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and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

A+
PAGE 7

Madison's Katy Sharon #44 drives past Oakton's Peyton Perine #40. The Oakton High girls basketball team defeated the Madison Warhawks 50-38 for the Concorde District Championship on Feb. 16.

Oakton Girls Become District Champions

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An Entertaining Evening and More
ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

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SPORTS



PHOTOS BY ADAM SHAYNE

Forwards Michael Crespy and Tom Hetherington look for an opening in the Freedom Eagles defensive line. The Warhawk Varsity Ice Hockey team defeated the Freedom Eagles 4-1 qualifying them for the NVSHL playoffs.

Warhawk Ice Hockey Defeats Freedom, Earns Playoff Spot

Following a ceremony recognizing the four senior members of the Warhawk varsity squad, the Warhawks started "the battle of the birds of prey" against the Freedom Eagles. Just 23 seconds into the first, Forward Justin Shayne tipped in a shot from the point by Defender Justin Machovina. Building off that momentum Forward Jay Stephens blasted in a pass from Captain Jason Calem. Late in the first period Defenseman Nick Willey rushed from the redline to back hand an unassisted shot five

hole catching the Freedom goalie by surprise. The Eagles mounted a brief comeback attempt in the second, scoring their only goal. Forward Luke Pohlman answered back with a goal from the front of the net, assisted by Forward Jeffrey Hunter. Goalie Ben D'Haiti turned away 16 shots and the Warhawks outshot the Eagles 34 to 17. With this win the Warhawks qualify for the Northern Virginia Scholastic Hockey League (NVSHL) playoffs which will begin on Friday, Feb. 23.

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Northern Virginia's Report Card Unveiled

“Shape of the Region” Conference reviews area’s Opportunity Index and gathers leaders to discuss successes and challenges.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia (CFNOVA), partnering with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, filled an auditorium on Feb. 15 at Valo Park in Tysons Corner with representatives from nonprofits, public office, academia and business to “unveil a new, dynamic data tool” and to encourage “a deep dive” into the challenges facing the region.

CFNOVA has been connecting donors to community needs throughout Northern Virginia since 1978. In conjunction with its 40th anniversary, the foundation commissioned a report from the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis to provide detailed data about the region today, and the changes that have taken place to demographics, economy, education and community and civic life. The result of that research and reporting is the Opportunity Index for Northern Virginia.

The data, like the CFNOVA, encompasses the entire region: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church, Manassas and Manassas Park, and examines 26 indicators of local social, economic, educational and civic wellbeing. The online report can filter its information by race, ethnicity, age, nativity and jurisdiction, and by date range. According to leadership at the CFNOVA, the Index serves as something of a “report card” for the region, highlighting where progress toward opportunity for all Northern Virginians has been made, and where it would be fair to grade the current state of affairs a “Needs Improvement,” and in some cases disturbingly close to failure.

Kevin DeSanto, chairman of the CFNOVA board of directors commented in his opening remarks that the Index “tells big, important stories about our region.” The conference focused on only two of the most critical — workforce development challenges and opportunities, and the region’s growing income inequality — but before the speakers and the panel discussions began, Michael Cassidy, president and CEO of the Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis introduced the Index and highlighted several of the findings to “set the stage and provide the background.”

FORTY-SEVEN PERCENT of youngsters in Northern Virginia are living with at least one foreign-born parent/guardian — a percentage that is significantly higher than the rest of the state or even of the nation. “That means the region’s future depends in part on the ability of the children of immigrants to flourish.”



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Attendees at the “Shape of the Region” Conference, hosted by the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia with the Northern Virginia Chamber of Commerce, are introduced to the Opportunity Index – an interactive reporting system offering detailed statistics on the area’s social and economic wellbeing.



Holly Seibold (left), of Vienna, founder and executive director of nonprofit BRAWS and Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Britepaths, share some “shop talk” before the conference.

The research indicates that if current trends continue, the Minority-Majority Transition, where people of color will become the majority as a share of the region’s population will take place as soon as 2020. In 1980, 85 percent of Northern Virginians identified as Non-Hispanic White. In 2015, from when the most recent figures are available, that number is now 40 percent.

Cassidy gave a demonstration of the Index in action, showing how to maneuver through the site, and how to filter the data. He also challenged the attendees to a “mini-quiz,” asking them to use instant audience survey devices to test their knowledge on some of the collected statistics. In most cases, the majority of the audience missed

there has been no real change in income growth or quality” while the top 20 percent are pulling further and further away. “Basically, poor people are staying poor, rich people are staying rich, and in many cases, getting richer.” Worse, says Reeves, America’s class system, most evident in educational opportunities, helps create a self-perpetuating barrier to opportunity for many. Showing a graph that illustrates “College Attendance Rates vs. Parent Income Rank in the U.S.,” Reeves called it “one of the most beautiful and terrifying charts.” As a Brit, Reeves states that he “knows a bit about a class system” and that it does exist in the U.S. — the country where he became a citizen in 2016. “And it’s every bit as ruthless as the class system in the U.K. — just less acknowledged.”

The second phase of the conference featured two panels, the first focusing on “Opportunity and Inequality” in the local education system and the second on “Tapping the Workforce Assets in our Own Backyard.” The panelists all acknowledged the challenges being faced in both those arenas, but offered some creative actions that they are taking in their areas of influence, from public education to workforce skill development, and inside major area employers.

One critical necessity that all of the panelists in the Workforce discussion agreed upon was the need to “upskill in place,” as Ken Eisner, senior manager, Worldwide Education Programs Amazon Web Services described it. “It’s getting harder and harder to get in [to our region] and with the lack of affordable housing.”

Scott Ralls, president of Northern Virginia Community College agreed that it was imperative to enhance the skills and abilities of the people already in our communities.

AFTER THE CONFERENCE, some of the attendees reacted to the event.

Lisa Whetzel, of Fairfax City, is the executive director of nonprofit Britepaths. She admitted that even with her in-depth association with the most vulnerable of the region’s populace, some of the data from the Opportunity Index still came as a surprise, “but this is just the kind of information we all need. It’s local, granular.”

Whetzel also found the event “inspiring and uplifting. Together we can do things.” Immediately following the conference, Whetzel attended the quarterly meeting of her peers in other nonprofits. “The conference got us going with great conversation and idea exchanges. We will be really looking to see if we have taken a deep enough dive through the equity lens.”

