

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION  
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# Sophia Manicone Named Vienna Idol

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## Home LifeStyle

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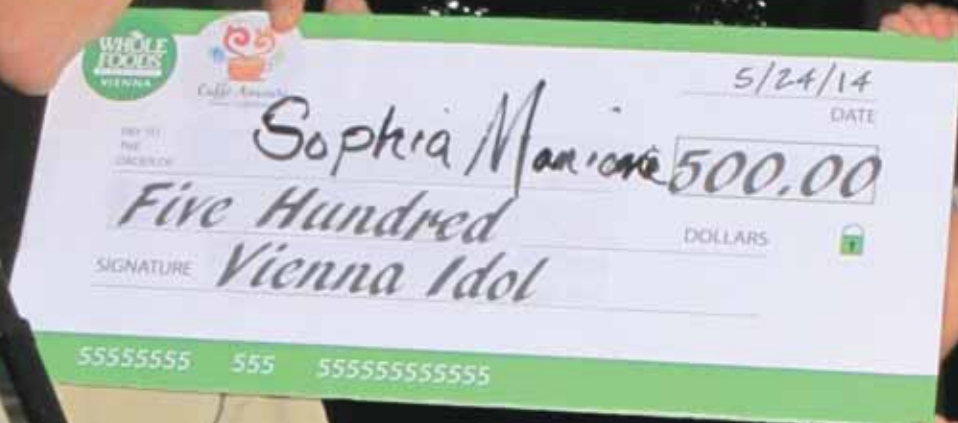
## Eat. Drink. Pay?

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## Father's Day Photo Gallery

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Vienna Idol founder and producer Michael Amouri hands a \$500 check to 9-year-old Sophia Manicone, Vienna Idol 2014.



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## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Men's Breakfast at Antioch Christian Church

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna is hosting an area wide Men's Breakfast on Saturday June 21st beginning at 9 a.m. There is no charge. The morning will include a breakfast and the guest speaker Matt Fretwell, founder of Job 31 Ministries. The event is open to all men of any age. For more information go to [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org) or call 703-938-6753. To register, email [antiochchristianchurchvienna@gmail.com](mailto:antiochchristianchurchvienna@gmail.com) or call the office.

### Volunteers Needed at Shepherd's Center

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. Hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email [volunteer@scov.org](mailto:volunteer@scov.org)

### Want to Join Vienna Police?

The Town of Vienna Police Department is looking for people interested in becoming police officers here. The salary and benefits are competitive with other areas. For application information, call 703-255-6350 or visit:

<http://agency.governmentjobs.com/Vienna/default.cfm>

### Do More 24 Set for June 19

Through Do More 24 - a region-wide, 24-hour online marathon of giving on Thurs, June 19 - United Way NCA is, on one single day, calling the entire DC metro region together to help keep hundreds of local nonprofits vital throughout the year. So far 400 nonprofits - including many serving Fairfax/Falls Church - are participating. Last year, \$1.3 million was raised through the first Do More 24 day.

On June 19, there will be live updates at [domore.org](http://domore.org) throughout the day and night.





PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Ayr Hill Garden Club President Pam Weiss, children's garden co-founder Anna Marie Mulvihill and club Treasurer Nancy Madden stand in the children's Discovery Garden they help maintain.

## Differing Views on Parking, Land Use

Town of Vienna says easements would benefit businesses, trail users.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The Town of Vienna hopes to grant conservation and parking easements to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to expand the Vienna Train Station parking lot. And while most Church Street business owners think it's a swell idea, several nearby homeowners do not.

They made their feelings known at the Vienna Town Council's public hearing on this matter, last Monday, June 2. First, though, town attorney Steve Briglia explained the proposal.

Near the intersection of Dominion Road N.E. and Ayr Hill Avenue N.E., the train-station lot contains 23 parking spaces. But its use is currently restricted to trail users and visitors to the train station.

"Especially on weekends, when there's a lot of park use, the business parking spaces are taken up by recreational users," said Briglia. "So the town has had a long-term goal to increase parking for the businesses."

**THE PARK AUTHORITY** has said it could build 16 more spaces on the east side of the train-station lot and make that entire lot available for public parking, as well as for trail users. In return, the Town would grant it a conservation easement on Town-owned property near Ninovan Road, adjacent to the W&OD Trail.

"Right now, it's unimproved wooded land," said Briglia. "So we want to dedicate that to the Park Authority [via an easement] as conservation land. And hopefully, this'll help take some [trail] users off of Church Street."

But homeowner John DeLong, who lives on a cul-de-sac off the W&OD Trail, near Ninovan, said, "This seems to have been done without consulting any of the neighbors – and I'm concerned about the precedent it may set. I'm impacted by anything happening to the Ninovan easement; is this 16-space swap for the conservation easement supported by the data?"

"It's not a land swap," replied Briglia. "That land can't be developed and used for active recreation, and we haven't received any offers to buy [it]. This is just about protecting the status quo."

Jeff Norton said his home backs onto the trail. "A couple years ago, my neighbors and I came here and wanted to buy that property, and we were told, 'We'll let you know when the next development is.' But we just received letters [from the Town about this public hearing] Friday evening [May 30]. So give us a chance to look into what's going on and investigate alternatives for this property behind our homes." But Briglia said the town never received a formal request to purchase that land.

Not too long ago, said homeowner Catherine McNeese, some people wanted to build a road and a cell tower there. So she and her neighbors wanted to buy all or part of that site to prevent that from happening so close to their homes.

"If I owned the property, it would stay as it is and as a natural barrier between our houses," she said. "We're shocked by this [proposal]." But Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki said a new cell-phone tower was never

SEE DISCOVERY, PAGE 5



The family of former Vienna mayor M. Jane Seeman, from left: grandchildren Matt Seeman, Hannah Colbert, and Mitchell Seeman, daughter Linda Colbert, granddaughter Heather Colbert, son-in-law (back row) Mike Colbert; sons Tom and Bill Seeman, daughter-in-law Kathy Seeman and granddaughter Jackie Seeman.

## Community Pays Tribute to Late Mayor

Town of Vienna officials and staff and invited guests paid tribute to Vienna's late mayor, M. Jane Seeman, on June 2 in Town Hall chambers. The reception and recognition were held in the hour prior to the scheduled town council meeting. The chamber was crowded with colleagues, friends and immediate family of Seeman who died in February. At the reception, the official portrait of Mayor M. Jane Seeman, by Vienna photographer T.R. Cook, was unveiled. It will hang in Town Hall.

"What stands out about Mayor Seeman was her community service and humility," said Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco. Former Town Council member and long-time friend of Seeman, Laurie Cole, talked about Jane's dedication to the best interests of the town and its citizens. General Assembly Del. Mark Keam, State Sen. Chap Petersen, and Hunter Mill District Supervisor Cathy Hudgins made brief remarks, as well.

