

2017
VIENNA
PRESS
ASSOCIATION
Award Winning
Newspaper

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

SUMMER FUN

PAGE 6

Vienna-area residents enjoy a star-spangled evening of music and fireworks at Yeonas Park on the Fourth of July. Spring and summer traditionally offer "fun for everyone" in Vienna/Oakton area.

Summer Fun for Everyone

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Jones Branch Extension Will Reach Across I-495

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Day Prom Combines Dancing, Food and Fun

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Jones Branch Extension will Reach Across I-495

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

When the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and Fairfax County are done, McLean residents will have another way across I-495 at Jones Branch Drive and a link from inside the beltway to the I-495 express lanes.

But getting there, like all other road construction projects, will have its share of headaches.

"It's going to be inconvenient, that's reality," said VDOT District Engineer Bill Cutler at their "Pardon Our Dust," meeting on May 18 in Tysons Corner. "When we complete this project, you'll be able to access the express lanes from both sides," he added.

In all, the \$58 million project will lengthen the Jones Branch extension from the I-495 express lanes eastward over the inner loop to a point on Route 123 near the Silver Line metro station. This will provide traffic another option to getting across the beltway and relieve the congestion that currently clogs up Route 123 at Tysons Corner. The project will create a continuous median for future transit, on-road bike lanes, and a few more traffic lights.

The project is a joint effort of VDOT and Fairfax County and will be completed by



VDOT's District Engineer Bill Cutler explains the new access road at the Pardon Our Dust meeting in Tysons.

November 2019, according to the VDOT plan. A schedule "I consider to be very aggressive," said Cutler. The \$58 million is a combination of state, county and federal money, he added. The project is a five-phased project where most of the actual

construction is taking place during phase II which is scheduled for spring 2018.

The Gates of McLean condominiums are right in the path and have already been impacted by the construction of the extension and a new Capital One building that is


going up in that area. With both projects, it will be seven years of construction. Residents are complaining of long waits at the lights and construction that begins at sunup. "They put the Gates of McLean in a huge inconvenience," one audience member said. The property manager Maria Hatcher noted the holes in the road from all the trucks. "It's a pretty rough ride," she said.

The traveling public will feel the pain too. With construction now around I-495, there are slow downs due to narrow lanes in that area, but when the beams for the new bridges are hung, there will be total overnight lane closures, but the express lanes will remain open, and traffic will be re-routed up the exit ramp and down the other side.

This project was eyed to be part of the I-495 express lanes work, which started in 2008, but was shelved due to the expense at that time.

The intersection at Scotts Crossing Road and Route 123 has been causing delays, and frequent travelers have complained to VDOT about a possible turn on red being implemented, so a traffic study was performed, said Abi Lerner, VDOT senior project manager.

"Our traffic analysis looked at the sight distance, it's not safe," Lerner said. Hatcher called this intersection is a "hot button issue."




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PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"

To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and The Connection will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

editors@connectionnewspapers.com

SUMMER FUN

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
703-778-9414 OR VIENNA@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The Independence Day celebration at Yeonas Park includes live music, food-eating competitions, and, to crown off the festivities, fireworks.



For the younger set, there are Wednesdays stories and sprinklers behind Freeman House.

Summer Fun for Everyone

From holiday celebrations to weekly community activities, the Vienna area offers a diversity of amusements.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Summertime and the livin' is easy ... it's also hot, humid, and full of fun events, regardless of the weather. The Vienna-Oakton Connection looks at the traditional and the not-so-traditional, from Chillin' on Church family night and holiday celebrations to fireworks and waterplay.

The Town of Vienna, through its Parks and Recreation department, offers a diversity of summer camps to residents and surrounding communities. Camps range from traditional play-and-activities to outdoor play at Glyndon Park, from sports camps to computer camps, cooking to theatre arts, and more popular activities for children from 6 years old and beyond. See www.viennava.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3574 for details.

Wolf Trap, the nation's only national park for the performing arts, is in residence in a Vienna zipcode — 22182. Set on rolling hills, the performance venue brings concerts outdoors to festive life. Visit www.wolftrap.org for a schedule of performances throughout the summer.

Pull out the fun-guide insert and hang it on your refrigerator; outdoor events is what summer is all about.

Concerts on the Green, through early September

Concerts on the Vienna Town Green begin at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise-noted, and run Friday and Sunday nights throughout the summer. Special events include Chillin' on Church with food, live music, and activities for children.

The U.S. Navy Commodores Jazz Band kicks off the summer on June 2; Kiddie-rock stars Rockneceros plays June 14.

Bring your own seating; picnics welcome but no alcohol.

