

"Bringing hope and healing through ART"

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Object to
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Vienna Arts Society artists Dore' Skidmore and Shari MacFarlane, along with Terry Svat [not present], volunteered their time and expertise at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, working with wounded soldiers to create healing art.

Opposite Sides
of the Road

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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY ERIN CONWAY/ THE CONNECTION

Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club offers fun for the whole family.

Cooling off at Vienna Woods

Local Swim and Tennis Club offers choices to residents of all ages.

BY ERIN CONWAY
THE CONNECTION

Whether you need swim lessons, tennis lessons, a place to work, or just a fun spot to hang out at during the summer, Vienna Woods Swim and Tennis Club has fun for the whole family.

Established in 1959, this summer spot is home away from home for 750 members and an array of staff members. It is conveniently located in Vienna and very easy for residents to get to. The club is equipped with pool slides, high dives, diving boards, a snack bar and a baby pool.

"There is great family atmosphere that has always been a part of Vienna Woods. It's conveniently located; most people can walk here from their homes. Most of our lifeguards, tennis coaches and snack bar workers are home grown kids

that grew up at Vienna Woods," said Manager Nancy Wanzer. Vienna Woods offers an array of different choices like swim team, tennis team, dive team, group swim lessons and private swim lessons for all ages.

Going along with the more family oriented style of this pool, Vienna Woods hosts different events like Family Day, Picnic under the Stars, the Annual Crab Feast and a Kids Day for children who have received their patch.

Veteran front desk worker Ben Jackson says, "I've worked here for three summers now. My favorite thing about working here are the people, especially the kids. The atmosphere at Vienna Woods is great."

Vienna Woods is the only pool in the area with a three meter high dive. The club also had a recent renovation to make the pool ADA compliant to ensure that everyone can have a safe, fun summer.



The Fairfax County School Board voted unanimously to change the Student Rights and Responsibilities handbook to decrease suspension times.

PHOTO BY
JANELLE GERMANOS/
THE CONNECTION

School Board Decreases Suspension Time

Student Rights and Responsibilities revised.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS
THE CONNECTION

Starting this fall, suspensions for certain student offenses in Fairfax County will decrease, thanks to a revision of the school system's Student Rights and Responsibilities.

The school board voted unanimously at the end of June to change the discipline handbook, which will now focus on in school suspensions to preserve time in school. Offenses that come with mandatory punishments are decreased under the updated handbook.

Sully District School Board member Kathy Smith said at the meeting that the focus remains to have safe schools, but to ensure that children are kept in school so they can continue to receive their education.

"The changes to the SR&R were made to better align with best practices, to reduce suspensions, and to include changes that have been made to the Code of Virginia," said School Board Chairman Ilryong Moon in a press release. "The adopted changes emphasize the School Board's desire to keep students in class by promoting alternative forms of discipline and reducing the length of suspension for certain offenses. However, serious infractions will still be dealt with in a manner that protects students and staff."

The Student Rights and Responsibilities provides a guideline of rules for students of Fairfax County Schools and the consequences for breaking those rules. Students are required to sign it each year.

CHANGES ALSO INCLUDE adjustments to a marijuana-related punishment. First-time use of marijuana that does not take place on school grounds or during a school-sponsored activity will be extended expedited review, meaning disciplinary actions other than expulsion may be used.

A motion was also approved that requires the collection of data on cases involving first-time possession and use of marijuana cases each semester. Prin-

cipals are also given more independence in assigning disciplinary decisions.

Superintendent Karen Garza said at the meeting that disproportionality in school suspensions will continue to be examined.

"Are we there yet with the Student Rights and Responsibilities? No. I think we have to keep working on it and keep making it better," Garza said.

Under the updated handbook, the suspension time for many punishments is decreased from 10 to five days.

"We wanted to reduce the number of days students miss school due to disciplinary infractions. We need to hold students accountable, but can we do that in a way that still supports our educational mission, and I think we've made progress there," Garza said.

A requirement that required a 10-day suspension with a referral to the Division Superintendent has also been eliminated.

"Everything we know at the national level of research is, when you pull children out of their school

building, when you pull them even out of the classroom, they fall further and further behind," said Braddock District School Board member Megan McLaughlin. "When we look at the things that we as a system can try to control and improve upon for student achievement, it's important that we recognize that this is why getting our discipline practice right is so important, because this is how we will help improve student achievement and narrow the achievement gap."

"Are we there yet with the Student Rights and Responsibilities? No. I think we have to keep working on it and keep making it better."

— Superintendent Karen Garza

FAIRFAX COUNTY'S ADOPTION of the new Student Rights and Responsibilities will be a model for the rest of Virginia, said Ted Velkoff, member at large.

"School boards are going to be looking at ways to respond positively to students without doing zero tolerance," he said.

Electronic cigarettes and hookah pens were also added to be classified as tobacco products under the updated handbook.

A motion was also approved that requires data to be collected regarding in-school and out-of-school suspension, as well as the number of those students not suspended, out of the total number of referrals to the superintendent for discipline infractions, to be reported each semester.

