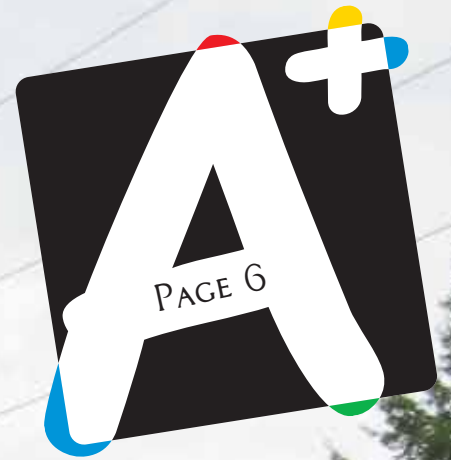


# and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

The crowd enjoys listening to the Bluegrass group Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band at Vienna's Summer Concerts on the Green.



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PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

## Vienna Enjoys Summer on the Green

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JULY 15-21, 2015

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## News



## Blue Jays Win Championship for a Second Year in a Row

The Blue Jays won the Vienna Little League majors championship for a second year in a row. The boys in the back row were the boys from last years team (hence holding up "2" for second win) and the boys in the front row are new this year to the team. The boys/coaches in the picture are — back row coaches: Marc Polymeropoulos, Phil Whitworth and Adam Vance; back row players: Jason Pan, Chris Polymeropoulos, James Mills, PJ Whitworth, Matt Shutello, Dean Vance.

Front row players: Christian Pexton, Luke Van Demark, Eric Podolny, Matt Handel, Jonah Pacheco, Joey Painter.

### WEEK IN VIENNA

## 'Music of the Civil War' at Freeman Store and Museum

Historic Vienna, (the Freeman Store and Museum), 131 Church Street, NE will be participating in the third of the Town of Vienna's Afternoons on Church Street, the next being Sunday, July 26, from 1 to 5 p.m. (the theme will be Party on the Porch). The major events for the day will feature Prudence Traut's quilting display and demonstration at the Freeman Store, and, from 2-3 p.m., Jon Vrana will be on the porch presenting "Music of the Civil War" — a program of traditional music of the American Civil War, the Irish, and the 19th century. Vrana will feature mandolin, concertina, harmonica, and other instruments. Events are rain or shine. As an extra treat there will be a watermelon spitting contest for young and old from 3-4 p.m. As in the past, Historic Vienna will also offer a wide variety of vintage children's games (tiddlywinks, hop-scotch, hoops, and more), and there will again be homemade ice cream to churn and enjoy.

community awareness of efficient energy, as part of the Solarize NOVA campaign.

On June 30, Solarize NOVA completed its local campaign for easier and affordable home solar power by offering bulk purchasing discounts, and free solar site assessments to homeowners in select communities in Northern Virginia. The campaign encouraged community members to learn more about home solar power options, facilitating the installation of solar panels and financing their own project.

Following the spring campaign, Solarize NOVA welcomes 904 families who signed up for home energy checkups and/or solar PV reviews. Since its inception in the fall of 2014, the total number of sign-ups for Solarize NOVA has reached 1,278. Overall, Solarize NOVA has 27 signed contracts for 196.6 kW of new solar PV, a 7 percent increase in the region since 2013, with a construction value of nearly \$700K. The initiative expects future contracts added to accumulate close to \$1 million in construction, all handled by local construction companies.

## Volunteers Needed

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email [volunteer@scov.org](mailto:volunteer@scov.org)

## Vienna Excels in the Solarize Challenge

With 288 signups, Vienna has finished first in the competition to see whose community could enroll the greatest number of participants for free home energy checkups and solar PV reviews. The friendly race among Vienna and Falls Church heightened

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**Dore Skidmore, president of the Vienna Arts Society, addresses the crowd at the reception.**



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION



**Artist Shari MacFarlane stands in front of the Healing Wall Puzzle painted by soldiers who suffer from PTSD.**

## Healing Wall Puzzle Unveiled in Vienna

**Vienna Arts Society exhibits art work from soldiers suffering from PTSD.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Vienna Arts Society hosted a “Puzzled Again” reception on Saturday, July 11 at the Vienna Art Center with an exhibit of the Healing Wall puzzle. The artwork is from 24 soldiers on the mend at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital who suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder. The original puzzle, from 2014, was also exhibited, and the artwork will be on display through July 31 at 115 Pleasant Street, NW, Vienna.

During May and June for five sessions, five staff members from the Vienna Arts Society worked with soldiers at Fort Belvoir, helping them to translate their feelings into a visual expression on 12-inch puzzle pieces that were painted with black backgrounds. The artists provided paints and brushes and showed the soldiers different techniques to help motivate them in expressing themselves visually.

Art Center Director Lu Elizabeth Cousins, who calls the center the heartbeat of the art community in Northern Virginia, said the artists gave everything from their hearts to this project — paint supplies and their time. She said their first effort was last year

and they wanted to repeat it again this year. “You can see the raw emotion of these pieces ... the fact that each individual piece is a piece of a puzzle and part of a much bigger picture,” she said.