See concert schedule at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3480.
WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTOS COURTESY TOWN OF VIENNA PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT [FILE PHOTOS]

Memorial Day weekend's most anticipated event – ViVa! Vienna! – features more than 300 marketplace vendors, a food court housing a plethora of carnival food kiosks, live entertainment on multiple stages, and more than 20 amusement rides. The spider jump attracts the most daring of the young children.

In the event of rain, call the weather line at 703-255-7842 or the Department of Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 two hours before the event for cancellation information.

ViVa! Vienna! May 27-29

One of the community's most-anticipated events

comes every year during the three-day Memorial Day weekend ... Known as ViVa! Vienna! and hosted by the Vienna Rotary in cooperation with the Town of Vienna, the festival offers all-day and all-evening entertainment on multiple stages.

ViVa! Vienna! takes over the historic Church Street corridor with 300 marketplace vendors, 20 amusement rides, free activities for children, and

more than a dozen kiosks selling nostalgic "carny-food."

Ride access may be purchased as individual tickets or unlimited with a wristband.

Proceeds benefit Northern Virginia nonprofits and Vienna services. Go to vivavienna.org/ for

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VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ MAY 24-30, 2017 ♦ 3



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Fry it and they will come ... it's ViVa! Vienna! over Memorial Day weekend and the festival takes over the Church Street corridor for three days. From fried turkey legs to fried Twinkies, the carnival food screams "summertime."

Keep Virginia Green

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

For more than a half century signs along the roadsides and ads in local newspapers featured Smokey the Bear with a message "Keep Virginia Green." His reference was to forest fire prevention, of which he said 9 out of 10 could be prevented. Forest fires were a big concern because wood products were big business in Virginia.

A campaign continues today with a "Keep Virginia Green" theme as part of the "Keep Virginia Beautiful" effort. It has a broader meaning as it now includes stopping littering and other actions consumers can take as part of caring for the environment in the Commonwealth.

Maybe the most meaningful effort ever taken to protect Virginia's environment was announced last week by Gov. Terry McAuliffe — that he had signed an Executive Directive ordering the Department of Environmental Quality to begin the process of establishing regulations in Virginia that will reduce carbon emission from power plants. As the Governor explained, "As the federal government abdicates its role on this important issue, it is critical for



states to fill the void...Virginia will lead the way to cut carbon and lean in on the clean energy future." The current federal administration has moved to rescind actions of the Environmental Protection Agency to reduce carbon in the atmosphere and to act on climate change.

While proponents of states' rights may applaud the shift from the federal to the state governments, wind currents from power plants and airborne pollutants do not recognize state boundaries. It is critically important that other states follow the actions of Gov. McAuliffe.

According to the press release announcing the Governor's Executive Directive, the Commonwealth has seen an increase from just 17 megawatts of solar installed to more than 1,800 megawatts in service or under development. Revenues in the rapidly growing clean energy sector have risen from \$300 million to \$1.5 billion between 2014 and 2016. In the last year alone, solar installations have risen

nearly 1,200 percent. The number of Virginians employed by the solar industry rose 65 percent to 3,236 — twice the number of jobs supported by coal. An analysis by The Solar Foundation quoted in the release said that Virginia is now second in the Southeast and ninth in the nation for year-over-year solar growth. As of 2017, Virginia is first in the Southeast for corporate clean energy procurement.

Dominion Energy, the Commonwealth's largest electricity producer, announced earlier that it intends to follow the federal Clean Power Plant regulations even if they are rescinded by the current administration. Older coal-powered plants are being converted to natural gas or closed. The company will be subject to any additional regulations that result from the Governor's Executive Directive.

It is heartening to see the number of citizens who have expressed a greater interest in environmental matters as they realize the threat to current protections under the new administration. We need to thank and applaud the Governor for his action and at the same time keep the pressure on federal and state elected officials to see that our air is kept clean and safe. I am pleased that both the Sierra Club and the League of Conservation Voters have recognized my efforts in this regard.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Virginia Needs to Adopt California Fuel Economy Goals

To the Editor:

In response to Governor McAuliffe's directive to Virginia's DEQ to cut carbon pollution, Virginia should adopt Obama's and California's fuel economy goals: 54.5 mpg by 2025. Do climate-change dismissives — especially those who drive gas-guzzlers — ever go outside? Do they ever run, walk, or ride a bike beside a road so that they have to breathe in car exhaust?

I loathe walking beside roads, and when I've gone on long bike rides, I've noticed that "yahoos" in pickup trucks — especially the diesel models, like to "floor it" when they pass a group of bike riders, so that we are forced to get a lungful of carbon monoxide, methane, sulfur and nitrous oxides, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, and heavy metals. I'd like to see if they could get out of their three-ton "exhaust sprayers" and pedal up a two-mile grade.