Neighbors Object to Follin Lane Project

They say it'll result in a 'clear and present danger.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For a couple years now, the Town of Vienna has planned to improve Follin Lane between Maple Avenue and Echols Street. But when project consultants held a June 26 meeting to share the details with nearby residents, it ended up alarming them, instead.

And last Monday, July 7, two of them came to the Town Council meeting and made their feelings known. Speaking were neighbors Loretta Roby and Sean McClorey and, citing serious concerns, both asked the Council members to think twice before proceeding with this project.

"I live on the corner of Hine [Street] and Follin, and it's one of the most dangerous intersections in Vienna," said McClorey. "There have been many accidents there, and the most recent one destroyed part of my fence – and the auto's trajectory was heading right toward my house."

As part of the Follin Lane Project, he said, "The Town plans to level the grade of the road there and remove the brush. And that



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Residents say improving Follin Lane will worsen speeding, destroy the tree canopy and endanger people's lives.

will mean a clear and present danger, not only to my property, but to my four children."

THE \$2 MILLION ROAD PROJECT consists of reconstructing Follin, widening it and installing sidewalks, storm drains, curbs and gutters. In November 2011, Vienna applied for \$1 million in VDOT FY '13 Revenue Sharing Funds and was awarded the money on June 26, 2012.

Exactly two years later to the day, the residents living near the project area attended a "Citizen Design and Detour-Review" meeting – and that's when the

warning bells went off. Roby said it was the first time many of them realized how far the plans for this work had advanced without Town officials discussing it with them.

"The decision to do the project had already been made," she said at last week's Council meeting. "There was no resident input; the Town just said, 'We're doing it.'"

A mother of two, Roby lives on Mashey Drive and her property backs up to Follin, so this project is upsetting to her, as well as her neighbors. "We have safety concerns, and we're worried about the traffic flow," she said. "We're also upset that the tree

canopy along Follin – including a beautiful, healthy, 60-year-old tree – will be taken down and not replaced."

Also noting the many car crashes that have happened at Hine and Follin, Roby said the widened road "will go almost to, if not beyond, my property line. And we put our fence line even further back from the road because of all the traffic there."

She said widening Follin from two to three lanes and making it flat will result in drivers going even faster than they do now through the Follin/Hine intersection to reach the Town's throughway, Maple Avenue.

"And with a sidewalk added, pedestrians who don't walk there now will walk there and get hit by a speeding car," said Roby. "So we implore the Town Council to reconsider this plan."

MAYOR Laurie DiRocco said there'll be a July 30 meeting with the residents, and "We'll bring in [Town] staff and see what we can do." She then asked if there have been "a lot of accidents" there.

"You hear a crash and call 911 because the severity of the accidents requires ambulances," replied Roby. "And with the changes planned, cars will be flying even faster [down Follin] to get to Maple. This was initially supposed to be a beautification project. How is it beautification if a 60-year-old tree is taken out and a child gets hit by a car?"

Vienna Arts Society Presents Heroes Healing Wall

Troops on the mend from Fort Belvoir compose multi-media puzzle pieces.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The newest exhibition of the Vienna Arts Society is a trifecta of purpose. The artwork, a collection of puzzle-pieces created by VAS artists and U.S. troops on the mend at Fort Belvoir's hospital, serves as one of the arts society's ambitious community outreach programs. The exhibition and sale showcases the creativity and prowess of society members, and provides a fundraising tool. Proceeds from the silent auction benefit the Vienna Arts Society. Called the Heroes Healing Wall Puzzle Project, the July exhibition features multi-piece puzzles assembled from individual 12-inch "universal" puzzle pieces. Each piece is composed of a drawing, painting or collage, or verbal expression. While art pieces created by

VAS members are for sale through the fundraising silent auction, pieces created by healing troops at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital are not.

"We wanted the soldiers on the mend to have a voice, to bring attention that they're out here," said VAS center director Lu Cousins. "The hospital was so excited we were going to work with them."

Three volunteer artists from the Vienna Arts Society – project manager Dore Skidmore, Shari MacFarlane and Terry Svat – spent three two-hour sessions in June with the troops, arriving at the hospital with donated blank puzzle pieces and a variety of art tools and resources required for composition. Few of the soldiers had art experience yet those participating produced 18 works. Each piece makes a powerful statement by itself as well as part of the larger puzzle, Skidmore said. The puzzle pieces were first painted black background before the troops introduced their compositions to the puzzle pieces.

Approximately 70 individual puzzle pieces were united to create several large puzzles. Each puzzle piece sells individually at the silent auction, which runs until the fi-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY THE VIENNA ARTS SOCIETY

U.S. troops on the mend at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital created art pieces for the Heroes Healing Wall project sponsored and hosted by the Vienna Arts Society. Troops worked on 18 individual puzzle pieces that, together, create large puzzles.

nal bids are accepted by noon on Aug. 1. The public is welcome to come by during art center hours to view the exhibition and place

bids. Bids were already placed by July 12 when VAS hosted a reception for the Heroes Healing Wall exhibition.