Shari MacFarlane, an artist with the Vienna Arts Society, one of 200 member artists, said the puzzle project is a good one because it shows how all the soldiers are connected. “Whatever affects one person or thing affects all,” she said. “Art is specifically a human activity. It shows our basic humanity ... I love the collaborative idea of everyone working together to create art.” She said that her father suffered from PTSD from World War II but it was undiagnosed at the time.

Terry Svat, a retired art therapist and artist, said the soldiers, who painted everything from cute stuff to very serious stuff, had so much fun doing it. “I think people have to understand how much power there is in art,” she said. “The beauty is they don’t look at it as power. They let go of a lot of their feelings in a way that’s acceptable.”

To learn more about the Vienna Arts Society and its classes and community outreach programs, visit [www.viennaartsociety.org](http://www.viennaartsociety.org). The Vienna Art Center is located at 115 Pleasant Street NW, around the corner from Maple Avenue.

**Artist Terry Svat at the Healing Wall Puzzle reception.**



**The reception at the Vienna Art Center for the “Healing Wall” puzzle last Saturday.**



**(From left): Dore Skidmore, president of the Vienna Arts Society; Shari MacFarlane, artist; Terry Svat, artist; and Lu Elizabeth Cousins, Art Center director.**



# OPINION

# Backpacks for All

Thousands of students will begin school this fall at a disadvantage; help now so they have the basics.

The first day of school each year is fraught with anticipation and anxiety. Many local students will be concerned about what they wear, who they will see, what it will be like. They've already had multiple shopping trips, online and otherwise, to be sure they have the supplies and extras they need.

We live in an area where many if not most families have the means and desire to do almost whatever it takes to give their children the best chances for success.

But for thousands of students, families lack the financial resources to equip them for success on the first day of school and beyond.

In our affluent area, there are many poor families.

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 27 percent of more than 184,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 50,000 children in Fairfax County who are going through the summer without their usual access to breakfast and lunch. For many of those children, having a fully equipped backpack on the first day of school is out of reach.

In the City of Alexandria, about 60 percent of the Alexandria Public Schools students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals. That's more than 8,000 of the city's 13,000-plus students.

In Arlington, more than 32 percent of the county's 23,000-plus students are poor enough to receive subsidized meals; more than 7,000 students.

Help these students get started on the right foot by contributing to one of the many local backpack drives.

Virginia sales tax holiday for school supplies and clothing is Aug. 7-9. Purchases of certain school supplies, clothing and footwear are ex-

empt from the Virginia sales tax. Each eligible school supply item must be priced at \$20 or less, and each eligible article of clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. See <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/content/school-supplies-and-clothing-holiday>.

This is a good place to start, but these students need more than backpacks. In this area, we need to address the impacts of income inequality in the schools. If we succeed in effectively educating these students, the savings overall will be enormous. These students need protection from budget cuts in their classrooms. They need help addressing inequality in the face of "bring your own device policies," and other technology needs.

Here are a few ways to give:

❖ **Fairfax County Collect for Kids** is a public private partnership that provides local children from economically challenged families with the school supplies they need to begin the school year, and has provided 90,000 supply kits and backpacks in its first three years. They seek donations of cash, backpacks donated by citizens and calculators donated by businesses. Contact Jay Garant in Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Business and Community Partnerships at 571-423-1225 [jay.garant@fcps.edu](mailto:jay.garant@fcps.edu) or Sherry Noud [SMNoud@fcps.edu](mailto:SMNoud@fcps.edu) 571-423-4300, Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Social Work Services.

<http://collectforkids.org/resources/>

❖ **Cornerstones in Reston** needs 3,000 backpacks. Each year, Cornerstones and its partner, Kids R First, equip thousands of K-12 children in the Reston-Herndon area (Cornerstones' clients, as well as other local students who receive free or reduced cost school meals) with brand-new backpacks. You can buy backpacks online and have them delivered to Cor-

nerstones. Or deliver the backpacks to Cornerstones Administrative Office at 11150 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 210, Reston; Aug. 10-14 (Monday - Friday); 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Contact Alacia Earley, Volunteer and Drives Manager, 571-323-9568.

<http://www.cornerstonesva.org/donations/drives/back-to-school/>

❖ **United Community Ministries** annual Back to School campaign is underway, and they rely on your support to meet the needs of students from low-income families in the Mount Vernon community. They especially need larger-sized backpacks for middle and high school students, and seek cash contributions to buy supplies. <http://www.ucmagency.org/back-to-school-2015.html>

❖ **OUR DAILY BREAD** Collect for Kids Back to School program runs each summer in partnership with with Collect for Kids in a county-wide effort to ensure that the neediest children in our community receive the supplies they need to succeed in school. The program is made possible through a partnership with Kids R First, Fairfax County Public Schools, the Fairfax County Office of Public and Private Partnerships, Apple Federal Credit Union and numerous community-based organizations and businesses in the Fairfax County area who are working together to provide supplies in a more cost-effective and efficient way. Contact Dawn Sykes at 703-273-8829.