Have they ever hiked in the mountains, away from traffic noise (which I despise), and breathed in pure, oxygen-rich air? My grandfather, a doctor from Marion, N.C., used to take a bicycle inner tube filled with mountain air when he went to the city, so that he could breathe the air from that tube with his car windows rolled up. To him (even with the rubber smell), that air was better than the exhaust-filled city air.

To Trump, those bike-riders and hikers are losers, especially compared to selfish status-

seekers who can afford a Cadillac Escalade, Lexus LX 570, Dodge Viper, or other ridiculously heavy and/or powerful gas hog. And who cares about wildlife, the hapless victims of our pollution? I do, for one! Shouldn't everyone be outraged to learn that:

- ❖ 25 percent of cars are causing 90 percent of the air pollution we breathe;
- ❖ in 2016, about 76 different models of vehicles weighed at least 6,000 lbs. (which are exempt from annual depreciation caps);
- ❖ eight of the most expensive luxury cars get the worst gas mileage (e.g., 14 miles per gallon or less overall).

With the strong evidence correlating dementia, Alzheimer's, and cancer with breathing car exhaust, Trump and the GOP plan to roll back national car emission standards. (My very health-conscious wife was just diagnosed with cancer, and with all the walking we do, breathing exhaust likely contributed to its onset.) Why doesn't Virginia join California to adopt the 54.5 mpg-by-2025 goal? It's the very least we should do!

John H. Fringer, III, P.E.
Reston

Heart-Breaking Responses on Homelessness

To the Editor:

Homelessness is a word that can conjure up a variety of emotions. For some it might be

sympathy or contempt for those affected by it. For others it might be a fear of it possibly happening to them. The desire to find out how people felt on this subject served as the catalyst for my project team in a George Mason University communications class.

As part of the class project we had the opportunity to partner with the Fairfax County Office of Public Affairs and the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. When we were informed about the current situation involving homelessness in the county, I was shocked. We were told that back in 2008, approximately 1,800 people were found to be homeless in the county. Although there has been an almost 50 percent reduction in homelessness since then, it had never occurred to me that a significant number of people in the area were going through this problem.

We wanted to know more about what others thought about homelessness in the county. We decided to do a survey of county residents about their thoughts on homelessness and report on what we found out. We sent the survey out on March 23 and promoted it through social media and email. After two weeks, we got the results and I think what we learned surprised all of us.

Almost 1,600 people filled out the survey. One of the responses revealed that 65 percent of those who responded believe homelessness affects them personally. Some people said they often saw people who were homeless, while others said they have never seen a person who is homeless in the county. Yet, what broke my heart were the comments that read "They are

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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County Launches Innovation Challenge

Challenge brings together several hundred attendees who “might normally not cross paths.”

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Human Services Council thinks it's time to shake things up, to build a new strategy for identifying, addressing and funding solutions for human service needs in the community, and they've taken the first step in that direction by hosting the Innovation Challenge on May 18.

Evidence from the recent Fiscal Year 2018 Budget process and the data collected in the “Human Services Needs Assessment” published last year, show a trend where more of the county's residents require some type of assistance. In the words of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, “Demand is outstripping resources.”

During the budget proceedings, some programs and initiatives were left unfunded, or given less than requested, and other initiatives and needs were rolled forward for future consideration.

Seven months ago, Human Services Council members Dr. Patrice Winter (Braddock District) and Thomas Goodwin (Providence District) “hatched an idea,” Winter told the attendees at the Innovation event. She said that the two convinced each other that a broader network of people from a greater variety of disciplines and experiences was needed to bring a fresh perspective to the various problems. With the support of their council colleagues and from county personnel, Winter and Goodwin directed their idea into the Challenge that brought several hundred attendees together who, as Winter put it “might normally not cross paths.”

In her letter to the Innovation Challenge participants, Bulova called the

community-driven program “unprecedented in that it brings together leaders of all elements of the emerging 21st century human services community: businesses, established and startup; financiers in social impact investment; social entrepreneurs; philanthropists and foundations; nonprofits, and outstanding thought leaders in academia. Fairfax County employees,” wrote Bulova, “are here primarily to listen.”

THE PRESENTERS and the attendees covered a range of varying interests and experiences. In her opening remarks, Winter acknowledged that everyone present — speakers, panelists and audience members — came to the table with their own underlying agendas, causes or points of view. She asked that those agendas be “left in the parking lot. Models, strategy and process,



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

A diverse audience gathered for Fairfax County Human Services Council's Innovation Challenge, an event seeking greater community engagement to address the county's challenges.

not issues, are our directions this morning.”

