

# Pure Pasty Competes in World Pasty Championship

NEWS, PAGE 3

The Pure Pasty Co. owner Mike Burgess and head chef Nicola Willis-Jones working on preparations for their journey to Cornwall, UK, and participation in the World Pasty Championship.

## Planning 20 Parks: Inside Tysons or Out?

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## CRIME

*The following summary contains various incidents from the Vienna Police Department from Feb. 17-23.*

**Animal Case – Quarantine** 17-001591 100 Block Harmony Drive, SE Feb. 11 9 a.m. ACO Barker received a report from INOVA Urgent Care regarding a resident who was treated at their facility after being bitten by his dog. The owner of the dog was advised of the 10-day quarantine process.

**Suspicious Vehicle** 17-001626 400 Block Dominion Road, SE Feb. 12 11:15 p.m. A resident observed a vehicle driving recklessly. She noticed the driver park the vehicle then get into the backseat. Several days later the resident found clothing in the area where the vehicle had been parked. It is not known if the two incidents are related.

**Juvenile Case** 17-001456 Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW Feb. 13 8 a.m. School administration advised of a student receiving an inappropriate picture on his cell phone and sharing it with other students.

**Arrest – Warrant Service** 17-001455 Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW Feb. 13 2:46 p.m. An adult student had a warrant for his arrest in Fairfax County. Ofc. Harter arrested the 18-year-old man from Deerwatch Drive in Chantilly on the warrant charging failure to appear on credit card larceny. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was released on his signature.

**Suspicious Event** 17-001461 200 Block Tapawingo Road, SE Feb. 13 4:04 p.m. A resident reported continuous harassment from a juvenile through text messages, email and other social media. Ofc. Harter spoke to the juvenile and advised the resident of the process to follow should the harassment continue.

**Suspicious Event** 17-001477 500 Block Gibson Drive, SW Feb. 14 9:30 a.m. A resident found a used syringe in her yard.

**Arrest – Narcotics Violation** 17-001483 Echols Street and Niblick Drive, SE Feb. 14 11:44 a.m. MPO Lose observed a vehicle commit a traf-

fic offense and initiated a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver he detected the odor of marijuana. The driver was found to be in possession of a measurable amount of marijuana. MPO Lose issued a summons to the 25-year-old female from Chilcott Manor Way in Vienna charging possession of marijuana. She was released on her signature.

**Fraud** 17-001592 BB&T Bank 260 Cedar Lane, SE Between Feb. 15 at 12 p.m. and Feb. 17 at 3:29 p.m. An employee reported one of their customers had become the victim of a scam when she was instructed to purchase iTunes gift cards. In return the individual would wire money directly into the customer's bank account.

**Animal Case – Quarantine** 17-001701 The Hope Center 140 Park Street, SE Feb. 17 11:45 a.m. An employee was bitten on the hand by a cat during a medical procedure. The cat was released to its owner who lives in Fairfax. This case was forwarded to the Fairfax County Animal Control to follow up on the quarantine procedure.

**Suspicious Event** 17-001585 Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane, SW Feb. 17 1:01 p.m. School administration reported threats that were made by one student toward another student.

**Arrest – Drunk in Public** 17-001610 7-11 519 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 18 12:07 a.m. Ofc. Reedy observed a woman run from the 7-11 with a 12-pack of beer and meet with a man in an adjacent parking lot. As the officer approached the couple the woman ran off and the man attempted to hide the beer. It was determined that the beer had been stolen from the store however the employees did not wish to prosecute. The man appeared to be intoxicated and was placed under arrest. Ofc. Reedy transported the 21-year-old man from Piney Grove Court in Fairfax to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with drunk in public.

**Arrest – Narcotics Violation** 17-001614 Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 18 12:44 a.m. Officers were attempting to locate the

SEE CRIME, PAGE 5



**Colleen Webb**  
**Journalist**  
**EXPLORER**

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**Marie Isabel Laurion, CFP®, CRPC®**  
 Financial Advisor  
**703.766.9300 x13**  
 133 Maple Avenue East, Ste 306  
 Vienna VA 22180  
 marie.i.laurion@ampf.com  
 ameripriseadvisors.com/marie.i.laurion



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## Pure Pasty Competes in World Championship

Vienna “pasty” chefs take their specialties to competition to the place where pasties were born.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Vienna’s The Pure Pasty Co. is off to Cornwall, England, to compete in the World Pasty Championship on Saturday, March 4. Interpreting traditional Cornish recipes to adapt to tastes – and ingredients – across the pond, The Pure Pasty Co. has entered six of its signature pasties in the “open” (not made-in-Cornwall) category. Owner Mike Burgess and head chef Nicola Willis-Jones leave for the UK on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

“We’ve honed our craft,” said Willis-Jones, who, like Burgess, grew up in England. “Pasties can be filled with anything but the crust is what makes a pasty a true Cornish pasty.”

Admitting that “it’s all in the crust,” Willis-Jones and Burgess have dedicated themselves to making a crust that can be translated with British ingredients and refining fillings that are well-loved and creative.

“A lot of research went into learning what previous winners offered,” said Willis-Jones. And, lots of experimentation with substitution ingredients for those foodstuffs they cannot bring into the UK for the competition. British butter, for example, is not the butter produced in the United States; it has a higher fat content than does American butter. To adapt the crust recipe to accept British butter, Willis-Jones used KerryGold butter. “The first crust I made with it fell apart. I revised the recipe to make it work perfectly.”

A pasty is a hand-held meal, a butter-rich crescent-shaped crust enveloping saucy fillings. Originating in Cornwall, UK, the tin miners took these hand-held pies down into the mines for their lunch. The pastry encompassing the filling was sturdy and rich, and crimped around its edging. The miners held the pasty by the crimped edge which they discarded after eating the filled part of the pasty. Tin left arsenic on their hands so the edging was thrown away.

When the tin mines in the UK closed, the



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**The Pure Pasty Co. company head chef, Nicola Willis-Jones, holds the southwest vegan pasty she is crafting for Cornwall’s World Pasty Championship, while bakery owner Mike Burgess shows off the proprietary “Kevin’s Bacon” pasty.**

miners travelled to many places round the world wherever there were mines, taking the pasties with them. Stateside they are popular in Michigan, California and other mining places, Willis-Jones said. “We are doing our bit to make them popular in the Washington metro-area,” she said.

The pasty championship, hosted at Cornwall’s Eden Project, an educational biodome complex, is broken down into two qualifying sections, and divided further into subcategories: 1. Cornish pasties made in Cornwall following a traditional recipe, 2. open savoury categories for pasties made with creative fillings or pasties from outside Cornwall. You have got to be an authentic “Cornwall pasty” to be included in the Cornwall pasty category. And, regardless of category, the entered submission has to be a pasty that has been made and sold in the entrant’s home-based shop.

The Cornish pasty enjoys a special protected status, Protected Geographical Indication (PGI), and only pasty makers based in Cornwall who make their pasties in a traditional manner, following a traditional recipe, are entitled to label their products as Cornish pasties. “Cornish pasty” makers undergo a PGI audit.

**WORKING TOGETHER,** Willis-Jones and

Burgess perfected the six pasties they are preparing for the World Pasty Championship. They are: the Reuben pasty, based on the reuben sandwich - company category; the Moroccan Lamb and the chicken masala, made by Mike Burgess, in the professional category; the Kevin’s Bacon, invented in the shop by a former employee named Kevin Christensen, accented with bacon pieces, entered in the professional category, crafted by Willis-Jones. Willis-Jones adds her BBQ pork and the Southwest vegan in her submissions in professional category.

Final competition products were identified based on customer polling and a mission to represent the U.S. with iconic American ingredients.

The southwest vegan pasty incorporates cajun spices as well as corn, sweet potato and black beans; the Reuben and barbecued pork are regional favorites.

“The Kevin’s Bacon is solely ours,” said Willis-Jones. “No one else makes that. It also contains brussel sprouts, red peppers and onions and cheddar cheese.”

The Moroccan lamb and chicken masala are regulars on the menu; the others are intermittent, but, popular, chef specials.

Willis-Jones and Burgess arrive early Wednesday morning and will finish up their ingredient shopping then. It is also make-

### Competition Categories

Bakers choose to make Cornish pasties or savoury pasty in the following sub-categories:

**Company:** Representatives from companies (bakeries, butchers, pubs, corner shops, etc.) that have undergone a PGI audit.

**Professional:** Those who work in the catering industry as a professional baker or cook, who are entering their own pasties under their own name.

**Amateur:** People aged 16 and over on the date of the competition (4 March 2017) who do not work in the catering industry as a professional baker or cook.

**Junior:** People aged 15 and under on the date of the competition (4 March 2017).

**Gluten-free:** A new category this year, for amateur bakers, who should follow the Coeliac UK’s guide.

the-dough day for Willis-Jones who says the dough is best rested overnight before she rolls it out on Thursday.

On Thursday, Willis-Jones, with assistance from Burgess, will make the fillings and roll out the dough and fill the dough shells, forming the pasties. The pasties will be baked on Friday. On Saturday morning, competitors arrive at the championship venue with their baked entries which are reheated and judged.

