

and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Vienna Idol auditions kicked off at Caffè Amouri on March 29. Auditions alternate at Caffè Amouri and Whole Foods Vienna and run through May.

Vienna Idol Kicks Off Auditions 2016

NEWS, PAGE 9

Vintage Radio Plays
Come to Life in Vienna

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 6

Eating Smart

NEWS, PAGE 3

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News



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY DC ROATCH/COURTESY OF FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT
Flames engulf parts of Vienna home on Sunday, March 27.

House Fire in Vienna

Approximately \$291,000 in damages is estimated due to a fire that ravaged a home in Brooktrail Court in Vienna on Sunday, March 27 at 7:10 p.m.

Firefighters put out the fire coming from the garage and attic areas of the the single-family home. The house had working fire

alarms but it was an explosion that alerted the occupants.

Improperly disposed fireplace ashes in the garage area caused the fire, according to investigators. It was deemed accidental.

Two occupants have been displaced. There were no reported firefighter or civilian injuries.

VIENNA CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Vienna Police Department from March 18-24.

INCIDENTS

Destruction of Property - 1000 Block Moorefield Creek Road, SW. Between March 1 at 3 p.m. and March 18 at 3:11 p.m. A resident reported damage to the driver's side rear door of his minivan.

Animal Case – Quarantine - 400 Block Adahi Road, SE. March 11, noon. An officer received information from the Fairfax County Health Department that a resident had been bitten by a gray pit bull while she was walking in the area. The resident did not know who owned the dog. The officer advised the resident the importance of locating the dog for quarantine to determine the health of the animal and see if there was any potential exposure to her.

Animal Case – Quarantine - 700 Block Upham Place, NW. March 13, noon. A resident was bitten on both of his hands by his cat as he tried to prevent the animal from leaving the house. An officer advised the resident of the quarantine procedure for the cat.

Animal Case – Quarantine - The Hope Center, 140 Park St., SE. March 13, 8 p.m. An employee reported he had been bitten on the finger by a dog while attempting to perform a medical procedure. The Hope Center requested an officer to transport the dog to the Health Department for rabies testing.

Vandalism - 1000 Park St., SE. March 16 between noon and 10 p.m. A resident

reported someone vandalized the front door to her house with red spray paint.

Animal Case – Quarantine - The Hope Center, 140 Park St., SE. March 17, 3 p.m. An employee reported she had been bitten on the thumb by a cat during a medical procedure. Due to the cat's condition the owner decided to have The Hope Center euthanize the cat. An officer transported the cat to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter for rabies testing.

Open Door - 100 Pleasant St., NW. March 18, 11:04 a.m. Officers responding to the report of a residential alarm found the front door ajar. Two officers checked the residence and found nothing to be disturbed. The homeowner arrived on scene and stated that he may not have completely closed the door when he left earlier that morning.

Juvenile Case - 800 Block Maple Ave., NE. March 18, 12:42 p.m. An officer observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit and conducted a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the male juvenile driver he found that he had been reported as missing from Fairfax County. The officer contacted the juvenile's mother who responded to the scene and the juvenile was released to her custody.

Grand Larceny - 1400 Block Patrick Circle, SW. Between March 18 at 5 p.m. and March 19 at 1 p.m. A resident reported

SEE CRIME, PAGE 5

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Eating Smart

Profile: Jean Janssen, force behind area's Smart Markets.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY
THE CONNECTION

Food shoppers should take their collective hats off to Jean Janssen. She is the motivating spirit behind the area's Smart Markets, a collection of farmers' markets that showcase locally grown and raised produce and meats, plus a few temptations, such as hand-made sausages, popcorn, and baked goods (as in divine French pastries).

But once you know that Janssen has been in the food world since childhood, you can understand why these privately run markets are such a smashing success. A native Virginian, Janssen grew up in a family that purchased most of its goods from local farmers or from her grandfather's large garden plot. Also her parents were great cooks, a basic food influence for a youngster.

As an adult, Janssen worked as a caterer in the metro area for 20 years, during which time she often purchased goods from the now-defunct farmers' market in Vienna's Nottoway Park. "When I decided to retire from catering," said Janssen, "the Nottoway market was needing a new market manager. It was a volunteer position, but it sounded like it would keep me involved in the food world." Not only did she take that position, she was later asked to open a new market for Fairfax County on Braddock Road at Wakefield Park, and she ended up managing both markets.

In 2008, however, Janssen decided that the local producers needed better showcasing to improve sales, and that hosting local farmers' markets could be a great community resource. So with the support and encouragement of vendors, she decided to open Smart Markets. "The first market was down street from our present Oakton market," she said, "and I was led there by Nottoway Park shopper who encouraged me to talk to someone at her church. After that, others have come to me and asked me to do a market."

As in any enterprise, there are ups and downs, and as Janssen has found not every location is a good fit, and in one instance, an office property was sold out from under them. "I must deal with that," she said, "because we are on the bottom of the totem pole," since a market sets up usually only once a week. But when an agency or community residents see that a Smart Market helps them, a business may step in and offer space.

Because she does not pay to advertise, word-of-mouth attracts vendors, who then approach Janssen about setting up their stall at one of her locations. Once they start and sell successfully, she urges them to attend more than one market to enhance visibility and sales. "Our vendors do well compared with others," she said, "and we work



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Arno's Pastries at the Chantilly Smart Markets.

