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Vienna Theatre Company Presents 'Be My Baby'

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Actors Allison Shelby, Casey Bauer, **Daddy Issa and John Barclay Burns** rehearse a scene from Vienna Theatre Company's upcoming production of Ken Ludwig's romantic comedy, "Be My Baby," opening Jan 23. Legislators Meet Constituents News, Page 4 Vienna Business **Association Honors** Park and Recreation Department News, Page 12

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General Assembly Fairfax delegation

holds public meeting prior to session

News

Legislators Meet Constituents

By Tim Peterson THE CONNECTION

ustin Dolan addressed the state delegates and senators from his wheelchair rather than the podium. The 34-year-old Falls Church resident has cerebral palsy, and received an Individual & Family Developmental Disabilities Support waiver.

"I can use my waiver to fund a staff person to help me with my daily care needs, when I can find someone who wants to work for \$11.47 an hour with no benefits," Dolan said. "The thing I really need is enough support for me to move out of my mom's house and live in the community with friends, but the waiver doesn't provide

Dolan asked for a reduction of the waiver wait list, a redesign of the waiver system itself to offer increased services. He was one of over 70 speakers given an opportunity to address a panel of delegates and senators about to travel to Richmond to begin the 2015 General Assembly session.

The forum took place Jan. 10 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova was first to speak, speaking primarily on the importance of funding K-12 education in Fairfax County.



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

(From left) State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Lenore Levin of Great Falls, Del. Ken Plum (D-36), State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) and Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) meet following the Fairfax delegation public forum.

"We're pleased both the General Assembly and Governor McAuliffe were able to protect K-12 from recent funding cuts," she said. "In the longer term, we still need your help."

Bulova cited the more than 52,000 stu- Kaufax followed Bulova, claiming the cur-

dents in FCPS that qualify for free and reduced lunch, a figure she said outnumbers the total population of all but four school divisions in the state.

FCPS School Board Chair Tammy Derenak

rent K-12 funding isn't serving the community well and decrying teachers' salary ranking with respect to the cost of living.

start in Richmond.

"I urge you to work on the SOL, reducing the impact of that assessment on students," she said.

Over 70 members of the public were each given three minutes to address the delegation. Though the subject matter varied from social services for mental illness and substance abuse disorders to filling circuit court judge vacancies, one common theme was the lack of resources, people trying to do more with less.

Several individuals spoke out about the closure of the Northern Virginia Training Center (NVTR), a state residence serving people with intellectual disabilities. Opened in 1973 at 9901 Braddock Road, the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities plans to close the NVTR in March 2016 in favor of a more community-based system.

"The quality of life has been been compromised by degrading services," said Judith Korf of Reston. Korf was at the forum representing the Parents and Associates of the Northern Virginia Training Center. "We need to keep it open in a smaller and more effective footprint."

VIEWPOINTS

What brought you out today?

Lenore Levin of Great

"I'm on the board of the ENdependence Center of Northern Virginia, a disabilities resource

Falls:

center. We've taken cuts and lost staff positions. We're hoping to have funding restored."

Falls: "I'm here

system is really at a crisis point. Our population has exploded and the business community has grown court." tremendously. We need to fund the



Candice Guillaudeu of McLean:

"I'm here supporting transportation alternatives and renewable energy."

Scott Peterson of Vienna:

"I'm here as executive director of the Checks and Balances Project, a nonprofit watchdog. In the aftermath of Bob McDonnell, we're hoping things can

allowed with corporations."



Tim Peterson

change with ethics. Too much coziness is

Jack Bruggeman of Vienna:

"I'm representing the Parents and Associates of the Northern Virginia Training

Center and advocating for delaying the closure of the center."

Stuart Mendelsohn of Great

with the Fairfax Bar Association. Our court



Joseph Dailey **Ken Garnes of** of McLean:

"I'm here representing the juvenile domestic relations district court. We need to keep judges to make sure evervone has their day in



people with substance abuse disorders."

ing for full time

peer support for



Tracey Phillips-**Edman of Falls Church:**

"I'm here supporting early intervention services. My daughter has cerebral palsy and my son has

autism, and therapy is a part of everyday life. Early intervention was in no small way instrumental in giving my children a leg up."

entire 15 seats in our Circuit Court."

