



Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION



Friends Austin Allison, Harish Chandrasekaran, Tim Kim and Anika Malik talking before the Oakton High graduation ceremony.

Saying Goodbye to Oakton High

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'Courage of Conviction'

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County Supervisors Meet Vienna Town Council

Tyson's athletic fields, I-66 widening, renovation of Patrick Henry Library and Capital Improvement Projects discussed.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Interjurisdictional Committee – Vienna and the Town Council of Vienna met Wednesday, June 14, at Council Chambers in Vienna. They were there to discuss town and district projects of mutual interests that might impact the infrastructure and public facilities that serve Town of Vienna residents. Three Fairfax County Districts – Hunter Mill, Dranesville, and Providence – overlay sections of the Town of Vienna.

County Board of Supervisor Committee Members Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), and Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence), as well as Chairman Sharon Bulova (At-Large), were present at the 90-minute meeting. Fairfax County Executive, Edward L. Long, Jr., Deputy Executive, Rob Stalzer, Town of Vienna Mayor Laurie A. Di Rocco, Town Councilmembers, as well as Town Manager, Mercury T. Payton attended.

DiRocco said the Vienna Community Center Renovation and Expansion Project would be completed in September 2017, providing additional program and activity space.

Results from the town's branding exercises will be unveiled in October. The Town's Communication and Marketing Department has been working on defining the town's brand and creating a logo to tell Vienna's story.

Bulova said the much-anticipated Silver Line to Dulles Airport is on schedule, "Smooth sailing with the end in 2019 and open for services in 2020," she said.

The meeting agenda included four key items: Tysons athletic fields, the I-66 Widening Project, the Patrick Henry Library Renovation and various County and Fairfax County Public School Capital Improvement Plans (CIP).

AN EXTENDED DISCUSSION ensued regarding Tysons athletic fields. Smyth cited the need to consolidate monies from various sources to fund the fields.

DiRocco expressed concern that there may be a need now to identify where the Tysons athletic fields would go. "Is this an opportunity that will go away?" she asked.

Bulova responded that in the Vision and Comprehensive Plan for Tysons, "The understanding [was] that athletic fields would be included ... areas were identified where athletic fields could be constructed as part of the development, same as other infrastructure." She added, "If we are building athletic fields, we don't want to have Tysons become developed and then to create a burden on the surrounding communities. Developers are required to try to meet the



Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville) expressed concern about the capacity impact upon local high schools surrounding Tysons since the Tysons Comprehensive Plan does not include high schools or middle school to be built in Tysons-only elementary schools.



Supervisor Linda Q. Smyth (D-Providence) cited the need to consolidate monies from various sources to fund the athletic fields in Tysons.

needs of the existing and future residential community by providing facilities in Tysons."

Hudgins proposed innovative thinking on how to create playing fields. "Rooftops are very good, and they work," she said.

Smyth stressed the need to consolidate properties. Foust stated that although Tysons' population showed a need for 60 fields based on population projections, the amended Tysons Comprehensive Plan states 20 fields. "We need a plan for the 20 fields in Tysons — at that level. If we wait, it won't happen," he said. "We cannot serve Tysons out of McLean." Smyth cited examples in her district where multiple properties were consolidated, and various sources of revenue



Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) proposed creative approaches to build athletic fields in Tysons by maximizing space for recreation and program space within commercial buildings. "Rooftops are very good, and they work," she said.



Vienna Mayor Laurie Di Rocco questioned whether there is a need now to identify where athletic fields in Tysons will be sited. "Is this an opportunity that will go away?" she asked.

enue funded the project.

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation Office of Public-Private Partnerships, the I-66 Widening Project, Transform 66-Outside the Beltway (495 to Haymarket) will "transform Northern Virginia's Interstate 66 into a multimodal corridor that moves more people, provides reliable trips and offers new travel options."

In regards to the I-66 Widening Project, Smyth reported that after the Public Information Meeting (Monday, June 12 in Oakton), when strong public opposition to a portion of the project was heard, they did release the announcement that multi-axle vehicles, such as 18-wheelers and tankers

will not be permitted the use of the access points and ramps.

Long reported the Patrick Henry Library Renovation Project is scheduled for the bond to be renewed in 2026. The library currently has 65 parking spaces, and the town has a shortage of 350 spaces. Patrick Henry is a high-use community library he reported, and they could use a few more spaces. Long said, "It might be wise to put a structured parking facility there. We know that it's about \$16,000 space, so it's how much can we afford to get there when we get there." Long said the schedule could be moved up as there is a library referendum in 2022, and if they could put together a partnership sooner, that might work too.