Jean Janssen's Fettuccine with Mixed Vegetables

Serves 4 to 6 as a main course

This is my very favorite pasta sauce and it can easily be converted to a vegetarian dish with a few substitutions and/or omissions. You can vary the quantity of the individual vegetables as I have done here while adapting from a recipe in the September 1974 Gourmet. You can also adapt it to a winter recipe with good results using canned tomatoes. It's still a great vegetable medley to serve over pasta.

In a large sauté pan, cook two slices of bacon till nearly done but not crisp. Remove bacon, drain, and add 1/4 cup good olive oil to the pan. Add one small onion, two small carrots, two garlic cloves, two radishes, all finely minced, and 1 to 2 tablespoons finely chopped fresh basil. Simmer, covered, for 12 to 15 minutes. Add three cups thinly shredded cabbage, 1/2 pound each of diced zucchini and tomatoes, 2 small green peppers, seeded and diced, and 1/2 cup chicken or vegetable stock. Season with one teaspoon each of salt and pepper. Simmer for another 10 to 15 minutes.

Meanwhile, cook one pound of fresh spinach noodles or packaged fettuccine in a large pot of boiling water with 2 tablespoons salt till done. Drain the noodles and toss them with up to 6 tablespoons butter, 1/2 cup each of Parmesan cheese and the chopped bacon. You may also add some finely chopped prosciutto at this point. Add the vegetable mixture and serve with additional grated Parmesan.

Smart Markets Locations

WEDNESDAY

Reston Station
1900 Reston Station Blvd.
Reston, VA 20190
3 to 7 p.m.
Open April 2016

THURSDAY

Chantilly
St. Veronica Catholic Church
3460 Centreville Road
Chantilly, VA 22051
3:30-6:30 p.m.
Open Spring 2016

THURSDAY

Huntington
New Location to be Determined
Alexandria, VA 22003
3-7 pm
Open Spring 2016

SATURDAY

Oakton
2854 Hunter Mill Road
Oakton, VA 22124
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Open Year-Round

SATURDAY

Springfield
Springfield Town Center
6699 Spring Mall Drive
Springfield, VA 22150
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Open Spring 2016

SUNDAY

Bristow
Piney Branch Elementary School
8301 Linton Hall Road
Bristow, VA 20136
Winter Hours - 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Open Year-Round

SUNDAY

Tysons
8400 Westpark Drive
McLean, VA 22012
(NADA Building)
10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Open Spring 2016

with them to help them succeed." Janssen notes that her rules are strict, too, and insists that vendors must arrive early to set up, and must be the owners of the farm or other business to interact with customers.

And, not surprisingly, Janssen has found that fresh, seasonal fruits and vegetables are the biggest sellers. She has also concluded that farmers reap bigger profits from farmers' markets sales than from selling their goods to wholesale merchants. "Small farmers, to exist," she said, "must sell directly to consumers."

Note: For the list of Smart Markets locations, visit the website: <http://smartmarkets.org>.

OPINION

Money to Treat Addiction, Mental Health Issues

Affordable Care Act could pay for help, better health for 100,000 uninsured people in Virginia with mental illness or addiction issues.

Poor people without health insurance in Virginia are being unnecessarily tortured, in some cases to death, by a General Assembly that refuses to expand Medicaid. They deny healthcare to as many as 400,00 Virginians despite the fact that for the first three years, there would be no additional cost to the Commonwealth, and after that Feds would pay at least 90 percent of the cost.

A new report released on Monday by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services points to an area beyond preventative medicine and primary care. According to the report, in Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act. The report estimates that more than a third of low income people in Virginia without health insurance have "behavioral health" needs.

As Virginia and the rest of the nation wrestles with huge growth in heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big

EDITORIAL

obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. People die as a result. In Northern Virginia, heroin-related deaths increased 164 percent between 2011 and 2013. In Fairfax County, in just one year – from 2013 to 2014 – the number of deaths from heroin overdose doubled. Virginia is one of 14 states identified in a recent Centers for Disease Control reports with significant increases in overdose deaths in the last few years. Nationally, heroin overdose death rates increased by 26 percent from 2013 to 2014 and have more than tripled since 2010, according to the CDC. A mind boggling statistic: In 2014, there were approximately one-and-a-half times more drug overdose deaths in the United States than deaths from motor vehicle crashes.

Turning away resources to treat this eviscerating epidemic ensures that some people who need treatment but cannot access it will die. Turning away this money makes no more sense than sending back federal funding for building rail to Dulles.

Depression and other mental health disor-

ders result in significant economic cost as well. This week's HHS report estimates that if Virginia expanded Medicaid, 16,000 fewer individuals would experience symptoms of depression, which would make them far more likely to be able to work.

Under the Affordable Care Act, states have the opportunity to expand Medicaid coverage to individuals with family incomes at or below 138 percent of the federal poverty level.

Get involved, Budget

Next week, Fairfax County residents will have three opportunities to weigh in on what has so far been a fairly contentious budget season.

Sign up to attend a public hearing at the Fairfax County Government Center on the proposed FY 2017 Budget:

- ❖ April 5, beginning at 4 p.m.
- ❖ April 6, beginning at 1 p.m.
- ❖ April 7, beginning at 1 p.m.

Email your feedback and comments to dmbinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov through mid-April, be sure to copy the Connection to have your comments be considered as a letter to the editor, editors@connectionnewspapers.com,

More information on the budget, and a link to sign up to speak can be found at

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/many-ways-to-provide-your-input-on-the-fy-2017-budget/>.

Congress Must Act on the Growing Opioid Epidemic

BY U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11)

Our nation is in the midst of an exploding opioid epidemic. This crisis does not discriminate on the basis of a particular community or demographic. Often hiding in the shadows, the death toll is rising across the country.