Ahead of their journey back to their homeland, Willis-Jones and Burgess contacted people in Cornwall to scout around for replacement ingredients. “We are well-prepared,” Willis-Jones said.

**WHEN BURGESS OPENED** The Pure Pasty Co. in Vienna in October, 2010, he had already visited pasty shops throughout England researching their products. Chough Bakery, a Pasty World Championship winner more than one time, brought Burgess into the shop for a day to study the bakery’s award-winning pasties. Over the past six and a half years, Burgess and Willis-Jones have perfected recipes and made a name for The Pure Pasty Co. throughout the D.C.-area.

“It’s something we’ve wanted to do,” Burgess said. “Nicola has been nagging at it for the past three years, at least,” he said as they both laughed about the history of their upcoming championship participation. “We had to clear the space in the business to do this, but, we’re ready.”

Visit *The Pure Pasty Co.’s Facebook page for updates from Cornwall* at [www.facebook.com/ThePurePastyCo/](http://www.facebook.com/ThePurePastyCo/). The shop, which also sells British snacks, is at 128 Church St NW, Vienna. Call 703-255-7147 or visit [www.purepasty.com](http://www.purepasty.com).

## Equestrian Athletes Need Opportunities, Too

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

Natalie Martinisko was the youngest speaker before the county’s Board of Supervisors Tuesday, Feb. 14.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

“I’ve tried a lot of other sports besides horseback riding and I have not liked them as much, so we decided to look for barns. The only ones we could find were about 30 to 45 minutes away,” said Natalie.

She told the 10-member Board of Supervisors she wanted to ride with one of her

friends whose family owns horses. “I think it would be great to let people train at their houses,” said Natalie.

But the county’s zoning ordinances prohibited home occupation lessons and her friend’s mother couldn’t give Natalie lessons.

“There are many kids that don’t fit into the traditional sports model of soccer, basketball, lacrosse, swimming or dance. I know because my daughter tried most of those sports and none really clicked for her,”

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 4

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ MARCH 1-7, 2017 ♦ 3



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## NEWS

# Residents Testify

FROM PAGE 3

said Natalie's mother, Mary Martinisko.

“Being that she's always been animal oriented, I signed her up for summer camp at at Frying Pan Park,” said Mary Martinisko “Over time, she said horseback riding was all that she really enjoyed.”

The Board of Supervisors passed a change to the zoning ordinance on Feb. 14 that will allow “small scale horseback riding lessons as a home occupation subject to specific limitations designed to minimize the impact of the lessons on surrounding properties.”

Specifically, the proposed ordinance would allow residents to conduct riding lessons at home like piano lessons, tutoring, or other private instruction activities.

“My girls have taken tennis at other people's houses, they have taken soccer, they have taken swimming and basketball at other people's houses, but they haven't been able to take riding,” said Kim Karanik, of Great Falls. “I hope this gets looked at and passed tonight.”

Supervisor John Foust received 17 letters or emails in support of the proposed amendment, Sharon Bulova received 15, Pat Herrity received 11, “all in support,” he said.

“Clearly, there's a shortage of opportunities,” Herrity said.

The board passed the zoning amendment unanimously.

amendment.

“Well, I was the only person in opposition to these proposed changes at the Planning Commission hearing in January,” said Anne Huffman, of Great Falls. “This set of proposed changes are too intense for people, environment, streams and the horses themselves.”

(See Huffman's letter to the editor in the Feb. 22 issue of the Great Falls Connection.)

“Horses have a high impact on land,” said Huffman. Penny Gross acknowledged one of Huffman's objections, regarding manure and its impact on the health of local streams.

“Manure can be a significant issue,” said Gross.

She remembered years ago, when two students wrote her, asking for special exception permission to allow their horses to be boarded underneath the decks at their houses.

“I wrote back and explained why that wouldn't be such a great idea. Their parents have thanked me ever since,” said Gross.

Huffman spoke before the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

“This type of applicant needs to be given public scrutiny. There's a huge difference between indoor piano lessons and outdoor horseback riding instruction,” said Huffman, asking who will monitor care of the horses and the amount of activity that takes place.

No special events will be permitted, she was told

**NOT ALL SPEAKERS** spoke in favor of the zoning

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 7

## Annandale United FC - Expansion Tryouts

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Training sessions are normally held three (3x) a week in the greater Annandale area.

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# CRIME

FROM PAGE 2

woman who committed the larceny from 7-11 (incident #17-001610). They located the woman in her hotel room and found she was in possession of a measurable amount of marijuana. Ofc. Reedy issued a summons to the 23-year-old female from Jade Court, NW in Vienna charging possession of marijuana. She was released on her signature.

**Police Service** 17-001612 Vienna Police Station 215 Center Street, South Feb. 18 12:51 a.m. A resident came to the Vienna Police Station stating he was having suicidal thoughts and wanted assistance. Officers notified the man's family and worked with them in transporting the man to an area medical facility to receive the assistance he was requesting.

**Arrest - Narcotics Violation** 17-001613 Chain Bridge Road and Sutton Road Feb. 18 2:21 a.m. Lieutenant Taylor observed a traffic violation and initiated a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver he detected the odor of marijuana. A measurable amount of marijuana was located in the possession of both the driver and passenger. Lieutenant Taylor issued summonses to the 19-year-old female from Trumpet Circle in Sterling and the 20-year-old man from Oak Plank Court in Oakton, charging possession of marijuana. They were both released on their signatures.

**Arrest - Noise Violation** 17-001619 300 Block Park Street, NE Feb. 18 7:20 a.m. Officers responded to the complaint of a noise violation coming from a home under construction. Work was being done at the property outside of the time frame noted in the town ordinance. Ofc. Harter issued a summons to the 58-year-old man from Saint George Road in Delmar, Del. charging violation of the town's noise ordinance. The man was released on his signature.

**Suspicious Event** 17-001640 Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 18 between 5:17 p.m. and 9:58 p.m. A citizen reported an incident that happened in his hotel room where he believed he may have been assaulted. The citizen was transported to an area hospital for evaluation.

This case is being investigated.

**Arrest - Narcotics Violation** 17-001643 / 17-001645 Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 18 11:20 p.m. Officers responded to check on the welfare of a couple in their hotel room. A measurable amount of marijuana was found in the room. The female was also in possession of another narcotic. MPO Smith issued a summons to the 21-year-old man from Piney Grove Court in Fairfax charging possession of marijuana. He issued two summonses to the 23-year-old female from Jade Court, NW in Vienna charging possession of marijuana and possession of a controlled substance. The couple was released on their signatures.

**Domestic Dispute** 17-001648 East Street, NE Feb. 19 12:16 a.m. Officers responded to a verbal dispute between an elderly resident and her daughter who was visiting with her.

**Assault / Destruction of Property** 17-001650 Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 19 12:20 a.m. Officers responded a physical altercation between a woman and her ex-boyfriend. The woman assaulted the man then pushed over his moped as she was leaving the scene, causing some damage to the moped. The man refused to pursue charges against the woman for the assault or the destruction of property.

**Civil Case** 17-001692 300 Block Windover Avenue, NW Feb. 20 12:54 p.m. A resident reported his neighbor had trimmed limbs from his trees that were hanging over the neighbor's property. The two men were advised this was

a civil matter.

**Police Service** 17-001710 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE Feb. 21 10:06 a.m. A citizen requested a welfare check on a relative.

**Police Service** 17-001672 John Marshall Drive, NW Feb. 19 9:45 p.m. A resident reported her ex-boyfriend was at her house and she wanted officers to respond while she asked him to leave and trespass him from the property. The man left the residence without incident.

**Police Service** 17-001723 Rite Aid 215 Maple Avenue, West Feb. 21 3:15 p.m. An employee reported a customer in their store who they believed was being scammed because she was purchasing Green Dot Cash Cards to pay her business electric bill. The customer was upset that the police had been notified and advised she did not want any assistance.

**Vandalism** 17-001784 Marshall Road Elementary School 730 Marshall Road, SW Between Feb. 22 at 6 p.m. and Feb. 23 at 7 a.m. An employee reported vandalism inside the school. This case is being investigated.

**Arrest - Illegal Dumping** 17-001771 Vienna Woods Swim Club 950 Desale Street, SW Feb. 22 11:13 p.m. Ofc. Reedy observed an occupied vehicle parked in the lot of the Vienna Woods Swim Club. Upon his interaction with the driver he found the man had dumped trash on the property. Ofc. Reedy issued a summons to the 21-year-old man from Tapawingo Road, SW in Vienna charging dumping trash on private property. The man was released on his signature.

**Assist EMS** 17-001782 Town of Vienna Property Yard 600 Mill Street, NE Feb. 23 9:07 a.m. An officer responded to assist rescue personnel with a town employee who suffered a medical emergency. The employee was transported to an area hospital, with non-life-threatening injuries, for further treatment.

**Suspicious Event** 17-001797 Louise Archer Elementary School 324 Nutley Street, NW Feb. 23 2:02 p.m. A PTA member advised that someone sent suspicious email using her email account to another PTA member.

