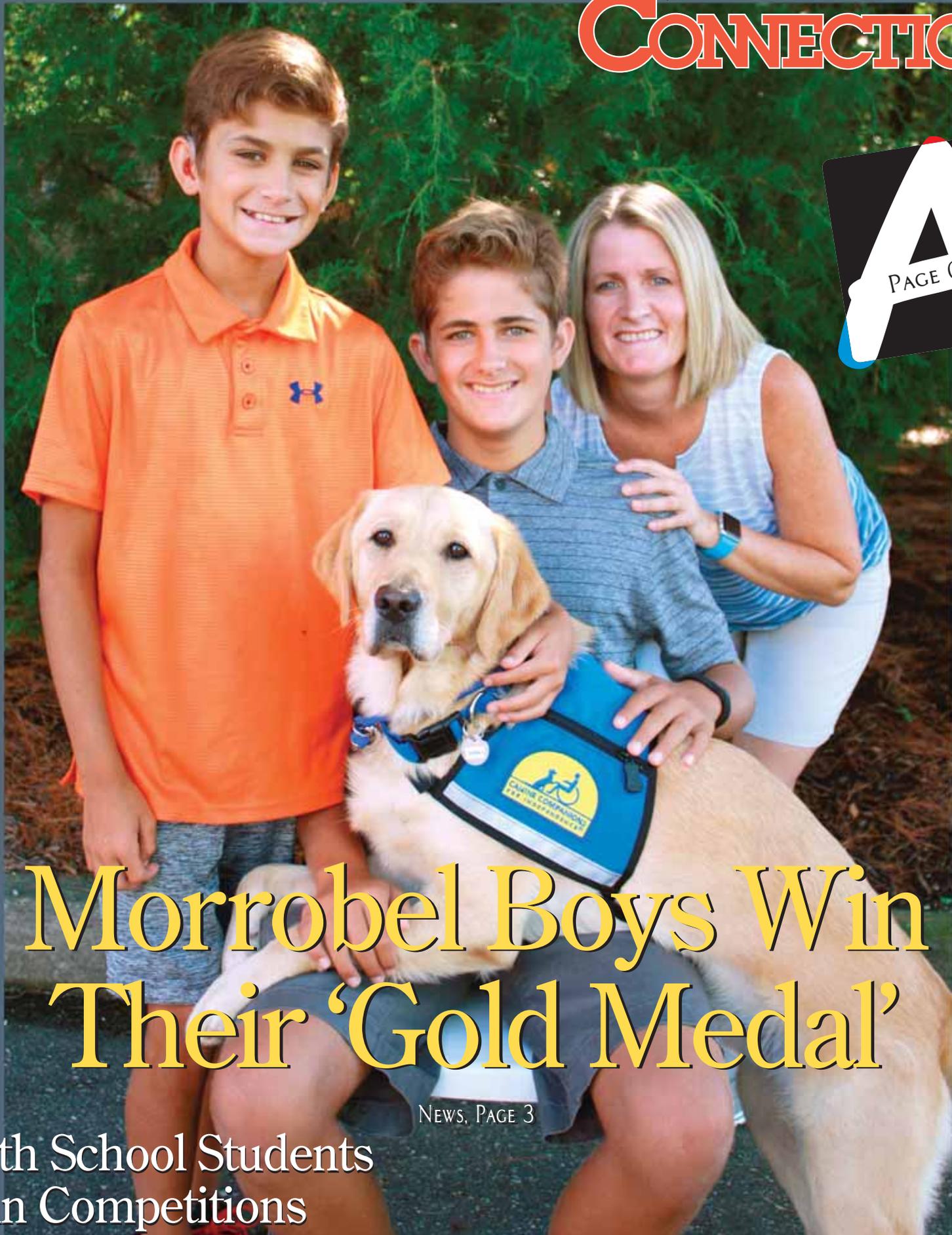
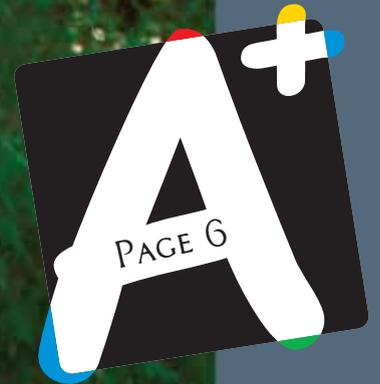


Erickson, raised in Vienna, finds a forever home and loving family with the Morrobels of New Jersey.

2016 VIRGINIA PRESS ASSOCIATION Award Winning Newspaper

# Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION



## Morrobel Boys Win Their 'Gold Medal'

NEWS, PAGE 3

## Nysmith School Students Excel in Competitions

NEWS, PAGE 12

## The Madison Ice Hockey Wins Division Championship

SPORTS, PAGE 12

OPINION, PAGE 4 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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# NEWS

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## Three Thieves Escape after Theft in Tysons

The Fairfax County Police Department are searching for suspects who evaded capture on Thursday, Feb. 9, after a dangerous pursuit by car and foot.

During the chase, the suspects sideswiped another car. The driver of that car was not injured.

All of the merchandise was recovered, including the car the suspects used, which was determined to be stolen from another state. It

will be processed for evidence and returned to the jurisdiction from where it was reported stolen.

The pursuit began shortly after 9 p.m.

The Bloomingdales at Tysons Corner Center alerted police to a robbery. As police officers drove up to the store entrance, they saw three men running to a parked 2016 Mazda 6 with what appeared to be merchandise.

The car took off and would not stop for police officers. The car chase ended in Tysons near Besley Road and Bois Avenue when the car crashed. All three suspects then ran from the car on foot.

The Police Helicopter Division and Canine Unit responded to help search for the suspects, but they escaped.

The suspects were described as black and in their early 20s. One

was wearing a hooded sweatshirt, blue jeans and red and black shoes. Another was wearing a gray sweatshirt and blue jeans and had short hair. The third suspect had a goatee and was wearing a dark-colored sweatshirt.

The FCPD asks anyone with information about this incident to call 1-866-411-8477.

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## Morrobel Boys Win Their ‘Gold Medal’

The dog raised by Vienna puppy-raiser Barbara Weigand finds his forever home in New Jersey.

BY ASHLEY CLAIRE SIMPSON  
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to puppy-raising volunteers like Vienna’s Barbara Weigand, Canine Companions for Independence, a non-profit organization that provides assistance dogs to people with disabilities, continues to flourish and enhance the lives of all humans and animals involved with their mission. For more than 40 years, Canine Companions has been improving quality of life for people with a wide range of disabilities — one set of paws at a time.