Our own experience in Virginia mirrors this growing national threat. In Northern Virginia, for example, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board reported a 22 percent increase in reported use of any opiate between 2011 and 2014. Even more troubling, heroin-related deaths increased 164 percent between 2011 and 2013.

Last week, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, on which I sit, held an important hearing on the opioid and heroin epidemic. At that hearing was Don Flattery, a Fairfax County parent whose 26-year-old son, Kevin, died from an opiate overdose after a 13-month struggle with addiction. Mr. Flattery has turned that personal loss into his life's mission. He is a fierce advocate for those who suffer from addiction, serves on Virginia's Task Force on Prescription Drug and Heroin Abuse, and is bringing light to this issue.

While the heroin and opioid abuse crisis is alarming, sadly the path that has led us to this tragic state is very clear. The prescription of



opiates has grown drastically over the past two decades resulting in dependency, addiction, and abuse.

For example, according to the 2016 CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines, 20 percent of patient visits to physician offices with non-cancer pain symptoms or pain-related diagnoses receive an opioid prescription. An astounding 259 million prescriptions were written for opioid pain medication

in 2012. That's enough for every adult in the United States to have a bottle of pills.

In 2013, two-thirds of opiate-related deaths were from prescription opioids and one-third were tied to heroin usage. With less than 5 percent of the world's population, the U.S. consumes 80 percent of the world's opioid prescriptions. Other nations use a wide variety of less risky methods to treat pain, especially for chronic pain conditions. As a country, we must be willing to reexamine the way we treat pain.

There are a number of interventions we can take to diminish opioid drug abuse such as the creation of state-run Prescription Drug Monitoring Program databases to better track prescriptions of controlled substances and the development of abuse-deterrents.

We need to better inform doctors as well as patients about the dangers of the medicines they prescribe and improve labeling. Notably the FDA just announced that immediate-release opioid painkillers such as oxycodone and

fentanyl will now have to carry a "black box" warning about the risk of abuse, addiction, overdose and death. The Obama Administration has put forth a proposal, which I support, that includes \$1.1 billion in new federal money to strengthen treatment and prevention strategies.

The American people are looking for Congress to engage in this fight and help stem the crisis. I joined many of my colleagues to urge the House Majority to cancel its two-week recess and immediately take action on the President's proposal. This plan is an investment in our local communities that will save lives and keep families intact. Continued congressional inaction is not an option. Our communities, our families, can no longer wait.

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
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1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: north@connectionnewspapers.com

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NEWS

Multiple Bear Sightings in Vienna

A black bear and a cub were spotted by a resident in the 1500 block of Windstone Drive in Vienna around 7 p.m. on Sunday, March 20. This location is near Difficult Run Stream Valley Park and Wolftrap Stream Valley Park. The bears posed no problems or issues but did stay on the property for about an hour.

On Wednesday, March 23, two small black bears were seen crossing Oakton Road. This location is near Waples Mill Meadow, Difficult Run Stream Valley Park and Tattersall Park.

On Thursday morning, March 24, a black bear and cub were spotted in the 2700 block of Bowling Green Drive. The bears were reported to have taken down a birdfeeder and plastic cabinet on a resident's patio. The bears also took a bag of birdseed from the cabinet before heading into the wooded easement along Interstate 66.

The Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist and the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries suggest residents take the following precautions to minimize encounters with black bears:

- ❖ Keep a respectful distance! In most cases, the bear will move on quickly.
- ❖ If a bear is up a tree on or near your property, give it space. Do not approach, and bring your pets



PHOTO FROM THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Residents report multiple bear sightings in Vienna/Oakton.

inside to provide the bear a clear path to leave your property.

❖ If you see a very small cub, do not try to remove it from the area or "save it."

❖ The best way to encourage the bear not to return is to remove food sources. Do not store household trash, or anything that smells like food in vehicles, on porches or decks.

❖ Keep your full or empty trash containers secured in a garage, shed or basement.

❖ Take your garbage to the dump frequently.

❖ If you have a trash collection service, put your trash out the morning of the pickup, not the night before.

❖ Take down your birdfeeder for 3-4 weeks after the bear visits.

Black bears have a natural fear of humans, and in most cases, would rather flee than encounter people. Contact the Fairfax County Animal Services Division, Animal Control Section at 703-691-2131 for further information.

Bear sightings should be reported to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries through the Virginia Wildlife Conflict Helpline at 855-571-9003

VIENNA CRIME REPORTS

FROM PAGE 2

someone entered his unlocked vehicle, which was parked in his driveway, and stole his laptop, a projector and his wallet.

Welfare Check - 300 Block Holmes Drive, NW. March 19, 12:12 a.m. A citizen requested a welfare check on her adult daughter. She believed her daughter may be in the company of a man she was previously involved with. An officer responded to the man's residence and spoke to him, but the woman was not there. The officer suggested the citizen follow up with her local police department regarding a missing person's report.

Arrest - Driving While Intoxicated - 900 Block Maple Avenue, East. March 19, 1:58 a.m. An officer observed a vehicle stopped in the roadway on Maple Avenue. The vehicle had partially run off the roadway and the engine was still running. Upon his interaction with the driver, the officer determined that he may be impaired. After failing to complete a se-

ries of field sobriety tests he arrested the 50-year-old man from Ley Street in New Haven, Conn. for Driving While Intoxicated. He was transported to the Vienna Police station where he was given the opportunity to provide a sample of his breath for analysis. After failing to submit a sufficient breath sample he was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Refusal to Submit to a Breath Test.