**Arrest - Drunk In Public** 17-001799 Plum Street, SW Feb. 23 9:02 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a domestic dispute where a man was hitting a parked vehicle with a stick. They located the man who lived at the residence and appeared to be intoxicated. The parked vehicle belonged to the man's son and he did not wish to pursue charges for any property damage. Ofc. Slebonick arrested the 63-year-old man from Plum Street, SW in Vienna and transported him to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He was charged with drunk in public and turned over to the custody of the deputies.

**CASE UPDATES** Sex Offense 17-001382 Sugaring House Spas 103 Beulah Road, NE, #201 February 11 4:30 p.m. On Feb. 22 Detective Leroux obtained two misdemeanor warrants charging assault in this case. Ofc. Rohr arrested the 33-year-old man from Bolten Road in Centreville. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with two counts of assault and released on his signature.

**CRASHES** Maple Avenue near Park Street, SE 17-001583 Feb. 17 12:04 p.m. Two vehicles were traveling eastbound in the left lane of Maple Avenue approaching the intersection of Park Street, SE. Both drivers stopped for the red light. When the light turned green Driver-1 took his foot off the brake and drifted into the rear of Vehicle-2. No damage was observed to either vehicle. Driver-2 complained of pain and was evaluated by rescue personnel, but was not transported.

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# Good, Bad and Missed Opportunities

## Results of the 2017 session of the General Assembly.

### GOOD THINGS

Progress in funding mental health and addressing the opioid epidemic on multiple levels were among the successes of the 2017 General Assembly session.

❖ In addressing the opioid crisis, the General Assembly passed important steps, including Del. Tim Hugo's bill to limit opioid prescriptions to a seven-day supply in most cases; increased access to naloxone, a drug that instantly reverses an overdose; needle exchange programs (to reduce the spread of HIV, viral hepatitis, and other blood-borne diseases); focus on infants born with opioid exposure.

❖ Increased funding for mental health included \$7.5 million to facilitate providing same-day access to mental health screening services by July 1, 2019. (The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board began offering same day, in-person screening for mental health/and or substance use concerns to adults in July 2015 and extended same day access service to youth. The official launch date for youth walk-in service was Feb. 1, 2017.) Also supports for discharge planning and services for people with serious mental illness being released from jail.

❖ The budget included 3 percent raises state employees, increase for teachers and a larger increase for state police.

❖ The Virginia Board of Corrections was given added authority and resources to review deaths in local and regional jails.

❖ Negotiation and legislation will accelerate the City of Alexandria's massive undertaking to fix its sewer system that dumps raw sew-

age into the Potomac River whenever it rains. Wendell Berry's version of the golden rule: "Do unto those downstream as you would have those upstream do unto you."

❖ Scott Surovell's bill requiring Dominion to provide better information on coal ash pollution, disaster preparedness, and recycling.

❖ Eileen Filler-Corn's bill requiring that insurance cover up to a 12-month supply of hormonal contraceptives when dispensed or furnished at one time.

❖ School boards are required to have anti-bullying policies that includes notifying parents that their student was involved in a bullying incident.

❖ Use of FaceBook Live allowed members to stream floor discussion, and report to constituents and answer questions directly.

### BAD BILLS

Gov. Terry McAuliffe has already vetoed some of these, and is expected to veto some others.

❖ Expanded access to concealed weapons; vetoed by Governor. SB1362 would allow anyone with a military ID card to carry concealed weapon; HB2077 would allow guns in emergency shelters and prevents state police or others from prohibiting them for any reason

❖ End funding of Planned Parenthood, vetoed by Governor.

❖ Anti-Sanctuary City Law HB 2000 says no locality shall adopt any ordinance, procedure, or policy that restricts the enforcement of federal immigration laws.

❖ As a reality check on the Virginia General Assembly, HB2025 would allow discrimination against LGBT community under guise of religious freedom, and passed 21-19 in the Senate and 57-37 in the House of Delegates.

❖ HJ 545 would allow special committees of the General Assembly to overturn regulations, upsetting separation of powers. Constitutional amendment (first resolution): "Provides that the General Assembly may suspend

or nullify any or all portions of any administrative rule or regulation."

❖ Photo identification required for absentee ballots.

### MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

❖ The biggest missed opportunity of the 2017 General Assembly session was the failure to advance any redistricting legislation, which passed in the Senate and died in the House of Delegates. It's clear that Virginia voters want an end to gerrymandering, but hopes for reform before the next census in 2020 are diminished.

❖ Mental Health in Jails: \$4.5 million was removed from the Governor's proposed budget that would have paid for desperately needed mental health screening in jails.

❖ Legislation to raise Virginia's threshold between misdemeanors and felonies from \$200 to \$500 failed. Virginia's threshold has not changed since 1981, unnecessarily focusing "police and prosecutors on minor crimes instead of violent crime while tainting thousands of Virginia's suffering from depression or drug addiction with felony charges for life," says Surovell.

❖ Ken Plum's bill to increase and index the minimum wage never made it out of committee.

❖ Bills to address student debt also died during the session, as did bills aimed at reducing student suspensions and expulsions.

❖ Republicans stripped language that would have brought \$6 million in federal funds to provide Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) to those at risk for unintended pregnancy at no cost to Virginia voters.

*Thanks to Ken Plum, Scott Surovell, Marcus Simon, Jennifer Boysko, Adam Ebbin and others whose columns and responses helped inform this editorial. We welcome opinions and additions to this list.*

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

### FAITH NOTES

*Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.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](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto: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 Street, NW Vienna.

**First Baptist Church of Vienna** located at 450 Orchard Street, 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, Virginia 22180, 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. If you are seeking a church home which encourages: caring and supportive fellowship, an active and devoted prayer life and study of scripture, support for local and world missions, an open, responsive awareness to the presence and power of God's Holy Spirit.

**Youth Activities at Wesley United Methodist Church** Activities are open to all 6th-12th graders. Youth Sunday School meets every Sunday at 10 a.m. in the upper room.

Youth Bible Study will meet every Sunday at 4:30 p.m. off-site. Following

bible study we will ride together over to the church for youth group. Email the Youth Ministry Staff for the address.

The Anchor meets every Sunday from 6-8 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Join us for dinner, games, worship, and diving deeper into the Word.

During the summer, Youth Sunday School meets most Sundays at 9 a.m. in the upper room.

To receive the newsletter or for more information contact [youth@wesleyvienna.org](mailto:youth@wesleyvienna.org).

**St. Thomas' Episcopal Church** at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook Roads in McLean, just a mile west of Tysons, invites you for a casual Saturday Service at 5 p.m., followed by conversation and fellowship or for Sunday Services at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. Sunday School for Youth and Children takes place during the 10 a.m. Service. Look for our Pumpkin Patch this October, and check [www.stthomasmcleanva.org](http://www.stthomasmcleanva.org) for Special Events and Services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

**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. The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intentional training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at [vhayes@holyccomforter.com](mailto:vhayes@holyccomforter.com).

**Yoga Class with a Christian Focus** is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., McGill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

**Mom's Group** meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the

SEE FAITH NOTES, PAGE 7

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kemal Kurspahic**  
Editor ❖ 703-778-9414  
[kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Donna Manz**  
Contributing Writer  
[dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Kyle Kincaid**  
Editorial Assistant  
[vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
*For advertising information*  
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**Don Park**  
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**Andrea Smith**  
Classified Advertising  
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[classified@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:classified@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)





## News

# Residents Testify

FROM PAGE 4

at the Planning Commission hearing.

"Good luck enforcing that," Huffman said.

**CURRENTLY, A SPECIAL PERMIT** to teach riding lessons requires a \$8,180 application fee, just to start the process.

"While evidence is anecdotal, the equestrian community has seen a long-term decline in the number of riding programs available in Fairfax County, as property owners and horse trainers are concerned about the consequences of potential zoning violations associated with the board of more than three horses or with offering any riding lessons," according to staff reports.

"This has garnered so much support from the riding and equestrian community," said at-large Planning Commissioner Janyce Hedetniemi at its public hearing on Jan. 12. "It has been encouraging to those of us who love horses here in Fairfax County."

Beverly Dickerson, of Oakton, is president of Fairfax for Horses.

"There is a large unmet demand for riding lessons in Fairfax County as you are hearing. Long waiting lists in the existing stables, few places to go, and as Natalie just said, 'Not every child is interested in team sports,'" Dickerson told the board.

"We need to provide good recreation for a wide range of children and adults," said Dickerson.

Equestrian sports need to be passed down from other riders, said Lisa Mulville, of Vienna. "I grew up here in the county and I have had a horse since I was 14 and the responsibility it taught me was incredible," she said.

"We're losing a lot of revenue in this county because as stables and horse folks leave so do the vets, so do the blacksmiths, so do the local tack shops," she said.

## Faith Notes

FROM PAGE 6

Lillian Croy Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

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

**McLean Bible Church** Fitness Class at Body and Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

Sarah Kirk, owner of the Saddlery in Great Falls, moved to the county in 1981, and to Great Falls in 1998. "I had three ponies and nowhere to put them,"

"It is disappointing to see small operations moving, and the people that teach riding going to Loudoun County and Maryland," Kirk said. "We believe passionately in this sport."