"I loved knowing her," said Petersen. "Like the red caboose, she was synonymous with 'Vienna.'"

Keam described the General Assembly resolutions passed in Seeman's honor. The first recognized her retirement, the second her passing. The memorial resolution was given to the Seeman family, as was the flag flown half-staff upon Seeman's death.

One of Seeman's sons, Bill, took the podium on behalf of the family to thank the community for its support.

"The outpouring of love takes my breath away," said Bill Seeman.

Grace Rooney of the Vienna Arts Society presented a print of the well-known mural painted on the train station by Vienna artist Harris Miller. Miller, VAS president Lu Cousins and VAS artist Mary Ellen Larkins accompanied Rooney as she donated the framed print to the Town in memory of Seeman.

The framed artwork presented is one of a limited number of prints made from Harris's painting.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary prepared and donated petite sandwiches and a selection of desserts for guests.

— DONNA MANZ



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Mary Ellen Larkins, Lu Cousins, Harris Miller and Grace Rooney of the Vienna Arts Society present to the Town of Vienna a print of Miller's painting, in memory of late mayor M. Jane Seeman.



# Eat. Drink. Pay?

Fairfax County task force debates voters' appetite for another meals tax referendum.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

It has been 22 years since Fairfax County asked voters to approve a tax on restaurant meals, an issue that ignited protests, caused deep divisions among community leaders and threatened to melt down several political careers.

The reverberations of that epic failure — what many consider the third rail of county politics — continue to echo in the ears of county politicians.

But after another punishing year of budget battles, and continuing shortfalls in revenue resulting from the recession, county leaders are once again eyeing the meals tax as a way to raise revenue for schools and other county services.

On April 22, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) convened a task force to consider the pros and cons of putting another meals tax referendum on the ballot — possibly as early as this November.

Bulova said a four-percent tax on meals and beverages at the county's nearly 3,000 restaurants would generate approximately \$90 million in new revenue for schools, public safety, parks, libraries and human services.

She cited the fact that all of the cities and towns “around and within Fairfax County” have adopted a meals tax, and that there has been “a growing sentiment during recent years for our board to once again allow the voters to decide whether or not they wish to avail themselves of this additional source of revenue.”

In Northern Virginia, similar meals taxes have been implemented in Alexandria, Arlington County, the City of Fairfax and other smaller municipalities.

However, Loudoun and Prince William county officials recently rejected the idea of a meals tax after restaurant groups successfully argued the tax would unfairly target an industry that is facing pressure to increase the minimum wage while still struggling to recover from the 2008 recession.

While much has changed in Fairfax County since 1992, the mere mention of a meals tax still stirs up vehement reactions.

“This is a charged issue,” said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) “The task force was set up deliberately to have a third-party group come to us with recommendations. We will have the benefit of public input from a fairly politically-balanced group. I think it's brilliant that Sharon got both sides that would not necessarily talk to each other together in the same room ... That's the Fairfax County way.”

“Keep an open mind. And, listen to each other,” Bulova urged the 40 members of the super committee during the first meeting on May 15.

Chaired by Kate Hanley, a former Democratic chairman of the board and Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who



**Kate Hanley, former Democratic chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors co-chairs the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force with Tom Davis, a former Republican congressman who also chaired the Fairfax County Board during the 1992 meals tax battle.**



**David Broder, (right) president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU 512) makes a point during the May 29 meeting of the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force.**



**Marcia Twomey, of the Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce, expresses frustration during the sometimes tense meetings of the meals tax referendum task force.**

chaired the Board of Supervisors during the 1992 meals tax battle, the task force was charged with answering three questions before delivering its final recommendation to the board on June 17:

❖ Whether or not to recommend the board put a meals tax referendum on the ballot

❖ If recommending going to referendum, when should that referendum take place; and

❖ If recommending going to referendum, should any revenues from a meals tax be dedicated to specific issues?

But the first meeting had barely begun before members began taking swipes at each other, arguing over marginal details

and data, and delivering doomsday proclamations if their side did not prevail.

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers launched a series of newspaper ads asking readers to “Save Our Starving Schools,” by supporting the meals tax. Steven Greenburg, president of the teachers union and a member of the task force, argued that the county's school system — which recently approved a \$2.5 billion budget for FY 2015 — will be forced to lay off workers if the county does not transfer more money to the schools.

After the second meeting, Jim Corcoran, president of The Fairfax Chamber, issued a statement declaring the chamber's opposition to the tax.

## Task Force Members

Task Force Co-Chairs:  
Honorable Katherine K. Hanley and  
Honorable Thomas M. Davis III  
Fairfax County Democratic Committee  
Rex Simmons  
Fairfax County Republican Committee  
James Parmelee  
Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce  
Jim Corcoran  
Restaurant Association of Metropolitan  
Washington  
Mark Tate  
Visit Fairfax  
Barry Biggar  
Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations  
Morgan Jameson  
League of Women Voters  
Helen Kelly  
Fairfax County Taxpayers Alliance  
Arthur Purves  
Fairfax County Council of PTAs  
Ramona Morrow  
Fairfax County Education Association  
Kimberly Adams  
Fairfax County Federation of Teachers  
Steve Greenburg  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU  
Virginia 512)  
David Broder  
Fairfax Library Foundation  
Brian Engler  
Fairfax County Park Foundation  
Bruce McLeod  
Fairfax County Alliance for Human Services  
Frank Blechman  
Dulles Region Chamber of Commerce  
Eileen Curtis  
Greater McLean Chamber of Commerce  
Marcia Twomey  
Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Ingrao  
Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce  
Doug Church  
Mount Vernon/Lee Chamber of Commerce  
Holly Dougherty  
Asian American Chamber of Commerce  
Cindy Shao  
Human Services Council  
Kevin Bell  
Northern Virginia Tea Party  
Bob Parks  
National Active and Retired Federal  
Employees, Fairfax Chapter  
Ralph Thompson  
Virginia Hospitality and Travel Association  
Eric D. Terry  
Falls Church Chamber of Commerce  
Sally Cole  
Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce  
Nancy-Jo Manney  
Fairfax County Police Employee Pay and  
Benefit Committee  
Sean Corcoran  
Fairfax County Professional Fire Fighters and  
Paramedics  
John Niemiec  
Braddock District Council  
Barbara Varvaglione  
Providence District Council  
Gabriel Goldberg  
Dranesville Budget Task Force  
Tim Hackman  
Lee District Citizens Budget Advisory  
Committee  
Suzette Kern  
Arts Council of Fairfax County  
Jay Dick  
Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association  
Judy Harbeck  
Sully District Council of Citizens Associations  
Joseph Johnston  
South County Federation  
Christine Morin  
Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Mark Rogoff  
Hunter Mill District Citizen Budget Committee  
Barbara Loving

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

“We have been down this road before in Fairfax, and in almost every case, voters continue to oppose such measures,” Corcoran said. “This is not a time for rehashing failed policies of the past. County leaders, the business community, and citizens all need to work together to grow and diversify the economy in Fairfax County, not tax our way to a solution.”

