

Students pledge allegiance to the flag as Madison High graduation begins on June 18.

# 'Go into the World Fearlessly'

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## Town Council Bids Farewell to Cole

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## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Silver Line to Open July 26

The Silver Line metro stations will be open July 26.

A press release was issued Monday stating the latest developments in the new metro line.

"We have set the opening date for the Silver Line as Saturday, July 26," said Metro General Manager and CEO Richard Sarles in the press release. "The five new Silver Line stations will open to customers at noon, and the first Silver Line train will depart Wiehle-Reston East, bound for Largo Town Center, at that time."

Trains will run every 6 minutes during rush hour and every 12 to 20 minutes during off-peak times, according to the statement.

Phase I will mark the opening of the McLean, Tysons Corner, Greensboro, Spring Hill and Wiehle-Reston East stations.

Hunter Mill District Supervisor and Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority Principal Director Catherine Hudgins said the community is ready for the stations to open.

"I think it has progressed to the point that it is safe and reliable," she said. "I know, in the non-service hours, they will have the opportunity to do additional work."

She said residents should stay informed as the stations gets ready to open for a possible opportunity for a "sneak peek."

"This is opening our corridor in a significant way," she said.

Tysons Corner will be home of the majority of the new metro stations.

"We are delighted that Silver Line service is about to start, and that everyone in DC Metro area can soon enjoy all the excitement in Tysons," said Tysons Partnership Executive Director Michael Caplin in an email.

### Echols, Center Street Closures

Until July 17, Echols Street in Vienna, from Branch Road to Delano Drive SE, will be closed to traffic for pavement rehabilitation. Drivers should follow the traffic-control signs for detours. Work hours are weekdays, 7 a.m.-5 p.m. A detour map is on the Town Website, [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

In addition, Center Street will be closed from Locust Street to Maple Avenue for two to three months, beginning June 30. It's necessary so workmen may remove and replace the curb, gutters and sidewalk.

### Vienna Celebrates 4th of July

Vienna's Independence Day celebration will be held Friday, July 4, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. The fun includes games, rides, arts and crafts vendors, a circus show, antique cars, a chili cook-off, live music and costumed Pooches on Parade. Registration for this pet parade begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center gazebo.

Fireworks will start at 9:15 p.m. at Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive S.W., with entertainment by Fat Chance at 7 p.m. Spectator seating opens at 5 p.m. For more information, go to [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). In case of rain, call 703-255-7842; rain date for fireworks only is Saturday, July 5.

### Vienna Town Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Vienna Town Council is set for Monday, July 7, at 8 p.m. It's at the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S.

### Vienna Farmers Mar- ket

The Vienna Farmers Market is held Saturdays, from 8 a.m.-noon, in the Faith Baptist Church parking lot at 301 Center Street S. And it will remain open during the construction on Center Street that begins June 30. Customers may access the market via Courthouse Road to Locust Street or via Park Street to Cherry Street.

### New Public Informa- tion Officer Selected

Town Manager Mercury T. Payton has announced the appointment of Ken Kroski as Vienna's new public information officer.

Kroski was selected among 121 candidates. "Ken's communications and leadership abilities, along with decades of experience working with government and private-sectors, will prove to be of great value to Vienna," said Town Manager Mercury Payton.

Kroski's experience includes six years with a trade association, thirteen years with Baltimore County Public Schools, and the last thirteen years as a public information officer with the City of Phoenix, Ariz.

Kroski holds a Bachelor's Degree in Mass Communications from Towson University.

He will assume his new duties on Monday, July 14, 2014.

### Town Council Reap- pointments

At its June 16 meeting, the Vienna Town Council reappointed David Lanphear and Jim Hendricks to the Planning Commission. Both will serve two-year terms, from June 2014 to June 2016.

### Blood Drive July 11

Town of Vienna employees are sponsoring a blood drive on Friday, July 11, from 10:30 a.m.-3 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E. The Inova bloodmobile will be parked in front of the community center.

To make an appointment to donate blood, go to [www.inova.org/donateblood](http://www.inova.org/donateblood)



# NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Vienna Councilwoman Laurie Cole (on left) receives a plaque from Mayor Laurie DiRocco as (from left) Council members Emil Attanasi, Edythe Kelleher and Howard Springsteen, plus Town Manager Mercury Payton applaud.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF TARA RUSZKOWSKI

**(From left) Vienna Town Council members Edythe Kelleher, Pasha Majdi and Linda Colbert are sworn in.**

## Town Council Bids Farewell to Cole

**DiRocco, Majdi, Kelleher and Colbert are sworn in.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

One chapter closed and another one opened last week for the Vienna Town Council. After 12 years of service, Councilwoman Laurie Cole chose not to run for reelection; so last Monday, June 16, was her last Council meeting.

It was also the evening that Mayor Laurie DiRocco was officially sworn in, as were new Council members Pasha Majdi and Linda Colbert, plus incumbent Edythe Kelleher. They'll all serve two-year terms beginning July 1.

As for Cole, she served previously on the Planning Commission from 1996-2000, the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) from 2000-2002 and on the Community Enhancement Commission, as well.

Acknowledging her long and distinguished history of involvement in bettering Vienna, DiRocco presented her with a plaque.

Cole thanked the voters for "the opportunity to serve and for being engaged" in the town. "There's no topic somebody in Vienna isn't an expert on," she said. Cole also thanked her family for all their patience and recognized the "marvelous people who work here in town."

She acknowledged Director of Planning and Zoning Greg Hembree and Town Attorney Steve Briglia for their help and guidance. Cole also expressed appreciation to the past Council members who showed her the ropes of the job.

"The only training we get is on-the-job,"

she said. "But I had great examples who taught me [what they knew] and also by the way they conducted themselves. Emil Attanasi, Ed Chase and Gary Gillum on the Planning Commission all were enormously helpful."

Cole also thanked past Councilmen Bob Robinson and Vince Olson, plus former Mayor "Jane Seeman for her compassion and resolve and the way she lived her life and conducted the business of the town."

To her current Council colleagues, Cole advised them to "please remember the value of dissent – comparing viewpoints, challenging ideas and provoking discussion. I remember my 'no' votes; when something doesn't feel right, you've got to say that. Thank you all very much – it's been so much fun."

Praising Cole's attention to detail, DiRocco told her, "You speak your mind and really care about the town – and it's very appreciated."

Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki told Cole, "You've been wonderful to me as a guide [to] doing the right thing. You epitomized what it means to be a servant of the town. You kept the farmers market going, and your work with the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority has really helped the town."

Councilman Howard Springsteen noted that Cole "gave us the leverage to get the fire station built by joining the capital campaign committee."

"I'm going to miss you, Laurie," said Kelleher. "We came on the Council together, and I remember going to the newly elected class with you. Thank you for all you've done."

Town Manager Mercury Payton thanked Cole for her "insight, wisdom and service" to Vienna. "When you left the Planning Commission for the BZA, we missed you," added Attanasi. "And we'll continue to miss you now."

## Vienna Police Are in Annual Torch Run

Several members of the Vienna Police Department participated June 5 in the 29th annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Virginia Special Olympics. They, along with more than 2,000 other officers helped deliver the torch to Richmond.

This event in Virginia involves officers from more than 300 agencies who take part in torch relay of eight days and more than 2,000 miles to pass the Special Olympics "Flame of Hope" across the Commonwealth. All the relays then converge in Richmond for the lighting of the cauldron during the Special Olympics Virginia Summer Games Opening Ceremonies.

To date, Virginia's Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised more than \$15 mil-

lion for Special Olympians in the state. Law enforcement participants raise money to fund the program via T-shirt and cap sales, donations and fundraisers such as Tip-A-Cop, Polar Plunge and golf tournaments.

T-shirts with or without the Vienna Police Department logo, and baseball caps, will remain available for purchase at the Vienna Police Department by contacting either Ruth Rohr at Ruth.Rohr@Viennava.gov or Gary.Lose@Viennava.gov.

— BONNIE HOBBS



**Team VPD members are (from left) Officer Blake Tremont, MPO Dean Bailey, MPO Erik Hall, Det. Scott Leroux, Colonel James A. Morris, Deputy Chief Daniel Janickey, Dispatcher Amy Milliman, Sgt. Mike Reeves, Officer John Digan, Det. Mike Finelli, Administrative Assistant Jennifer Dinges and PFC Juan Vazquez.**



# GRADUATION 2014

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



The Statesman Singers directed by Keri Staley sing 'Go The Distance' by Alan Menken & David Zippel, arranged by Ed Lojeski.



Marshall High School students of the Class of 2014 proceed to the stage to receive their diplomas from school Principal Jay W. Pearson.

## Facing a 'Real World'

Marshall High 2014 graduates told not to be afraid of rejection and 'real world.'

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**R**yan McElveen knows something about second chances.

The Fairfax County Schools board member talked about hair loss, rejection and motivation during his speech for Marshall High School's Class of 2014 graduation June 18 at Constitution Hall.

The first time McElveen ran for the school board, he was not voted in. However, when the winner of the election was disqualified, he got his second chance and ran for the position again.

"I was given a second chance, and second chances don't come along often in life," he said.

McElveen is a researcher for The Brookings Institution John Thornton China Center and the youngest person to be elected on the FCPS school board.

"Don't sit back and wait for your turn, because your turn may never come," he said.

His stories were all about accepting that rejection will be a part of the students' lives, and these students will experience rejection worse than they did in high school - being rejected by their dream school or by someone they had feelings for.

"Grow thick skin, don't take things too personally and ignore the haters," he advised.

The faculty speaker, teacher Dean Wood said the best advice he ever received was to not wish the days away. He also learned - from being in Boy Scouts - to make every place a little bit better than how you found it.

"Don't wish that college started tomorrow," he said. "Don't wish you were all on your own. That's going to come soon enough. Right now, listening to me, your parents are wondering where the days went when you were five years old. Don't wish the days away and don't wish that your real life will start tomorrow."

He noted that the now alumnus of the high school are some of the hardest working people he has known, and to not worry about people who pressure them about how the real world will be hard.

"I used to hate it when people would say, 'What are you going to do when you go out into the real world?'" he said. "Believe me, Class of 2014, I've seen you work harder than many of the people I know have been in the alleged real world with. High school wasn't a game for you. It was hard."

He said college is supposed to be hard, and that's what makes it worth it.

"And if it's hard, it's the real world," he said. "Don't let anyone belittle your accomplishments in high school by asking about the real world. This is the real world and you killed it for the last 12 years. You're not about to start the race. You've been running ever since you got up on your wobbling little feet."



Daniel Joseph LaBarbera arrives on stage to receive one of the two 2014 Statesman Awards.



Lilian Grace Roth was also awarded one of the two 2014 Statesman Awards.



Marshall High School senior class officers Samuel Criscitello, Emma Heiden, Karim Saoud and Hayleigh Walton reflect as the Statesman Singers perform a musical selection.





## Vienna Rotary Installs New Leadership Team

**Members who put 'service above self' honored.**

When the Rotary Club of Vienna passed the torch from the 2013-14 "leadership team" to the 2014-15 team it did so in style.

On June 19 at the Grand Atrium in Dunn Loring, Vienna Rotary hosted a banquet and open bar recognizing the achievements of 2013-14 Rotarians, and installing and welcoming the 2014-15 leadership team.

Awards were handed out to Paul Harris Fellows Lisa Escoto, Mark Rogoff, and Greg Bernhard. Master of Ceremonies Larry Warren presented a trophy gavel and plaque to outgoing president Ron Balderson. Rotary District 7610 Assistant Governor Scott Didericksen introduced incoming president Kelvin Pierce. Pierce acknowledged he was "shy" when he first joined the Vienna Rotary in 2009, but, he said, he was welcomed and embraced. "Giving back just feels good," Pierce said. "It changed my life."



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Kathleen Snisky-Miller, general chair of the 2014 ViVa! Vienna! festival, was recognized for "service above self."**

Meetings secretary Ted Welch was voted by Rotary's past presidents as Rotarian of the Year, and was awarded an inscribed plaque.

For her work year-round as "general chair" of ViVa! Vienna!, Kathleen Miller was honored with the "Service Above Self" award. Miller serves as chair of the "New Generations" committee, as well.



**Rotarian of the Year Ted Welch is applauded by Keith Bodamer on behalf of voting past presidents who selected Welch.**

Yasmine Bonilla was voted "New Rotarian of the Year" for her dedication and efforts to bring new members in and was acknowledged as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Rotary clubs focus on club, vocational, community, international, and youth service around the world.

—DONNA MANZ

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# OPINION

## Safe Fourth

Talking and planning are the best safety measures; SoberRide offers a safety net.