**"EVERY OTHER SPORT**, you're allowed to do at your home," said Karanik.

According to Planning Commission documents, hours of operation would be limited from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. to minimize impact on surrounding neighbors; and all horses for riding must be kept on the property and can't be transported or ridden to the property for lessons. On lots sized between two and five acres, the maximum amount of instruction is eight students in one day and no more than two students can be given lessons at any given time. On lots five acres or more, a maximum of four students can be taught at any given time.

"The amendment would increase the maximum number of horses or ponies that can be boarded by right on a property from three horses on any lot, to up to five horses on lots containing a minimum of two acres and less than five acres, and up to eight horses on lots containing five or more acres. The maximum number of horses that may kept, boarded or maintained shall not include the horses owned by the resident of the property," according to planning documents.

Karanik gave credit to Foust for helping her navigate the zoning process that prevented home riding.

"What I am trying to fight for is continuing the equestrian sport in the community. We felt the importance of bringing the sport to children," said Karanik.

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road, McLean, holds traditional services every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. [www.stdunstans.net](http://www.stdunstans.net).

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms** are open every Saturday, 1-4 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist Church** is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. 703-356-7100 or [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

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

**Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church** holds Centering Prayer Group Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour begins with a 20-minute prayer period, followed by a brief reading related to Centering Prayer. E-mail Chris Mason at [derce@cox.net](mailto:derce@cox.net) or call the church at 703-759-3509.



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[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/springfield/teenjobfair.htm)



# Planning 20 Parks: Inside Tysons or Out?

**Vienna and McLean affected by 30-year vision for Tysons; more debate Feb. 23.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen creating a new city, county planners target a precise number of parks. Vienna and McLean are the most affected by Tysons planning.

Tysons needs 20 playing fields, a vision articulated in the 2010 Tysons Comprehensive Plan based on projections through 2050 ranging from demographics, office and residential use, transportation and more.

"If Tysons is to be a place where citizens live, work and play, then it must have adequate athletic fields within its borders," said Town of Vienna Mayor Laurie A. DiRocco.

The plan calls for one field for every 4.5 million square feet of mixed use development, according to Planning Commission documents.

"The availability of 20 athletic fields will most certainly make Tysons a more desirable location as against its competitors," said Rob Jackson, co-chair of the Greater Tysons Citizens Coalition and a member of the McLean Citizens Association.

"We have extreme concern about any attempt to weaken the requirement for the landowners to provide 20 fullsize-athletic fields to allow its residents, children,

## Get Involved:

Tysons Comprehensive Plan Amendment

❖ **Planning Commission** decision only hearing  
Thursday, Feb. 23, 8:15 p.m.

❖ **Board of Supervisors** public hearing  
Tuesday, March 14, 2017, 4 p.m.

Fairfax County Government Center Building, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Va. 22035

The Tysons vision forecasts an urban center that include 200,000 jobs and 100,000 residents, 75 percent of development within a half-mile walk of four Metro stations, a sustained Tysons with restored streams, a network of public parks, open spaces and trails, and a redesigned transportation system with circular routes, community shuttles, feeder bus serve and improved pedestrian and bicycle routes and connections. The Tysons Comprehensive Plan Amendment proposes to update recommendations for the Tysons Urban Center to reconcile the text and maps with studies and planning activities that have been completed since 2010, such as grid and other transportation studies, urban design guidelines and a transportation funding plan.

See [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/planamendments2013](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/planamendments2013)

adolescents and adults to live, work, study and play in Tysons," Jackson said.

Residents and business owners of Tysons and surrounding jurisdictions testified before the county's Planning Commission Wednesday, Feb. 8 to respond to current reorganizing of the voluminous Tysons Comprehensive Plan.

Speakers, planners, developers and commissioners debated specifically a new sentence on page 112 of the plan:

"Some of the active recreation facility needs may be accommodated by adding or upgrading facilities at existing or future public school sites or in nearby existing parks surrounding Tysons," according to proposed edits to the Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

That "stands out significantly as it is more than a mere editorial

change," said Mark Zetts, longtime planning and zoning chair of the McLean Citizens Association, who was recognized by the Planning Commissioners on Feb. 8 for his continuous service to McLean, Tysons and Fairfax County.

"This inserted language is problematic on multiple levels," said Zetts.

"The Town of Vienna, contiguous to Tysons, currently does not have adequate field space for its residents and youth. We don't want Tysons population growth to add to the shortage and negatively impact our quality of life," said DiRocco.

Sally Horn, McLean resident and co-chair of the MCA's Tysons Liaison Committee, said the "added language would increase the pressure to place athletic fields designed to serve Tysons in the surrounding communities, including

McLean, which lack useable, sufficient available land to meet both Tysons needs and the needs of their communities."

**VIENNA AND McLEAN** don't have enough fields for their own use, said Jackson.

"There simply is insufficient vacant land in Vienna and McLean that is suitable for athletic fields. If there were, existing volunteer sports groups would have laid claim to the vacant land years ago."

"McLean's athletic fields are already oversubscribed and ... we have our own separate needs for additional fields," said Horn.

Forcing Tysons residents and employees to "get into cars and drive elsewhere for field access defeats the vision for Tysons," said Jackson. "It also would add to traffic congestion, both inside and nearby Tysons."

"While Tysons is off to a good start, transportation failure is still on the radar screen," said Jackson.

But creating a grid of streets for Tysons makes planning for irregular shapes difficult, especially diamond-shaped fields needed for baseball and softball leagues, according to county planners.

Currently, they forecast need for approximately 11 diamond shaped fields and nine rectangular fields. But county planners reported last Wednesday that developers have been more willing to proffer for rectangular fields.

Sol Glasner, interim president and executive director of the Tysons Partnership, said they are not advocating for fewer fields but flexibility in how fields are planned while Tysons takes shape.

"Proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan that limit flexibility will make it more challenging

to meet the vision of Tysons that we all share," said Glasner.

Dranesville Planning Commissioner John Ulfelder asked DiRocco, "What if somebody showed up in Vienna and said, 'We're prepared to install turf and put up lights and upgrade your existing diamond fields.' How would you react?"

"If the county decided to do that, we'd be very happy for that to happen, yes," said DiRocco. "We are always looking for improving our fields and the use is needed tremendously."

**COUNTY PLANNERS** suggested that some developers could be willing to upgrade softball and baseball fields outside Tysons.

"I know that some have argued that since McLean and Vienna youth sports leagues currently are the predominant users of the fields in Tysons, it would make more sense for Tysons developers to upgrade those fields rather than to build the full complement of required fields in Tysons," said Horn.

"This argument misses the point," she said. "We are not planning for 2020 or even 2030; we are planning for the infrastructure required in 2050, when the demographics of Tysons — 200,000 employees and 100,000 residents — will require at least 20 urban fields in Tysons to meet the needs of youth and adults who live and or work in Tysons."

Providence Planning Commission Phil Niedzielski-Eichner scheduled a decision-only meeting of the Planning Commission on Feb. 23.

Additional topics to be discussed include traffic demand management and transportation, initial development levels and forecasted growth, public facilities and environmental stewardship.

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# Beware Early Allergy Season

Experts offer suggestions for preventing and treating allergy symptoms.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**hose experiencing Itchy, watery eyes and seemingly endless sneezing know that spring allergy season is getting an early start this year thanks to this season's mild winter weather.

"Everything is blooming early because of the warm weather," said Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D., allergist, of Privia Medical Group in Vienna. "People are spending more time outside because the weather is lovely, but they're experiencing allergy symptoms."



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
BARBARA MACKIE

**Allergist Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D. advises patients who normally have seasonal allergies to begin taking medication early.**

One of the keys to surviving allergy season is staying ahead of it. When thermometers are rising above 60 degrees for more than three consecutive days, pollen from plants begins to move through the air. The tree pollen count has reached high concentration levels in the Washington, D.C. region, according to The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology's National Allergy Bureau Pollen and Mold Report.

"Most of the time seasonal allergies, whether it is spring or fall, are caused by pollens that are associated with grass, trees and weeds," said Dr. Victoria A Garrison, M.D. a Student Health Services physician and a professor in the School of Nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax, "In areas that are damp or humid, mold spores can also be a factor. When people have allergies to these substances, the immune system will react and cause symptoms like sneezing, watery, itchy eyes, runny nose, sore or itchy throat, congestion and fatigue."

"Mild winter temperatures cause plants to pollinate early," added Maureen Moriarty, DNP, assistant professor of Nursing at Marymount University in Arlington. "This problem may be compounded by a rainy spring season, leading to increased mold levels that can drive allergy symptoms in sufferers through fall months."

Instead of waiting for full-blown symptoms, Mackie recommends beginning medications early. "What I usually tell patients who normally have seasonal allergies is to take their maintenance medications early so they're covered when allergy season hits," she said.

"Being prepared can often help slow down symptoms of allergies," added Kathy Grilliot, director of Clinical Education Respiratory Therapy Program at



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

**A mild winter has led to early plant blooming and an early allergy season.**

Northern Virginia Community College's Medical Education Campus in Springfield.