Cousins conceived the project in spring. She contacted Fort Belvoir Community Hospital and received an enthusiastic response from directors and doctors there.

"This is a way to show our troops healing they're not forgotten," MacFarlane said. Fundraisers such as the sale of members' pieces, as well as the Bunco game, support the programs of the Vienna Arts Society and the property it leases on Pleasant Street. Art works run the gamut from traditional oils and watercolors to handpainted handbags by MacFarlane, as well as glass art jewelry.

The Vienna Arts Society hopes the community will visit the exhibition, bid on pieces available for sale and come to its "Bunco" night on Thursday, July 24, beginning at 7 p.m. Participation in Bunco costs \$20 per person.

The Vienna Art Center, at 115 Pleasant Street, is open to the public Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from July 8 – Aug. 1. There is no charge for entry to exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for details on classes or joining the Vienna Arts Society.

Opposite Sides of the Road

Candidates for Senate divided on funding Virginia roads.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

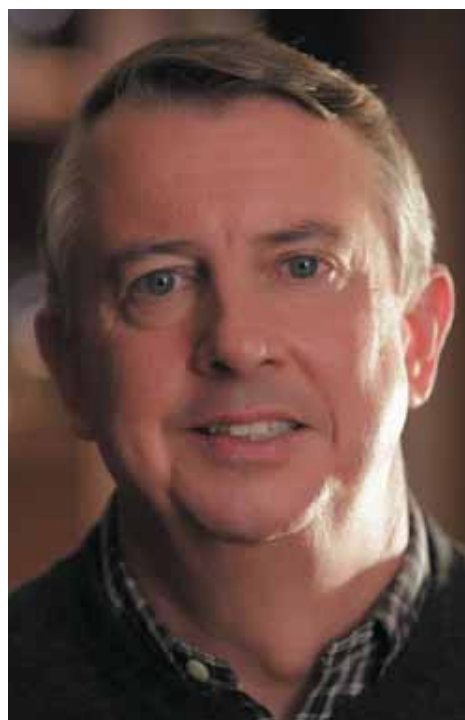
Washington is on the road to creating a short-term fix for funding the nation's highways, kicking the can down the road and handing the problem to the next Congress. That means voters will have the final say when they cast a ballot in this year's hotly contested race for Senate, a contest that features three candidates with sharply different perspectives on how to handle the \$100 billion shortfall over the next six years.

Democratic incumbent Mark Warner supports public-private partnerships as a way to raising new revenue, an approach that includes a bipartisan proposal to leverage private capital known as the Bridge Act. Republican challenger Ed Gillespie says revenues for roads could be raised from offshore energy exploration, an approach that Republicans say Democratic President Barack Obama has blocked. Libertarian candidate Robert Sarvis says the federal government should get out of the business of funding highways altogether, leaving the role of funding surface transportation to the states.

"This is an issue that voters should care about," said Geoff Skelley, analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics. "It's something of daily importance that could impact voters directly, whereas it's harder sometimes to draw a direct connection between immigration policy or certain aspects of health-care policy."

One aspect of the debate all the candidates agree on is that revenues from the gas tax are on the decline, and as automobiles become more efficient the government continues to receive less money. One solution is to raise the gas tax, a proposal supported by Sen. Bob Corker (R-Tenn.) and Sen. Christ Murphy (D-Conn.). But neither Corker nor Murphy are up for reelection this year. Gillespie opposes raising the gas tax, and a spokesman for Warner says he does not support the proposal currently before Congress to raise the gas tax.

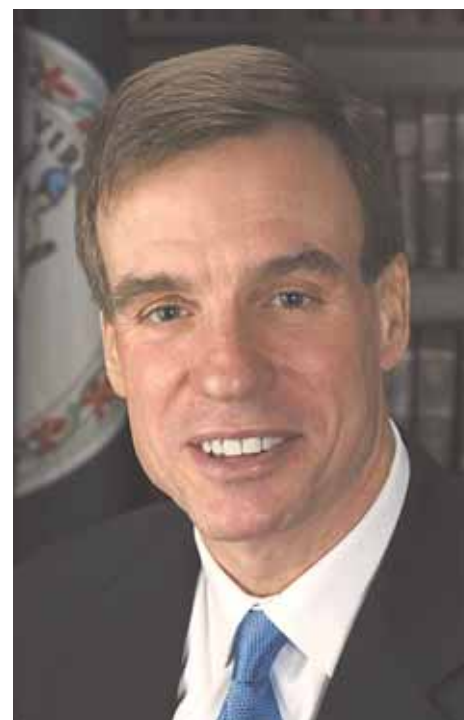
"This is going to be a very big issue next year," said Frank Shafroth, director of the Center for State and Local Leadership at George Mason University. "So it's something voters should consider when they go to the



Ed Gillespie



Robert Sarvis



Sen. Mark Warner

"This is an issue that voters should care about. It's something of daily importance that could impact voters directly, whereas it's harder sometimes to draw a direct connection between immigration policy or certain aspects of health-care policy."