SEE MEALS TAX, PAGE 15

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



# Discovery Garden Moving?

FROM PAGE 3

planned, just co-locating a cell-phone site on an existing electrical tower.

Homeowner Eric White noted a written petition to the mayor, asking that nothing be done on that land. And, he said, "We'd like assurance that this property won't be developed."

Briglia said the uses are restricted according to the conservation easement – "which comes from a state agency to protect land." He also apologized that the town didn't notify the homeowners about the public hearing sooner.

But he said this proposal "doesn't trigger the normal postings because it's not a zoning. So that's the reason for the late notice – there's nothing nefarious. The purpose of the easement is to preserve the land in its natural state with only low-impact or educational activities on it."

Billy Emerson, whose home also backs up to the trail, asked if it's still possible for affected residents to purchase the property. But Briglia said, "The land is a buffer for the trail [and the homeowners] and is not for sale."

Councilwoman Laurie Cole said the current proposal keeps that buffer and the conservation easement restricts utilities' usage. "I understand the residents' concerns," she said. "But [even if you bought it], you may not own that property in perpetuity. We're

trying to protect that area [forever]. And the merchants and businesses along Church, Mill and Dominion have complained there's not enough parking, and we want to have a vibrant business community."

Emerson asked the Council to take more time before approving the easements, and the members agreed to accept written comments until June 9 and defer action on the easements until June 16.

Also speaking was Anna Marie Mulvihill of the Ayr Hill Garden Club, because expanding the train-station parking lot would cause the children's Discovery Garden there to be moved. "We have plantings that have been there for 10 years," she said. "It's a perfect spot, not near cars, and is a successful, popular garden."

She said it's a memorial garden for former state delegate Dorothy McDiarmid, who represented this area many years. "The garden club just celebrated its 85th anniversary and we'd love to keep the garden exactly as it is," said Mulvihill. "But we're flexible and have already spoken to [Vienna Parks and Recreation Director] Cathy Salgado about moving it near the caboose."

Salgado told the Council the garden can be shifted to the caboose site in the Centennial Park area. "It would be a raised bed, but the Town would have to partner with [the club] to do this and put a walkway around the perimeter," she said.

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which changes to Gunston Road/VA-242. In about 2 miles you'll pass the main entrance to the Meadowood Recreation Area on your right. Don't turn here, rather continue on another half of a mile. You'll turn right through a gate onto a dirt drive. If you use Google Maps, Mapquest, or other GPS, you can use these coordinates as your destination and it will take you right to the location: 38.670731,-77.190827

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## Clearing the Air on New Carbon Standards

BY CONGRESSMEN GERRY  
CONNOLLY (VA-11) AND  
PAUL TONKO (NY-20)

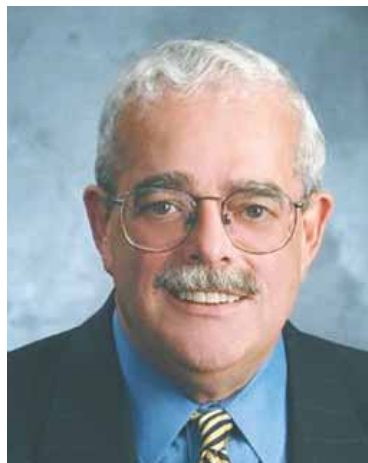
CO-CHAIRS, SUSTAINABLE ENERGY  
AND ENVIRONMENT COALITION

**T**he EPA's new proposal to safeguard the air we breathe and contain a primary driver of climate change by reducing carbon emissions from existing power plants is the lynchpin to reducing our carbon footprint. As co-chairs of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, we welcome action on carbon pollution and look forward to working with all stakeholders in a responsible manner to advance a 21st century energy economy for America.

Power plants are responsible for 40 percent of U.S. carbon pollution. Without addressing this source of pollution our efforts fade in significance. Similar safeguards already exist for other hazardous pollutants such as lead, arsenic, and mercury. And they have worked. Why shouldn't the same apply for carbon? By targeting this source of pollution, we protect public health, the economy, and national security.

Unfortunately, there are those who would have us believe that these and other EPA safeguards threaten our shared national priorities. Just as they did when Congress, in a bipartisan fashion, adopted the Clean Air and Clean Water acts a generation ago, these critics offer the same hackneyed arguments they always make: they contend the public does not want these protections, they will kill jobs, bankrupt the economy, and cause electricity rates to double. This is the same crowd that waged deceitful campaigns warning of death panels, a government-run takeover of healthcare, and socialized medicine in the hopes of distracting us from the urgent need for the Affordable Care Act.

Such false and misleading claims were shameful then, and if

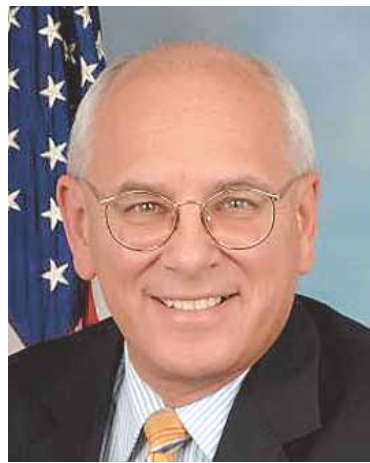


**Connolly**

repeated, will jeopardize the tremendous strides we've made in protecting public health. Unfortunately, some took to attacking the EPA's latest proposal even before it was released. Last week, Speaker Boehner said the EPA is "hurting our economy" with such proposals, though he did note he was no expert on climate change and had not yet seen the proposed regulation. Let's move beyond such rhetoric and look at the facts.

Take the first claim that carbon pollution restrictions will kill jobs and devastate the economy. Evidence tells us that we can have both a clean environment and a strong economy. In a recent op-ed, Christine Todd Whitman, a Republican, who is the former Governor of New Jersey and was EPA Administrator under President George W. Bush, highlighted that "...between 1970 and 2006, U.S. GDP grew by 195 percent, yet thanks to regulatory changes annual emissions of carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead all decreased significantly." In other words, economic growth and regulation can and do intertwine successfully.

Investing in new energy standards actually has helped fuel that economic growth. For example, since the Clean Air Act was passed in 1970, every dollar spent on compliance standards has yielded \$4-\$8 in economic return on that investment.



**Tonko**

The fact is that these standards have been a catalyst for a new generation of clean energy, new investment in plants and equipment, and the creation of thousands of domestic jobs. Employment in the American solar industry, for example, grew ten times faster than the national employment average rate last year.