"Before the season starts, it is a good idea to start taking a nasal steroid. This medication takes a few weeks to gain full effect so starting before the allergens are everywhere can really help to control symptoms. Eyes can also have allergic reactions, so see a specialist to have a good eye drop for allergen control."

For those who might be perplexed by the distinction between allergies and a common cold: "If it's lasting more than three days with no fever, it's probably not a cold," said Mackie.

Some precautions that allergy sufferers can take to decrease their exposure to allergens include wearing a face mask when outside during times when the pollen count is high and resisting the urge to open car and house windows when the weather is warm, especially if the wind is blowing. "Take off your shoes when you enter your house so that allergens don't get spread around the house," said Grilliot. "Be aware where you place clothing that has been outside when you enter your house to prevent allergens from entering your home."

**"Everything is blooming early because of the warm weather. People are spending more time outside because the weather is lovely, but they're experiencing allergy symptoms."**

**— Dr. Barbara Mackie, M.D., Allergist, Privia Medical Group**

"I advise patients to rinse their hair and take a shower to get the pollen off before going to bed at night," added Mackie. "Otherwise you're getting pollen on your pillowcase and sheets and breathing it in all night."

There are certain times of day when allergy sufferers should avoid being outside. "Mid-morning, afternoon and early evening are peak times for pollen," continued Mackie. "When it's windy, don't go out because of the pollen."

Pets can spread pollen as well. "Dogs get spring fever too and want to be outside, but they can bring pollen into the house," said Mackie. "Wipe off their coats and paws when they come inside."

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# Prayer Vigil at ICE Office

Rising Hope pastor speaks about arrests outside church.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n the morning of Feb. 8, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers showed up across the street from Rising Hope Mission Church on Russell Road in the Mount Vernon area of Alexandria. According to several witnesses, men who had just left the church's hypothermia shelter for the day were set upon and questioned.

Some were asked if they'd seen any number of illegal immigrant criminals for which the officers were searching. Others, Latinos in the group, were singled out, fingerprinted, and some even restrained, forced into vans and driven away, witnesses said.

An ICE official would only confirm that two arrests were made at that location on that day.

"Every day, as part of routine targeted enforcement operations, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests criminal aliens and other individuals who are in violation of our nation's immigration laws," the official said in a statement.

But on Feb. 17, Kincannon and other religious leaders decided to pay a return visit to ICE, specifically at the field office on Prosperity Avenue in Fairfax. He said they have been trying to find out the names of the men who were allegedly picked up in the vans but haven't been successful yet.

After reports of ICE officers conducting large surges of searches, "targeted enforcement actions," for undocumented immigrant criminals that followed executive order from President Donald Trump, this action in Mount Vernon has sparked fear in the community and calls for answers from leaders, according to the religious leaders.

Gov. Terry McAuliffe released a letter Feb. 16 directed to John Kelly, secretary of Homeland Security, requesting an immediate briefing regarding the events outside Rising Hope, as chronicled by NBC Washington.

"These reports are anecdotal and I recognize that previous administrations have conducted immigration enforcement actions," McAuliffe writes. "However, the NBC report raises a concern that, unlike previous actions, ICE agents are detaining Virginia residents without cause or specific allegations of criminal activity."

"This is something we will not stand for," Kincannon said at the vigil. "That's our legal cause in why we are opposing what is happening. But there's a moral cause as well, that goes to the heart of our faith."

Kincannon said that Jesus Christ taught "how we treat the least of these" is how we treat him.

"So when we detain people without cause, any allegation of criminal activity," he continued, "it's the same as detaining Jesus Christ, without cause, any allegation of criminal activity."

Oscar Ramirez, one of the green card-carrying men who said he was detained and questioned by ICE on Feb. 8 before eventually being released, said fear in the immigrant and Latino community has caused people to stay inside, away from public and government buildings.

**"We've come too far building relationships with the immigrant population [to] sever ties like this."**

— Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee)

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) said this is a major blow to the public's relationship with law enforcement — one that Fairfax County Police have been working to repair and bolster.

McKay said many people don't differentiate among law enforcement — all are "police." And if residents, undocumented or not, refuse to open the door or run the other way when FCPD comes around looking for help solving crimes, that's a concern.

"We've come too far building relationships with the immigrant population," McKay said, to "sever ties like this."

McKay cited the recent murder case of 15-year-old Damaris Reyes Rivas, for which FCPD has arrested 10 suspects and issued murder charges against five of them.

"Without that cooperation, we wouldn't have people under arrest," McKay said.

FCPD Chief of Police Edwin Roessler said community involvement was definitely part of the case that helped them solve it.

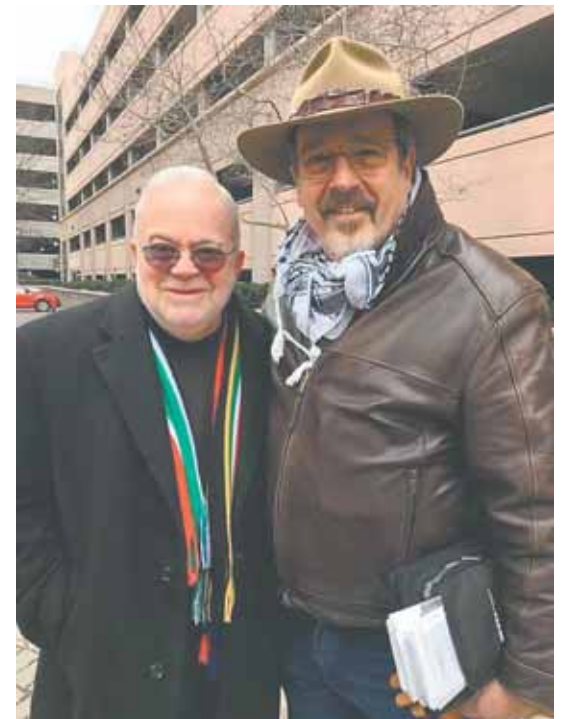
Regarding the ICE activity as a threat to public trust of police, Roessler said "I absolutely have concern."

He said he's been hearing the same questions from numerous sources, "challenging me with what boils down to the perception, that we're out there as immigration police."

ICE is out there, Roessler said, but the myth that's developed about FCPD "doing immigration raids in certain parts of the county, it's not true."

FCPD does not participate in ICE's enforcement activity, the chief said. "I need the community to understand the FCPD primary mission is to prevent and fight crime. We're not going to assist ICE in the service of an administrative matter."

Two memos from the Department of



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Rising Hope pastor Keary Kincannon (right) poses with Jim Wallis of the Sojourners (left), trying to get information from ICE about the enforcement activity that took place across the street from Kincannon's church on Feb. 8.**

Homeland Security were recently published giving more detail to the executive orders on immigration and deportation enforcement.

"To maximize participation by state and local jurisdictions in the enforcement of federal immigration law near the southern border," director Kelly wrote, "I am directing the director of ICE and the commissioner of CBP to engage immediately with all willing and qualified law enforcement jurisdictions that meet all program requirements for the purpose of entering into agreements under 287(g) of the INA."

An ICE spokesperson said that "ICE will approach local jurisdictions to tell them about the 287g program," but that ultimately those jurisdictions need to go through an application process to participate.

When asked about the memo, Roessler said first that any change in FCPD operation would need to go through the Board of Supervisors. He also said he had not been contacted by anyone from ICE or DHS regarding the memos.

Then he added: "Regardless of their status, we want people to have great confidence in their police department and trust. We protect and serve you, prevent crime. That's the role we've been doing, and what we intend to do in the future."

More information about the two memos is available online here: <https://www.dhs.gov/executive-orders-protecting-homeland>.

The full text of Gov. McAuliffe's letter is available here: <https://governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/newsarticle?articleId=19347>.



**On Feb. 17, Rising Hope pastor Keary Kincannon and other religious leaders held a prayer vigil and demonstration at the ICE field office on Prosperity Avenue in Fairfax.**



## PEOPLE

# Wildfire's Chef Enjoys Creativity of His New Job

## Meet Wildfire's new sous chef Jeffrey Katz.

BY ALEXANDRA GREELEY  
THE CONNECTION

**S**eriously ready to tackle just about any cooking challenge or recipe calamity, Wildfire's new sous chef Jeffrey Katz comes to this Tysons Galleria hot destination, Wildfire. Busy from lunch to the end of dinner service, this third-floor restaurant offers a robust menu of basically American standards, with a dinnertime focus on hefty beef dishes. Who could really turn down a 22-ounce prime rib cut, rubbed with garlic, salt, and coarse-ground black pepper?

Fortunately for Wildfire, Katz knows a thing or two about cooking, especially putting out high-end meals. "I have been passionate about cooking since my childhood in New York," he said, telling how his mother and grandmother were always in the kitchen. "I wanted to be a veterinarian," he continued. "But I watched my mother and grandmother cook traditional Jewish holiday food for Passover and other events and I was interested in that, too. I was really conflicted because I enjoyed cooking."

To make his decision even more complicated, his family did not live near a farm, but participated in the 4-H Club. Animals such as goats, ducks, and even snakes, became part of the household. "It seemed very rural," said Katz. "I came to respect all kinds of life. I just didn't always want to get up at 6 a.m. to feed the chickens."

