

and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

Inside
PET CONNECTION

Meet Best Friends of Vienna Area

PET CONNECTION, PAGES 1-4

Sarah Babson of Vienna with her dogs: Tucker (gray), a 16-year-old schnoodle, and Ziva, a 2 1/2-year-old schnauzer.



Plan to Enhance Maple Avenue

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PHOTO BY ERIN CONWAY/THE CONNECTION

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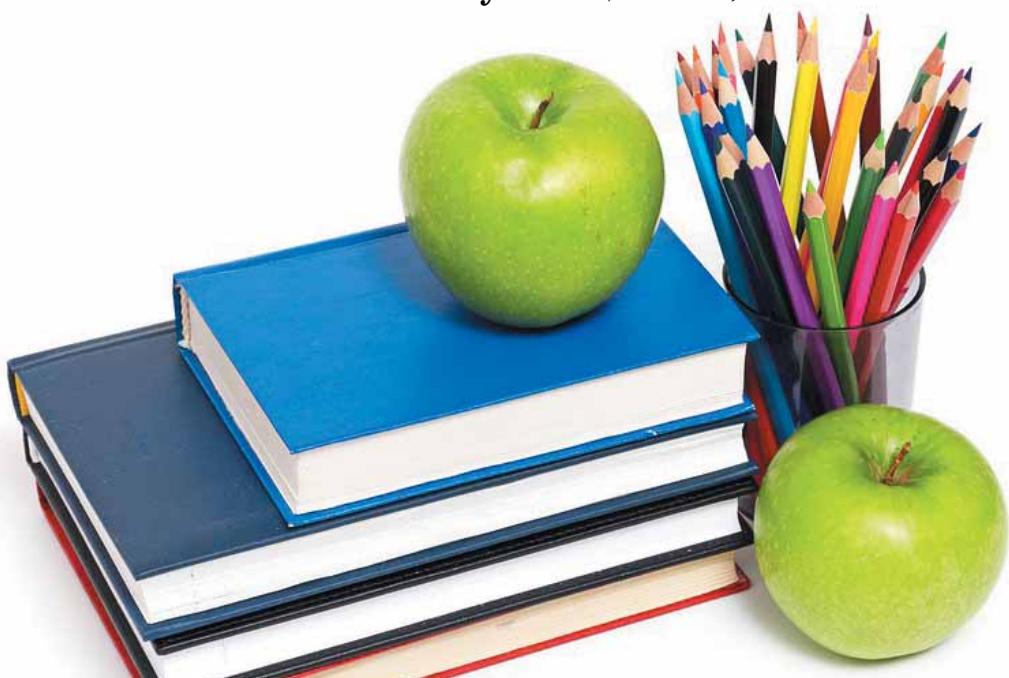
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Plan to Enhance Maple Avenue

Public hearing held on proposed, new zoning district.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's been a long time coming, but the Maple Avenue Corridor (MAC) zoning district is close to becoming a reality in the Town of Vienna.

On July 7, the Town Council held part one of a two-part public hearing on the proposed, new district for commercial property along Maple Avenue. Part two is set for Aug. 18.

It's been evaluated since 2001, and – so everyone's views would be represented – the late Mayor Jane Seeman and the Town Council appointed a broad variety of people to a 17-member steering committee involved in this project.

Now, the committee has passed its final report, 4-3, and those opposed to it wrote their own report, as well.

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN Doug Noble, landscape architect Elizabeth Lardner and Vienna Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Matt Flis all presented details to the Town Council.

"You have changing demographics, new businesses and mainly by-right development," said Lardner. "So this would give you more control over development and protect the small-town character while staying true to what Vienna's all about."

What the MAC should do, she explained, is control and direct density, support local businesses and encourage economic devel-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Sunday afternoon traffic on Maple Avenue.

opment. "And it's voluntary – businesses don't have to join it. But they can ask to be rezoned in and the decision would be up to the Town Council. If they do become part of it, it's hoped that they'll use the MAC guidelines to create more walkable, mixed-use developments.

"People told us this part of Vienna wasn't affordable anymore for their children and grandchildren," said Lardner. "They also said there aren't condos and apartments for them to move to here when they want to leave their homes and large lawns behind, but still remain in the Maple Avenue area. They want it made safer and more pedestrian-friendly so they can walk places and hang out."

"Maple Avenue currently carries 33,000 vehicles per day through the Corridor," said Noble. "With improved pedestrian connections, people could park once and go from business to business, instead of driving from parking lot to parking lot."

He said there's no plan to widen Maple, and he encouraged the Council to look at Vienna as a "mixed-use community, because it generates less vehicle traffic. Under by-right zoning, we have little ability to address traffic. But the new zoning allows us to require traffic studies, proffers and multimodal traffic, as well as less driveway access to businesses from Maple Avenue. It also means less delay of other vehicles and less crash risk."

Flis said the Vienna Business Assn. asked what accommodations have been made to protect and retain the small, local businesses. "But the zoning code isn't the tool to do this," he said. "Things like tax incentives are."

"There are buildings reaching the end of their life cycle and needing investment," continued Flis. "The focus is on place and experience, not just on the retail, itself. Demand for office space has declined and retail is going to have a smaller footprint."

UNDER THE MAC PROPOSAL, open space is promoted and businesses wishing to add outdoor tables or displays won't have to go through a public hearing. A development doesn't have to be a minimum size, so smaller businesses may be encouraged. Under the existing zoning, said Flis, "Current businesses have little opportunity to develop."

"MAC reduces the amount of impervious area and allows businesses to go from three to four stories, but no higher than 54 feet," said Lardner. "There's a more robust approach to landscaping, so there'd be one tree per eight parking spaces, plus 10 percent open space. And there'd be bike parking for residential buildings of 10 or more units."

She said current landowners in the MAC could stay as is, but the new zoning district "provides businesses a chance to grow and adds incentives for them to do so. And the MAC gives them a tool to address redevelopment challenges."

Overall, added Noble, "The purpose of the MAC is to allow the town to control the inevitable changes on the way, protect the residential community and enhance the business environment."

Residents Comment on Maple Avenue Corridor

Tell Town Council the pros and cons of what's proposed.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

At the July 7 public hearing for Vienna's proposed Maple Avenue Corridor (MAC) zoning district, people spoke both for and against the project.

The first was Peter Greenberg, representing Brandywine Senior Living. He told the Town Council members that facility would be "a compatible use to your downtown."

Bob McCahill, president of the North-

east Vienna Citizens Assn., wanted businesses to provide bicycle parking for their employees. And, he added, "Sidewalks [in that area] should be composed of porous materials to decrease the water runoff."

Land-use attorney Sara Mariska, said her firm is "excited about what this means as an opportunity for our clients along Maple Avenue. And in August, we're going to suggest some language [in the MAC document] to maintain flexibility in the site-plan modification [wording]."

Then Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco read into the official record two letters she'd received. She said Charles Sloan, who owns three properties in the MAC and has a law-office there, agrees with the need for this zoning district. He also cited the need for condos in the Town.

"Vienna needs to provide more opportunities for vibrant business development," he wrote. "If we don't change now, it'll be more

difficult later on."

Mary Ellen Larkins wrote that everyone in Town needs to "think about what we can do to make Vienna a showplace. Broken curbs and sidewalks are common; bus shelters could be cleaned up. Access in front of the shops could be spruced up, and walkers should be encouraged to help pick up trash."

THE NEXT SPEAKER was Chuck Anderson, who authored the Vienna Planning Commission's minority report on the MAC plan. "I'm the voice of dissent and provide an alternative viewpoint," he said.

"My main issue is that – although one of the goals is to increase density on Maple Avenue – we're talking about 1,000 additional parking spaces [there]," he continued. "This would lead to even more traffic than we already have and possibly choke off commercial development."

Anderson said the project will cost money, and he wondered if the residents would end up subsidizing the business community, as a result. "We need to step back and make a serious analysis of parking, traffic and the tax structure," he said. "Because once it's on the books, it's on the books forever."

DiRocco said she and the Council members have his report, and he told them he'll be speaking again at the Aug. 18, follow-up public hearing on this issue. MAC Steering Committee Chairman Doug Noble said the redevelopment cost "would be borne, not by the Town, but by the businesses wanting to opt in" to the new zoning corridor.

RESIDENT Hugh Allen asked if the proposal would go to a referendum for the voters. "I don't think the people of

SEE MAPLE AVENUE, PAGE 5

Paycheck Gender Wars?

Across Northern Virginia, men pull larger paychecks than women; disparities larger than national average.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When Lola Arce de Quintela first moved to Oakton 20 years ago, she noticed something about the way men and women arranged their professional careers around their family lives in Northern Virginia. Men took high-powered jobs with large paychecks, while women often dropped out of the workforce to take care of growing families. If women had full-time jobs, she says, they would often select positions that were not as demanding so they could focus their time and attention on their children while husbands and fathers pulled in six-figure salaries.

