It's three blocks.

The weather this week will be 50+ degrees most days. We don't need to be adding to the traffic that already makes the route to and from school hazardous, especially when there are people who live much farther away who genuinely need to drive. The rest of us neighbors all managed to clear at least a foot-wide path on the sidewalks in front of our houses. We did it because we know it's not all about us and how busy we are or how much we hate shoveling or how much it would cost to hire a teen to do it for us. We did it because it's safest for the kids who walk to and from school. It's safer for the people who walk their dogs, and need to not do it in the street. It's safer for our mail carriers and delivery people, and anyone else who might need to use the sidewalk. And we did it because it's the right thing to do.

Mickey Skelton
Vienna

CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 26- FRIDAY/FEB. 28

"Here and There: Paintings of the Brogue and Beyond." Paintings on exhibit by artist Jill Banks. Katie's Coffee at the Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760C Walker Road, Great Falls. www.JillBanks.com.

Fine Arts Photography Exhibition. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Great Falls artist Richard Suib depicts many scenes from Venice, Florence, Slovenia, and Russia.

SATURDAY/MARCH 1

Ballroom Dance. 8-9 p.m. Merengue lesson, 9-11:30 p.m. dance. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Live music from Helmut & Andre playing favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, no partner or experience is needed. \$20 for the evening. 703-759-2685 or www.colvinrun.org.

Concerts at the Alden. 3 p.m. The McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. A classical music concert cosponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and The Alden.

SUNDAY/MARCH 2

Jazz Sunday. Special music will be offered at both the 9:00 and 11:15 morning services including Come Sunday by Duke Ellington and the spiritual, Ain-a that Good News. All are welcome for jazz and worship. St. John's Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, one mile east of the beltway at Exit 44. For more information, please call 703-356-4902, or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

Free Band Concert. 7 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. Admission is free and seating is available on a first-come-first-serve basis. Space is limited. Selections include music from famous Broadway musicals including George Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera, John Kander's Chicago and Harold Arlen and Yip Harburg's Wizard of Oz. For more information, call 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennacommunityband.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 4

Great Falls United Methodist Church Annual Shrove Pancake & Sausage Dinner. 5:30-7:30 p.m. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Free- no reservations necessary. Donations accepted for Society of St. Andrew's food gleaning programs.

Northern Virginia Bead Society Program Monthly Meeting. 7 p.m. Their purpose is to encourage members of the community to appreciate and participate in the visual arts through beads. They endeavor to provide a network for education opportunities and the exchange of ideas about beads and techniques in beading. www.nvbs.org.

Great Falls Senior Center Presents Distinguished Scholar Mark W. Cannon. 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. St. Catherine of Sienna Catholic Church, 1020 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Cannon has lectured at more than 70 institutions in 18 countries. He has held high positions in each of the three branches of government.

Hunger Relief Pancake Dinner. 5-7 p.m. The Hunger Church, Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Annual free pancake dinner with monetary donations to directly benefit the Society of St. Andrew (Sosa), a national nonprofit hunger-relief



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

From left: Brian Keith MacDonald as Cosme McMoon and Lee Mikeska Gardner as Florence Foster Jenkins in 'Souvenir: A Fantasia on the life of Florence Foster Jenkins' at 1st Stage Now playing Friday, Saturday, Sunday through March 2.

FRIDAY/MARCH 7

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington's (BGGW) Fairfax County Region Inaugural Casino Night Fundraiser. 6:30-11:30 p.m. The Ritz-Carlton, 1700 Tysons Blvd, McLean.

The Fairfax Regional Board will bring a bit of friendly Vegas-like fun to support the programming for the region's two Clubs. Unlike the money and chips found in real casinos, Casino Night guests will receive funny money and a bidder number. They will use their winnings from casino-favorites such as Black Jack, Texas Hold 'Em, and Craps to bid on fabulous raffle prizes. The more chips players accumulate at the gaming tables the better their chances to win great raffle prizes at end of evening

The Fairfax Region of BGGW provides a safe haven for more than 580 young people between the ages of 5 and 18 years old at two sites: Culmore Character Club and Murrigate Village Club. The clubs serve poor children, providing support for homework and academic success, life skills training, character building and fun. Ninety-Two percent of the Clubs' members qualify for free lunch.