Consequently, as a junior in high school, Katz took a vocation class in cooking. Then, in his last few years of high school, he attended a culinary vocational school. "I thought I would give it a shot," he said, "and 30 years later, I am still doing it."

After high school, Katz spent several years working in area kitchens to get some hands-on experience, noting that gaining that work know-how is great preparation for a future culinary career. "You have to be dedicated and really enjoy cooking," he said. "You have to learn about team spirit with other staff members, so you will all be on the same page."

With several years of culinary work under his belt, Katz attended the Culinary Institute of America (CIA), and in his final year, did an externship with the Kettle



**Chef Jeff Katz**

House Inn in Mt. Kisco, N.Y., under then-chef Mark Kaplan. For Katz, that was a real turning point, for Kaplan not only taught him how to read cookbooks and experiment in new recipes, he became and has remained Katz's mentor. "Today, he is still my best friend," Katz said.

In fact, Kaplan went on to open his own restaurant, the New American Bistro in Mamaroneck, N.Y., and took Katz with him. After four years, he gave Katz some invaluable yet tough advice: go out into the world and learn from other chefs, other restaurants. That he did, and ultimately Katz has worked as executive chef and chef all over the Northeast, gaining needed experience and expertise. As a result, Katz said that he loves all kinds of cuisines, and doesn't specialize in any one. So when a boss says to him, "Jeffrey, make this," he takes the basic recipe, but gives it his own special twist. "I love the creativity part of my job," he said, "and I love the camaraderie here at Wildfire."

Wildfire McLean, Tyson's Galleria, 2001 International Dr., McLean. 703-442-9110. Hours: Lunch and dinner daily. Visit [wildfirerestaurant.com/mclean](http://wildfirerestaurant.com/mclean).

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

## 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.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 2

**Caregivers' Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Contact Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 4

**Vienna Recycling Day.** 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill Street NE. Quarterly Recycling Days help protect the Town's environment, maintain the green scenery, and offer an outlet for traditionally difficult-to-recycle items. For a complete list of accepted items, visit [viennava.gov/quarterlyrecycling](http://viennava.gov/quarterlyrecycling) or call 703-255-6380.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 7

**Application Deadline.** 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>. Visit [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster) or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov).

### SATURDAY/MARCH 11

**Social Action Linking Together (SALT).** 9-11:15 a.m. at the Virginia International University (VIU), in Conference Room (VD-102), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Legislators will discuss safety net issues in the 2015 General Assembly session. visit [www.SA-L-T.org](http://www.SA-L-T.org) or contact John Horejsi at [jhorejsi@cox.net](mailto:jhorejsi@cox.net) or Dr. Bilgin at [kbilgin@viu.edu](mailto:kbilgin@viu.edu) for more.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 14

**Vienna Oakton Chapter of NARFE.** at 1 pm at American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St., Vienna. National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association Program will be "My Career in the Federal Government." For information, call 703-938-9757.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 16

**Caregivers' Support Group.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Contact Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or [jtarr5@verizon.net](mailto:jtarr5@verizon.net).

**Fairfax County 2018 Budgets.** 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center Community Hall, 1234 Ingleside Drive, McLean. A conversation on Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools 2018 Budgets, with speakers including John Foust, Dranesville District Supervisor and Joe Mondoro, CFO, Fairfax County. Visit [mcleancitizens.org/](http://mcleancitizens.org/) for more.

### WEDNESDAY/MARCH 29

**Public Safety Preparedness Program.** 7 p.m. at American Legion McLean Post 270, 1355 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Public Safety Preparedness Program, co-sponsored by the Greater McLean Chamber, the McLean Citizens Association, the Great Falls Citizens Association and the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Visit [www.mcleanpost270.org](http://www.mcleanpost270.org) for more.

### 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@scmafc.org](mailto:info@scmafc.org). The Center's website is [www.scmafc.org](http://www.scmafc.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](mailto: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](http://RetireeRealEstate.org), or call 703-772-3033.

### ONGOING

**Master Gardener Training.** The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit [fairfaxgardening.org](http://fairfaxgardening.org) or call Dora Lockwood at 401-864-4778 for more.

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

**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](http://www.viennapres.org), or send an email to [Passages@ViennaPres.org](mailto:Passages@ViennaPres.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](mailto: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](mailto:lpadgett@prsinc.org).



## Welcoming Cards

**Brownies in Troop 3173 at Waples Mill Elementary School in Oakton and Hunters Woods Elementary School in Reston are making welcome cards for refugees who will be resettled in northern Virginia by Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area, one of the local agencies that resettles over 1,200 individuals annually. These Brownies invite residents to make welcome cards and send them to LSS/NCA, 7401 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, VA 22043.**



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## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'Into the Woods' at The Madeira School

BY AUBREY WINGER  
LOUDOUN VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

**Y**ou never know what to expect when journeying into the woods. Perhaps you will cross paths with a wily wolf, or an innocent boy with his cow. However, you would never expect to find the sublime vocals and enticing performances of The Madeira School's cast of "Into the Woods."

A classic musical by Stephen Sondheim, "Into the Woods" epitomizes the fractured fairy tale. Treasured characters from children's stories are brought together in one giant spectacle. As the show progresses, their happy endings are forever altered by a maniacal witch and a few old beans.

### CAPPIES REVIEW

In a show known for its subplots and distinctive characters, the Madeira cast made sure every story was heard. Cinderella (Keenan Parker) won hearts with her spectacular range and melancholy expressions. She was juxtaposed with her stepfamily, all deliciously evil and remarkably fun to despise. Jack (Zoe Crawley) and Little Red Riding Hood (Katie King) captured youth and playfulness in their characters. They also showed growth as Little Red learned "many valuable things" and Jack found his confidence at the top of the beanstalk. Jack's faithful companion, Milky White (Alex Raposo), was effortlessly funny without "uddering" a sound.

The Baker's Wife (Claire Pitzer) was a breath of reality. As Cinderella spoke of her glamorous nights at the ball, Pitzer was stunned by the idea of even encountering royalty. Later, when she had her very own royal fling, Pitzer grounded herself with stern reasoning, reassuring herself that it was only a "moment in the woods." Vei Vei Thomas, playing Cinderella's Prince, brought her fantasies to life. Thomas and Prabha Girish (Rapunzel's Prince) embraced their roles with outlandish masculinity and flirting.

**"BOOM! CRASH! A lightning flash!"** Every moment of Magana Ngaiza as the witch was electrifying. Ngaiza's disfigured form and chilling, wild-eyed takes to the audience accentuated her stunning vocal performance. This diabolical persona contrasted perfectly with the elegant post-transformation witch. Although Ngaiza maintained her insidious personality and questionable motives in the second act, she developed an entirely new physique as she relished her newfound beauty.

Every member of this cast was female, yet the personas of male characters and the chemistry between



PHOTO BY TERESA WOOD

From left are Alex Raposo, Zoe Crawley, and Callie Jacks.

couples were consistently believable. Ensemble numbers were full of haunting harmonies, maintaining the integrity of Sondheim's intricate score.

One of the most impressive technical elements was the set. Naturally, a show built from storybooks should have a set built from them too. The trees in the woods rose upon trunks formed from book spines and extended into branches made of pages suspended from the ceiling. The curved trunks made the forest perfect for hiding, providing a vehicle for a certain mysterious man to disappear. The use of a cyclorama was also commendable. At the beginning of each act, before the characters journeyed into the woods, this piece was used with three fireplaces to represent the homes of characters. Each fireplace was beautifully designed to show the characters' personality and status. The narrator sat in a library nook off to the side, separating himself from the story at hand.

The breathtaking sets and stellar performances in The Madeira School's production of "Into The Woods" were a fairy tale come true.

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Music: grades 3 - 7  
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6  
Music 4 years to 2nd grade  
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
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SUNDAY WORSHIP, 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM  
CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM  
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

## CALENDAR

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

### ONGOING

**Sculpture Now.** Through March 4 at McLean Project For The Arts at Chain Bridge, 1446 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Presented by Washington Sculptors Group & McLean Project for the Arts and juried by Nancy Sausser, Exhibitions Director of the McLean Project for the Arts. Visit www.mpaart.org for more.

**Trevor on Stage.** Various times through March 5 at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. \$30, seniors (65+) \$27, students and military \$15.

Purchase online at  
www.1ststagetysons.org or 703-854-1856.

**"Around the World" Arts.** Through March 6, various time at Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Members paintings. Free. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

**Stuff-a-Bus Food Drive.** Through April 15, various times at Christ the King Lutheran Church, 10550 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. A food drive for non-perishable items to support Arlington Food Assistance Center. There will be drop off boxes for donations of non-perishable food throughout the church. Then, on April 1, look for the school bus parked in front of the church. Call 703-759-6068.

**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.

**First Sunday Jazz Brunch** 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

**The Freeman Store & Museum** Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



## ENTERTAINMENT

# 'The Children's Hour' at McLean

By CECILY WOLFE  
FLINT HILL SCHOOL

**H**aunting xylophones ring and sharp shafts of light illuminate a school house. Though the classroom appears normal, with a bookshelf, chalkboard, and chairs, this is not a typical children's story. A young girl kneels holding flowers, and as a disturbing smile contorts her face, an alarming sense of foreboding descends on McLean High School's production of "The Children's Hour."