Arrest - Drunk in Public - 900 Block Park Street, SE. March 19, 11:55 p.m. An Uber driver reported one of his fare's had taken the keys to his vehicle as they were driving down Park Street, and the man was refusing to give them back to him. The driver immediately stopped the vehicle and called the police. An officer located the man and found him to be intoxicated. He arrested the 57-year-old man from Shepherdson Lane, SE in Vienna for Drunk In Public. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was to be held until he was sober.

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Vintage Radio Plays Come to Life in Vienna

Vienna Theatre Company reproduces two mysteries with humor and hard-boiled crime-solving.

By Donna Manz
THE CONNECTION

The 18-month closure of the Vienna Community Center – renovation time – precipitated some scurrying around by groups that regularly used the center for programming and special events. The closure presented an opportunity to the Vienna Theatre Company (VTC) to extend its reach out of community theatre comfort zones. VTC has looked to the past for inspiration in its upcoming spring production — the theatre company presents its offering as 1940s “radio” programs. Six actors play a multitude of roles in “In Living Sound,” opening Friday, April 1, in the Flame Room of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Two radio mysteries, “Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom,” and “The Big Story: Manhunt in Manhattan,” are acted out with recorded sound effects to accompany the narration.

“This is fun for one-and-a-half hours because the scripts are engaging and zany and you get to watch a group of grownups act silly,” said director and VTC president Tom Epps of Oakton. “Another plus is that this is a way to support our partner, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.”

THE FRIDAY NIGHT SHOW prices are for “broadcasts” only; tickets are \$14 for the performance. Hot food and drinks are available for purchase from VVFD Auxiliary beginning at 7:15 p.m. Saturday night performances are dinner-theatre with food prepared by the Auxiliary of the VVFD. Dinner menu offers baked ziti, salad, bread, and dessert, along with beverages.

Saturday ticket cost is \$25 in advance and \$30 at door. The dinner theatre package includes the show and meal. Food service begins at 7:15 p.m., and showtime is at 8 p.m.

Epps and artistic director Jessie Roberts looked through radio scripts that would appeal to the community and each found an appropriate gem, “Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom,” and “The Big Story: Manhunt in Manhattan.” “The Case of the Goofy Groom” shares the comic bent of the Thin Man series, while the second rings of the vintage hardboiled detective/crime solver genre. Both plays facilitate storytelling. The actors act out as if they were on a visual stage, but, they are standing at a microphone. The Flame Room does not have a raised stage, and a stand-up play, requiring no sets or props, aligns itself to the resources available.

“An audience likes to listen,” Epps said. “Think Prairie Home Companion. Listening is what you do with a podcast, so, young tech-savvy people are familiar with listening tools.”

Sound and sound effects are very important in radio, Epps said. Change of scene is cued using music. “If you were listening to a radio drama, you



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Director Tom Epps, president of Vienna Theatre Company, looks over a script.

would know the scene changed by a music introduction.”

ACTORS Mike Hoskinson of Reston, Eric Hughes, Nancy Lyons of Vienna, Jessie Roberts, Jon Roberts, Jocelyn Steiner of Vienna take on dozens of individual roles and characters in the two radio plays.

“Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom,” and “The Big Story: Manhunt in Manhattan,” were introduced to the radio public in the late 1940s.

“Manhunt in Manhattan” alone has 26 characters. That play, the second of the two, is a crime melodrama in which a hardboiled reporter for the Daily News sets out to solve a murder that stumped the police. “There are a lot of New York characters in this one,” said Epps. “And the actors have to take on different accents, different attitudes, as they change character.”

“The Adventures of the Thin Man” features big screen favorites, sleuths Nick and Nora Charles. The married couple takes the places of two newlyweds whom someone wants out of the way. Who – and why – would someone would want to kill the Goofy Groom? Nick and Nora, armed only with their wits and quips, take on the mystery.

“In Living Sound,” presented by the Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation, runs April 1, 2, 8, and 9 in the Flame Room of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna, corner of Center and Cherry streets.

Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org for more details about the show and to purchase tickets online for “In Living Sound”.

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Six Artists: What Matters Most. April 2-May 14. The Frame Factory Gallery, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. An exhibition and sale of artwork by local artists. Open Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. theframefactory1.com. 703-281-2350.

Spring Delights. Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 4-May 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. NW, Vienna. Exhibition of Vienna Arts Society members. viennaartssociety.org. 703-319-3971.

Scholarship. Deadline April 1. The Bull Run Civil War Round Table in Centreville is offering a \$1,500 scholarship to a high school senior who resides in Fairfax or Prince William counties and will attend college or community college in fall 2016. Information and application instructions can be found at <http://bullruncwrt.org>.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

“Wishes and Dreams” Exhibit. March 1-April 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. viennaartssociety.org. 703-319-3971.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1, 2, 8, 9

“In Living Sound.” 8 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. An evening of food, fun and theatre. Entertaining radio shows from the 1940s: “Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom” and “The Big Story: Manhunt in Manhattan.” \$25/\$30 includes dinner, drinks, dessert. www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1-3

Lea Colie Wight Workshop: Painting the Head in Color. 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts of Great Falls School, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Guides participants through exercises designed to extract specific information from the live model. \$400. greatfallsart.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 2

Build Your Own Bat House. 9 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Bats help eat mosquitoes, and pollinate plants, but they are having a hard time. Help these important animals thrive by building a bat house to hang in your yard. \$8. \$15 per bat house. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Wagon Ride to Poohsticks Bridge. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Meet at the Nature Center. Journey through the woods to Poohsticks bridge. Listen to Winnie the Pooh's story and play Poohsticks on the bridge. \$6/\$8. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Trunk Sale. 9 a.m.-noon. Colvin Run Elementary School Parking Lot, 1400 Trap Road, Vienna. Come and spend a fun morning shopping for treasures. Spring bargains can be found on gently used household and children's items. Free parking and admission.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

In the Garden of Beauty and Burden by Jennifer Duncan will featured at the Great Falls Library from April 1-30.