Another tired but predictable claim opponents will make is that electricity rates will increase. The Washington Post's fact checker, who does not take a position on EPA rules, debunked this allegation noting that "this [claim] does not pass the laugh test." The Clean Air Act amendments of 1990 also were assailed by similar attacks. So what happened to electricity rates? They decreased. Between 1990 and 2006, electricity rates fell by 47 percent in Arkansas, 332 percent in Georgia, 64 percent in Illinois, 28 percent in Indiana, 35 percent in Michigan, 30 percent in North Carolina, 18 percent in Ohio, 36 percent in Pennsylvania, 40 percent in Utah, and 36 percent in Virginia. Even the power companies agree. The CEO of American Electric Power, one of our nation's largest utilities, said that with enough time to prepare, the transition to a cleaner energy future can occur "without a major impact to customers or the economy."

Finally, these perennial alarmists will argue that the American pub-

lic does not want the "boot of government regulation on their neck." To the contrary, when it comes to basic health protections, the American public overwhelmingly has said it doesn't want the threat of pollution on its neck. A 2012 American Lung Association report found that Americans support the Clean Air Act by a 2-to-1 margin. The same report found nearly 3 out of 4 respondents believe we shouldn't have to choose between health and safety standards and promoting the economy. They understand that the opponents are presenting them with a false choice and that we can and must do both. And when it comes to setting limits on carbon pollution from power plants, a February 2014 poll found 7 out of 10 Americans support these safeguards. Seventy percent!

But you won't hear the House majority reminding the public of these inconvenient truths. They prefer reckless rhetorical arguments and irresponsible inaction. Reducing carbon emissions poses a significant challenge, and we look forward to working with industry, the environmental community, and stakeholders at the local, state, and federal levels to address this challenge. But first we must be willing to move beyond these campaigns of fear and deception.

Thankfully, there are indications that industry and the public understand this. For example, use of solar power by American companies increased by 40 percent last year.

Those businesses, and their customers, understand the value of investing in American ingenuity and innovation – a healthier environment, a sustainable source of domestic energy, creating new high-skilled jobs.

The Obama Administration has taken a bold step in proposing a 30 percent reduction from 2005 levels in carbon emissions from power plants. We support that effort and know that America's health and economic wellbeing will benefit immeasurably.

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [mclean@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnewspapers.com). The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

#### FRIDAY/JUNE 13

**McLean Senior Source Training Session.** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. A volunteer-managed organization, seeking to make

McLean a friendly, connected, and supportive community for all, while recognizing the special needs of older adults and adults living with disabilities.

To register, please email [McLeanSeniorSource@gmail.com](mailto:McLeanSeniorSource@gmail.com) with the subject line "MSS Training."

#### MONDAY/JUNE 16

**Spanish Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group.

**Preschool Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Join us for stories, song and activities. Ages 3-5 with a grown-up.

#### TUESDAY/JUNE 17

**Red Cross Blood Drive.** 9 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. NetApp, 1921 Gallows Road, Vienna.

**Improve your English Skills.** 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing, speaking and listening. Adults.

#### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

**English Conversation Group.** 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Practice your English in a conversational setting. Adults.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Cassie Picard and her pony jumping over a hurdle during a jumping rally in Richmond.

## 'Dream Come True' for Vienna Teen

**New horse, high scores and ribbons for Cassie Picard.**

Vienna teenager Cassie Picard spends a lot of time horsing around – but that's because she rides ponies in competition. She rides at Hunters Valley Riding Club in Oakton and competes with Old Dominion Hounds Pony Club.

In a regional dressage event, May 24-25, her team came in second overall. During dressage, horses perform complex maneuvers in response to subtle body signals from their riders. And Cassie – a 14-year-old eighth-grader at Thoreau Middle School – had the highest personal riding score of more than 40 riders.

But she was even more excited about her team's finish. "I was very proud of our placement," she said. "Our team had the highest ride score all of the teams,

SEE CASSIE, PAGE 16

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 12

**Matt Wertz.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave East, Vienna. More than ever, the reflective songwriter has his heart on his sleeve, and Weights & Wings is the very incarnation of that lifeline. \$20. 703-255-1566.

**Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Celebrate an era with a band of rock n' roll virtuosos from the Beatles, Santana, Journey, Toto and more! \$35-\$65. 703-255-1900.

**Summer Exhibitions Opening Reception and Gallery Talk.** 7-9 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 13 - SUNDAY/JUNE 22

**"Bat Boy: The Musical."** 1st Stage Theatre in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. A musical comedy/horror spoof and satire on American prejudice featuring a half-boy, half-bat creature as the main character. Performances now through June 22. Fridays 8 p.m., Saturdays 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets: \$32, Students & Military: \$15, Senior (age 65): \$27. <http://www.1stStageTysons.org/>. 703-854-1856.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 13 - SUNDAY/JUNE 15

**Salvador Dali: The Sculpture Collection.** Wentworth Gallery, 1807 U. International Drive, McLean. 703-833-0111.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 13

**II Volo.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Pop-opera trio of Italian teen heartthrobs combines soaring voices with playful charm in a multilingual "mixture of Andrea Bocelli and the Jonas Brothers." (The NYTimes) \$30-\$65. 703-255-1900.

**Annapolis Bluegrass.** 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. The Summer on the Green is a free concert series in Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets for seating.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 14

**Memorial Race and Fun Run.** 8:30 a.m. at Franklin Middle School, 3300 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly. First "Born to Run" 5k Memorial Race and Fun Run in honor of the late teacher Jannine Parisi. \$30+ for 5K, \$15+ for 1K goes toward an education fund for Jannine's two daughters. To

### Farrell Parker and Jimmy Mavrikes in "Bat Boy: The Musical" at 1st Stage through June 22.

PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



participate, register at [www.prraces.com](http://www.prraces.com). Volunteers needed, contact Assistant Principal Bryan Holland at [bholland@cps.edu](mailto:bholland@cps.edu).

**Wolf Trap's 25th Annual Louisiana Swamp Romp™.** 2 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. The Big Easy party is back! Dance to Louisiana's hottest bands and jump in the second line parade. \$30. 703-255-1900.

**Vienna Saturday Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-12 p.m. 301 Center Street South, Vienna VA 22180. Also balloon artistry, free blood pressure check, and free entertainment. Email [manager@viennafarmersmarket.com](mailto:manager@viennafarmersmarket.com).

**Maria Spearman (Tai-Chi and Balance).** 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. 703-288-9505.

**Scott Ramming and the Crawstickers (Blues).** 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. 703-288-9505.

**Pancake Breakfast.** 8 a.m. - noon. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary will sponsor the breakfast. All you can eat pancakes, sausage, bacon, juice and coffee. Adults \$8.00, Seniors 65+ \$7.00, Children under 12 \$6.00. Children under 4 free. For more information please contact: [auxiliary@vffd.org](mailto:auxiliary@vffd.org)

### SUNDAY/JUNE 15

**An Evening with Kawehi.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave East, Vienna. The native Hawaiian multi-instrumentalist, all by her lonesome, covered Nirvana's "Heart-Shaped Box" that went viral online. \$12-\$15. 703-255-1566.

