

Maple Avenue Corridor Opens for Debate

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Glass, Space and Natural Light

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Full Day Monday Challenges Discussed

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Opened in 1960, the Vienna Inn has become a landmark on Maple Avenue. According to Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco the town wants "to add public art, energy efficiency, gathering spaces and mixed uses" under the Maple Avenue Corridor project just opened for public discussion.

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Residents Speak Out on Maple Avenue

Second public hearing on proposed, new zoning district.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

One thing about Vienna residents – when they care about something, they’re not shy about making their feelings known. And that’s exactly what they did during an Aug. 18 public hearing on the proposed Maple Avenue Corridor (MAC) zoning district.

A standing-room-only crowd of some 150 people packed the Town Council meeting room, while still more watched the proceedings on a TV in the hallway. And at the outset, Mayor Laurie DiRocco explained the MAC’s goals.

“The biggest concentration of commercial businesses is along Maple Avenue and our zoning ordinance dates back to the 1960s,” she said. “It’s essentially strip-mall zoning. But we’d like to add public art, energy efficiency, gathering spaces and mixed uses – none of which are in our current commer-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Residents packed the Town Council’s public hearing on the Maple Avenue Corridor proposal.

cial zoning.”

“We want to enhance [Vienna], have a vibrant business district and be this gem of a town with all the services people need and want right here, now and in the future,” continued DiRocco. She said 75 percent of households responding to a recent survey asking what they wanted in their town wanted incentives given to redevelop the business community.

And a 17-person steering committee worked on the MAC two years to do just that, while preserving Vienna’s small-town feel and retaining the character of the nearby residential neighborhoods. At the public hearing, Vienna Deputy Director of Planning and Zoning Matt Flis said the Council is considering a framework for Vienna’s long-term outlook.

“It’s preferable to develop under the MAC

because it reinforces projects more in keeping with the Town’s vision,” he said. “Now, there’s no building-height limit; with the MAC, there is. And the MAC has tree-canopy, open-space, bike-parking and illumination requirements that currently don’t exist.”

THE EXISTING, 5-foot-wide sidewalks would be changed to a 20-foot setback for wider sidewalks, street trees and space for outdoor dining. Trees would also be required in parking lots and the whole corridor would be more bike-and pedestrian-friendly.

“Projects submitted through the MAC would go through a rigorous review process with public input,” said Flis. “Currently, there’s no requirement for public input. And the multiple curb cuts [along Maple] contribute to today’s stop-and-go traffic, so consolidating them would improve the situation.”

Furthermore, he said, “Through the MAC, [Vienna can] require developers to perform traffic studies, themselves, rather than the Town paying for them. There’d also be architectural standards. Buildings adjacent to

SEE MAPLE AVENUE, PAGE 13

Glass, Space and Natural Light **Vienna Community Center renovation plans are moving ahead.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Even while Vienna residents are enjoying their current Community Center, plans are moving forward on its renovation and enlargement, plus construction of a 9,115-square-foot gym to the west side of the existing building.

The 48-year-old facility is 28,814 square feet in two stories and is constantly in use. But it needs more parking, a new roof, a gym large enough for league play, high-tech wiring for laptops, plus new electrical, heating and air-conditioning systems. Classroom floors and walls must also be repaired.

A December 2013 bond issue is funding the bulk of the work; and during an Aug. 18 work session of the Vienna Town Council, Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Salgado and architect Gregory Lukmire presented an update on the project.

“Over the summer, we’ve been busy working on the site plan,” said Salgado. “It’s a work in progress. Our goal is to get some consensus on [where things should be located]. By Oct. 1, we want to have it ready for the Planning Commission’s review.”

“We’ll also tell you the issues we’re facing,” Lukmire told the Council members. “This evening, we’ll primarily focus on



Artist’s rendition of new gym exterior with glass walls and plantings.

the gymnasium and its entrance.” He also discussed parking and the Community Center’s new floor plan.

“The NVRPA [Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority] parking lot has about 90 spaces,” he said. “You [also] have 32 spaces in the two lots in front of the building and, at times, it’s crowded. So we’ll have a new parking lot where the bike trail was. The NVRPA will have an 18-foot trail and we’ll have 127 parking spaces in front of the building.” The current proposed total of parking spaces is 190.

“The Park Authority is OK with the movement of the trail, and we added a walkway from the trail to the Community Center entrance for safety,” said Salgado. “And as the trail crosses Park Street, we’ll be able to do safety enhancements and help the bicyclists slow down before they get there.”

REGARDING THE BUILDING’S NEW LAYOUT, Lukmire said the Community Center will have two main entrances in the northeast corner of the building, leading into a new, 900-square-foot lobby. “The ex-

isting lobby would be gutted and renovated into new, administrative-office space,” he said. “And in the new lobby, staff would be able to monitor who’s coming in.”

People will enter the building from both Cherry and Mill streets so they may use both nearby parking lots. And the existing, U-shaped, drop-off area will be retained.

A new, high-school-sized gym will have bleachers and two, 4-foot-wide walking/running tracks (with two lanes) around the perimeter. It’ll be striped for basketball, volleyball and badminton courts, and there’ll be two electronic scoreboards.

Storage for gym and theater uses is planned to the rear of the gym. There’ll also be a new, central kitchen where the old theater-storage was, with access to the gym so refreshments can be served. The current kitchen will be converted into storage for the auxiliary gym, a custodial closet and a staff shower facility.

The total addition to the Community Center’s north and west sides will be 13,888 square feet and will also allow space for future expansion. The entrance to the existing gym will be via a T-shaped corridor going to it and also to the lobby.

