



# Great Falls CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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## Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12

The winner of the Lead Actress in a Musical is  
Jamie Goodson, "Gypsy," Langley High School.

## Supervisors Endorse Route 7 Widening Design

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## Great Falls Soccer Hosts Family Fun Day

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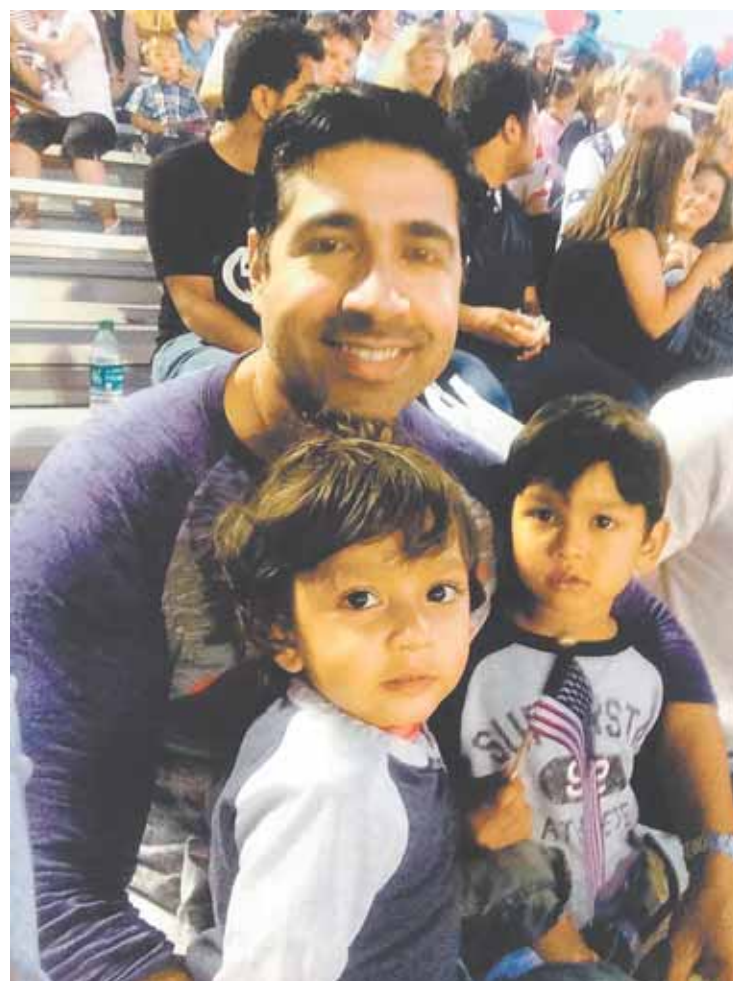
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## ME & MY DAD Gallery of submissions by readers.



Rose Boos, Gloria Boos and their Papa, Archie Rader at Interlochen Music Camp in Michigan. Rose and Gloria are both 13, they live in Great Falls and currently attend Cooper Middle School.



Waiting for the fireworks to start:  
Harminster Sandhu, Arjun Sandhu and Kirin Sandhu of McLean.

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**Board of Supervisors  
Chairman Sharon Bulova  
with the At-Large Lady  
and Lord Fairfax, Jane  
Miscavage and John J.  
“Jeff” Lisanick.**



**Supervisor John Foust  
(D-Dranesville) with  
Lady and Lord Fairfax  
from his district, Sally  
Horn of McLean and  
Gary Pan of Great Falls.**

PHOTOS BY  
ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

## County Honors Lord and Lady Fairfax for 2017

Every year since 1984, two individuals from each of the nine Fairfax County magisterial districts, as well as two from the at-large “domain” of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova are honored for their service to their communities or for particular acts of heroism. For their dedication, these community caretakers are named Lord and Lady Fairfax for the year.

The 2017 honorees were feted at a reception at the County Government Center on the morning of June 6. Following this gathering, the Lords and Ladies were escorted into the Board Auditorium where their accomplishments were publically acknowledged and each received a certificate declaring their status.

The Lords and Ladies will be making a few more appearances during their reigns, including at the signature celebration for Fairfax County’s 275<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which will take place in the area surrounding the Historic Fairfax Courthouse in central Fairfax, on June 17. Just to add another “jewel in the crown” of this event which promises fun and festivities for the whole family, the real Lord and Lady Fairfax will be joining celebration all the way from Great Britain.

Nicholas Fairfax, 14<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax of

Cameron, and Lady Annabella will help celebrate the founding of our county from when the area was part of lands owned by his ancestor, the 6<sup>th</sup> Lord Fairfax of Cameron.

In announcing the visit by Lord and Lady Fairfax (the originals), Chairman Bulova laughed that the noble guests seemed a bit confused by the fact that there were more peers in Virginia whom they would be meeting. “Only here in Fairfax,” she told him. “We’re special.”