As a puppy-raising volunteer, Weigand receives 8-week old puppies from Canine Companions as part of her 18-month commitment to care for and prepare them for the advanced training that catapults them into the hands of people with disabilities longing for a dog to make life a little easier.

Weigand, a longtime resident of Vienna, is currently in the midst of raising her second Canine Companions puppy, Konrad II. The first dog she raised for the program was Erickson III, a Golden Retriever-Labrador cross, who, last August, found his forever home with brothers Ethan and Gavin Morrobel, of Scotch Plains, N. J.

“Erickson went to a family with two pre-teen to teenage boys, and he is the boys’ Skilled Companion,” Weigand said. “He does not have to go to school with them, but accompanies the boys when they go to medical appointments and on family outings. He serves as a well-trained companion for boys who would otherwise not be able to experience having a dog.”

When the Morrobel family eagerly welcomed Erickson in their home last August, Ethan and Gavin were 14- and 11-years old, respectively. Now, six months later, their mother, Pamela Morrobel, said that Erickson has already made a profound impact on the family.

“Both boys have Usher Syndrome,” Morrobel explained, “so they were born profoundly deaf and now have cochlear implants. They are also visually impaired and have difficulties with balance. Our family has never had a dog before, so we are certainly still adjusting, but my children are just so happy. It’s helped them adjust in moving to a new country, a new school and new friends. Ethan and Gavin love him so much. They both work so hard to do the same things their peers are doing. Erickson just gives them unconditional love that affects their emotional wellbeing in such a



The day Barbara Weigand returned Erickson III to the CCI Northeast Regional Training Center, in Medford, Long Island, Feb. 12, 2016, to begin advanced training.

positive way.”

Upon learning that Erickson was going to a family with children, Weigand immediately knew it would be a great match.

“Knowing that Erickson was matched to a family with children, and then meeting the wonderful Morrobel family, was a dream come true,” Weigand said. “I had hoped this would happen for Erickson because he showed me a gentleness with children that was his special strength. When I met the Morrobel family, I immediately found the whole process even more meaningful. I felt an immediate connection to them and knew this was the best possible match for Erickson.”

PAMELA MORROBEL said her family could not be more grateful for Weigand and the “fantastic job” she did in raising such a special dog. Weigand and the Morrobels were able to meet in person at the graduation ceremony CCI held for Erickson and the rest of his graduating class of dogs that successfully matriculated from Advanced Training to become Skilled Companions.

“We met Barbara briefly at the CCI Headquarters during the graduation ceremony that took place on the day we accepted Erickson,” Morrobel said. “It was so lovely and so touching because she was so excited that the dog was coming to a home with children, where he would be loved. She made us an album so we saw him as a puppy. Our family plans to meet up with her next time we visit Washington, D.C.”

Meanwhile, Weigand and the Morrobels keep in contact through a Facebook page that Ethan set up while in training at Ca-



Erickson and family.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

nine Companions Headquarters last August.

Weigand appreciates being able to see what her first, of likely many, trainees is up to with the Morrobels. Parting ways after her year-and-a-half tutelage with Erickson wasn’t easy, but, she said she went into the program knowing that the beloved dog’s ultimate destination was the only place for him to live out his potential for the greater good.

“I always kept in my mind that I was raising Erickson for a purpose and that he was not to be my pet, but rather he was meant to be successful in service to others, in whatever manner best suited him,” Weigand said.

Over the course Weigand’s 18 months with Erickson, she taught him the basic commands and socialization skills that were critical for him to succeed in his Advanced Training with professional instructors back at the New York headquarters, where he learned more than 40 advanced commands. During Erickson’s formative months, Weigand logged many hours at home working with him one-on-one, and was also responsible for taking him to structured classes every month.

“Training is incorporated into regular daily activities, with special CCI classes twice a month and other classes, workshops, and puppy play-days every month,” Weigand said. “It is a 24/7 commitment, however, the entire CCI community — from the organization’s staff to the other volunteers — is supportive if you have any questions, concerns, or even if you need to leave town for a short trip. There is always someone who will step up and take care of your puppy during these times of need.”

It seems that everybody involved with Canine Companions, including the canine companions themselves, walk away from the process with fond memories and convictions that the organization has changed their lives for the better.

“Our experience with CCI was wonderful,” Morrobel said. “They don’t usually assign one dog to two children, but, they conducted phone interviews and then we went to their facility in Long Island for a personal interview. Then, our whole family went back to the CCI Northeast Regional Headquarters last August for training, and the boys and I still talk about it. It was perhaps the best two weeks of our lives. We enjoyed the other owners-in-training, all the instructors, and all the dogs. You wouldn’t think it would be a great experience to pack up a family for two weeks to stay at a training facility, but we all loved it.”

Erickson has been a dream come true for Ethan and Gavin, who had wished for a dog long before their mom learned about CCI. Pamela Morrobel said her hesitation came from doubts about a dog’s overall benefit to two young men who, although undoubtedly resilient, do have physical challenges that are no small feat to overcome, even without the added responsibilities and potential complexities of a pet.

“The boys really wanted a dog, but, I was worried about their safety,” Morrobel recalled. “So, I did my research. They weren’t qualified for seeing-eye dogs, and, with my concerns regarding a traditional pet dog, CCI seemed like a great option. I was try

SEE ERICKSON, PAGE 12

## Ending Gerrymandering Important to Region

Efforts appear dead for this session, but elections later this year provide new opportunities.

While three bills that could have reined in the runaway gerrymandering in Virginia made it through the Virginia Senate to crossover, they died on Tuesday morning in a House subcommittee, despite some vocal Republican support.

In Virginia, Democrats have won every statewide election since 2010, and notably Barack Obama won the state in 2008 by more than 52 percent of the vote. Many of these victories have been narrow. In 2009, Republicans won Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General by strong margins.

It is reasonable, given these results, to expect that representation at the state level would be approximately even, with either Republicans or Democrats holding a small advantage. Instead, Republicans control the House of Delegates 66 to 34, and the Virginia Senate 21 to 19.

There is little competition for these seats as a result.

According to OneVirginia2021, an advocacy group for ending gerrymandering, 56 candi-

dates in the House of Delegates faced no real competition in the last general election in 2013, with 22 Democrats and 34 Republicans facing no major-party challenger. In the end, only two seats changed parties.

These same lawmakers are set to redraw the the boundaries for state legislative and congressional districts after the 2020 census, and the just-killed proposed constitutional amendments would have required that these not be motivated by partisan politics. By far the best approach would be to turn the process over to a non-partisan commission to draw boundaries in the best interests of Virginia citizens.