SEE RENOVATION, PAGE 7

Full Day Monday Challenges Discussed

School Board wants county help with cost.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

The implementation of “full day Mondays” has been anything but easy for area elementary schools.

The challenges that Fairfax County Public Schools faced to bring more hours to elementary students’ school year was addressed by Superintendent Karen Garza and several board members during Thursday’s school board meeting at Jackson Middle School.

Full day Mondays were approved by the board during their June 2 meeting. “I acknowledged publicly that it was a very aggressive timeline,” said Garza.

“Every single elementary student in FCPS benefited from this decision. Every single one.”

— Superintendent Karen Garza

She said it was her job to acknowledge that implementation has gone less than perfectly.

Mondays were originally cut in the early 1970s to give elementary teachers more planning time. When Monday was chopped in half, student recess was also cut. Students had 10 minute recess breaks to make up for lost time in the classroom. With the implementation, students are given 20 minute recess breaks with the additional instruction time.

Garza previously promised that teachers will still have adequate plan-

ning time with the implementation. Board members agreed that she fulfilled that end of the promise.

“The new schedule seems to be working,” said Dranesville District board member Jane Strauss. “You reassured us that it would work, and I believe you’ve done a good job.”

Garza congratulated FCPS teachers and principals for doing the best they could during the several months they had to prepare for the additional hours.

“I worked with every single principal in the division,” she said. “Every single one.”

AUDIENCE MEMBERS clapped and cheered when she stated that, over the course of a student’s elementary school career, a total of 90 days would be gained with the added hours.

Springfield District board member Elizabeth Schultz said she had fought for implementation for more than two years.

“I know there was a lot of trepidation, especially among teachers,” she said. “They can see how well this plan is going to work and are grateful it is finally rolling out.”

Schultz was in the second grade when her family moved to Fairfax County — resulting in her moving to a FCPS elementary school. At the June 2 meeting, she said she remembers not understanding why she only went to school for half a day on Monday. During her time on the school board, she asked administrators how the elementary schools were meeting accreditation standards with the hours missed and was dissatisfied with their an-



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County School Board addressed the challenges elementary schools faced this year implementing full day Mondays.

swers. Schultz said that schools throughout the district had been inconsistent with tracking whether students were in class for the amount of time required by the state.

“Dr. Garza’s approach was to have a more unified practice across the board,” she said.

According to Schultz, 54 percent of the total student population comprises elemen-

tary students. Earlier during the meeting, Garza stated that 186,000 students were enrolled in the school system this year, making it the 10th largest school district in the country.

“Every single elementary student in FCPS benefited from this decision,” she said during the meeting. “Every single one.”

She elaborated before the closed session that the additional hours allow students in gifted programs to get more time for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) learning and gives students in remedial programs more time to be helped. Rather than helping only one group of students or a specific grade, she said, it benefited all elementary students.

“That’s why we were so passionate about it,” she said.

THE FINANCIAL BURDEN the school system is facing as a result of the implementation is also a concern for board members.

“It was estimated that it could cost \$7 million to implement full day Mondays,” said Schultz.

She and others, including Braddock District board member Megan McLaughlin said that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should help

shoulder the costs.

“It didn’t fall neatly into our budget,” said McLaughlin. “It came after the fact.”

Because it was approved after the 2014-15 school budget was passed, extra funding was requested.

“We’re increasing our services to our students and our families,” she said.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Mayor’s Walking Group

Vienna residents are welcome to join Mayor Laurie DiRocco’s walking group. It meets every Friday at 9:30 a.m. at the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. The walks are about 2.5 to 3 miles, with a different route every Friday. The next walk is Sept. 12.

Club Phoenix Open House

Club Phoenix is the teen center inside the Vienna Community Center, and it of-

fers fun and games for local teenagers. And this Friday, Sept. 12, at 3:30 p.m., the club will hold an open house and tour. Teens are invited to come check out all it has to offer and meet the Club Phoenix staff.

Historian to Lead Tour of Flint Hill Cemetery

Local historian Jim Lewis will lead a tour of historic Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton on Saturday, Sept. 13 at 10 am. He will share interesting aspects of the cemetery, including stories of prominent Vienna residents and some of the 27 Civil War era military veterans, four of them Mosby’s Rangers,

who are interred there. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., free and open to the public, no reservations required. Meet at Flint Hill Cemetery at the corner of Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) and Courthouse Road, next to the Church of the Brethren. For information call 703-938-5187.

Vienna Farmers Market

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

Street to Cherry Street.

Vienna Town Council Meeting

The Vienna Town Council will hold a work session Monday, Sept. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. in Vienna.

Oakton Farmers Market

The Oakton Farmers Market is held Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.

OBITUARY

Jean Stuart Clymer

Jean Stuart Clymer, 90, of Reston, died Tuesday, Aug. 12, 2014. She was born Sept. 21, 1923 in Paisley, Scotland, to Harriet and Stuart MacAulay. She moved to Pennsylvania with her parents, and older brother Thomas, when she was 1 year old. She arrived from Glasgow, Scotland to the Port of New York on Oct. 8, 1924, described as fresh, fair and blue eyed.



died in 1997, after 53 years of marriage.

Her life-long love of plants and flowers was carried on while she attended a series of courses at the Barnes Foundation's Arboretum School, with participation in gardening groups and the landscaping committee of the homeowner's association at Devonshire. She was also a long-time member of the Daughters of the British Empire.

In 2010, she moved to Tall Oaks Assisted Living in Reston, Va., where she enjoyed the community of people as well as the variety of activities. She was especially proud of gold medals she won in the Tall Oaks Wii Olympics.