— ANDREA WORKER

### Introducing your 2017 Lord and Lady Fairfax

#### At-Large - Chairman Bulova

Lord Fairfax: John J. “Jeff” Lisanick is a former client at New Hope Housing’s Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter. Desiring to give back to the homeless community, he joined the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) as an original member in 2012. Since being elected Chair of the CAC in 2013, he has been a member of the Governing Board with a goal of preventing and ending

homelessness. Jeff took his passion to end homelessness to a new level in July 2015 when he was hired by New Hope Housing as the Residential Coordinator of the same shelter in which he was once a client. He now serves as the Coordinator of Residential Services, overseeing seven different sites.

Lady Fairfax: Jane Miscavage has been an incredible asset to both Fairfax County Public Schools and our community at large. In 2007, Jane began serving as a founder and manager of the Food Allergy Support Group of Northern Virginia, where she helped over 400 families access up-to-date allergy research and health care professionals. Her commitment to children and families continued through her service to #IamFCPS, a grassroots organization that advocated for a fully funded 2017 FCPS budget, and later, as the Vote Yes Meals Tax Campaign Manager. Currently, Jane Miscavage continues to serve our schools as Vice President of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

#### Dranesville District – Supv. John Foust

Lord Fairfax: Gary Pan encourages adventure in the Fairfax County community as the Scoutmaster of Troop 55 of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the Advisor of BSA Coed

Venture Crew 364, and the Director of the Wolf Trap First Time Campers Program Camp. He serves on the Board of Northern Virginia Technology Council (NVTC), the Great Falls Citizens Association, and as a member of the Rotary Club of Great Falls. Previously, Pan served on the Board of Directors of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Junior Achievement of the National Capital Area, and the Entrepreneur Center at NVTC. He has received multiple awards for his dedication to community service.

Lady Fairfax: Sally Horn has served as President of HOAs in McLean and elsewhere, taking actions that have improved quality of life for Fairfax County citizens. As a Board member of the McLean Citizens Association and president, she greatly expanded MCA’s outreach. She is a three-term member of the Tysons Transportation Service District Advisory Board, MCA liaison to the Tysons Partnership, the founder of a monthly adult speaker and discussion group at Temple Rodef Shalom, and organizer of the first-ever voter registration and information drive at the McLean Community Center. Because of her time and efforts, the McLean Chamber of Commerce awarded her with the Community Impact Award.

## Langley PTSA Gets Big Checks

The Langley Parent-Teacher-Student Association received two big checks during its last meeting on Wednesday, May 31.

Giant Food is Langley High School’s top affiliate fundraising partner organization.

“Langley High School is very fortunate to receive almost \$12,000 in funds through their A+ Rewards program for this school year,” said Elizabeth Trumbull, chair of the affiliate fundraising program of the Langley PTSA. “We encourage all families located in the Langley School district to link their Giant Bonus Card to Langley High School to help us raise much needed funds to

assist with renovation furniture, teacher professional development, etcetera.”

CauseNetwork, a McLean-based start-up that runs a fundraising platform for not-for-profit causes and organizations, is the PTSA’s newest affiliate fundraising partner.

The site the company set up for Langley, PTSA Langley.CauseNetwork.com, donates a percentage of every purchase from various online retail brands to the Langley PTSA.

Another way the CauseNetwork site allows the PTSA to raise money is through its vehicle donation program. Donated cars, trucks, recreational and all-terrain vehicles (RVs and ATVs) and motorcycles are processed through the CauseNetwork Foundation, which handles the pickup, in-

spection and resale of the vehicles. The net of the expenses to operating the program are then given to the PTSA.

The check presented by CauseNetwork at the meeting for just over \$2,100 represents the money from the donation of just one vehicle.

“We hope to earn over \$2,500 in just eight months of the partnership for this school year,” Trumbull said. “We hope all families in the Langley School district will donate their vehicles using this easy program to benefit Langley students and faculty.”

Those interested in learning about all the ways to financially support the PTSA can read about more donation options at PTSA Langley.org/Support-Us.



COURTESY OF THE LANGLEY PTSA

**From left: Langley High School  
Principal Fred Amico; Giant  
McLean Store Manager Joe  
Donati; Langley PTSA Past  
President Chrissie Lavin; Presi-  
dent Jennifer Feinstein; and  
Affiliate Fundraising Chair  
Elizabeth Trumbull.**

# Design of Route 7 Widening Endorsed by Board

BY FALLON FORBUSH  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed design plans for the widening of Route 7 during a hearing on Tuesday, June 6.

The project, estimated to cost \$233.9 million, will widen 6.9 miles of Route 7 from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive. It will also make intersection improvements and add shared-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists on both sides of the corridor.

The widening of this section of Route 7 is included in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan, with funding allocated from the county's Third Four Year Transportation Program (fiscal years 2013-2016) and the fiscal years 2015-2020 Transportation Project Priorities program, according to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. The project is also funded by state, local and federal funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Six-Year Improvement Program.

While the project is fully funded at its estimated cost, the exact total will not be known until bids for the work are received, according to FCDOT.