Casino Night will not only be a night of fun and excitement, it will be a thrilling opportunity to support youth in the Fairfax community who need us most. The evening includes Ritz-Carlton dinner buffet, open bar, casino games, raffle, dancing, DJ and more, for \$95 a person or \$175 per couple. Special overnight room rate of \$119 available.

Register now. To purchase tickets for Casio Night & and more information about Fairfax Region of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington visit: www.bggcw.org/fairfax/casino-night/

ministry that rescues 30-35 million pounds of fresh, nutritious, excess produce each year that would otherwise go to waste. Kids will enjoy crafts and decorating their pancakes. Sponsored by the United Methodist Men of The Hunger Church. <http://www.TheHungerChurch.org>

Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Join the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) for their first in 2014 schedule of Lunch n' Life events. It includes lunch and dessert followed by Ric Edelman, who appears on stage frequently, talking to thousands of people every year, and is widely acknowledged as an entertaining and informative speaker. Visit <http://scov.org/calendar.htm> or call the office at 703-281-0538. \$10 per person. Reservation and prepayment required by Wednesday, March 5.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 5

Ash Wednesday Services at St. John's Episcopal Church. 7-11 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

SATURDAY/MARCH 8

Mardi Gras Party. 8 p.m. Vienna's American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Tickets \$25 before February 23, \$25 after. Contact 703-938-9535 or www.Legion180.net.

SUNDAY/MARCH 9

The Stern/Andrist Duo Concert. 3 p.m. Alden Theatre of McLean, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. This free concert will feature violinist James Stern of the University of Maryland and multi-talented pianist Audrey Andrist in a program that includes a sonata by Janacek, Four Pieces by Suk, Theme and Variations by Messiaen, and the Sonata in C minor by Beethoven.

MONDAY/MARCH 10

Lunch 'N Life. 12 p.m. Emmanual



McLean
Community
Center
The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC



Ireland's Own, First U.S. Tour Caladh Nua

Saturday, March 1, 8 p.m.
\$27/\$22 MCC district residents

Leland Faulkner in "World of Wonder"

Sunday, March 2, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

Midday Movie Musicals "West Side Story"

Wednesday, March 5, 1 p.m.
Free admission

"The Intersection of Climate Change & Art"

Thursday, March 6, 7:30 p.m.
Free Admission

Studio Rep "Code 20: Proceed to Improv"

Thursday, March 13, 7-9 p.m.
Old Firehouse Teen Center
Free admission

Christopher K. Morgan & Artists

Fri & Sat, March 14-15, 8 p.m.
\$27/\$22 MCC district residents

Theatre Unspeakable presents "Superman 2050"

Saturday, March 22
\$20/\$15 MCC district residents

An Alden Theatre Production "Miss Nelson is Missing"

Sat. & Sun, March 29-30 and April 5-6
\$10/\$8 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



SPORTS

South Lakes Girls' Basketball Captures Elusive Postseason Title

Seahawks win Conference 6, beat Lake Braddock at regionals.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

With nine returning athletes on the roster, the South Lakes girls' basketball team is heavy with postseason experience after last season's trip to the state tournament.

South Lakes played in seven playoff games during the 2012-13 campaign, five of which were decided by three points or less.

But while the Seahawks are no strangers to the postseason, South Lakes on Saturday accomplished a level of playoff success that eluded the program during its cardiac run to states.

South Lakes won the Conference 6 championship on Feb. 22, beating Madison 60-42 in the tournament final. It was the program's first postseason championship of any kind since winning a district title in 1997.

Last season, the Seahawks lost to Madison in the Liberty District semifinals, but secured a spot in the region tournament. After three regional wins by a combined five points, South Lakes lost to Edison in the championship game. After finishing region runner-up, the Seahawks lost to Stonewall Jackson by two points in the state quarterfinals.

The Seahawks entered the 2013-14 season with their sights set on more than just advancing in the postseason. They wanted to win championships — or “cut nets.” Beating Madison on Saturday gave South Lakes something to show for its postseason success.

“It was almost surreal,” senior guard Caitlin Jenson said about the experiencing of cutting down the net after winning the conference title. “It didn't really hit you until you were up on the ladder and [thought], holy crap, I'm here. But, that being said, it just made us hungrier to get that regional net that we almost had last year, and then maybe even go for that state net.

“... It is weird because you go all the way to states and people



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBTZEL/THE CONNECTION

South Lakes senior Abby Rendle led all scorers with 18 points during Monday's win over Lake Braddock.

assume you've cut a net or you've won something and we're like, no, we were right there. So, to follow through with that, it was a great feeling.”