She attended Cheltenham High School and Arcadia University (formerly Beaver College), on a full academic scholarship, where she studied French.

She married Everett S. Clymer, her beloved high school sweetheart in April 1944. They had two children, son Stuart and daughter Sylvia. Following Everett's service in the Navy during World War II, the young family lived in Oreland, Pa. In 1952, they moved to Wallingford, Pa., where they attended the Wallingford Presbyterian Church. They also resided in Turin, Italy from 1969 to 1979.

In 1974, Jean and Everett Clymer moved to Hillview Road in Malvern, Pa., and began attending Paoli Presbyterian Church where they were active in many church programs.

In 1984, they moved to Devon, Pa. Everett Clymer

Jean Clymer is survived by her son E. Stuart (Isabel Torbert) Clymer of Stratford, Conn.; daughter Sylvia (Jeffrey) Wagner of Vienna, Va.; granddaughter Jean-Louise (Stuart Moll) Card of McLean, Va.; grandson Michael Wagner of Reston, Va.; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Interment and a memorial service will be held at Paoli Presbyterian Church in Paoli, Pa., on Sept. 13, 2014 at 10:30 a.m. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to Paoli Presbyterian's Mission Fund, 225 S. Valley Road, Paoli, PA 19301.

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OPINION

Change Is Coming, Right?

Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

With former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes.

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and

gifts is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have minimal contribution limits.

EDITORIAL

These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited.

In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to

any one candidate and \$10,000 total, cumulatively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and \$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

The Legacy of Bob McDonnell

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

I had no idea what to expect when the jury announced it had reached its verdicts on the charges against former Governor Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen, but when the verdicts were announced I was stunned. The jury of seven men and five women left no doubt in their findings: 11 counts of guilty for the former Governor and nine counts of guilty for his wife! All the efforts to explain away their behavior, redefine their relationship, and nuance words and actions were not successful. Virginia has now achieved the level of disdain we have held towards governors of other states in similar circumstances. We have a former governor found guilty of corruption in office. Somehow with Patrick Henry and Thomas Jefferson having occupied that seat, it was not supposed to happen in Virginia.

Bob McDonnell is the last person anyone would have thought would have brought this

legacy to Virginia. He served his country in the military. He has three degrees from a Christian university. He married a professional cheerleader from a major league football team. The thesis for his masters' degree spelled out an old-fashioned morality that he thought was essential for how people should behave. He was a prosecuting attorney finding others guilty of crimes in order to keep his community safe. He represented his community in the House of Delegates where he introduced bills that included one for a covenant marriage. His first statewide elective office was Attorney General responsible for seeing that Virginia's laws were fairly interpreted. His win for Governor was by a wide margin. He appeared squeaky clean.

The jury heard in detail what happened during his term as governor and determined he was guilty of corruption. That is the way our system of justice works. Not only is his legacy tarnished so too is that of his wife and family. For the Governor and his family on a personal

level, they have my thoughts and sincere prayers. There will be an appeal no doubt. Whatever the criminal justice system does with the case under appeal will not restore the man to the elevated position he had in the public's mind when he became governor.

We need to turn our attention now to the legacy for Virginia. Maybe we Virginians had it coming for we had become somewhat pompous over our reputation for the clean government we thought we had. Despite some cynics' views, virtually all elected officials and government employees are honest, hard-working people who want to do their best for the Commonwealth.

For those who do not fit this category we need to participate in a whistle-blowing exercise that will expose any who are putting their selfish gain above the public good. And the legislature needs to do more work on its conflict of interest and ethics laws. Maybe those changes can become the legacy of Bob McDonnell.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Programs To Be Proud Of

To the Editor:

In her letter in the ("Opposing Medicaid Expansion," Connection, August 20 - 26, 2014) Elinor Bartlett made it clear that she strongly opposes Medicaid expansion in Virginia. Fine, but while I strongly support her right to hold and express such a view, I cannot accept her use of irrelevant, unsupported, and factually wrong

statements about Social Security and Medicare in support of her position.

As one who has followed Social Security closely for over 70 years (I received a Survivors benefit in 1940 upon the death of my Dad) I want to set the record straight on both these programs.

First, Social Security is not "bankrupt." It has hundreds of bil-

ions in assets sufficient to pay the retirement and survivors benefits under current law for many years to come. Yes! There is an issue about whether benefits will have to be reduced in future years as our aging population lives longer and the size of the workforce shrinks. But that problem does not result from government mismanagement as Ms. Bartlett implies.

It results instead from the success of another Government program, Medicare, which has been the major factor in improving the health and longevity of America's senior citizens. While more needs to be done about greedy medical providers who have sometimes defrauded the system, Medicare delivers health care very effec-

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Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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Renovation Planning Moves Ahead

FROM PAGE 3

The second-floor layout isn't changing, but it'll have a new electrical system and revamped classroom space.

"A new hallway will connect the lobby to the new gym," said Salgado. "And classroom windows plus a glass corridor will let in lots of light."

However, added Lukmire, "In the corner of the new gym, its storage area is over the property line for the Fairfax County school system by 3 feet. But if we can get a 10-foot easement [from FCPS], we could get what you want in the gym."

"We hope to have a budget estimate of the gym and renovation work, plus the site work for build-out of the site in 10-20 years, by Sept. 15, when we get together again," Salgado told the Council. "It'll include costs for the renovated electrical and plumbing work."