"The other women who live on my block are teachers," said de Quintela, a freelance translator. "Their husbands are attorneys or they work for the World Bank."

On a national basis, women make 77 cents for every dollar men make. But here in Northern Virginia the disparities are greater, especially in wealthier areas. Nowhere is this trend higher than 22124, the suburb of Oakton, where the average median income for full-time female workers is \$77,000. The men in that ZIP code pull in almost \$130,000. That means women who live in Oakton and are full-time, permanent workers earn 60 percent of what men earn.

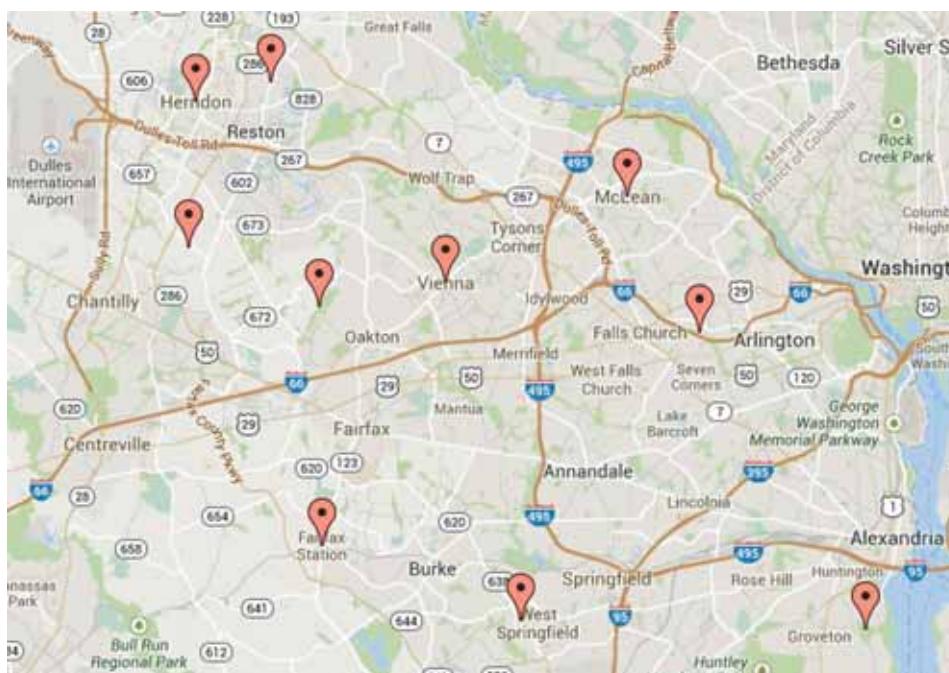
"It's very difficult to have a family and raise kids when you have two people with high-powered careers that demand a lot of time and attention," said de Quintela. "So a lot of women tend to find work that's more flexible and not as demanding, which means they earn less money. It's a trade off."

CENSUS RECORDS show disparities tend to be greatest where people earn the most money. In the Fairfax Station ZIP code 22039, for example, the average annual male median salary is \$134,000. That's one of the highest in Northern Virginia. By contrast, women in this area earn \$86,000 a year. That's still a high salary for the region, but women who live in Fairfax Station earn 64 cents for every \$1 the men who live there make.

Demographers say some of this may be explained by a concept they call "labor force attachment," which essentially means that women are less attached to the labor force than men.

"Given the traditional understandings about who cares for children or aging parents, what we often see is that women take

zip code	location	median female salary	median male salary	percentage women's median salary is of men's
22124	Oakton	\$77,421	\$128,808	60%
20171	Herndon	\$63,577	\$104,495	61%
22205	Arlington	\$70,755	\$115,729	61%
22152	Springfield	\$57,177	\$93,125	61%
22039	Fairfax Station	\$86,085	\$134,133	64%
20170	Herndon	\$49,325	\$74,714	66%
22102	McLean	\$71,113	\$105,995	67%
22182	Vienna	\$86,875	\$127,994	68%
22307	Alexandria	\$65,243	\$93,883	69%
20194	Reston	\$78,398	\$111,942	70%



"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family."

—David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis

on those roles," said Annie Rorem, policy associate in the demographics research group at Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service at the University of Virginia. "We often see differences in female and male earnings that are related to, although I would not necessarily say caused by, family structure."

This trend is less evident in ZIP codes where salaries are lower, and the roles are

even reversed in some of areas with the lowest salaries. In Bailey's Crossroads, for example, women earn \$59,000. But men earn \$46,000, the lowest salary of any Fairfax County ZIP code. That means men earn about 22 percent less than women here, a phenomenon that indicates workers here are attached to the labor force in a way that's different from people at the top of the earnings scale.

"What we are probably seeing in Bailey's Crossroads is women who are nannies of families that make a lot of money," said Veronique de Rugy, a senior research fellow at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University. "They make a lot more money than their male counterparts who are working in construction or putting up drywall."

ACADEMICS WHO look at these numbers say the imbalance of salaries between men and women can be explained by looking at how the genders participate in the labor force differently. A recent study by the George Mason School for Regional Analysis concluded that Arlington County has the highest labor force participation rate for women in the region while the District of Columbia has the lowest. Meanwhile, suburban areas of Fairfax County have much lower female participation rates than urban areas such as Arlington or Alexandria.

"If you're looking at why men are earning more, it's because in those cases women who might have a higher earning potential are not in the labor force, they are staying home to raise a family," said David Versel, senior research associate at the Center for Regional Analysis. "That's obviously less true than it was a generation or two ago, but that's the easiest way of looking at this."

Although the disparity between salaries earned by men and women are glaring, researchers who look at the data warn not to jump to conclusions about gender inequality. These numbers show that men and women who live in the same ZIP codes earn different salaries, it does not say that they receive different salaries for doing the same work. They probably say more about how women and men approach the labor force differently than how employers choose to compensate their employees.

"This doesn't necessarily mean that we are talking about any active gender inequality in the sense of discrimination or men and women being paid different amounts for the exact same labor," said Rorem. "One thing that's important to keep in mind when you are looking at all full-time year-round workers is that one thing you don't pick up is experience between workers."

Eight FCPS Students Win College-Sponsored Merit Scholarships

Eight Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2014 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

Recipients of college-sponsored scholarships from the NMSC, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Celia Islam of Vienna, Marshall High School (medicine), National Merit George Washington University Scholarship.
- ❖ Brian Clark of Burke, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and
- Technology (TJHSST) (engineering), National Merit Case Western Reserve University Scholarship.
- ❖ Adam Friedman of Fairfax, TJHSST (environmental science), National Merit Emory University Scholarship.
- ❖ Nicholas Jones of Round Hill, TJHSST (aerospace engineering), National Merit University of Central Florida Scholarship.
- ❖ Thomas Lunn of Potomac Falls, TJHSST (international relations), National Merit Bowdoin College Scholarship.
- ❖ Timothy Ruiter of Centreville, TJHSST (biomedical engineering), National Merit University Scholarship awards in 2014.

University of Georgia Scholarship.

❖ Vishal Talasani of Alexandria, TJHSST (economics), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ Tony Xiao of Herndon, TJHSST (film production), National Merit Vanderbilt University Scholarship.

College-sponsored Merit Scholarships provide between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the scholarship. Nationwide, approximately 7,600 students have won Merit Scholarship awards in 2014.

NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION
There are a variety of businesses in the Maple Avenue Corridor.

Maple Avenue Debated

FROM PAGE 3

Vienna would like to see a four- or five-story wall or a parking garage on Maple Avenue," he said. "It'll be a radical change in the Town's appearance."

But DiRocco said that's not the intention. And Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Matt Flis explained that "it's not a plan that'll be implemented next year. It's a guideline for many years."

Noble also reassured Allen and the Council members that "there won't be a brick wall along Maple;

we don't want that. We want creative architecture, walkways and pedestrian spaces."

Furthermore, added DiRocco, "People's plans would have to be approved by the Board of Architectural Review, the Planning Commission and the Town Council." She then said that, "Because this subject is so important, the public hearing on it will continue to the [Monday], Aug. 18, meeting for written comments; and Town residents can also comment that night."

SCHOOL NOTES

Angela Wertz, daughter of Daniel and Lori Wertz of McLean, and a former student of Langley High School, has graduated from Duquesne University's Rangos School of Health Sciences. Angela will be attending the twelve month Accelerated Nursing Program this year at George Mason University.

Grayson Smith, of Great Falls, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting, cum laude, during the spring commencement exercises at Auburn University. He is currently enrolled in Auburn's Master's of Accounting Program.

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OPINION

Tragic Consequences

Money lost by refusal to expand health coverage, but also life, health and livelihood.