One of the proposals, cosponsored by Sen. Jill Vogel (R) and Sen. Janet Howell (D), passed the Senate 31-9, but died in the House subcommittee on a 5-2 vote.

It matters more here in Northern Virginia. Virginia is a Dillon Rule state, which means that localities have only the power specifically given to them by the General Assembly. It means that the economic engines of the state in Northern Virginia provide most of the financial wherewithal but citizens in Alexandria,

Arlington and Fairfax County are often unable to govern themselves as they wish because of control by a far more conservative General Assembly.

Real change starts locally. Anyone seeking change should tune in for this year's elections in Virginia, including all the seats in the General Assembly, plus Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Every voter will choose one Virginia Senator and one member of the Virginia House of Delegates.

Nonpartisan redistricting could support the best interests of the population, not the politicians.

**In 2016**  
Hillary Clinton (D) 1,981,473 (49.75%);  
Donald Trump (R) 1,769,443 (44.43%)

**In 2013:**  
McAuliffe (D) 1,069,789;  
Cuccinelli (R) 1,013,389  
Northam (D) 1,213,155;  
Jackson (R) 980,257  
Herring (D) 1,103,777;  
Obenshain (R) 1,103,612

**In 2012:**  
Obama (D) 1,971,820;  
Romney (R) 1,822,522  
Kaine (D) 2,010,067; Allen (R) 1,785,542

— MARY KIMM

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EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### An Open Letter to Sen Mitch McConnell

Dear Senator McConnell,

While we may disagree on many issues, I respect the office you hold. I was taught that the office of Senator was one to be executed with respect and dignity. Because of this, I am appalled at your conduct toward Senator Warren on the Floor during the Sessions debate. The office you hold is bigger than your party. There are young children (my children, to be specific) looking to you as an example of someone to be held in the highest esteem. Rather, I had to explain to them why you would dismiss a reading of the words of Coretta Scott King; a national hero, whose

story they are learning about in school. I explained to my children that Mrs. King was the true definition of a patriot. She and Dr. King changed the world with both their unapologetic love and their refusal to cower to the oppressors trying to silence them.

Now I will say thank you. Because of your shameful behavior, I've had the opportunity to teach my children the difference between standing up for what's right and trying to silence the truth for personal gain. Because you're a father yourself, I'm sure you know that tangible examples are always more effective than fables, so I

predict this one will linger in their memory banks. Subsequent to watching the Senate confirmations unfold, my 7-year-old daughter has announced that she wants to be President when she grows up. Who knows, maybe seeing you bully Senator Warren on the Floor was what pushed her to this resolution! She is being raised to value truth, honor and respect for her fellow citizens above greed and bigotry and, in part thanks to you, she will be an extraordinary civil servant.

Andrea Petersen  
Vienna

#### Voting Rights Under Attack

To the Editor:

Unsatisfied with the existing identification requirements to vote in Virginia, on Feb. 1 Republicans in Virginia's House of Delegates voted to make it even harder to vote in state elections. If this were to pass, in order to register to vote in Virginia's state elections, Virginians would need to prove citizenship by providing a birth certificate, a passport, or naturalization documents. This is part of the continued Trump-led Republican effort to attack the

very soul of our democracy by raising concerns about non-existent voter fraud and then pretending to fight it.

These restrictions will not stop voter fraud because that fraud does not exist. What the restrictions will do is send Virginians rooting through boxes of decades-old files containing birth certificates and passports. Passports are expensive, and birth certificates are hard to obtain, especially if you were born somewhere outside the U.S. These restrictions will keep

ordinary, every day Virginians from voting to choose their representatives.

Republicans are doing their best to keep Virginians from the polls, but they cannot keep us from the phones. Unless you are currently holding your birth certificate or passport in your hands, I recommend picking up your phone and calling your state senator before they try to take that away too.

Kenneth Bledsoe  
Reston



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Meredith Luhrs

#### First snow

When I awoke  
My room was bright  
The ceiling was awash in light...  
It snowed last night!

Now others wake  
Where I would be...  
In rooms of luminosity  
Beside the sea.

— MEREDITH LUHRS  
VIENNA, JANUARY 2017

#### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Email  
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com



## FOOD

# Red Galanga Served 'Modern Asian' Cuisine

Vienna restaurant owners get three cheers.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

A restaurant bombshell has struck the decorous town of Vienna, and its name is Red Galanga. For Asian foodies, the word "galanga" (or "galangal") has instant recognition: a root cousin of ginger, used often in Southeast Asian recipes. Its pronounced yet slightly gingery flavor adds great cheer to a host of dishes, and may be grated, sliced, diced, ground, or even left whole and fried. So, one might wonder, how does something like this turn up as a restaurant name? Note: the owners also call it "modern Asian."

The clever owners have assembled a setting to showcase the brilliant creations of its chefs, who have captured a diverse array of aromas and tastes in the menu that showcases both Japanese, Thai, (and at least one Singaporean dish) cuisines — but with a slightly modern twist. For example, Thai red duck curry is generally cubed duck meat in a coconut milk-rich curry. Here: it's called "duck confit."

The main problem is that so many dishes beckon, how to choose, you may wonder. As starters, you can't go wrong with the Tom Yum crispy calamari, a pile of deep-fried calamari slices sweetened and heated with dabs of a Thai sweet-sticky sauce. The Asian tacos include spiced tuna, spiced salmon, or spiced chicken, wrapped up in crispy (al-

## Where & When

Red Galanga, 144 Church St., NW, Vienna.  
Phone: 703-865-4996. Hours: lunch and dinner daily. [www.RedGalangaVienna.com](http://www.RedGalangaVienna.com).

most too crunchy) fried corn tortillas. Though crunchy, these tacos are an interesting kickoff to an Asian meal. And then, if you are really experimental, you can begin lunch or dinner with an order of fried frog legs that have been marinated in spices — a bit unusual for an Asian restaurant.

Choosing entrées can take you from a Japanese bento box filled with sushi and sashimi or with shrimp and vegetable tempura paired with salmon teriyaki, plus other options. But if your tastes take you to spicier eats, to Thailand, you cannot miss the Massaman beef curry, a Southern Thai specialty wrought here to perfection. You would agree if you have traveled to that part of Thailand, and chances are, that will become your go-to main course at this restaurant.

On the other hand, a lunch entrée can be simpler and smaller, especially if your job calls for afternoon hours. In that case, one of the all-rice or all-noodle dishes are great choices: *nasi goreng* (Malaysian rice dish), shrimp pad Thai, and the very popular Drunken Noodles all rate thumbs up. But for tamer flavors, scan the Japanese parts of the menu with choices of sushi, sashimi, and Japanese noodles dishes.