THE FIRST TWO ITEMS on Capital Improvement Plans focused on two elementary schools, Louise Archer and Vienna. DiRocco reported the renovation planning for Louise Archer is scheduled to begin 2021. "We want to be sure the history of that school is maintained with honor." As for Vienna Elementary School, DiRocco reported the school had reached capacity. "They have exceeded what they have on that site." She added Madison High School is also over capacity, at 2,000 students. At a recent Board of Education Meeting, it was said they'd rather renovate high schools around Tysons than build new ones. The Tysons Comprehensive Plan only includes elementary schools.

Foust reiterated that the Tysons Comprehensive Plan stated elementary school aged children from Tysons would not be going to the schools in surrounding areas. "They would extend Marshall High School, but that's not going to come close to serving Tysons, in my opinion. There's a big issue in Tysons, and the schools don't want to face up to it." Bulova brought the question of demographics trends and requested consideration based on such for future school construction plans.

Final topics discussed involved Tysons projects to be determined. Long said due to the need for police presence, a satellite station is being considered. Bulova said that a possible Tysons conference center, more like a facility is being considered. "Not a convention center, but something smaller that could attract organizations coming into the area," she said. "It's a wonderful opportunity to help provide an industry sector in Tysons....They eat here; they spend money here, they buy stuff here. Then they go home, and we don't have to educate their children. It's a win-win." When asked where it would go, she said there are a lot of older buildings, a lot of pavement, so there is an opportunity for a redevelopment for something like a conference center.

She added that it might be a public-private partnership with Visit Fairfax as they get their revenue from the transient occupancy tax, the hotel tax. Bulova said that the goal of Visit Fairfax is to attract visitors to Fairfax County. "This is something that would benefit all of us."

NEWS

The June 16 artists' reception at the Vienna Arts Center featured works interpreting images of "Dawn to Dusk."

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



Vienna Arts Society's artist of the month, Julie Cochran, shares laughs with the group's president Dore Skidmore.

'From Dawn to Dusk' Exhibition Opens at Vienna Arts Center

Photographer Julie Cochran artist of the month.

The June 16 reception for the Vienna Arts Society June exhibition brought in approximately 30 artists and guests to view art pieces interpreting "From Dawn to Dusk." Photographer and society member Julie Cochran was honored as Artist of the Month, her images featured at Vienna Arts Society's Village Green gallery. Cochran calls her exhibit "Lotus-Palooza."

Pieces in the exhibition at the Art Center at 115 Pleasant St. N.W., cover a range of media, from oils and watercolors to photography and paper collage. "Dawn to Dusk" runs through the end of June. Vienna Arts Society artists bring the colors and light of morning and its journey to evening to life in more than 25 visual interpretations.

Cochran is challenged by cerebral palsy but meets the challenge head-on with grace and resolve. Although she is at a stage where she can no longer firmly hold a camera, she uses a tripod to steady her aim, resulting in her crisp and natural images. Since taking her first art class in 1993, Cochran has gone on to win photography competitions and to be accepted into juried art shows. Lotus-Palooza celebrates the lotus blossom through color and form.

To learn more about the Vienna Arts Society and its classes and programs, go to www.viennaartsociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

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PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOV

From left: Patti Vaughn, SCOV Board; Jayne Young, SCOV Director of Operations & Events; Joe Young; Charlie Balch; Michael Black; Tom Black and Scot Welch of Ledo Pizza.

Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna Hosts First Chari-TEE Event

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) recently hosted their first mini golf tournament event at Oak Marr Mini Golf in Oakton to support their services for seniors.

According to Jayne Young, "Our first Mini-Golf for Chari-TEE event was a lot of fun to do and was very well received by all the golfers. Many of the participants have re-

quested we repeat this event."

Attendees vied for prizes for high and low score; beat the pro; hole-in-one, plus door prizes. Prize sponsors were Ledo Pizza, Vienna; Oak Marr Mini-Golf; Meadow Lark Gardens and Giant Food, Oakton.

To volunteer, donate or learn more about how you can help, visit www.scov.org or contact the office at 703-281-0538, office@scov.org.

Teens Share Music with Seniors

A Vienna-based group of teenagers performed in a music-sharing recital at the Sunrise Senior Living Residence in Fair Oaks. Their program included solo and group songs, both vocal and instrumental.

The eighth-grade students and their respective instruments: Rachel Petrovich (trombone); Christina Luckett (piano); Sarah Kwartin (oboe); Adriano Moran (voice); and Tariq Abdulhak (violin). The teens prepared a program repertoire that reflected a variety of music genres, including classical, big band, pop, and jazz.