The Fairfax County and Virginia Departments of Transportation's current schedule for the work has completion slated for November 2023:

- ❖ Design-Build Contract Request for Proposals Advertisement – August 2017
- ❖ Commonwealth Transportation Board Approval to Award Contract – February 2018
- ❖ Design-Build Contract Notice to Proceed – February/March 2018
- ❖ Begin Construction – November 2018
- ❖ Complete Construction – November 2023

**THE MAIN CHALLENGE** of the project will be maintaining traffic during the work. "There's quite a bit of traffic that travels on Route 7 and we're going to be doing

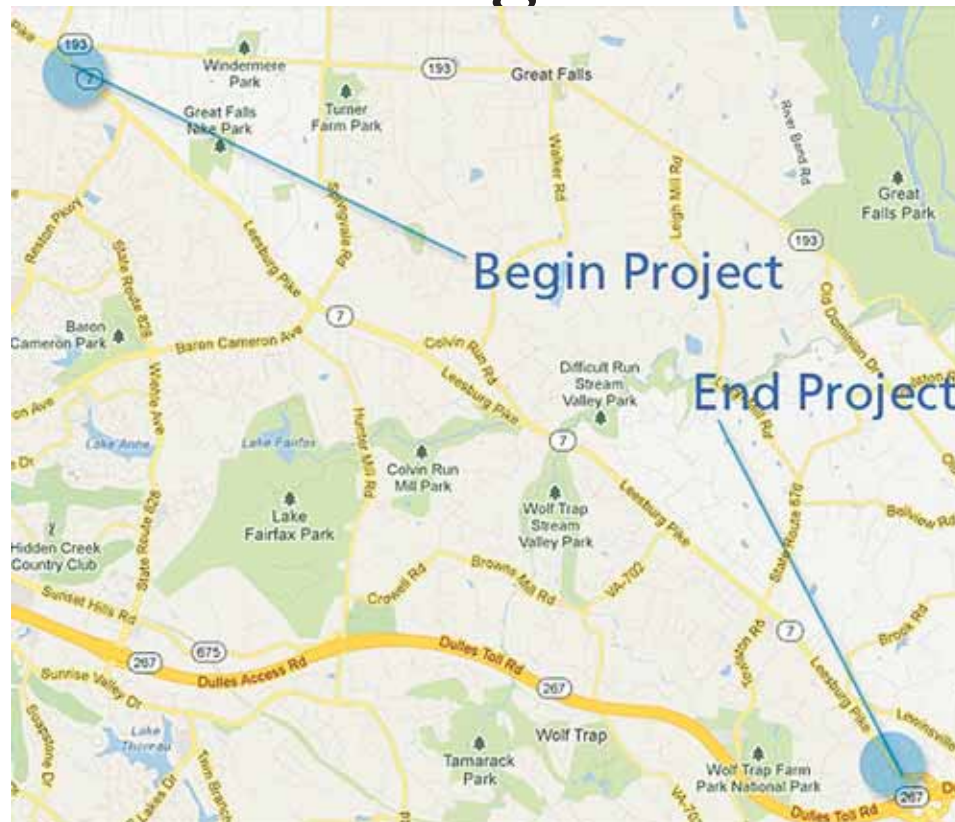


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

**Almost seven miles of Route 7 between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive in Fairfax County will be improved. The project would widen the road from four to six lanes, add facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, and make substantial intersection and other improvements along the corridor.**

extensive improvements, so that's going to be one of the main challenges that we have," Terry Yates, VDOT assistant land use manager, said in November.

Fortunately for drivers, VDOT will keep all lanes open during rush hours, according to Lee

Ann Hall, VDOT location and design engineer.

"Whenever we're doing a roadway project, we want to minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible," Hall said in November. "If we could reduce the number of lanes for a longer period of time, that would certainly help us finish a project sooner, but that's just not what happens in Northern Virginia."

A public hearing was held for the design of the project in November 2016 at Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna that drew more than 160 members of the public, according to the FCDOT. A total of 103 written, emailed or oral comments were also received.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), asked FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny to clarify the design plans being presented to the board during the hearing last week.

"The letter says we approve the design as presented at a public hearing, but the board matter discusses two amendments that were made after the public hearing," Foust said.

After the designs were drafted, comments were received from residents of Towlston

Meadows in Vienna to improve Atwood Road, since the project will remove the left turn lane onto Stokley Way. This would eliminate an access point to their homes and require residents to use Atwood Road to access their homes.

After receiving this feedback, the project's design will now include improvements for Atwood Road from Route 7 to Robnel Place, according to Biesiadny.

Community members also requested a connection to shared-use paths along Route 7 to existing trails on Lewinsville Road near Woodhurst Boulevard in McLean. With this feedback, the county agreed to amend the design to include a sidewalk on the east side of Lewinsville Road.

While the designs before the board were not updated to include these amendments, Biesiadny assured the board that the amendments would be included.

"As of the moment, the design plans have not been updated ... we're just informing you that, 'Yes, those changes will be made,'" Biesiadny said during the hearing.

"Those are two [amendments] that were discussed with the community," he added. "They were comments that we received back. Both the county staff and VDOT are comfortable including those and recommending those to you [Board of Supervisors]."