Martha Wilson, of Fairfax, was a representative of the business community at the conference, as a vice president with EagleBank in Tysons Corner. “EagleBank is already a major philanthropic organization, doing quite a lot for the community. It’s a major reason why I joined them, but I see



Martha Wilson, VP, C&I relationship manager for EagleBank, asks a question of a conference speaker. Wilson says the event “gave me an idea on how EagleBank might even further enhance their philanthropic corporate culture.”

the mark.

Cassidy was followed at the podium by Richard Reeves, senior fellow of economic studies and co-director of Center on Children and Families for the Brookings Institution. Speaking on “Economic Mobility and the American Dream,” Reeves congratulated the event organizers for including so many members of the business community, saying that too often business leaders were excluded as being “part of the problem of income equality, when, in fact, they are a major contributor to the solution when brought to the table.”

In a series of slides and charts, Reeves, a British-American, offered proof that for “the bottom 80 percent on the economic scale

SEE REPORT CARD, PAGE 5

OPINION

Another Assault on Common Sense

Perhaps this time might be different.

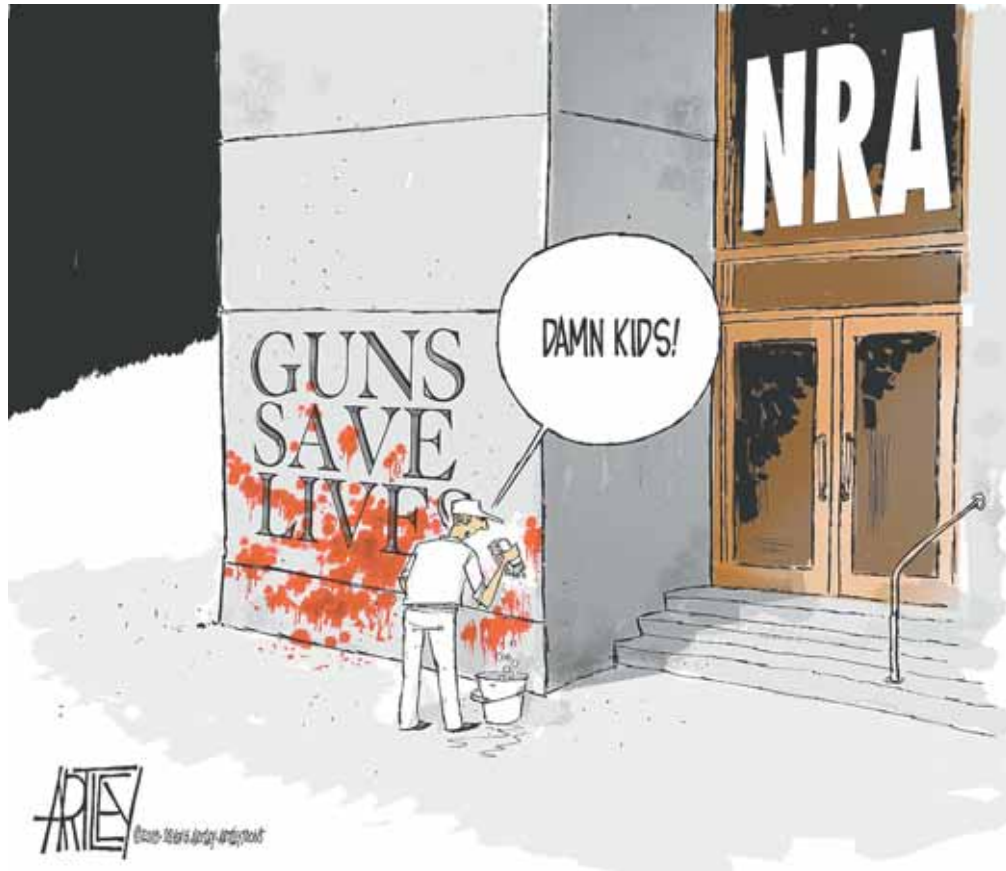
You can feel the change in the air. This time the victims — teenagers — are outraged out loud about the deaths and wounding of their fellow students, the terror, horror and trauma that will haunt each of them in different ways for the rest of their lives.

Instant activists from last week's school shooting massacre in Florida, now connected to so many others around the country, know that this was preventable, that mass shootings can be stopped.

EDITORIAL Common sense tells them that the shooter, a former classmate, shouldn't have had access to guns of any kind, never mind an assault rifle. Common sense tells them that the absence of the most reasonable safeguards is a failure of elected officials at both the federal and state level. Common sense tells them it's time for real accountability.

Gun control of course will be complicated. No one is trying to take guns away from the millions of Americans who are gun owners, but the mavens of divisiveness, seeking to stoke the ire of gun owners, will tell them that what activists, what Democrats, what moms want is to take their guns away. It's not true. But gun reform is more complicated and runs deeper than donations from the NRA to elected officials.

Anyone with common sense knows that if we don't have systems in place to keep weapons capable of so much carnage in three minutes out of the hands of someone so openly troubled as the teenage shooter in Florida last week, then we are doomed to relive that day in other tragedies, over and over.



“Wash, Rinse, Repeat.”

Demonstrations of hundreds of protesters turned out in multiple places in the last few days. At NRA headquarters in Fairfax, at George Mason High School for a candlelight vigil, in front of the White House.

“I’m with hundreds of Northern Virginians at the NRA headquarters to mourn those lost at Parkland and to demand common sense gun safety measures to protect our children from massacre and violence,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly tweeted from the demonstration

there. “As a nation, how can we continue to allow this to happen?”

“I’m with the students calling for gun reform outside the White House,” said U.S. Rep. Don Beyer. “So proud to see America’s young people leading the way. Stay mad, and stay focused. ... Don’t let anyone tell you that there isn’t hope, that we can’t fight for change and win. There is and we can.”

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Congress’s Failure on Mass Shootings

To the Editor:

Congress sits on its hands while the latest school shooting takes the lives of more innocent children and school personnel.

If members of Congress do not believe in protecting the health, safety and welfare of the American people, why do they hold their office? They swore to defend the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic — “So help me God.”

We need legislation, not hollow platitudes. Congressmen can support the Second Amendment and still support reasonable gun control, such as universal background checks, and controls on automatic weapons and bump stocks.

The vast majority of Americans

— Democrats, Republicans and NRA members alike — all support such policies. But members of Congress are too afraid of the NRA’s threats to fund a primary candidate against them lest the Congressmen even talk about any form of gun control.

Congressmen should get wise and relish such a debate, because the voters would support them.

If Congress does not do anything then We The People certainly can. We can exert our own Constitutional power and vote for candidates in the upcoming 2018 election who have the courage to stand up to the NRA.