**Breakfast Buffet.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Vienna's American Legion, 330 Center St N, Vienna. Scrambled eggs, omelets, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc with benefits to Girls State. \$3-\$8. 703-938-6580.

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear NRJ - Rock. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

**Great Falls Concerts on the Green.** 6 p.m. Great Falls Centre Green. Multi-talented Daryl Davis performing his signature jazz and blues.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 17

**Historic Vienna Event.** 7:30 p.m. Council Chamber of Vienna's Town Hall, 127 Center Street S., Vienna. Historic Vienna, Inc. will sponsor a lecture by local author, Air Force veteran and diplomat Robert F. Dorr, who will discuss his newest book "Fighting Hitler's Jets," which combines basic historical information with compelling personal stories of how Americans flying propeller-driven planes were able to develop combat tactics to defeat the newly introduced German jets. For more information, call 703-938-5187 or visit [www.historicviennainc.org](http://www.historicviennainc.org).

### WEDNESDAY/JUNE 18

**John Butler Trio with Special Guest Allen Stone.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. There's nothing "Better Than" acoustically driven roots-rock and reggae ballads from heartfelt Australian multi-instrumentalists. \$32-\$40. 703-255-1900.

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30

p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets for a children's show - Rocknoocerous, sponsored by Vienna Moms, Inc. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 19

**Daryl Hall & John Oates.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap Filene Center, 1551 Trap Rd, Vienna. Still making your dreams come true with unforgettable soul and rock anthems, these Rock and Roll Hall of Famers are the most successful pop duo of all time. \$35-\$60. 703-255-1900.

### FRIDAY/JUNE 20

**Wildfire's Gluten-free Wine Dinner.** 7 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Executive Chef Eddie Ishaq will prepare a custom gluten free four-course menu, each paired with a wine to complement the dish. Guest speakers Vanessa Weisbrod, editor of Delight Gluten Free Magazine and her husband, Eric Weisbrod, will be on hand to discuss "Being Gluten Free When Your Other is Not!" \$75 per person. Call 703-442-9110 for reservations.

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the Nitehawks Swing Band. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

### SATURDAY/JUNE 21

**Fairfax Saxophone Quartet Performs "Sort of Greek" Concert.** 7 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The Fairfax Saxophone Quartet will showcase its crowd-pleasing versatility at a free performance for all.

**Dance to Fight Alzheimer's.** 10 a.m.-7:45 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Dance workshops and dance practice, various styles. Donations, silent auction, refreshments in support of The Longest Day (Alzheimer's Assoc). Attire is ballroom casual, everyone is welcome. 703-759-2685. [stepandswingforelaine@gmail.com](mailto:stepandswingforelaine@gmail.com) or [www.colvinrun.org](http://www.colvinrun.org).

### SUNDAY/JUNE 22

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the U.S. Navy Sea Chanters. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**The Antioch Christian Church,** 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna is hosting a Father's Day worship and Picnic beginning at 10 a.m. on Sunday June 15. Each man attending will receive the book, "Playbook for an Uncommon Life" by Tony Dungy. A potluck picnic will follow the worship service where each person brings food of their choice to share. For more information go to [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org) or call 703-938-6753.

**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](http://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](http://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](mailto: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 al-

lows 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](http://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](http://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 Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at [mthomas211@hotmail.com](mailto:mthomas211@hotmail.com) or call the church at 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](http://ShalomDC.org).

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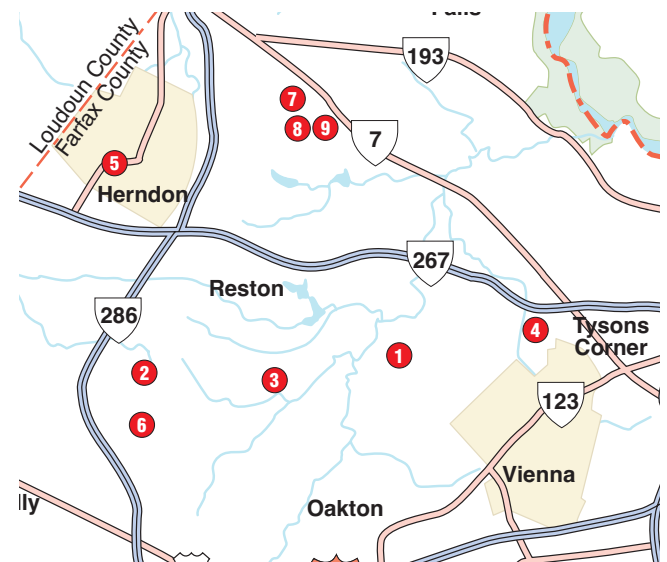
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# A Porch with a View

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen a Great Falls homeowner decided she wanted to breathe new life into her large covered porch after a long, cold winter, she called on Anna Kucera, owner and principal designer of Gracious Living by Design in Alexandria, Va., to give the space a fresh look in time for warm-weather gatherings. “The client has an expansive porch with incredible views of Great Falls,” said Kucera. “She [wanted] to refresh and update the outdoor living space while still allowing the vista to remain the focal point.” Kucera’s goal was to create a space that was at once tranquil and invigorating, but also respected the home’s architectural features, including stonework and wood siding. Kucera was careful to upholster the casual, but elegant seating with fabrics that were durable, heavily textured and able to withstand the elements. “Although the porch is covered, we needed to select materials that could withstand moisture and sun exposure,” said Kucera. “And considering the large quantity of cushions on the porch, it was prudent to select upholstery fabrics that would not become tiresome after a season or two.” The upholstered cushions were crafted from outdoor fabrics made of 100 percent solution-dyed acrylic. The main seating area is accessorized with custom-sized, flat-woven, polypropylene area rugs by Couristan.

“Both solution-dyed acrylic and polypropylene are inherently mildew and fade resistant,” said Kucera.

“We selected an off-white solid woven from Stroheim to cover the back and arm cushions. For the seats and contrast welt on the back cushions, we chose a neutral tone fabric with a subtle dot pattern designed by Wendy Tsuji and Linda Ueda for Perennials.”

The rugs are perfect for alfresco gatherings: “Clients who enjoy entertaining outdoors and love natural sisal rugs are impressed with the way polypropylene rugs offer the same look with the added benefits of easy clean-up ... along with durability,” said Nancy Hardy, a design associate at Gracious Living by Design. Kucera used a neutral and timeless palette as a backdrop for vibrant pops of color in accessories such as toss pillows. “We created emphasis by combining succulent citrus shades of green, orange and yellow,” she said. “The mood could easily be changed with pillows by combining soothing tones of sea glass, green and aqua, or by boldly contrasting black and off-white.” To complete the space, Kucera picked up a few accent pieces at The Virginia Florist of Alexandria. “I found accessories and finishing touches such as orchids in cachepots, a sweet bird votive holder and greenery-filled urns.”