The motion carried unanimously, another milestone in a long-awaited project.

Planning for the widening of the Route 7 corridor west of Tysons has been ongoing since 1999, according to FCDOT.

**THE FIRST SECTION** of this effort began construction west of the project limits in 2013 with widening between Rolling Holly Drive and Reston Avenue. Construction of this western section was completed in February 2016.

Bridge deck replacement and widening of Route 7 over the Dulles Airport Access Highway and Toll Road east of the project limits began construction in summer 2015 and is expected to be completed in spring 2018.

## Fifteen County Students Win Merit Scholarships

Fifteen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have been named winners of Merit Scholarship awards by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The students are part of a group of more than 3,200 National Merit finalists chosen to receive scholarships financed by higher education institutions.

Winners of the scholarships, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Elizabeth Ellinger of Langley High School (architecture), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.
- ❖ Emma Kohm of Langley High School (aerospace engineering), National Merit Embry-Riddle Scholarship.

James Morrissey of Langley High School (undecided), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.

❖ Zipporah Klain of Madison High School (undecided), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ Noah Thompson of Madison High School (fine arts), National Merit Virginia Commonwealth University Scholarship.

❖ Melanie Pincus of McLean High School (writing), National Merit Tufts University Scholarship.

❖ Jason Katz of Robinson Secondary School (engineering), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

❖ Emma Bachman of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (environmental engineering),

National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

❖ Sofiya Boroday of TJHSST (linguistics), National Merit University of Chicago scholarship.

❖ Emma Cuddy of TJHSST (physics), National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship.

❖ Ishaan Gandhi of TJHSST (human rights), National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship.

❖ Grey Golla of TJHSST (computer engineering), National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

❖ Jillian Khoo of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.

❖ Alvin Shi of TJHSST (physics), National

Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

❖ Mary Jane MacArthur of West Springfield High School (international development), National Merit Brigham Young University Scholarship.

scholarship winner was evaluated on his or her academic record; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay describing activities, interests, and goals; SAT scores that confirmed outstanding test performance; and a recommendation and endorsement from a high school official. Each award provides between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the recipient's scholarship.

The final group of NMSC scholarship recipients from the class of 2017 will be named in July.

# NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT  
**Firefighters removed some boards from the deck in their search for the trapped dog.**

## Dog Rescued After Being Trapped Under Home for 2 Days

On June 1, firefighters rescued a beloved member of a family in Great Falls: Banx, a 60-pound dog.

The homeowner called Fairfax County Department of Fire and Rescue North Point Station No. 39, reporting their dog was trapped under their deck, after hearing him whimpering, according to the department.

The deck was less than three inches off the ground with gravel placed to the base of the deck. Firefighters searched for the dog, but could find no evidence of the dog or of any gravel being disturbed under the deck.

Crews then began to investigate the rest of the home to see if the dog could have hidden somewhere else with no results.

Firefighters then removed some boards from the deck and searching under the deck, still with no results. Then they heard a small whine from under the house.

Crews immediately started removing more boards from the deck

to dig deeper into the slab foundation of the home. The dog's tail and then a foot were felt after several buckets of gravel were removed.

Firefighters were eventually able to free the dog, which had been trapped under the home for two days. He emerged dehydrated and a little bruised, but in good shape despite the lengthy entrapment, according to the department.

Animal control evaluated the dog's health and turned him over to a very happy family, according to the department.

Firefighters could only surmise that the dog went after a small animal that hid under the deck. The dog was then wedged and continued to push and dig trying to get free. In doing so, he only went further under the home. The gravel he was moving was pushed behind him, thus blocking any evidence of his location and his only means of escape.



**The dog emerged dehydrated and a little bruised, but in good shape despite the lengthy entrapment.**

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## Fundamental Freedom to Choose to Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators.

Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

This week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe celebrated Loving Day, June 12, with a new state histori-

cal marker to commemorate the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the landmark case. The dedication marked the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1967 ruling that overturned all state laws restricting interracial marriage. The ceremony was held at the former site of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, where the case was heard before it reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The Lovings' story is told in a movie of the same name.

On Valentine's Day, 2014, Judge Arenda Wright Allen, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same

freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision begins:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken. ...

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

*Adapted from an editorial published by Connection Newspapers in February 2014.*

## Fairfax County Celebrates its 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

By JOHN C. COOK  
SUPERVISOR (R-BRADDOCK)



It seems no matter where you go in Fairfax County, you can't go more than a few hundred yards without finding something of historic or cultural significance. Fairfax County is rich in nearly all historic eras — be it colonial, civil war, or 20th century, and played a significant role in each. As the supervisor for the Braddock District, I want to make sure all of my constituents — and all county residents — take full advantage of this. This year marks the county's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and on June 17, Fairfax County will hold a commemorative celebration honoring just how far the county has come.