OPINION

Steps To Prevent Gun Violence

BY MARTINA LEINZ

President, Northern Virginia Chapter of THE BRADY CAMPAIGN TO PREVENT GUN

egislators convening for the 2015 Virginia General Assembly session this month have a great opportunity to make the Commonwealth a

safer place for us all by voting in favor of the modest and responsible recommendations recently put forth

by Governor Terry McAuliffe regarding gun violence prevention.

Governor McAuliffe has proposed six key pieces of legislation intended to keep firearms away from dangerous individuals. Three of the initiatives are regarding criminal background checks at gun shows. Currently, only Federally Licensed Firearms Dealers are required to run criminal background checks prior to selling or transferring firearms. Private sellers are exempt from this requirement leaving the door wide open for criminals to easily gain access to guns.

One of McAuliffe's proposals would make unlawful purchases more difficult by preventing gun shows from advertising that they are not required to conduct background checks. Another proposal would give the State Police statutory authority to process voluntary background check requests of private sellers. The most substantive of the three proposals would close the existing loophole and require background checks for all purchases at gun shows.

None of these three proposals goes far enough. Ideally, criminal background checks would be universal; required on all firearms transactions

including online sales. They are, however, a step in the right direction and would do much to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals.

Another proposal is to return the limit of handgun purchases to one a month so the Commonwealth won't hold the dubious distinction of being one of the most prolific gun-running states in the nation. Other initiatives include a bill to keep guns from people subject to protective orders and one to revoke concealed handgun permits for parents delinquent on child support payments. This later proposal would affect the roughly 9,000 parents with such permits who are delinquent collectively on child support payments of over \$15 mil-

These six modest proposals would be very effective in reducing violent crime by keeping guns out of the hands of people who should not have them. None of the proposals would prevent law-abiding citizens from owning weapons and none would infringe upon Second Amendment rights of responsible

With the Republicans controlling both the House of Delegates and the Senate, there are bound to be disagreements with any legislation proposed by Democratic Governor McAuliffe. However, everyone should agree to these modest proposals to keep Virginians safe. It is not a partisan issue; it is a simple matter of public health and safety.

With great opportunity comes great responsibility. I sincerely hope the General Assembly embraces that responsibility and votes accordingly. If you agree, please contact your elected officials and tell them you are counting on them to vote in support of all proposals to curb gun violence in the Commonwealth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County Shouldn't Spray Against Fall Cankerworm

COMMENTARY

This letter is in response to a recent letter to the editor about Fairfax County's Fall Cankerworm Insecticide Spraying Program.

I am a professional entomologist and I have been in charge of the U. S. National Insect Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, a Fairfax County resident for 21 years, as well as a biologist experienced in conservation. I have been following the issues regarding the program in Fairfax County to spray Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki (Btk), a kind of biological insecticide, to control a native moth, the Fall Cankerworm (scientifically, Lepidoptera: Geometridae or Inchworms).

Bt was first used to control Lepidoptera (moth) pests of agricultural crops; however, this naturally-occurring bacterium was found to be deadly to all moths and butterflies (Lepidoptera). Since this discovery there have been many types of Bt developed, but those used against moths are still deadly to non-target species, including native species. However, the areas in Fairfax County being sprayed are not crops or timberlands for harvest, but rather forests, parklands, neighborhood gardens. These are places to preserve wildlife and nature, and to protect them for the benefit of not only Fairfax County residents, but also for all Virginians and visitors. surveys, we do not know how many or even which native species live in any particular area being sprayed. Therefore, to inadvertently spray this deadly microbe, even if the intention is to target certain areas, is not prudent.

The letter writer does acknowledge that spraying Btk can kill other kinds of caterpillars, "... but only if they are up and eating the first baby leaves." However, it is well known that plant chemicals that often prevent insects eating certain plants only are present in older leaves (for example, tannins in Oak leaves); therefore, many species of caterpillars are only able to eat, and even prefer, what he calls "baby leaves." He also claims that research shows that spraying increases the diversity of other species of butterflies and moths. However this research is apparently about the Gypsy Moth, a non-native (invasive) species from Asia. Reducing Gypsy Moth numbers could indirectly benefit other, native insect species. However, spraying to kill the native Fall Cankerworm is likely to severely harm many (as yet undetermined) native species of butterflies and moths and may even increase diversity of other non-native pest species potentially harming the fauna and flora of Fairfax County. Getting rid of the Fall Cankerworm will eliminate a potentially vital food source for many migratory Without scientific monitoring or and resident birds, as well as rep-

tiles, amphibians, predatory insects, and other wildlife that rely on caterpillars for their survival. His assertion that "birds can safely eat the dead caterpillars" is misleading because in spring (when the spraying actually takes place), many insectivorous birds need to find enough live caterpillars to feed their nestlings or fuel their northward migration and it is not clear if they would even eat dead caterpillars.