❖ **Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing** APAH is collecting backpacks and supplies for more than 400 children among the 1,200-plus households a year served by APAH, providing low income families with affordable housing. Purchase items on their list. Donations can be dropped off at the APAH office: 2704 N. Pershing Drive in Arlington. Questions? Contact Emily Button, Resident Services Manager, at 703-851-3635 or [ebutton@apah.org](mailto:ebutton@apah.org). <https://www.roonga.com/apahschoolsupplydrive/>

— MARY KIMM,

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## EDITORIAL

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Virginians Have Paid for Medicaid Expansion

To the Editor:

The concern expressed in the letter regarding Medicaid Expansion in Virginia (How to Pay for Medicaid Expansion?, Connection, June 24-30) focused on the question of "how to pay for it" and that those favoring expansion "do not discuss cost specifics."

The writer would have readers believe that we in Virginia have not already paid for Medicaid expansion with our tax dollars, Virginia tax dollars that are now going to other states, states that have

expanded Medicaid; and some of those states are led by Republican governors that have favored Medicaid expansion because they saw it as a good deal financially as well as a reasonable way of making healthcare accessible to so many of their working poor — 400,000 in Virginia would benefit from the expansion.

With respect to the writer's fiscal concerns, that issue has been addressed multiple times by The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and The Commonwealth Institute. The conclusion, which is documented by the numbers cited in the various reports, is this: "Medicaid Expansion is Producing Large Gains in Health Care and Saving States Money."

The letter-writer's fiscal concerns have already been essentially addressed, but opponents have apparently already made up their minds and have manifested little interest in the documentation provided. This documentation has been cited numerous times, and it is not reasonable to assume that Delegate Ken Plum, a delegate re-elected multiple times that takes seriously his fiduciary responsibilities, and other legislators in solidarity with him have not looked at the numbers before advocating for the expansion of Medicaid

Dr. Paul Krugman, an economics professor at Princeton and the winner of the Nobel Prize for Economics in 2008, recently asked this question: "But why would any state

choose to exercise that option (not expand Medicaid)? After all, states were being offered a federally-funded program (a program already paid for by taxpayers) that would provide major benefits to millions of their citizens, pour billions into their economies, and help support their health-care providers. Who would turn down such an offer?"

It is the same question many of us in Virginia have been asking and have not received any satisfying answers from the Republican legislators that dominate the Virginia House and Senate.

**John Horejsi** (and SALT's 1200 advocates)  
SALT Coordinator  
Vienna

## Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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## Vienna Rotary Supports Freedom in Creation, Madison High Honor Society

Billy Thompson of Vienna Rotary Club presented a check to Andrew Briggs of Freedom In Creation. Thompson has known Briggs since he was in “diapers” and is proud of the man he has become over the years. Briggs is also a proud father of a 1 month old son. His nonprofit organization has been supporting former child soldiers in Uganda. The Vienna Rotary has been supporting the organization for the past five years. Freedom In Creation provides art therapy to the former soldiers and clean drinking water as well as sustainable water solutions for a working farm. The organization is seeking to build partnerships with universities, churches or high schools that are looking to help in the field of education. More information about Freedom In Creation can be found at <http://www.freedomincreation.org/>

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Kathleen Miller presented a check to the National Honor Society of Madison High School on behalf of Vienna Rotary Club. This is the second year that a check has been provided to the NHS to assist in putting anti-bacterial playgrounds in local children’s hospitals.

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PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Art supplies and games that allow for creative play can be an important part of unstructured free time.

## Unsheduling Summer Play

Experts praise the benefits of free play for children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

What was once a time for catching fireflies, swimming and exploring has evolved into a period of elite day camps, academic enrichment classes and top-dollar sports clinics. For many children, summer is packed with so many activities that it can hardly be called a break, say local educators, reminding parents of the benefits of unregulated play. “Camps and activities are fine in moderation because children need structure,” said Andrew Clarke, Ph.D., an Arlington-based child psychologist. “But allowing children to have free time during the summer is important for their self-confidence and overall well-being. ... Children can become enriched simply by being allowed to explore their own environments.”

**NOT ALL CHILDREN** are naturally self-directed, but parents can provide minimal structure through which children can gain the benefits of unstructured free time. For example, help children develop a list of potential activities that might interest them. This could assist children who have difficulty thinking of things to do on their own or who might be prone to saying “I’m bored” when faced with free time and no planned activities. “I recommend giving kids suggestions of various activities and having them choose,” said Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D., a child psychologist

based in Bethesda, Md. “Sometimes it is helpful to make a list together with them and post it on the refrigerator or other prominent place.” Isenberg suggests including activities such as playing board games, reading books, hula hooping, kicking around a ball, blowing bubbles, doing mazes, puzzles or painting. “When it’s time for a new activity, have them check out the list,” she said. It’s especially beneficial if the activity won’t require constant supervision. “Provide safe spaces for them to play in,” said Joan L. Ehrlich, Ph.D., a coordinator in the Interpreter Services Office at Northern Virginia Community College. “If you know the space is safe, you can give them more leeway to play on their own, and can pull back on the direct supervision.”