Speaking to the attendees, Goodwin applauded the audience's presence at the event, telling them that by being there, they were participating in an experiment in community engagement. Working together produces significant results, he affirmed.

“We know that,” said Goodwin, using the example of the county's Diversion First program that seeks to direct persons with intellectual disabilities and mental health issues away from imprisonment to treatment when they come into contact with law enforcement for nonviolent offenses. “Five agencies work together across turf” to make Diversion First work, said Goodwin.

The Innovation Challenge, intended to be the launch for a series of events, set forth three main objectives:

- ❖ Exchange information about state-of-the-art innovations that can address health and human service challenges.
- ❖ Elicit new ideas from public and private partners to enhance services and maximize resources.
- ❖ Set the stage for specific recommendations about service enhancements and resources required to present to relevant stakeholders in the future.

The first section of the program offered presentations from persons working directly in Human Services in neighboring Montgomery County, Md. When questioned on seeking funds from the business community or other non-governmental sources, Sharon Friedman, project director of Montgomery Moving Forward, advised that the key is to develop partnerships early.

“We don't show up afterwards and ask for money,” said Friedman. Instead, possible collaborators are asked to be at the table from the start, “when the needs and the challenges are explained and discussed.”



Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) discusses some of the issues with Human Services Council Member Thomas Goodwin (Providence District). Along with Council member Dr. Patrice Winter, Goodwin “hatched the idea” for the Challenge. Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and John Foust (D-Dranesville) also attended the event.

Speaker Dr. Sallie Keller, professor of Statistics and director of the Social and Decision Analytics Laboratory of the Biocomplexity Institute of Virginia Tech (“Yes, what a mouthful!” agreed Keller) offered insights on “designed data collection” in the Human Services arena and work being done to better measure outcomes. “The goal is to democratize data ... and to provide new language for communication ... that can become a unifying thing around different disciplines.”

After a section devoted to “Progressive Funding Opportunities,” the organizers set the “social experiment” in motion with a series of “Reverse Pitches” to drive home

the collaborative approach that Winter, Goodwin and colleagues hope to see develop from this first Innovation Challenge.

THE IDEA is to “pitch” community issues and have businesses consider them and offer their suggestions and potential solutions, instead of the traditional “company pitches a product model.” For the Innovation Challenge, real problems were shared, and real companies, who had been paired with the problem-presenters in advance for the sake of demonstration, came back with possible innovations, services, technologies, or skills sets that might be applied to solving the problem.

The topics chosen were familiar challenges for many in the audience. Heads nodded in acknowledgement when “Caregiver Support Services,” “Transportation Options for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities,” and “Skills Training for Today's Employment” were presented to the partnered businesses.

Fairfax County, like many jurisdictions across the country, is facing the challenge of widening gaps between the human services needs of its residents and the county's ability to deliver those needs within its budget constraints. With the kick-off of the Innovation Challenge, the Fairfax County Human Services Council is seeking to perform what they call a “much needed facelift” on the traditional methods of addressing those challenges. The public is encouraged to learn about the council at www.fairfaxcounty.gov, search Human Services Council and to review the “Human Services Needs Assessment” which is also available on the county's website.

For details on area parks, services, and communities, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov. Search for tax bills, property transfers, and employment opportunities.



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VDOT Virginia Department of Transportation

**Public Hearing Notice
Fairfax County
Secondary Six Year Plan**

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and The Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County, in accordance with Section 33.2-331 of the Code of Virginia, will conduct a joint public hearing in the Board Auditorium, Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035 at 3 p.m. on June 20, 2017.

The purpose of this public hearing is to receive public comment on the Secondary Six Year Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2018 through 2023. Copies of the proposed plan may be reviewed at the VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

Persons wishing to speak at this public hearing should contact the Office of the Clerk to the County Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151.

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

ONGOING

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at the Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. "Levels of Abstraction," show featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005 for more.

Artists Show. Various times through May 31 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Joyce Lee. Call 703-759-2759 for more.

Youth Chorus Auditions. Through June 6 at Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road, SW. The Fairfax Choral Society encourages children between the ages of 5-13 to audition for one of three choirs that meet at the Vienna campus. Email dlamberth@fairfaxchoralsociety.org or call 703-642-3277 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org

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 dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays, 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. 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. 571-213-3192.

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.

Live Music

Griffin House is playing on June 8 at 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. \$20 or \$25 door. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

PHOTO BY MCGONNIE STUDIO

SUMMER FUN, FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT

VIEWPOINTS

What do you like to do for fun in and around McLean during the summer?

Greer and Dean Armandroff and son Gabriel, new residents of McLean
Greer: "We're really looking forward to the neighborhood pool, and playing in the park."
Dean: "And playing tennis. I'm going to revive my tennis playing."