Rain date April 9th. Free. cresevents@gmail.com.

U.S. Navy Commodores. 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Kick off National Jazz Month with some of the best jazz musicians in the land. The Commodores have been bringing the very best of big band jazz for the Navy and the nation for over 40 years, and now McLean gets its chance. Free. mcleancenter.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 2-3

Spring Book Sale. Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Sunday, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bag sale on Sunday. Sponsored by Friend of Patrick Henry Library. 703-281-3831.

SUNDAY/APRIL 3

Salamanders Undercover. 10 a.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the secret lives of these important amphibians through hands-on discoveries. \$8/\$10. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/calendar.htm>.

Community Concert Series. 4 p.m. Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Pianist Raffi Kasparian, cellist David Cho and violinist Judith Cho will play. Free oaktonbrethren.org. 703-281-4411.

Author Allan Topol. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Book signing of “The Italian Divide: A Craig Page Thriller.” <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

TUESDAY/APRIL 5

Creativity and Aging. 7-9 p.m. Great Falls Community Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Discussion focusing on the exciting connection between creativity and aging by Caroline Edasis, Manager of Art Therapy for Mather LifeWays. Free. GreatFallsStudios.com.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 7-9

Spring Book Sale. Thursday, 1-8 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. cdowd2000@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/APRIL 8

Fairfax Volunteer Awards. 8 a.m. The Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Join Volunteer Fairfax, Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and other community leaders to celebrate the work of volunteers. Purchase tickets by April 4. \$50. For information and tickets go to www.volunteerfairfax.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 8-9

Used Book Sale. Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Falls Church Community Center, 223 Little Falls St., Falls Church. More than 40,000 books for browsing and buying. Huge selection. Most books priced at \$3 or less. Profits benefit scholarships and grants for women and girls. Buy a book, send a girl to college. Sponsored by the Falls Church AAUW. 703-941-5643.

SATURDAY/APRIL 9

Ellis Paul. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Folksinger, storyteller. \$20/\$22. jamminjava.com.

Opening Reception Six Artists: What Matters Most. 2-7 p.m. The Frame Factory Gallery, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. Reception for exhibiting artists. theframefactory1.com/. 703-281-2350.

SUNDAY/APRIL 10

Wolftrap Elementary 5K. 8-10 a.m. Wolftrap Elementary School, 1903 Beulah Road, Vienna.

Jazz Celebration Concert. 3:30-5:30 p.m. Vienna Presbyterian, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna. The Cathedral Brass of Vienna Presbyterian Church, will perform a free concert of jazz favorites with guest artists Robert Wyatt and Graham Breedlove. cathedralbrass.org. 703-851-4709.

TUESDAY/APRIL 12

NARFE Meeting. 1 p.m. American Legion Post, 330 North Center St., Vienna. Guest speakers Linda Colbert, Pasha Majidi, Ray Baldwin, Craig Burns, Doug Noble—candidates for Vienna Town Council. Free. 703-938-9757.

FRIDAY/APRIL 15

Steve Case. 5 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Internet entrepreneur Case will speak, take questions and sign copies of “The Third Wave.” <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SATURDAY/APRIL 16

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 plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free. Donations accepted. www.nvmr.org. 703-938-5157.

FAITH NOTES

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

The **Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna**, 543 Beulah Road, is offering the course “Your Faith, Your Life: An Invitation to the Episcopal Church.” Classes will be April 17; May 1, 15, 22; June 5 from 12:30-1:30 p.m. Light lunch and childcare provided. Visit <https://tsu.me/1tg> to sign up for a book and

Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, offers Passages DivorceCare. If you are experiencing the pain of separation and divorce, this program offers a path toward healing. Fourteen-week series held Tuesdays from 7 to 9 p.m. beginning Feb. 23. \$20. Scholarships available. For registration or information call 703-938-9050 or go to www.viennapres.org, or email Passages@ViennaPres.org.

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

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.

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.

Centering Prayer Group meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mmthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers the Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. The RE program offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. 703-281-4230.

Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sunday worship services are at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at noon. 703-356-3312.

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Marshall Baseball Starts 4-1

The Marshall baseball team returned from spring break with a 4-1 record.

After starting the season with wins over Wakefield, Manassas Park and Centreville, the Statesmen suffered their first loss — a 9-1 defeat against Mountain View on March 23. Marshall, however, bounced back the next day, beating Fauquier 9-7.

The Statesmen, who finished 5A state runner-up last season, faced Falls Church on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Marshall is scheduled to host Stuart at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, Edison at 6:30 p.m. on April 5, and defending state champion Stone Bridge at 6:30 p.m. on April 8.

Madison Baseball to Host Oakton

The defending state champion Madison baseball team will host Vienna foe Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

Madison went 3-2 during a spring break trip to Sarasota, Florida, suffering losses to Florida schools Canterbury (Fort Meyers) and Venice.

After opening the season with 10-0 wins over Hayfield (March 16) and Yorktown (March 17), the Warhawks started their spring break trip with a 7-1 win over Manatee (Bradenton, Florida) on March 21. The following day, Madison lost 4-2 to Canterbury.