AS FOR THE LAYOUT, she said, "We moved things around several times, and this is the best configuration we could come up with. We've been doing staff review with Planning and Housing, the Department of Public Works and our staff and making revisions as we go."

Basically, said Lukmire, "You have a small, oddly shaped site and you want a lot of things on it. And we're trying to do that without destroying the site. We also have a landscape plan, including a tree-lined bike trail."

Furthermore, said Salgado, "Residents have also told us what they want on that site. For example,



Artist's rendition of new gym interior with jogging track and natural light.

skateboarders want a temporary skate spot that we'll use later on in the future. And we still want to retain that park-like atmosphere."

Noting that the 35-foot-high gym would be equivalent to three stories, Lukmire said they want to "put in some glass and plantings against it. We'd also like a growing trellis outside the building so it can be a green building."

A glass corridor will run along the north wall of the existing building and connect the new gym with the new lobby, and there'll be a handicap ramp. "The gym is 80 feet across, so we're trying to introduce natural light," said Lukmire. "We'd also like to introduce wood into it so it feels like a park-and-rec building."

Groundbreaking is anticipated in April 2015, with expected completion a year later.

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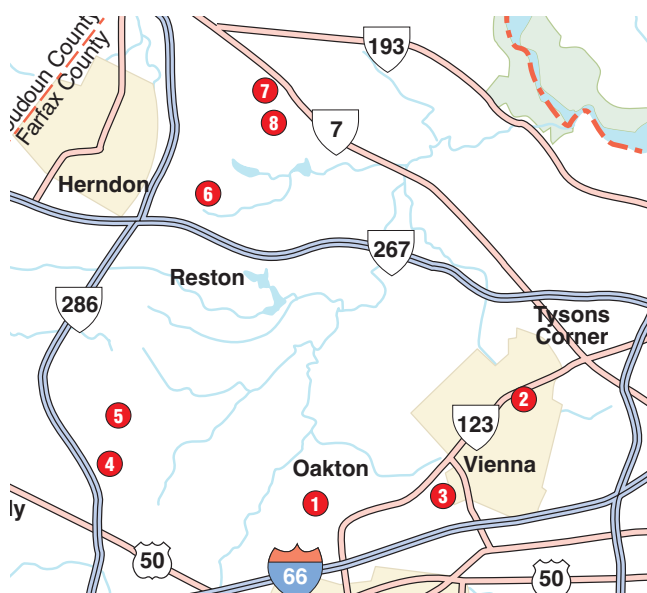


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2 305 EAST ST SE	5	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,632,464	Detached	0.51	22180	MURMURING PINES	07/25/14	
3 501 PRINCESS CT SW	6	5	1		VIENNA	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.46	22180	MOOREFIELD	07/02/14	
4 3200 BARTON WAY	5	4	1		OAK HILL	\$1,315,000	Detached	0.92	20171	OAK HILL RESERVE	07/23/14	
5 12228 THOROUGHbred RD	5	4	1		OAK HILL	\$1,276,000	Detached	2.25	20171	VALE VALLEY FARMS	07/07/14	
6 1830 FOUNTAIN DR #1501	3	3	1		RESTON	\$1,265,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		20190	PARAMOUNT	07/22/14	
7 1161 FIELDVIEW DR	5	4	1		RESTON	\$1,252,000	Detached	0.71	20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	07/16/14	
8 1258 NEW BEDFORD LN	5	4	1		RESTON	\$1,210,000	Detached	0.43	20194	NEW BEDFORD	07/28/14	

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'Recession Ripple Persists' at Realtors' Summit

Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. “That said, we’re not Detroit.”

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University’s Mason Inn.



Panelists (from left) at the 2014 NVAR Economic Summit: Mitchel Kider, Dr. Michael Frantoni, James Dinegar and David Versal.

PHOTOS BY
TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

At this year’s summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. “In 2013, job growth ground to a halt,” he said at the event last Thursday. “July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?”

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: “Detroit.”

Versal was back again for 2014,

along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syndicated column “The Nation’s Housing.”

New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider,

chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

THE THEME of this year’s summit was “Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery.”

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the recession is not over, growth is slow and home

sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We’re all still here.

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. “We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement,” he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, “just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we’ve removed.”

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don’t exactly help a housing market that’s light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

“Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000

SEE PANELISTS, PAGE 10

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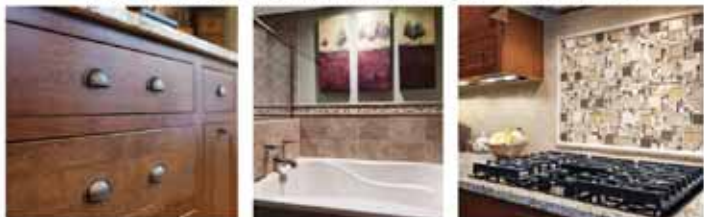
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Home LifeStyle

Panelists Hopeful, Patient for Housing Market Improvements

FROM PAGE 9

houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not," said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn't creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market's midsection.

But that's not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013's remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what's being built is rental property, which doesn't produce sales and doesn't help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many "cool factors" of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area "America's Coolest City."

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world.

Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals to the area, or keeping them here.

"You have to get your head around the Big Ten," Dinegar gave an example. "The BTN reaches 52 million households. We're not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We're on radar screens now we haven't ever been on."

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater overall pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation's capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that



BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

"The economy has been bad. Yet in spite of all of this, we're all still here," said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis.

aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to.

"Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they're not aspirational movers," he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as "millennials." And they're a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, "They're different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don't know why."