Episodic population outbreaks ("infestations") of native species such as the Fall Cankerworm are part of the natural ecological rhythm of our forests and woodlands, so why disrupt it? Based on previous research I have done (for example with Elms) and observations of the natural history in the forests of the northeastern USA, I do not believe that occasional and/or partial or even complete defoliation of most native eastern forest tree species will cause tree death. The severe defoliation from by Gypsy Moth in the 1970s demonstrated that only very severe and repeated defoliation over many years truly killed native trees; our local Fall Cankerworm outbreaks are natural and nowhere as severe and will not become so.

The far wiser approach to this problem would be for Fairfax County to sponsor some scientific surveys, to determine which species of butterflies and moths are

present in the intended treatment areas, i.e. the biological diversity. Also advice to homeowners about how to monitor and/or treat their gardens would be helpful.

I have discussed this Fall Cankerworm issue with several experts on butterflies and moths at the Smithsonian and the USDA and they all agree with my statements above.

In conclusion I feel strongly that Fairfax County should cease spraying against Fall Cankerworm, because such spraying does more harm than good to the ecosystems and neighborhoods of Fairfax

> David G. Furth, Ph.D. Department of Entomology Smithsonian Institution

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor The Connection 1606 King St. Alexandria VA 22314 Call: 703-917-6444. By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com



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Meeting on Community Center Renovation and Expansion

Learn more about the Town of Vienna's planned Community Center renovation and expansion on Tuesday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m., at the Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE.

Current project plans include beginning the renovation this year, adding a new lobby and entrance hall, relocating the W&OD Trail, expanding parking, and adding an 8,000 sq. ft. gymnasium. The planned design also incorporates many elements that create a parklike environment including living walls, rain gardens, a permeable concrete parking lot, a nature inspired color scheme, and areas for people to gather. Plans are being designed to meet Leadership in **Energy and Environmental Design** (LEED) Silver Program requirements.

The Jan. 20 meeting will feature construction scheduling information, and residents also can see exterior and interior finishes for

SEE WEEK, PAGE 12





Public Notice

Tysons Metrorail Access Improvements Program

Fairfax County, Virginia FCDOT Project: 1400120-13 VDOT Project: 9999-029-949 Federal Project RSTP-5A01(499)

Pursuant to Section 6009 of the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act — A legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU), the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) intends to make a Section 4(f) de minimis finding for approximately 230' of trail construction on the Fairfax County Park Authority's Old Courthouse Spring Branch Stream Valley Park. This section will be included within the proposed shared use path to connect Vesper Street to Leesburg Pike, primarily constructed upon Fairfax County owned property. Information regarding the project and this finding is available at Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT), at 4050 Legato Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, Virginia, 22033. Please contact John Dresser, Project Manager, john.dresser@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-877-5812, or Doug Miller, Environmental Specialist, douglas.miller3@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-877-5750, for more information.

On behalf of the FHWA and VDOT, FCDOT invites public comments related to this Section 4(f) de minimis finding. Comments must be received in writing at DOTInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov or by mail at the FCDOT office, ATTN: John Dresser, by January 30, 2015; please reference "Vesper Trail" in the subject line.

FCDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you have any questions or concerns about your civil rights in regards to this project or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact the FCDOT manager listed above.



To request or submit this information in alternate format, call John Dresser at 703-877-5812 or Doug Miller at 703-877-5750 or TTY 711.