— Geoff Skelley,
analyst with the University of Virginia Center for Politics

polls in terms of what this means to the taxpayers of Virginia."

THE HIGHWAY TRUST Fund was created during the Eisenhower administration in 1956, when the Highway Revenue Act created a new tax of three cents per gallon. In January 1983, Republican President Ronald Reagan signed a bill that increased the gas tax to nine cents a gallon. A few years later, Republican President George H.W. Bush increased it to 14 cents a gallon. Then Democratic President Bill Clinton increased the gas tax to 18.4 cents a gallon, which remains the current rate. That brings in about \$34 billion a year even though the current transportation bill includes about \$50 billion in infrastructure spending.

"Despite months of debate, lawmakers have failed to act," said BlueGreen Alliance executive director Kim Glas in a written statement. "The job market is steadily improving but the threat that Congress will let the Highway Trust Fund go bankrupt looms large."

Conservatives in Congress have questioned the role the federal government should play in surface transportation. Sen. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) introduced legislation that would eliminate the 20 percent of the trust fund that is not spent on roads. And Sen. Rand Paul (R-Ky.) wants to create a fund for emergency transportation

projects paid for by repatriating overseas capital back to the United States. Libertarian candidate takes those arguments a step farther, saying the federal government should get out of funding surface transportation altogether.

"It just creates graft and corruption and inefficient use of resources," said Sarvis. "The federal government should not be channeling billions of dollars of taxpayers dollars through the federal bureaucracy to the states."

THE TWO MAJOR party candidates both believe that the gas tax is a dwindling source of revenue, and neither candidate supports raising it. Instead, Warner and Gillespie

have seized on alternatives sources of revenue in a way that reveals something about their priorities and legislative style. As governor, Warner supported public-private partnerships such as rail to Dulles. Now that he's in the Senate, he hopes to use his background as a venture capitalist to forge a solution to the funding crunch facing the nation's roads.

"We need to acknowledge that the current funding mechanism - the gas tax - is a declining source of revenue, and that means everyone will have to bring some new ideas to the table," said Kevin Hall, spokesman for Warner. "That should include Sen. Warner's Bridge Act, a bipartisan proposal that will leverage more private capital to jumpstart work building and modernizing our country's infrastructure."

On the Republican side, Gillespie responded to a question about the Highway Trust Fund by blasting Democrats for presiding over an economy when gas prices have gone up so dramatically.

"We need to increase accountability in how transportation funds are spent, give states more say in spending decisions, and identify a stream of revenue to fund our transportation infrastructure projects for the long-term," said Paul Logan, a spokesman for Gillespie. "One such revenue source could be new revenues from offshore energy exploration, which this administration has consistently blocked."

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

❖ **Volunteer Advocates for Nursing Home & Assisted Living Residents** needed throughout Northern Virginia. Contact the Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ltombudsman/, email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-5861, TTY 711.

❖ **The Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center** in McLean needs

a front desk volunteer on Wednesdays, 2-3 p.m. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click Volunteer Solutions.

❖ **Fairfax County needs volunteers** to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Center Street Is Closed

Due to construction, Center Street in Vienna closed to traffic from Maple Avenue to Locust Street on Monday, July 7, and will remain closed until the last week of August. The street-reconstruction project consists of excavating the roadway, lowering the road's high crown and repaving it.

Vienna Farmers Market

The Vienna Farmers Market is held Saturdays, from 8 a.m.-noon, in the Faith Baptist Church parking lot at 301 Center Street S. and it will remain open during the construction on Center Street. Customers may access the market via Courthouse Road to Locust Street or via Park Street to Cherry Street.

Town Council Special Meetings

The Vienna Town Council has scheduled two special meetings, Tuesday-Wednesday, July 29-30, at 7:30 p.m., for the sole purpose of appointing people to various Town boards and commissions. The meetings are in the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. in Vienna.

Courthouse Road Bike Lanes

As part of VDOT's summer repaving program, Courthouse Road from Route 123 to the Town of Vienna is being reconfigured to include bike lanes. Where the road is too narrow for bike lanes, shared-lane markings are being used. Final pavement markings are now being installed. This popular bike route runs parallel to Route 123 between Oakton and Vienna.

Oakton Farmers Market

The Oakton Farmers Market is held Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.

Summer Stories and Sprinklers

From now through Aug. 7, children may come and enjoy stories, Thursdays at 1 p.m., at the historic Vienna Little Library behind the Freeman Store, 131 Church St. NE. Then at 1:30 p.m., families may have fun running through the sprinklers on the Town Green lawn.