A MILLENNIAL'S HESITANCY to buy property probably doesn't have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We're off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We're still here.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

Watercolor Pouring. 7:30 p.m.
Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. Demonstration by artist Patricia Farrell. Free. 703-319-3971.
www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

22nd Annual 5K Run/Walk. 9 a.m.
820 Follin Lane SE, Vienna. Navy Federal will host its 22nd annual 5K Run/Walk in Vienna, continuing a tradition of promoting wellness of employees, members and residents of its local community. All proceeds from the race will be donated to the Committee for Helping Others (CHO), an all volunteer organization that helps the needy in Vienna, Oakton, Dunn Loring and Merrifield area by providing emergency assistance, emergency food aid, clothing, furniture, meals on wheels and transportation. For additional details and information regarding the race, please visit the website: <https://www.navyfederal.org/5k/vienna.php>.

Vienna Farmers Market Storytime. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join in for stories and songs at the Vienna Farmers Market. Look for us on the grass near the playground at Faith Baptist Church. Weather permitting. All ages with adult.

Native Plant Sale. 8 a.m. - noon.
Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. The sale provides an opportunity to purchase native trees, shrubs and perennial plants from local growers, and have gardening questions answered.

Vienna Train Show. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center Street S, Vienna. The show features an operating layout with three engines running simultaneously, where a gateman jumps to attention when the train passes and the whistle sounds mournfully. Plus, 58 tables of trains for sale. All kinds: Lionel, American Flyer, HO, N plus train accessories. And, train repair and parts dealers. Admission: \$5. Free for children under 12, Scouts in uniform, Military with proper identification.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

Vienna Sustainable Home and Garden Tour. 1 - 4 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, Vienna. The self-guided tour will highlight several Vienna residences that have incorporated sustainable choices into their homes and/or gardens.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring stories, rhymes, songs and activities for you and your child. 12-23 months with caregiver.

Woof, And Paws - Read to a Dog. 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Need a little reading help? Sign up to read with a reading therapy dog. Age 6-12.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16

Rock-a-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs.



Check out Vienna's Train Show this Saturday, Sept. 13 at the Vienna Firehouse where trains will be on display and for sale. You can also have your old trains repaired.



Find hidden treasures at McLean Community's fall flea market on Sept. 13 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking garage at 1420 Beverly Road (behind the Giant Shopping Center).

Birth-12 months with adult.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17

McLean Newcomers Club Kick-Off Luncheon. Maggiano's, 2001 International Drive, McLean. McLean Newcomers Club is a social club to create new friendships, to provide opportunities for socializing and to acquaint members with the community. We welcome individuals who are new to the area or long-time residents of McLean and the surrounding towns. For more information and a reservation, visit www.McLeanNewcomers.com or call 571-306-0010.

Toddlin' Twos. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime featuring stories and songs. Age 2 with adult.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Adventures in Learning Classes Open House. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. Visit the Open House and learn more about classes you can attend on a variety of topics of interest. Tuition: \$40. Visit <http://www.scov.org/> for more info. Ages 50+.

Classic Books Discussion Group. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of A House for Mr. Biswas by V.S. Naipaul. Adults and teens.

Not Just for Teens Adult Book Club. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Are you an adult who loves YA lit? If so, join us to discuss Beauty Queens by Libba Bray. Adults.

FRIDAY/SEPT. 19

McLean American Association of University Women 45th Annual Used Book Sale. 9 a.m.-7 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Open to the public. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

FRIDAY/SEPT 19-SATURDAY/SEPT 20

St. John the Beloved Annual Fall Festival. Friday: 6-10 p.m. Saturday: 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. St. John the Beloved, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. Enjoy a family-fun day of music, food and movies. Tickets: \$20-\$85. www.stjohn101.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Tyson's BBQ, Bourbon and Beer. 12-6 p.m. Town Square at Tysons II, Tysons Boulevard, Tysons Corner. A taste extravaganza featuring burgers, micro-brews, bourbons and barbeque. Not designed for children. For ticketing and more information, visit: <http://beerandbourbon.com>.

McLean American Association of University Women 45th Annual Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Open to the public. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123.

Cars & Coffee. 7-9 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Every Saturday come find an assortment of antique, custom, exotic, sports cars and more! With coffee!

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Saturday, Sept. 13, 9 a.m-1 p.m.

Free Admission
1420 Beverly Road,
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Rather sell than shop? Rent a space for \$45. Open to individuals selling household items and commercial flea market dealers.

Deadline to apply is **Wednesday, Sept. 10.** This is a very popular community sale! Spaces go quickly, so please register early!

MCLEAN FALL FLEA MARKET



The McLean Community Center
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Space has been provided through the courtesy of General Assets, Inc., and the support of Giant and McLean Properties. We are grateful for their community support!

PUBLIC NOTICE

McLean Community Center Governing Board

Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget

(July 1, 2015-June 30, 2016)

Follows the Finance Committee Meeting of the Whole

Monday, Sept. 15, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. at the Center

Residents who wish to speak at the Public Hearing are asked to call 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the speakers' list. Copies of the draft budget proposal will be available during the committee meeting and public hearing.

Written comments may be delivered to the Center's address (shown below,) marked "Attention: Executive Director," or sent by email to feedback@mcleancenter.org. Written comments must be received prior to the Governing Board's regular September meeting, on Wednesday, September 24 at 7:30 p.m.



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



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Madison senior Amanda Swaak finished first at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Sept. 6 at Burke Lake Park.

Madison Senior Swaak Places 1st at Monroe Parker

Warhawks win girls' team championship.

By JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Madison senior Amanda Swaak's time at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational was 21 seconds slower than when she competed in the 2013 6A North region meet on the same course at Burke Lake Park.

On this afternoon, however, Swaak focused more on place than time. With that in mind, her performance was an improvement as she took home a pair of championships.

With temperatures in the 80s, Swaak placed first in the girls' varsity race on Sept. 6 with a time of 18 minutes, 6 seconds. Swaak's effort helped the Madison Warhawks finish atop the girls' team standings, as well.

"I thought I ran pretty well," Swaak said. "This week has been hard for me training-wise — I upped my mileage — so I came into it pretty sore."

Swaak finished four seconds ahead of Chantilly's Xaveria Hawvermale, who placed second with a time of 18:10.

"I had Xaveria running next to me ... so I wasn't by myself," Swaak said. "We both pushed each other until the last bit. ... It helps a lot."

Madison finished first in the team standings with a score of 75. Lake Braddock (99) placed second, and Patriot (140) finished third.

Along with Swaak's first-place finish, Madison's Morgan Wittrock placed eighth (19:04), Laura Sullivan finished 14th (19:20), Devon Williams took 20th (19:33) and Bella Maggio finished 32nd (19:55).

Swaak earned all-state honors as a junior, placing 12th during the VHSL 6A state race at Great Meadow. Wittrock finished 22nd at states last year as a sophomore.



Madison junior Morgan Wittrock (514) placed eighth at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational, helping the Warhawks win the girls' team title.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Justin Hu

Vienna Youth Wins Gold for United States

Vienna youth Justin Hu, who attends Luther Jackson Middle School, has won gold medal for Team USA at the 10th Pan American Martial Arts (Wushu) Competition that took place from Sept. 4-7 in San Jose, Costa Rica.

More than 1,000 athletes from 41 Pan American nations attended the competi-

tion.

Justin, who has been in training for Martial Arts since he was 8, won gold in the competition.

When asked how he felt as the U.S. flag rose with the national anthem playing for him, he said, "I feel very accomplished, and happy I can make the contribution to our Team USA!"

Football Roundup

The Oakton football team improved to 2-0 with a 16-14 victory over Vienna rival Madison on Sept. 5. The Cougars have won their first two games by a combined five points.

Oakton (2-0) will travel to face T.C. Williams (1-0) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 13. Madison (1-1) will travel to face Chantilly (1-0) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 12.

McLean opened its season with a 35-29 victory over Washington-Lee. The Highlanders (1-0) will travel to face Marshall (0-1) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Marshall lost its season opener to Wakefield, 40-6.

Langley opened the 2014 campaign with a 45-13 loss to Yorktown. The Saxons (0-1) will travel to face Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

Herndon won its first game under head coach Jeremiah Davis, beating Mount Vernon 46-27. The Hornets (1-0) will host West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

South Lakes dropped to 0-2 with a 56-7 loss to Westfield. The Seahawks will host Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday.

NEWS

An overflow crowd jams into the Vienna Town Hall for the Maple Avenue Corridor hearing.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Maple Avenue Corridor Debated

FROM PAGE 3

residential can't be higher than 35 feet; today, there's not much we can do to limit that."

Then a slew of residents – both for and against – spoke their minds about the proposal. Business-owner Matt Greer said the "moms-and-pops will get pushed out; we won't be able to afford the rents or development costs anymore. It's a great step in the right direction, but we don't have the infrastructure to handle the vehicles and parking."

However, DiRocco noted that "any redevelopment [under the MAC] is voluntary and will happen over time," and certain Maple Avenue properties will never be redeveloped. But if they are, said Flis, the MAC will benefit small businesses.

PostNet owner James Cudney also favors the plan. "As a resident, I really want to see this Town grow and have more of a historic district with nice, green spaces for people to congregate and walk along Maple Avenue and dine outside there," he said. "And as a business owner, I think the MAC is tremendous. As we create more businesses and density, I think rents will stabilize and the Town will get more revenue for services to the residents."

Susan Stillman, chairman of Vienna's Community Enhancement Commission, wants to protect the small businesses. "Today we have big, asphalt parking lots and can't look into the store windows," she said. "It's not comfortable for walkers with large distances between businesses. I'm a cyclist and a walker and I want a safe way for kids to do that. And I'd like energy-efficiency requirements for buildings."

Mike Gelb read a letter from Purple Onion Catering owner Margot Jones saying higher buildings will encourage more investment in the community. "I think [the MAC] will give us a chance to shape our own future in Vienna," she wrote. "The Town will be able to negotiate conditions and offers from developers, and it'll be aesthetically pleasing and get people to walk. Hopefully, it'll expand our tax base and provide housing options for people who don't want that big house anymore."

STEERING COMMITTEE member Laine Hyde said she's "intensely proud" of the committee's work and proposal. Stressing that Church Street "didn't happen by chance," but was created according to the Town's planned vision," she said, "That cements the case for adopting the MAC. People are walking, dining and shopping there at all hours."

Michael Morey said the four-story buildings will probably be condos and apartments and wondered where all those residents would park. Flis said the developers would have to provide either structured parking or spaces behind the buildings.

John Ingram prefers Maple Avenue buildings to be three stories or less. Regarding outdoor dining, he said, "If you eat along the road there, you'll get soot in your mouth." And Roger Maamary said smart growth is "working with what you have and making the best of it. Invite the right businesses and reduce the traffic."

"I don't want Vienna to look like Tysons Corner," said Kelly Wolf. "Nobody wants a four-story business on Maple Avenue; it will totally and completely change this community." But Mike Cheselka said, "I don't think four stories is too high; I'm in favor of this."