Pat Davis, Great Falls and daughter Anna
"I like to sit at the café at the outside tables and have coffee. I like to go walking in Great Falls Park, and I like to go to Meadowlark, which is an amazing place in Vienna."

Mary Jenkins and daughter Annemarie, McLean
"She does the It's Elementary summer camp, she really likes that. Playing outside, there's Clemjontri park, which she really likes. She likes the water parks, the rec centers, King's Dominion. There's a movie theater she goes to with stadium seating. She did a camp at Kent Gardens, a science camp."

Emily Alesantrino, McLean
"The Old Firehouse in McLean does a great summer camp and teen program with amazing trips. Other than that, we like to go hiking in Great Falls."

ANSWERS COMPILED AND PHOTOS TAKEN BY ELLEN BARKER THE CONNECTION

THURSDAY/JUNE 8
Griffin House Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. \$20 or \$25 door. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

MONDAY/JUNE 12
Musician Alex Hassan. noon-3 p.m. at Emmanuel Lutheran Church 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Hassan will be playing melodies from the era between World War I and World War II. \$10

TUESDAY/JUNE 6
Mini-Golf for Chari-TEE. 1 p.m. at Oakmarr Recreation Center, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. \$8. Proceeds to benefit the

THURSDAY/MAY 25
The Original Pancake House Benefit. 7-

SUNDAY/MAY 28
Weekend Brunch and Cookie Class. 9-11 a.m. at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, McLean. Breakfast buffet, cookie decorating class and face painting. \$20. Call 703-442-9110.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3
Riverbend Park Benefit. 6-9 p.m. at the Riverbend Park Visitors' Center, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Fundraiser for the benefit of Riverbend Park sponsored by the Friends of Riverbend Park. \$50 for adults, \$25 for children, \$125 for families. Register at www.forb.wildapricot.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4
Vienna Lions Club 75th Anniversary. 2-4 p.m. at the Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E. Featuring Nighthawks Swing Band, food, beverages, and a sight and hearing van offering checks for all ages. Go to www.viennava.gov for more.

Blessing of the Animals. 2-4 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Great Falls. With a dog and cat companion, to the Blessing of the Animals. Visit www.antiochvienna.org for more.

McLean Symphony. 7 p.m. at the Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. International Treasures, with Spotlight on the Organ, including local organist David Lang. Visit <https://web.ovationtix.com> for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 25
The Original Pancake House Benefit. 7-

Levels of Abstract

Through May 31, Levels of Abstraction Art, various times at Broadway Gallery, 5641-B General Washington Drive. Featuring the works of Hiromi Ashlin, Genna Gurvich, Sandi Ritchie Miller, and Buck Nelligan. Visit www.broadwaygallery.net or call 703-450-8005.

Hiromi Ashlin
Genna Gurvich
Sandi Ritchie Miller
Buck Nelligan

\$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/

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. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 -9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/ clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

3 p.m. at The Original Pancake House, 7395 Lee Highway, Falls Church. The Original Pancake House will donate 15 percent of its sales from breakfast and lunch to the Shepherd's Center. Call 703-734-8353.

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

required by June 6. Call 703-281-0538.

8 a.m. at Oak Marr Golf Complex, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Compete in closest-to-the-pin-contests, and prizes will be awarded for the top three places in all three divisions. \$65 per team. Call 703-323-1641 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23
White Elephant and Bingo Ice Cream Social. noon-3 p.m. at American Legion, 330 N. Center St., Vienna. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

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Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax County and Prince William County Public Information Meetings

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

Monday, June 12, 2017

Oakton High School Cafeteria
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Wednesday, June 14, 2017

Stone Middle School Cafeteria
5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville, VA 20120

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Piney Branch Elementary School Cafeteria/Gym
8301 Linton Hall Road, Bristow, VA 20136

Find out about plans to transform 22.5 miles of I-66 from I-495/Capital Beltway to University Boulevard in Gainesville to provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 6 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view the preliminary concept plans submitted by I-66 Express Mobility Partners, VDOT's selected partner for the project, and learn more about the proposed improvements. Attend the formal presentation at 7 p.m. VDOT and I-66 Express Mobility Partners staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at www.Transform66.org, at the meetings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030. Please call 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure the availability of appropriate personnel to answer your questions. Preliminary concept plans and project schedule will be available at the meetings for review and public comment. Staff will also be available to answer questions regarding environmental, right of way and civil rights information.