Barbara Glakas
Herndon

Terrifying Talk

To the Editor:

I remember having drills in my school when I was young, hiding

under desks in case a nuclear attack was unleashed. I remember wondering if my family would be alright and if they could find me after the bomb, and if my desk would protect me.

And now we have these nervous and easily irritated world leaders who talk so casually about starting a nuclear exchange. Terrifying. Let us hope that cooler heads will prevail. There are no desks big enough to protect us from a nuclear war.

Meg Wallace
Herndon

Protections Dismantled

To the Editor:

The following open letter was addressed to Our Elected Representative:

It is not hysterical to suggest that every protection the aver-

age American has is being systematically dismantled. The environment, civil liberties, health care, safe infrastructure guarantees, financial oversight — everything of value that we have achieved is being thrown open to the markets, which are not noted for considering anything beyond profit.

Please vote your conscience when it comes to leaving behind a world in which your children can live and prosper. Our futures are in immediate jeopardy. We need to be guided by something other than greed. This is a time for statesmen, not yes men or women.

There is only one America. Please protect what keeps us unique and irreplaceable in the world.

Lynn Mobley
Great Falls

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Report Card Unveiled

FROM PAGE 3

that we can do even more if we get the word out about our efforts, especially to our own employees.”

She also has an idea about the internships that Reeves discussed during the conference. Reeves noted that employers highly value internships when making hiring decisions, but many less-advantaged youth and young adults cannot afford to take unpaid internships while they struggle to pay for their education and for the basics of daily life. “I have a suggestion on how we can help those young people, and possibly assist some of our area non-profits at the same time.” Wilson plans to get with her management colleagues at EagleBank and try to put her proposal into action.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is the founder and executive director of BRAWS — Bringing Resources to Women’s Shelters and to low income and homeless young women. Seibold found the event motivational. “It was a great event. Right after it was over, I sent an email to Dr. McDade [superintendent of Manassas Park Public Schools and a panelist at the conference] asking if his school dis-



Julien Bois, of Springfield, partner with Justin Bradley, had positive feedback for the event.

trict would like to pilot a program where BRAWS would provide free feminine hygiene products in the restrooms, at no cost to the schools.”

Julien Bois of Springfield, a partner with Justin Bradley, a financial executive search, recruiting and interim staffing company, gave the conference a thumbs up, and kudos to speaker Reeves for his “candid responses to my questions.”

As the Commonwealth Institute’s Cassidy reminded the conference attendees, the Opportunity Index wasn’t developed to just tell a static story about the greater community, but rather as a tool that will help engaged citizens shape the future they want to see in Northern Virginia. The Index is available on line and access is free at www.cfnova.org/opportunityindex.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Hudgins Hosts Town Hall Meetings

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) will host two District Town Halls on the FY2019 Budget. This is an opportunity to get an update on the County and Fairfax County Public School FY 2019 Budgets, as well as to participate in dialogue and discussions. Hudgins will host the Town Halls with presentations by County Executive Brian Hill, and staff from Fairfax County Schools.

The first Town Hall will be on Saturday, Feb. 24, and will take place at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. The event starts at 9 a.m.

The second Town Hall will be on Thursday, March 8, at 7 p.m., at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston.

In addition, Department of Tax Administration staff will be available to provide one-on-one consultation to senior and disabled residents on tax relief opportunities during the town hall hours.

For questions regarding the meetings, contact the Hunter Mill District Office at 703-478-0283, or email to huntermill@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Virginia Heart Celebrates 25 Years

Virginia Heart is celebrating 25 years in its Park Street office location and 40th year of serving patients in the Vienna community and surrounding area. Originally established by Robert Herron, D.O., and then joined by Carey Marder, M.D., Dean Pollock, M.D., Robert Shor, M.D., and Pradeep Nayak, M.D. in the 1980s and 1990s, Virginia Heart (formally The Cardiovascular Group, PC) serves the entire Northern Virginia area through its nine offices and 45 physicians.

The Park Street office is now also served by Stuart Sheifer, M.D who joined the group in 2000 and by Jennifer Shea, M.D. who joined in 2016. Shea is one of five female cardiologists at Virginia Heart who focuses on the needs of women’s heart care.

Virginia Heart just recently renovated the Park Street office into a state of the art facility in honor of their 25 years. The Vienna office is located at 130 Park St., S.E., just south of Maple Avenue.

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NEWS

Candlelight Vigil for Florida Shooting Victims

Protesters at NRA headquarters decry killings, demand laws to stem gun violence.

BY MARTI MOORE
 THE CONNECTION

It's Friday night in Fairfax. Instead of going out for a weekend evening of fun in Northern Virginia, more than 300 people gathered outdoors on both sides of the street at 11250 Waples Mill Road in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters to light candles for the lives lost to gun violence.

For nearly an hour, they stood in the dark, cold night to mourn the loss of 14 students and three faculty members killed Feb. 14 in a South Florida high school shortly before classes ended for the day.

According to the seven-page booking report at the Broward County Sheriff's Office, Nikolas Jacob Cruz, 19, entered the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Fla., where he killed 17 people with an AR-15 assault rifle he purchased a year ago. He was charged with 17 counts of first-degree premeditated murder following his capture and held without bond, police records state.

"We should not be mourning yet another school shooting," said Martina Leinz, president of the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Brady Campaign To Prevent Gun Violence.

"Seventeen people murdered, 14 injured with a military-style assault weapon that has no business on American streets, should never be in civilian hands," she said.

"It was easier for this shooter to get a gun that had that firepower legally, than it would be to buy a six-pack of beer," she said, "because he wasn't old enough for the beer."

The Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence claims a law called an "Extreme Risk Protection Order" can remove guns temporarily from troubled individuals like Cruz via court order. Florida does not have this law, according to the Brady Campaign website.

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) also expressed his disdain at the Feb. 16 candlelight vigil by adding "the



PHOTO BY MARTI MOORE/THE CONNECTION

"We are not afraid," is the phrase U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) sings Feb. 16 with other participants. The group closed a candlelight vigil with Civil Rights anthem "We Shall Overcome" in front of the National Rifle Association headquarters in Fairfax.

NRA does have blood on its hands. They kill our children."

He called for action, in three measures to protect the American public: A ban on assault weapons, universal background checks and close the gun show loophole.

"And those three things will make America more safe," he said.

Connolly says the reason we don't have universal background checks is "because of the NRA and their blood money."