**I**ndependence Day is a national celebration, and for many, that celebration includes alcohol. The summer overall and July 4 in particular are times of greater risk for drinking and driving.

Make a plan. Plan to celebrate with access to public transportation. Plan to have a designated driver. Plan to celebrate in a place safe and comfortable to spend the night.

But in case those plans go awry, here is a safe alternative.

The Washington Regional Alcohol Program will offer free taxi rides home (up to \$30) beginning 10 p.m. the night of July 4 for six hours until 4 a.m. the morning of July 5. Participants must be at least 21. Call 1-800-200-TAXI.

On July 4, 2013, nearly 300 people used WRAP's SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired.

In summer, 44 percent of all U.S. traffic deaths are caused by alcohol-impaired drivers, according to statistics provided by WRAP. SoberRide is a way to help keep local roads safe from impaired drivers during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

For parents of young adults who may be living at home and parents of those under 21, this is time to talk. Ask about plans, ask specifically about getting home. Remind those over 21 to take the WRAP phone number with them.

While you hope that young adults under 21 aren't drinking — because there are lots of dangers to binge drinking beyond drinking and driving — you know that many of them will be drinking. Let your younger family members know that you would much rather pay for a cab or come get them yourself than run the risk of losing them.

Since 1993, WRAP's SoberRide program has provided 60,565 free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the Greater Washington area.

For more information, visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com).

—MARY KIMM,  
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Call for Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 23, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 16.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, tales of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults. Please tell us a little bit about your pet, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

We welcome short stories about how you got your pet, a noteworthy talent or anecdote about your pet, explanations of the bonds between your family and your pet, plus drawings, paintings or other artwork of your pet by children or adults.

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## 100K Reasons to Find People Homes

BY MAURA WILLIAMS  
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/  
FACETS

**S**andara was scared of her spouse so she fled and left her life and job behind. Tom suffered from an undiagnosed disease that cost him his job, home and life savings. These unfortunate events led to both becoming homeless and living in the woods of Fairfax County. That's where on a cold winter morning volunteers organized by FACETS and other local nonprofits found them while participating in the 100,000 Homes Fairfax: A Home for All Campaign, which is part of the national 100,000 Homes program, which counts, photographs, and interviews the chronically homeless in an effort to end homelessness.

Fairfax County has nearly 2,900 people who are homeless—14 percent of whom are chronically homeless. Over the course of three mornings, our volunteers met and interviewed more than 400 people who are chronically homeless. The findings were used to create profiles of people to ensure that each individual experiencing homelessness is counted and that their progress in finding housing and services can be better tracked.



Maura Williams

Supporting the County's 10-year plan to end homelessness, the 100,000 Homes Campaign is focused on building efficient local systems that target resources to individuals who are most vulnerable. Campaign partners are committed to getting half of the people most vulnerable who are chronically homeless in supportive housing in three years—which will save money and possibly lives.

Already we have seen success. With the data collected by staff and volunteers, we were able to connect Sandara and Tom with services that have helped them

regain their lives, safety, and dignity. Less than a year later, we celebrated with each of them and 16 others at a housewarming celebration, hosted by FACETS, a nonprofit that opens doors by helping those who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County.

During the housewarming, we welcomed these neighbors experiencing homelessness into their own apartments through our new program called TRIUMPH II Housing, which also provides supportive services. These recent successes have propelled the community to meet our goal of 50 people

housed in a year—and we still have two years to go for this campaign with a goal of housing 50 people each year!

We also had the chance to celebrate the program's nationwide success. Last week, I attended an event in DC with Becky Kanis, the director of the national 100,000 Homes program, to announce a major milestone as the 100,000th person—a vet who has been homeless from Arlington, Va.—moved into housing through this ambitious effort. In announcing the milestone, she emphatically declared: "We can forever dispense with the Neanderthal view that people don't deserve or aren't ready for housing."

Although the "100,000" number sounds big, it's the people part that makes it special. Through this campaign, we are able to put a local face on homelessness with real stories about real people. Some are grandmothers, fathers, sons, daughters, and friends. Many work and others have protected our nation. When we met them, they lived in cars, encampments or on the streets, but they continued to smile and seemed hopeful that our caring community would help find them a home. And for 100,000 of them and counting, we have.

Vienna & Oakton  
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## VIEWPOINTS

### Marshall High Graduates: Where do you see yourself in 10 years?

— REENA SINGH

**Sarah Baldwin, 18, Vienna. Attending The College of William and Mary.**

"Wow. Well, I plan to study finance and business, so I hope to find a financial position in the music industry."



**Alex Dittmann, 17, University of Illinois - Urbana.**

"In the next 10 years, hopefully I will be finished with grad school, although you never know how long that will take. I hope to be doing some post-doctorate work."



**Emily Holmes, 18, Vienna. Attending Duquesne University.**

"I'd like to start my own business. I'm going to college in Pittsburg, so hopefully it'll be there."



**Johnathon Hoynes, 18, Falls Church.**

"I want to work in the private sector - public sector. I want to work in cyber security, so maybe in the military. Whatever is best."



PHOTOS BY  
REENA SINGH/  
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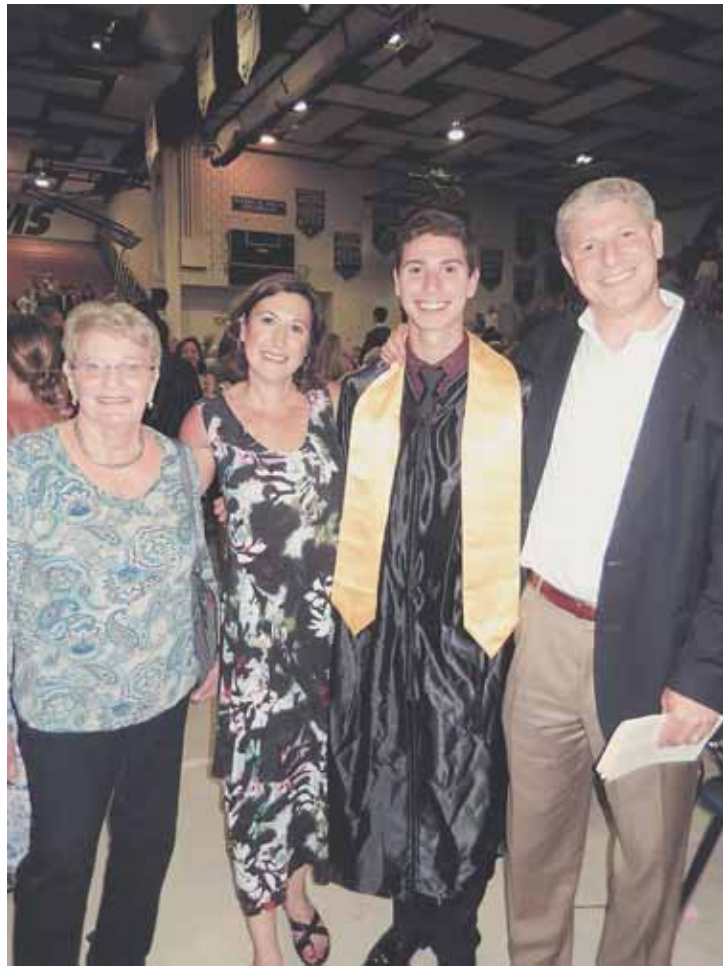
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# GRADUATION 2014