Historic Vienna Offers 'Old Fashioned Summer Fun'

Historic Vienna, Inc. is offering "Old Fashioned Summer Fun For Kids" on the side lawn of the Freeman Store, 131 Church Street NE on Saturday, July 26 at 2 p.m. and Saturday, Aug. 2 at 4 p.m. Children and parents are invited to play old-time games, learn some crafts, lis-

ten to a storyteller and make and enjoy hand-cranked ice cream. Free and open to the public, reservations encouraged. For more information call 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

Caffe Amouri to Celebrate Anniversary

Saturday, July 19, Caffe Amouri will be hosting a party to celebrate their 4th anniversary. The celebra-

tion will include music outside and in the shop from Vienna Idol performers and winners, games for children, special "Trivia" questions with prizes and a "Guess the number of coffee beans in the jar" contest.

There will also be free hot dogs for any attendee who brings an item for the Lamb Center – a daytime drop in counseling center for the "Poor & the poor in spirit."

Items urgently needed include styrofoam bowls, dinner & desert plates; Costco paper towel rolls for wall dispenser; laundry

detergent and liquid bleach; small deodorant and tooth paste; disposable razors & shaving cream; hot and cold drink cups (8 or 9 oz.); men's and women's underwear & socks; 55 gallon trash bags; 13 gallon trash bags with draw strings; bath towels and washcloths (no hand towels); Costco gift cards to purchase needed supplies; smart trip cards and weekly bus pass.

Festivities begin at noon and will continue outside till 5 p.m. followed by an Open Mic session inside hosted by popular local group.

OPINION

Save a Little, Help Others Prepare for School

Virginia's tax holiday on school supplies is a good reminder to donate supplies and dollars for children who need help arriving at school prepared.

Virginia's tax holiday on school supplies and clothing is Aug. 1-3, and it makes sense to take advantage of the savings, and to spread the wealth around.

During this three-day period, school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from Virginia sales tax.

There are some items that do not qualify, for example digital school supplies. See <http://www.tax.virginia.gov/> for more details.

When you are buying school supplies for your family, buy extra to donate to local families who are not able to afford to do the same.

In Fairfax County, just under 50,000 students are poor enough to qualify for free or reduced price meals at school.

In Fairfax County, local nonprofits, Fairfax County Public Schools and corporate partners are collecting school supplies and backpacks. Monetary donations and backpacks are being accepted by eight local nonprofits and through local Apple and Northwest Federal Credit

Union Branches, as well as online at <http://collectforkids.org/donate/> through Sept. 2. Last year the drive provided supplies for nearly 20,000 students. A \$10 cash donation goes a long way.

Collect for Kids Program runs through Sept. 2. Monetary donations can be accepted any time.

EDITORIAL Donate money at www.collectforkids.org. Donations of

backpacks are also being accepted at every Apple Federal Credit Union and Northwest Federal Credit Union branch in Fairfax County and at any of the affiliate charitable organizations, including Cornerstones, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, Our Daily Bread, Koinonia, United Community Ministries and others.