The Virginia General Assembly's refusal to expand Medicaid, extending health coverage to as many as 400,000 Virginians has resulted in the loss of about \$1 billion in direct payments.

But that understates the loss, failing to calculate the cost of the lost health of thousands of Virginians.

Consider one relatively young man, treated by the Health Wagon, who is losing his vision to untreated diabetes because he has no health coverage, his diabetes went undetected for years and can't afford monitoring or medicine. Once diabetes begins to take its toll, it cannot be reversed. Once the man is blind and unable to work, he will likely be covered by Medicaid because he is permanently disabled.

The Centers for Disease Control says chronic illnesses are "the nation's leading causes of death and disability, leav[ing] in their wake deaths that could have been prevented, lifelong disability, compromised quality of life, and burgeoning health care costs. ... Heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes, obesity, and arthritis are among the most common, costly, and preventable of all health problems."

EDITORIAL

Consider the hundreds or thousands of Virginians who are not receiving routine care or screenings of any kind, whose cancer or high blood pressure or heart disease or diabetes, or even mental illness, rob them over time of their

ability to work, to care for themselves or their families. Many will die of illnesses that could have been prevented or treated. The human toll is incalculable, unbearable and unnecessary.

It is unfair that health coverage depends on what state you happen to live in, that an ideologically driven General Assembly can determine your fate. If you are poor and live in a state that has chosen to accept expansion of health care with Medicaid, you have health insurance, for example in the bordering states of West Virginia, Kentucky and Maryland. But if you are poor and live in Virginia, or one of the other states that has refused to expand Medicaid, you are out of luck, out of health and possibly out of life.

Business groups and chambers of commerce around Virginia, including the Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce, support the expansion of Medicaid in Virginia under the Affordable

Care Act. One persuasive factor for the business community is that expansion would create an estimated 30,000 jobs and pump hundreds of millions of dollars into Virginia's economy. Hospitals support expanding Medicaid which would offset many of the costs of caring for uninsured populations.

In Virginia, Medicaid eligibility for adults without disability is almost nonexistent, limited to parents with incomes below 51 percent of poverty, or about \$11,900 a year for a family of four, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation. Adults without dependent children remain ineligible regardless of their income.

Under the Affordable Care Act, people with incomes 100 - 400 percent of poverty qualify for subsidies on their health insurance premiums when they purchase coverage through a Marketplace. Because the Affordable Care Act envisioned low-income people receiving coverage through Medicaid, people below poverty are not eligible for Marketplace subsidies. As many as 400,000 adults in Virginia fall into the coverage gap because they don't qualify for Medicaid under Virginia's rules, among the most stringent in the nation, but earn less than the poverty rate, so not enough to qualify for subsidies.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

'Living Wage' Tough to Achieve in Northern Virginia

Housing and job opportunities needed to relieve poverty.

By MARY AGEE

NORTHERN VIRGINIA FAMILY SERVICE PRESIDENT AND CEO

On the surface, Martha Ordon is living the typical Northern Virginian life. She works as a medical receptionist at a doctor's office in Fairfax, and talks proudly about her 16 year-old daughter, a socially-active junior who plans to study business in college when she graduates. The reality is a little bit more complicated.

Martha and her daughter moved to Fairfax in 2008 from Louisiana. Her friend had urged her to make the move to Northern Virginia, telling her about the fantastic quality of life: the great schools, the strong job market and the sense of community. What her friend hadn't mentioned was the high cost of living. In Louisiana, Martha had worked as a cook in a Catholic school and always made



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Training Futures is a free program for adults who are determined to gain the skills to excel in professional, administrative roles.

enough to pay her bills. In Fairfax, she took a full-time job as a cook making \$10.50 an hour and a part-time job as a retail sales associate making \$8 an hour. With two jobs, Martha could pay her bills, but she rarely got to see her daughter. When Martha lost her job as a cook, she

began working retail full-time but could no longer make ends meet.

In 2012, Martha and her daughter were evicted from their apartment. They lived in a hotel until a space became available at a local family shelter. Martha recognized that in order to pull her life back

together and provide a stable home for her daughter, she would need a living-wage job. She also realized that her previous experience as a cook was not going to help her rise above the poverty

SEE OPPORTUNITIES, PAGE 7

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OPINION

Creating Opportunities

FROM PAGE 6

line. During her shelter stay, Martha discovered Training Futures, the nationally-recognized, workforce development solution of Northern Virginia Family Service.

Training Futures is a free program for adults who are determined to gain the skills to excel in professional, administrative roles. The 6-month curriculum not only teaches college-level administrative skills such as the Microsoft Office Suite, customer service, records management, medical terminology, business English and business math, but also through a partnership with Northern Virginia Community College, offers eligible trainees the opportunity to earn up to 21 college credits and a Career Studies Certificate in Business Information Technology.

Trainees come to Training Futures Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., and often arrive early and stay late to master course work. They are outfitted in the Training Futures Clothing Closet and expected to wear business professional clothes every day. Each trainee reports to a “supervisor,” or staff member, who coaches them around attitude and business

habits, encourages them and above all else, holds them to high “corporate” expectations. When trainees arrive for their first day at their new professional, administrative job, they not only have the skills to add value, but also look and act the part of an excellent employee. Martha knew she had found the pathway to the life she imagined for herself and her daughter. Within five weeks of graduating from this exciting program, Martha landed her position as a medical receptionist, making \$14 an hour.

While at the shelter, Martha was also referred to the Bridging Affordability Program. Bridging Affordability is administered by Northern Virginia Family Service in partnership with Fairfax County Department of Housing & Community Development. The program combines rental subsidies and case management supportive services with the intent of moving families forward toward self-sufficiency. Bridging Affordability has given Martha the time and financial breathing room to attend Training Futures and work towards a living wage. As Martha nears the end of her time in Bridging Affordability she is paying down

debt which will allow her to purchase a car and further broaden her housing options. She has increased her income 57 percent since starting the program, thanks to the training and subsequent employment she found following Training Futures, but still needs to consider affordable housing options, which are rare in this area.

The comprehensive nature of NVFS programs, including Workforce Development and Housing Services, provide clients with a unique opportunity to achieve several substantial goals at one time. NVFS has made the investment to ensure that when clients who seek our services for one issue may access the full range of our programs to increase the odds of achieving self-sufficiency. In the community, NVFS has been working with partners in both the nonprofit and government sectors who recognize the cross section between these two service areas. Families will not be able to maintain stable housing without living wages, and our efforts to solve the housing program in Northern Virginia are contingent upon holistic solutions that address both of these issues, together.

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NEWS

Express Lanes, Rapid-Bus Transit Planned for I-66

Improvements will be made from Capital Beltway to Haymarket.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Express lanes and rapid-bus transit could be coming to Interstate 66, Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe announced on July 17.

"Interstate 66 is broken. Commuters are stuck in traffic, limited in the travel choices they can make and unable to predict how long their trip will take on any given day," McAuliffe said. "Giving Virginians more choices and a better, safer travel experience on I-66 is one of my top priorities, and today I am proud to announce the beginning of that effort."

The plan, which includes three regular and two express lanes in each direction, bus service, and improved commuter parking, would be implemented from the Capital Beltway to Haymarket.

"Today's announcement that we could be starting construction by 2017 on Express lanes like solution to I-66 congestion is outstanding news. I-66 is our most congested corridor and this gives me great hope that we can improve the quality of life for all Northern Virginians," said Supervisor Pat



PHOTO BY JANELLE GERMANOS/THE CONNECTION

The proposed express lanes for Interstate 66 would be similar to those on Interstate 495 and those being constructed on Interstate 95 in Springfield, pictured here.

Herrity (R-Springfield.)

The project, which spans 25 miles, will cost an estimated two to three billion dollars. The express lanes would operate similar to those on Interstate 495 and those being constructed on Interstate 95, which base the cost of the toll on time of day and congestion.

"I have been a longtime advocate for an 'Express Lanes' like solution for I-66 which would open this corridor up to reliable time advantaged mass transit and carpooling, extend a growing network of lanes dedicated to mass transit and carpools, and ease congestion on I-66 and surrounding roads like Route 50, Route 29 and Braddock

Road," Herrity said. "I want to thank Transportation Secretary Layne for continuing to keep this project a priority for the Commonwealth of Virginia."

Officials announced the plan at a meeting at VDOT's Fairfax office on July 17.

"Over the last couple of months the Virginia Department of Transportation has worked closely with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation, the Office of Transportation Public-Private Partnerships and Fairfax and Prince William counties to devise a plan that will reduce congestion on I-66 by increasing capacity and giving travelers more choices. Today we kick off 17 months of rigorous environmental study



COURTESY OF VDOT

This map demonstrates the area where express lanes and other improvements will be made along Interstate 66.

and robust community involvement. By the end of 2016 our plan is to complete environmental work, identify funding sources, receive federal approval, and move forward on a plan to turn I-66 into the efficient, multi-modal corridor that Virginia's economy needs," said Virginia Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne.