On June 17, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the area surrounding the Historic Fairfax Courthouse located in central Fairfax (4000 Chain Bridge Road), Fairfax County's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration and Historic Fair will take place. The celebration will include historically themed family-friendly activities and demonstrations, live musical performances, and more than 80 historical organizations and attractions showcasing their sites and neighborhoods. The county's Fire and Rescue Department will display antique vehicles, and attendees can enjoy other historical displays covering events such as the Revolutionary War as well as World War I and II. Kids can enjoy a petting zoo and other fun, interactive activities.

As a special treat, the actual Lord and Lady Fairfax will be attending the celebration as our honored guests all the way from England. The Lord and Lady Fairfax will also personally present the annual Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards to their 2017 recipients. The Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards recognize community members for their volunteer work and civic engagement.

Two residents are chosen from each magisterial district by each supervisor.

In addition to this visit from abroad, attendees can enjoy meals from a variety of on-site food trucks, and the event will feature speeches from county officials and guests throughout the day. Parking is available at the Historical Festival on the Safety Complex; Parking Garage B

(10550 Page Ave, Fairfax). There is no rain date for this event. This is a rare, and sure to be special, event so please consider taking part in the festivities. For more information about this celebration, and to register for other events observing the county's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration, you can go online to [www.fxva.com/275/](http://www.fxva.com/275/).

I hope you will attend the County's 275<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration this Saturday, and help fill your summer with not only ways to explore the county you call home, but also gather with friends and neighbors for activities that are culturally enriching. You are sure to find something about your county that you didn't know before.

Most importantly, I hope you enjoy a safe and happy summer with all of your friends and neighbors.

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Preserving Historic Dranesville Tavern

To the Editor:

We are writing to commend the work of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) in responding to the requests of the Great Falls Citizens Association regarding the Dranesville Tavern historical property. During the past year the GFCA Environment, Parks and Trails (EPT) has worked closely with the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and VDOT to help renew the Dranesville Tavern site, the Route 7

gateway landmark to Fairfax County. At GFCA request, the FCPA removed all the overgrowth consuming the fence around the site. FCPA subsequently power-washed, repaired and repainted the entire fence. This spring the FCPA did further clearing and cutting of the extreme under growth and the vines that were killing the mature trees and shrubs on the property.

This action followed a GFCA EPT requested

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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Published by  
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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# LETTER

FROM PAGE 6

visit to the property with the Dranesville Representative to the FCPA Board, Tim Hackman and FCPA staff. In addition, VDOT responded to GFCA's request to clear the large amount of debris and unsightly weed growth (and small trees) that had taken root at the base of the wall in front of the Tavern. The FCPA has also agreed to clear the debris and building materials this summer that have accumulated over many years in the woodlands of the site. In addition, FCPA has agreed to accelerate the process that will allow the Dranesville Tavern to be offered through the FCPA Resident Curatorship Program (RCP), similar to what is currently underway at Turner Farm. The Tavern is fully controlled and contains a caterer kitchen. It is available for rental for special events by the public. We hope that the renewed site will help foster greater rental use of the facility as the RCP offering is developed.

**Bill Denk**

**Karen Keegan**

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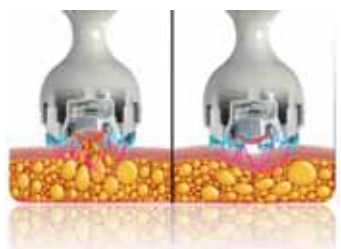


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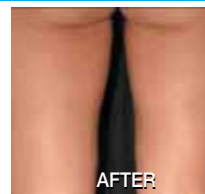
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Larisa Dethero, fundraising committee member and GFSC parent, organizing the bounce house.



Master Technician Joe Kieler shows Miles Caldwell, Loudoun Soccer Team member, how it feels to sit in the driver's seat of the fire truck.

PHOTOS BY MAGGIE GIORDANO/THE CONNECTION

# Great Falls Soccer Club Hosts Family Fun Day

The club raises money for Nike Turf Field.

BY MAGGIE GIORDANO  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Great Falls Soccer Club (GFSC) hosted a Family Fun Day on Saturday, June 10. Families were able to enjoy games, prizes, food, and fun on Nike Field 7 located at 1199 Utterback Store Road. Children and parents enjoyed the fun from 2-6 p.m. to benefit the Nike 7 Turf Fund.

Games included a dunk tank, bounce house, corn hole, and homemade games made by GFSC parent, Lock Dethero. Those games included plinko and soccer kick that read the inspirational words, "shoot for your goals," among others. Children were able

to have more fun when a coaches vs. kids game was played on the field next to the game tents.

The Great Falls Soccer Club plans to convert the Bermuda grass fields to a synthetic turf field with LED lighting for year-round soccer games for the children. The money made from food, drinks, and games benefitted the cause. The construction for the field will most likely begin mid to late June.

"It is the first one, we hope, of many annual family fun days for Great Falls Soccer Club. We need to have events like this to attract people to play together as a community here," fundraising committee member and GFSC parent, Larisa Dethero said.



From left: Lock Dethero, GFSC parent and game maker; Audrey Miner, GFSC member; and Josh Miner, GFSC parent showing off the hand crafted game of plinko.