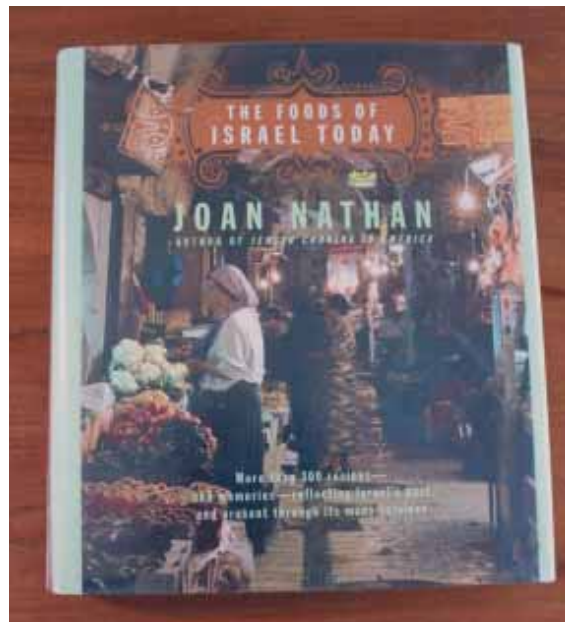
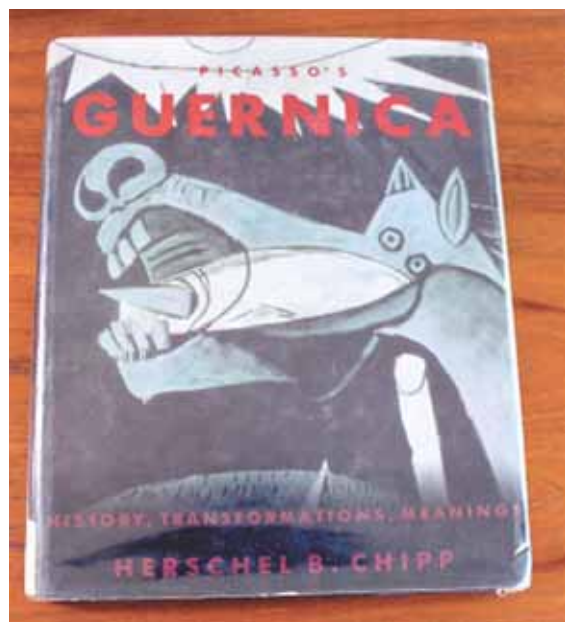
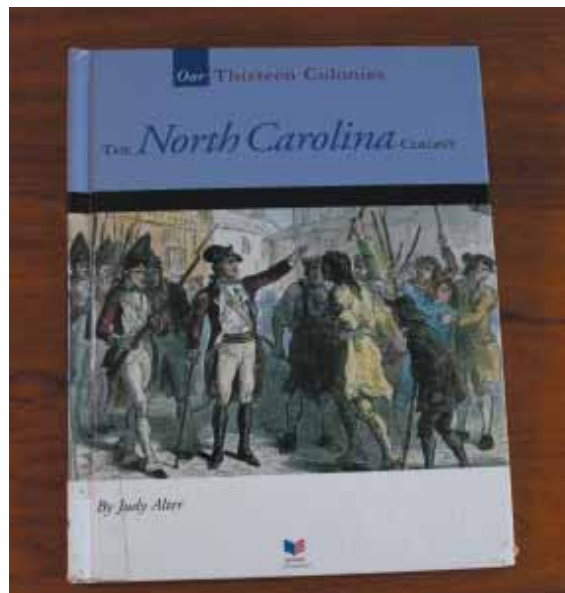
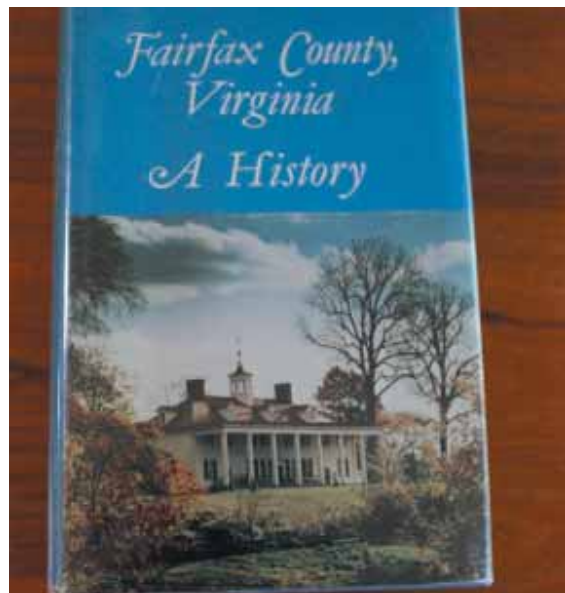
For more, see the Collect for Kids website at <http://collectforkids.org>.

Help Save Our Books

To the Editor:
Last November the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to cancel the Beta Plan for the county library system; however, Library Operations has continued to pursue the Beta Plan. At the Library Board of Trustees meeting July 9, 2014, Michael Cutrone, the Hunter Mill Representative to the Library Board, requested that current procedures for discarding low demand items be changed. Low demand items are books that have not been checked out for 24 months. Low demand books are now transferred to Technical Operations, and large numbers in very good condition are being discarded. Michael Cutrone asked that until a new policy can be instituted that the discard of low demand books be stopped. The Director of Library Operations stated that it was his decision to make and he was opposed to changing current procedures.

Many neighboring library systems keep their books on the shelves for five years before they are considered for weeding. Even then, I am told by librarians in other library systems, they are very reluctant to let go of nonfiction works. Nonfiction is the heart of any library's collection. Our children need nonfiction for their school papers. Information from the Internet is often incorrect and incomplete.

We have lost thousands of nonfiction books in good condition since February 2014. Especially vulnerable are large art books which are often only used in the library and not checked out because of their size and weight. Since the Library Board is reluc-



Some of the low demand books that were discarded by the Fairfax County Public Library since February 2014.

tant to direct operational procedures is there anything library patrons can do to protect the collection and culturally significant books?

Yes, there is. Patrons can check out books. Once books are checked out, they are protected for

two years. Two years from now we will have a new Library Director and hopefully the new one will value the library as a place of learning and literacy. You can check out 50 books. Check out art, poetry, philosophy, science, history, biography, ethnic cookbooks. And

don't forget the children's nonfiction. It's the only way we have now to protect our collection. Think of it as a civic and patriotic duty.

Help save our books.

Kathy Kaplan
Reston

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Vienna Residents Want Small-Town-Feel Preserved

Some anticipate an addition to traffic problems with the Silver Line opening July 26.

BY CAROLINE BURR
THE CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY CAROLINE BURR/THE CONNECTION

Vienna small businesses owners and customers expressed concerns for impact of Silver Line opening, Tysons expansion on efforts to preserve the town's character.