From left: Tariq Abdulhak, Rachel Petrovich, Sarah Kwartin, Adriano Moran and Christina Luckett.

Their music-sharing event also had a sing-a-long portion during which the teens lead the senior residents in singing several tunes including: "Here Comes the Sun," "Singing in the Rain" and "It's a Wonderful Life."



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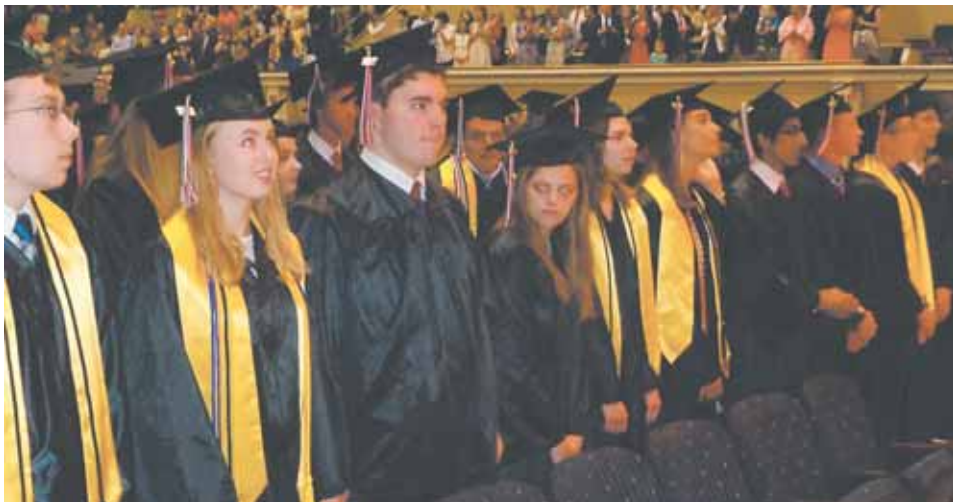
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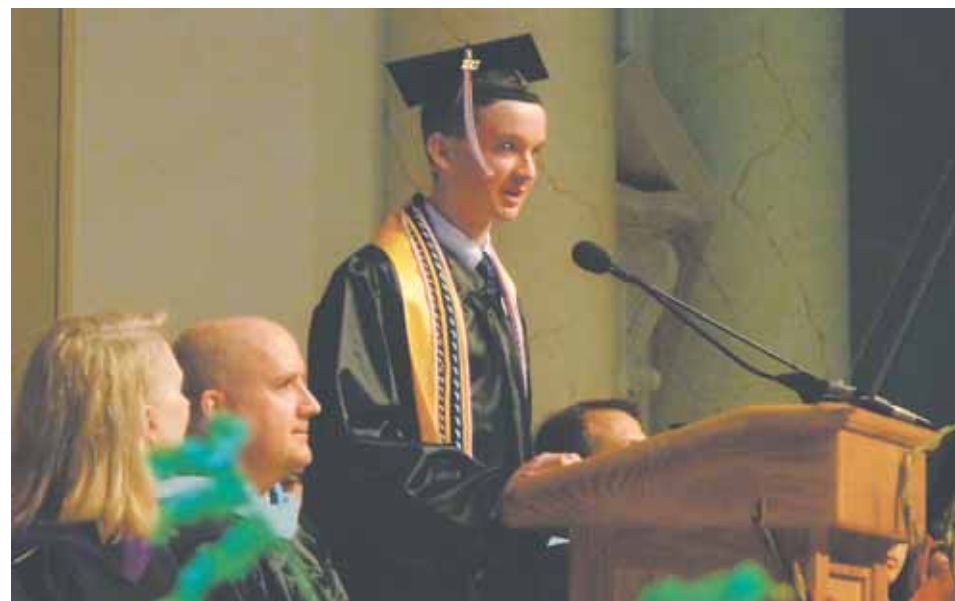
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Madison High School graduates stand at the beginning of the graduation ceremony.



PHOTOS BY THOMAS KENDZIORA/THE CONNECTION

Student speaker Neil Going addresses his fellow Madison graduates.

Student Speaker Highlights ‘Courage of Conviction’

Madison High School graduates 475 in the class 2017.