Sara Dethero, GFSC member, preparing for a dunk in the dunk tank.



Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department Members came to enjoy the day. From left: Lt. Serge Tcheuffa; Technician Sue Tomczak; Capt. Randal Bittinger; Technician Holly Melendez; Technician J.T. Morris; and Technician Adam Scheets.



Ella Miner, GFSC member, enjoying a game of pong toss while Mother, Silva Miner, and Auseh Britt, travel soccer team mother, watch.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com) by noon on Friday.

**Etta Davis**, of Great Falls, a senior at Oakcrest School in McLean, will be playing Division III lacrosse for the U.S. Coast Guard Academy (New London, Conn.). In addition to being a founding player of the lacrosse team, Etta played one year of varsity volleyball, two years of varsity cross country, and four years of varsity basketball, leading her team to the Potomac Valley Athletic Conference (PVAC) finals. Oakcrest hosted an official signing ceremony in the school's chapel in March. The ceremony was attended by the entire student body, Etta's parents, her brother, and the school's mascot — Charlie the Charger.

**Camille Speer**, of Great Falls, has been named to the Emerson College (Boston, Mass.) dean's list for the spring 2017 semester. Speer is majoring in media arts production.

**Mysghana Bussie**, of Great Falls, a sophomore at Randolph-Macon Academy (R-MA), was awarded First Place for her speech in the Persuasion Division of the R-MA Sophomore Speech Contest. Mysghana is the daughter of Mele and Michael Melton of Great Falls.

**Justin Galiani**, of Great Falls, was named to the spring 2017 dean's list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.).

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://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](http://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.

### TUESDAY/JUNE 20

**McLean Orchestra Meeting.** 7 p.m. at Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Highlights will feature The Year in Review by President Margot Townsend Young. Visit [mclean-orchestra.org/](http://mclean-orchestra.org/) or call 703-893-8646 for more.

### THURSDAY/JUNE 22

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

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## Patio Ready for Summer? The latest trends for entertaining alfresco.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The warm days and nights of summer lend themselves to outdoor entertaining. From colorful pillows and cozy throws to textured fabrics and jewel-toned tableware, local designers offer ideas for creating a festive space for an alfresco soiree.

Consider the way an outdoor space will look when it's viewed from inside your home, says Madeline Fairbanks, product development director, Country Casual Teak.

"Choose fabrics that coordinate and accent the colors used indoors to create a seamless transition between the spaces," she said. "Add texture with fabrics, from gauzy sheers to the heaviest brocades, to bring the textures of indoor upholstery outdoors. An added plus is that they help hide dirt and stains."

The transition from a home's interior to its exterior should be fluid, advises Jim Rill of Rill Architects. "It shouldn't just be an outdoor patio, but an extension of the indoor spaces," he said.

Rill suggests using outdoor walls, fireplaces and trellises to create a sense of scale and comfort. "For instance, stone walls, hedges, pools and ponds help give an out-



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

**Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria advises using colorful table accessories to set the stage for a festive gathering.**

door setting scale and coziness," he said. "Think of the outdoor space as a room and consider how it's organized with furniture and materials like you would an indoor room. Patterns in the patio materials also organize the area."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTRY CASUAL TEAK  
**Outdoor furniture pieces like these by Country Casual Teak help define the outdoor atmosphere of this Potomac, Md., home.**

Outdoor entertaining is often food-centric and for an upbeat outdoor table setting, Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests acrylic table accessories. "Incorporate colorful pitchers, glasses and plates to set the stage for a fes-

**"It shouldn't just be an outdoor patio, but an extension of the indoor spaces."**

— Jim Rill of Rill Architects

tive gathering," he said.

Have a few key pieces for hosting, whether you entertain weekly or just once a year, recommends Fairbanks. "Keep a bar cart near an entrance for wheeling refreshments to guests, or an outdoor sideboard near a dining area for easy buffet-style service," she said.

For chilly nights, drape throws on the outdoor seating for guests, advises Martz. "With the popularity of fire pits, add comfortable seating with indoor-outdoor cushions around them to enhance the experience," he said.

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# THEATRE



PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

From left: Clayton Pelham, Jr., William T. Newman, Michael Anthony Williams, and Jason B. McIntosh in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1st Stage in Tysons.

## 'Ma Rainey' Comes to Tysons

1st Stage present  
'Ma Rainey's  
Black Bottom.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

With its exceptional, unflinching production of the legendary August Wilson's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," 1st Stage continues its trail-blazing for Northern Virginia theater audiences. Wilson's "Ma Rainey" was the first of his lauded 10-play cycle about the African-American experience in 20<sup>th</sup> century America. Wilson went on to become the rare playwright with Pulitzer, Tony and Academy Award recognition.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is set in 1920's Chicago. The legendary blues singer Ma Rainey is set to cut a new record with four black musicians. Her white manager and the white recording studio executive are always nearby. What transpire is the blistering dramatization about trying to cope with racism and its aftermath. The production flares with interpersonal conflicts, intense accounts of pervasive racism and an inflamed conflict between the outspoken Ma Rainey, a woman who knows what she wants based upon her own experiences, and a younger, disruptor of a trumpeter named Levee who pushes to disrupt the old ways for what he thinks are sharper jazzier ways of music and showier living.