Head coach Christy Winters Scott said not winning any titles last season made the postseason experience “incomplete.”

“[Winning championships] was a vision that the team had after last season because at each segment of the postseason last year we came up short and it felt incomplete,” she said. “... Last year, without [winning titles], it was kind of left up in the air. We were in limbo all summer, waiting for our opportunity.”

Aghayere was named Conference 6 tournament MVP. Rendle was named to the all-tournament team. Each earned first-team all-conference honors.

The Seahawks capitalized on their opportunity to win a conference title. On Monday, South Lakes started its quest for a region championship by beating Lake Braddock 71-43 during the opening round of the 6A North tournament at South Lakes High School. The Bruins kept things close for 18 minutes, pulling within four when a 3-pointer by Caroline Jones cut the Seahawks' lead to 29-25 with 6:31 left in the third quarter. South Lakes took over from there, however, outscoring Lake Braddock

18-8 during the remainder of the quarter and 42-18 for the rest of the contest.

Was there a chance South Lakes initially overlooked the No. 4 seed from Conference 7?

“I was hoping that wasn't it,” Winters Scott said, “and I did mention that at halftime.”

The Seahawks responded in the second half and took care of business. Rendle finished with 18 points, Aghayere scored 15 and Jensen added 11, including a trio of 3-pointers. Senior guard Natalie Toma knocked down a pair of 3-pointers and scored nine points, and Brenda Kamga had seven points.

South Lakes faced Centreville in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

The Seahawks last won a region championship in 1986.

Winters Scott said last season's postseason experience should benefit the Seahawks.

“It will make them more hungry, as well, because they came up [just] short last year,” she said. “It was just right there and we had all those one-possession games down the stretch. It was like a roller coaster, and insane and emotional. At the same time, I think that fueled this group in terms of having that experience to rely on and understand that they didn't want to feel that way [again].”



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBTZEL/THE CONNECTION

The Oakton gymnastics team finished fifth at the 6A North region meet on Feb. 18 at Lake Braddock.

Oakton Gymnastics Competes at Regionals

The Oakton gymnastics team completed its season by competing at the 6A North regional meet on Feb. 18 at Lake Braddock.

Oakton finished fifth as a team, producing a score of 127.8. Washington-Lee won its third consecutive region title with a score of 140.449 and McLean finished runner-up for the third straight year with a score of 140.077. T.C. Williams finished third with a score of 138.459. Robinson (128.766) finished fourth and Woodson (123.19) was sixth.

Oakton's Stephanie Weir finished 15th on bars (8.483). Natalie Weaver finished 19th on beam (8.267) and 23rd on bars (8.067). Amanda Gore tied for 18th on vault (8.65).

Oakton Girls' Basketball Wins Conference Title

The Oakton girls' basketball team won the Conference 5 championship on Feb. 21, beating Centreville 48-47 in the tournament final at Chantilly High School. It was the Cougars ninth conference/district title in the last 10 years. Three days later, Oakton defeated Osbourn 61-37 on Monday in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament. The win improved the Cougars' record to 23-2. Oakton face Madison in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Oakton Boys' Basketball Beats Osbourn

The Oakton boys' basketball team, the No. 3 seed from Conference 5, defeated Osbourn, the No. 2 seed from Conference 8, 52-49 on Monday night. The Cougars faced Lake Braddock in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

Madison Girls' Basketball Finishes Conference Runner-Up

The Madison girls' basketball team lost to South Lakes 60-42 in the Conference 6 championship game on Feb. 22.

Two days later, the Warhawks responded by defeating South County 61-37 on Monday in the opening round of the 6A North regional tournament. Madison faced Oakton in the quarterfinals on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline.

PET CONNECTION



Teddy in his fancy bed with all his toys. Teddy is the one smiling. He was a rescue of sorts - someone having given him to us and he has been the most wonderful gift ever. He is a very happy bichon and loves everyone. We frequently walk to Glyndon Park where the children are playing. They just love to touch him, "Ooooo, he's so soft and fluffy," they say. "Be careful," I say, "Teddy may try to kiss you!" They giggle. It's a wonderful love that dogs give to us humans.

— KATHIE AND CHUCK TRAUTMANN, VIENNA

Vienna's Best Friends



Amy Odell's 4-year-old dog Darby from Vienna.