Posing with grad Matthew Calem are (from left) his grandmother, Leanoire Calem; mom Hindy Shaman and dad Mark Calem. Matthew will study engineering and run long-distance track at Rice University.



Grad Lauren Marron (on right) with Aunt Victoria Winkowski. Lauren will study journalism at Grossmont College in San Diego.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION



The Madison Madrigals sing the Beatles song, "I Will."



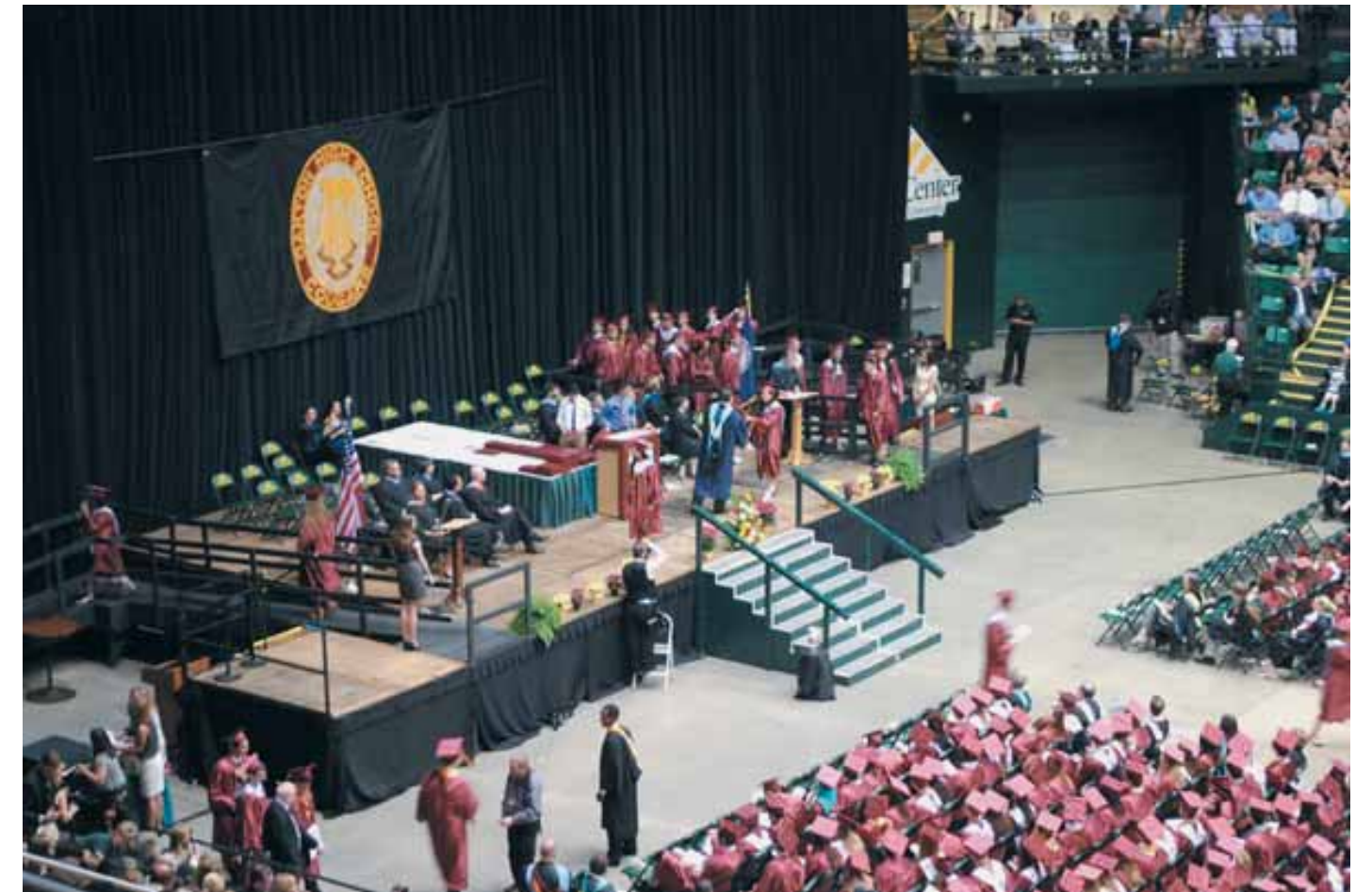
With graduate Corrinne Hibbs are (from left) her sister-in-law, Sarah Martucci; brother David Hibbs III and dad David Hibbs Jr.



The new Madison High grads toss their caps into the air.

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Oakton High School students walk across the stage to receive their diplomas Thursday, June 19.

PHOTOS BY EMMA HARRIS/THE CONNECTION

## Cougars Congratulated

About 500 Oakton High School students graduated Thursday, June 19.

BY EMMA HARRIS  
THE CONNECTION

With a handshake from the principal and a snap of a camera, about 500 Oakton High School seniors graduated Thursday morning, June 19 at the Patriot Center in Fairfax.

Around 130 of students were Honor Graduates, meaning they maintained a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 or higher.

"Oakton is its community," said Eric Lim, the student speaker who highlighted the people of Oakton High School. He told of how the "amazing people" helped him grow from a ninth grader who felt like a failure into a high school graduate who feels comfortable with himself. And though high school was "equal parts monotony and thrill," the people "made us more us than we could have ever been on our own," he said. "Remember the people who made you who you are," Lim said. "I think they're kind of the point."