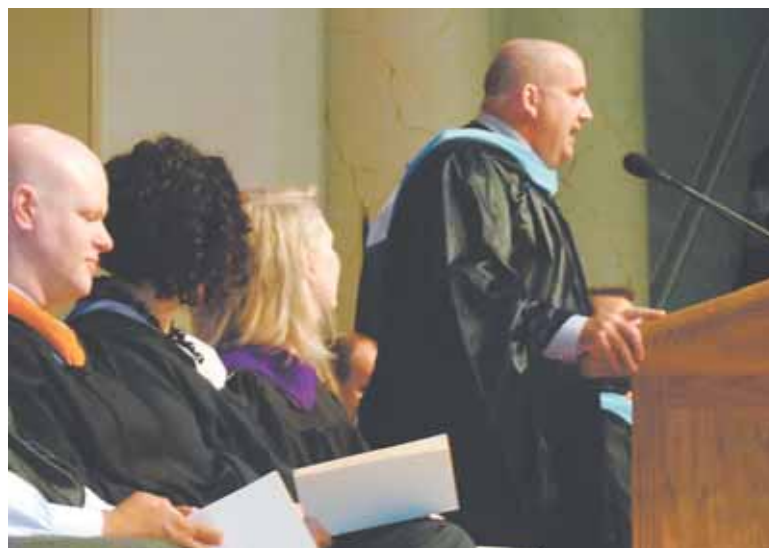
BY THOMAS KENDZIORA
THE CONNECTION

Timothy Buckley stood on the stage at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C., looking out over a sea of black caps and gowns.

“It has truly been an honor to see you grow into the mature men and women that you have become,” he said to the 475 students gathered.

The director of student services at James Madison High School was chosen by the class as its commencement speaker; he said he was honored to receive the invitation in February. Buckley was a counselor at Thoreau Middle School for two years before returning to the same position at Madison. The now-seniors were seventh and eighth graders those two years, so Buckley has been around several of them for their entire time in secondary school.

“This will be a very unique opportunity,” he said afterward. “I would say 75 percent of those kids, I have seen and known since the beginning of seventh grade, so this class



Director of Student Services Tim Buckley delivers his speech to the senior class.

will always be a special one for me.”

THE GRADUATES processed into the arena at 11 a.m.; several county school board members and a plethora of elementary and middle school principals were on hand for the ceremony. Buckley was front and center on the stage.

While senior awards were handed out at convocation, three students received honors Friday. Nick Conforti and Sarah Franklin won the school’s citizenship awards. Daniel Gerke won the Faculty Award, the highest honor the staff can give to one of its students.

wiring the electricity for buildings that provide shelter for the homeless or mending foreign relations, every contribution matters.”

A hefty portion of this class is indeed attending college; scattered cries of “Blacksburg,” where Virginia Tech is located, could be heard upon exiting Constitution Hall. A majority of students are indeed making college the next step, Buckley said, but some are joining the military or taking a gap year.

Before the graduates all head their separate ways, though, Friday was a chance to reflect on what they accomplished together. This senior class won more athletic state titles than any in school history, including one last week, and several other programs have received high honors during the last four years.

“Madison is our stomping grounds,” Going said during his speech.

DURING THE CEREMONY, Principal Gregory Hood referenced the school’s 1967 class, which graduated in the same building. He noted the drastic difference between the years — they didn’t have cell phones or laptops or even Slurpees back then — but said that this class’s impact on Madison will be remembered in time.

“When the Class of 2067 looks back on the Class of 2017,” Hood said, “they will be in awe of your long list of accomplishments.”

Neil Going was the student speaker at the ceremony. Students were all invited to submit speeches to a committee, and a select few were invited back to audition.

During his speech, Going told the story of his brother, who left community college to become an electrician. Going said that this story is often met negatively because it goes against the norm of graduates continuing their education, and he challenged his fellow students to do what they feel is best for them and for those around them.

“Each of us should have the courage of our convictions to dedicate to a personal and impactful cause,” he said. “Whether



Madrigals perform ‘Bridge Over Troubled Water’ during the Madison graduation ceremony.



The guests attending Madison High School graduation: principals, school board members, counselors and more.

Saying Goodbye to Oakton High

The class of 2017 had 188 honor graduates, more than any previous Oakton High School class.

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO
THE CONNECTION

The color burgundy filled the floor of Eagle Bank Arena at George Mason on June 15. Oakton High School students gathered for the 2017 graduation ceremony at 2 p.m. The graduating class of 587 students nervously and anxiously awaited the moment their names would be called to walk across the stage.

Steve Buckhantz, television play-by-play announcer for the Washington Wizards, encouraged students to reach for their dreams.

"Find something you're passionate about, pursue it, and be persistent," Buckhantz said.