"And members of Congress and state legislators who are enthralled to that blood money, and have sacrificed our children at the altar of the NRA," he added.

Connolly's staff says the congressman knows the NRA is based in his district and rates lawmakers with a report card according to their voting record. In a prepared statement Connolly said: "Every year the NRA gives me an 'F' rating ... and I couldn't be prouder of that 'F'."

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Diving into Black History with Books

Local educators suggest books to read in celebration of African American History Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Throughout the year, but more intensely during February, Vincent Intondi, Ph.D., uses literature to teach aspects of African American history that are often overlooked or forgotten.

While slavery and the Civil Rights Movement are two of the most poignant periods of Black history, Intondi, a professor of history and the director of the Institute for Race, Justice, and Community Engagement at Montgomery College, and other educators say reading books about lesser known figures and periods in African American history is one way to paint a complete picture, not only of the history of African Americans, but American history as a whole.

"For example, while we focus on Malcolm X, after spending time with his daughter, Ilyasah, I came to realize just how much his wife Betty did and what she meant to the family. Therefore having a book that focuses on her is important," said Intondi, who is the author of "African Americans Against the Bomb: Nuclear Weapons, Colonialism, and the Black Freedom Movement."

"One could argue that there wouldn't



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

have been a March on Washington were it not for Bayard Rustin, but we don't learn about him because he was gay," continued Intondi. "So part of what's important about these books is not only that they are well written and have amazing illustrations, but because of who they specifically focus on."

Infusing reading with dramatization and memorization, particularly with young children, is a technique that Ana Lado, Ph.D., professor of Education at Marymount University uses in her lessons. "I like to recommend award-winning books or books by

award-winning authors," she said. "I also pick books that can be part of a program [and] can be recited, can be dramatized, can be retold."

"Books that I made students memorize [include] 'I, Too, Am American' and 'My People,' both books of poetry by Langston Hughes; 'I Have a Dream,' [speech by Martin Luther King, Jr. published as a book]; 'Lincoln's Gettysburg Address,' [speech by President Abraham Lincoln published as a book], 'Martin's Big Words: The Life of Martin Luther King, Jr.,' 'Tar Beach' and 'Aunt Harriet's Underground Railroad in the Sky,' [both by Faith Ringgold] and 'If a Bus Could Talk, the Story of Rosa Parks' are book that my youngest students can dramatize," said Lado.

"Underground: Finding the Light to Freedom" by Shane W. Evans is another book that Lado encourages students to read. "This is the absolute easiest way to dramatize the Underground Railroad," she said. "I even use it with students with special needs and beginning English learners."

One quality to look for is books about modern day African American heroes who will likely go down in history. When compiling recommend books for African History

Month displays, Henrik Sundqvist of the Arlington Public Library said, "We try to pick titles which have been published within the last five years."

Among the books Arlington County Libraries is recommending are: "Firebird: Ballerina Misty Copeland Shows a Young Girl How to Dance Like a Firebird" by Copeland.

One book that offers a historical perspective and deeper understanding of a current issue, says Intondi, is "The John Carlos Story" by Dave Zirin and John Carlos. "There is arguably no one better to write about sports, race, and politics than Dave Zirin," he said. "The book is great for a wide range of audiences. If one wants to understand Colin Kaepernick and what is happening today in sports then they should read this book."

Using such narratives offers a deeper understanding of America's past and puts current happenings into perspective. "Students can learn and appreciate those who came before them, sacrificed, fought, put themselves on the line and paid with their freedom and lives for equality," said Intondi. "Students will learn that they are part of the long movement for freedom and they too can change the world."

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PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Hearing on the
McLean Community Center's
FY 2020 Programs**



Wednesday, March 28, 2018 at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board and Staff of the McLean Community Center are **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2020 (which runs July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020). MCC programs are scheduled to return to the newly renovated Ingleside facility in 2019.

The Board and Staff are interested in hearing residents' suggestions for class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities when they return home to the Center.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list.

You also may submit comments in writing to: george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov.

The hearing will be followed by the regular monthly meeting of the Governing Board.



The McLean Community Center
6631 Old Dominion Dr., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

“Jazz It Up!” Through March 3, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Art exhibit. Free and open to the public. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

National Chili Day. 7 a.m.-midnight at The Vienna Inn, 120 East Maple Ave., Vienna. The Vienna Inn is celebrating its 58th Anniversary. Vienna Inn will be creating new memories for the remainder of the month and will be offering specials ending in .58 on drinks and their world-famous chili dogs. Visit www.ViennaInn.com.

Successful Writing Collaborations.

7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Learn from experienced mystery short story writer and anthology collaborator, Josh Pachter. Find out about this growing trend and how the collaboration process works. James Patterson, Clive Cussler and Catherine Coulter, among others, are now working with lesser known authors in collaborations that extend their reach and give “a leg up” to new talent. Adults. Free. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3756858.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 22-25

Captioned Performances of “The Farnsworth Invention.” See detailed schedule online. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Writer Aaron Sorkin’s signature style lends itself to the story of the invention that changed our lives. \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/FEB. 23

Art Society Meeting. 9 a.m.-noon at the Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. Glen Kessler, a renowned pet portrait artist will be the featured demonstrator. His artwork is collected internationally and he has won many prizes including The Elizabeth Green Shields Grant for outstanding figure work. Guests are welcome. Call 703-653-9519.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 23-24

“Little Women.” Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. at The Stage at Holy Trinity Church, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Oakcrest School presents “Little Women.” In celebration of 40 years of theatre, Oakcrest is offering free tickets to the matinee performance on Saturday, Feb. 24 at 11 a.m. Tickets available online or at the door: \$15 general admission, flat rate of \$50 for families of six or more. Free for 13 and under at the Saturday matinee are only available online at oakcrestuslittlewomen.eventbrite.com.



SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Ric Ocasek: Abstract Reality. 7-9 p.m. at Wentworth Gallery, Tysons Galleria, 1807 U. International Drive, Tysons. Wentworth Galleries presents Ric Ocasek: Abstract Reality. The collection will be on exhibition and available for acquisition. Ric Ocasek of The Cars will make an in-person artist appearance. Complimentary and open to the public, with RSVPs strongly suggested. Visit www.wentworthgallery.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 25

Yoga for Dogs. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at SourceCore Studio, 144 Church St NW #102, Vienna. SourceCore Studio is hosting a “Donations for Dogs” yoga fundraiser for the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. “Paws and reflect” in this all-levels class dedicated to functional movement and wellness. Free, the event is donation-based. Call 703-755-0891 or visit www.sourcecorestudio.com/workshops for more.