Express lanes on Interstate 95, which will run from Stafford County near Garrisonville Road up to 395 near Edsall Road, are expected to open in early 2015. All drivers will be required to purchase E-ZPass or E-ZPass Flex in order to use the lanes, and only vehicles with three or more passengers can ride toll free.

Change of Command

Rear Adm. Charlie Williams, who was born and raised in Oakton, relieved Rear Adm. Cindy Thebaud as commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific (COMLOG WESTPAC) during a change of command ceremony, July 1. Williams also assumed duties as commander, Task Force 73 (CTF 73) and Navy Region Singapore (NRS) for U.S. forces.

The guest speaker, U.S. Ambassador to Singapore, Kirk Wagar, praised Thebaud's many accomplishments, including her sustained focus on 7th Fleet logistics and security cooperation activities in South and Southeast Asia - both in direct support of America's rebalance to the Asia Pacific.

A FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF for Commander, U.S. 7th Fleet and commodore of Destroyer Squadron 15, Williams assumed command following a tour as deputy, Surface Warfare Combat Systems on the Chief of Naval Operations Staff in Washington D.C.

"Geography matters and, as someone who has already spent many years in this region, I know that COMLOG WESTPAC has a rather unique vantage on the Asia-Pacific, finding itself at the maritime crossroads of South and Southeast Asia,"

said Williams. "New platforms, including LCS and her rotational deployments, are a key part of our Navy's forward presence and, as more LCS deploy, these ships will provide increased opportunities for interaction with the region's people, ships and waters in unprecedented ways."

Located in Singapore since 1991, COMLOG WESTPAC is the U.S. 7th Fleet's provider of combat-ready logistics, operating government-owned and contracted ships to keep units throughout 7th Fleet armed, fueled, and fed. Additionally, COMLOG WESTPAC is 7th Fleet's Theater Security Cooperation agent for South and Southeast Asia.

For more news from Commander, Task Force 73, visit www.navy.mil/local/ctf73/.

DESTROYER SQUADRON (DESRON) 7 held a change of command ceremony at Commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific in Singapore, July 14.

Capt. Paul J. Schlise turned over command to Capt. Fred W. Kacher, who had served as DESRON 7's deputy commodore since October 2012. Rear Adm. Charlie Williams, commander, Logistics Group Western Pacific, presided over the event.

"As the operational face of our theater security cooperation activities in Southeast Asia, DESRON 7 is strengthening relation-

Two Oakton natives assume new duties.

ships and enhancing interoperability in ways that tangibly support America's rebalance to the Asia-Pacific," said Williams. "Much of this success is owed to Capt. Paul Schlise's superb leadership."

Kacher, a native of Oakton, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1990 with an honors degree in English. A veteran of multiple overseas deployments and sea tours, he commanded USS Stockdale (DDG 106) from 2008 to 2010. Prior to reporting to DESRON 7 as deputy, he served as lead speechwriter and special assistant to the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. He also holds a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School and was selected as a 2006-2007 White House Fellow, where he worked at the White House on issues related to homeland security and counter-terrorism. A winner of the Arleigh Burke Leadership Award and Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Award for Visionary Leadership, he is the author of the book, *Newly Commissioned Naval Officer's Guide* (U.S. Naval Institute Press, 2009).

"I am honored to take command of DESRON 7," said Kacher. "We have an incredibly talented team and I look forward to building on the legacy of excellence Paul Schlise established leading the first Destroyer Squadron forward deployed to SE Asia in more than 40 years."



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED
Rear Adm. Charlie Williams



Capt. Fred W. Kacher, a native of Oakton

U.S. News: Inova Fairfax Hospital Tops in D.C. Metro Area

For the third year in a row, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus has been ranked as the top hospital in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area by U.S. News & World Report. Inova Fairfax also jumped in rankings to second in the state, and earned national recognition as No.33 in the country in Gynecology and No. 42 in Neonatology. The annual U.S. News Best Hospitals rankings, now in their 25th year, recognize hospitals that excel in treating the most challenging patients.

"Three years in a row as No. 1 is an outstanding accomplishment and we are proud of our hospital's dedicated physicians and

staff who provide the best of care to our patients every day. I'd like to congratulate our staff, particularly within Inova Women's and Children's for their impressive and well-deserved national rankings," said Patrick Christiansen, PhD, chief executive officer, Inova Fairfax Medical Campus.

Inova Fairfax Medical Campus also earned high-performing rankings in 11 specialties:

- ❖ Cancer
- ❖ Cardiology and Heart Surgery
- ❖ Diabetes and Endocrinology
- ❖ Ear, Nose and Throat
- ❖ Gastroenterology & GI Surgery,

- ❖ Geriatrics
- ❖ Nephrology
- ❖ Neurology and Neurosurgery
- ❖ Orthopedics
- ❖ Pulmonology
- ❖ Urology

In the recently released U.S. News Best Children's Hospital Rankings, Inova Children's Hospital was named 42nd in the nation for Neonatology.

U.S. News publishes Best Hospitals to help guide patients who need a high level of care because they face particularly difficult surgery, a challenging condition or extra risk because of age or multiple health problems.

Objective measures such as patient survival and safety data, adequacy of nurse staffing levels and other data largely determined the rankings in most specialties.

The rankings are available at <http://health.usnews.com/best-hospitals> and will appear in the U.S. News "Best Hospitals 2015" guidebook, available in August.

All five of Inova's hospitals were recognized again this year in the top 15 best hospitals in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, and top 20 in Virginia. To learn more about Inova Fairfax Medical Campus, visit www.inova.org/ifh.

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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Saints players, from left, front row - Kara Vietmeyer, Amalia Makrigiorgos, Stephanie Zaso, Izzy Williamson, Mary Trivisonno, Christina Trivisonno. Back row: Nicole Collins, Kelley Strike, and Val Dirske. Monica Balistrere - not pictured.

Vienna Saints Second in National Tournament

The Vienna Saints, fifth grade girls team, competed in the 2014 United States Basketball Association National Tournament and placed second in their age group. The team, comprising fifth grade Vienna area residents, beat teams from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Georgia before succumbing in the final minute in the championship game. The team finished with a tournament record of 5-1.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Abraham Zuhairi, 4, of Oakton, enjoys being inside the Fairfax Water bobcat.

Children Enjoy Big Vehicles Up Close

Some 2,800 people attended the recent Touch-A-Truck event at the Chantilly Regional Library. Besides the Fairfax County Fire and Police departments, participants included: Virginia State Police; county Animal Shelter and Public Works; Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms; Fairfax Connector; Fairfax Water; Dominion Power and VDOT.

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CALENDAR

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

FRIDAY/JULY 25

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

Summer on the Green Concert.

6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E., Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear Karl Stoll and the Danger Zone. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5 to 18. 703-930-0405.

Bizet Carmen. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Wolf Trap Opera and the National Symphony Orchestra in a thrilling tale of love, lust, and desire. New production, fully staged and costumed with custom video projection design. Sung in French with English supertitles. Tickets: \$25-\$75. www.wolftrap.org/

SATURDAY/JULY 26

Professor Parsnip's Lab. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Professor mixes food, science, and fun in this Bright Star Theatre production. Sign up each child and adult separately. All ages. 703-938-0405.

Sarah McLachlan. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. With emotional ballads and ethereal vocals, this Grammy-winning "Angel" has become "pop's voice of compassion and consolation" (The New York Times). Tickets: \$30-\$70. www.wolftrap.org/

R U Puzzled? 5:30-7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents walls of giant puzzles created by assembling 12" puzzle pieces. Reception on Saturday, July 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. 703-319-3971.

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 26-SATURDAY/AUG. 9

McLean AAUW 45th Annual Used Book Collections. 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Bring book, CD and DVD contributions for the 45th Annual Used Book Sale in September. Email aauwbookfair@gmail.com or call 703-527-4206 for information.

SUNDAY/JULY 27

Darius Rucker. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Trailblazing country singer and acclaimed Hootie & the Blowfish front man shines on earnest hits including "Alright" and "Wagon Wheel." Tickets: \$35-\$65. HYPERLINK "<http://www.wolftrap.org/>" www.wolftrap.org/

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 Vienna Community Band. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Town of Vienna Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green. Free outdoor concert featuring music for the whole family. All ages. 703-403-9179.



Vienna native Natalie York returns with her Brooklyn, N.Y.-based band and second album PROMISES on Aug. 2 at Jammin' Java.

www.viennacommunityband.org

MONDAY/JULY 28

Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. Age 3 to 5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

Reptiles Alive. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. See how these amazing animals cling, climb and chase in the wild. Ages 6 to 12. 703-242-4020.