**IN MEMORY OF JEANINE MUSGROVE**, a freshman biology teacher and AP Environmental Science teacher who passed away due to a sudden heart



Denis Greene, president of business operations for the Washington Redskins and parent of a Class of 2014 graduate, offers the graduates three pieces of advice in his speech.

attack in August 2013, the Class of 2014's gift is to add to the fund for an outdoor classroom.

"Mrs. Musgrove always talked about building an outdoor classroom," said Bailey Vitz, executive council member of the Class of 2014. "At least once a week, no matter what the weather was like, she would bring her classes outside to do different activities," she said.

There is already a "perfect location" for the classroom — a place where no trees have to be cut down and there is already a path — and the Class of 2014 hopes that the classroom will be built this summer, Vitz said. "Mrs. Musgrove touched so many student lives, so as a class we are happy to leave this school with something that will help everyone remember her forever," she said.

**THE ANNUAL FACULTY AWARD** was given to Evelyn Wang for her outstanding scholarship, school service, participation, character and integrity, said Dr. John Banbury, principal of Oakton High School. "This speaks volumes on behalf of the faculty and staff," he said. Wang plans to attend the University of Virginia next year, Banbury said.

Summing up the morning ceremony, guest speaker Denis Greene, president of business operations for the Washington Redskins and parent of a Class of 2014 graduate, offered three pieces of advice to the graduates: apply yourself sooner towards an objective, don't be afraid to fail and be happy. "Enjoy the ride," he said. "It gets better."

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ JUNE 25 - JULY 1, 2014 ♦ 9

## 'Go into the World Fearlessly'

Madison High graduates 496 students on June 18.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Turning their tassels and tossing their caps into the air, nearly 500 Madison High students graduated last Wednesday, June 18, in Robinson Secondary School's field house. And 118 of them were honor graduates, having earned a 4.0 GPA over all four years of school.

Citizenship awards were given to students Olivia Hartt and Tyler Chaput. Madison's highest honor, the Faculty Award, went to Lexie Graham. According to Principal Mark Merrell, 94 percent of this year's Madison graduates will go on to college. And, he added, "They received 600 scholarships

worth in excess of \$5 million."

Before they left the security of high school, though, student speaker Lauren Bachmann gave them some sage advice. "A fascinating, new world lies before us and we owe it to ourselves to make the most of it," she said. "Let's get lost without losing ourselves."

"We have to look at the unfamiliar before we can objectively look at where we've been and where we're going," continued Bachmann. "The unknown scares us, but we should take this opportunity to dive into [it] and take risks."

She told her classmates that their "Northern Virginia bubble" isn't the only reality out there. "It's our time to educate ourselves and become well-rounded and resilient human beings," she said. "Embrace change, get lost in college, explore and find yourself again."

Also speaking was economics teacher Andrew Foos, who also coaches swimming and diving at Madison and mentors new teachers. He and his wife have two children and a third on the way, but he told the students

he considers all of them his children, as well.

"I care about you like you're my own kids, and I spend more time with you [than with my own children] during the school year," he said. "As a teacher, I serve on your parents' behalf — and I take this responsibility seriously. I love my kids freely and unconditionally and I'd do just about anything for my students and athletes — you're part of my tribe."

When a person has that kind of attitude, said Foos, "You can change someone's life in a profound way. So do what's best for others; we want you to grow and develop into the best people you can be. Go into the world fearlessly, tackle challenges with courage and know that we'll be there for you, no matter what."

Furthermore, he said, "Seek out others who accept you for who you are and who'll give of themselves for you. Thank you for all the times we've shared together, and the great memories, and may God bless you on your graduation."



# 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 26

**Artists Meet for Coffee.** 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local artists drop in to meet for coffee. 703-759-2759.

**Patrick Henry Book Club.** 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Currently reading Unsinkable, by Debbie Reynolds. Adults.

**Jessie and James: Mutts Gone Nuts!** 2 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. See Jessie and James and their mischievous pack of mutts present a thrilling and comic dog show with juggling, rope walking and crowd play. All ages. 703-242-4020.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 27

**McLean Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Fridays, May 2-Nov. 21. 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mcleanmkt.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mcleanmkt.htm)

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

**Handel Giulio Cesare.** Check website for exact showtimes (also on Sunday, June 29 and Tuesday, July 1). Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

**Kayak Tour Island Hopping.** 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Explore the upper Potomac River islands by kayak. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm>.

**Look at the Stars! Observatory Open.** 7:30-10:30 p.m. Turner Farm Park, Springvale Road, Great Falls. Come to the observatory park for Friday Night viewings. [www.analemma.org](http://www.analemma.org).

**Pokemon League.** 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Learn and play! Ages 5-18.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 28

**Great Falls Farmer's Market.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Don't forget to bring your recyclable bag. [www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org](http://www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org).

**Oakton Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. [www.smartmarkets.org/](http://www.smartmarkets.org/)

**Vienna Farmers Market.** 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Faith Baptist Church Parking Lot, 301 Center Street South, Vienna. [www.viennafarmersmarket.com](http://www.viennafarmersmarket.com).

**Cars & Coffee.** 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find a gathering of cool cars – antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here. 703-759-2759.

**Beethoven's 9th.** 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Triumphant performance of Beethoven's "Ode to Joy" masterpiece and more by preeminent singers and one of the world's leading orchestras in its only 2014 DC-area appearance. Tickets: \$25-\$65. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

## SUNDAY/JUNE 29

**Tyson's Farmers Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NADA Campus, Greensboro & Westpark Drive. [www.tysonspartnership.org](http://www.tysonspartnership.org)

**Concert on the Green – Rock/The Dusty 45's.** 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, Georgetown Pike & Walker Road, Great Falls. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an entertaining evening of live music. [gfvcca@aol.com](mailto:gfvcca@aol.com).

**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 Tonics and some bluesy-rock. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

**Diana Ross.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Motown's supreme legend has inspired generations of singers with an endless stream of No. 1 hits from "You Can't Hurry Love" to "I'm Coming Out." Tickets: \$35-\$60. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

**Handel Giulio Cesare.** Check website for exact showtimes (also on Tuesday, July 1). Wolf Trap,

1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

**2nd Annual Tour de Tysons Bicycle Races.** 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Jones Branch Drive, Tysons Corner. Ten bicycle races, food trucks and vendors. The Tour de Tysons is a fun experience for the whole family — compete or simply enjoy. Visit [www.tysonspartnership.com](http://www.tysonspartnership.com) for more.