Based on a true story, Lillian Hellman's "The Children's Hour" is the troubling tale of a girls' boarding school in the 1930s in which one student, Mary Tilford, accuses the heads of school, Karen Wright and Martha Dobie, of inappropriate relations. Mary then deviously spins an elaborate scheme in which to ensnare the two headmistresses, until the rumor ruins their reputations, friendships, and the lives of their loved ones. Premiering at the Maxine Eliot Theatre in New York City on Nov. 20, 1934, "The Children's Hour" received both critical acclaim and disdain because of its controversial material, yet today is a staple in the American drama repertoire.

McLean High School's production of this disquieting incident treated such an upsetting tragedy with maturity. Jordan Prather (Martha Dobie) personified the sensible headmistress. Her controlled voice and poised posture contrasted beautifully with her subtle hesitations when discussing her amorous feelings. Stutters and wringing of her hands belied her jealousy over Karen's relationship with her fiancé, Dr. Joseph Cardin, while the desperate, hysterical edge bordering on a sob and agitated pacing adeptly conveyed the inner turmoil over her sexuality.

Anna Kate Womack's (Karen Wright) presence accentuated the intensity of the play, comfortable

whether she engaged in a heartbreaking exchange with Joey Barth (Dr. Joseph Cardin), who helped ground the show through his rational tone and methodical movements, or a stark moment of silence and penetrating stare that left the audience breathless.

Others, such as Emily Lachow (Mrs. Amelia Tilford, Mary's grandmother) and Julia Luigs (Mrs. Lily Mortar, Martha's aunt) accordingly portrayed the alleged wisdom of age through Lachow's self-righteous bearing and Luigs's dramatic, all-knowing air. In contrast, Rachel Kulp (Mary Tilford) fostered a charged atmosphere through her chilling intensity. Her sulking face fluidly transitioned to low, menacing tones and overbearing stance, and just as easily to the false innocence of a confused child barely able to keep her body and voice from trembling in fear. Amanda Flores (Rosalie Wells) complemented Kulp's eerie character through her purposefully nervous shuffling and shuddering, while Carena Slotkoff (Peggy Rogers) and Ariana Colder (Evelyn Munn) captured the demeanor of young girls whose enthusiasm turns to horror as their supposed friend backs them into corners and pulls their hair. In fact, the school girls as a whole appeared quite natural as they chattered comfortably and murmured anxiously about upcoming exams and social events.

Furthermore, technical aspects were impressive, including dresses of rich fuchsia and a gentle blue juxtaposed with drab brown; crowded bookshelves and neat office space easily changed into an immaculate living room, and then to a barren, jumbled classroom; appropriately period props, from the telephone to the black-and-white portraits; and amber lighting that was both clean and natural.

Jarring and distressing, the painful memory of grim expressions and bodies rigid with regret seared into one's mind by McLean High School's "The Children's Hour" should serve as a lesson that since words alone can destroy, one should use them wisely.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

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 St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours.

Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those 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 Road, 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. January and February hours: 11 a.m.-4 p.m., last tour 3 p.m. Admission to park is free except for some special events. South County Government Center, 7-9 p.m. 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria. Thursday, February 16, 2017 (Room 220) & Thursday, May 18, 2017 (Room 220) Chantilly High School 7-9 p.m. 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Thursday, March 16, 2017 (Room 253) & Thursday, June 15, 2017 (Room 253). For All Sessions, RSVP to: Carole Rogers at [crogers@britepaths.org](mailto:crogers@britepaths.org) or 703-273-8829.

### FRIDAY/MARCH 3

**Friday Fun Storytime.** 11:30 a.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244

Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Stories and activities about Dr. Seuss's Birthday. Age 2-5 with adult. Free. Call 703-356-0770 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.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 7

**Lecture and Book Signing.** Noon at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Sandra Grimes, former CIA officer who helped unmask Aldrich Ames and co-wrote 2012 book "Circle of Treason" on the subject. Free. Visit [www.mcleanwomensclub.org](http://www.mcleanwomensclub.org). or call 703-556-0197.

**Mobile Tech Tuesday.** 2 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. McLean. Bring a smart phone or tablet and learn about basic mobile device functions, or move beyond the basics.

### THURSDAY/MARCH 9

**LEGO Club (S.T.E.A.M.).** 4:30 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Have fun, use the imagination and keep the engineering and problem-solving skills flowing with lots of LEGO®

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



McLean  
Community  
Center  
*The Center of It All*



## Here's What's Happening at MCC

### The Old Firehouse Family Movie Night "The Secret Life of Pets"



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

\$3 per person; pre-registration recommended.

### The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip Dinner & A Movie

Friday, March 10, 3:30-10:30 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents



### 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

### MCC Governing Board Elections Candidate Petitions Are Due



Friday, March 17, by 5 p.m.

Questions? Call the Center at  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

### The Old Firehouse 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Grader Party St. Paddy's Party



Friday, March 17, 7-9 p.m.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents  
pre-registration recommended.

### MCC Governing Board



Public Hearing on  
FY 2019 Programs

Wednesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m.

All board meetings are open to the public.



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## Still "Dating"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It's not as if I haven't written about this date: 2/27, before (try last week, Ken), but as I sit at my desk and stare at the calendar hanging on the wall to my front right, the date jumps out at me. Not that I approach it with any fear or trepidation, but I do approach it for days, weeks and even months, calculating my past and contemplating my future. Cancer has a way of marking time, and leaving marks — figuratively and literally.

Mostly I have weathered the cancer storm, eight years and counting/hoping. And as much as I don't want to define myself as a cancer patient/survivor and live my life waiting for the other shoe to drop, it's difficult not to when your feet are so swollen from years of chemotherapy that you're now forced to wear your sneakers without laces. What I lose in support, I gain in comfort. Shoes I can't wear any more. The leather soles don't cushion my feet enough to not fatigue my legs. The shoe can't drop if I'm not wearing it, right? Hardly. It can drop at any time. Certainly it can drop after my quarterly scans, hearing that tumor and/or fluid growth has recurred or anytime in between when new symptoms appear and persist (for two to three weeks, my oncologist has advised). The trick is; heck, there is no trick.

And as much as I'd like to live this date as any other, the date on which one is diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV and given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis by an oncologist, is a date that cannot be lived normally. February 27, 2009 is a date, to invoke Franklin Delano Roosevelt, that will live in my infamy. February 27, 2009 was a Friday. We had scheduled a mid-morning appointment. My brother, Richard (my one surviving immediate family member), met my wife, Dina and I (Team Lourie as I've become accustomed to calling us) in the lobby of the HMO and together we took the elevator up to the third floor (can you say somber?) where we were to meet an oncologist — a man whom I had never met or heard of before, to learn exactly what the previous week's biopsy being malignant, meant.

After the awkward introductions, the oncologist spent the next 10 minutes or so examining me in an adjacent room. Upon completing the examination, we all reassembled in the doctor's office where he proceeded to review/read the results/assessments from the previous seven weeks of tests/examinations from the pulmonologist, the radiologist, the thoracic surgeon and the associated diagnostic procedures completed: X-Rays, CT Scan, P.E.T. Scan, and of course, the biopsy. The medical opinions started off bad and got worse: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, a "terminal" disease. In listening to the reports, there seemed to be little doubt as to the diagnosis. And so it was clear to my oncologist how to proceed: chemotherapy infusions to begin as soon as possible; to occur every three weeks for six cycles with face-to-face appointments and CT Scans to follow. And though it wasn't, and it hasn't been pretty, generally it has — presumably, kept me alive and in reasonably good spirits, all things considered, and some of those things considered have included some non-Western alternatives.

So here I am, nearly eight years to the date when my old life (pre-diagnosis) ended and my new life — as a cancer patient, began. I wouldn't call it a metamorphosis, more like an upheaval. Somehow though, as the time, treatment and routine passed, I began to assimilate and integrate my new reality into my age 54 and a half head and figure a way forward. I can't say it's been fun, but the more I can laugh and find humor in my less-than-ideal circumstances, the more positive I can be about the negative. A negative which has already done enough damage on its own.

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

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### 21 Announcements

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#### NOTICE TO ESTABLISH A NEW BRANCH

Notice is hereby given that TD Bank, N.A., 2035 Limestone Road, Wilmington, DE 19808, has applied to the Office of Comptroller of the Currency on or about February 23 2017, as specified in 12 C.F.R. §5 for permission to establish a new branch to be located at 6260 Old Dominion Drive, McLean, County of Fairfax, State of Virginia, 22101. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing to

Ms. Marva Cummings, Director  
OCC Northeastern District,  
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within 30 days of this publication.



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## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 13

bricks. Age 5-12. Free. Call 703-757-8560 for more.  
**River Cruise Night.** 7-9 p.m. at Paddy Barry's Irish Pub, 8150 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Learn about hosted group wine sailings as well as individual reservations for 2017 and 2018 on Europe's waterways. Free. Contact Niall@CaddieToursOnline.com or by phone at 703-938-1300.