TUESDAY/JULY 29

Woof, and Paws - Read to a Dog. 10 - 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Need a little reading help? Sign up to read with a reading therapy dog. Age 6 to 12. 703-938-0405.

Heart. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Power ballads and melodic hard rock—including "Barracuda" and "Alone"—from ultimate "Magic" women who've released 20 unforgettable Top 40 singles. Tickets: \$35-\$60. www.wolftrap.org/

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Stories and songs for children and adults. Ages 3 to 5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Grammy-winning jazz master Wynton Marsalis and an all-star orchestra. Tickets: \$25-\$48. www.wolftrap.org/

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Patrick Henry Book Club. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Among the Mad: A Maisie Dobbs novel by Jacqueline Winspear. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Happy Birthday, Harry Potter. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Help us celebrate the birthday of favorite literary wizard. Games, trivia, fun. Teens and adults. 703-938-0405.

Rodrigo y Gabriela. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Nimble-fingered Mexican guitar duo presents rhythmically supercharged instrumentals, with influences ranging from heavy metal to salsa. Tickets: \$35-\$65. www.wolftrap.org/

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

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

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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

naturalist and learn about the historical and natural beauty of the Potomac. Ages 14+. \$59-\$74. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

Natalie York Band at Jammin' Java. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Vienna native Natalie York returns with her Brooklyn, NY-based band and second album PROMISES. Tickets available at www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2-SUNDAY/AUG. 3

Tysons-Pimmit Library Book Sale.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library is holding a book sale to benefit the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library on August 2 and 3. Choose from a large selection of on Sunday, August 3, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY/AUG. 10

Tom Principato 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 blues and rock music. 571-293-0474.

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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 13

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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

FRIDAY/AUG. 15

Kayak Tour Island Hopping. 5-7 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Explore the upper Potomac River islands by kayak. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

SATURDAY/AUG. 16

Ballroom Dance. 8-11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Dance Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. \$15.

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 www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/kayaktours.htm

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



Former Vienna Idol semi-finalist Jason Saitta rocked the house during Saturday's Caffe Amouri birthday bash.

Caffe Amouri Celebrates Birthday

It says a lot about a business when the community shares its birthday celebration and it says a lot about a service nonprofit when the community it has helped comes to "give back." Business and nonprofit interwove on Saturday, July 19, when Caffe Amouri celebrated its fourth anniversary in business with a benefit on behalf of the Lamb Center, a faith-backed charity that serves the poor and the poor-in-spirit locally.

"This is what we're all about," said Caffe Amouri owner Michael Amouri, as he grilled hot dogs. "The community supports us and we're thanking the community for its support by giving back to it."

The "bash," held in front of Caffe Amouri, served free hotdogs to those who brought little donations for the Lamb Center, and provided live music, face painting, and games for children throughout the day. Local Caffe Amouri friends

— DONNA MANZ



Six-year-old Nina Mendez has her face painted by Caffe Amouri volunteer Kristen Amouri. Nina's mom said the family came to support the Lamb Center.

SPORTS

Madison's Koshuta Returned to Dominance After Torn ACL

Q&A: 6-2 post earned all-state in 2014, committed to Virginia Tech.

Atorn ACL sidelined Kelly Koshuta for her entire sophomore season, but the injury didn't keep the 6-foot-2 Madison basketball standout from returning to dominance.

After averaging 19.5 points and 10.8 rebounds as a freshman post, leading the Warhawks to a Liberty District title and a trip to the region semifinals, Koshuta injured her left knee during an AAU game in the summer of 2012. After sitting out as a sophomore, Koshuta returned for her junior campaign and earned all-state honors. Madison reached the region semifinals for the second time in three years, and Koshuta nearly willed the Warhawks to victory and a berth in the state tournament. Facing eventual region champion Stonewall Jackson and 6-foot-2 Wake Forest-bound Nicole Floyd, Koshuta scored a career-high 39 points and grabbed 19 rebounds, but Madison fell short, 78-72.

"She has great hands and she just has the determination to score," Madison head coach Kirsten Stone said about Koshuta entering her junior season. "She knows how to use her body. She's a little bit undersized for a post, but she knows how to position herself in a way that she can score."

Koshuta, a rising senior, will have one more season to try and lead Madison to the state playoffs. After high school, Koshuta will play for Virginia Tech after committing



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Madison's Kelly Koshuta scored 39 points and grabbed 19 rebounds during a loss to Stonewall Jackson in the 2014 6A North region semifinals.

to the Hokies during her junior year.

Koshuta recently participated in a Q and A via email with The Connection.

*Connection: You're committed to Virginia Tech. What made Tech the right fit for you?

Koshuta: Virginia Tech was the first school to offer me, and they called the day after I got injured and believed in me. VT Head Coach Dennis Wolff took over a struggling program and has made improvements every year. The coaches at Virginia Tech believe in me, and they think I will make an

immediate impact in the ACC, and that is also attractive to me. I will be playing against some of the best players in the country, not to mention I absolutely love the school, and the campus.

*Connection: At what age did you start playing basketball? Have you always been a post player? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?

Koshuta: I started in second grade. I have pretty much been a post player my whole life. I realized college basketball was a possibility when colleges started recruiting me in seventh grade.

*Connection: You missed your sophomore season due to a torn ACL. How has that injury and the work it took to get back affected you as a basketball player and a person?

Koshuta: It motivated me to never take basketball for granted. I realized how much I missed the game when I had to watch my sophomore season from the bench. I kept training as soon as I could stand, and worked hard on my game all during rehab. As a person, I now reach out to other athletes who get injured and tell them to work hard, and things will get better.

*Connection: Was there ever a time during your rehab that you wanted to give up?

Koshuta: Never. I had a great surgeon, Dr. Chris Annunziata, and an awesome physical therapist named Sam Kang and they were both positive I would make a complete comeback. I also had support from my trainer, Mandy Ronay, and my family. If anything, I worked even harder after my surgery, both in rehab, and training for basketball.

*Connection: You stand 6 feet 2. How often does someone mention your height during a conversation or ask if you play basketball?

Koshuta: People talk about my height all the time, but it's funny: I am actually undersized for a college post player. I have played against girls who are 6-6 and 6-7 during AAU season.

*Connection: What is your favorite athletic moment from your first three years at Madison?

Koshuta: Two things come to mind: beating Paul VI in the Bulldog Bash my freshman year, and winning the Liberty District my freshman year.

*Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Koshuta: John Mayer, just because his songs are mellow and about real things that happen in life.

*Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Koshuta: 'Hercules,' the cartoon, because he has to prove that he is a true hero so he can rejoin his father and become a God. The story motivates me, and makes me happy! I like all the Disney movies.

*Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of basketball?

Koshuta: I like to watch movies and hang out with my family and friends.

*Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Koshuta: I went to Hawaii for my uncle's wedding.

*Connection: Are you a pro sports fan? If so, who are your favorite teams?

Koshuta: I love watching sports. I like all the local DC teams, like the Redskins, Caps, Nats, and Wizards.

— JON ROETMAN

Langley Grad Collier to Play Basketball at Denison

Q&A: Collier enjoys listening to Nas, watching Will Ferrell movies.

As a senior, Garrett Collier was an all-region wide receiver on the highest-scoring offense in Langley football history. He was also a defensive back and an all-conference kick returner and punt returner. A broken collar bone knocked him out of the final game of the season, but Collier played a significant role in helping the Saxons finish 9-3, including a playoff victory over Battlefield. While Collier had a strong senior season on the football field, his future is on the hardwood. An all-conference basketball player at Langley, Collier signed to play hoops at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Collier, a three-year varsity football and basketball player at Langley before his 2014 graduation, recently participated in a Q



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

Garrett Collier (22) was a standout on the basketball and football teams at Langley.

and A via email with The Connection.

*Connection: What made Denison University the right fit for you?

Collier: I developed a solid relationship with the coaching staff, it had the perfect balance of strong academics and social life, a beautiful campus, and I just felt at home when I visited.

*Connection: What is your major?

Collier: Economics.

*Connection: At what age did you start playing basketball? When did you realize playing college basketball was a possibility for you?

Collier: As early as I can remember. From a very early age, I always wanted to play college sports, I just wasn't sure if it would be basketball or football.

*Connection: You were also a standout football player at Langley. Did you give any thought to playing football in college? If so, when did you make the choice between football and basketball?

Collier: I didn't expect to have the [senior] season I had in football, so I didn't give much thought to playing in college. By the time I received interest, I had already committed to Denison.

*Connection: You broke your collar bone during football season, correct? In which

game did you break it?

Collier: I broke it during our regional quarterfinal game against Stonewall Jackson.

*Connection: How long were you out? How difficult was it to miss time?