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Local REAL ESTATE

Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

2014 Top Sales in Vienna and Oakton





3 2571 Yonder Hills Way, Oakton — \$2,125,000

2 11797 Stuart Mill Road, Oakton — \$2,198,430







6 2604 Hannah Farm Court, Oakton — \$1,875,000



2005 Carrhill Road, Vienna — \$1,835,000

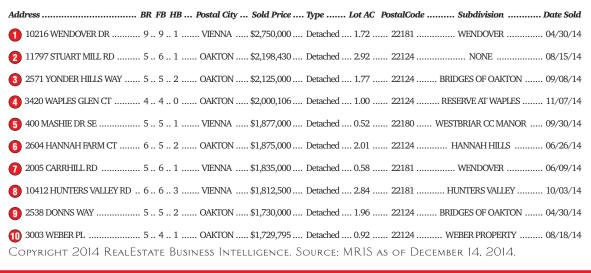


3 10412 Hunters Valley Road, Vienna — \$1,812,500



1 2538 Donns Way, Oakton — \$1,730,000







HomeLifeStyle

Backyard Dreaming

Local tastemakers say winter is the best time to plan an idyllic backyard retreat.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

pring may seem light years away from the frigid January temperatures, and lounging in your backyard is probably the last thing you want to do at the moment, but landscape designers say now is the time to start planning a summer retreat.

"January is a good time to start thinking about your backyard," said Alex Ikenson, co-owner of Home Escapes, located in Herndon. Home Escapes, which had specialized in hot tubs and outdoor furniture, merged recently with Urban Retreat, an indoor furniture and accessory company.

"A lot of things we sell are special order and take a few weeks to come in, so you don't want to start too late," said Ikenson. From swim spas to fire pit tables, options

for outdoor landscapes are plentiful.

"People now are spending more time at home and less time going on vacation, and making their backyards more of a living space, creating a living space," said Rosanne Tsantes, sales manager of Home Escapes. "Outdoor furniture companies have responded to the surge with beautiful pieces of furniture."

Touted by industry insiders as comfortable, durable and easy to maintain, the array of outdoor fabrics on the market rival their indoor counterparts.

"The whole industry has expanded to true designer furniture and fabrics. There are hundreds of beautiful fabrics available," said Tsantes. "If you were to pick out aluminum furniture, you could choose from at least 10 frame colors, where it used to be just black and green. We have brush tones with gold tint, antique tones, ... There are some really gorgeous finishes."

Accessories can be customized to fit virtually every budget and space as well. "Ev-



Options for outdoor décor, including swim spas and fire pit tables, abound at a newly formed showroom in Herndon.

erything is made to order," said Jodie Labovitch, an interior designer with Urban Retreat. "They're not pulling it off the shelf."

Outdoor fire pit tables, powered by gas, are crowd-pleasing accessories that come in every size from compact coffee table to dining room table. Styles run the gamut from rustic to sleek.

"The tabletops can be porcelain or aluminum, stone or granite," said Tsantes. "There is even an artisan top that looks like carved leather. Now you can go into your back yard and feel like you're on vacation somewhere in the islands."

Adding the resort-like feel are swim spas, the large cousin of the ubiquitous hot tub.

"A swim spa allows you to exercise, even during the winter, by swimming against the current," said Tsantes. "They are like hot tubs, only about 12-16 feet long and eight feet wide. You can run out in the winter and swim and then sit on the spa bench, just like you would in a hot tub."

Even those who don't have an expansive backyard can create cozy retreats.

"Outdoor furniture companies are making pieces for those with small spaces to those with huge Great Falls homes with a large backyard," said Tsantes.

"Indoor and outdoor furniture are now blending," said David Cintorino, president of Home Escapes. "People are using their outdoor spaces like indoor spaces, that is a current trend. Outdoor furniture companies are creating furniture to keep up with that trend." Happiness is having a large, loving, caring, close-knit family in another city.

–George Burns

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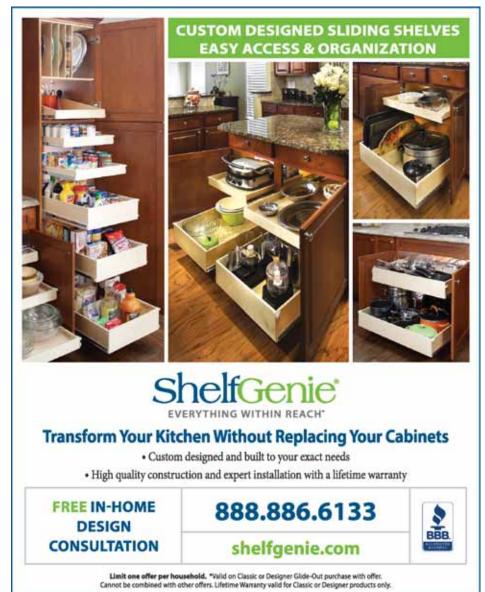
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CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