Besides the seductive flavors, the colorful décor, and the roomy dining areas, Red Galanga excels with its courteous, prompt service, an element that may be lacking at other restaurants. So to the owners of this interesting and daring enterprise: three cheers!

## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Heritage Financial Consultants Opens Vienna Office

Heritage Financial Consultants, a Mid-Atlantic wealth management firm providing comprehensive financial services, today announced that Art McGonigal and Matt Sirpis have joined the firm to lead Heritage Financial Consultant's new office in Vienna.

The Vienna office, located at 8219 Leesburg Pike, Suite 200, will be Heritage Financial Consultant's fifth office. This past year, the firm expanded its footprint along the East Coast through a new office in Annapolis, Md.

To learn more about Heritage Financial Consultants and its financial planners, visit [heritageconsultants.com/about-us/](http://heritageconsultants.com/about-us/).

2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna.  
For more information and seminar registration go to [RetireeRealEstate.org](http://RetireeRealEstate.org), or call 703-772-3033.

## TUESDAY, FEB. 21

**Public Art Commission Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Advises and assists

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 11

## BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

## FEBRUARY

### Free public service seminars

- ◆ Downsizing: Feb. 14, Marshall H.S. 7731 Leesburg Pk., Falls Church.
- ◆ Retirement Communities Feb. 22, Madison H.S.,



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# Celebrating Black History Month

**Educators say these lessons are urgently needed in current racial climate.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**E**ven though Elavie Ndura knows that it is a daunting challenge to help children grasp the entirety of the African American experience in the shortest month of the year, each February she and other educators give it their best effort. This year, they feel it's more important than ever.

"With all of the racial experiences we're having these days, it's critical that children know their history and are not basing their knowledge on only what they see on television or what they hear from their friends," said Elavie Ndura, Ed.D., professor of education at George Mason University in Fairfax. "Research shows that children who understand their histories do better in school and in society, so it's critical that families teach their children about their history,"

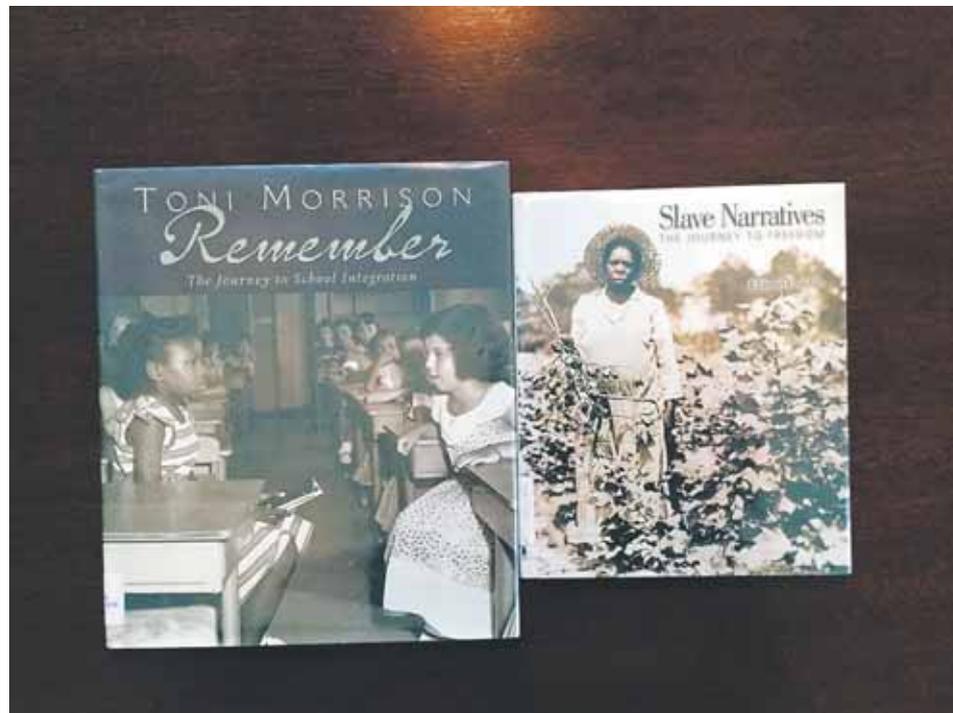


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**Books that explore African American experiences are on display at libraries and bookstores during Black History Month.**

Ndura believes that the current racial climate in the U.S. gives this year's Black History Month additional significance. A study released last month by the Pew Research

Center shows that among Americans, 61 percent of blacks, 58 percent of Hispanics and 45 percent of whites say that race relations in the United States are generally bad.

Local educators say Black History Month offers opportunities to address issues of race by allowing the past to inform the present.

"We have seen for more than a year how people from different political viewpoints, but also races, sexes, cultures, religions, sexual orientations, and socioeconomic statuses related to each other in the present political climate, and it was troublesome," said Mika'il A. Petin, Ph.D., associate director of African and African American Studies at George Mason University. "Teaching the history of Black or African-heritage peoples in this month ... is necessary to starting difficult conversations about ... current race relations ... and social inequalities."

Race relations in our society have been deeply strained during the election and as America adjusts to a new presidential administration. These divisions make African American history lessons critical for all children, but particularly for black children, says Ndura. "As African American parents we have a serious duty to educate our own youth," she said. "Knowing your history grounds and anchors you firmly so that you are not wavered in the wrong direction because of whatever feelings might be caused by what you're seeing on the news."

Black history lessons work best when they're intentional and creative, advises



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**“Teaching the history of Black or African-heritage peoples this month ... is necessary to starting difficult conversations about ... current race relations ... and social inequalities.”**

— Mika'il A. Petin, Ph.D., George Mason University

Jessica Lewis, Ed.D., assistant professor of education and human services at Marymount University in Arlington. “Children benefit when they are exposed to a variety of perspectives, ideas and stories because it helps expand their view of the world and people living in it,” she said. “The ability to understand and identify with others and their experiences is a powerful, life-long lesson.”

Lewis advises making a trip to a local bookstore or library to find books that offer a glimpse of African American history and suggests that parents begin with books on subjects that interest their children. “[Parents] may start with readings on sports, or science, or biographies of the accomplishments and hardships of individuals who persisted throughout history to make a difference,” she said. “Parents can ... select books by black authors and illustrators and then take the time to read the story together, discuss the pictures, and ask questions about what the characters are feeling and experiencing.”