Give your oral or written comments at the meetings. You may also email comments to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov or mail them to Susan Shaw, P.E., Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Northern Virginia District Office address above. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. A summary of comments submitted by **June 30, 2017** will be posted on the project website.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights at 703-259-1775 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-497 UPC: 110741

WEEK IN VIENNA

Oakton High School Students Take First Place

A student team from Oakton High School earned a first place award at the 2017 DECA International Career Development Conference held in Anaheim. The winning team included Oakton High students Shazmeena Khattak and Sambriddi Pandey who won first place in the Sports and Entertainment Marketing Operations Research Event.

Bus Headed from Vienna for Memorial Day Event

Vienna's Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist) is inviting local veterans to attend the

May 29 Memorial Day wreath laying event in Washington, D.C., at the World War II Memorial, where Good Shepherd's pastor will pray and church member Dave Yoho will be a featured speaker.

"A bus has been provided to leave from our church to attend the wreath laying on Memorial Day," said The Rev. Eric Song, Good Shepherd's pastor. "We have seats available and would like them to be used by veterans and elderly who would have a hard time driving to the WWII Memorial." Fairfax businessman and professional speaker Dave Yoho has been selected to address those at the Memorial Day program. Yoho, an author and World War II veteran, will speak prior to the wreath laying at the World War II Memorial. The bus will leave the Vienna church around 7:45 a.m. May 29 and return after noon. Those wishing to join the trip are asked to sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0a4ca5a729aaf58-busseating

Fairfax Citizens Protest Wells Fargo's Funding of Keystone XL Pipeline

Members of the climate justice group 350 Fairfax gathered outside of Vienna's Wells Fargo Bank on Saturday, May 20, to peacefully protest the bank's funding of the Keystone XL pipeline. The group handed out flyers to bank customers and passing pedestrians to explain why the Keystone XL pipeline is a disaster for the climate, dangerous for water and soil quality along its proposed route, and is unfair to indigenous peoples whose sacred land would be disrupted.

"We're here to ask Wells Fargo to stop funding the Keystone XL Pipeline, and to educate the public that the pipeline is carrying the dirtiest form of oil from the tar sands in Canada," said Helene Shore, co-chair of the 350 Fairfax group. "It's a threat to our water, our air and our climate. It took Obama seven years to study the effects of this project, and he rejected it."

Trump overturned it in one month because it is in the best interests of the oil companies. We plan to use our voices to stand up against the banks that fund the pipeline, and ultimately to defund it."

The protest piggybacks on a national week of action coordinated by the Rainforest Action Network on the week before Earth Day. Called the "#DefundKXL Week of Action," these nationwide actions were meant to pressure big banks such as Wells Fargo to take their money away from the Keystone XL pipeline project. 350 Fairfax joins



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Peaceful protest in front of Vienna's Wells Fargo branch highlights the local fight to defund climate damaging pipeline.

other environmental groups around the country to keep the momentum going and keep the movement to defund Keystone XL at the forefront of the public's mind.

Find more information about 350 Fairfax on Facebook and Twitter.

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SUMMER FUN

Summer Fun for Everyone

FROM PAGE 3
details, updates, schedule and map of events.

Vienna Lions Club 75th Anniversary Celebration,

The Vienna Lions Club is celebrating its 75th anniversary in the town Saturday, June 3, 2-4 p.m., free, at Vienna Town Green and the community is invited to celebrate along with them. The party features the Nighthawks Swing Band, food and beverages, and sight and hearing checks sponsored by the Lions Club.

Stories and Sprinklers, Wednesdays, June 28-Aug. 2; 1:30 p.m.

Children sit on the lawn behind the Historic Little Library, located behind the Freeman Store on Church Street and listen to a storyteller recite a popular kids' book. Afterward, children dart over to the Town Green to run through the sprinklers set up there.

Independence Day Celebration, July 4, Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive, SW

The Town of Vienna celebrates Independence Day with live music, food-eating contests, hotdogs and nachos, and the celebration's most-anticipated event, fireworks.

Music begins at 7:15 p.m. with the classic rock sounds of Fat Chance. Food and drinks are for sale at the Vienna Little League concession stand.

Fireworks begin at dark, approximately 9:30 p.m.

Children 5-10 years old are invited to enter the 2nd annual pie-eating contest that begins at 7 p.m. Call Brian Hanifin for more details at 703-255-6352.

If gorging on chili dogs is more your style, enter



FILE PHOTO COURTESY TOWN OF VIENNA

Splish-and-a-splashin' on the Town Green ... children jump on water slides and in a bounce house – and eat sno-cones – on Vienna's own "water-park" day.

the 2nd annual Chili Dog-Eating Contest sponsored by the Vienna Inn, famed for its chili dogs. There is a \$20 registration fee and participants must be 18 years old or older to enter. Register online, at the Parks and Recreation office, or at the Vienna Inn on Maple Avenue.