Maple Syrup Boil-Down. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it’s sugaring time at Colvin Run Mill. Watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. \$5 per person. No reservations required. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill/maple-syrup.

Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Robin Bullock and Sue Richards perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

Artist Reception. 5-7 p.m. at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Artist reception with featured 10th Anniversary gallery artists. All are welcome. \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

Garden Club Meeting. 12:45 refreshments, 1 p.m. program at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. The Ayr Hill Garden Club (AHGC) presents “How To Choose And Prune Roses.” Guests are encouraged to attend. Learn more at www.facebook.com/ayrhillgardenclub/.

Navigating News Sources. 7-8 p.m. at Tysons Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Learn tips for navigating the array of news sources and practice using respectful and positive communication techniques when

Yoga for Dogs

SourceCore Studio is hosting a “Donations for Dogs” yoga fundraiser for the Lost Dog & Cat Rescue Foundation. “Paws and reflect” in this all-levels class dedicated to functional movement and wellness. Free, the event is donation-based. Sunday, Feb. 25, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at SourceCore Studio, 144 Church St NW #102, Vienna. Call 703-755-0891 or visit www.sourcecorestudio.com/workshops for more.

discussing hot button issues. Free. Call 703-790-8088 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3958904.

TUESDAY/FEB. 27

Beatrix Potter Tea. noon-1:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Learn about the famous author who brought Peter Rabbit and his family to life at a Beatrix Potter Tea. Nibble on cupcakes and sip fruit punch or tea while enjoying stories about Potter’s precocious bunny family. Children age 2-6 will have a chance to meet a real white tail rabbit and learn what wild bunnies do in the winter. \$15 per child; children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-759-9018.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 2-3

Library Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Sunday find books for half price or \$10 per bag sale. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Live Music. 7 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Nora Jan Struthers and The Party Line perform. Tickets \$15-25. Call 877-987-6487 or visit jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

Awards Banquet. 2:30 p.m. at the McLean Hilton Hotel, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Executive Board of the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame will celebrate their 28th Annual Awards Banquet. Festivities will begin with a social gathering at 2:30 with dinner at 3:30. The awards ceremony will immediately follow. This event draws celebrities and supporters from all over the area. For tickets, call 571-238-3565 or email maryesmall64@gmail.com. For general info., call 703-273-3216 or email bpowe1@aol.com.

Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. IONA celebrates the release of their new album “Signature.” Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

MARCH 6-MAY 6

Art Exhibition: “Bon Appetit.” During gallery hours at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Jacob Yeh, Sam Ludwig, Matthew Sparacino, Tendo Nsubuga, Jeremy Keith Hunter, Caroline Wolfson, Michael Crowley, Gary Dubreuil, Katrina Clark, Frank Britton, Edward Christian, and Amanda Forstrom in “The Farnsworth Invention” at 1st Stage.



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE

An Entertaining Evening, and More

‘The Farnsworth Invention’ at 1st Stage in Tysons

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where & When

Full of clever interactions and sharp dialogue, the 1st Stage production of “The Farnsworth Invention” is a lively, fictional drama for a wide audience. It is not only history buffs who can find the production rousing entertainment. For those who have become immersed in current issues surrounding the growth of the internet as a source of entertainment and news can become engrossed too.

“The Farnsworth Invention” was written by Aaron Sorkin (“The West Wing” and “The Social Network”). Under Alex Levy’s fluid direction, there is a theatrical tension to what might have been a mere lesson about the past. In a regional premiere, Levy has taken Sorkin’s multiple narrators and alternative versions of the truth to become a lively battle between two titans of invention. They are David Sarnoff and Philo Farnsworth.

Sarnoff (portrayed with determined gusto by Jonathan Lee Taylor) is an immigrant to America from the strife of Russia. He is now a self-made New York City media mogul. Farnsworth (played by Sam Ludwig as a driven individual with an “Oh Gosh” temperament) is a self-taught technical genius who grew up in Idaho and Utah. Each of these two could see a future world others could not.

Beyond Ludwig and Taylor, Levy has cast a diverse ensemble of a dozen who perform with zest dozens-upon-dozens of roles. The other characters in “The Farnsworth Invention” surround, support, enable and

1st Stage presents “The Farnsworth Invention” at 1524 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Performances through March 11, 2018. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m.; Fridays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 2 and 7 p.m.; and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adult general admission \$33, seniors \$30, students/military \$15. Note: 1st Stage recently received 10 Helen Hayes nominations for professional theater excellence. Nominations include two for “Jesus Hopped the ‘A’ Train,” six for “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom,” and two for “Trevor.”

survive Sarnoff and Farnsworth. Two to mention are the ultimately disappointed wives: Lizette Sarnoff played by Liz Mamana and Pem Farnsworth portrayed by Amanda Forstrom. There are also comic scenes that bring well-deserved laughter.

Kathryn Kaweck’s industrial design, two-story, metal scaffolding of a set provides an open, airy structure to the show. With the energy provided by appropriate hassled-appearing movements (Amanda Forstrom) and a streaming ambient sound design by Ethan Balis, there is added visual and aural interest.

There is a lot to take in at “The Farnsworth Invention” as it bends facts about who will gain the final hand to develop commercially viable television available for more than an upper-class toy. There is plenty of lively personal commentary on the 20th century period that Farnsworth and Sarnoff inhabit; including who should control the airwaves.

In its last scene, “The Farnsworth Invention” is more than just an entertaining evening looking backwards. The show becomes a parallel inquiry to the building of the commercially viable internet and social media.