**PARENTS SHOULD ALSO SET** boundaries and standards regarding acceptable and unacceptable activities, she continued. “When my kids were small, we had designated ‘no screen’ time. It was wonderful to hang back and watch them engage in a board game or card game. You would be amazed at what kids will choose to do when televisions, computers [and other electronics] are not an option. Nothing against those devices, but, let’s face it, they can be addictive which makes it hard to compete with other healthy, educational options.” “All you need to do to facilitate unstructured downtime is to not over schedule them ... and provide an open-ended learning environment,” added Gail Multop, an early childhood education professor at Northern Virginia Community College. She believes the tools for such play are simple: “Puzzles, books, an art table with supplies and time outdoors in nature.”

### FAITH

## Area Youth Re-enact Mormon Pioneer Exodus

Approximately 225 Northern Virginia high school students donned 19<sup>th</sup>-century frontier dress, left their cell phones, other devices and other modern conveniences behind and headed out on a 12-mile re-enactment of the Mormon Pioneer Exodus which took place from 1847 through the 1850s. Youth from the following high schools participated in this year’s Pioneer Trek Reenactment: Chantilly, Fairfax, Herndon, Langley, South Lakes, Oakton, Madison and Westfield. This year’s Pioneer Trek was held June 25-26 on a portion of the Marriott Ranch near Hume, Va. While the terrain was different – and more humid – than what the

original Mormon Pioneers faced when they crossed the plains from Council Bluffs, Iowa, walking through Nebraska and Wyoming, and across the Rockies into Utah, the re-enactment still challenged these young people, ages 13-18. The teens used reproduction hand-carts, built by the same craftsmen who supply the Amish with wheels for their buggies. To enhance the experience, small groups of about a dozen young men and women were grouped together into different pioneer “families,” led by a volunteer couple who served as “Ma & Pa” for each family. This local Pioneer Trek experience extended over two days and one night (it was shortened due to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Area youth participate in re-enactment of the historic Mormon Pioneer Exodus.

stormy weather), with the participants camping overnight in tents, cooking their own food over campfires and culminating in a “testimony” meeting. Nearly all of the youth spoke one at a time about their own personal hardships, their appreciation for what the original

pioneers had to endure and their gratitude to the Lord. The Oakton Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints comprises nine local congregations that include most of Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, Oakton and Vienna.

## Vienna Church Receives ‘Changing Lives’ Award

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Vienna was again recognized this year with the Shelter House’s “Changing Lives” award for the impact they had on the life of a client in the nonprofit’s NOVACO program that provides transitional housing, support and guidance to survivors of domestic abuse. From left: Shelter House Marketing and Communications Director Jolie Smith, Emmanuel Lutheran Church members Vicki Pettit, Jane Holtorf and Gretchen Thiele, and Shelter House Executive Director Joe Meyer.**



Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

### FAITH NOTES

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church,** 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-938-2119 or [www.elcvienna.org](http://www.elcvienna.org).

**St. Francis Episcopal Church,** 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children’s chapel and children’s choir; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**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](http://www.antiochdoc.org)

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of

support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**McLean Bible Church** Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church,** 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms** are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).



## New Lane to Ease Rush Hour Travel on I-495 North

Commuters on the inner loop of the Capital Beltway (I-495) traveled on an additional lane Tuesday morning, July 7, after the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) opened the I-495 shoulder lane, improving travel conditions where the northbound 495 Express Lanes join the regular lanes. The 1.5-mile lane allowed traffic to travel on the left shoulder of northbound I-495 from where the 495 Express Lanes end to the George Washington Parkway. This shoulder lane will be open to all traffic from 7-11 a.m. and 2-8 p.m. on weekdays. A lane-use management system, with green arrows and red “X’s,” similar to the lane-control system on I-66, will alert travelers when the shoulder is open. In addition to the extra lane, several safety enhancements have been implemented such as upgraded concrete barriers in the median of I-495, new cameras and electronic highway signs to help with incident response and traveler information, and new pavement. All travelers and buses will benefit from the new capacity and improved merge. There will be no barrier separation between the shoulder lane and the regular Beltway lanes, ensuring easy access for travelers. Construction on the \$20 million project began in June 2014.

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# SPORTS

## Q&A: Vienna Resident Sweeney to Play Softball at The Mount

O'Connell grad roots for Nationals, enjoys "classic baseball movies."

**E**rin Sweeney was a four-year member of the Bishop O'Connell softball team and spent two seasons as the ace of the Knights pitching staff.