He is a Washington, D.C., native and attended Washington-Lee High School in Arlington. With 40 years of broadcasting experience with stations including NBC and Fox 5 TV in D.C., Buckhantz had a lot of advice for the young adults. He reminded students that they should remember where they came from and work hard for their futures.

The faculty awarded Ryan Davis the Faculty Award, which goes to a graduating senior who has been a great contributor to the Oakton High School Community.

This year was the last year that the Oakton principal, Dr. John Danbury, would be shaking students hands and handing them their diplomas. He was promoted to executive principal of region 1 a few months ago. Since then, Daniel Meier has been the interim principal until the position is filled.

Faculty received their share of appreciation from the speakers, including student Lydia Lodge, the Executive Council President, who said, "Without teachers, there would be no graduation."



SGA officers pose for one last picture. From left: Kaitlyn Hyn, Will Miller, Ahmad Hasanian, Lydia Lodge, Caroline Deloach, Carly Golden and Katie Mcdaid.

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION



From left: Leah Harriman, Alyson Calvello (counselor), Sarah Hanlon, Sam Harmic and Seamus Hanrahan.

The chorus sang a senior tribute of "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield. The class of 2017 had 188 honor gradu-

ates, more than any previous Oakton class. The Oakton cougars were able to proudly throw their burgundy caps in the air.



Parents, Rodney and Dawn Whitmore, wait with daughter, Briana, to see their son Myles Whitmore graduate.



Students received their diplomas and stopped to have their pictures taken once they stepped off the stage.

VIEWPOINTS

Oakton High School graduates reflect on where they see themselves in 5 years?

PHOTOS AND INTERVIEWS BY
MAGGIE GIORDANO

Kylie Paldao

"I am attending Elon University. I will be studying either education or something with public health. In five years I hopefully will work as a teacher or be attending nursing school."



Nitya Reddy

"I am going to the University of Pittsburgh to study pre med. I see myself going to med school and doing some internships."



Hunter Carrico

"I am going to James Madison University and studying theatre and hopefully minoring in studio art as well. In the future I will hopefully be doing something along the lines of acting, whether or not it be teaching or performing on stage in D.C. or other cities."



Gifty Wisdom

"I am thinking about going straight to a four year college. I was accepted to many colleges and am thinking about it. In five years I would be doing my dream job as a nurse and traveling around."



Allison Grant

"I am going to be going to the University of Mary Washington and I am not quite sure what I want to study yet. I will probably be getting my master's degree after."



OPINION

Losing One of Our Own

Worst fear of any parent of a teenager, losing a child to violence.

Later this week, when area Muslims celebrate the end of Ramadan, a month of observance and daily fasting at Eid al-Fitr, the surrounding community grieves with them the loss of 17-year-old Nabra Hassanen of Reston.

Nabra was among a group of teenagers who were gathered at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society for an all-night event overnight Saturday during Ramadan, and who were returning to the center after going to eat at a fast food restaurant.

Fairfax County Police report: "At about 3:40 a.m. on Sunday, a group of as many as 15 teenagers was walking and riding bikes on Dranesville Road. The group of teens had been attending an overnight event at a mosque, the All Dulles Area Muslim Society or ADAMS Center, and had left to go to a fast food restaurant. As they were returning to the mosque, some were on the sidewalk and others were on the road itself. Detectives believe [Darwin Martinez Torres, 22, of Sterling] came upon the teens while he was driving. The investigation reveals a teenaged boy on a bike began arguing with Torres. Torres then drove his car onto the curb as the group scattered. Witnesses say Torres

caught up with them a short time later in a nearby parking lot and got out of his car armed with a baseball bat and began chasing the group. Torres was able to catch Nabra. His anger over the encounter led to violence when he hit Nabra with a baseball bat. Torres then took Nabra with him in his car to a second location nearby in Loudoun County."

Nabra's body was found in a Loudoun pond. Torres is charged with her murder, which police describe as a road rage incident rather than a hate crime, although more charges could come later.

All parents who have successfully raised children into a teenagers know fear for their safety as they become more independent. We expect our teens to be safe participating in events based at a house of worship. We expect our teens to be safe from violence. Nabra's death means that all of us now have a diminished sense of safety; we all grieve with Nabra's parents, who lost their beautiful and beloved daughter during Ramadan, on Father's Day. We share their horror at what their daughter suffered.

Coming together in support of the Muslim community in vigil, prayers and other support has meant a great deal.



PHOTO COURTESY KHADIJAH ABDULLAH-LARDAS
Nabra Hassanen, 17, of Reston was a sophomore at South Lakes High School.