Dennis Couture called the MAC "long overdue" and said it'll "add life to the street and diversify the Town's housing stock. Let's embrace change and make sure it's controlled and propels us forward." Agreeing, Vienna Paint owner Carole Wolfand said, "If you don't start planning for the future now, you won't have the changes you want."

But Laurie Moore worried that "traffic will increase from the additional workers, plus people coming to the new shops. Town residents pay 80 percent of the town revenue ... so we need to know what new infrastructure will be required and who'll pay for it."

Flis said the Council will review each project's development conditions and it's expected that developers will pay for any infrastructure improvements. And, he added, "We're doing a Maple Avenue traffic count and traffic-signal study now."

FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, has announced that two worship services will begin on Sunday Sept. 14. The first worship service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and is called Starting point. It is a relaxed contemporary worship service with worship leader Eric Duncanson and pastor Randy Beeman. Antioch

also will offer at 11 a.m. a Traditional worship service with John Holley Choir Director. Bible Studies are available for all ages at 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Child care is available at all services. For more information go to www.antiochdoc.org or call 703-938-6753.

The Antioch Christian Church

offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. www.antiochdoc.org

LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

tively. The last time I checked, the Administrative cost of running Medicare was about 4 percent,

while private sector insurance programs incur costs of about 20 percent. As Americans, we should look upon our nation's record on

these two programs with pride.

Peter Storm
Vienna

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<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Free Estimates</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.1em;">Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Landscaping & so much more!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">Blooming Tropicals</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">25% Off</p>
<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.2em;">60 50-75% Off Pottery</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em; color: red; transform: rotate(-45deg);">Lowest Prices Since 2008!</p>	<p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 1.5em;">We have Citrus</p>

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Time Sensitive

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As much as I don't want to be cognizant of date, time and place, relative to February 27, 2009 when Team Lourie first received the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis on yours truly, I am (a terminal diagnosis will do that to you). Moreover, as often as I write about the need to live forward, rather than die backward (if you know what I mean), I still struggle with the application. Not that I want to be preoccupied with it, but every day, every date presents opportunities, shall we say: anniversaries, birthdays, ages I thought I'd never be, appointments, scans, pills; constant reminders I am not in Kansas any more (in fact, I'm in Indiana as I write this column). Unfortunately, out of town doesn't put cancer out of mind. Though it may obfuscate its effect a little bit, I kind of feel like Al Pacino – as Michael Corleone in "Godfather III" (1990) – when frustrated by his attempts to legitimize the family business, he said: "Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in again." And it's not as if I'm ever very far from my cancer reality anyway. The prospect of getting out (finding a cure) is probably less likely than the Corleone family going legit. Nevertheless, as I'm fond of admitting: it sure beats the alternative. So far, so good. Five and a half years and still counting.

Thankfully, life goes on and still I hope. And beholden to that hope is the recognition of the underlying facts: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is, as my oncologist said, "a terminal disease;" he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me." Meaning, at least to me, at that time: that a normal life expectancy had just left the building, especially since the prognosis I received from him was "13 months to two years." Now let me ask you this: how does one bury that statement of presumptive medical fact and go about your business/life as if everything is hunky dory? You don't, and as often and as consistently as I have attempted to bury that lead, the reality is, there are circumstances at nearly every turn, backwards and forwards, up and down, which make it nearly impossible to live as if I'm cancer-free. As much as I'd like to forget and live life as if the world were my oyster and that I had everything to gain and nothing to lose, the truth is, it's much easier said and written than actually done. And just like "Gold Hat" (portrayed by Alfonso Bedoya) didn't "need no stinkin' badges" in the 1948 film "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," neither do I need any reminders, "stinkin'" or otherwise, that I have cancer.

Most of the time, I can overcome them. Sometimes I can't, though. No one said this cancer experience was going to be easy; in fact a close friend and fellow cancer survivor told me quite the opposite: that this would be the hardest thing I've ever done, and of course, she was 100-percent correct; and I'm reminded of that reality every single day, whether I want to be or not.

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

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FRIDAY/ SEPT. 12
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13
Historic Flint Hill Cemetery Tour. 10 a.m. Flint Hill Cemetery at the corner of Chain Bridge Road (Route 123) and Courthouse Road, next to the Church of the Brethren.

Local historian Jim Lewis will lead a tour of historic Flint Hill Cemetery in Oakton. He will share interesting aspects of the cemetery, including stories of prominent Vienna residents and some of the 27 Civil War era military veterans, four of them Mosby's Rangers, who are interred there. Sponsored by Historic Vienna, Inc., free and open to the public, no reservations required. For information call 703-938-5187.

Blood Pressure Testing by Vienna Vol. Fire Department. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Fire department staff will use the entry arcade area to offer free blood pressure screenings.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15
MCC Governing Board Work Session and Public Hearing on FY 2016 Budget. 7:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean.

Open to the public. www.mcleancenter.org or 703-790-0123.

Senior Meet-Up Group. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls.

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.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 16
DivorceCare. 7-9 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St, NE, Vienna. If you are experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, Vienna Presbyterian Church invites you to attend Passages, a 15-week program. Admissions: \$20; scholarships available. Call 703-938-9050, visit http://www.viennapres.org/ or email Passages@ViennaPres.org for more info.

Improve Your English Skills. 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Event is open to adults. Improve your reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. For more information contact the library branch at 703-356-0770.

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

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 17
English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Event is open to adults. Practice your English in a conversational setting. For more information contact the library branch at 703-356-0770.

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

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18
Chapter Meeting Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Vienna. Vietnam War veteran, journalist, and author Marc Leepson will discuss latest book, "What So Proudly We Hailed: Francis Scott Key, A Life." Free. Call Len Ignatowski, 703-255-0353 or www.vva227.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20
Community Shredding Event. 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. 133 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Gain peace of mind by bringing your outdated personal documents to the on-site shredding service. Hosted by Ameriprise Financial.

The Broad-winged Hawks Are Coming

Migration brings
“a river of raptors.”

BY DONALD SWEIG

Every autumn, in addition to literally billions of songbirds, a million or more avian raptors (hawks, eagles and falcons) migrate from their nesting and breeding areas all over North America to their winter homes, mostly in Central and South America. Raptor enthusiasts and hawk counters often head for mountain ridges and other concentration points in hopes of seeing some of the birds fly by.

But, one doesn't necessarily have to do this to see migrating hawks.

Broad-winged hawks often migrate in large groups and very large numbers. At the right time, with the right weather, it is possible to see lots of them almost anywhere. Peak migration for Broad-winged hawks in the mid-Atlantic states is usually between Sept. 12 and 22.

Sept. 18-19 are often the big days in the Washington area.

It is helpful to understand a little about how Broad-winged hawks migrate.

“Broadwings,” like some other raptors,



Adult Broad-winged hawk over Great Falls. Notice the wide, white band in the tail and the black edge at the back of the wing. The annual migration of Broad-winged Hawks passes through our area approximately Sept. 12-22.



Immature Broad-winged hawk at Great Falls in Maryland. Notice the speckled upper breast, and the lack of the adult white tail band and black wing edging.

PHOTOS BY DONALD SWEIG

don't fly well over long distances.

So they utilize “thermals,” rising columns of hot air off the land, to help them gain altitude for migration.

When a migrating Broadwing, for example, starts out in the morning from a place like the wooded hills along the Potomac River near Great Falls, it will flap a few times to get out of the trees and then it begins to look for a thermal. When it finds one, it sort of sits in the column of rising air and often makes little circles to stay in

the thermal as it rises with the air, something like an elevator. If a second Broadwing sees the first one, it may well take off, flap a bit, and join the same thermal as the first bird; and so forth. Soon there may be five or 10, or more (often many more) birds in the same thermal.

Eventually, the hawks will reach the top of the thermal and just mill around in it before gliding off to look for another thermal. When one sees a number of Broadwings together in a thermal, it is called a “kettle.”

LOOK AT THE SKY, especially clouds, and preferably with binoculars anytime you can in mid-September. If you see a bunch of birds swirling around together in a cloud, or in the clear sky, you probably have a “kettle” of Broadwings. And, one really can see them almost anywhere. It's a serendipitous happening. There are also avian pathways that the birds often use, like perhaps a highway, as they migrate south.

There is nothing definite or conclusive about such pathways. It's just matter of where one has in the past most often seen the migrating Broad-winged hawks. There seems to be such a migration pathway crossing the Potomac River

from somewhere between the American Legion Bridge and Chain Bridge, upriver to at least Violette's Lock on the C&O Canal.

In past years, I have seen very large concentrations of Broad-winged hawks even over congested Northern Virginia: over the Tysons Mall, over the Fairfax County Gov-

ernment center, over the Town of Vienna.

Three years ago, several birding friends and I were just finishing some early morning birding in the meadow at Riverbend Park in Great Falls, when someone looked up and said, “Look!” We all did and saw a big kettle of Broad-winged hawks. As they started to “stream out,” we saw another kettle coming in. We stood there for perhaps 20 to 30 minutes and watched at least 2,000 Broad-winged hawks migrate by.

It was a veritable “river of raptors.” It was the most I had ever seen. The next morning, at the same place, I saw none at all.

It was pure serendipity.

THE BEST TIMES to look for migrating Broad-winged hawks is between Sept. 12-22 in the morning from between about 9 and 10, when they get up to start flying, and in the late afternoon, after 5, when they often come down for the night.

I often have good luck at places like the Great Falls National Park, especially on the Maryland side. The many trees there are attractive to Broadwings for overnight roosting. But one can see them almost anywhere, even in your own neighborhood, as I have in mine in Northern Virginia.

One doesn't always see them when you look. But, if you do, it is a memorable experience.

Broad-winged hawk and other raptor migration is an integral part of the annual flow of natural happenings.

Keep your eyes on the sky. You may be well rewarded.

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Two Model Railroading Events in Vienna

Two model railroading events are coming to Vienna this Saturday, Sept. 13. They are the Train Collectors Sale and Show and the Northern Virginia Model Railroad Club Open House.

❖ The Train Collectors Sale and Show will be held at the Vienna Firehouse, 400 Center St. S., from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. More than 45 tables of trains will be for sale, including Lionel, American Flyer, HO and N, plus train accessories.

Also featured will be an operating layout built and operated by Cadence Hinnant, 12, with two engines running simultaneously, a gateman jumping to attention when the train passes and the whistle sounding mournfully. And there'll be a “train doctor” to fix broken trains.

The fun also includes door prizes and train appraisals. Lunch will be available. Admission is \$5, adults; free for children under 12, Scouts in uniform and military members with identification.

❖ The Northern Virginia Model Railroad Club will hold an open house at the historic Vienna Train Station, Saturday, Sept. 13, from 1-5 p.m. The Station is at 231 Dominion Road N.E., along the W&OD trail, just past the Caboose.

Attendees may see and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains, plus Thomas the Tank Engine and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina. Admission is free, but donations are accepted.