Collier: I had surgery a couple days after the game, and was out for about six weeks. I missed the first 10 games of basketball, which was difficult for the team because we were so young. The slow start hurt some of the younger players' confidence, and I believe that was a big reason we weren't able to be as successful as we wanted to.

*Connection: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Collier: I wouldn't have let [Wakefield's] Re'Quan Hopson shoot the buzzer-beater 3-pointer that knocked us out of regionals [in 2013].

*Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Collier: The step up in competition and the freedom of living on your own.

— JON ROETMAN

HOME SALES

In June 2014, 132 homes sold between \$1,875,000-\$234,250 in the Vienna and Oakton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,875,000-\$867,000 range. For the complete list, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Address	BR . FB . HB ...	Postal City	Sold Price ...	Type	Lot AC . PostalCode	Subdivision
2604 HANNAH FARM CT	6 .. 5 .. 2	OAKTON	\$1,875,000	Detached	2.01 22124	HANNAH HILLS
2005 CARRHILL RD	5 .. 6 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,835,000	Detached	0.58 22181	WENDOVER
1904 BALLYCOR DR	7 .. 6 .. 2	VIENNA	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.87 22182	SADDLEBROOK FARMS
11623 VERNA DR	4 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,675,000	Detached	0.90 22124	THE RESERVE AT WAPLES MILL
3150 ARIANA DR	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,525,000	Detached	0.84 22124	WINDSONG SOUTH
1802 KILBARRY CT	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,510,000	Detached	0.83 22182	SADDLEBROOK FARMS
2539 DONNS WAY	6 .. 5 .. 2	OAKTON	\$1,500,000	Detached	2.09 22124	BRIDGES OF OAKTON
1831 ELGIN DR	7 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,490,000	Detached	0.97 22182	ELGIN MANOR
2823 CENTER RIDGE LOT 6A-2	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,375,000	Detached	1.20 22124	DOROTHY W. GOODE SUBDIVISION
102 BATTLE ST SW	5 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,375,000	Detached	0.33 22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS
616 CENTER ST S	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,375,000	Detached	0.32 22180	KINGCREST
1704 DREWLAIN DRIVE	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,373,112	Detached	0.51 22182	ANKERDALE
2487 OAKTON HILLS DR	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.86 22124	OAKTON HILLS ESTATES
3783 SARAH HARPER WAY E	5 .. 6 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.00 22124	WILLOW OAKS
1471 CARRINGTON RIDGE LN	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,290,000	Detached	0.25 22182	CARRINGTON
9890 PALACE GREEN WAY	4 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.12 22181	WILLIAMSBURG COMMONS
1279 COBBLE POND WAY	5 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,233,000	Detached	0.65 22182	ESTATES AT GREAT FALLS
1835 FOXSTONE DR	4 .. 3 .. 2	VIENNA	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.46 22182	WOLTRAP CREEK ESTATES
10514 DUNN MEADOW RD	5 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,200,000	Detached	0.83 22182	ESTATES AT GREAT FALLS
712 KINGSLEY RD SW	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,192,000	Detached	0.24 22180	VIENNA WOODS
207 BATTLE ST SW	5 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,188,000	Detached	0.24 22180	WEST VIENNA WOODS
2809 MADISON MEADOWS LN	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,186,000	Detached	0.83 22124	MADISON MEADOWS
10883 MIMOSA PL	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,180,000	Detached	0.83 22124	OAKTON RIDGE ESTATES
3264 PONY RIDGE WAY	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.61 22124	DARTMOOR WOODS
1006 LYNN ST SW	6 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,165,035	Detached	0.23 22180	VIENNA WOODS
9506 MACY AVE	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,160,000	Detached	0.35 22182	PANOPOULOS ESTATES
10601 CHAMBERLAIN DR	4 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,149,000	Detached	0.83 22182	BARONS BROOK
1339 CARPERS FARM WAY	5 .. 3 .. 2	VIENNA	\$1,125,000	Detached	0.46 22182	CARPERS FARM
2908 OAKTON RIDGE CIR	5 .. 3 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,100,000	Detached	0.98 22124	OAKTON MILL ESTATES
10422 WILLOW CREST CT	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,095,000	Detached	0.57 22182	HUNTER MILL ESTATES
1522 NIGHT SHADE CT	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,079,000	Detached	0.72 22182	WOLTRAP MEADOWS
9706 MIDDLETON RIDGE RD	5 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,075,000	Detached	0.47 22182	MIDDLETON TWO
1290 TWEED CT	4 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,072,500	Detached	0.46 22182	MIDDLETON TWO
2113 ARROWLEAF DR	5 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.12 22182	FOX CREEK
1309 CARPERS FARM WAY	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,045,000	Detached	0.50 22182	CARPERS FARM
9307 ARABIAN AVE	6 .. 5 .. 1	VIENNA	\$1,035,000	Detached	0.35 22182	TRAILS THE
10311 LYNNHAVEN PL	5 .. 4 .. 1	OAKTON	\$1,025,000	Detached	0.13 22124	HEARTHSTONE VILLAGE OAK
10201 PALMER GLEN CT	5 .. 4 .. 5	OAKTON	\$985,000	Detached	0.26 22124	PALMER GLEN
9800 FOSBAK DR	6 .. 4 .. 0	VIENNA	\$980,000	Detached	0.49 22182	CLARKS CROSSING
9900 CHAPPELL LN	5 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$970,000	Detached	0.36 22181	OAKTON GROVE
9813 OAK VALLEY CT	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$929,000	Detached	0.76 22181	OAK VALLEY COURT
11708 DEERFIELD DR	4 .. 3 .. 1	OAKTON	\$905,000	Detached	5.00 22124	ASHTON
314 WESTVIEW CT NE	5 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$905,000	Detached	0.27 22180	WESTWOOD VIEW
2725 CLARKES LANDING DR	5 .. 3 .. 1	OAKTON	\$904,000	Detached	0.46 22124	CLARKES LANDING
1313 TULIP POPLAR LN	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$900,000	Detached	0.50 22182	COLVINS GLEN
2018 ADAMS HILL RD	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$895,000	Detached	0.95 22182	HUNTER MILL FOREST
8062 CRIAZA BRANCH CT	4 .. 4 .. 1	VIENNA	\$885,000	Townhouse	0.04 22182	RESERVE AT TYSONS CORNER
9809 WINTERCRESS CT	4 .. 3 .. 1	VIENNA	\$867,000	Detached	0.60 22182	WOLTRAP MEADOWS

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21 Announcements 21 Announcements



OBITUARY

James E. "Butch" Miller, 76, of Burgess, Virginia went to be with his Lord on July 11, 2014. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Marlene Miller and their three children, Denise, Scott, and Teague Miller; and two grandchildren, Tristan and Bailey Miller. He is also survived by three sisters, Linda Casciano of Leesburg, Va., Bonnie Bolick of Radford, Va. and Becky Paul of Charlotte, N.C., and ten nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by a brother Curtis Miller.

Butch was raised in Great Falls, Va. and graduated from Herndon High School in 1956. In 1960, he graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Civil Engineering. Following graduation, Butch worked for and rose to become president of Moses-ECCO Construction Company, and he in the early 1970's went to work as Vice President of L.F. Jennings Construction Company, where he worked until his retirement in 2002.

In 2002, Butch and Marlene began their retirement years by moving from Leesburg, Va. where they had raised their family, to the Northern Neck of VA, where they settled in a home on the banks of The Great Wicomico River. It was important to Butch upon retirement to occupy his time in a worthy pursuit, so he began playing golf on a regular basis. He organized and ran Men's Golf Leagues at the Tartan and King Carter Golf Clubs. He was affectionately known at those two clubs as the "Honorable Commissioner of Golf".

Butch was a devout Christian his entire life and when he retired to the Northern Neck of VA, he joined the Wesley Presbyterian Church in Weems, Va., where he was a very active member, was chosen to become an Elder, and was Chairman of numerous church committees. He often said that the most important thing in his life was his faith in Jesus Christ.

In 2007 Butch became a consultant in the reconstruction of seven buildings on the Paxton Campus of the ARC of Loudoun, a charitable corporation which operates a school for autistic children. Butch spent countless hours on these projects, bringing all projects in under budget. The ARC of Loudoun recently honored the contribution and lasting legacy Butch made to the building and the children at Aurora school by naming the building and placement of a plaque which reads: "The J.E. "Butch" Miller Building, beloved friend of Paxton whose expertise, hard work, and generous spirit brought the dream of this building to life for the children."

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Centre View South

A Battle— Hopefully Not to the Premature Death

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

One of my ongoing major concerns is the origin of the miscellaneous symptoms I irregularly experience. Obviously I don't want to think they're cancer-related, so assessing them becomes minding what potentially matters. Moreover, since I don't want to believe the cancer is actually harming me, convincing myself that what I feel might be important to share with my oncologist is almost a fool's errand. Though I've been in this situation going on nearly five and one half years now, I am still stubborn and stupid about my reality. And though I further realize that pretending doesn't work, and denial is hard to maintain when you receive chemotherapy every three weeks, still, accepting the various symptoms as cancer has been too scary for me to consider; so I haven't/don't.