## MONDAY/JUNE 30 – JULY 9

**Teen Yoga.** 5 – 6 p.m. Margaret Haddad Studio of Classical Ballet, 9911 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Classes are held Mondays and Wednesdays. The cost is \$60/session. No previous experience required. Please bring a yoga. To register, email [JidoFAH@aol.com](mailto:JidoFAH@aol.com).

## MONDAY/JUNE 30

**American Giants of Science.** 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Meet America's most famous inventors and see them come to life onstage with Bright Star Theatre. Age 6-12.

**Top Secret.** 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Amazing magic tricks, silly puppets and music with Steve Somers. All ages.

**Spectacular Science.** 2:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science. Ages 6-12.

**American Giants of Science.** 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Meet America's most famous inventors and see them come to life onstage with Bright Star Theatre. Age 6-12.

## TUESDAY/JULY 1

**Pilobolus.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Wild creativity and daring, athletic modern dance. Tickets: \$10-\$48. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

**Handel Giulio Cesare.** Check website for exact showtime. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. New production, sung in Italian with English supertitles. Inside the Opera preshow talk begins one hour before curtain. Tickets: \$36-\$88. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

## THURSDAY/JULY 3

**Crosby, Stills & Nash.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Folk royalty of Woodstock reunite in musical celebration of one of the most creative supergroups in rock 'n' roll history. Tickets: \$35-\$60. [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/)

## FRIDAY/JULY 4

**Great Falls Fourth of July Celebration.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre, 776 Walker Road, Great Falls. Walk/run, parades, festivities, fun and food. Fireworks at Turner Farm Park on Saturday, July 6. Visit [www.celebrategreatfalls.org](http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org) for more.

**Vienna 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival and Fireworks Show.** 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Live musical entertainment, arts and crafts for kids, antique and classic car show and fireworks. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

## SUNDAY/JULY 6

**Diamond Alley Celebrate Great Falls Concert on the Green.** 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. Come out with your picnic baskets and chairs for an evening of live, free, contemporary and classic hits. (571) 293-0474.

## FRIDAY/JULY 11

**Summer on the Green Concert.** 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear some rock and country with Stealin' the Deal. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

## SUNDAY/JULY 13

**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 Village Jazz Band. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The inflatable castle and the rock-climbing wall had lines, although the caterpillar and obstacle course offered quick access at Vienna's annual Independence Day festival last year.

## Vienna's July 4<sup>th</sup> Festivities

The Town of Vienna's annual July 4th celebration will be held on Friday, July 4, at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. Admission is free.

Activities from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. will include games and rides, arts and crafts vendors, circus show, community organization booths, antique cars, a chili cook-off, live music and "Pooches on Parade," sponsored by Hope Advanced Veterinary Center, Pet Lovers Companion and NOVADog Magazine. Pet lovers are invited to bring their pets dressed in their finest Independence Day costumes and

participate in a parade on the festival field at 11 a.m. Registration begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Community Center Gazebo. Free.

A fireworks show will be held at Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive SW, beginning at 9:15 p.m.; spectator seating areas open at 5 p.m. Pre-fireworks entertainment by Fat Chance begins at 7:00 p.m.

For a detailed map of the fireworks show site and schedule information, visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov). In the event of rain, call 703-255-7842 for cancellation information. The rain date for fireworks only is Saturday, July 5.

## McLean Community Center Presents 4th of July Fireworks Show at Langley High

The McLean Community Center's (MCC) annual Independence Day Celebration will be held on Friday, July 4, on the sports fields at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike. The grounds will open at 8 p.m. The fireworks show will begin at approximately 9:15 p.m. Admission and parking are free.

In case of inclement weather, the fireworks display will be presented on the rain date, Saturday, July 5, at 8:30 p.m. Smoking, pets, fireworks, sparklers and alcohol are not allowed on school grounds. The fireworks display will be provided by East Coast Pyrotechnics. MCC Governing Board Chair Chad Quinn will be the guest speaker and the Joint Armed Forces Color Guard of the Military District of Washington will present the colors.

A free shuttle bus service will be available from St. John's Episcopal Church (6715 Georgetown Pike) and MCC (1234 Ingleside Ave.), beginning at 7 p.m. A handicap-accessible bus will be available at both sites.

For more information, call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCC

Independence Day Celebration will be held on Friday, July 4, on the sports fields at Langley High School.



## NEWS

# A Message of Taste and Beauty

## Karin's Florist wins National All-Star Floral Design Competition.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

Vienna floral designer Bryan Swann of Karin's Florist recently took home the title of All-Stars Champion in VaseOff!, a nationwide design competition hosted by the Society of American Florists (SAF).

In May, Swann was selected as a final contestant and tasked with creating an arrangement that inspires a friend to live life to the fullest, depicting the notion, "Live Colorfully – Dare to be Different."

"A dear friend taught me one of the best life lessons, which is to live every day to the fullest. Embrace life," Swann said, describing his floral arrangement. "As floral artists, we are able to convey that lesson through the beauty of flowers. I have always loved the inherent energy that is found in the colors of hot pink, purple and coral. I started my design by creating a box with the liatris and then wove the other elements throughout this forest of liatris to bring the design Outta the Box!"

His bold design wowed voters. National flower enthusiasts, bloggers, and florists who participated in the online competition posted glowing comments about Swann's entry: "This arrangement sends a message of true taste and beauty. Class, consistency and creativity."

Another comment reads, "WOW! Love the colors, choice of flowers, the design and execution, but the little detail of the finely woven 'ribbon' of grass really pushes this over the top for me!"

Swann competed with four previous VaseOff! Challenge winners from across the nation.

Hosted by AboutFlowersBlog.com, the VaseOff! competition gave the opportunity for visitors to vote on their favorite arrangement from May 15-29—with SAF announcing Swann as the winner on May 30.

"We are so proud of Bryan to represent Karin's Florist in this competition," said Maris Angolia, Karin's Florist President.

"His 'Outta The Box' arrangement exemplifies what Karin's is all about: our arrangements come from deep-within to exude 'unboxed' feelings of happiness. We also would like to thank our community, both locally and the floral community for their votes and unwavering support. We are very fortunate to be around such beauty and talent in the industry we



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Bryan Swann of Karin's Florist in Vienna took home the title of All-Stars Champion in the nationwide floral design contest called VaseOff! with this bold arrangement.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Maris Angolia, president and CEO of Karin's Florist in Vienna, shows her newest display of artistic keepsakes and containers from Romero Britto, known for his pop themes and pulsating colors.

love."

Founded in 1956, Karin's Florist has been a staple in the Northern Virginia community for over 58 years. Karin's is a full-service florist, specializing in flower delivery, floral designs, weddings, gift baskets and events. Karin's Florist also boasts an online store at KarinsFlorist.com, with fresh selections of flowers, beautifully arranged by their own award-winning floral designers.

Karin's Florist has been recently awarded: • Best Florist in America – Steve Harvey Show • Best Florist in NoVA – Northern VA Magazine • Best Florist of Fairfax – SunGazette • Couples' Choice Award – Wedding Wire • 2014 Champion – VaseOff! All-Stars Challenge.

## Dermatology & Allergy

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# SPORTS

## 2013-14 High School Sports Season Produces Memorable Moments

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he 2013-14 high school sports season was full of memorable moments and accomplishments, including an undefeated record and national ranking for the Centreville football program, an emotional return to the state tournament for the Woodson boys' basketball team, and the first state championship in the history of T.C. Williams boys' soccer.

The following is a look back at some of the highlights from around Fairfax County.

### Fall Sports

The Centreville football team crushed the competition in 2013, going 10-0 with an average margin of victory of 38 points during the regular season. The carnage continued in the postseason, as the Wildcats defeated South Lakes, South County, Stonewall Jackson and Westfield on their way to the Virginia 6A North region championship.

In the Group 6A state championship game, Centreville throttled nationally-ranked Oscar Smith 35-6, capturing the program's first state title since 2000. The Wildcats finished with overwhelming advantages in total yards (338-88), rushing yards (327-14), and time of possession (34:02-13:58).

The victory improved Centreville's record to 15-0 and jumped the Wildcats into the No. 15 national ranking in USA TODAY.

"It's certainly the best team that I've ever been around in 21 years of coaching high school football," Centreville head coach Chris Haddock said. "... We actually talked to our kids a lot about our place in history and setting a higher standard and that's something that the kids wanted to do. They wanted to make history. I don't know where you place us in the all-time teams, but we're certainly one of the best in Northern Virginia and we're definitely the best at Centreville."

Centreville center Josh Smith, guard Kainoa O'Connor, running back/kick returner AJ Turner, wide receiver/defensive back Charles Tutt, and linebacker Tyler Love earned VHSL all-state honors. Linebacker Chad Wiggins was the 6A North region and Conference 5 Defensive Player of the Year, and quarterback Scott Walter was the conference Offensive Player of the Year. Haddock received conference and region Coach of the Year honors.

In golf, Connor Messick, Juhee Bae, Vishal Giri and Mike Sciorra helped Chantilly win the Virginia 6A state championship. Sciorra won the individual state title, and Bae won the girls' state championship.

In field hockey, Westfield won the first state title in Starr Karl's decorated coaching career, which includes more than 300 wins in 24 seasons. The Bulldogs defeated two-time defending champ First Colonial 2-1 in the Virginia 6A state final.

In cross country, the Chantilly boys' and the Oakton girls' teams captured Virginia

6A state titles at Great Meadow. The W-L girls' team produced the best finish in program history, taking state runner-up. Oakton senior John Stoney won the boys' individual championship, and West Springfield senior Caroline Alcorta won the girls' individual title with a meet-record time of 17 minutes, 13 seconds.

"I was just hoping to win," Alcorta said. "I didn't expect to get the course record."

In volleyball, Langley won its first state championship, beating First Colonial in the Virginia 6A final. The Saxons became the first team from the old Northern Region to win a state title.

"I think the fact that most of the players had been to states the year before helped a lot with preparation and the mental aspect of the game," Langley head coach Susan Shifflett wrote. "Obviously, we were very talented, as well. First time I have ever had two outstanding outside hitters (Jessica Donaldson and Rachel Andrejev). Sisi Holderman (libero) really stepped the second half of the season. And of course, there is Alex. That helps a lot."

### Winter Sports

Members of the W.T. Woodson boys' basketball team dealt with the death of two classmates during the 2014 6A North region tournament. While the tragedies affected the emotions of several Cavaliers, the team found a way to continue winning and eventually captured the program's second consecutive region title.

Woodson secured a berth in the Virginia state tournament by defeating Herndon 63-62 in overtime in the region semifinals. The following evening, Woodson defeated Lake Braddock 66-56 in the region final. The Cavaliers had lost their previous three matchups with Lake Braddock by a combined eight points.

"[I'm] really happy for our kids, really happy for our school community," Woodson head coach Doug Craig said. "This was a very difficult week. The fact that our Cavalry (student section) was out in such great numbers says a lot about the school community. To give them an hour-and-a-half, hour-and-45-minute distraction tonight, something to feel good about, that's what sports is supposed to be about at the high school level."

The Wakefield boys' basketball team won the 5A North region championship and advanced to the Virginia state tournament for the second consecutive season. The Lake Braddock boys' basketball team repeated as Patriot District/Conference 7 champions. The Herndon boys' basketball team won the



PHOTO BY ED LULL

**Oakton's John Stoney won the 2013 individual 6A boys' state cross country championship.**

Conference 5 championship and finished with a 23-3 record. The West Springfield girls' team reached the state tournament for the fourth time in five years. The South Lakes boys' and girls' basketball teams won Conference 6 championships.

In wrestling, Robinson won its third Virginia state championship in four years. Rams' heavyweight Jake Pinkston won his fourth consecutive region championship, reached the state final for the fourth straight year and won his second state title.

Centreville junior Tyler Love, after winning a state title with the football team in the fall, captured the 195-pound state wrestling championship.

In gymnastics, Washington-Lee won its third consecutive region championship and finished third at states. McLean finished region runner-up for the third straight year, and placed second at states. T.C. Williams, fielding its first complete team since the early 1980s, won the Conference 7 championship.

"I just remember being a freshman and having to compete with other teams," T.C. Williams junior Grace Girard said. "Now I have my own girls to compete with and it's a great feeling."

South County's Collea Burgess won the 6A North region all-around title. Hayfield's Molly Overstreet won the individual bars state championship, and Westfield's Katie

Freix finished third in the all-around.

In swimming, the Oakton girls' and Robinson boys' teams took home state championships. In Maryland, the Wootton girls' team won a state championship, edging rival Churchill. The Wootton boys' team finished runner-up.

### Spring Sports

The T.C. Williams boys' soccer team entered the 2014 season with hopes of getting past the region quarterfinals. The Titans took care of that — and then some.

TC won the first state championship in program history, beating Washington-Lee 2-0 in the Virginia 6A state final.

The Centreville girls' team reached the 6A championship match, but fell short against Battlefield, 0-0 (4-3), in a penalty-kick shootout. The Wildcats finished region and state runners-up despite winning just three of their first 10 matches.

The South County softball team won the program's first state championship, beating previously undefeated Cosby 4-1 in the 6A final. Stallions pitcher Rebecca Martin finished her high school career with another gem in the circle, tossing a complete-game three-hitter

while striking out 10. Catcher Haylea Geer hit a momentum-swinging solo home run in the fourth inning.

In lacrosse, the Robinson boys' and Westfield girls' lacrosse teams won state championships. Westfield defeated Oakton 13-11 in the girls' final after losing to the Cougars in the Conference 5 and 6A North region championship games. Robinson started the season 1-3 before closing with 17 straight victories, including a 9-7 win over Langley in the state final.

In baseball, Chantilly won the first region championship in program history and reached the Virginia 6A state final. McLean reached the state semifinals, the furthest postseason advancement in program history.

In track and field, T.C. Williams brought home the Virginia 6A boys' state championship. The South County girls' team finished state runner-up. In Maryland, the Wootton boys' team finished 4A state runner-up.

In tennis, the Lake Braddock boys' team defeated Langley in the Virginia 6A state final. The Oakton girls' team finished state runner-up. Oakton's Adrien Bouchet won the boys' singles championship, and Lake Braddock's Jacob Daugherty and Long Huynh won the boys' doubles title. Oakton's Lizzie Stewart won the girls' singles title and Stewart and Lindsey Le won the girls' doubles championship for the Cougars.





PHOTO BY CARIN BOUHAROUN

**Shouse Village swimmer Andrew Zarazinski competes for the Sharks in the boys' 13-14 50-meter freestyle.**

## Shouse Village Sharks Fall to Sleepy Hollow

**T**he Shouse Village Sharks lost against Sleepy Hollow Bath, 281-139, in NVSL Division 8 over the weekend.

Winners for Shouse were Monica Balistrere, James Bouharoun, William Bouharoun, Sinead Eksteen,

Téah Fredericks, Carlyn Kranking, Kathleen Oakley, Ryan Sribar, Charlie Williams and Catherine Zysk. Eksteen set a new girls' 13-14 50-meter freestyle team record with a time of 28.98 seconds.

## New Vienna Officer Academy Graduate

**V**ienna Police Officer Andrew Slebonick graduated May 5 from the 61st Session of the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy. The ceremony was held at the Fairfax Community Church, and his graduation culminated six months of training in all aspects of police procedures.

It includes more than 920 hours of instruction in curriculum including 320 hours of academics, 94 hours of firearms training, 84 hours of emergency vehicle operation, 110 hours of physical training and 130 hours of defensive tactics training.

After graduation, Slebonick was assigned a field training instructor for 10 weeks. The instructor observes and guides the new officer's performance in officer safety, traffic enforcement, citizen interaction, report writing, vehicle-crash investigation and many other law-enforcement duties.

Previously, Slebonick graduated from Old Dominion University with degrees in Criminal Justice and Sociology.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**(From left) are Vienna Deputy Police Chief Daniel Janickey and Officer Andrew Slebonick.**

— BONNIE HOBBS

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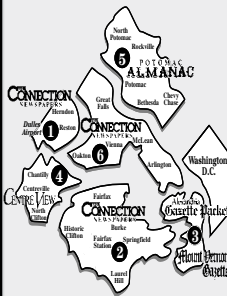
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## "One Less Thing"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Forrest Gump knew when he voiced over: "Mama got the cancer and died on a Tuesday. I bought her a new hat with little flowers on it. And that's all I have to say about that." And if you watched the movie as often as I did (it was one of my mother's favorites), you may also recall "Mama always said you got to put the past behind you before you can move on." However, as regularly as I try to follow Forrest's and his Mama's sage Greenbow, Alabama advice, being a real-life cancer patient, some days are more difficult than others, especially when your oncology nurse calls the you the day before your every-three-week chemotherapy infusion to tell you that some of the levels tested for in your every-three-week, pre-chemotherapy lab work are abnormal (creatinine too high, GFR too low) which may put a stop to the treatment this week. And if there's one psychological crutch I'll admit to having, it's the need to not miss any of my regularly-scheduled infusions or any of the other scans or miscellaneous appointments as a means not to my premature end.

Although this potential blip in my lung cancer trip has happened previously: white blood cell count too low, potassium too high, blood work hemolyzed; which also led to re-tests, new prescriptions, stoppage of treatment, etc., hearing it is never good news. Among other considerations, it means complications and likely delays concerning things that yours truly, as the patient, doesn't want to think it means: trouble with a capital "T." Nevertheless, the experience is not unfamiliar and mostly the results have been overturned on appeal, if you follow my drift. Still, until the new results are posted and/or the new prescription is filled or the infusions continue, it's difficult to put the past behind you because the present won't let you.

After the initial disappointment has passed, Ron, my oncology nurse, and I discuss my options since medically speaking, everything needs to be re-confirmed. I opt for a re-test immediately in the hope that a second test - a day later, that very day in fact - would provide whatever time my body and/or the lab needed to determine that my results did indeed fall within the normal parameters, for me, and so the infusion could go on - in, actually. If the results are unfortunately still too high/too low, we have a plan for that but since neither Ron nor I are inclined to beat the rush and panic now, we'll patiently (no pun intended) wait for the re-test's results. And since my blood work is always "STAT" (a.s.a.p. for you lay people out there), we'll receive confirmation by 4 p.m. this afternoon, more than enough time to still maintain my infusion schedule for tomorrow and move forward, which for those of us being actively treated, is crucial. At least to this patient, it is (in my head, anyway).

Approximately four hours after my conversation with Ron, including the 45-minute drive to the lab, the 30-minute wait to be drawn and then the 10-minute drive home, Ron calls to tell me that he'll see me tomorrow. The re-test came back normal and we can all proceed with the infusion - and caution as usual. Whether you take Roloids or not, you can spell r-e-l-i-e-f now. Now whether a week's delay due to the levels in my lab work would have actually mattered in the short, middle or long term infusion schedule, one certainly can't know. At least now, I can go forward and not worry as much about the past since we're presently on track once again. Life really is like a box of chocolates. Although I like the caramels and soft centers best.

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

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