"Basically, the outpouring of support from the Christian community, the Jewish community, Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist, Bahá'í; everyone is comforting to us," Rizwan Jaka of the ADAMS Center told a Connection reporter. "People care so much and it means so much to us."

But we will all feel the loss of Nabra Hassanen, and a loss of sense of safety here, in weeks and years to come.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

November General Elections

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

With the conclusion of the political party primaries last week the general election is now teed up for Nov. 7. There were some surprises coming out of the Democratic and Republican primaries. Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam easily won the Democratic primary to be the nominee for governor even though there was discussion beforehand that polls indicated a tight race. Polling for primaries is notorious for being inaccurate because with a typically light turnout the universe of potential voters is almost impossible to determine.

Former one-term U.S. Rep. Tom Perriello has a great deal to offer and will hopefully stay on the scene for future opportunities. Although the term "establishment" was grossly over-used in describing Ralph Northam, his service in the state senate plus his active role as lieutenant governor made him well known and greatly admired throughout the state.

Justin Fairfax gained everyone's admiration after a primary loss to Attorney General Mark Herring four years ago led to his active campaigning during the interim time making him well known for this primary. He was also well known for his work as an attorney. If you review the areas where Ralph Northam did well



and compare them with where Justin Fairfax was strongest, you create a strong statewide team that will be nearly impossible to defeat. Attorney General Mark Herring was not challenged in a primary and will be on the ballot to succeed himself in November. There is no one-term limitation with the attorney general and the lieutenant governor as there is with the governor.

The greatest surprise of the primaries may have been on the Republican side to pick a candidate for governor. Ed Gillespie who has been mentioned for years as the next Republican governor of Virginia barely got through the primary with a shockingly strong showing by Corey Stewart who is known for his anti-immigrant work in Prince William County and for campaigning with a Confederate flag. He has the distinction of being so over the top that he was fired by the Trump campaign. Turnout was especially low in the Republican primary, and Stewart was just over a percentage point in taking out Gillespie. It will be interesting to see if the folks who voted for Stewart will vote in the general election or decide to stay home.

The Republican primary for lieutenant governor was a slug-fest between two state senators with Jill Vogel winning after a mud-slinging campaign that left neither candidate looking good.

All 100 seats for the House of Delegates are

up for election this fall with a record number of contested elections.

Historically it has been difficult to recruit candidates to run for the House of Delegates, but events of the past year have brought forth more candidates than ever before. There was a record number 27 seats where the candidates were determined by the primary because there was so much interest in running. Democrats will certainly pick up seats in the House of Delegates getting closer to shifting or sharing power in that legislative body.

While I am uncontested in my race for the House of Delegates you can still expect to see me campaigning. It is a good way to stay in touch with constituents and to increase turn-out for the statewide elections. Expect a busy fall of campaigning leading up to the fall elections in Virginia that will send a signal to the nation as to the public's reaction to national events.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Donna Manz
Contributing Writer
dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com

Kyle Kincaid
Editorial Assistant
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

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Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
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
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9427
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





The Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College is designed to address challenges faced by young women in higher education.

PHOTO COURTESY OF
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Finding the Right Mentor

A mentor can brighten a young person's future.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tamyka Mason says that she was struggling with academics, finances and time management. She knew that she needed to make a change, but didn't have a source for guidance. Mason discovered the Women in Search of Excellence (WISE) Mentoring Program run by Northern Virginia Community College and her life began to change.

"When I joined WISE, [I] was assigned [a] mentor and learned how to speak about the challenges I was facing and the goals I had," said Mason. "[My mentor] helped me dramatically ... plan for future events."

The upcoming summer months offer teens an opportunity to connect with adults other than parents who can offer guidance through mentorship programs. Finding the right mentoring match can be a life-altering experience, say experts.

"Through supportive relationships with adult mentors, teens can learn how to develop practical goals, identify resources to accomplish goals ... regulate emotions, communicate effectively with others and cope better with stress," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

The Virginia Mentoring Partnership (VMP) is a source for those who are looking for a mentor or those who want to mentor others. The organization's program managers train mentoring program coordinators and mentors. Their goal is to increase the number and quality of mentoring programs in Virginia. VMP maintains a database where prospective mentors or mentees can plug in a ZIP code and find the closest mentoring program.

"We provide support across the State of Virginia to help align program practices that research shows make high quality mentorship programs," said Betsy Bilharz, Virginia Mentoring Partnership. "We recruit, screen and match mentors with young people using that set of standards."

Recognizing that a mentoring relationship is not usually a relationship of equals is an important aspect

of mentorships, says Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "There are really two types of mentors: those who provide guidance and willingly share knowledge they have accrued from their experience in the field," she said. "The second type are those who facilitate opportunity, vouching for someone or helping the person with points of contact in their area of interest. Both are important."