With the Silver Line opening date confirmed for Saturday, July 26, in addition to the overall expansion of the Metro and Tysons area, some long-time Vienna residents have expressed their concerns of preserving Vienna's small-town feel. Many small business owners along Maple Avenue worry about the impact the Metro will have on Vienna's already heavy traffic. Others in the area do not expect to see much of a difference to business and traffic. Some residents have lived in Vienna for over 30 years and have already wit-

nessed many gradual changes with expansion to the area. Vienna Mayor, Laurie DiRocco, resident for 19 years said, "This town does have a special feel." In a town very focused on its community, the metro's opening increases Vienna residents' options of travel. Mayor DiRocco said, "We have options to not always have need for a car, and options such as the metro take cars off the roads." Peggy James, Executive Director of

the Vienna Business Association and owner of The Artful Gift Shop, commented on the association's support of the environment. "We do really support environmental issues," she said. "It will be a great environmental impact" and with the ease of travel and mobility factor, "people can get to shopping" and "it will be easier for people to access all businesses in the area." Vienna resident Andre Letendre, general manager at Plaka Grill

said, "it will just bring more people into Vienna." When commenting on existing Vienna traffic, Letendre said he has "noticed the traffic increase what seems like tenfold, since 123 is a thoroughfare to the Tyson's area." Michael Amouri, Caffe Amouri owner, has lived in Vienna since 1985. With the opening of the Silver Line, he said he "think[s] it's actually going to help us... there's going to be a lot of people wanting to seek

out something nice and quaint." Considering the small town feel and the plans to expand, Amouri said he does "hope the town is very careful with its redevelop plans so that we remain a town and there won't be high rise buildings." The Vienna Town Green, Public Library and popular spots like the Vienna Inn are all part of Vienna's community-oriented environment. Abby of Vienna, who works at the Vienna Inn said, "There's definitely going to be a lot more traffic," and because the metro is open late, she thinks there will be "an increase in crime rate, kind of like Springfield Mall."

Another long-time resident, Peggy Everett, has lived in Vienna for about 30 years. Retired, she expressed concerns for the typical commuter saying anyone "getting to and from work will have some real headaches with it."

Although she hasn't thought much about the Silver Line's effect on the area, she is, "all for public transportation." Everett added, "I think public transportation is great, and if we are expanding this area that really has to be the way to do it."

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/JULY 17

Classic Books Discussion Group. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe. Adults and teens. 703-938-0405.

Spectacular Science. 2:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science. Ages 6 to 12. 703-242-4020.

Oakton Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Book discussion of Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Straight No Chaser. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Ten a cappella innovators are here to get the party started with an upbeat collection of medleys and pop covers featuring Michael Jackson, Adele, and Dolly Parton. Tickets: \$25-\$50. www.wolftrap.org/

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m. Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local Artists meet for coffee; do drop in! 703-759-2759.

FRIDAY/JULY 18

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear classic and alternative rock with Feedback. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Jean-Yves Thibaudet, piano. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road,

Vienna. "One of the best pianists in the world" (The New York Sun) showcases poetic musicality in dazzling interpretations of Tchaikovsky, Ravel, and Rossini. Tickets: \$20-\$50. www.wolftrap.org/

FRIDAY/JULY 18 & 25

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 18-SATURDAY/JULY 26

Guys and Dolls. 2 and 8 p.m. Alden Theater, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. The McLean Community Players present one of the most enduring works of musical comedy, set in Runyon's mythical New York City. \$18-20. 866-811-4111. www.mcleanplayers.org

SATURDAY/JULY 19-SATURDAY/JULY 26

R U Puzzled? 5:30-7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant Street NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society presents walls of giant puzzles created by assembling 12" puzzle pieces. Reception on Saturday, July 12 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. 703-319-3971.

SATURDAY/JULY 19-SUNDAY/JULY 20

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. at 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Sit in the shade and savor roast chicken and spicy sausages, enjoy dancing and singing with the fiddler, test your water color and writing skills with Mr.



Multiple Washington Area Music (WAMMIE) Award-winner and bluesman extraordinaire, Tom Principato sets the telecaster on fire and makes having the blues so good. See him at McLean's Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park on July 27 at McLean Central Park.

Andrews at the Stationer. Visit http://1771.org for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 19-SATURDAY/AUG. 9

McLean AAUW 45th Annual Used Book Collections. 9 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Sun Trust Bank, 515 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Bring book, CD and DVD contributions for the 45th Annual Used Book Sale in September. Email aaubookfair@gmail.com or call 703-527-4206 for information.

SATURDAY/JULY 19 & 26

"Pippi Longstocking: The Family Musical." 7:30 p.m. Lanier Middle School, 3801 Jermantown Road, Fairfax. A family-friendly musical comedy for all to enjoy. For ticket information, visit www.fairfaxcitytheatre.org.

SATURDAY/JULY 19

2001: A Space Odyssey. 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The ground-breaking 1968 film produced and directed by Stanley Kubrick still retains its allure and mystery. The NSO performs the score live as the enigmatic and compelling film is screened in the house and on the lawn. The film is presented by arrangement with Warner Bros., Southbank Centre London, and the British Film Institute. Tickets: \$22-\$55. www.wolftrap.org/

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Great Falls Village, 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Don't forget to bring your recyclable bag. www.greatfallsfarmersmarket.org.