HOME SALES

In January 2018, 54 homes sold between \$1,240,000-\$211,000 in the Vienna and Oakton area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision
10308 MYSTIC MEADOW WAY ...	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$1,240,000	Detached	0.90	22124	HUNTERBROOKE
10300 MYSTIC MEADOW WAY ...	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,180,000	Detached	1.46	22124	HUNTERBROOKE
1491 BROADSTONE PL	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.26	22182	CARRINGTON
8407 TYSONS TRACE CT	4	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,145,000	Detached	0.18	22182	TYSONS TRACE
11219 SORREL RIDGE LN	5	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,090,000	Detached	2.01	22124	FOX LAKE
201 PLEASANT ST SW	4	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,050,000	Detached	1.23	22180	ANDREW MINOR ESTATE
2771 OAKTON PLANTATION LN ...	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$1,050,000	Detached	0.25	22181	OAKTON PLANTATION
10001 CLOVERDALE PL	4	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,025,000	Detached	0.63	22182	CARPERS FARM
10032 SCENIC VIEW TER	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$990,000	Detached	0.54	22182	CARPERS FARM
10305 LYNNHAVEN PL	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$946,000	Detached	0.15	22124	HEARTHSTONE VILLAGE OAK
9814 MEADOW VALLEY DR	6	4	1	VIENNA	\$872,500	Detached	0.37	22181	GUNNELL FARMS
9505 LAURLIN CT	6	3	1	VIENNA	\$860,000	Detached	0.66	22182	BEAU RIDGE
1905 TRUMPET CT	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$830,000	Detached	0.36	22182	SYMPHONY HILL WEST
211 CERET CT SW	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$815,000	Detached	0.31	22180	WILSON ESTATES
8429 HUNT VALLEY DR	4	2	2	VIENNA	\$815,000	Detached	0.22	22182	WESTWOOD ESTATES
3318 MILLER HEIGHTS RD	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$814,000	Detached	0.60	22124	TATTERSAIL
1757 NEVAR CT	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$810,000	Detached	0.52	22182	SUN VALLEY
2105 KEDGE DR	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$788,250	Detached	0.37	22181	BALMORAL
2814 SAINT CROIX DR	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$765,000	Townhouse	0.04	22180	PROVIDENCE PARK
8102 MADRILLON CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$765,000	Townhouse	0.05	22182	COLONIES OF MADRILLON
9206 BOIS AVE	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$750,000	Detached	0.35	22182	TRAILS THE
10178 CASTLEWOOD LN	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$730,000	Townhouse	0.07	22124	WYANT PROPERTY
2918 MELANIE LN	5	3	1	OAKTON	\$724,900	Detached	0.50	22124	MILLER HEIGHTS
8816 HUNTING LODGE CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$715,000	Townhouse	0.02	22182	TYSONS VILLAGE
8261 ELECTRIC AVE	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$710,000	Detached	0.14	22182	WEDDERBURN HEIGHTS
2713 CURZON CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$690,000	Townhouse	0.07	22181	VIRGINIA CENTER
408 WALKER ST SW	4	2	0	VIENNA	\$627,000	Detached	0.28	22180	VIENNA WOODS
12105 WAYLAND ST	5	4	0	OAKTON	\$625,000	Detached	0.49	22124	VALEWOOD MANOR
2916 ELMRIDGE CT	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$611,000	Detached	0.08	22124	OAK MARR COURTS
515 KIBLER CIR SW	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$610,000	Detached	0.23	22180	VIENNA WOODS
9540 DANIEL LEWIS LN	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.07	22181	FAIRFAX METRO SQUARE
1110 PEKAY ST SW	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$600,000	Detached	0.25	22180	VIENNA WOODS
9646 SCOTCH HAVEN DR	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$579,000	Townhouse	0.04	22181	COUNTRY CREEK
205 PATRICK ST SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$565,000	Detached	0.24	22180	VIENNA WOODS
2813 OAKTON MANOR CT	4	3	0	OAKTON	\$535,000	Townhouse	0.14	22124	OAKTON MANOR
10614 HUNTER STATION RD	0	0	0	VIENNA	\$512,500	Detached	2.15	22181	PINEY CREEK ESTATES
3201 WHITE FLINT CT	4	2	2	OAKTON	\$497,500	Townhouse	0.06	22124	ARROWOOD
3226 WHITE FLINT CT	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$491,000	Townhouse	0.06	22124	ARROWOOD
10458 WHITE GRANITE CT	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$489,900	Townhouse	0.04	22124	ARROWOOD
2971 BORGE ST	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$474,500	Townhouse	0.04	22124	CHERRYWOOD SQUARE
10401 HUNTER STATION RD	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$450,000	Detached	0.83	22181	HUNTER STATION
10317 BUSHMAN DR	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$445,000	Townhouse	0.03	22124	EVERGREEN SQUARE
10347 GRANITE CREEK LN	3	2	1	OAKTON	\$437,650	Townhouse	0.06	22124	FLINT HILL MANOR TOWNHSE
2908 JERMANTOWN RD #24	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$426,000	Townhouse	0.00	22124	TREEBROOKE
2765 CENTERBORO DR #466 ...	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$407,500	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATION
2791 CENTERBORO DR #471 ...	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$390,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATN
10300 BUSHMAN DR #104	3	2	0	OAKTON	\$337,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22124	TREEBROOKE
10206C ASHBROOKE CT #15 ...	2	2	0	OAKTON	\$322,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22124	TREVOR HOUSE
2711 BELLFOREST CT #308 ...	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$315,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22180	WESTBRIAR
10122 OAKTON TERRACE RD ...	2	2	0	OAKTON	\$300,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22124	THE OAKTON
2791 CENTERBORO DR #270 ...	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$247,500	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATN
2710 BELLFOREST CT #105 ...	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$231,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22180	WESTBRIAR
3176 SUMMIT SQ DR #4-E4 ...	1	1	0	OAKTON	\$220,000	Penthouse	0.00	22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
3175 SUMMIT SQ DR #5-C4 ...	1	1	0	OAKTON	\$211,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.00	22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON

Copyright 2018 MarketStats for ShowingTime. Source: Bright MLS as of February 15, 2018.

‘A Nun on the Bus’ Author Speaks in Vienna

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) Vienna Branch’s February program, featuring Sister Simone Campbell, author of “A Nun on the Bus,” was attended by at least 175 people on Saturday, Feb. 10 at the newly-reopened Vienna Community Center. The Community Center donated their large meeting room for the event and Patrick Henry Library co-sponsored the program.

Sister Simone’s warmth and compassion connected with the audience as she focused on the problems of poverty in the U.S. She explained that between 1949 and 1979, the income of people in every economic category doubled. However, this shared experience changed thereafter, with the largest income increases (accounting for inflation) going to the top 20 percent income category and the



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Sister Simone Campbell

lowest 20 percent income category experiencing a 9 percent decline in income. However, the top 5 percent and 1 percent of income earners experienced a 100.6 percent and 170 percent increase in income, respectively.

The Sister discussed several reasons for this change and urged that every person needs to do their part, by finding a role and beginning to talk with each other – even those we don’t agree with and even in the grocery store. She pointed out that if individuals are not connected with each other, there is a failure of hope. Also, each person should continuously communicate their views on issues to their U.S. Representative and Senators.

Sister Simone emphasized that our Nation can only heal when the lowest income earners do better.