THE MENTORING RELATIONSHIP develops best when mentors listen to a young person's concerns and expectations [and] empathize and tailor support and skill building around the teen's needs and with their input, says Short. "The relationship should benefit both the mentor and the teen through expressions of gratitude, a sense of accomplishment, and expectations for future support and success."

Effective mentors are as interested as they are interesting and are forthcoming with accounts of their own struggles and the strategies they used to overcome them, says Best. "The best mentors listen first and then lead. It's not a one size fits all relationship," she said. "The best mentors are concrete in their guidance and work with attainable and flexible goals. [They] don't play favorites, but work to create an ethos of fairness and mutual respect."

Tykesha R. Myrick works as a financial aid manager at Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and is the founder of the WISE program on campus. The program, which targets minority women, pairs students with adult professionals who offer guidance to the students, many of whom are the first in their families to attend college. "The relationships go beyond academic accomplishments and are life changing and life lasting," said Myrick. "The goal is to provide a holistic environment for these young women."

Mentorship programs such as WISE work best when those being mentored are receptive. "The [best] mentees [respect] the mentor's gift of time [and] recognize the importance of learning by listening and ask thoughtful questions, and they are open and responsive to guidance," said Best. "It is equally important to invest not simply in the best and brightest, but those with the smallest glimmer of promise. Good mentors move mountains."

Details

For more on Virginia Mentoring Partnership, visit vamentoring.org or connect.mentoring.org.

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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

WEEK IN VIENNA

Remembering Former Louise Archer Elementary Teacher

Roxanne H. Cramer, who died recently, was a highly regarded teacher in the area. She taught for 37 years in schools, including at the G/T Center at Haycock Elementary from 1970-1982 and the G/T Center at Louise Archer Elementary for 21 years, and retired in 2003. Staff members, past or present, who would like to attend her memorial service are welcome. The service will be held in the Sanctuary of the Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road Oakton, on Sunday, June 25 at 2:30 p.m. (703-281-4230 or uucf.org).

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

Authority has started an update of the Turner Farm Park master plan and would like to gather input on the plan from community residents. Information session and discussion is open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/turnerfarm.htm, call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

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 or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 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.

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/JUNE 22

Hispanic Connect Networking Event. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Main Conference Room, 4th Floor, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Free member event, guests receive first complimentary visit. Visit www.vahcc.com/events.html.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park

FAITH NOTES

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

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, 450 Orchard Street, NW Vienna.

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

Wesley United Methodist Church located at 711 Spring St., 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.

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, at the intersection of Lewinsville and Brook roads in McLean, 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. Check www.stthomasmcleanva.org for special events and services through the year. St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, 8991 Brook Road, McLean, 703-442-0330.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Ken Frye Exhibit. Various times through June 30 at the Meadowlark Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Ken Frye is the Vienna Arts Center artist of the year. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Art at the Library. Various Vienna artists work on display in June at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Reno Number Eleven Steam Locomotive is one of five pictures supplied by the Vienna Arts Center. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Julie Cochran Photography. Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Sunny Days Art. Artists exhibition through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Sunny Days exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

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. \$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.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

James Arthur Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401 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.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Hickory Grove. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Freedom 5K. 8 a.m. at Tyson's Corner Center Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. To support the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Call 202-316-3298 or email at ashley@nardimedia.com.

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

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Relatively Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

If you live long enough, it's quite likely that many of the family members/generations born before you will have predeceased you. Moreover, the family members born before them, two generations-plus behind, are most surely to be geshtorbin (Yiddish for dead) as well. The effect: memory loss. Specifically, the memories lost of a generation of great grandparents – and beyond, you probably never knew or for whom you have extremely limited knowledge; after all, you were an infant when your maternal grandmother died. And when your widowed mother died nearly nine years ago, you lost what may very well have been that final anecdotal connection to your family's history, especially if your Jewish and your grandparents immigrated from Russia, Romania, The Baltic States, etc. before World War II where recorded history of Jews was evidence not documentation.

It just so happens that in my family, in fact, our closest surviving cousins, Ronnie and Gil, who themselves are in their 80s, are alive and extremely well and living with their daughter, Jayne, in Massachusetts. This past weekend, Ronnie and Gil drove eight hours to visit my brother Richard and me. And though we are regularly in touch over the phone, it has been years since we were all together in Washington, D.C. And being in their company, naturally we reminisced – ALL WEEKEND. What spawned this column was a comment Ronnie (a singer/pianist in Boston for 25 years) made in response to a question we asked about whether there was any other musical talent in the family. She said quite matter of factly that my maternal great-grandfather – who I had never met or even heard of before, "was a cantor in Russia – with a beautiful voice" (who never left Russia). "What! I never knew that." I don't recall knowing anything about my great grandparents, maternal or paternal.