Sweeney, a Vienna resident, experienced four VISAA state championships and a pair of Washington Catholic Athletic Conference titles during her high school career. As a senior, she went 15-1 in the pitcher's circle with a 1.11 ERA, striking out 100 batters in 88 innings. She earned first-team all-state and first-team all-WCAC honors, and was named team MVP.

Sweeney graduated from Bishop O'Connell in 2015 but will continue her softball career at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md. The Mountaineers compete at the Division I level in the Northeast Conference.

Sweeney recently participated via email in a Q&A with The Connection.

**Connection:** You'll be playing softball for Mount St. Mary's next season. What made Mount St. Mary's the right choice for you?

**Sweeney:** The Mount has everything I was looking for in a school. It has a great Health Sciences program, it is close to home and I have the ability to play Division I softball for a great coach and with some incredible teammates. It is just a perfect fit for me.

**Connection:** What position(s) will you play?

**Sweeney:** I will have the opportunity to pitch and play other positions at The Mount. I am looking forward to helping The Mount team any way I can.

**Connection:** What are you most looking forward to about going to college?

**Sweeney:** I am really looking forward to meeting new people and experiencing all the things that Mount St. Mary's has to offer. I am also looking forward to continuing to play softball.

**Connection:** At what age did you start playing softball?

**Sweeney:** I started playing softball when I was 8 years old.

**Connection:** When did you realize playing college softball was an option for you?

**Sweeney:** Playing college softball has been a goal of mine since I was 10 years old.

**Connection:** The O'Connell softball program has won many championships over the years. How, if at all, did playing for a prestigious program affect the amount of pressure you felt to succeed?

**Sweeney:** O'Connell softball has a long winning tradition and Tommy [Orndorff] is a Hall of Fame coach, so I definitely felt a lot of pressure to succeed. But the reason the program has been so successful over the past 30 years is because the players understand that it is their responsibility to play "O'Connell Softball," which means we honor the sport every time we take the field and we play the game the right way. This is what Tommy has instilled in his players and that is why the program has been so consistently successful over the years. It is a lot of pressure, but it is also a lot of fun.

**Connection:** What is your favorite memory of



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO

**Erin Sweeney, a Vienna resident and 2015 graduate of Arlington's Bishop O'Connell High School, will play softball at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Md.**

playing softball at O'Connell?

**Sweeney:** I have had a lot of great memories from playing softball at O'Connell, but what has meant the most to me is the lasting friendships I have made with all of my amazing teammates.

**Connection:** Do you have any game day superstitions?

**Sweeney:** I wouldn't consider myself to be really superstitious, but I definitely have a set game day routine that I follow.

**Connection:** What do you like to do when you're not playing a sport?

**Sweeney:** When I am not playing softball, I like to watch my brother play baseball and my sister play softball. I like coaching softball, especially working with young pitchers. I also love going to the beach.

**Connection:** Are you a pro sports fan? Which team(s) do you root for?

**Sweeney:** I am a huge baseball fan! My favorite teams are the Nationals and the Kansas City Royals.

**Connection:** What's your favorite food?

**Sweeney:** I love Italian food, especially pasta.

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

**Sweeney:** I enjoy listening to all types of music, and I am a really big fan of country music, but I don't really have a favorite artist.

**Connection:** What is your favorite movie? Why?

**Sweeney:** I really love those classic baseball movies, like 'Field of Dreams' and 'The Sandlot.' They are just fun to watch.

— JON ROETMAN



PHOTOS BY BRANDON GINSBURG

**Oakton Otter Lexi Pierce dives during a recent competition.**

## Oakton Otters Remain Undefeated

**T**he Oakton Otter divers remain undefeated in Division 4 (3-0) after their decisive win on July 7 over Orange Hunt, 43-28.

Five Otter divers took first place in their respective categories: Haley Liddell in freshman girls with a score of 62.50; Spencer Dearman in junior boys with a score of 105.50; Josh Shipley in intermediate boys with a score of 99.25; Elana Colbert in senior girls with a score of 183.35; Brad Burgeson in senior boys with a score of 189.80.

The other Otter divers who placed were: Gabriella Mancusi

(freshman girls, second), Jon Anthony Montel (freshman boys, second), Finn MacStravic (freshman boys, third), Sarah Gurley (junior girls, second), Blaise Wuest (junior boys, third), Kenna Campfield (intermediate girls, second), Kyla Straker (intermediate girls, third), and Liam Klopfenstein (senior boys, second). Sarah Gurley set a new Oakton Swim and Racquet Club dive team record for junior girls with a score of 128.60, breaking the old record of 122.85 set by teammate Elana Colbert in 2010.



**Brad Burgeson competes for the Oakton Otter dive team.**



# CALENDAR

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

## ONGOING

**"The Healing Wall."** Tuesdays – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., through Aug. 1. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. "The Healing Wall" is assembled from two dozen puzzle pieces created by soldiers recovering at the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. Each piece makes a powerful statement by itself as well as part of the larger puzzle.