CALENDAR

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

THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31 Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers. 11

a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/ student, \$5/senior or child.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Ice Skating at Tysons Corner Center. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.Tysons Corner Outdoor Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. Adults,\$10; Child/Senior/Military, \$9; Skate Rental, \$6; Group of 10+, \$12 and

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

includes skates

Kevin Griffin. 8 p.m. The Barns Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A rare solo show by the frontman and songwriting mastermind of alt-rock band Better Than Ezra, who has written for Train, Sugarland, James Blunt, Howie Day, Missy Higgins, Blondie, and more. \$25-27. 703-255-1900. http://www.Wolf Trap.org/ Barns.aspx

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers practice reading to teens.

FRIDAY/JAN. 16

Vienna Arts Society Reception. 7-9 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna. Meet the artists as the Vienna Arts Society celebrates winners from the 45th annual Treasury of Art juried show and sale. The exhibition continues Tuesdays Saturdays 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., through Jan. 31. Free and open to the public.

The Iguanas. 8 p.m. The Barns Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. These Bourbon Street party-starters mix New Orleans jazz, R&B soul, and traditional Mexican melodies to cook up their eclectic musical gumbo. \$25,703-255-1900. http://www.Wolf Trap.org/Barns.aspx.

Playdate Cafe. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for children, coffee and conversation for grownups.

Drop-in Chess. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess. All skill levels and ages welcome.

Family Fun Bingo. 7-8:30 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. \$10/\$5 MCC district residents; children up to 36 months are free. Registration is required. Activity No. 4504.315



"Boy," oil on paper by Anna Watson, Peoples' Choice winner at Treasury of Art. Meet the artists as the Vienna Arts Society celebrates winners from the 45th annual Treasury of Art juried show and sale on Jan. 16 at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna.

SUNDAY/JAN. 18

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Theatre IV's "I Have a Dream." 2 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. \$15/\$10 MCC tax district residents

MONDAY/JAN. 19

Give Together, A Family Volunteer Event. 1:30-3:30 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Volunteer Fairfax invites families with schoolage children to participate in a special family event held in conjunction with Martin Luther King, Jr. National Day of Service. Give Together service projects are fun, hands-on activities and specially designed for young people in mind Projects will directly benefit local nonprofits and project locations will include the Jewish Community Center of NoVa in Fairfax and the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in McLean. All volunteer activities are free. Please register at www.volunteerfairfax.org

TUESDAY/JAN. 20

Lego Club. 2 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and build with LEGOs. Ages

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

Treasured 2-5s. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime featuring stories, rhymes and songs. Ages 2-5 with adult.

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends!

THURSDAY/JAN. 22

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers

practice reading to teens. **Evening Book Group.** 7:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

"Be My Baby." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna. "Be My Baby" is \boldsymbol{a} romantic comedy that tells the story of John, an irascible Scotsman and an uptight English woman, Maud, and how they're brought together when his ward marries her niece and the young couple decides to adopt a newborn baby. The older couple has to travel to California to pick up the child and bring her home to Scotland but John and Maud despise each other. While in California, they learn some startling lessons about life and love. Tickets: \$14. To reserve tickets email vtcshows@yahoo.com. Additional performances: Jan. 24, 30, 31, Feb. 6,7: 2 p.m.: Feb 1, 8: 8 p.m. **Playdate Café.** 10 a.m. Great Falls

Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for children, coffee and conversation for grownups!

Drop-in Chess. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess. All skill levels and ages welcome

SATURDAY/JAN. 24

Polyhymnia. 8 p.m. Immanuel Presbyterian Church, 1125 Savile Lane, McLean. Polyhymnia is an a capella chamber chorus that since 1991 has offered free concerts of works from Renaissance to contemporary and from many countries. Polyhymnia's Winter Concert series, under its conductor Poulenc, Janacek, Tallis, Victoria, Desprez Palestrina and contemporary works by Steven Beck, Rich Campbell, and Ernst Toch. There is no charge for performances, but if you are willing to make a donation to support our costs it will be tax deductible.



Oakton sophomore center Maddie Royle scored a career-high 18 points against Westfield on Jan. 9.



Oakton sophomore forward Delaney Connolly finished with eight points during a 63-46 win over Westfield on Jan. 9.