You see, Ronnie was there almost at the beginning. She was the first born to my mother's oldest sibling and only sister, my Auntie Lee. My mother was the baby of the family – after two brothers were born. As such, the age difference between my mother and Ronnie was about 14 years, atypical for a niece and an aunt. As a result, Ronnie was witness to lots of family history that I thought might have been lost forever when my mother died in 2008. As a few examples, Ronnie knows who was present at my mother's "Auntie's" house for Passover Cedar in the early 1960s. She knew that "Auntie" was my mother's mother's brother's widow, not my mother's mother's sister. I certainly didn't. She knew that three families/our cousins lived together in this three-story home and all worked together in the family market: Levine's. Still more that I didn't I know.

Another family connection Ronnie and Gil reminded us of was a family line we have in South America. Again, before World War II, one of my maternal grandfather's (Hyman) brother's Simon (Shimon) immigrated to Argentina where to this day exists first (Eduardo) and second cousins (names I'm afraid don't know) I've never met, though Ronnie and Gil have met numerous times in Miami and in Argentina (Ronnie and Gil used to live in South Florida). The more we talked, the more we travelled back in time. But I won't self-indulge myself and bore you any longer. I will try to wrap it up in the next paragraph.

My mother, Celia died in December 2008, my father died in December 2006. With their passing, my brother and I lost – among a million other things, their first-hand, on-site accounts of our Lourie/Blacker history dating back 150 years or so to Russia/Eastern Europe, before any of my relatives immigrated to America. Ronnie, my mother's cherished niece, knows as much about our family history as there is still to know and her husband of nearly 63 years, Gil, knows almost as much. Their visit wasn't just a weekend. It was a lifetime. A weekend of a lifetime for which Richard and I are extraordinarily grateful.

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



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ENTERTAINMENT



On the Green

Summer on the Green Concert featuring Hickory Grove, Friday, June 23, 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. See viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

FROM PAGE 11

Collecting CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent textbooks, in good condition. The proceeds provide scholarships for women. Email aauwbookfair@gmail.com or call 703-527-4206 for more.

Historic Marker Dedication. 10 a.m. at Observatory Park at The Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The marker honors the work of the U.S. Army Map Service and its contribution to the Global Positioning System, better known as GPS, that is now used worldwide for navigation. Call 703-324-8662 or visit Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Football Players Autograph Session. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Navy Federal Credit Union, 820 Follin Lane SE, Vienna. Navy Federal will host a meet-and-greet with Ryan Kerrigan from the Washington Redskins and Keenan Reynolds from the Baltimore Ravens. Debit card users and service members will enjoy autographs from players, discussion from the Navy Federal Debit Team and light

refreshments. Visit www.navyfederal.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 25

Musical Instrument Drive. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike. Donate used musical instruments to Hungry for Music, a D.C. nonprofit dedicated to expanding opportunities in music for children globally by collecting and redistributing instruments. Visit www.hungryformusic.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

McLean Racquet and Health Club Nats Game. 7:05 p.m. at the Nationals Ballpark, 1500 South Capitol St. S.E., Washington, D.C. Seats are located in the lower level outfield reserved section, transportation not provided. Call the club at 703-356-3300 for tickets.

WEDNESDAYS/JUNE 28-AUG. 2

Stories and Sprinklers. 1:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna (behind

the Freeman Store). Hear a story. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

FRIDAY/JUNE 30

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Shenandoah Run. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

For King and Country Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson's Concert Series. Call 703-893-9401 or visit www.tysonscornercenter.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 2

Oceans Quartet Concert. 5 p.m. at McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Varied musical styles include bagpipes and Beatles music. Part of The Alden at the McLean Community Center's 2017 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. Call the Center at 703-790-0123 or visit www.aldentheatre.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 4

July 4 Festival and Fireworks. 6:30 p.m. at 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

McLean Independence Day. 6:30 p.m. at Churchill Road Elementary School, 7100 Churchill Road, McLean. Musical entertainment by a local disc jockey, as well as food trucks selling a variety of entrees and snacks. Off-site parking and shuttles available. Admission is free. In case of inclement weather, the fireworks show will be presented at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, July 5. Call 703-790-0123, or visit mcleancenter.org.



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