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PET Connection

Publishes: Feb 28, 2018 • Ads close: Feb 22, 2018

Connection readers love their pets. This keepsake edition will feature photos, anecdotes, advice and more about beloved family pets.

The Pet Connection will publish on February 28, 2018, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by February 16.

This edition provides a great advertising opportunity to reach pet owners where they live in a section sure to attract and hold their attention - be sure to take advantage of our different advertising options.

Find more information about submissions online at
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NEWS

Tax Relief Workshops To Be Held in McLean, Reston and Vienna

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors announced they are hosting a series of free 2018 Tax Relief Workshops for older adults and people with disabilities in late February and March at several locations throughout the county. Both real estate and vehicle tax relief are available for adults over 65 years of age and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications.

The fairfaxcounty.gov website states staff from the Fairfax County Department of Tax Administration (DTA) will be at the locations to assist with filling out the application form, as well as answering questions. No appointment is necessary.

Two workshops will be hosted by Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville), March 12 and March 14, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the McLean District Office, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Call 703-356-0551.

Three workshops will be hosted by Supervisor Catherine Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), two in Reston and one in Vienna. The Reston workshops are March 8, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston - 703-478-0283 and on March 20, 10 a.m. to noon at the North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. A Vienna workshop is on Feb. 24, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Madison High School (Lecture Hall), 2500 James Madison Drive in Vienna.

According to the Fairfax County Government, "To qualify for real estate tax relief, you must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled...The gross income from all sources of the owners of the dwelling and any relatives of the owners who reside in the dwelling may not exceed \$72,000...The total combined net assets of owners of the dwelling and of the spouse of any owner who resides in the dwelling may not be greater than \$340,000, not including the value of the home, its furnishings and the homesite (up to one acre of land).

Renters, who meet the age, disability, residency, and income requirements, as well as other require-



**Dranesville
District Supervisor
John Foust
(D)**



**Hunter Mill
Supervisor Cathy
Hudgins (D)**

ments, can qualify for tax relief under the Tax Relief Program. The county reminds applicants when they come to a workshop to be sure to bring with them a copy of their lease agreement and rental receipts or canceled checks for each month of the previous year documenting the amount of rent paid.

As for vehicle ("car") tax relief, the county states applicants must be at least 65 years of age, or permanently and totally disabled, as of Jan. 1 of the application year and reside in Fairfax County; the exempted vehicle must be owned and used primarily by the applicant, and tax relief will only be granted on one vehicle. Also, the gross income of the applicant may not exceed \$22,000. The total combined net assets of the ap-

plicant and spouse may not exceed \$75,000. Other conditions also apply.

Tax relief is available on mobile homes used as full-time residences.

Fairfax County reminds individuals that returning applicants must file between January 1 and April 1.

For more detailed information and qualifications go to fairfaxcounty.gov/taxes/relief/tax-relief-seniors-people-with-disabilities.

— MERCIA HOBSON

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to north@connectionnewspapers.com by noon on Friday.

Thomas House, of Vienna, was named to the East Stroudsburg University (Pa.) fall 2017 dean's list. House is a senior majoring in business management.

Mamie Henshaw, of Vienna, an exercise and sport science major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

Michael Kerr, of Vienna, a hospitality, resort, and tourism management major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

Nicole Papathanassiou, of Vienna, a marine science major, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.).

Charles Welling, a resident of Vienna, has been named to the Emerson College (Boston, Mass.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester. Welling is majoring in media arts production.

Cathleen Pfeiff, of Oakton, was named to the dean's honor list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Sophia Deguzman, of Vienna, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Eva Glick, of Vienna, was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Douglas Streeten, of Vienna, was named to the dean's honor list for the fall semester of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Katharine Olson, of Vienna, was named to the dean's list at Furman University (Greenville, S.C.) for the fall 2017 semester. Olson is the daughter of Deborah Malac and Ronald Olson.

Longfellow Middle School's Model United Nations Club earned the Outstanding School Award at the 13th annual Gar-Field High School Model UN conference in Woodbridge.

Delegates sought resolution to issues such as the world-wide poaching crisis and the South China Sea conflict along with one committee set in the future focused on the potential of life in space. In addition to the United Nations com-

mittees, there was one centered on the Justice League.

Individual awards included **Chanyoo Lee**, Outstanding Delegate award as Superman on the Justice League committee; on the UNI Space 2068 committee: **Erika Li** and **Valerie Li**, Outstanding Delegate representing Chile, and **Kacy Lee** and **Odessa Zhang**, honorable mention for their representation of the Russian Federation; on the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, **Nyla Marcott** and **Anna Raymond** earned a verbal commendation representing the Philippines; honorable mentions went to **Eve Ginsberg** and **Cathy Zhang** for representing Cuba, **Jin Shin** and **Kyra Li** for representing Colombia, and **Julia Tan** and **Cynthia Ma** for representing the United Kingdom. In the Special Political and Decolonization committee: **Justin Dong** and **Jeanie Qi** earned the Best Delegate award for representing France; **Blaire Zhao** and **James Hoadley** earned a verbal commendation for representing the United Arab Emirates, and honorable mentions went to **Yusuf Gunter-Rahman** and **Simal Mann**, who represented the United States, and **Kevin Fan** and **Elliott Lee**, who represented Japan.

BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THURSDAY/FEB. 22

Leading from the Inside Out. 7-9 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Energy Management: Leading with Intention and Purpose-learn how to: identify what fills and depletes your energy tanks. \$25-40. To RSVP visit wotrleadinginsideout.eventbrite.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 24

Town Hall Meeting. 9-11 a.m. at James Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. Supervisor Hudgins will host a Town Hall Meeting on this year's budget. Hear presentations from County and Public Schools staff on their respective budget plans for FY2019. Q&A will follow the presentations. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill.

Monthly Meeting. 10 a.m. at the McLean Community Center Temporary Space, 6645 Old Dominion Drive, McLean (located in the shopping center with Balducci's). The McLean Area AAUW Branch will host its monthly meeting, featuring Rebecca Baird, archivist for the Mount Vernon Ladies Association. Baird will help celebrate the birthday of our first president by sharing the story of one woman who managed to buy his run down home and turn it in to the visitor and research center, Mount Vernon. All are welcome. Visit mclean-va.aaupw.net.

Financial Planning and Medical Directives. 10-11:30 a.m. at Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, The Hunger Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Local professional speakers to walk participants through the process of putting affairs in order and to answer questions. Free. Visit www.TheHungerChurch.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 26

Citizens Information Meeting. 7 p.m. at Franklin Sherman Elementary School Cafeteria, 6633 Brawner St., McLean. The McLean Citizens Association will host Dr. Scott Brabrand, the new Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools. Brabrand will discuss his priorities and challenges and provide residents with an opportunity to ask questions. Contact David Lee, david.i.lee7@gmail.com, for more.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit 1millioncups.com/.