Other ideas include exploring music with roots in African American history such as ragtime, jazz, gospel and blues, making a timeline of major events that occurred during the Civil Rights Movement, and reading speeches from civil rights leaders and then helping children write their own speech about what they are inspired to change in the world. Such activities can open a natural discussion and need not be complicated to be effective, says Lewis.

“Parents are their children’s first educators,” said Lewis. “It is important for parents to help their children understand the experiences of other children who are not like them because it builds empathy and a deeper sense of community.”

One roadblock to such honest conversations, cautions Petin, is a discomfort with discussions of racial differences. “Let’s be frank, some white Americans who are politically and socially conservative become noticeably uncomfortable with the topic of

race, and therefore find difficulty with Black History Month,” he said. “Yet, Black History Month — similar to the Black Lives Matter movement — does not express superiority over others. Both the month of celebration and socio-political movement are forms of resistance to deliberate attempts to conceal the worthiness of Black or African-heritage people in this country.”

Some people “may attack Black History Month and Black Lives Matter as political correctness and identity politics, but I would argue that they are not seeing the humanity in both efforts,” continued Petin. He emphasized the importance of taking a purposeful approach to teaching children about black history. “I think that all parents must intentionally search for, study, and celebrate those who are on the margins, living in the shadows, perceived as voiceless, and regarded as invisible. Too often, black Americans were those marginal, shadowed, voiceless, and invisible people. All parents should be honest about that, and should have confidence in the U.S. only being great when they and their children educate themselves on this country’s history in more inclusive terms.”

Schools often play a significant role in the month’s activities. Students at the Bullis School in Potomac, Md., for example, attend a Black History Month assembly each February. This year’s event was led by several students who shared their thoughts, essays and other projects on a variety of topics. “Diverse literature is always a great idea,” added Allison Ewing, chair of the social studies department at Bullis.

“Twenty-eight days of teachable moments” is one way that Petin characterizes Black History Month. “It is never too early to start preparing your kids for a world that is increasingly more connected and shrinking,” he said. “When all parents teach their children how to develop skill sets to understand, value, empathize, and celebrate those who may be different than them, the children are better prepared to function in the world.”



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—Chief Seattle  
(1788-1866)  
Suquamish/  
Duwamish chief

# CALENDAR

Send announcements to connection newspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia**, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit [www.goldengirls.org](http://www.goldengirls.org).

**McLean Community Players "Company."** Fridays-Sundays/ Feb. 3-19 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101. A 1970 musical comedy based on a book by George Furth with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim. The original production was nominated for a record-setting fourteen Tony Awards and won seven. \$25/\$23 MCC tax district residents. Visit <http://www.mcleanplayers.org/>.

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon - 4 p.m. 131 Church Street NE Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. [Historicviennainc.org](http://Historicviennainc.org)

**Weekly Storytime.** Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

**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 flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. [www.edimprovement.org](http://www.edimprovement.org). 571-213-3192.

**Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.** Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. [FreeTaiChi.org](http://FreeTaiChi.org). 703-759-9141.

**Fishing Rod Rentals** 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2hr max). Valid driver's license required. Our rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for persons 16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/)

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Rd, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Winter Hours: January & February, 11am-4pm, last tour 3pm. Admission to park is FREE except for

some special events.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 16

**Live Music.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East Vienna. Fred Eaglesmith will be performing. Visit [jamminjava.com](http://jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 17

**Mayor's Walk.** 9:30 a.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Meet Mayor Laurie DiRocco in front of Town Hall for a stroll through Town as well as conversation and camaraderie. Free. Call 703-255-6304 for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**1964 Beatles Tribute Band.** 8 p.m. at the Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road. Recreates the Fab Four's early '60s concerts, complete with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter. \$38-42. Visit [www.wolftrap.org/](http://www.wolftrap.org/) for more.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 18

**Cars & Coffee.** 6-9 a.m. at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Antique, classic, and new cars are on display, share stories over morning coffee with car owners, neighbors, and friends. Visit [katiecarsandcoffee.com/](http://katiecarsandcoffee.com/) for more.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 19

**Concert: The Daraja Ensemble** 4 - 6 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. This fellowship woodwind quintet from the University of Maryland takes its name from the Swahili word for

# Call for Candidates

## McLean Community Center 2017 Governing Board Election

**Qualification:**  
Must be a resident of Small Tax District 1A-Dranesville.

**Petition to Become A Candidate:**

- Candidate must pick up own petition packet at the Center, and return own petition.
- Adult candidate must have ten (10) signatures of adult tax district residents on petition.
- Teen candidate must be 15-17 years old as of McLean Day (May 20) and have ten (10) signatures of teens also 15-17 years old who live in the tax district and in the candidate's high school boundary area.

**Positions:**

- Three (3) Adult Seats - Three-year terms.
- Two (2) Youth Seats - One-year terms. One (1) each for the Langley and McLean High School boundary areas.

**Key Petition Dates:**

- **January 23:** Petition Packets are available at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, VA.
- **March 17:** Completed Petitions are due at the Center by 5 p.m.

For more information visit the Center at:  
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101  
call: 703-790-0123, TTY: 411  
email: [elections@mcleancenter.org](mailto:elections@mcleancenter.org)  
or visit: [www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates](http://www.mcleancenter.org/about/candidates)

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Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

# CALENDAR



## Live Music

**On Saturday, Feb. 25, the Hot Club of San Francisco's "Meet Me in Paris" brings an evening of gypsy jazz to The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Ave. Showtime 8 p.m., \$35 for the general public; \$20 for McLean tax district residents. Visit [mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre](http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre) or call 703-790-9223 for more.**

"bridge." Coming together from around the country and abroad, their wide-ranging performances include ongoing outreach to Tanzania. \$30 at the door or season pass \$150. Visit [amadeusconcerts.com/](http://amadeusconcerts.com/)

### MONDAY/FEB. 20

**Contacts Create Cash** 9:45-11 a.m. Potbelly Sandwich Shop, 1577 Spring Hill Road #100, Tysons. Contacts Create Cash is an OPEN networking group for professional salespeople, business owners, and networking marketing professionals who wish to build a referral based business. Our meeting format is as follows: 1/3 sales/marketing/business training, 1/3 discussion/learning exercise, 1/3 60 second attendee introductions with open networking before the meeting and after the meeting. Cost: Free. Contact discussion moderator David Hillelsohn at [david@dhillfinancial.com](mailto:david@dhillfinancial.com). RSVP to Marie Benoit at [Marie@DrMarieBenoit.com](mailto:Marie@DrMarieBenoit.com).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 21

**Gardening with Native Plants.** 10 a.m. at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE. David Roos will provide insights on plants and gardening. Free. Visit [viennapres.org/](http://viennapres.org/) for more.  
**Discussing C&O Canal Companion.** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at the Dranesville Church of the Brethren, 11500 Leesburg Pike. Guest speaker at the The Great Falls Senior Center event, author Mike High, has cycled in many places around the world but the trail along the C&O Canal is his

favorite. Contact Polly Fitzgerald at [pollyfitz1@verizon.net](mailto:pollyfitz1@verizon.net) or call 703-759-4345. Visit [gfseniors.org](http://gfseniors.org).