Oakton sophomore Maddie Royle is working to improve her focus during games and could be a significant contributor for the Cougars in the second half of the season.

"She had great focus tonight, which has not always been the case. She's had several good games, but she's had other games where she wasn't as focused as she needs to be."

— Oakton girls' basketball coach Fred Priester about Maddie Royle

Oakton Sophomores Royle, Connolly Provide Paint Presence

Royle scores careerhigh 18 points against Westfield.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

akton center Maddie Royle's physical conditioning has improved from her freshman to her sophomore season. Now she's working on the focus part.

"I think that my team helped me mature," Royle said after Oakton's Jan. 9 game against Westfield. "Coach [Fred] Priester [has] me down on a shorter leash. I think I'm more focused during the games this year than I was last year."

Royle was locked in against the Bulldogs, scoring a career-high 18 points to go with five rebounds during the Cougars' 63-46 victory at Oakton High School.

Royle, listed at 6 feet 1, teamed with 6-foot sophomore Delaney Connolly to give the Cougars a presence in the paint. Connolly finished with eight points and five rebounds. Each made plays on defense.

Connolly has been a consistent differencemaker for Oakton during the Cougars' 12-1 start. Royle, however, is a work in progress, starting with her approach to the game.

"Delaney is playing exceptionally well," Priester said. "She's shooting the ball well, she's playing good defense, she did a good job on [Westfield's] inside game, she's got that mid-range jumper, she's not afraid to take the ball to the basket. She's really come into her own.

"... Maddie is a great kid and we have a very fun-loving bunch, but she's still learning how to stop at the line instead of going over the line.

Last year, she was physically not in shape

to play a lot of minutes. This year, she's in much better shape, physically. Now we have to get her temperamentally, and mentally and psychologically ready to play a lot of minutes. Sometimes, that's a little bit harder deal.

"She had great focus tonight, which has not always been the case. She's had several good games, but she's had other games where she wasn't as focused as she needs to be"

If Friday's performance was an indication of things to come, Royle could be a major contributor as Oakton enters the Conference 5 portion of its schedule.

"I've known Maddie for a long time and we played AAU together before we even came [to Oakton], so coming into freshman year we were really close and I think that's helped a lot," Connolly said. "I love when she does well. We like working together and I'm glad that she came to Oakton with me."

Royle and Connolly, friends off the court, work well together on it.

"We like assisting to each other," Royle said. "[Connolly is] great to play with. I assist to her, she assists back and our team helps us get the ball in the paint and we try to help them in return."

Connolly and Royle complement Oakton's veteran backcourt. Senior guard Lindsey Abed, who will play for the University of Hartford, scored 16 points against Westfield. Junior point guard Alex Marquis knocked down a pair of 3-pointers and finished with six points. Senior guard Karlie Cronin, who will play for Southern Methodist University, had knee surgery in July and has missed most of the season. She is expected to return late in the regular season.

Oakton faced Robinson on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Cougars will host Centreville at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 16.



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel The Connection



Madison's Collier Places Third in All-Around

adison senior gymnast Julie Collier placed third in the allaround during a meet at Fairfax High School on Jan. 10.

Collier finished with a total score of 32.575, finishing behind winner Rachel Barborek of Fairfax (38.325) and runner-up Carolyn Brown-Kaiser of McLean (34.6).

Collier's best event Saturday was floor. She placed third with a score of 9.2.

"Julie has been steadily improving, as well," Madison head coach Morgan Perpall wrote in an email. "... We have

worked on putting together some solid routines for her this year.

I am hopeful that by the end of the season she will be able to improve on bars as much as she has on beam and floor so far."

Madison took fourth as a team with a score of 107.625, an improvement of more than 10 points from its first meet of the season.

McLean won the event with a score of 139.45. Fairfax finished runner-up (125.825), followed by Hayfield (119.6).

— Jon Roetman

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For one box of 54 petite Belgian waffle cookies in three delicious flavors: milk chocolate, dark chocolate and vanilla; an extravagance to be sure, available during the holidays; this recipient (actually, my wife, Dina, was the recipient) very happy to oblige and indulge. However, as lucky as I was to receive/be offered some of these desserts: \$36 approximately, for 54 average-sized cookies is a bit out of my price range. The problem/complication is, my wife Dina is often a quality-not-quantity type of person, much different than I. And even though her sweet tooth pales in comparison to my sweet teeth, she is now, as a result of this very kind and generous gift, predisposed more than ever to scoff (I'm being polite) at my regular cookie purchases; typically bought by yours truly at the local supermarket and more often than not, involving some kind of Nabisco-brand product. As much as I'd like to think I'm semi open to change, it's the change back from a five-dollar bill with which I'm likely more inclined to consider.