Jack Odell of Vienna with Darby, his Goldendoodle. Darby loves being on the ice cream truck.

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High Five



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I made it. It's five years after receiving a terminal diagnosis on February 27, 2009 from my oncologist: stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, accompanied by a "13-month to two-year" prognosis. Let's be honest, medical professionals don't toss around the word "terminal" because you're going to be treated at an airport. Presumably, they know their facts and figures as well as the patient's present condition, confirmed by a variety of diagnostic results from X-Rays, CT Scans, P.E.T. Scans, lab work and of course the ever-popular biopsy, so their diagnosis/prognosis is a bit more than an educated guess. Nevertheless, there are exceptions to every rule and until proven otherwise, I was not about to succumb to their statistics. Still, based on the best medical knowledge available at the time, this patient (yours truly) was given a limited life expectancy and encouraged to take the vacation I had always dreamed of – for obvious you're-life-is-now-shorter-than-you-ever-imagined-type reasons, and yet, five years hence, here I am.

I have to admit, surviving, at least from my perspective, is indeed all it's cracked up to be. Aside from beating the alternatives, it has been, for me, empowering in a way. Not that I think I wrote the book on what one need do to fend off the ravages of this insidious disease – though I have made my share of changes and accommodations, but I have persevered. And for those closest to me who knew me when (pre-diagnosis), I have switched and fought – I have occasionally looked back. And even though I never was a smoker and rarely exposed to second-hand smoke, I may very well have been a victim of some of my own circumstances. Although I didn't/don't drink much or consume drugs to any extreme degree, my eating habits may have contributed to a weakened immune system which in some way kick-started the cancer cells in my body (which we all have, by the way); and if you believe any of the like-minded literature coming out of Johns Hopkins and other respected medical institutions: we all may very well be what we eat – or don't eat. And apparently, there may be consequences – both good and unfortunately, bad.

For the past nearly five years (beginning in June, 2009), I have chronicled my life as a cancer patient. Every week, save for a few non-cancer columns as we call them, I have written about cancer and the range of emotions I've experienced. I don't think I've not shared one emotion with you that I've felt. Not that it was ever important that it was me doing the talking, because it wasn't/isn't, it's simply that I had a forum/space and the support of my publisher and editor to unburden myself in this very public way. And since writing with such honesty came easy to me (I had been writing non-cancer columns in the Connection since December 1999), having such a juicy and compelling subject on which to write was not particularly challenging to me. Moreover, given the incredibly appreciative and super-positive feedback I have received from readers over the years, I have felt encouraged to continue.

Some weeks however, especially after chemotherapy, the words don't exactly flow, but for now, life is going on. I have another CT Scan on the day this column publishes, 2/26/2014. Within a day or two, my oncologist will e-mail the results to me. Within a day or two after that, I will likely write my next column. I hope the news is good. It might not be though. When you've so far outlived your original prognosis as I have, it's hard not to think you're borrowing time – and as most of us will readily admit, pay-backs are hell.

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

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

In 2012, Mayor M. Jane Seeman thanks the participants and organizers of the Re-enactment of the Battle of Vienna.

Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman Dies

FROM PAGE 3

friend to us at the credit union. She will be greatly missed.”

Melissa Tocherman, former Asst. Principal, Vienna Elementary School

“Heartbroken. She was always lovely and welcoming during my time in Vienna. She will be missed but not forgotten. Her influence and modeling runs deep. A toast to Mayor Seeman.”

Sol Glasner, Chairman of the Tysons Partnership Board of Directors

“She was a person of great integrity and humanity, with a deep commitment to the common good. ...We will miss her tremendous energy, her wry humor, and her wise counsel.

“Mayor Seeman’s commentary was always insightful, constructive and optimistic. Our community has lost a great public servant.”



Linda and Kristin Parker and Linda Seeman Colbert with Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman at the Shady Drive Cornhole Tournament in 2009.

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ABC Publishing Notice

Westwood Country Club Inc trading as Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave E., Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. James Evans, 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.

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VVFD Auxiliary president Joan Dempsey honors Bill Droke with the Auxiliary Certificate of Appreciation.