### FRIDAY/FEB. 24

**Unruly Theater Project.** 7-9 p.m. at the The Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Professional teen improvisation company offers a night of comedy, and more. Free. Visit [www.mcleancenter.org/teens](http://www.mcleancenter.org/teens).

### FEB. 24-25

**Scrapbooking Weekend.** 6 p.m.-midnight at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. Snacks included, vendors on-site so you can purchase supplies or get expert advice. \$60. Contact Lisa Emerson at [lisaemerson3@verizon.net](mailto:lisaemerson3@verizon.net) or 703-981-4504.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 25

**Cars & Coffee.** 6-9 a.m. at Katie's Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Antique, classic, and new cars are on display, share stories over morning coffee with car owners, neighbors, and friends Visit [katiecarsandcoffee.com/](http://katiecarsandcoffee.com/) for more.  
**Meet Me in Paris.** 8 p.m. at The Alden in McLean, 1234 Ingleside Ave. The Hot Club of San Francisco's "Meet Me in Paris" brings an evening of gypsy jazz. \$35 for the general public; \$20 for McLean tax district residents. Visit [mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre](http://mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre) or call 703-790-9223 for more.

### SUNDAY/FEB. 26

**Southern Avenue Concert.** 8 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E. \$12-\$20. Go to [www.southernavenueband.com](http://www.southernavenueband.com) for more.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 4

**Wine Tasting River Bend Country Club** 7 - 10 p.m. There will be a delicious selection of Hors d'oeuvres, cheeses and fine wines and mingling with long-time and new Great Falls neighbors.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**Chantilly Egg Hunt.** Saturdays and Sundays. 26469 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. Join the Easter Bunny and search for candy and toy-filled eggs. Visit [www.ticonderoga.com/about](http://www.ticonderoga.com/about).

### THURSDAY/MARCH 16

**Vietnam Veterans Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. at Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane. Volko Ruhnke will discuss the development of his successful board game, "Fire in the Lake, Insurgency in Vietnam." Call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit [www.vva227.org](http://www.vva227.org).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 19

**Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt & Roll** 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Freeman House, 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).



**McLean Community Center**  
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## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### The Old Firehouse



### Unruly Theatre Project

Friday, Feb. 24, 7-9 p.m.

Free admission

The area's hottest professional teen improv company brings you a hilarious night of comedy, and more!

### Concerts @ The Alden

### Young Soloists Recital

Sunday, Feb. 26, 3 p.m.

Free admission; tickets not required.

### Old Firehouse Family Movie Night

### "The Secret Life of Pets"



Friday, March 3, 7-9 p.m.

\$3 per person; pre-registration recommended.



### An Alden Production "The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales"

Saturday & Sunday, March 11-12 & 18-19, 3 p.m.

\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### McLean Traveler Day Trip

### 2017 Philadelphia Flower Show



Wednesday, March 15

6:45 a.m.- 8 p.m.

\$136 per person/\$131 MCC district residents

### Closing Notice



MCC and The Old Firehouse will be closed on Monday, Feb. 20, for the George Washington's Day holiday. The centers will reopen at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 21.



The McLean Community Center

[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)

Home of the Alden Theatre

[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)



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## "Idiot" No More; Well, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For over two and a half years now, since June '14 — according to my most recent invoice, "idiot" lights on the dashboard of my model year 2000, Honda Accord have warned me that all was not right with our back-up car. But due to intermittent use, amazing self-discipline on my part and little new evidence to the contrary, the Honda has maintained its performance, if you can even call it that. Soon after this last visit to my local mechanic had cleared the pre-2014 dashboard indicators, the "SRS" (seat belt restraint system) came on suggesting that something was once again rotten in Denmark, and Burtonsville, too. Nevertheless, with the ink barely dry on my credit card receipt, and with our second car not being a priority, I decided to let it live and let live and hope for the best. Approximately 32 months later, my hope has been realized. No repairs have been required in the interim. However, over that same time, multiple additional "warning" lights have come on: "brake lamp," "maintenance due," and just recently, the infamous/scourge "check-engine" light to where four lights are now illuminated. And though, to my credit, I have been able to endure and ignore their constant reminders; but when that fourth light, the "check-engine" light came on, I feared my benign neglect had finally come home to roost. So I bucked up, called my local mechanic, and made the arrangements to drop off the Honda. Then I waited for a more detailed assessment of the damage done. A few days later, I got the call. I'll spare you the details since I can't explain them anyway; but the repairs were going to cost around \$1000, as good as could be expected for a 17 year-old car with 95,000 miles on the odometer.

However, what I am most excited about concerning this outcome is — yes 'excited' is the right word — that for the first time in years I won't have to face down warning lights in my car and alarm bells in my head about what potential car trouble and expense I've been putting off and likely making worse. And most importantly, no longer having to exercise the inordinate self-control required to ignore these warning lights and not to be corrupted by their relentless — literally and figuratively — reminders. It's almost as if I can face reality again, breathe normally and not feel under siege.

Having only driven the car barely two miles home since I picked it up from "Tony's," I can't yet say driving is fun. However, I can admit that driving will be less irritating, will require less mental discipline and when I look down at my car's dashboard, I will not long for a bygone era of dashboard neutrality. Once again, as if the Honda is under dealer warranty, I will not see any indicators/lights of something I've neglected to do or of repairs I'm unable to afford.

As much as I'd like to think I'm fairly well-adjusted and know how to process and prioritize things in my life, having cancer does seem to alter these processes and priorities. And when something simple and/or unexpected happens in your life which allows you to regain your composure and equilibrium, it helps that much more to assimilate the cancer-related conditions, effects and challenges you've come to expect. Not that I thought much about this eventuality when I dropped off the car at "Tony's," but now, having not seen any lights, I feel unburdened, as if a weight has been taken off my shoulders and out of my head.