In her directorial debut at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage, Deidra LaWan Starnes does not have the production either mince Wilson's original dialogue or shy away from its powerful messages that black lives matter.

With casting of uniformly strong actors, Starnes brings together a tight ensemble



From left: Clayton Pelham, Jr. and Thomascena Nelson in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1st Stage in Tysons

### Where & When

1<sup>st</sup> Stage presents "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through June 25, 2017. Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays 8 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30, Seniors (65+) \$27 Students and Military \$15. Call 703-854-1856 or visit [www.1stStgeTysons.org](http://www.1stStgeTysons.org) Note: Contains strong language, racial slurs. For mature audiences.

and sets in motion her solid vision for the production as a volatile mix of incendiary monologues, highly compostable interactions, sharp funny moments, expletive language including racial slurs. There are also moments of poetic beauty. And one of a vigorously delivered, compelling anger at God for and why there is and continues to be crushing discrimination.

The "Ma Rainey" ensemble includes Williams Aiken (Sturdyvant), Tracey Farrar (Dussie Mae), Jason B. McIntosh (Slow Drag), Thomascena Nelson (Ma Rainey), William T. Newman Jr. (Cutler), Tendo Nsubuga (Sylvester), Joe Palka (Irvin), Clayton Pelham, Jr (Levee), Michael Anthony Williams (Toledo) and Joshua Witt (police officer).

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## ENTERTAINMENT



**The winner of the Critics' Team is McLean High School Team from McLean High School. Front row: Jess Scarano, Syona Ayyankeril, Emily Lachow. Back row: Julia Luigs, Emily Swett, Laras Kettner.**



**The winner of the Lead Actress in a Musical is Jamie Goodson, "Gypsy," Langley High School.**

# Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

**T**he 18th Annual Cappies Gala honoring high school theater was held Sunday, June 11 at The Kennedy Center in the District. Winning the top prizes for the Best Musical was West Potomac High School for "Billy Elliot," and winning Best Play was Duke Ellington School of the Arts for "The Bluest Eye." This year's Masters of Ceremony were Judy Bowns and Janie Strauss with Erich DiCenzo and Phil Reid as Lead Players.

The show included 59 public and private high schools in Fairfax County, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince William counties, and the Cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. This year's awards were pretty much evenly distributed across all of those regions. The Cappies season extended from late October to early May.

Cappies shows were attended, on average, by 45 student critics who wrote 300-599 word reviews. More than 300 student-written reviews were published or broadcast in local newspapers, including The Connection, Patch, Falls Church News Press, Times Community Newspapers, Loudoun Now, Maryland Theatre Guide, and Fairfax County Public Schools and other media.

The Cappies program was launched in the summer of 1999 by Judy Bowns, the Theatre Arts resource teacher with FCPS, and the late Bill Strauss (director, Capitol Steps), in cooperation with area theater teachers, for the purpose of celebrating and bringing public acclaim to high school theater.

— STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY  
STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION



**The award for the Best Props Award is "Deadwood Dick," James Madison High School. From left are Max Jackson and Kelly Brents. Not pictured: William Kegley.**



**The winner of the Best Sets Award is "Into the Woods," The Madeira School. From left are Sasha Alexander, Millenah Nascimento, and Grace Ye. Not pictured: Briana Harrington.**



**The winner of the Male Dancer Award is Cuinn Casey of Great Falls for "Gypsy," Langley High School.**



**The winner of the Andy Mays Rising Critic Award is Kristen Waagner, McLean High School.**

# ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://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](http://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](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org) for more.

**"On the Bay" Photographs.** Normal business hours through July 1 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit [oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/](http://oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/) or call 703-759-2759 for more.

**"Slice of Life: Great Falls."** Normal business hours through July 1 at in the TD Bank, 9901 Georgetown Pike. Jill Banks exhibits her oil paintings during bank opening hours seven days a week including "First Friday Art Walk" on June 2 until 7 p.m. Visit [www.greatfallsstudios.com](http://www.greatfallsstudios.com).

**The Light of Day Paintings.** Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra KC. Call 703-450-8005 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](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

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

**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](http://www.FreeTaiChi.org) 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. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit [www.goldengirls.org](http://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/](http://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](http://Historicviennainc.org)

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

**Bingo Night.** Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire



## On the Green

**Summer on the Green Concert featuring the Nitehawks Swing Band, Sunday, July 23, 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.**

Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. [www.vvfd.org/bingo.html](http://www.vvfd.org/bingo.html).

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

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

**Colvin Run Mill** open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. 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](http://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](http://www.greatfallsart.org).

**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](http://www.greatfallsart.org) for more.

**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](http://www.greatfallsart.org) for more.

## JUNE 14-AUG. 15

### "Summer in the City" Art Show.

Normal business hours at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 16

**Chillin' on Church.** 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games and a band "Chump Change," playing classic rock. Visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) or call 703-255-6360.