Chief John Morrison and VVFD President Anthony Stancampiano present Judi Medwedeff with the Department Volunteer of the Year Award.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT



Auxiliary president Joan Dempsey awards 35-year VVFD Auxiliary volunteer Peggie Murray with the Kate Johnson Spirit Award. Department member Bill Padgett received the Kate Johnson Spirit Award for his contributions to the fire department.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Recognizes Outstanding Service

Awards given to operational and administrative staff.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Award Winners

VVFD Chief John Morrison and members of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department and Auxiliary honored volunteers and career staff for outstanding and dedicated service to the department and the community at a banquet on Feb. 8. Volunteers logged in 31,000 hours in 2013.

Peggie Murray, a 35-year veteran volunteer of the VVFD, received the Kate Johnson Spirit Award for her enduring dedication. Murray says she's "not too well" now, but she continues to lend a hand as she can. "I'm able to use the telephone to make phone calls on behalf of the Auxiliary," Murray said. And that she does. Over the many years as an Auxiliary volunteer, Murray has made some very good friends. When she joined 35 years ago, the Auxiliary was made up of women who worked, mainly, in the kitchen and at the Christmas bazaar. "I can't give back as much as I used to, but I do as much as I can."

JOAN DEMPSEY celebrates 22

VVFD 2013 award winners are Gene Jacob, Firefighter of the Year; Nathan Hellman, Emergency Technician of the Year (EMT); Bill Padgett and Eric Bartholomew, Fairfax County Rescue Department Fire and Technician, Chief's Award; Monica Haley, President's Award; Hanna Mitchell, Department Certificate of Appreciation; Judi Medwedeff, Department Volunteer of the Year; Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Technician Giovanni Vasquez, Robert Hunter Award; Joan Dempsey, the Leon Freeman Award; Bill Droke, Auxiliary Certificate of Appreciation; Bill Padgett (Department) and Peggie Murray (Auxiliary), Kate Johnson Spirit Award; Anne Kelleher, Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year; Lisa Emerson, the Vera Lloyd Award.

years with the VVFD in March. She's fulfilled many roles within the Auxiliary. Dempsey's record of awards acknowledges her many accomplishments with VVFD, from her work with the department's canteen program to her involvement with special events and the Taste of Vienna. Dempsey's accolades include 2010 Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) of the Year, 2010 Volunteer of the Year Award - voted by the volunteers of the organization, 2010 Karen Brennan Spirit Award - Presented by the Virginia State Firefighters Association Auxiliary, 2009 Lady Fairfax - representing the Hunter Mill District, 2007 Canteen Coordinator of the Year - presented by the Fairfax County Fire Commission, 2007 Service Above Self Award - presented by the Vienna Rotary Club, 2007 Chief's Award,

2007 Volunteer of the Year Award, and the 2007 Volunteer Recognition Award - presented by Mayor M. Jane Seeman, Town of Vienna.

"I always felt that I should give back to a community that has been so good to me," said Auxiliary president Joan Dempsey, recipient of the 2013 Leon Freeman Award. The Leon Freeman Award, given to the life member who has contributed the most to the department, is voted on by the life members of the department. "Receiving the Leon Freeman Award was a great honor as I am in an elite class of legends of the VVFD like Sam Savia, Ed Purcell and Vera Lloyd.

"It is not about getting recognition, it is about making a difference in the community," said Dempsey.

Judi Medwedeff joined the

VVFD as an administrative volunteer in 2011 and now chairs the Community Outreach Program. She initiated a monthly program of free blood pressure checks around Vienna and chairs Department fundraisers such as the "Fire Ball." She amassed 629 volunteer hours in 2013. Her awards include the 2011 VVFD Presidents Award, 2012 Rotary Service Above Self Award, 2012 Town of Vienna Volunteer Award (nominated by VVFD), and the 2013 VVFD Volunteer of the Year.

"Our members don't really receive many tangible benefits for their service," said VVFD Chief John Morrison. "So, this is one of the ways we can recognize our

members, especially those folks who have given exceptional service over the year." The awards, Morrison said, represent a range of member service, from the longevity of Peggie Murray to the members who recently joined.

"If you have time, either men or women, to contribute your time to a worthwhile cause, consider joining the VVFD," said Murray. "It does a great deal for the community."

THE VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT is a 501(c)(3) non-profit. To learn more about membership in the Vienna VFD, administrative or operational, go to www.vvfd.org.

Horner's Corner Pet Salon Marks Anniversary

Kelli Horner, owner of Horner's Corner Pet Salon, announces the seventh anniversary of her pet salon in Vienna.

She would like to thank all the pet owners who have supported her by bringing in their pets for grooming over these years.

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