**What's in Your Garden?** Tuesdays – Saturdays, through Aug. 1. Vienna Arts Society "Gallery in the Village Green," 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Featured artist Loy McGaughey of Reston exhibits a collection of watercolors inspired by her personal photographs. The exhibition includes more than a dozen other artists.

**Vienna's Summer on the Green Concert Series.** Fridays-Sundays, through Sept. 27. 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Come out on the weekend and listen to some good music. Visit <http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640>

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 15

**Rock-A-Bye Baby.** 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. An early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Short stories for you and your child. Age 13-23 months with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

## THURSDAY/ JULY 16

**Wine Class.** 7-8 p.m. The Wine Outlet, 278 Cedar Lane, SE, Vienna. At the northern tip of the South Island of New Zealand lies one of the most explosive wine areas in the New World: Marlborough. Call 703-639-0155 to reserve your spot. Cost: \$5.

**Classics Books Discussion Group.** 1 - 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of "The Loved One" by Evelyn Waugh. Adults and teens. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Mister G.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Sing and dance to bilingual tunes in Spanish and English. Ages 3 and up. Tickets: \$10. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

**Guster.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Wolf Trap Road Vienna. Alternative rock and on-stage humor. Tickets: \$32-\$45. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## FRIDAY/JULY 17

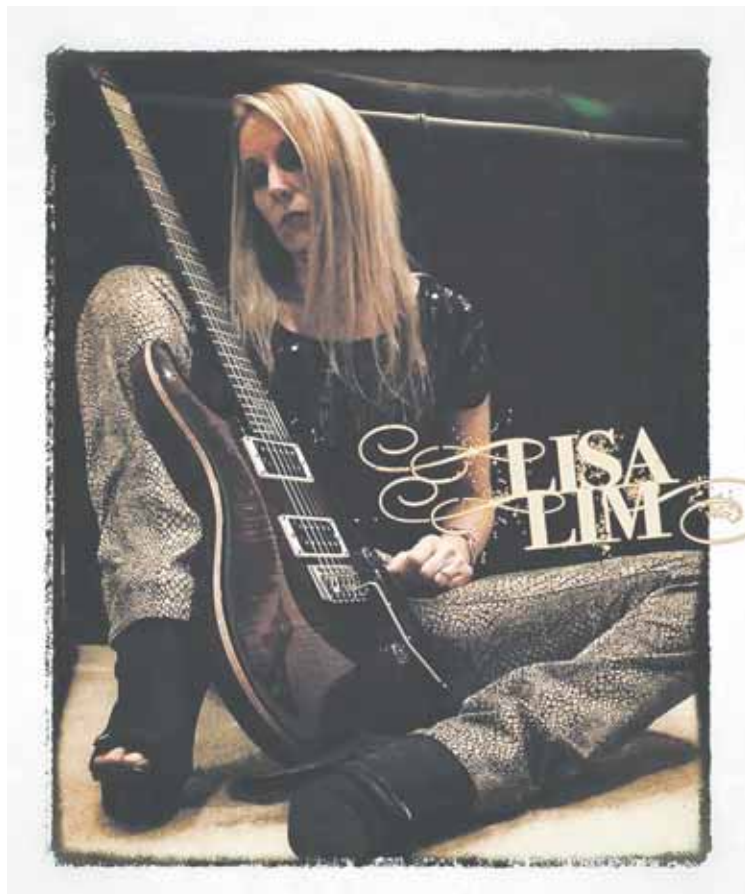
**Pokemon League.** 3- 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5-18. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Hudson Vagabond Puppets.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. A pre-historic adventure, presenting "Mammoth Follies". Featuring songs, jokes and dances. Tickets \$10. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## SATURDAY/JULY 18

**SocialBurger Wine Pairing.** 1-6 p.m. The Wine Outlet, 278 Cedar Lane SE, Vienna. Cost: \$7. Visit [www.viennawineoutlet.com](http://www.viennawineoutlet.com)

**Model Trains and Thomas at Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains



**Multiple-WAMMIE award winner, Lisa Lim, will rock the park with masterful songwriting, burning guitar and distinctive vocals—all with a blues/rock edge on July 26. The Alden and the McLean Community Center's (MCC) Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park starts at 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park.**

plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina. Free. Visit [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

**Electric Bicycle Event.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 224 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn more about the benefits, ease of use and fun that an electric bicycle can offer everyone. Come test ride a bike, and have a burger and drink on us.