**Artists Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Artist Davi D'Agostino will be on hand to talk about his work. Call 703-319-3971 or visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Casey Abrams Trio.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 17

**White Ford Bronco 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](http://www.tysonscornercenter.com) or call 703-893-9401.

**Wesley Stace Trio.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. He's touring in support of Wesley Stace's John Wesley Harding, recorded with The Jayhawks at Flowers Studio in Minneapolis. Visit [www.jamminjava.com/](http://www.jamminjava.com/) or call 703-255-1566 for more.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 18

**Father's Day Golf Tournament.** 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.

**American Legion Breakfast.** 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 15



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## SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Colin Affleck and Matt Harlow made a lot of sales with their "worm pies" and "sauce shirts."**

### Cooper Middle Hosts Marketplace

On Thursday, June 8, Media Communications students opened a Cooper Marketplace and sold products they created. This was the final step of the Marketplace project where they had to come up with a product, brand it, create a logo and slogan, and push out an advertising campaign. The students enjoyed showing off and selling their products.



**Liliana Schone made her own gummy bears and advertised with her slogan: The yummy way to gummy!**



**Pet rocks by Tyler Donohue were a fun and creative product at Cooper Marketplace.**



PICTURE BY CARL LANDOW

**Reno Number Eleven Steam Locomotive is on display in June by featured artist Carl Landow at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave E, Vienna. This is one of five pictures supplied by the Vienna Arts Center. Visit [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).**

FROM PAGE 13

and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more.

**Pickling Produce the Colonial Way.** 1-4 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the farm wife pickle vegetables as she combines salt, water and homemade vinegar. Visit [www.1771.org](http://www.1771.org) or call 703-231-3545 for more.

**Rosi Golan Concert.** 7:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Previewing new album "Collecting Bullets." \$15-25. Visit [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com) for more.

## 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:ashley@nardimedia.com).

**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](mailto:Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## 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.

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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. <b>-Werner Heisenberg</b>			

# Spontaneous Confusion



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since I have some alone-time; just me and the cats, I thought I'd try to write my next column a few weeks ahead and take a bit of the time-sensitive deadline pressure off. Not that meeting my weekly commitment has been too much of a problem over the years (nearly 20 in fact), still, I thought I'd put pen to paper, literally, and see what comes out.

So far what has come out is that I'm having creative difficulty writing something that's to be published two weeks hence. It seems/feels that writing in the present about something to be published in the future is awkward, sort of. It's somewhere between wishful thinking and a prediction. Neither of which is characteristic of who I am or how I think. I guess my writing nature is that I like to react to reality and then address it in print, rather than anticipate it and then respond to it. Typically I prefer to be current in my thinking and honest in my prose. Apparently, I have nothing else to share so trying to explain that void is the semi point of this column.

And I suppose, without being too self-indulgent, that if a stage IV cancer patient — yours truly, who shares everything with you regular readers; highs, lows and in-betweens, has nothing of particular interest to share, perhaps it's because I'm experiencing a comparatively easy fortnight between 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, every-five-week infusions, and quarterly scans followed by my quarterly face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, so I have minimal cancer-related business to preoccupy my life. It's almost as if I'm unencumbered by my underlying problem: non-small cell lung cancer. And I have to admit, it's a heck of a feeling to not have my conscious and unconscious minding my business and reminding me that I have an incurable form of cancer. Which of course I never need reminding of; as opposed to ending a sentence with a preposition which obviously I do need to be reminded of.

Getting back to the substance — if you can even call it that, of this column: my difficulty writing weeks ahead of publication. What's puzzling about this difficulty is how uncharacteristic of my personality it is. I am not spontaneous. I rarely do anything spur of the moment other than getting off the couch, changing the channel on the television, switching radio stations in the car, deciding what to wear, eating/drinking/going to the bathroom and/or miscellaneous other household-type duties and responsibilities. Yet the problem I'm experiencing now — related to my June 14 column, is that since I'm not being spontaneous, I'm unable to create?

How can that be a problem? That's who I am all the time. I do everything in advance — of consequence, that is. Maybe I'm making too much out of nothing? (Oh, really.) Maybe I'm simply stuck in my head and need to get out of my own way. Not that I make mountains out of mole hills but sometimes, and I've told by my oncologist that I can blame my having cancer for everything, I might not think so clearly and get bogged down emotionally. Ergo, I will lay the blame for this column and it's lack of substance, on having "terminal" cancer.

Cancer doesn't work in mysterious ways (well, perhaps it does to researchers), it works in destructive ways: physically, mentally and spiritually. Logical becomes illogical — and vice versa; rational becomes irrational — and vice versa; and manageable becomes unmanageable — and vice versa. For cancer patients/survivors, expecting that one's life will go merrily along is totally unrealistic. Expecting the unexpected is the path of least resistance.

This week's column/dilemma is simply another example/reminder of how cancer intrudes and deludes and affects those of us who naively thought we would be unaffected.

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



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