These carefully chosen details gave the porch a polished aesthetic. “The objects and works of art that we look for and carry are as important as the floral arrangements that we create because we think they should always work together,” said Kevin Green, owner of The Virginia Florist. “Our clients are interested not just in flowers, but in decorating their environments, and we share that kind of holistic approach.”



PHOTO BY VERONICA BRUNO

**Alexandria, Va., based designer Anna Kucera created a covered porch space that was tranquil and invigorating, but also respectful of the Great Falls home’s architectural features, including stonework and wood siding.**



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# Madison Baseball Ends Season with Semifinal Loss

**Warhawks fall to McLean, finish with 21-3 record.**

BY JON ROETMAN

THE CONNECTION

Members of the McLean baseball team waited patiently in the first-base dugout at Madison High School as a steady rain drenched the field. The Highlanders had put themselves in a position to win. Now, it was a matter of determining whether they would return to action to finish the job, or if Mother Nature would take care of business.

After a half-hour had passed, umpires determined there would be no more baseball played on this Wednesday evening. The McLean dugout erupted. Players leaped over the railing and sprinted into right field for a celebratory dog pile.

McLean defeated Madison 5-1 in a rain-shortened 6A North region semifinal contest on June 4 in Vienna. With the victory, the Highlanders secured what is believed to be the first region-final berth in program history.

**THE HIGHLANDERS** led 5-1 after six complete innings. After McLean failed to score in the top of the seventh, Madison came to bat in the bottom half during a steady rainfall. The Warhawks had runners on first and second with one out and Michael Nielsen facing a 1-2 count when umpires stopped the game. The rain continued to fall during a nearly 30-minute delay. At 9:30 p.m., umpires called the game and the Highlanders were heading to the region final.

"To be honest, it felt like a million years," McLean sophomore shortstop Conor Grammes said about the half-hour rain delay. "I kept waiting for those umpires to come out and call the game or say we had to go back out there. Even if we did have to go back out there, we all had the mindset. We didn't let each other stop thinking about the game. We kept our heads right. It all played out the right way."

McLean head coach John Dowling said it was "unfortunate" the game ended the way it did, adding the Highlanders were ready to get back on the field.

"It was an odd situation," he said. "Looking at the field, we could sort of anticipate what was happening, but it's a crappy way to end a pretty well-played game by both sides."

While the game wasn't finished on the field, McLean put itself in position to win during the first six innings thanks in large part to the performance of pitcher Joey Sullivan.

The Virginia Tech signee was roughed up in his previous start at Madison High School on May 9, allowing seven runs — four earned — and five hits in 1 1/3 innings.



Madison head coach Mark Gjormand and the Warhawk infield gather around starting pitcher John DeFazio (7) during the region semifinals on June 4.



Madison third baseman Luke Belt throws across the infield during the state semifinals on June 4.

Wednesday night was a different story, as the senior right-hander tossed a complete game, allowing one earned run and three hits in six innings. He walked one, hit one batter and struck out four.

"I thought about it, but today I was loose," Sullivan said about his previous start at Madison. "We had nothing to lose and I had nothing to lose. ... Tonight was probably the toughest environment I've ever thrown in because it was so humid. Early in the [game], I really couldn't get a grip on the ball, I was so sweaty."

With McLean leading by four runs, Sullivan walked the Madison leadoff batter in the bottom of the sixth inning, but responded by striking out the next three Warhawk hitters.

"Joey did a great job," Dowling said. "It's been the same story all year long — when

he commands his fastball, he's extremely difficult. When he keeps his fastball down, he gets a ton of groundballs and he was able to locate three pitches today, pretty effectively until the storms came. When he does that, he's tough because he's got the velocity. He always throws strikes, but it's those quality strikes that make the difference for him."

The Madison baseball team ended the 2014 season with a 21-3 record.

McLean jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the top of the first inning against Madison starting pitcher John DeFazio. The first five Highlander batters reached base, starting with Sullivan reaching on an error and ending with third baseman Jesse Jones drawing a run-scoring base on balls. Left fielder Grady Paine also got credit for an RBI in the inning, when he was hit by an 0-2 pitch

with the bases loaded.

McLean added three runs in the fifth inning. Grammes and catcher Caleb Beatty led off the frame with back-to-back singles, and Jones, first baseman Jonathan Clines, and right fielder Evan Blake each delivered an RBI single.

Grammes, a 5-foot-10, 155-pound sophomore, went 4-for-4 at the plate, including a pair of doubles, and played solid defense at shortstop.

"Conor had a fantastic game and he's been, of late, making some very big adjustments that are now paying dividends now on the diamond," Dowling said. "Again, he kind of gets overlooked because he's not physically imposing. He's not the quickest guy, he's not the biggest guy, but nobody squares the baseball up better than Conor Grammes."

"We said at the start of the season that we felt like we had two of the best shortstops in the conference on our team. When Joey pitches, we don't lose a single bit of defense with Conor out there. He did a terrific job."

Beatty went 2-for-3 at the plate. Blake finished 2-for-2.

DeFazio suffered the loss for Madison. The junior right-hander, who is committed to Virginia Tech, allowed five runs — four earned — and eight hits in 4 2/3 innings. He walked three, hit two batters and struck out five.

Madison's Nielsen led off the bottom of the third with a double, and Trey Ramsey followed with an RBI single for the Warhawks' only run.

**THE LOSS** dropped Madison's record to 21-3 and ended its season. The Warhawks entered Wednesday's contest having won 21 of their last 22 games. They won both regular-season meetings with the Highlanders, beating McLean 8-1 on April 8 and 11-3 on May 9.

The Highlanders, however, were much improved Wednesday. McLean, the No. 4 seed from Conference 6, has won six of its last seven games after struggling during the second half of the regular season.

"We started to play loose, because we knew we were the underdog," Sullivan said. "Especially for me. It was my final couple weeks of my senior year and I'm enjoying them in school. We started playing loose, we started playing together. We got hot at the right time. It's been a fantastic ride."

The Highlanders started the season 8-2, but dropped seven of their next eight, evening their record at 9-9.

"For a while now, we've grown into a pretty confident group," Dowling said. "[There was a time] there in the middle [of the season] when we weren't very confident and we didn't have cause to be. The [coaching] staff, we knew the whole time — and it's tough to convince 16-, 18-year-old kids — we knew the whole time we still had the talent, it was just a matter of executing."

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBITZEL/THE CONNECTION



# FATHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY



“My husband Bill Picard, after he just surprised our daughter Cassie with her first horse, named Celtic Charm. Cassie is an avid equestrian but never had a horse of her own.”

— Lisa Picard, Vienna



Carly Straker, age 5, playing in the pool with her dad, Steve Straker, of Vienna.



Sydney (8) and Hunter (6) of Vienna loved camping with their dad, Kevin, and Sydney's Brownie troop on June 7.