**The Ghosts of Versailles.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. "The Ghosts of Versailles" encompasses comedy, romance, intrigue, revenge and malice. Tickets \$32-\$88. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

**Hudson Vagabond Puppets.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. A pre-historic adventure, presenting "Mammoth Follies". Featuring songs, jokes and dances. \$10. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

**Pokemon: Symphonic Evolutions.** 8:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Journey through nearly 20 years of memorable Pokemon music from the popular franchise. Tickets \$25-\$45. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## SUNDAY/JULY 19

**Scott Miller.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Singer, songwriter and farmer Scott Miller will perform an acoustic show. Visit <http://www.jamminjava.com/event/871765>

**Patti Labelle.** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna Performance by the Grammy-winning and Emmy-nominated actress. Tickets \$30-\$65. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## MONDAY/JULY 20

**Game On! 2 - 3 p.m.** Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn how to play Krosmaster, a new strategy game with playful characters!. Additional games will be available to play. Teens. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

## TUESDAY/JULY 21

**Around the World Musical Adventure.** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.

Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Music and movement with Miss Susan. Age 3-7 with adult. Sign up each child and adult separately at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Alphabet Rockers.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. An energetic show with hip hop grooves, rhymes, and positive messages for kids. Ages 4-10. Tickets \$8. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## WEDNESDAY/JULY 22

**Woof, And Paws- Read to a Dog.** 2:30, 2:45, 3, 3:15 and 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. Register online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Toddler Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities for you and your toddler. Age 2-3 with adult.

**Brandi Carlile.** 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Spend a summer evening with song writer Carlile who bridges folk rock with Americana. Tickets \$30-\$55. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

## THURSDAY/JULY 23

**"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club.** 7 - 8 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Are you an adult who loves YA lit? If so, join for discussion, fun and dessert. June's title will be Tokyo Heist by Diana Renn. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**All-American Boys Chorus.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Boys choir playing songs from the Beach Boys to contemporary favorites. Ages 8-14. Tickets \$8.

**Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!** 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Watch comedians, journalists and celebrity guests compete in NPR's award-winning current events quiz show. Tickets \$25-\$60. Visit [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org)

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## 21 Announcements

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## LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Initiation of the Section 106 Process: Public Participation

Sprint proposes a new rooftop telecommunications facility at 5055 S Chesterfield Road, Arlington, Arlington County, VA, 22206. The project entails the installation of panel antennas, RRH units, cable trays and runs a non-penetrating sled and a screen wall. Associated equipment will be placed inside of the screen wall. Members of the public interested in submitting comments on the possible effects of the proposed project on historic properties included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places may send their comments to Andrew Smith, RESCOM Environmental Corp., PO Box 361 Petoskey, MI 49770 or call 260-385-6999.

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Victoria from Australia, 17 yrs. Enjoys spending time with her family and younger siblings. Victoria plays volleyball and is excited to learn new sports while in America.



Giorgio from Italy, 16 yrs. Loves to play baseball and spend time with his dogs. Giorgio also plays the guitar, and his dream is to join a drama club at his American high school.

## “Scant” Know For Sure Anymore



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After six years, four months and two weeks since being diagnosed with stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (the “terminal” kind), I can say with certainty that I have no sense of what my next CT scan, scheduled for July 15th, will indicate. Previously (multiple scans over multiple years), I’ve felt something in my upper chest/lungs where the largest tumors are located and the subsequent scan showed nothing of consequence. On other scan occasions, I’ve felt nothing of consequence in my chest and the scan showed tumor growth, enough to change my medication. On still other scan occasions, I have felt something in my chest (where the tumors are located), and sure enough the CT scan showed some growth. Finally, and conversely, on still other CT scans, I’ve felt nothing of consequence and there was no tumor activity of concern. As a result of these four contradictory indicators of possible growth/no growth, for the weeks, then days, leading up to my every-three-month CT scan, I never know what to think I feel any more than I know what to feel I think. Thirty or so scans into my cancer-controlled life, I’m still teetering emotionally before, during and after the computerized tomography. And though the actual scan itself takes less than a minute, the damage is done and can only be undone after we learn the results.

Which oddly enough presents another similarly juxtaposed problem. In the early years, during our post-scan “scamxiety,” waiting the week or so until our next face-to-face appointment with my oncologist to learn the results was unbearable, so usually I would call a day or two later and get a message to him or my oncology nurse, attempting to speed up a response. Typically, I would hear back sooner rather than later. Eventually, e-mail communication became part of the process, and after my scan was completed, I started e-mailing my oncologist directly, advising him of my status and asking for results.

Usually, the news was good. Occasionally the news was not. And though my oncologist would rather have delivered bad news in person, he certainly could appreciate how difficult it was for me/patients to wait, so he continued to e-mail. One time however, the post-scan e-mail he sent us was discouraging and said he would discuss it further at our next appointment, scheduled as usual within the week. When he saw us in person, he was surprisingly upbeat and immediately told us/apologized for having e-mailed us some incomplete information concerning my scan, and told us instead that the “results were good,” not bad, something about the radiologist comparing the wrong scan (he had me at “results were good”), the exact kind of potential miscommunication waiting and discussing results in person eliminates. As a result, we have, with experience gained over the last few years, begun to be able to wait for the appointment to discuss the scan and not stress too much in the interim, generally.