On March 23, Madison defeated Huntsville (Alabama) 2-1 and Palmetto 7-1, before closing its tournament appearance with a 2-1 loss to Venice the following day.

The Warhawks, who returned from spring break with a 5-2 record, faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Madison will travel to face Washington-Lee

at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will host Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

Madison Softball Wins Six Straight

The Madison softball team started the season with a six-game win streak before losing to South County 2-0 on March 24 in the Warhawks' final game of the Grand Strand Tournament in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Warhawks opened the season with a 12-0 win over Hayfield on March 16 and a 12-1 victory over Yorktown on March 18. Madison then won its first four tournament games before falling to Fairfax County foe South County.

The Warhawks outscored opponents 76-8 during their first seven games.

Madison faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The Warhawks will travel to face Washington-Lee at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will host Oakton at 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 2.

McLean Baseball Splits 4 Spring Break Games

The McLean baseball team went 2-2 during a spring break tournament in Prince William County.

The Highlanders competed in the Let's Play 2 Tournament during spring break, with games against Fauquier, Edison, Stafford and Woodbridge. McLean split a doubleheader on March 19, losing to Fauquier 14-4 and beating Edison 8-6 at Potomac High School. The Highlanders defeated Stafford 6-5 on March 22 at Hylton



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Robert Guenther and the Marshall baseball team started the season with a 4-1 record.

High School, and lost to Woodbridge 6-4 on March 23 at Woodbridge High School, moving McLean's record to 3-3.

"We learned some things," McLean head coach John Dowling wrote in an email, "and I think in the long run will benefit from those games."

Dowling said senior pitcher/infielder Jon Clines and senior infielder/pitcher Conor Grammes have played well for McLean.

Through six games, Clines (VMI) was 2-0 with an ERA of 2.25 in two starts. He allowed 11 hits in 9 1/3 innings while walking five and striking out 13. At the plate, the senior was batting .318 with a team-leading seven RBIs in 22 at-bats.

Grammes (Xavier) led the team with a .400 batting average in 20 at-bats, with two doubles and five RBIs.

Senior Matt Collins, who will play at Harford Community College, hit .308 with a home run and five RBIs in 14 at-bats.

McLean's home opener against South Lakes on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline, started a stretch where the Highlanders are scheduled to play seven of nine games at home.

"Our schedule has been this way for a couple years now, where we have these long stretches of mostly away/home games," Dowling wrote. "Not sure it's made much of a difference for us, though. We know that on any given day we simply need to execute the things we can control — and when we do that the outcome takes care of itself."

McLean will host St. Albans at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 31 before hosting rival Langley at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

SPORTS ROUNDUPS

South Lakes Softball Starts 5-2

The South Lakes softball team opened the season with victories over Langley (4-2, March 15) and Fairfax (3-0, March 17) before winning three of five games during a spring break trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Seahawks faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. South Lakes will host Yorktown at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1, and will travel to take on Madison at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 5.

South Lakes Baseball to Host Herndon

The South Lakes and Herndon baseball teams are off to strong starts in 2016, which figures to add excitement to their upcoming matchup.

South Lakes will host rival Herndon at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 2. The Seahawks started the season 6-1,



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The sixth grade Reston Seahawks Boys won the Division 2 Fairfax County Youth Basketball league championship with a 61-40 victory over Gainesville on March 6. Reston defeated Vienna and Fort Belvoir to get to the finals. The Seahawks are led by Coach Herb Landsowne and Chris Kennedy.

according to allmetsports.com, winning six straight after a season-opening loss to Langley on March 16. The Hornets started 4-1, including a 3-2 victory over Peters Township on March 24.

South Lakes faced McLean on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline, and is scheduled to host Yorktown at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

Herndon Boys' Soccer Beats South Lakes

The Herndon boys' soccer team opened the 2016 season with a 2-1 win over South Lakes on March 16.

The Hornets faced Briar Woods on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Herndon will travel to face Madison at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 31.

The loss dropped South Lakes' record to 0-2, including a 3-1 loss to Briar Woods on March 14.

The Seahawks faced Fairfax on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. South Lakes will host Marshall at 7:15 p.m. on Monday, April 4.

NEWS

Vienna Idol Kicks Off Auditions 2016

Vienna Idol was born out of a local tragedy. It raises scholarship money on behalf of the Khristin Kylo Foundation, created by Khristin's parents to honor their daughter's legacy through scholarships and epilepsy research donations.

When Michael Amouri opened Caffe Amouri six years ago, he had in mind the coffee shop's vision: it was to be a part of the community and to give back to the community. A founding member of the Vienna Business Association, Amouri appreciates the business/community alliance that strengthens towns. Four years ago, Amouri set out to honor the memory of Kylo, a James Madison High School graduate who died her first semester in college. Amouri coached the young woman in basketball; he knew her family, and, he wanted to honor the memory of Khristin Kylo. Vienna Idol, launched four years ago, has raised more than \$50,000 for the memorial fund, supporting students and buying seizure watches for epilepsy sufferers.

Khristin's parents founded the foundation to provide financial scholarships to Madison students who best epitomize their daughter's spirit and heart.

Vocalists and musicians are invited to audition for Vienna Idol 2016. Three to five musicians perform two numbers at each qualifier and are judged by a panel of judges who, themselves, are active in the



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Hundreds of people, from families to teens, take over the Vienna Town Green for the Vienna Idol finals. Out of dozens of competitors, six are chosen to compete for the title of Vienna Idol and the competition's \$1,000 grand prize. Voters are asked to donate \$1 per vote for finalist, and the dollar-votes are tallied.

community. There is, typically, a professional vocalist or musician on the judging panel. The auditions begin end of March, alternating between Caffe Amouri and Whole Foods Vienna. Typically, two qualifying auditions per week are held, and, the public is invited to come and support the budding "idols."

Finalists of the Vienna Idol competition, which culminates in early June, are awarded prize money and the title of Vienna Idol. Whole Foods Vienna is the competition's primary sponsor and supporter.

Sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0c4dafae29a1ff2-Vienna>

—DONNA MANZ

WEEK IN VIENNA

Benefit Lunch for Stroke Comeback Center

The "Old Bags Lunch" Benefit for the Stroke Comeback Center will be held on March 31, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Westwood Country Club in Vienna. The silent auction will be open from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Gently used and new designer handbags (Dior, Fendi, Celine, Gucci, Furla, Kate Spade, etc.) will be auctioned off. Seated lunch at 12:30 p.m. and live auction begins at 1 p.m. Mayor Laurie DiRocco will be the celebrity auctioneer and will auction a new L.A.M.B bag donated and signed by Gwen Stefani, and very gently used bags donated and signed by Christina Aguilera and Susan Lucci, along with a surprise luxury trip for two.

Tickets can be purchased at strokecomebackcenter.org.

Drug Take Back Initiative in Vienna

In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On April 30 between the 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused or unwanted medications.

Prescription medications, controlled or noncontrolled substances and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside The Vienna Police Department located at 215 Center St., South, Vienna.

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4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes
 4/20/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
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 4/27/2016.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I
 4/27/2016.....Spring Outlook 2016

MAY

5/4/2016.....McLean Day Pullout
 5/4/2016.....Mother's Day Dining & Gifts II
 5/4/2016.....Wellbeing
 Mother's Day is May 8
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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Made in Thailand, LLC trading as Thai's Corner, 8607 Westwood Center Dr, Vienna, VA 22182. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises, Mixed beverages Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Pilasene Worachaiaprapa, vice President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Pancho Villa XIII Inc., trading as Pancho Villa Mexican Cuisine, 1850 Fort Meyer Dr., Arlington, VA 22209. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premises & Mixed Beverage License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Eladio Pacheco, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Stephen Katrivanos trading as Metropole Distribution Company, 2709 S. Oakland St. Arlington, VA 22206. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wholesale Beer License to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stephen Katrivanos, owner. **NOTE:** Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

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No Real "APptitude"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or interest, either. However, unless I get in the game somehow, I fear I'll likely be tossed and/or discarded into the dustbin; along with the pay phone, pay toilet, land line, and of particular relevance to me: the flip phone, a.k.a "the stupid phone," as my wife, Dina, is fond of calling it (not a reflection or characterization of the user, though). But of course, that's the problem. I don't have a "smart" phone any more than I am a smart user. So apps are not exactly in my current vocabulary, although they used to be in my pre-Connection vocabulary when I sold insurance. The paper on which answers to questions were written for an insurance company/home office to consider was called an application, commonly referred to as an "app." Perhaps you can appreciate my confusion at not being able to integrate such new technology. After all, I am an old dog; presumably you know it's very difficult to teach an old dog new tricks – regardless of whether you change their food. Nevertheless, I suppose that if I want to be part of the future (not a cancer reference or cancer-column-to-be, by the way), I can't hold onto the present so tightly and I definitely need to let go of the past. When I watch "smart"-phone users – including my wife, scroll their "smart"-phone screens and then stop on an "app," it all seems easy and sensible. I don't imagine however, that in my hands, with my brain, with my lack of intuition and instincts for such technological two-steps (or one step) the scrolling would get me anywhere. But it does appear as if it would get me there quickly.

I have to admit, I am a bit envious of the scrolling and access to the internet/information "smart" phones seem to offer. Who, what, where, when and why intrigue me. It's the how that intimidates, though. Sure, I'd love to be one touch or a few scrolls away from the answers to any and all questions, but it's the learning curve for the device which scares me. In taking on this task, I feel as if I'll become a modern day Sisyphus – of Greek mythology. But instead of pushing a boulder up a mountain only to have it roll back down before ever reaching the top, I'll be pushing keys and constantly scrolling only to end up back at my cell phone's home screen setting. And since this is not a game – and not "Monopoly," landing on my home screen rather than passing it won't double my pleasure, and neither will I find myself on my intended target/"app." After repeated failures, no doubt I'll begin boiling over my level of incompetence. A "smart" phone needs to be in competent hands; mine are anything but.

If only I could receive 'round-the-clock training (actually, 8 am to about 9 pm); I'd like to think that with that kind of coaching, I would begin to assimilate the device into my head (sort of a reverse Borg effect). I mean, I'm not a complete moron. (Why, are there incomplete morons?) Presumably, after repeated and vigorous instruction, correction, re-instruction and re-correction, I'd likely become the master of this domain. It's not a contest, after all, and I'm probably not going to be graded on a curve, so if there was someone with sufficient patience (maybe patients, too) and perseverance, perhaps there would be a future for me living in the hand-help information age. I just have to repeat five simple words: "The phone is my friend. The phone is my friend. The phone is my friend." APPsolutely!

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

History Revisited at Thoreau Middle

At school's Speakeasy Day students showcase projects of their choice and immerse themselves in Roaring Twenties culture.