### SATURDAY/MARCH 11

**Spring Bazaar.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. The Auxiliary to the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department will hold their Spring Bazaar and Craft Show. Free. Call 703-309-3468 or email Dancers1023@aol.com for more.

**Essential Oils for Spring.** 1 p.m. at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about the benefits of essential oils and the many reasons to use them. Adults. Call 703-356-0770 for more.

**Effective Communication Workshop.** 1-3 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Tom Pfeifer, the author of "Write it, Speak it: Writing a Speech They'll APPLAUD!" presents tools for a more effective communicator and leader. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or call 703-938-0405 for more.

**Japanese Teas.** 1-3 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Taste a varied selection of teas and take home a Cherry Blossom Blend tea sampler. \$35. Call 703-759-2771 for more.

**Gospel Concert.** 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free. This community event features Voices of Worship community choir singing traditional gospel music and uplifting spirituals in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. Visit [www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org](http://www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org) for more.

### SUNDAY/MARCH 12

**McLean Newcomers Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. at Nostos, 8100 Boone Blvd., Vienna. Cecilia Glembocki, Executive Director of the Virginia Egg Council will speak about her 35 years of organizing the White House Egg Roll. To R.S.V.P. for the luncheon, e-mail Gloria Cohan, [gloriacohan@gmail.com](mailto:gloriacohan@gmail.com) by March 10. Visit [www.McLeanNewcomers.org](http://www.McLeanNewcomers.org) for more.

**Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts.** Shows at 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Celtic musicians performing in a listening room by the fireside. \$18/\$12 children. Visit [oldbrogue.com](http://oldbrogue.com) or call 703-759-3309 for more.

### MONDAY/MARCH 13

**Lunch N' Life.** Noon at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road. Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's first Lunch N' Life event of the year, with "Scandals in the City" Alice Roosevelt Longworth as portrayed by entertainer, Elaine Flynn. \$10, prepayment required by Wednesday, March 8. No refunds. Visit [www.scov.org](http://www.scov.org) or call 703-281-0538.

### TUESDAY/MARCH 14

**39th Annual Valor Awards.** 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. To honor public safety heroes from the Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department, Fairfax County Office of the Sheriff, Town of Vienna Police Department, and Town of Herndon Police Department who have put their personal safety at risk to keep our community and businesses safe. Chris Lawrence, News Anchor with News4 at 4, NBC4, will act as emcee. Registration is available online. Entry is \$125 for a single ticket, or \$1,250 for a table of 10. Email [athompson@novachamber.org](mailto:athompson@novachamber.org).

**Lecture on Italy.** 5 p.m. at Dante's Ristorante, 1148 Walker Road, Great Falls. A discussion on experiences in Italy. Dinner plus \$5 per person or \$10 per couple to cover Dr. Cicali's transportation. Call 703-759-4605 for more.

**Civil War Historian.** 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will feature noted Civil War historian Jim Lewis who will discuss "The Evolution of the Fairfax/Loudoun County Boundary Line and J.E.B. Stuart's Most Difficult Achievement During the American Civil War." The program is free and open to the public. Contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

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# Work Group to Examine Predatory Lending

Panel to investigate internet loans, car-title loans and open-end lines of credit.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he growing chorus of criticism about predatory lending in Virginia may not have prompted lawmakers to start passing laws to crack down on the industry. But it has accomplished one thing, formation of a work group.

"In this town, if you are in the minority party in a chamber that's two-thirds Republican, you take victories where you can," said Del. Mark Keam (D-35). "I'd like to think something good can come out of this if we can bring stakeholders together."

Lawmakers are concerned about several aspects of high-interest loans. One is the bait-and-switch nature of many of the businesses, where customers walk into a car-title business but walk out with an open-end line of credit instead. Another issue is the completely unregulated nature of open-end lines of credit, originally created for department stores but now used by car-title lenders and internet lenders. Regulators don't track them, and lenders don't need a license to offer them. Recent years have seen online lenders from around the world offer them with interest rates of up to 5,000 percent.

"If the work group doesn't deal with the open-end loans, it'll be a waste of time," said Jay Speer, executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "You can make rules about the Consumer Finance Act, and

then all the internet lenders will just switch to open-end loans and it'll all just be a waste of time."

**WORKING GROUPS** are a common way for lawmakers to punt, essentially putting off making decisions and outsourcing solutions to a panel that makes recommendations. Sometimes the groups end up making recommendations that are adopted by the General Assembly. Recent years have seen successful working groups that made significant changes to energy policy and worker's compensation. Many lawmakers view them as an ideal way to consider difficult issues outside of the frenzied pace of the General Assembly sessions.

"There are what I believe to be plus sides to being a part-time legislature, and there are downsides to being a part-time legislature. One of the downsides is you can't keep working during one session in a short ses-

**"If the work group doesn't deal with the open-end loans, it'll be a waste of time. You can make rules about the Consumer Finance Act, and then all the internet lenders will just switch to open-end loans and it'll all just be a waste of time."**

— Jay Speer, executive director, Virginia Poverty Law Center.

sion," said Del. Peter Farrell (R-56). "Sometimes it takes a year."

For critics of predatory lending, the chief goal of the working group will be to regulate open-end lines of credit. These have become the tool of choice for car-title lenders and internet lenders to offer unlimited



PHOTO BY MICHAEL LEE POPE

**Del. Peter Farrell (R-56) wanted lawmakers to force internet lenders to follow the same rules as other kinds of lenders in Virginia.**

amounts of interest. And lawmakers don't know the scale of the problem because state regulators don't track them. That's a problem that critics say has an easy fix — require a license to offer open-end lines of credit, and make them abide by the same rules as car-title lenders or payday lenders.

"I hope that we see a path forward for all lenders to be licensed," said Dana Wiggins, who answers the Predatory Lending Hotline at the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "If they're operating in the state of Virginia, they should all be licensed and they should all have to follow the same rules."

**THE SHADOWY WORLD** of internet

lending is also in the crosshairs of the work group. Some companies offer loans at interest rates from 600 percent to 5,000 percent. Some of these companies try to get around laws designed to protect consumers by claiming to have affiliations with Indian tribes, allowing them to take advantage of uncertainty surrounding a law from 1918 — long before the World Wide Web revolutionized modern American finance. Last month, Attorney General Mark Herring helped secure a \$15 million settlement against a California-based company that was using a fraudulent relationship to a North Dakota tribe to evade Virginia lending laws.

"In the absence of action, the internet becomes a lawless place that plays by different rules than traditional commerce," said Kevin Mauer, associate director of the Virginia Catholic Conference. "Without protective regulation, the commonwealth's vulnerable consumers may fall prey to more and more opportunistic lenders."

## IN SESSION

### No More Psych Beds

**Robert Johnson** of Woodbridge understands the mental health crisis from a personal perspective. Back in 2011, he was struggling with a serious bout of depression and ended up handcuffed to an emergency room bed for nine hours. That's because no psychiatric beds were available in Prince William County. So he had to wait for one to be available in Fairfax.

"Think of a horse-drawn carriage, and the nearest hospital is 20 miles away and you're riding over speed bumps. That's what I'm going through emotionally. That's the kind of pain that I'm feeling handcuffed to that bed."

Johnson presented his story to lawmakers last week and asked them to

support a bill introduced by Republican Del. **Peter Farrell** (R-56). But lobbyists for hospitals opposed the bill because they don't want lawmakers to change laws requiring hospitals to have certificates of public need, known as COPN. Farrell says he's frustrated people in need won't get help because hospitals are concerned about their bottom line.

"I don't think it has anything to do with psych beds."

I don't think they want anything at all having to do with COPN reform period," said Farrell. "I don't think they want anything to go anywhere because they don't want things to change. They enjoy having their cake and eating it too."

One silver lining, Farrell says, is that the issue will go to the Deeds Commission, which was set up after Democratic Sen. Creigh Deeds (D-25) was attacked by his son because a psychiatric bed was not available.

### Ethics Reform or New Loopholes?

Should lawmakers be allowed to receive unlimited steak dinners from lobbyists at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse if they are at a meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures? What about a three-martini lunch paid for by coal executives at a meeting of the American Legislative Exchange Council? All of that would be legal under ethics reform adopted by lawmakers this year.

"The bill says that any meal provided for attendance at such a meeting is not reportable," said state Sen. **Adam Ebbin** (D-30), the only senator to vote against the ethics package. "I don't see why we need more loopholes."

Some say that lawmakers are standing up for ethics reform, literally. One provision in

the ethics package would allow lawmakers to receive unlimited and unrepeatable food — if it's eaten standing up. That's a provision pushed by Del. **Todd Gilbert** (R-15), who recounted a personal experience to justify the legislation. A few years ago, he said, he went to a lavish reception where he ate some finger food and drank some soda. Several months later, he got notification that the event was valued at several hundred dollars.

"This just is trying to clean up that whole process so that people don't get caught in unwary traps while they are standing around eating finger food and having a glass of cola or something."

The bill also allows the state to redact the home addresses of General Assembly members.

— MICHAEL LEE POPE