Moreover, when you're living in the cancer bubble, burdens expected — and otherwise — tend to pile up — and on — and when one is able to catch a break/brake along the way, the positive effect is disproportionate to reality. It means so much even though it may seem like so little. Whether it's regaining some control, solving a non-cancer-related problem or crossing an item off a to-do list; living one's life with as few distractions as possible, generally speaking, will likely result in some comfort and joy; not the movie, but the peace of mind.

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

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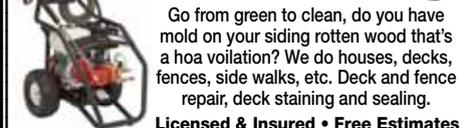
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### Public Notice: Proposal to Voluntarily Remediate a Property

There is contamination from Petroleum impacted soil on site at Gilliam Place, 3507 Columbia Pike, Arlington, VA 22204

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is working with Gilliam Place LLC c/o Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing (APAH) to develop a Remedial Action Plan to address cleanup of petroleum hydrocarbons at the site. If you have any questions regarding the cleanup please contact Vincent Maiden, P.G., Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Northern Regional Office, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23218, Vincent.Maiden@deq.virginia.gov or Jason Beck, C.P.G, Senior Environmental Project Manager, ECS Mid-Atlantic, LLC, 703-471-8400, jbeck@ecslimited.com

As part of the remedial action process a Remedial Action Plan (RAP) was submitted to the Northern Regional Office of DEQ on January 10, 2017, which allows for corrective action at the property to begin immediately. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed RAP with the staff of DEQ, please feel free to contact the Corrective Action Project Manager, Vincent Maiden, whose contact information is listed above. You may also contact Jason Beck, the environmental consultant for Arlington Partnership for Affordable Housing, whose contact information is listed above. DEQ will consider written comments regarding the proposed Remedial Action Plan until February 24, 2017 and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is a significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to DEQ at the address listed above. DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; VRP Case # 00664.

Respectfully submitted,

ECS MID-ATLANTIC, LLC on behalf of ARLINGTON PARTNERSHIP FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

### LEGAL NOTICE

Storage Line of Virginia, LLC (t/a APT Storage), Box 767, Haymarket, VA 20168, pursuant to the assertion of a lien for rental of a storage unit, will hold a public auction for the sale of all goods in storage unit #407B to take place at 11:30 am on Thursday, February 23, 2017, at storage unit #407B located at Sacramento Square, 5401 Claymont Dr, Alexandria, VA 22309, to satisfy the lien. All terms of the sale are cash. Call 800-217-4280 for questions.

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## 21 Announcements 21 Announcements 21 Announcements

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## ZONES

**Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

**Zone 2:** The Springfield Connection  
The Burke Connection  
The Fairfax Connection  
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette

**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South

**Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac

**Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection

# FAITH

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

**Passages DivorceCare** If you are experiencing the pain of separation or divorce, the caring community at Vienna Presbyterian Church invites you to attend Passages DivorceCare. This program offers a path toward healing. The next 15-week DivorceCare series will be held Tuesdays from 6:45 to 9 p.m. beginning on Feb. 21.

Vienna Presbyterian Church is located on the corner of Maple Avenue (Rt. 123) and Park Street in Vienna. Cost to cover materials is \$20, scholarships available. For more information or to register call 703-938-9050, go to www.viennapres.org, or send an email to Passages@ViennaPres.org.

**The S.P.O.T for Youth Wednesday's at 7 p.m.** A place where youth can come together and pray, ask questions about the faith and receive mentorship. The spot is a ministry of First Baptist

Church of Vienna located at 450 Orchard St. NW, Vienna.

**First Baptist Church of Vienna** located at 450 Orchard St. NW, Vienna. Sunday services are held at 7:45 and 10 a.m. weekly. Wednesday Night with the Family service is held at 6 p.m. followed by corporate singing at 7 p.m. Bible studies take place Tuesday's at noon.

**Wesley United Methodist Church** located at 711 Spring Street SE, Vienna, at the corner of Spring Street and Moore Avenue. 10:30 a.m. - Fellowship time in the fellowship hall, 11 a.m. Traditional family worship in sanctuary.

**Church of the Holy Comforter**, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m. at St. Mary's Chapel. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holyccomforter.com.

## BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

Town Council on matters relating to the advancement of public art in Town. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 25

**Community Tax Assistance Day.** Deloitte presents its 10th annual Community Tax Assistance Day or Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Day (VITA) to serve qualified individuals and families. Deloitte employee/volunteers will assist families with 2016 Federal and state tax returns for households with a total income of \$54,000 or less. Translations services in Spanish, Korean and Vietnamese will be provided. In addition, American Sign Language interpreters will be available. Location is Fairfax SkillSource Center, Heritage Center, 7611 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Appointments are recommended: e-mail taxday@volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3896. Walk ins are welcome. Visit www.nvacash.org. On tax preparation day, clients should bring all pertinent documentation. For a complete list, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

### MONDAY/FEB. 27

**Town Council Meeting.** 8-10:30 p.m. at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. Individuals are invited to attend and provide their input. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

**The U.S. Small Business Administration** is reminding businesses in Virginia that working capital loans are still available to small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and private nonprofit organizations affected by the severe storms and tornadoes on Feb. 24, 2016. Deadline to file is March 7, 2017. https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. www.sba.gov/disaster. disastercustomerservice@sba.gov.

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean continues to have an urgent need for new volunteers to help area senior citizens get to and from their medical and therapy appointments. To find out more about the Shepherd's Center and how you can volunteer to provide transportation and other services, call the Center at 703-506-2199 or e-mail the Center at info@scmaf.org. The Center's website is www.scmaf.org

### THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 2-4

**Friends of the Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library Quarterly Book Sale.** Books and media for all interests and ages, Thursday, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Friday, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Adult bag sale \$10/bag; Saturday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Kids Bag Sale \$10/bag. 7700 Leesburg Pike Falls Church. TysonsLibraryFriends@gmail.com; 703-338-3307.

### THROUGHOUT MARCH 2017

**Free Public Service Seminars.** March 1, 8, 15,

21, 29, at 7 p.m. on Selling Your Home, Aging in Place, Downsizing, Retirement Communities Seminars. Free public service seminars on Selling Your Home (March 1, McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Rd., McLean), Working With Builders (March 8, Falls Church HS, 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church), Financing Your Retirement (March 15, Marshall HS, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church), Tax & Estate Planning (March 21, Madison HS, 2500 James Madison Dr., Vienna), and Decluttering & Organizing (March 29, Oakton HS, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna). For more information and seminar registration go to RetireeRealEstate.org, or call 703-772-3033.