Not that I didn't/don't appreciate the upgrade in my snacking choices, it's more the arithmetic that boggles. For the same \$36 spent on these delightful alternatives, when on sale at \$3 per bag, take 12 bags of Oreo DoubleStuf cookies – each of three sleeves holding 10 cookies - 30 cookies filling each bag. If one multiplies 12 bags times 30 cookies, 360 cookies becomes the total; meaning for the same \$36, I can enjoy 54 cookies, or with my Oreos, I can enjoy 360 cookies (not at one sitting; I'm bad, but not that bad) instead. Not exactly the heels of a dilemma, but neither is it dollars to donuts. And like my mother before me, when the price is upside down on something, as I would characterize this comparison, digesting the more expensive item (cookies in this example) becomes challenging and not nearly as enjoyable as the upgrade might lend itself to be.

To be fair though, as delicious as these cookies were, they are NEVER going to be a regular item in our pantry, nor do I suspect, a regular gift. I mean, who can afford such an expense? And though I certainly enjoyed eating them (especially considering that I didn't pay for them), buying them myself offers much less satisfaction. Dina however, might (might?) think differently. She might (might?) prefer the upgrade. As she has said many times, she doesn't mind less if it is better than more. And on a related subject, a lot of something is just a lot, not necessarily better. She doesn't see the same value in quantity as I do. Speaking to her cookie interest, it might only be 54 cookies whereas mine would be substantially greater. Thus, my being cut off after only 54 cookies, (time frame not specified) would be a significant consideration; for Dina, not

Quality rules her roost. More often than not, quantity rules mine. And though one might consider this difference as substance over style, I characterize it more as fact over fiction. Yes. The cookies were delicious, but money doesn't grow on trees (it's made out of linen, actually); still, I'd rather have a lot of a little than a little of a lot. Sometimes, too much of a good thing is simply too much. With respect to these Christmas cookies, even though their time here was short, their memory will be long. For now, that will have to suffice.

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

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Forestville Elementary Girls Perform on the Ellipse Stage

Kendall Ladd, Erin Kearns and Christina Barton — fifth graders at Forestville Elementary - submitted an audition tape and were chosen to perform on the Ellipse Stage at the National Christmas Tree in Washington, D.C., on Dec. 13. They chose to sing "You're a Mean One, Mr. Grinch." The girls heard about the opportunity to audition, picked out their own song and costumes and were ultimately chosen to perform on the Ellipse stage with the National Christmas



BULLETIN BOARD

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

THURSDAY/JAN. 15

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Registration. 10 a.m. - noon. Unitarian

Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF), 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Come to the open house/registration day and sign up for Adventures in Learning classes to be held every Thursday from Jan. 22 - March 19, 2015 (no class on Feb. 26). Enrichment in relevant classes is open to all adults age 50 or older. One tuition payment of \$40 entitles you to attend any or all classes during this eight week session. If you are unable to attend the open house, download the classes schedule and registration form from our website at www.scov.org or call SCOV at 703-281-0538. We welcome new participants for fun, fellowship and learning.

Chapter 227, Vietnam Veterans of America **Inc. Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. All veterans, friends, and the general public are invited to attend the chapter meeting. Mike Walsh, Vietnam War veteran, will discuss his quest to document every Vietnam War Memorial in the United States. Free. For more information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

TUESDAY/ JAN. 20

Improve Your English Skills. 11 a.m. Dolley . Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue,

McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 21

English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Practice conversational English in a

group setting. Adults. **Morning Book Group.** 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title.

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 23

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. - noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Alice Kale will be the featured artist. She will talk about artist travel diaries for sketching and recording memories, using convenient and easy-to-carry materials. There will also be a chance to sign up for a painting trip to Greece scheduled for the May 2-16, 2015. All are welcome.