BY JUDY CHO
THE CONNECTION

Standing in the corner of the school's library, Nathaniel Kurtis, a seventh-grade student at Thoreau Middle School, stood behind his poster and lego model of a truck and plane that he would soon present to his teachers and peers. "Before I chose this project, I didn't know a lot about assembly lines or transportation in the 1920s, but now I know about how it was revolutionary and very efficient," Kurtis said. "It made cars easier to buy and cheaper to make and sell, which led to more businesses like gas stations, restaurants, and airplanes."

Three years ago, inspired by a colleague at a different school, seventh-grade history teachers at Thoreau Middle School arranged Speakeasy Day, an annual event in which students showcase projects of their choice and immerse themselves in Roaring Twenties culture. This year, the Speakeasy Day event was held on Tuesday, March 8.

Before her students would arrive with their projects, Jill Rausch, a seventh-grade history teacher, set up food and finished last minute decorations. "We are doing the 1920s, because it's a fun time period for students to learn about," Rausch said. "The next unit is the Great Depression; so we're not going to have a party with that. Projects for seventh grades can be daunting. But this set up with the gallery walk takes away the anxiety."

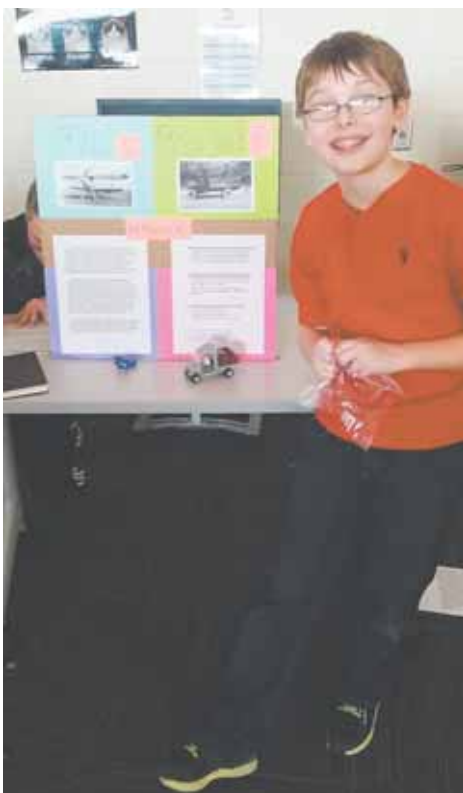
As students hustled into the library to set up their projects and prepare, one student placed a diorama of a movie theater on the desk. Abby Williams, a seventh-grade student, chose to create a theater because she was fascinated by the concept of entertainment for the masses. "Because assembly lines were starting, it gave people more free time so they could go to watch movies and do fun activities," Williams said. When asked how she expects the dynamics of cinema to change in the future, she said, "I think movie theaters are still really popular even though there's Netflix. It's just a fun place to go to."

While students have the freedom to choose a particular aspect of the time period as well as showcase their knowledge in their preferred method, teachers are faced with a different challenge—grading or placing a label on creativity. "At the start of the project, we talked a bit about expectations and what I was looking for," seventh-grade history teacher James Cain said. "We were asking students questions, 'Tell me about your project instead of telling me what you wrote.'"



Seventh-grade history students a Thoreau Middle School gather in the library to celebrate the Roaring 20s.

PHOTOS BY JUDY CHO/THE CONNECTION



Nathaniel Kurtis, seventh-grade student, shares his model of the truck and plane to demonstrate his knowledge of assembly lines.



Abby Williams, seventh-grade student, shares her diorama of a movie theater.

When asked whether or not it was a coincidence that many students, regardless of their topics, weaved the assembly line into their presentations, Cain responded "It was more of a coincidence; students could do something with art, literature, music, or transportation, but a lot of kids liked the hands-on aspect of building something which led to the assembly line."

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum at Fairfax County Public Schools spans almost 150 years - US history from 1865 to the present. Yet, this particular time of shifting cultural and economic dynamics has lended itself to fascination among pop culture junkies [think Baz Luhrmann's 2013 film "Great Gatsby"] and scholars alike. "This is one of the times we can just talk about culture," Cain said. "We're not talking about politics, or international relations. This is a chance [for students] to learn about how people lived, what people did, and examine the culture, especially because in the 1920s, we see electricity, cars, planes, radio, and I think kids can identify with this culture more than with others."

While history stories are often prone to rote learning, teachers at Thoreau Middle School have taken a different approach to learning. "A lot of times we give primary sources and have students interpret those sources, or try to put students in the situation of people back then and think as they would," Cain said. "We focus a lot on looking at things from multiple perspectives."

Daniel Iverson, among the last students to share their projects, brought in a drawing of a skyscraper. "I thought the skyscraper was a really good design of art, because [although] it's more common now, back then, it was a modern wonder," Iverson said. "Electrification created all the technology we have today — pipe cleans, lights, elevators, light bulbs, cars, all sorts of things were important because of electrification."

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Kilmer Middle School Librarian is Region's Librarian of the Year

Gretchen Hazlin, head librarian at Kilmer Middle, has been named the 2016 Potomac Region Librarian of the Year by the Virginia Association of School Librarians (VAASL). Hazlin was selected by a committee of school librarians from across the Potomac Region as the nominee who best showcased innovative and collaborative instruction in her school's library. Hazlin is now in contention to be the VAASL School Librarian of the Year, competing against candidates from across Virginia, to be announced in October at the VAASL state conference.



Kilmer Middle School's Gretchen Hazlin, with assistant principal Lenny Compton, named 2016 Potomac Region Librarian of the Year.

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