### ONGOING

**The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia**, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. The games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit www.goldengirls.org

**Are You A Caregiver? Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna Caregivers' Support Group** takes place first & third Thursday of each month. February 2nd and 16th, 2017 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Join us at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton, VA. For more info contact facilitator, Jack Tarr, 703-821-6838 jtarr5@verizon.net.

**Volunteers Needed.** PRS is looking for empathetic and caring volunteers to make phone calls to older adults who may be feeling socially isolated. The commitment is one 3-hour shift per week for one year. Located in Arlington. Ages 21 & up. Intensive training provided. Learn more and apply: https://prsinc.org/caring-volunteering/. Questions? Email lpadgett@prsinc.org.

**The Northern Virginia 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. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/.

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 and click on Volunteer Solutions.

**Respite Care** volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

**Vienna Toastmasters.** 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 7:30-9 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.

# Nysmith School Students Excel in Competitions

The most recent accomplishments of individual students and student teams from The Nysmith School for the Gifted continue a string of competitive achievements.

Here are a few of the activities/results:

A total of 10 of Nysmith students have advanced to the National History Bee Regional Finals, April 24 in Richmond, where the top middle schoolers in the region compete head-to-head answering questions split evenly between United States and non-U.S. history. Coached by Philip Baselice of Fairfax, the team includes:

- ❖ Anuraag Kaashyap (eighth grader from Herndon)
- ❖ Andrew Chen (eighth/Fairfax)
- ❖ Justin Ward (eighth/Vienna)
- ❖ Vance Kreider (eighth/Herndon)
- ❖ Misha Brancato (seventh/Alexandria)
- ❖ Quinn Griffith (seventh/Oak Hill)
- ❖ Neal Gupta (seventh/Vienna)
- ❖ Elise Bejtlich (sixth/Manassas)
- ❖ Aaron Joy (sixth/Herndon)
- ❖ Irene Zhao (sixth/Fairfax)

The Nysmith "MATHCOUNTS" team finished second in its Chapter last weekend and will be participating in the Virginia State event on April 4 in Glen Allen, Va. MATHCOUNTS is a national middle school competitive program that promotes mathematics achievement through a series of engaging "bee-style" events. The Nysmith team is coached by JoMarie Broccoli of Herndon and the advancing students include:

- ❖ Whitman Ochiai, top score on team (eighth grader from Great Falls)
- ❖ Kaien Yang (eighth/Chantilly)
- ❖ Anuraag Kaashyap (eighth/Herndon)
- ❖ Anand Advani (seventh/Herndon)

Several Nysmith debaters scored impressive results in recent competitions.

Among the students competing in this past weekend's DC Urban Debate League Tournament, coached by Marlene Laro of McLean: Alex Joel (eighth grader from McLean) and Caroline Huber



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED  
The Nysmith "MATHCOUNTS" team, from left: Whitman Ochiai, Anand Advani, Anuraag Kaashyap, Kaien Yang and coach JoMarie Broccoli.



Nysmith School debaters, from left: Aaron Joy, Caroline Huber, Alex Joel and Ben Joel.

(eighth /Great Falls), placed first in the Varsity Division. Two sixth graders, Aaron Joy of Herndon and Ben Joel of McLean, emerged victorious in the Novice Division.

Another group of Nysmith debaters took third place in the Holy Trinity Public Forum Debate Tournament. Under the direction of coach Maria-Theresa Dragg of Herndon, the winning team includes McKenzie Hiek (seventh grader from Great Falls), Sarang Arun (seventh/Fairfax) and Emma Jing (seventh/Oak Hill).



PHOTOS BY KHY SWEENEY

Forward Luke Pohlman threads a shot between the McLean defense towards McLean's net. The Warhawks secured the division title with their 4-3 win over McLean. Pohlman scored two goals.

## Madison Ice Hockey Wins Division Championship

The Warhawk Varsity Ice Hockey team is headed to the playoffs as division champions with their 4-3 win over McLean Feb. 3. Goals were scored by forwards Kamron Sarmadi and Luke Pohlman each with two apiece. Assists came from Jason Calem and Jeff Hunter. The Warhawks scored first but McLean would tie and then lead midway

through the second period. Late in the second, Madison tied the game and after a mostly scoreless 3<sup>rd</sup> period, the Warhawks scored the go-ahead goal late in the third. Shots were 24 for the Warhawks and 27 for the Highlanders. The Warhawks finished the regular season with an 8-2 record. The Warhawks get a bye week before the first round of playoffs.



Team Captain Kamron Sarmadi gets a shot off towards McLean's net. The Warhawks secured the division title with their 4-3 win over McLean. Sarmadi scored two goals.

# Erickson III Provides Support for Two Jersey Brothers

FROM PAGE 3

ing to do what was best for my children."

AT THE AUGUST 2016 graduation ceremony when the Morrobels first met Erickson, older son Ethan was chosen among all of the owners-to-be in training to deliver a speech. Ethan "nailed" his address, according to Weigand, in which he eloquently spoke on behalf of all the Canine Companions dog recipients to convey collective gratitude.

"My brother, Gavin, and I have been waiting our whole lives for this moment," Ethan said toward the end of his speech. "On be-

half of the August 2016 graduating class, I would like to thank the entire CCI organization. The support and hospitality from the volunteers was amazing... And then there were the instructors... We feel like you have given us super powers. Kind of appropriate as we watch the Olympics and the incredible performances of the athletes in their individual events... these dogs have been matched individually to us and are our gold medals."

Pamela Morrobel said that, even as of today, Erickson has undoubtedly proven invaluable to her sons. While Erickson has eased the physical challenges of Ethan's and Gavin's daily lives in some ways, the emo-

tional support he provides is what her boys need most during these formative, pre- and early teenage years.

"What Erickson does for their emotional wellbeing is what has been so critical," Morrobel said. "He has helped them with all the adjustments they have been going through since we moved here from Canada two-and-a-half years ago. With new schools, new friends, and an overall new peer group in which they aren't always involved, Erickson makes it so that neither Ethan nor Gavin is ever alone at home. At their ages, it's crucial for them to maintain self-esteem and to go out into the world with confidence. I'm proud to say that my kids are advocates

for themselves, and Erickson really contributes to them being so self-assured."

Morrobel said there is no question that the inevitable added responsibilities of a dog are outweighed by the lifetime of tremendous benefits she knows Erickson will bring to her sons.

"Ethan and Gavin have the primary responsibility of exercising, feeding and grooming Erickson," she said. "I pick up slack sometimes, but, it's mostly up to them. I'm continually amazed by everything Erickson can do. For me, it's like having a third child that actually listens. And, it's hard to articulate in words just how much he means to the boys."