Splish-Splash Kids' Water Party,

Vienna Parks and Rec turns the Town Green into a water park for the afternoon on Saturday, July 29, 1-3 p.m. on the Town Green. Activities include a water slide, slip-n-slide, moon bounce, water games, sprinklers, and sno-cones, as well as a raffle.



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SUMMER FUN



The Reston Chorale will hold A Star-Spangled Salute on Saturday, May 27, at the Reston Town Center.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

A Star-Spangled Salute, Care Package Drive at Reston Town Center

The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac will mark the beginning of Memorial Day Weekend with A Star-Spangled Salute, including a concert of patriotic music, entertainment by Al and Ellen Torzilli of the band Natural Selection, family activities and a care package drive for troops serving overseas. Slated for Saturday, May 27, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Reston Town Center's Pavilion, this free, family-friendly event will salute the men and women serving in the U.S. Armed Forces, and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

"This is one of the highlights of our season," notes Ruth Overton, president of The Reston Chorale. "There are moments when we sing the Armed Forces Salute — when a veteran, service member or their family hears 'their song' and gets to their feet or waves a flag — that bring home what this event is all about. It's a time and a way for us to say 'thank you for your service and sacrifice'—and to remember and honor those who gave their lives for our country." Thanks to support from Northrop Grumman, this year the Chorale will share the stage with Brass of the Potomac — a British-style brass band. Together, members of The Reston Chorale and Brass of the Potomac will present a concert of patriotic music and songs that celebrate America.

The event also offers ways to directly thank ser-

vice personnel: a creative station where children and adults can make thank you cards for troops, and a Care Packages for the Troops drive.

The Reston Chorale and Reston Town Center have teamed up to collect donations of care package items — from snack foods and sports equipment to supplies for a Fourth of July celebration — that will be sent to a platoon serving overseas.

Suggested donations include protein bars, powdered drink mixes and water flavorings; non-aerosol, unscented toiletries; small electronics, such as hand-held games, fans, misters and non-lithium batteries; playing cards, puzzle books and lightweight sports equipment. Donations can be dropped off during the event on May 27, or on weekdays through Friday, June 2, in the lobby of 11951 Freedom Drive, Reston, as well as other Reston Town Center office buildings. "This event is about honoring and giving back to the men and women who serve our nation," notes Overton. "Thanks to the heartwarming response to the Chorale's care package drive, in just two years we have shipped 650 pounds of donations for troops serving far from home."

For more information about A Star-Spangled Salute and The Reston Chorale's care package drive, please visit www.restonchorale.org or call 703-834-0079.



Sticking to United States Postal Service tradition, antique mail truck braves the weather for the main parade for Great Falls' July 4 celebration last year.

Concert on the Green, July 4 Highlight Summer in Great Falls

Celebrate summer in Great Falls, visit www.celebrategreatfalls.org for more July 4



Last year, Great Falls singer-songwriter Mary Ann Redmond performed a mix of classic covers and her own music at the Concert on the Green. The lawn was full of people from all over the area.

events, the Concerts on the Green schedule and Movies on the Green selections.

PHOTOS BY NIKKI CHESHIRE/THE CONNECTION

BULLETIN

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

❖ **The Lewinsville Senior Center** in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Art, Self-Defense, Chair Exercise, Indoor Gardening, Basic Spanish, Basic French, Ballroom Dance and Basic Guitar.

THROUGH SUMMER

Vienna Street-sweeping Program. The Town of Vienna began its annual street-sweeping program beginning March 20. The Town is divided into eight sections for purposes of the sweeping program. During the first pass through Town, the Public Works Department asks that residents not park on the street. Find the "sweeping" sections at viennava.gov/sweeping. Additionally, signs will be placed on streets marking a window of 7-10 days during which the truck will come through. Contact public works at 703-255-6380.

THURSDAY/MAY 25

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, located at 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a project information meeting regarding the upcoming installation of synthetic turf and athletic field lighting on rectangular field #7 at Great Falls Nike Park. This is the field closest to the corner of Leesburg Pike and Utterback Store Road in the park. Call 703-324-8662, email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/press/html/ir077-17.htm.

THURSDAYS/MAY 25-JUNE 29

Chronic Disease Self-Management. 9-11:30 a.m. at Kaiser Permanente - Tysons Corner, 8008 Westpark Drive, McLean. Fairfax County is offering a free Chronic Disease Self-Management program. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/chronic-disease.htm or call 703-324-5489, TTY 711.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Flea Market. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Vendors needed. Call 703-281-4411, email office@oaktonbrethren.org or visit www.oaktonbrethren.org.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of McLean-Arlington-Falls Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean has an urgent need for volunteers to help area senior citizens. 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 email info@scmafc.org, visit www.scmafc.org.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

like pigeons, you feed one with money and more will flock in" and "You don't want homeless people in your neighborhood because they create trash." It seemed that many people were more hung up on the negative image they feel homeless individuals create for the county instead of their plight. Some of the comments were difficult for us to read, while others were heart-felt and inspiring.

My classmates and I learned a lot through our project on homelessness, but mostly I think it is that we (even college students) all have the ability to assist those in need.

Giovonny Bland
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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg			

Woe Is Not Me



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

When I think about being diagnosed with lung cancer, I don't think, why me. I might think, why not me, but I definitely think, now what. The idea/strategy being: moving forward, not recriminating or regretting backward. As Popeye the Sailor man so often said: "I y'am what I y'am." Although I doubt he was talking about having lung cancer. How could he? He ate all that spinach, canned though it was. Besides, he's a cartoon character.

And as much and as often as he ate it — and it always helped him overcome whatever predicament Brutus had put him in, is as little and infrequent as I ate it. Perhaps that was because my mother cooked vegetables in a pressure cooker so by the time I saw them on my plate, they no longer resembled a vegetable nor were they the least bit appetizing. To say the vegetables were limp and lifeless does a disservice to all things characterized as 'limp and lifeless.' In fact, I can still remember the first time I ate a vegetable that was not d.o.a. It was at my mother-in-law's house; she was a wonderful cook. She made asparagus for this memorable meal and served it in a beautiful antique china serving dish. When the dish came my way, I stuck my fork in the asparagus to serve myself and heard a sound, a poof. I was taken aback, sort of. It was a sound I had never heard before — from a vegetable. As I learned that night, it was the sound of a vegetable that had not been cooked beyond its edible life.

That's not to imply that avoiding vegetables contributed to my diagnosis. Hardly. It simply says that vegetables were not a part of my childhood. Meat and potatoes were, as was my standard go-to meal: cream cheese and American cheese on bread. It was the sandwich of my youth and it has remained very much a part of my adulthood as well. It may not sound appetizing to you; to me, it represents all the comforts of home — heaven on Earth between two slices of bread or open-faced on a bagel or English muffin. Simple but oh so effective — and delicious.

Not to be totally oblivious to my underlying medical condition, I do realize that modifying my eating habits is a prudent and sensible consideration. However, I rationalize that need-to-feed with the explanation that, as a cancer patient (and anyone else, really), if I am to continue to attempt to thrive while I survive, I need to be happy, positive and relatively stress free. After all, this cancer business: characterized as "terminal" by my oncologist; chemotherapy (and its well-known side effects) every five weeks, C.T. Scans quarterly, M.R.I.s every six months, P.E.T. and Bone scans every so often, face-to-face quarterly appointments with my oncologist and all the associated fears and anxiety surrounding this rather unpleasant experience, and you can imagine, even agree perhaps, that living in the trenches as us cancer patients do, we need help — in any number of ways; personal and professional.

And though I am mindful of what I eat, I don't want to abuse the privilege of survival I've been given. I never want to take it for granted, especially considering my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis. By the same token, life is for living. As Andy Dufresne (Tim Robbins) said to "Red" (Morgan Freeman) in the movie "Shawshank Redemption:" "Get busy living or get busy dying." Since I'm in no hurry to die, I need to find a balance in how I live. Being miserable because of what I can't eat won't work for me. I'm just not flexible/mature enough in my eating choices; never have been. I still eat like a child, but now I have a man-sized problem.

I imagine the longer I live with cancer, the more vigilant I have to be. Then again, if it ain't broke, is there any reason to fix it? Do I leave well enough alone or do I try to grow up and eat my age, not my shoe size? I mean, I am eligible for Social Security.

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



From left: Kilmer junior Victoria Mayfield-Mayo and Nancy Gaboury, Adaptive PE teacher at Kilmer, have fun dancing.



Marshall senior Daniel Crowley sways to the beat of the music.

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



Marshall senior Emma Cynkar smiles as her official Prom photo is taken by volunteer photographer Matthew Cohen (not pictured) who is a junior at Robinson.



Marshall senior Melanie Salinas/

Day Prom Combines Dancing, Food and Fun

The 2017 Day Prom for special education students from Kilmer, South Lakes, Fairfax, Falls Church, McLean, Centreville, Marshall, and West Springfield was held on May 17 at the Waterford at Fair Oaks in Fairfax. The event has grown so much

over the years that it has expanded into two day proms. The second for Robinson, Woodson, Oakton, Lake Braddock, Herndon, Westfield, Chantilly, Lee, and Stuart was scheduled for May 24 also at the Waterford.

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