Perhaps it's the treatment (I tell myself constantly), and the cumulative effect on my body of non-stop chemotherapy every three weeks for five-plus years, save for a year when I was able to take a "targeted therapy" pill, Tarceva, at home every day, that is manifesting itself? As I may have joked, being a cancer patient is all it's cracked up to be. In one delivery system or another, I have been receiving treatment for almost 64 months. It seems only logical that my body would at some juncture begin to feel the effects from that kind of long-term exposure, though my lab work doesn't necessarily reflect it, other than for the kidney and liver issues with which you regular readers are familiar. I would imagine there has to be some wear-and-tear-type fatigue. I mean, 64 months of fairly toxic materials swirling around in your blood system and interacting with all your organs; not exactly a recipe for normalcy. It can't be one big happy family in there, if you know what I mean. There has to be some disagreements. So far, however, apparently not; at least as indicated by my labs and scans, which if certain levels changed would likely warrant a retreat of some kind.

Perhaps what I feel is simply my age. How would I know? I've never been this age before; but certainly it's possible, maybe even probable. For all I know, this is what age 60 feels like. Maybe all that I feel – and all that I worry about – is simply the aging process, and this allows me to rationalize away my worst fears. Or, and this is the worst-case scenario, the age symptoms could be masking the cancer symptoms, and yours truly continuing to do nothing about either is way past pretending and denying; it's almost irresponsible, and disrespectful even, to the efforts being made – by myself and others, to keep me alive. After all, keeping a stage IV, non small cell lung cancer/terminal patient alive for as long as I've survived doesn't exactly happen by accident. Stage IV lung cancer is a killer, almost always, and one's amazing good fortune shouldn't be taken for granted.

Shouldn't I be paying closer attention here? If I feel something, shouldn't I allow my oncologist the opportunity to evaluate me? Who am I, a writer/salesperson, to determine what is medically significant (cancer-related), and what is not (age-related)? As I've said a hundred times in my life, I know about two things: sports and chocolate, neither of which has much to do with cancer and its treatment. Concerning science and medicine, I know very little. Usually at least, I know enough to follow directions. Therefore, if I've been told to do something (by my doctor/health care team), maybe it's time I did. It's likely to be important living forward, especially considering I've reached an age no one expected me to be.

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



BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JULY 24

Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/JULY 25

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults. 703-938-0405.

MONDAY/JULY 28

English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library,

10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Spanish Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group. Adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/JULY 29

Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

Improve Your English Skills. 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Adults. 703-356-0770.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about using the Internet, setting up an email account and using basic software. Adults. 703-938-0404.

English Conversation One-on-One. 1:30 p.m.

Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. English practice for a non-native speaker with a library volunteer. Call for appointment. Adults. 703-242-4020.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 30

Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Practice conversational English in a group setting. Adults. 703-356-0770.

ESL Conversation Group. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice English in this casual conversation group. Adult. 703-757-8560.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about using the Internet, setting up an email account and using basic software. Adults. 703-938-0404.



SPECIAL PULLOUT TAB

Community & Newcomers Guide

August 27, 2014

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- ❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, Centre View – General news writing.
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- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Arlington Connection – In-depth or investigative reporting: • Uncovering Secret Government
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Education writing: • Alexandria Education Dollars
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette – Business and financial writing: • Car Title Loans
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Public safety writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, Laurence Foong, Geovani Flores, Marilyn Campbell, John Byrd, Tim Peterson and Jean Card, Vienna/Oakton Connection – Specialty pages or sections: • HomeLifeStyle
- ❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Renee Ruggles and Craig Sterbutzel**, Mount Vernon Gazette – Informational graphics: • Fairfax County parks
- ❖ **Staff**, Potomac Almanac – Insiders Edition: Newcomers & Community Guide



Second Place Winners

- ❖ **Steven Mauren, Jeanne Theismann, John Bordner, Jean Card, Geovani Flores and Laurence Foong**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Special sections or special editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ **Steve Artley**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.
- ❖ **Jean Card**, Mount Vernon Gazette – Page design.



Michael Lee Pope



Bonnie Hobbs



Jeanne Theismann



Jean Card



Steven Mauren



Laurence Foong



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Victoria Ross



Mary Kimm



Ken Moore



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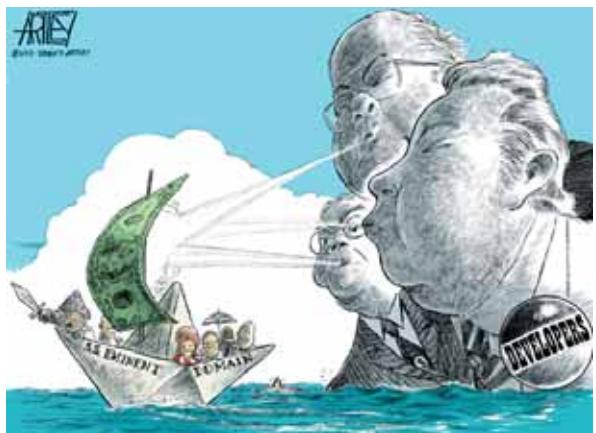
Renee Ruggles



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Steve Artley, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Illustrations – Eminent Domain.

- ❖ **Ken Moore**, Potomac Almanac – Medical Science Reporting
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Arlington Connection – Health, science and environmental writing.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Government writing.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, Burke Connection – Feature series or continuing story.
- ❖ **Victoria Ross**, Fairfax Connection – Personal service writing.
- ❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Column writing.
- ❖ **Staff**, Potomac Almanac – HomeLifeStyle



Louise Krafft,
Alexandria Gazette Packet – Feature photo:
Summer Fun.

Third Place Winners

- ❖ **Steve Artley**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Illustrations.
- ❖ **Mary Kimm**, Fairfax Connection – Editorial writing.
- ❖ **Louise Krafft**, Alexandria Gazette Packet – Feature photo: Summer Fun.
- ❖ **Donna Manz**, Vienna/Oakton Connection – Feature writing portfolio.
- ❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Arlington Connection – Education writing.

PET CONNECTION



Patch, the family's beagle, gets along with Maddie Whishard's other two pets.



Maddie Whishard and her horse, who is currently without a name.

PHOTOS BY MACKENZIE REAGAN/The Connection



Maddie Whishard demonstrates one of Winston's tricks, getting him to sit in exchange for a treat.

A Dog, a Pig and a Horse: Oh, My!

Oakton teen Maddie Whishard tends to a small herd of animals, including a pig, a horse and a beagle.

By MACKENZIE REAGAN
THE CONNECTION

The camera flashes.
My subject, taken aback, squeals.
"Looks like the pig's a little camera shy," I offer.

The swine in question, Winston, is a 1-year-old black Julian pig. His owner, Maddie Whishard of Oakton, said it took nearly six months to convince her parents to let her get a pet pig.

"I wrote a paper and did a ton of research," she says.

So, what made this 16-year-old want to own a pig?

"People told me I couldn't," she says, noting that her peers doubted her when she initially showed interest in raising a piglet. Determined, Whishard read up on pig care and saved up her money (no word on whether or not she used a piggy bank).

Whishard bought Winston from a petting zoo in Maryland. In the beginning, "he was quite a handful," she confesses. "The first six months were rough." It took Winston a few months to become acclimated to his new home. Whishard dutifully taught her new charge, teaching him tricks like "sit,"

"spin" and "dance."

"After [those initial few months], he became enjoyable. He's quite a gentleman," says Whishard. Winston seems to have grown out of his piglet mischief, no longer getting into pantries and opening bulk-sized bags of brownie mix. ("We had to put a lock on the cabinet in the garage," adds mom Anna).

At night, Winston sleeps in a crate in the Whishards' garage, getting tucked in every night with a lullaby from Maddie. He spends his days roaming around in a fenced-in portion of the family's yard, part of their vast property that includes an iron gate in front and a barn in the back.

The barn stood empty until recently, when Whishard purchased a horse. Whishard, who's been riding horses since she was 8, works a few odd jobs — including fence painting, babysitting and lawn care — to

pay for the mare, who currently lacks a name. Her ebony coat is marked with a few flecks of white, with a wide swath of ivory down her snout. While it took time for her to warm up to her new owner, the horse is now comfortable around Whishard. "She's adjusting well. She's good with people," she says.

Whishard rides the horse at least once a day, following the many trails that run through this Fairfax County suburb. Eventually, Whishard hopes to train her new pet to foxhunt.

So how does she get on with Winston and the family's beagle, Patch?