SUNDAY/JAN. 25

Free Seller Seminar, "What Every Seller Needs To Know," 1-4 p.m. Presented by The Lyons & McGuire Team of Keller Williams Realty. Come learn invaluable tips on selling your home from a professional stager, a photographer, a home inspector and more. RSVP by Jan. 19 to LvonsMcGuire@TeamGreatFalls.com

Seating is limited

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Zone 2:

News



Vienna Business Association Honors Park and Recreation Department

At its Friday, Jan. 9 breakfast meeting, the Vienna Business Association (VBA) paid tribute to the Town of Vienna Parks and Recreation Department for their support and contribution to the community in providing services and equipment to the various functions in partnership with the VBA. Pictured are department employees at the VBA meeting.

VDDT Virginia Department of Transportation

I-66 Corridor Improvements Fairfax County and Prince William County

Public Information Meetings

All meeting times are 6:00 – 8:30 p.m. A brief presentation at each meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

Fairfax County

Monday, January 26, 2015

Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14) 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Tuesday, January 27, 2015

Bull Run Elementary School Cafeteria (Entrance #1) 15301 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20121

Thursday, January 29, 2015

VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 1st Floor, Occoquan Room 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

If any of the above meetings are cancelled due to weather, the alternate date will be **Thursday**, **February 5**, **2015** at the VDOT Northern Virginia District office in Fairfax.

Prince William County

Wednesday, January 28, 2015

Battlefield High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #4) 15000 Graduation Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169

If the above meeting is cancelled for inclement weather, the alternate date will be **Wednesday**, **February 4**, **2015** at the same time and location.

Find out about plans to transform 25 miles of I-66 between U.S. Route15 in Haymarket and I-495/Capital Beltway to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 6:00 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7:00 p.m. VDOT staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.transform66.org, at the meetings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Preliminary plans, project schedule, and right-of-way, environmental and civil rights information will be available for review and public comment at the meetings.

Comments can be provided at the meetings on comment cards or to the court reporter. You may also e-mail comments at any time to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "I-66 Corridor Improvements" in the subject line.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-297,P101 Federal Project: NH-066-1(300) UPC: 105500



Actors Allison Shelby, Casey Bauer, Daddy Issa and John Barclay Burns rehearse a scene from Vienna Theatre Company's upcoming production of Ken Ludwig's romantic comedy, Be My Baby, opening Jan 23.

Vienna Theatre Company Presents 'Be My Baby'

ienna Theatre Company will present Ken Ludwig's "Be My Baby," directed by Suzanne Maloney, opening on Jan. 23 at 8 p.m. "Be My Baby" is a romantic comedy that tells the story of John, an irascible Scotsman and an uptight English woman, Maud, and how they're brought together when his ward marries her niece and the young couple decides to adopt a newborn baby. The older couple has to travel to California to pick up the child and bring her home to

Scotland but John and Maud despise each other. While in California, they learn some startling lessons about life and love.

Performance dates and times: 8 p.m.: Jan. 23, 24, 30, 31, Feb 6,7; 2 p.m.: Feb 1, 8. Ticket prices: General Admission \$14. Venue address: Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Tickets are available to purchase in advance at VCC or at the door. To reserve tickets email vtcshows@yahoo.com

For more information visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org

WEEK IN VIENNA

From Page 5

the project which include flooring, light fixtures, glass, architectural panels, roofing, landscaping, and paint colors.

2015 Dog Licenses Due by Jan. 31

All dogs more than four months old residing within the Town of Vienna must be licensed by Jan. 31, 2015. Since the 31st falls on a Saturday this year, Vienna will accept payments on Monday, Feb. 2. Dog licenses may be purchased in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center Street, S. The license fee for each dog is \$10. A current rabies vaccination certificate must be shown if the rabies vaccination expires by Jan. 31, 2015, or for any dog new to town.

Dogs trained and serving as guide dogs for the blind, hearing dogs for the deaf, and service dogs for the mobility impaired must be licensed but are exempt from the license tax. Dog tags also are available by mail. Call 703-255-5733 for more information.

Vienna AAUW Hosts Talk on Big Data

The Vienna chapter of the AAUW will host its Feb. 10 program at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East in Vienna at 7 p.m. The topic of the evening will be "Big Data." The speaker, George Strawn, is Director of the National Coordination Office. In his role as director, he reports to the Office of Science and Technology Policy in the Executive Office of the President. The program is open to the public and light refreshments will be served. For more information, contact ViennaAAUW@yahoo.com