Since we stopped e-mailing and requesting scan results, my oncologist oddly enough has, on his own initiative, e-mailed us good news, not e-mailed us bad news and not e-mailed us good news. This inconsistency has remade the time leading up to the scan stressful again, because now we don’t know what not hearing from the oncologist might mean; heck, it might mean nothing, it just might just be that he’s on vacation (as was the actual case one time and it was no one’s responsibility to inform us of anything so no one did). Of course, we didn’t know, so naturally we went negative thinking it was bad news.

Similar to the CT scan results meaning/not meaning, this is not exactly two halves making a whole, this is more like eight quarters making up two different wholes. Unfortunately, easy is the last thing it has become, when it’s the first thing it needs to be. Cancer is tough enough on its own. It doesn’t need any help. I’m extremely grateful to still have a chance. I just wish I had more of a choice.

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

Fairfax County’s free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on Tuesday, Aug. 11, 7-8 p.m. to discuss “Keeping Organized as a Caregiver.” Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices) and click on Caregiver Support. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

Fairfax County’s **Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs **volunteer advocates** for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov). Also visit the Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltcombudsman/).

The **Wakefield Senior Center** in **Annandale** needs an experienced **Canasta Player**, an **Art Instructor** and certified instructors **Pilates** and **Ballroom Dance**. For these and other opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center** needs a **Piano Player** to play classical or music from the 1960s and before. For these and other opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Hollin Hall Senior Center** in **Alexandria** needs instructors for the following classes: **Basic Guitar**, **Italian**, **Pottery** and **Ballroom Dance**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Fairfax County Meals on Wheels** needs **coordinators**, **co-coordinators**, and **substitute drivers** for routes throughout the county. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Little River Glen Senior Center** in **Fairfax** needs a **Computer Lab Assistant** and a **Zumba Gold Instructor**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The **Kingstowne Center for Active Adults** in **Alexandria** needs a **Country Western Line Dance Instructor**, **Mosaic Art** or **Jewelry Making Instructor**, **Hula Hoop Class Leader** and an **African Style Dance Instructor**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults) and click on Volunteer Solutions.

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

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The crowd enjoys listening to the Bluegrass group Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band as Vienna Summer Concerts on the Green continue at the Vienna Town Green.

## Vienna Enjoys Summer on the Green

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The Town of Vienna offers free concerts during the summer on Wednesdays, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays at 6:30 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue, East, Vienna. On Sunday evening, the Bluegrass group Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band performed to a delighted crowd. The concerts are sponsored by the Rotary Club of Vienna and Whole Foods of Vienna. Visit [www.Viennava.gov](http://www.Viennava.gov); in the event of inclement weather, call 703-255-7842.



Lola Emerson, wife of band leader Bill Emerson, mans the booth.



The Bluegrass group Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band performs Sunday night at the Summer on the Green Concert.

### VIEWPOINTS

## What do you like about the Summer on the Green Concerts in Vienna?

Interviews conducted during the Bluegrass concert featuring Bill Emerson and the Sweet Dixie Band on Sunday, July 12 in Vienna.

- STEVE HIBBARD

### Chris Mason, of Bethesda, and Ed Richmond of Vienna:

"It's my tax dollars at work in the best possible way and the camaraderie of my fellow Viennans who I wouldn't normally meet, and the quality of the music," said Chris Mason.

"The only thing I come for is the Bluegrass music," said Ed Richmond.



### Dragos Ciobanu of Merrifield:

"I think the atmosphere and the music. This is my first time; I was running through and came upon it; I live two miles away."



### Nate Underhill from Vienna:

"It's a great venue for bringing together different ages in Vienna to enjoy all sorts of genres of music."



### Jim Gray from Manassas:

"I just love Bluegrass music. Bill Emerson, the banjo player, is my uncle."



### Kathy Underhill from Vienna:

"I love that they're outdoors, family-friendly and high-quality with a variety of all types of music."



### Jim Milosavich of Vienna:

"I think it's enjoyable and a nice get-together and a fun way to relax."

## 2015 Vienna Town Green Concert Series

### \*SUNDAY NIGHTS — JULY

19 – Vienna Community Band  
26 – Afternoons on Church Concert - 5 p.m.

### \*FRIDAY NIGHTS — JULY

17 – Sarah Bennett Swanner – Soulful Blues  
24 – Feedback – Rock  
31 – Wayne Tympanick Quartet – Jazz/Dixieland

### \*AUGUST

7 – Difficult Run Jazz Band  
14 – US Navy Sea Chanters  
21 – Clarence Buffalo – Soulful Blues  
28 – Richard Walton Group

### \*WEDNESDAY NIGHTS — JULY

15 – The Great Zucchini  
22 – Mr. Gabe & the Circle Time All-stars

### \*AUGUST

2 – SOHO Down – Country  
9 – Tommy and the Bahamas – Beach Music  
16 – Shenandoah Run – Folk/Americana  
23 – Kingsley Winter Band  
30 – Afternoons on Church Concert - 5 p.m.

### \*SEPTEMBER

27 – Afternoons on Church Concert – 5 p.m.

### \*OCTOBER

25 – Afternoons on Church Concert – 5 p.m.