MCC Governing Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. All meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public. Tax district residents (Dranesville District-1A) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting, should call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the agenda. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Call 703-821-6838 or email jtarr5@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Nomination Deadline. The Town of Vienna is calling on members of the community to nominate both peers as well as local businesses who, through efforts large and small, make Vienna a better community in which to live. Those wishing to recognize a hometown hero, anyone who volunteers their time or offers assistance in any way to enhance community life, should complete the volunteer nomination form at viennava.gov/volunteers.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

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His Pillow



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Either it was the programming on CBS we were "demanding," or the recorded programming we were watching from PBS; but for the week it was, repeatedly, and I mean REPEATEDLY, we were subjected to the same commercials over and over again. Torture doesn't begin to describe the excruciating reaction I had every time I saw the same people saying the same words. Instead of turning me on to the product or services, it had quite the opposite effect: it tuned me off. Buy what they were selling? More like good-bye.

Not that I understand the strategy behind television and/or radio advertising/promoting as I have zero experience. But I do have some experience, 21 years in fact, selling newspaper/display advertising. And what knowledge I've gained says advertising frequently in multiple media platforms is the key to success. Picking and choosing results in hitting and missing. But hitting me constantly without missing a beat is hard to take too, and not necessarily managing the consistency desirable for most businesses to thrive. Moreover, bludgeoning me into submission/buying is not creating a positive experience either and one not likely to lead to repeat business.

With respect to this test – of will power, I can't help wondering if there's a tipping point of sorts when the consumer/watcher/listener becomes less interested/more antagonistic to the message and by association, perhaps even less tolerant of the medium. Not that one can, generally speaking, blame the messenger, but when under the constant barrage of repetition, which in this instance I was forced to endure ("on demand" disables the fast-forward function so it forces you to sit and squirm), you want to blame someone, anyone. Too much of a good thing is not, after awhile, a good thing; and I'm being kind in my characterization.

Having seen the same commercial for what seemed like a dozen times, over a condensed period of time, during nearly every commercial break, I can't imagine how I could place my head on this pillow and not see this man from Minnesota, his warehouse staff, and most disturbingly, his presence when I open my medicine cabinet. Sleep? Hardly. More like shock and not awe as I lay my head down to rest. Visions of sugar plum fairies or sheep prancing over a fence I'm accustomed to, but a man with a moustache telling me what he knew he would about my reaction to his pillow, I can't quite abide.

Relax? More like reacts. Presumably if the message, messenger or medium is somehow disturbing in its consumer/market penetration; rather than being clear, concise and effective, all that was hoped to have been gained is lost in the muddle. And precious dollars wasted in the process. I imagine the question becomes: How much is too much, and how much is not enough? (Other than sports and chocolate, I wouldn't know.)

All I know is what my reaction has been to seeing and hearing endless (or so it seemed) repetition: almost visceral. I'm sort of angry and put upon for having had to listen so much to learn so little. And though I can certainly appreciate its context and presumptive strategy, I still can't help feeling like a victim of sorts; the cost of doing business, I suppose. I understand that watching what I want requires watching some of what I don't want; it's a trade. A trade I can balance except when what I don't want to watch has a stronger/more negative impact on me than does the programming I want to watch.

Remember the goal is to capture my attention, not abuse it.

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

SPORTS



The Oakton Cougars defeated the Madison Warhawks 50-38 to earn the Concorde District Tournament Championship.



The Concorde District All Conference Team, from left, includes Coach Noel Klippenstein (Westfield); Player of the Year, Nicki McNamara (Westfield); Katy Sharon (Madison); Meghan O'Brien (Chantilly); Peyton Perine (Oakton); and Callie Doyle (Centreville).

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Oakton Girls Become District Champions

The Oakton High girls basketball team defeated the Madison Warhawks 50-38 at Chantilly High School for the Concorde District Championship on Feb. 16.

Madison established an early 12-8 advantage after the first 8 minutes of play.

Oakton outscored Madison 11-10 in the 2nd quarter to cut into the Madison lead, but Madison would take a 22-19 halftime advantage.

In the 3rd quarter Oakton would nearly triple Madison's production 20-7, to take the lead for good and give the Lady Cougars a 39-29 advantage with a quarter to play.

The 4th quarter saw Oakton outscore the Lady Warhawks, 11-9.

Oakton was led by Emma Coleman's 13 points while teammates Hannah Kaloi and Kate Vietmeyer each added 10. Madison was led by Caroline Trotter with 12 points and Diana Miskell's 10.

Both teams advance to the Regional Tournament. Oakton has a first round bye and will play the winner of South Lakes-Battlefield on Feb. 21. Madison will face Yorktown on Feb. 20 in the first round. Marshall will take on Centreville, Patriot will take on Herndon and Stonewall Jackson will take on Westfield. The winner of the Westfield-Stonewall Jackson will play Langley in the second round and the winner of Madison-Yorktown will play at Osbourn Park.

— WILL PALENSCAR



Oakton's Mina Mori #14 dribbles the ball up the court while Madison's Katy Sharon #44 applies pressure.



Madison's Katy Sharon #44 drives past Oakton's Peyton Perine #40.

Firefighter of the Year

The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department has announced that Lt. Marc Davidson, Training Academy, has been selected as recipient of the 2017 Governor's Fire Service Award for Firefighter of the Year. The Governor's Fire Service Awards were established as a formal recognition of excellence in Virginia's Fire Services.

Davidson was recognized for his tireless efforts to enhance a number of certification courses and officer development training in the department. He has written curriculum for several courses and was the driving force behind a continuing education series titled "Riding The Seat." This series is so popular that fire and rescue personnel from across the

region are requesting to attend.

Davidson was also instrumental in gaining delegated authority from the Virginia Department of Fire Programs which allows the department to deliver and certify all training courses delivered at the Academy.

The 2017 Governor's Awards will be presented during the Opening Ceremonies of the 2018 Virginia Fire-Rescue Conference on Saturday, Feb. 24, 2018. The ceremonies will commence at 8:30 a.m.

From left: Fire Chief Richard Bowers, Battalion Chief Kelly, Battalion Chief Williams, Lt. Marc Davidson, Deputy Chief Duke, and Battalion Chief Hunter.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED