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# News

# Create Day Showcase at Cooper Middle

Parents, teachers, students and community members observed hundreds of projects that Cooper students created throughout the year and exhibited at the school's Create day showcase. All classes and students were represented.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Eliza Roth - English Create project "Image vs. Reality."



Olivia Grommers looking at a student's Civics Create project "Project Citizen – School Start Time."



# Fourth Annual Dog Days of Summer

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McLean Metro Station: Silver Line trains will start running on Saturday, **July 26.** 



PHOTO BY CHUCK SAMUELSON

Tysons Corner Metro Station: Metro is expected to relieve traffic on

# Area Gears Up for Rail Opening

# Silver Line starts running on July 26.

By Reena Singh THE CONNECTION

n July 26, the expectations and hopes of commuters in Tysons and Reston will either be met or dashed when the gates to the Silver Line Metro stations are opened at noon.

Phase I of the project - which had to deal with opening date delays for the past two years - may bring traffic into an already traffic-congested area, some fear, but also hold the promise of an economic boom.

"I know that people say that with more businesses coming that there's going to be more traffic," said Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce President Mark Ingrao. "I say it's better that we have traffic and commerce here than nothing at all."

Because the Wiehle-Reston East station boasts a 2,300 vehicle garage, it will attract many of the Loudon County commuters in addition to those in Reston and Herndon.

#### THE WIEHLE-RESTON EAST STATION,

according to silverline.com, also has an additional 1,000 parking spaces operated by Comstock. For those who are close enough to pedal to the station, there are 15 bicycle racks as well as a reserved bike room

"We need to have people get to the metro without driving," said Reston Association President Ken Knueven. "I rode my bike to the metro station, and it's not difficult for me. Until both phases are finished, there will be an influx of people coming from the west and parking here, but I only see that as a short term problem."

Ingrao, who said GRCC has been pushing for the Silver Line during the past five years, said more D.C.-area residents are going to want to move to Reston because of the jobs being created by developers.

"I think you're going to see a reverse commute phenomenon, and this will be a game changer," he said.



Photo by Chuck Samuelson

Train approaches McLean Metro Station.

With the population boom will come an even greater need for better pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths.

As the stations were being finished, meetings were being set up in Reston seeking avid bicyclists and those who are within walkable distance to the station about the best places to put new sidewalks and bike

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority announced that the Silver Line reached "substantial completion" in May. However, just a year ago, Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority pushed the opening date from last December to this February after the original plan's September 2013 substantial completion goal snagged an eight week delay.

In February, MWAA rejected a notice of substantial completion after seven of 12 key criteria - including incomplete testing and documentation security verifications - had not been met by Dulles Transit Partners.

Phase II will eventually take the Silver Line into Loudoun County.

Now that the date and time of the opening for the Phase I stations has been determined, training has started. On Sunday, the

Spring Hill Metro station had an emergency scenario drill with countywide emergency responders.

Artists and urban developers held a brainstorming session last month to turn the Tysons-area stations into visually appealing walkway. Additionally, WMATA is selecting 10 people to be a part of the first ride from the Wiehle-Reston East station on June 26 if they enter on the Silver Line website.

TRAINS WILL RUN every 6 minutes during rush hour and every 12 to 20 minutes during off-peak times, according to a statement from WMATA.

According to WMATA Public Information Officer Philip Stewart, station boardings after one year will be:

- ❖ Wiehle-Reston East: 8,244
- ❖ Tysons Corner: 5,209
- ❖ Spring Hill: 4,002
- ❖ McLean: 3,803
- ❖ Greensboro: 3,306 Actual ridership, he said, will be double

those statistics. Because this means thousands of people will be heading towards stations that do not

have any parking space - Tysons Corner,

Spring Hill and Greensboro stations - bike paths and bus routes will be beefed up.

"You'll see significantly improved bus transit services in the surrounding areas," said Dranesville Supervisor John Foust. "We're also planning dramatic road improvements."

Foust sees the influx of commuters heading to the stations as economy drivers who are stimulating developers to build more in the area. He foresaw that, with less people using cars in their commute to Tysons, that traffic through Route 7 would be less con-

McLean Citizens Association President Sally Horn also sees the economy being boosted by the stations, but does not think Metro will be a realistic option for most McLean residents. The McLean station has five bus bays total and 26 bicycle racks.

"I'm hoping that the arrival of metro next month will be a positive game changer for the Tysons area, spurring positive economic development and community," she said in an email. "I also hope that the arrival of metro will help to reduce traffic congestion as more people opt to take metro to and from Tysons.

"I am concerned, however, that the lack of any parking at three of the four stations in the Tysons area means that metro will continue to not be a viable option for most current residents in the greater McLean area as most of McLean is not on any bus route now and will not be getting access to buses that could take them to the metro stations once the Silver Line opens; only the McLean station has any parking and that is limited to about 730 spaces."

Most officials are cautiously optimistic about the station openings, with visions of toll road corridor revitalization in Reston's case and decreased traffic in Tysons case.

But there is still work to finish, most agreed.

We're enthusiastic," said Knueven. "It's critical for us and we will be a critical voice for our stakeholders. There's work to be done, but we're excited. This is only the beginning."

For more information on the Silver Line, visit http://silverlinemetro.com.

# News

# Widening Route 7

# VDOT: Plans not finalized.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

"We're still at the

on Route 7."

conceptual level, so we

work best for traffic flow

— Lee Ann Hall, VDOT assistant

location and design engineer

want to see what will

Construction to add another two lanes to seven miles of Route 7 could start by 2018.

Virginia Department of Transportation held a public information session on June 24 at Forestville Elementary to allow residents to voice concerns and make sugges-

tions about the potential widening of the oft-traffic congested area.

The construction would affect the area between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive.

"We're still at the conceptual level, so we want to see what will work best for traffic flow on Route 7," said VDOT Assis-

tant Location and Design Engineer Lee Ann

According to JMT-Design consultant Phitsuru Tanaka, 2,117 cars travel towards Tysons during morning rush hour in the area being studied. During evening rush hour, 2,000 cars travel westbound and 1,300 travel eastbound.

He said the data is from November 2012. "In the worst case, it took 30 minutes to go through this area," he said.

When the Tysons area metro stations open, those numbers may worsen.

A more formal public hearing for the project is planned for next spring, where a design would be approved.

"We're still waiting for our funding to come into play," Hall said. "We know money is coming. It's just not on the project yet."

She said residents from Harpers Farm Way were vocal that they were not going to be provided with a full-movement stop at their intersection.

Other intersections, such as at Atwood Road, Middleton Ridge and Fauquier Drive, would involve residents taking a left out of their neighborhood and taking a U-turn at

the next signal in order to go west-bound.

Colvin Run Mill manager Mike Henry came to the information session to make sure the cultural and natural resources of the area are preserved.

"We're here to make sure the mitigations considered for the past,

present and future of this wonderful community protect our resources," he said. "Obviously, this is a need that has to be addressed. So far, I believe they are being considerate."

Another resident, Brad Hargroves, said he did not want to see the westbound traffic the project will bring.

"They've been planning this for 40 to 50 years now, and they still don't have funding," he said. "They shouldn't widen Route 7 to get Loudoun County to D.C. The toll road is underused."



Concerned citizens talked to VDOT representatives during a Route 7 widening project information session at Forestville Elementary.



Concerned citizens talked to VDOT representatives during a Route 7 widening project information session at Forestville Elementary.

# Local Team Places Sixth in Odyssey of the Mind World Finals

Forestville Elementary's Odyssey of the Mind team took home sixth place in the May World Finals competition.

The competition took place May 28-31 at Iowa State University. The team members were Macey Jacobs, Cassie Dallas, Jenna Waters, Zoe Wang, Lindsay Togher, Sarina Bell and Juliette Kim. The local team competed against 64 teams from all over the world.

"This is the third year running that Forestville Elementary School competed in the World Finals of Odyssey of the Mind," parent Jim Dallas said.



the Mind Team members Macey Jacobs, Cassie Dallas, Jenna Waters, Zoe Wang, Lindsay Togher, Sarina Bell and **Juliette** Kim take a photo with the OM mascot.

**Odyssey of** 

O JIM DALL

Tour de Tysons bicycle races attracted 427 cyclists who competed in nine separate races.



# Tour de Tysons Attracts Hundreds

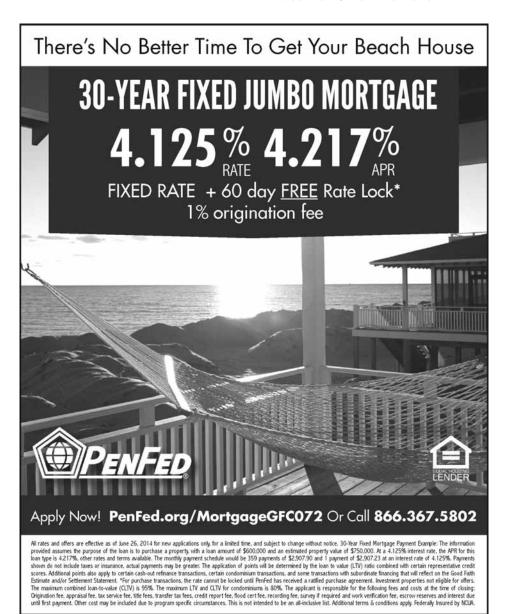
# 427 cyclists swarm Tysons.

he 2nd Annual Tour de Tysons bicycle races attracted a record 427 cyclists who competed in 9 separate races. Prize money was awarded to winners. Food, music, and merriment were awarded to all who attended, including hundreds of spectators.

"It's a great day for bicycles in Tysons," said Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth.

On the eve of the Tour de France, Tour de Tysons was the site of spirited competition among the region's top cyclists and cycling clubs. Hundreds of bikers embraced the challenging 1-mile closed course that circled around Tysons Boulevard and Westpark Drive. The longest race was 35 miles, with speeds reaching 27 miles per

"This event celebrates the key role of bicycles in the present and future of Tysons," said Michael Caplin, Director of the Tysons Partnership. "Life-style in Tysons is evolving in favor of pedestrians, bicycles, busses and our new Silver Line Metro."



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#### Sunday, July 13

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Sunday, August 17 High Five Worldwide sponsored by The Simmons Team, George Mason Mortgage. Fusing high energy modern pop with yesterday's hits, High Five Worldwide combines four of the region's finest talents into one dynamic package

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# **OPINION**

# Silver Line No Silver Bullet

By Kenneth R. "Ken" Plum STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

he Silver Line Metrorail extension will open for riders on July 26. For those of us who have been looking at the seemingly completed infrastructure for many months, announcement of the actual date that we can ride this important new service for our community is welcome news.

Having worked on bringing Metrorail to Reston and beyond for the last 20 years, I am especially excited about the opening. In the 1990s I was the lone politician calling for rail service in the Dulles Corridor while some dismissed the idea as a pipe dream. In order to develop support for the rail project, I enlisted the help of business and community leaders who supported the idea. In August 1998, I announced the formation of the Dulles Corridor Rail Association (DCRA) as a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy group supporting rail in the Dulles Corridor. Joining in the announcement



**GUEST** EDITORIAL were professional planner Patty Nicoson who became president of the group and continues in that capacity today, former Delegate Vincent Callahan who demonstrated bipartisan representation, former Virginia Secretary of Transportation John Milliken and Restonians Joe Stowers and Steve Cerny among others.

We set to work with letters and opinion columns, testimony at public hearings and a variety of advocacy activities that built support for the project. The task was not easy and not without setbacks. While there was

widespread agreement about the need for more public transit options in a metropolitan area that had outgrown its transit service planned for in the 1960s, we had to convince some elected leaders that rail was justified over simply expanded bus service or bus rapid transit. The idea of putting the extension in a tunnel sounded attractive but was cost prohibitive. Commercial interests were agreeable to additional taxes to help pay for the system, but the project had to be broken into two phases to accommodate when a business interest would start paying an additional tax and when they would receive service. Toll increases on commuters were projected to be unbearably high requiring DCRA to successfully lobby for more direct state appropriations to keep tolls down.

With no direct financial support for the project and a 2010 goal to deliver a completed system, the 30 men and women who made up the original board and those who have joined and left since that time are to be thanked and congratulated. I am honored to continue to serve as chairman of the board of DCRA.

The Silver Line will not be a silver bullet to solve all our transportation woes. We still live in an area ranked 10th in the country for the worst traffic! Rail and bus riders will be asked to make adjustments; drivers may have to change their commuting habits; and some will complain about tolls and fares. Even so, the Silver Line brings a critically important part of infrastructure to our area that will add to our quality of life in getting to and from work and taking advantage of the rich educational and cultural resources of our region and our nation's capital.

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Senator Who Gets It

Senator Mark Warner is widely known for his efforts to represent all Virginians. Throughout his years in office he has successfully engaged the Commonwealth's many cultures, ethnicities and religions. This is not just good democracy - it's also great for busi-

Immigrants account for about a quarter of American jobs in critical STEM fields (science, technology, engineering and mathematics), and about a quarter of new patents and new start-ups. Additionally, the children of these immigrant professionals are already key contributors to the present and future US workforce.

Senator Warner gets it. For years he's Chaired the Senate's India Caucus, and more recently he visited the ADAMS Center mosque in Sterling, where I met him during Friday prayer services as he offered us a greeting on the start of Ramadan. During his visit, he met with community leaders and stressed the importance of a strong economic vision and other issues important to the thousands of law and to allow guns in bars, Muslim American professionals and families throughout Virginia.

As a small-business owner, I appreciate Mark Warner's work to foster the right environment to attract and retain new businesses. He has been a leader to pass legislation expanding resources for start-ups, and he has consistently reached across the aisle to support tax credits encouraging entrepreneurship. Senator Warner understands that for our nation to succeed we must keep opportunities open for all Americans, regardless of their backgrounds.

I respect Mark Warner for representing Virginia well. As a businessman, a second-generation American, and a proud Virginian, I look forward to supporting him in November, so he can continue his work to represent us all.

> **Mehmood Kazmi** Great Falls

# Thinking Twice

To the Editor:

It's usually not til the state government tries to reach into our bedrooms that Northern Virginia residents sit up and start checking their state representatives' voting records. As for example Delegate Barbara Comstock's vote to ban certain forms of birth control by voting for the "Personhood Amendment." That decision, along with others such as her votes to repeal the one- gun-a-month might cause some habitual Republicans to think twice about voting for her to represent us in the U.S. House of Representatives.

> Linda Burchfiel McLean

# Outraged by Medicaid Rejection

To the Editor:

The article in The Connection which described the rally at Neighborhood Health Services in Lorton ["Medicaid Expansion Supporters Rally," June 19-25, 2014] is a perfect demonstration of the disgust and outrage that many feel over the rejection of Medicaid expansion in the recent budget passed in the General Assembly.

It is senseless to reject federal funds that would clearly benefit Virginians. Even more preposterous is the fact that, despite being one of the richest counties in the nation, Fairfax County is home to tens of thousands of people who lack heath insurance. More than 35,000 of our fellow Fairfax neighbors could be covered under Medicaid expansion.

Republican Delegates like Jim LeMunyon, Dave Albo, and Barbara Comstock insist on denving healthcare to people because of ideology, not facts. Virginia Republicans have not offered any alternatives to closing the coverage gap, and their inaction is clear – they have no plans to help uninsured Virginians.

Expanding Medicaid in Virginia is a moral imperative and makes sense economically. Medicaid expansion means more productive employees for businesses. It means Virginians would have more money in their pockets. It can lift struggling people

out of poverty and reduce the threat of a devastating medical bankruptcy. However, the Republican Party of "No" once again, stands in the way.

**Kathie Wespheling** 

Vienna

# Campaign Experience

To The Editor:

I recently had the opportunity to volunteer on the John Foust for Congress Campaign - a small office with a small army of professionals, interns, and volunteers and I'm pleased to say that it was an extremely positive experience.

Although the office is barely noticeable from the outside, the hallways are constantly buzzing with interns, field coordinators, and campaign staff discussing issues, cracking jokes, making phone calls, and drinking an exorbitant amount of coffee.

I made calls, knocked on doors, and talked to many voters. Most were friendly and interested in the election. I was pleasantly surprised by the experience as a whole. Everyone was polite, hard working, and dedicated to the cause. The people working on the campaign genuinely believe John Foust would be the best Congressman for the Tenth District. I would encourage anyone to stop by the office and get involved.

> Jisu Kim Vienna

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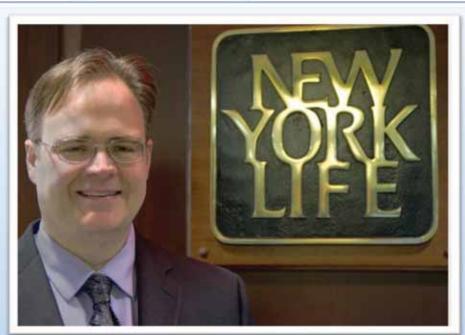
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# Youth Suicide Prevention Training Offered Online

Interactive training helps adults deal with serious issues.

By Janelle Germanos

in the community involving youth and suicide, feedback. Laura Yager, the director of partnership and resource development for the Fairfax-Falls Church sort of just talk to you. This is ac-Community Services Board, said tually a simulation where you bethe community has recognized the come a classroom teacher. You

"I think our community has and choose your response," she reached a tipping point in terms of said. people wanting to really work on strengthening our kids and pre- youth with some sort of psychologiventing suicide in our community."

online Youth Suicide Prevention volves youth who are being ha-Program come in handy. The CSB rassed because of the sexual oriis working with Kognito, which has entation or identity. a variety of online suicide prevention programs that help adults rec-pretty positive, Yager said. ognize when a young person is experiencing psychological distress.

THE CONNECTION **THE TOOL** is fun and interesting, Yaeger said. It allows the user to ollowing several incidents interact with students in various scenarios and provides instant

"It's different from the typical suicide prevention program. Those need for youth suicide prevention. have different scenarios and ages

Each of the scenarios involves cal distress, including At-Risk for Middle School and High School, That's where tools like the CSB's and Step In, Step Up! which in-

So far, the feedback has been

"When you complete the training, the research shows that people

just knowledge, which is very im- community members to ensure portant with prevention efforts. It's we have a well informed and important to have techniques to representative plan." intervene. You don't have to be a mental health professional to do cide in Fairfax County" was rethat," Yager said.

the first times the CSB has had an died of suicide in Fairfax County

take it. You don't have to be in a cide each year from 2003-2011. classroom. It has a very broad reach," she said.

been awarded to the region, which will allow organizations to work together to ensure effective youth suicide prevention programs.

"We are very excited about the planning grant, as it provides the resources to better allow us to take a regional approach, incorporating partners throughout Northern Virginia so there is better consistency in our efforts," said Jesse Ellis, prevention manager of Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and will provide more opportunity to signs," Ellis said.

actually gain skills as opposed to engage diverse stakeholders and

Last fall, a report titled "Suileased. According to the report, According to Yager, this is one of an average of 82 people per year from 2003 to 2011. Between "You can be anywhere when you four to seven youth die of sui-

THE REPORT recommended A new planning grant has also several short-term recommendations, including a Youth Suicide Review Team.

"The team, which we anticipate beginning operations this fall, will conduct in-depth reviews of cases of youth suicide in Fairfax to determine opportunities to implement changes in how our systems operate in order to better prevent future suicides. For example, the team may identify gaps in referral systems or a category of adults who work with kids who should be Community Services. "Further, it trained in recognizing warning

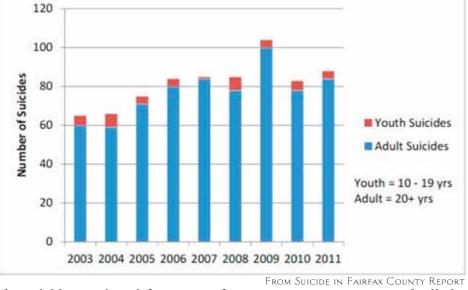
"I think our community has reached a tipping point in terms of people wanting to really work on strengthening our kids and preventing suicide in our community."

— Laura Yager

Ellis said he went into the online training somewhat skeptical, but now recommends it to everyone he

"The story lines and interactions with the characters are realistic and thought-provoking, and the lessons are wide-ranging," he said. "I have been able to incorporate what I learned, for example, into how I interact with my own kids."

According to Gail Taylor, Preventice. tion Services Manager at Virginia's Office of Behavioral Health Services Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Services,



The suicide rate in Fairfax County from 2003 to 2011: 735 people died in total, the report said. CSB's Online Youth Suicide Prevention Train-

ing is working to help adults recognize signs of psychological distress in youth to prevent suicide.

resiliency is a key strategy to prac-

"There is no simple answer to a complex issue and building resiliency is one of the important strategies. In general, it is important

systems that have the capacity to promote youth behavioral wellness as it relates to positive youth development, meaningful relationships and involvement, provide at fairfax.kognito.com.

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that we have supportive adults and access to resources such as effective programming and coordinated community efforts," Taylor said. Anyone is encouraged to take the online training, which is available

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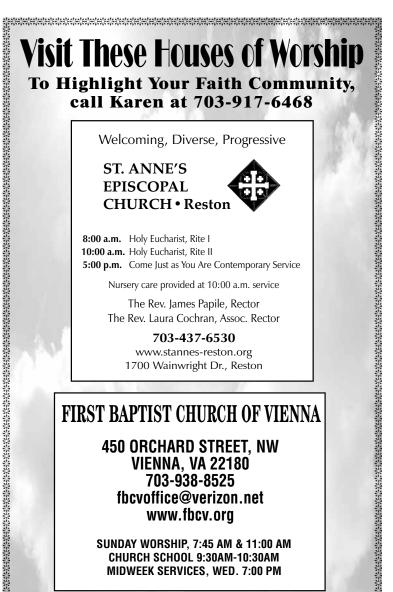
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8 Great Falls Connection July 2-8, 2014

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**MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM** 

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### Calendar

connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

#### **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.

#### 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 for

Vienna's 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. McLean 4th of July Fireworks

**Celebration**. 8 p.m. Langley High School Stadium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Enjoy food and music and receive a flag from the McLean American Legion. Shuttle busses will be available at St. John's Episcopal Church and the McLean Community

Center. Free. 703-790-0123.

Enter the Haggis All-America BBQ
Dinner Add-On. 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Toronto rock band plays hits and music from its latest release. The Modest Revolution. Tickets \$20. 703 255-1566.

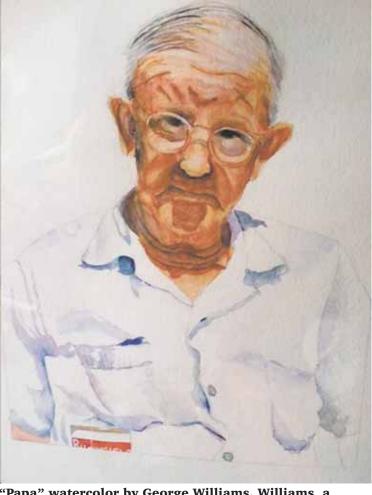
#### SATURDAY/JULY 5

Sunrise Kayak Tour. 7-9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Paddle with a naturalist and learn about the historical and natural beauty of the Potomac. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm.

**Ballroom Dance.** 8 – 11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. East Coast Swing lessons until 9, then dance to tunes from '30s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, everyone welcome \$15. 703-759-2685. www.colvinrun.org

#### SUNDAY/JULY 6

Intro to River Kayaking. 1-1:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This introductory level course covers river



"Papa" watercolor by George Williams. Williams, a Nokesville artist who transitioned from painting in oils to watercolor 14 years ago, will demonstrate his technique at the Vienna Arts Society's meeting on July 10 at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna.

hazards, water safety and paddling basics. Ages 14+. \$28-43. Register at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/riverbend-park/ kayaktours.htm.

**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

American Idol Live! Tour 2014. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap - The Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. See the top 10 finalists from this season's American Idol. \$30-70. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

#### TUESDAY/JULY 8-WEDNESDAY/JULY 9

Mr. Molecule: Big, Bang, Boom! Science Show. 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Mr. Molecule leads wild and wacky experiments that illuminate scientific principles and inspire curiosity.

#### WEDNESDAY/JULY 9

Kayaking for Fitness. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Four beginning kayaking classes that teach flat and moving water kayaking basics while increasing fitness. Ages 14+. \$119-\$134. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm.

#### THURSDAY/JULY 10

Watercolor Portraits. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. George Williams, a Nokesville artist whootransitioned from painting in oils to watercolor 14 years ago, will demonstrate his technique at the Vienna Arts Society's July Meeting. 703-319-3971.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13



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

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# **SPORTS**

# Winning the Spirit Award

# **Langley Crew** honors graduating senior.

yler Seckar, Langley rower and graduating senior, has won the Hillary J. Fein Spirit Award for the "athlete who best embodies the true spirit and passion for Crew."

This honor is awarded every year by Langley Crew to honor the memory of Hillary Fein, Langley Class of 1999. Fein was a dedicated member of the Langley Crew Team who died in 2000.

Words engraved on the plaque from a diary entry made by Hillary in 1996 after the Stotesbury Regatta in Philadelphia read in part, "Today ... we realized what 'team' means ... honor, heart and honesty about pulling your best and never giving up. I am dedicated to this sport forever. You don't win a race on the water, you win a race in your heart."

Although injured this year and unable to directly compete, Seckar



#### Tyler Seckar, Langley rower and graduating senior, receives the Hillary J. Fein Spirit Award.

came to every single practice and regatta, helping her coaches and teammates in any way she could. Head Women's Coach Ashley Leake said, when selecting Seckar for the Fein award, "There was really no debate as to who it should be this year. Tyler just embodies everything we hope these kids learn about crew and what crew can teach you in life."

Seckar served as Captain of the Langley women's team as a junior in 2012-13 and again this year as a senior. In 2013, she was part of the Langley Women's Varsity 4 that had an undefeated record in state competition and won first place at the Virginia State Championships. Her boat also went on to finish in eighth place at both the Stotesbury and SRAA Nationals Regattas.

In addition, Seckar won medals at the 2013 Ergathon as fastest varsity woman and best power to weight and won Langley's 2013 Hammer award for fastest varsity woman. She raced at the Mid-Atlantic Erg Sprints in 2012 and 2013, finishing 12th and 8th, respectively. In 2012, Seckar won the Langley Captains' Award. Finally, Seckar also raced for Thompson's Boat Center during fall 2012 and 2013, winning second place at the 2012 Head of the Schyukill as part of TBC's Women's Junior 8.

Seckar was recruited by Trinity College, the 2014 NCAA Division III Women's National Champions, where she will enroll as a freshman in fall 2014 and start her college rowing career.

Jan Rossberg

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# Langley Wildthings, Cardinal Hill Cardinals Fight to the Finish

n a fiercely competitive battle that wasn't de cided until the last relay, the Langley Wildthings rivaled Cardinal Hill, only to lose in the final event. The final score was 213-207, Cardinal Hill. The Wildthings took first place in 19 of 39 events, including five sweeps.

Double blue ribbons went to:

Brady Quinn - Boys 8 & Under 25 Meter Backstroke and Boys 8 & Under 25 Meter Butterfly;

Ellie Ryan - Girls 11-12 50 SC Meter Freestyle and Girls 11-12 50 SC Meter Breaststroke;

Adair Sand - Girls 13-14 50 SC Meter Backstroke and Girls 11-12 50 SC Meter Butterfly;

Jack Hoeymans - Boys 11-12 50 SC Meter Breaststroke and Boys 11-12 50 SC Meter Butterfly;

Audrey Wallach - Girls 13-14 50 SC Meter Breaststroke and Girls 13-14 50 SC Meter Butterfly.

Individual first place ribbons were earned by:

Colin Walter - Boys 8 & Under 25 SC Meter Freestyle;

Muriel Wallach - Girls 8 & Under 25 SC Meter Freestyle:

Kate Walter - Girls 9-10 50 SC Meter Backstroke; Izzy Schone - Girls 11-12 50 SC Meter Backstroke; Evan Poulos - Boys 8 & Under 25 SC Meter Breaststroke;

Zoe Myslewicz - Girls 8 & Under 25 SC Meter Breaststroke;

Liliana Schone - Girls 9-10 50 SC Meter Breaststroke;

Marine Watson - Girls 8 & Under 25 SC Meter But-

Nathalie Schmanske - Girls 9-10 25 SC Meter But-



Langley Wildthings, Cardinal Hill Cardinals battle wasn't decided until the last relay.

The blue ribbon relay teams were:

Brady Quinn, Beckett Collins, Conor Farah, Colin Walter: Boys 8 & Under 100 Meter Freestyle;

Muriel Wallach, Margit Crittenberger, Tessa Jones, Gabriella Sanchez: Girls 8 & Under 100 Meter

Kate Walter, Liliana Schone, Nathalie Schmanske, Helena Swaak: Girls 9-10 100 SC Meter Medley;

Izzy Schone, Audrey Wallach, Kate Williams, Karissa Smith: Girls 11-12 100 SC Meter Medley.



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# SUNDAY SUMMER **CONCERTS IN THE PARK**

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# WELLBEING

# Summer Health and Safety Hazards

### Keeping danger at bay during warm weather months.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL THE CONNECTION

ummer comes but once a year. From picnics and days at the pool to back yard barbeques and daylong hikes, many of us spend the season outdoors. Danger, from water-related illnesses to heat stroke, often comes with the fun, however. Public safety officials say people can prevent accidents and illnesses by taking safety measures and staying informed.

"One of the core messages with public health is that we can't be everywhere all the time," said Glen Barbour, public safety information officer for the Fairfax County Health Department. "It is really in the hands of the public to take precautionary measures and protect themselves."

Celebratory sparklers are popular during the summer, but they're a source of danger. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that 60 percent of fireworks injuries occur around July 4th. Hand, eye and face injuries are among the most common.

"The first thing that we recommend is viewing fireworks displays in a public place that has been permitted and checked for safety," said Dan Schmidt, spokesman for the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. "It saves them money and provides a safe environment to view fireworks."

Other safety officials agree. In fact, fireworks are banned in the City of Alexandria. "We have close to 100 percent compliance, so we don't see many injuries," said Tony Washington, spokesman for the City of Alexandria Fire Department.

For those who decide to use consumer fireworks, there are a few safety considerations to keep in mind: "Fire them from a flat surface and make sure there are no combustible materials near the fireworks," said Schmidt. "Have bystanders at least 25 feet away, read the directions and don't let children handle or light fireworks."

OTHER SUMMER HEALTH HAZARDS are equally preventable. From recreational water illnesses to sunburns, staying informed about potential hazards and strategies for keeping them at bay can lead to a more fun and relaxing summer for everyone.

"The best way to prevent recreational water illnesses is to keep germs, pee and poop out of the water," said Kurt Larrick, spokesman for the Arlington County Department of Human Service.

"Check diapers frequently and take a shower with soap before going into the water."

Fairfax County issues the same message. "The main thing that we at the health department emphasize is gastrointestinal illness caused by feces in the water," said Barbour. "We encourage people, especially the parents of small children, to not go to a public pool when they have diarrhea."

Barbour warns of factors that might give the public a false sense of security. "We want parents to be mindful that not all germs are killed right away, even in chlorinated water, and that leak-proof diapers don't always keep feces out of the water."

Other preventative measures include frequent hand washing, taking a shower before entering a public pool, discouraging children from drinking water that is used for swimming and giving young children bathroom breaks at least every 60 minutes.

In addition to illnesses, other water-related dangers spike during the summer. "They are a lot of accidents like drowning," said Barbour. "Teach their kids how to swim, watch young children very carefully when they are near water.

Swimming with a partner and wearing a life vest when boating are also important. "Should someone fall in the water and injure their head, the life vest will keep them floating," said Barbour.

Heat-induced ailments like sunburns, heat rashes, heat exhaustion and heat stroke are other hotweather culprits. "The three most important things to do to prevent them are drink enough fluids, wear proper clothing and choose the best times to be outside," said Caroline Sutter, RN DNP-BC, assistant professor of nursing, George Mason University. "Avoid the extreme heat of midday."

Wearing sunscreen, staying hydrated and avoiding alcohol when in the heat are also good ideas. "Most of the research shows that you should drink water before going out into the heat, even if you don't feel thirsty. Thirst is the last warning sign of dehydration," said Sutter. "After you come in you can add back water with sports drinks that have electrolytes."

Know the warning signs that it is time to get out of the heat: "Heat cramps are the first thing that you'll feel," said Sutter. "Your muscles will get tired and cramp easily because they aren't getting enough blood flow."

Nausea, vomiting and headaches

are also clues. "Your body is good about giving you warning signs," said Sutter. "If you listen to your body you can avoid some of these major complications."

The elderly and very young children are at greatest risk of heat illnesses.

"Children in sports camps or outdoor camps should wear sunscreen and have regular rest breaks in the shade," said Rosemarie Berman, RN, Ph.D., chair, B.S.N. program; assistant professor of nursing, Marymount University in Arlington. "A well-regulated camp will have regulated rest periods.'

Barbour said, "Parents of infants and small children should be aware because a baby can't tell you when they're sick. Check on elderly neighbors who don't have air conditioning."

Avoid leaving the elderly, young children and pets in small, enclosed spaces like cars. "They could die even after a short period of time like when you're running to get gas," said Sutter.

Stay informed about potentially dangerous weather like heat waves. "We have cooling centers open on really hot days," said Barbour. "You can also go into an air conditioned public space like a library."

#### **BITES FROM MOSQUITOES**

and ticks can also pose health threats. "People should be mindful that we do have West Nile Virus and Lyme disease in our area," said Barbour. "When summer comes people are outside and are exposed to insects that cause people to get sick."

Heavily foliaged spaces, like those with tall grass, are where such bugs hide. "If you're in an area where the grass is high, on the fringes of a park or even your backyard, be aware," said Barbour.

When hiking or working outside, wear light-colored, loose fitting clothing, long sleeves and long pants. "Ticks are sneaky," said Barbour. "They will crawl up your leg without you knowing it."

Other precautionary measures include checking your body carefully for ticks after coming inside and eliminating standing water from around a home. "At least once a week, we encourage people to walk around their house and dump water from places like bird baths and your dog's water bowl.

Health and safety officials say that most summer hazards are avoidable. "Summer safety pretty much all boils down to common sense and reducing your exposure to risks," said Larrick.

### Calendar

From Page 10

#### 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

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

Scars on 45 + Broken Anchor. 8 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. After years of struggling to become known in England, the band gained fame when their song "Beauty's Running Wild" was featured in an episode of CSI: New York. Their single "Heart on Fire" is the lead song on the 8th season soundtrack of the show "Grey's Anatomy." Tickets \$12-15. 703-255-

Kayak Tour - Moonshine & Mayhem. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. What is now Riverbend Park once was a safe haven for illegal whiskeymaking operations during the 1920s; kayak past river islands and discover its shady past. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm.

#### SATURDAY/JULY 12

Great Falls Farmers 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.

Oakton Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 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.

Model Trains at Open House. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains, plus Thomas and some of his friends. 703-938-5157.

#### SUNDAY/JULY 13

The Remedy 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, rock music. 571-

**Tysons Farmers Market**. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NADA Campus, Greensboro & Westpark Drive. www.tysonspartnership.org

Intro to River Kayaking. 1-1:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St. Great Falls. This introductory level course covers river hazards, water safety and paddling basics. Ages 14+. \$28-43. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm.

#### FRIDAY/JULY 18

Kayak Tour - Sunset over

**Riverbend**. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Experience the end of the day with a tour of the upper Potomac.

Ages 14+, \$59-\$74, Register at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ parks/riverbend-park/ kayaktours.htm.

#### SATURDAY/JULY 19

Ballroom Dance. 8 – 11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Samba lessons until 9, then dance to tunes from '30s to today. Attire is ballroom casual, everyone welcome. \$15. 703-759-2685. www.colvinrun.org

Sunrise Kayak Tour. 7-9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Paddle with a naturalist and learn about the historical and natural beauty of the Potomac. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm.

Ballroom Dance. 8-11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. 8-9 p.m. Samba lesson; 9-11:30 p.m. dance with favorite dance tunes from the 1930s to today. Attire is ballroom casual. \$15. 703-759-2685.

#### SUNDAY/JULY 20

Intro to River Kayaking. 1-1:30 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. This introductory level course covers river hazards, water safety and paddling basics. Ages 14+. \$28-43. Register at http:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Ruthie & The Wranglers Celebrate Great Falls Concert on the Green. 6-8 p.m. Great Falls Village Centre Green, Georgetown Pike and Walker Road, Great Falls. An evening of live, free Americana country music. 571-293-0474.



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# **Look Out Below**

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I think I know what a rampaging bull feels like; and I don't mean one on Wall Street, either. I mean one in the figurative sense: when one has a need, an overwhelming, unstoppable-type urge, to scratch that itch, to gratify that which has been delayed. What am I talking about? (You sound like my wife, Dina.) I am talking about food. More specifically, I am talking about a side effect I've been experiencing of late from the chemotherapy drug Alimta, with which I've been infused every three weeks since late September, 2013 (successfully I may add, given the shrinkage noted in my most recent CT Scan).

I would say that sometime within the last three months, for seven to 10 days immediately after my Friday infusion, food doesn't taste right; it doesn't feel right (its texture in my mouth), it doesn't digest right, its aftertaste is not right; it doesn't do anything right. In fact, it's downright wrong. Oh, I still have an appetite, but the idea of actually eating doesn't appeal to me, almost instinctively, if that makes any sense. And when I do think about eating now/eating later, it's way less than thrilling and way more than simply distressing. You see, I'm an "oral-fixator" and not being able to gain any pleasure from eating is making me feel null and void.

Apparently, according to my oncologist, (If I understand him correctly, and there's a huge chance that I don't), my taste buds are being adversely affected by the Alimta, doing the same kind of damage to them that chemotherapy, generally speaking, does to hair: eliminating it/slowing its growth/changing its properties. Consequently, my taste sensation is not sensational. It's quite the opposite. Throw in some lingering post-chemotherapy nausea and related burping, and another side effect: hiccuping, and you have a recipe not for food/eating. Not that I'm thin as a result; hardly, but I am not exactly bursting at my seams, either. Certainly I could stand to lose a pound or two, but I'd rather pick my own battles, if you know what I mean.

Fortunately, (so far) my taste issues seem to resolve themselves within the time frame I've mentioned. And oddly, therein lies a problem. After not eating much - or deriving any pleasure from eating during the previous week or so, once food regains its appeal and I can eat "normally" - for me, it's Katie bar the door. I might as well be Dan Aykroyd as Beldar from the Saturday Night Live Conehead sketches eating "mass quantities." It's not merely a slippery slope I'm on, it's more like an avalanche threat with "falling rocks." Once I start eating, I'm not stopping – until I hit bottom; of the bag, the box, the plastic container, the carton, anything. I'll admit, it's not a pretty sight, but as yet, it's a sight unseen by either man or beast. (At present I'm eating my way through a bag of Starburst Fruit Chews; I'm not proud, just hungry.)

At least I'm smiling again, and feeling more positive, which of course is a must as a cancer patient. However, that pent-up demand from a week of not eating is a killer. I wish I could stop it, but being interested in eating again feels so good – for which I'm exceedingly grateful – and so far, there's seems to be very little I can do to slow down the train. (I imagine Nabisco and M&M/MARS are grateful, too. At least now they won't have to declare bank-

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

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# News

# Volunteer Opportunities

Fairfax County's Respite Care Volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adults a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace Street, Herndon, needs a volunteer mosaic instructor and knitting instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lewinsville Senior Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean, needs a certified volunteer Zumba iInstructor and an office assistant. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteer On-Call IT Specialists are needed to help older adults. Schedule is flexible. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-TTY 711 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center, 4710 N. Chambliss Street, Alexandria, needs an office assistant on Fridays, 1-2:30 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The James Lee Senior Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church, needs a line dance Instructor for a beginner class on Mondays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Bailey's Senior Center, 5920 Summers Lane, Falls Church, needs office assistance with the front desk and data entry, Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, needs a DJ ballroom and dance instructor. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-711 or visit 324-5406, TTY www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Meals on Wheels needs drivers in Franconia, Reston, McLean and Falls Church. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.



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