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## Route 7 Widening Fairfax County Public Information Meeting

Tuesday, June 24, 2014, 6 – 8:30 p.m.

Forestville Elementary School  
1085 Utterback Store Road, Great Falls, VA 22066

**Find out** about plans to widen Leesburg Pike (Route 7) from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and the west end of the bridge over the Dulles Toll Road (a 6.9 mile segment), to increase capacity, decrease congestion, and improve safety, in conformity with the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan.

The project would also include intersection improvements, as well as a 10-foot shared-use path on both sides of the road to increase mobility for cyclists and pedestrians.

**Stop by** between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project. VDOT and Fairfax County staff will be available to answer your questions.

**Review** project information at [www.virginiadot.org](http://www.virginiadot.org), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-259-2118, 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

**Give your written comments** at the meeting, or submit them by **July 8, 2014** to Bethany Mathis, Program Manager, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email [meeting\\_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov](mailto:meeting_comments@VDOT.virginia.gov). Please reference "Route 7 Widening – Reston Avenue to Dulles Toll Road" in the subject line.

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## Something New – or Old, to Consider



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And therein lies the anxiety. Although, all things considered – and as you regular readers know, I like, maybe even need, to consider all things – the medical assessment of the most recent CT scan of my upper torso and thorax/lungs showed a new object in my left lung, “approximately the size of a silver dollar,” according to my oncologist. What this object is, exactly, cannot be determined at this juncture; technology prevents such clarity, unfortunately. Nevertheless, its appearance and location are possibly cause for concern, possibly not.

The context for this confusion is that the chemotherapy drug, Alimta, with which I’ve been infused every three weeks since last September, seems to be working. The main tumor we’ve been tracking has shrunk, as has the fluid level (which as you may recall is what landed me in the hospital for a week last August); both of which are positive and exciting developments, and news, as I’m fond of saying, with which I can live. And live I shall, unencumbered emotionally by this as-yet-to-be-determined growth for the next two months until my next CT scan, when the tomography will provide another assessment – and comparison to the scan just completed.

The considerations, according to my oncologist, are as follows: the chemotherapy drug I’m taking is having the desired effect – shrinkage of both tumor and fluid. Moreover, my recurring, every-three-week lab work is good, indicating my body continues to tolerate the drug; ergo, treatment can continue. Secondly, because the largest tumor in my lung is smaller and the fluid build-up has reduced, more of the lung is visible, for lack of a better description. Combined with the not-perfect technology, there may be more to see now than ever before, and/or more to see from a different angle. Sort of like the warning printed on side view mirrors, except in this case, objects are not closer than they appear; rather they’re seen where they were never seen before. And since the object has never been seen before, my oncologist doesn’t know if the growth is new – and possibly malignant, or old, and smaller even than it was because the Alimta is shrinking it, too. In summary, it’s a definite maybe. Cause for concern? Sure. Cause for alarm? Not by me. And since my attitude is “it’s nothing until it’s something,” for the moment, for the next two months, I intend to live my life as per usual.

My oncologist is not ignoring this new finding, nor is he overreacting to it however, and stopping treatment which seems to be working. He wants me to return for a follow-up CT scan one month ahead of my normal three-month interval, and of course, see him the following week to discuss the results. After that next scan, at that next appointment, we’ll know more definitively how best to proceed. At present, I continue to be asymptomatic and relatively pain-free; yet another good sign, and circumstances for which I am extremely grateful. Nothing is forever in the cancer world, though. Things can change, and their significance can change. Still, I don’t want to be naive; cancer is a killer, especially lung cancer. But I’ve survived five-plus years now since my diagnosis, balancing the known with the unknown. I see no reason to stop now.

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

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# Meals Tax Debated

FROM PAGE 4

Hanley and Davis moderated the next meeting on May 29 with humor, easing some of the tension in the room.

"Kate and I come at this issue from different angles," Davis joked during the meeting.

"Is that why I voted for it the first time," Hanley said, pausing. "And you did too?"

"Hey, it passed in my precinct," Davis shot back.

Rex Simmons, who represents the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, drew applause when he thanked Hanley and Davis for "doing an excellent job summarizing the views of the task force ..." in the draft report.

But the warm feelings dissipated when a heated discussion began over the image of the restaurant industry, and the perception that restaurants don't support schools because the industry does not support a meals tax.

"It's an overall fairness issue," said Jim Wordsworth, owner of one of the county's first steakhouses — JR Stockyards Inn steakhouse in Tysons Corner. He argued that meals tax would drive customers away and could keep large restaurants from relocating to Tysons.

"When you have a meals tax, you know what else happens? New restaurants are less likely to come to Fairfax County," said Mark Tate, public affairs director for Restaurant Association of Metropolitan Washington.

"I don't want to present the image that only restaurants are opposing this tax. In

1992, there was a lot of animosity among teachers and PTO organizations to restaurants over this issue," Tate continued. "But if you look beyond this framework, local restaurants are incredibly generous to PTO groups and other county non-profits; they sponsor non-profit events and benefits; they care deeply about the community they live and work in."

Davis agreed that the restaurant industry is not the "bad guy" for opposing the meals tax. "I can't go to a school fair, a 5K race, or any other school event where local restaurants don't contribute in some way ...."

"Can we say 'restaurants are good corporate citizens'?" Tate asked, requesting a change in the task force document.

Greenburg and others who support the meals tax quickly took issue with Tate's statement.

"I don't feel like restaurants have supported us ...," Greenburg said. "And we're not here to write a polemic for the restaurant industry..."

"How about we try it this way," Hanley said, offering to rewrite a statement in the draft report: "Resistance to a referendum may create a false assumption that food services don't support government services." What do you think?"

After the group signaled approval, Hanley encouraged them to "hang on."

"We're doing well folks, only three more pages to go ...."

For more information on the meals tax referendum task force, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/>

## Supervisors' Comments on Meals Tax Referendum

"There are many contradictions with the meals tax. We all complain about the county's over reliance on the property tax and talk about the need to diversify revenue sources, but don't do a meals tax! It's also a contradiction for Republicans to adopt party platforms, as we have at all levels, that call for greater use of initiative and referendum and trusting the people and yet we oppose putting the meals tax question before the voters. I have consistently supported putting the issue to the voters, and I will do so this time. I have not taken any position on the tax itself and don't expect to. People are smart enough to make up their own minds without me sticking my nose in!"

— Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully)

"We have no revenue options other than the property tax and with assessments on homes rising there is no room, in my view, to increase the rate to get more revenue. The meals tax is the only other revenue option we have which is why we are looking at it. But we have not made any decisions."

— Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock)

"I have and will continue to be adamantly opposed to a meals tax and any referendum on this issue as it is directed at a single industry. I believe this is the wrong time to add another tax on our county residents and while some of it will be paid by visitors the bulk will be paid by our county residents."

— Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

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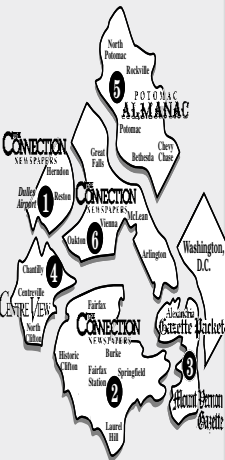
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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



**Sophia Manicone belted out a high-energy tune in her Vienna Idol finals performance. Sophia was voted Vienna Idol 2014.**

**Meredith Campbell rocked the Town Green with “Last Dance.” Campbell won second-place winner in the 2014 Vienna Idol competition.**

**Jason Saitta, with a bluesy voice and nimble guitar-playing, came in third in the 2014 Vienna Idol competition.**

# Sophia Manicone Named Vienna Idol

## Vienna Idol raised over \$13,000 for the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Of more than 35 contestants auditioning for Vienna Idol throughout the spring, it came down to six finalists competing on the Town Green Friday night, June 6. Of the six, three were voted “super-finalists,” but there can be just one Vienna Idol. And 9-year-old Sophia Manicone, with her booming Broadway voice, was voted the 2014 Vienna Idol.

Meredith Campbell came in second place, and Jason Saitta, third. Rounding out the finalists in competition were Cameron Michaud, Camille Thornton, Falling Home [Glen Schulerberg and Norm Morin].

“It hit me last year that although it’s wonderful to celebrate the ‘winner,’ special thanks go to all our contestants who give so much to raise money for such a wonderful cause,” said Vienna Idol producer and owner of Caffe Amouri, Michael Amouri.

When Amouri announced second-place winner, and, it was clear which of the singers would hold the title of this year’s Vienna Idol, Sophia’s friends, sitting stagefront, pounced on her screaming with joy. Sophia herself was stunned, her eyes opening wide, hand over her mouth. Back onstage, though, to receive her \$500 check, she was the professional entertainer once again. Confident, bubbly and articulate.

**THE VIENNA IDOL** finals drew a crowd of 500 to 700 people on the Town Green Friday night, June 6. The six finalists combined to raise more than \$5,300 from the finals’ lawn “votes.” More than \$13,000 was raised from Vienna Idol in 2014, from sponsor contributions to “jug” donations and individual donations.

“I always imagine a time, some 20 years in the future, when a family, perhaps living on Beulah, is gathering for dinner and the mom or dad says ‘you

know, we have all this because of a young lady we never met — Khristin Kylo,” said Amouri. “I went to college because of her, something I might not have been able to do. We owe her a debt of gratitude.”

Vienna Idol, created by Amouri three years ago, raises money for the Khristin Kylo Memorial Fund.

Khristin died of complications from epilepsy at the end of her first semester at Princeton University in 2010. She was a James Madison High School graduate and a softball stand-out. Amouri coached Khristin at Madison in basketball.

Khristin’s parents, Tom and Julie Kylo, founded the memorial fund not long after their daughter’s unexpected death. The Khristin Kylo “Dream Big” scholarship, awards scholarships to local high school students who epitomize Khristin’s outlook, character and dreams. What remains after scholarships are awarded goes to S.U.D.E.P (Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy) research.

Vienna’s late mayor M. Jane Seeman was passionate about the construction of the Town Green.

From the stage, Amouri recalled Seeman’s remark when the first Vienna Idol debuted on the Town Green. “This is what the Town Green was made for,” Amouri reported Seeman as saying.

**AMOURI PRAISED** Vienna Idol sponsors, particularly Whole Foods and the Rotary Club of Vienna, and singled out his project manager, Celia Blalock, calling her the “conductor.” She keeps the train on the tracks, he said.

“Whole Foods is a national business who puts their money where their mouth is,” said Amouri. Whole Foods donated more than \$5,000 from its May “Vienna Idol” day. “They’re amazing,” said Amouri.

Vienna Idol judge Jeff Bollatino of School of Rock took the microphone to recognize the unsung sponsor, Caffe Amouri, and the coffeehouse’s owner who created Vienna Idol, Michael Amouri.

Amouri hopes Vienna Idol will become a Vienna tradition. He says that one of the “cool things” about Idol is that it pulls together the community, from the judges who juggle multiple professional tasks to make it there to judge auditions to the people who cheer on the finalists on the Town Green.

“Vienna Idol is the quintessential community event,” said Amouri. “It’s right out of Mayberry.”

# Cassie Meets Celtic Charm

FROM PAGE 7

which is excellent.”

**A FEW WEEKS EARLIER**, Cassie and her team placed third out of 25 teams at the Virginia Regional Pony Club Rally, May 10-11, at the Deep Run Hunt Club in Manakin-Sabot, outside Richmond. She’s been riding since age 7, but didn’t join Pony Club until last fall, so this was her first rally (tournament).

Rallies are different than horse shows in that the riders compete together in teams of five and the combined scores determine the winning team. “I was very nervous,” said Cassie. But she didn’t let it affect her performance. Personal scores are also given and, in the Richmond rally – which was a jumping event – Cassie received the highest score for equitation (riding technique) for her team.

Then came the dressage event, May 24-25, at Morven Park in Leesburg, and another outstanding day for Cassie and her teammates. She rode a horse named Mocha in both rallies, but he belongs to someone else. But on May 31, she became a horse-owner, too, when her parents surprised her with a 10-year-old thoroughbred named Celtic Charm, purchased from a friend of a friend. “It was awesome,” said her mom, Lisa Picard. “Her barn friends were all in on the surprise, and they kept her busy by having her judge at a show for some younger kids. We walked [the horse] up to her in front of everyone, and she was stunned. And it turns out, you can gift-wrap a horse. Celtic Charm is 16.2 hands tall, 1,300 pounds and is a retired racehorse.”

“I still can’t believe it’s real,” said a thrilled Cassie. “I’ve been waiting and hoping all my life for this day! It’s a dream come true.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Cassie Picard and her new pony, Celtic Charm, who came gift-wrapped.**

So why does she enjoy horseback riding so much? “I love riding horses because it feels like flying,” she explained. “And I get to spend time with friends who feel the same way about horses as I do. Competing in the summer events, especially cross-country jumping, is my favorite part.” Toughest, said Cassie, is “having the proper balance. Everyone thinks you just sit there while the horse does everything, but that’s not true. The challenge is to make it look easy. There’s a lot of communication and trust required between rider and horse.” Best of all, she said, is “being able to connect with an animal that’s 10 times your size, but is still your best friend.”

**NEXT ON CASSIE’S AGENDA** is reaching the next level certification in Pony Club, which will require “a lot of work and study,” she said. “I’m preparing for our next rally at the end of June and I also want to start practicing musical, freestyle dressage. Next year I hope to qualify for the Pony Club National Championships in Kentucky.”

Currently, she rides every moment she can. “During the school year, it’s usually about 15 hours a week,” she said. “I’m looking forward to summer when I can ride all the time.”