"She's fine with the pig, but she won't associate with him." As for Winston, "he's afraid of the horse." And the dog? "She gets along pretty well with Patch."

As they say, every dog (and pig, and horse) has its day.



Bridget Frank and Oso, 5 months old, resting after a long walk in the Town of Vienna.



Oso, 8 weeks old, seeing his first snow with Kyle Frank.

**Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION**

PET CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sharon Bulova with her cats. "Animals add so much to your life!" Bulova says.

Becoming Best Friends

Frodo and Sam have become best friends – sort of. My husband and I adopted Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue several years ago. He is part Maine Coon and part American Bobtail, with a funny short tail. He may have been mistreated by a previous owner because he is afraid of everything, especially ceiling fans. He quickly became comfortable in our home as an “only cat”.

We adopted “Sam” in September of 2012. She was an adorable tabby kitten, part of a feral litter living outside of a restaurant in Washington D.C. Lee District School Board Member Tammy Kaufax and her two high school aged kids, Halle and Matthew, were fostering the litter as part of a school project.

Tammy showed me a photo of the kittens in August of 2012 during the Springfield Bridge Walk and I fell in love with the smallest kitten with tiger markings. As soon as Sam had gained enough weight to be adopted we brought her home as a companion for Frodo.

It took a few weeks for the two cats to get used to each other, but now they play together and chase each other around all the time. They are so cute together, especially when Sam hides behind the bedroom door and ambushes Frodo when he walks into the room. Animals add so much to your life!

— SHARON BULOVA, CHAIRMAN,
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Cavalier

Teddy is a 3 1/2-year-old Cavalier, an AKC Therapy Dog, who lives in Vienna with Ruth and Bob Benker. Teddy loves visiting with all his friends at Iliff Nursing and Rehab Center in Dunn Loring. Teddy and Ruth volunteer there with Fairfax Pets On Wheels, Inc. It is the highlight of his week to go and check on all his friends.



PHOTOS BY JOAN BRADY/JOANBRADYPHOTOGRAPHY.COM

Baby photos of future assistance dogs

Puppies Destined for Important Work

Bred, donated and/or rescued for assistance dog training by paws4people.org, these “baby pictures” will be shared with the children and veterans matched with each dog.

But until then, the puppies will receive comprehensive training. Training begins at the Training Center in Wilmington, Del. The specific training is proprietary, but includes learning how to navigate different surfaces and challenges and how to handle stress. At around 6 weeks, they curl up in a transport van and make the drive to the Puppy Development Center, currently in Georgia. There, they continue with socialization training as they work students who are autistic at the Lionheart school, with both puppies and students getting more comfortable with new situations and people.

At 16 weeks, they pile back into the van and are met by inmate trainers at Lakin Correctional, in West Virginia. It is here that the core of “command set” training happens. Each dog will learn 110 commands before being matched with a “client.”



After 12 - 15 months of socialization and command training, they will each be matched with either a child or a veteran. From that point, the puppies will be trained specifically to meet their new “handler’s” needs.

During that specialized training, the dogs remain in prison. These pictures will help the newly matched children and adults get through that initial separation.

Read more about paws4people assistance dogs at joanbradyphoto.wordpress.com

— JOAN BRADY

Joan Brady is a professional photographer; mentor and advocate for current and former foster children; volunteer with paws4People, Fairfax Families4Kids, and others; and a resident of Great Falls. Reach her at joan@joanbradyphotography.com



Joan Brady and the paws4people puppy named JOAN

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



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Meet Best Friends of Vienna Area

Stories of people and their pets in the Vienna area.

BY ERIN CONWAY
THE CONNECTION

Everybody knows the old saying "a dog is man's best friend" but over time it seems that dogs have become everyone's best friend. Pam Rao and her family own a 15-week-old gold retriever named Charlie. They adopted him at just 8 weeks old and he has been part of the family ever since. Pam laughs and says, "Sometimes it's harder training the kids than the dog because I always have to keep them from giving him too many treats." Pam also comments, "When Charlie wakes up in the morning he is so happy to see you. All he does is rub up against you and wags his tail so hard he ends up falling down."

Sarah Babson of Vienna is also a dog person, owning two herself. Tucker is a 16-year-old schnoodle and Ziva is 2 1/2-year-old schnauzer. Fun fact about Ziva; she was given a name from the TV show NCIS by her breeder. Babson comments, "There are so many things that make Tucker and Ziva unique, especially how they play together even though Tucker is a lot older. I also love how they both want to be in the pet stroller I bought for Tucker. I pulled Ziva out one time to put Tucker in and she just decided she wasn't done and jumped right back in!"

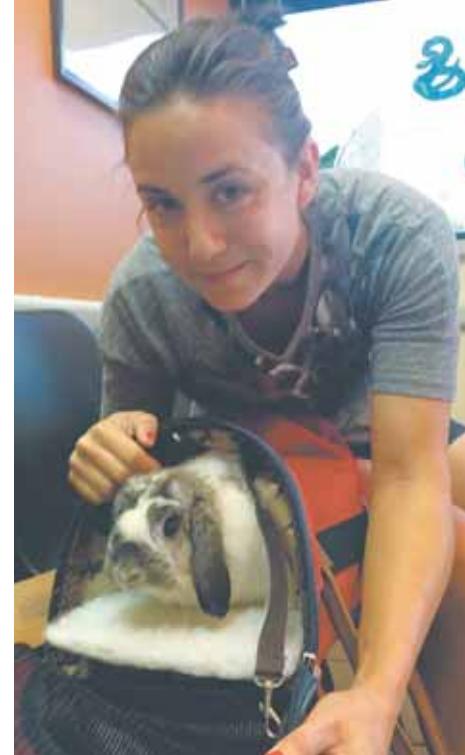
"The main difference between the two," Babson comments, is that Tucker will bark at something for a second and then turn



PHOTOS BY ERIN CONWAY/THE CONNECTION
Sarah Babson with Tucker (gray) and Ziva (black).

and focus his attentions toward something else while Ziva will bark and bark and bark at one thing because she doesn't really know size." Tucker and Ziva are just too cute for words.

While dogs seem to dominate in Vienna area, Karin Young owns a pet slightly different. Karin owns a 3-year-old Holland Lop rabbit named Haruki. Karin has owned Haruki for about two and a half years now. "Despite the fact he has very frequent vet



Karin Young and Haruki: "Haruki is very fun and open, like a dog almost," Young said.

visits, Haruki is very fun and open, like a dog almost. He is very playful and open to strangers it's really great," she said.

Fun fact about the Japanese name "Haruki," it means radiance, shine and life.

Whoever said diamonds were a girl's best friend clearly never owned a dog. Emily Panek, however, knows otherwise. She owns a very loving mutt named Sandy. Her dad jokingly comments, "She's Heinz 57; she's all mix." Sandy is 7 months old, but has



Emily Panek and Sandy. Sandy's original name was Kisses given to her for how much she loves licking people.

been a part of Emily's life and family since she was a tiny puppy only 14 weeks old. Emily comments, "She really loves her little toy squeaky snake and she loves taking my socks."

Sandy's original name was Kisses given to her for how much she loves licking people, but the name Sandy matches her sandy colored coat which complements her little black mouth and nose.

Luna

We had decided that when we got a puppy we would be that family who trained their dog to keep off of the furniture and sleep in a crate at night. However, all our careful planning and rules were broken the first night we brought Luna, our Maltese/Bichon Frise mix home. It was similar to the scene in Disney's "Lady and the Tramp" where the stubborn parents finally succumb to poor Lady's howls of loneliness and allow her to spend the night in their bed. Luna could be heard crying from her crate downstairs throughout the better part of the night until my mom gave in and brought her to sleep in her bedroom. Since then, Luna has always found a place for herself in each one of the beds in our house. She has developed her own schedule that requires early bedtimes and sleeping in as long as possible in the morning. When she's ready for bed she hops up on the mattress and lays down right in your favorite sleeping spot. If you



Alexandra Court's dog, Luna.

take too long to get ready for bed she proceeds to knock all the pillows off and mess up your sheets. At night, if you toss and

turn, or move the slightest muscle she gives you a warning growl and if you continue to disturb her she leaves in search of a different bed. She also rotates bedrooms depending on who is home. When I left for college, Luna kept my mother and brother company at night switching between the two. However, when I came home for winter break my loyal canine friend slept with me in my bed the entire two months until I went away again. The three of us have entirely different working schedules which means we all get up at different times of the morning. Luna despises having to get out of bed, and when the inhabitant of one bed gets up to get ready for work, she moves on to the next bed which still contains a sleeper. It's amazing how sometimes you forget that she's a dog. She acts so much like a person you can't help but talk to her because you know she understands what you're saying. Luna takes care of us as much as we take care of her, and as long as she is around, she will always make sure we each get a good night's rest.

— ALEXANDRA COURT, VIENNA