Oakton Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Year round. Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. www.smartmarkets.org/

Vienna Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Faith Baptist Church Parking Lot, 301 Center Street South, Vienna. www.viennafarmersmarket.com.

SUNDAY/JULY 20

Tyson's Farmers Market. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. NADA Campus, Greensboro & Westpark Drive. www.tysonspartnership.org

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and

blankets to come hear the US Navy Commodores. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Huey Lewis & The News. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Return to "The Heart of Rock Rock 'n' Roll" with infectious Grammy-winners whose chart-topping, horn-driven hits unleash "The Power of Love." Tickets: \$25-\$50. www.wolftrap.org/

MONDAY/JULY 21-TUESDAY/JULY 22

Lionel Richie. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Multiplatinum R&B icon and a fresh hip-hop hit-maker will have you "Dancing on the Ceiling" like "Crazy." Tickets: \$45-\$140. www.wolftrap.org/

WEDNESDAY/JULY 23

Rock-a-Bye Baby. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Early literacy enhanced story time, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth to 12 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Diggers. 2:30 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Tracy Eldridge presents this interactive musical celebration of the creatures who sleep under our feet. All ages. Sign up each child and adult separately. 703-356-0770.

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Come play Pokemon with your friends. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/JULY 24

Teen Volunteer Sign-up for Reading Buddies. 4:15 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Please report at 4:15 p.m.

Teen. 703-757-8560.

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Grab a book, grab a buddy! Beginning readers and teens practice reading together. School-age. 703-757-8560.

"Not Just for Teens" Adult Book Club. 7 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Do you love YA books? If so, join us for discussion, fun and dessert. There is No Dog by Meg Rosoff. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Great Falls Rotary Club Weekly Speaker Series. 7:30-8:30 a.m. River Bend Country Club, 375 Walker Road Great Falls. Visit http://www.rotarygreatfalls.org/ to join.

Artists Meet for Coffee. 8:30-10 a.m.

Katie's Coffeehouse, Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Local Artists meet for coffee; do drop in! 703-759-2759.

FRIDAY/JULY 25

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear Karl Stoll and the Danger Zone. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Learn and play. Ages 5 to 18. 703-938-0405.

Bizet Carmen. 8:15 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Wolf Trap Opera and the National Symphony

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SATURDAY/JULY 26

Professor Parsnip's Lab. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. The Professor mixes food, science, and fun in this Bright Star Theatre production. Sign up each child and adult separately. All ages. 703-938-0405.

Sarah McLachlan. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. With emotional ballads and ethereal vocals, this Grammy-winning "Angel" has become "pop's voice of compassion

and consolation" (The New York Times). Tickets: \$30-\$70. www.wolftrap.org/

SUNDAY/JULY 27

Darius Rucker. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Trailblazing country singer and acclaimed Hootie & the Blowfish front man shines on earnest hits including "Alright" and "Wagon Wheel." Tickets: \$35-\$65. www.wolftrap.org/

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Boulevard, McLean. Multiple Washington Area Music (WAMMIE) Award-winner and bluesman extraordinaire, Tom Principato sets the telecaster on fire

and makes having the blues so good.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Bring chairs and blankets to come hear the Vienna Community Band. No alcoholic beverages allowed; recommended pets be left at home.

Town of Vienna Concert. 6:30 p.m. Vienna Town Green. Free outdoor concert featuring music for the whole family. All ages. 703-403-9179. www.viennacommunityband.org

MONDAY/JULY 28

Treasured Threes to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. 703-938-0405.

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'Really Fun and a Great Experience'

Local students enjoy summer computer camp.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Some summer camps involve hiking and swimming. But the one held June 30-July 3 at the Vienna Community Center involved computers.

In the morning, Bijoy Thomas taught seven students, ages 12-14, how to make DS, or hand-held, video games. And in the afternoon, he taught them about BattleBots and Raspberry Pi.

BattleBots are robots the students built from gear boxes, electrical wires and batteries, and Raspberry Pi is a tiny computer that powers desktop computers. And Thomas said what the students learned will come in handy.

"This is pretty advanced for their age; understanding how a computer works is impressive," he said. "And knowing this now will be a good stepping stone in the future." Besides that, when camp ended, he gave the students their final products on a flash drive, plus instructions, so they could play the games they created on their home computers.

THE CURRICULUM for the classes came from an Ohio-based company, Funutation, which puts on camps throughout the East Coast. Thomas, who instructed the students in this program, is a junior and IT/business major at Virginia Tech.

"My goal was to get them as computer literate as possible in the short time we had," he explained. "Overall, the kids did really well. I saw my first coding language at 17; they're learning it at 13."

Will Covey just graduated from Louise Archer Elementary and will attend seventh grade at Luther Jackson Middle School. "I'm really into programming and, last summer, I took a class on HTML website design; so this year, I wanted to design games," he said on the camp's last day. "Right now, I'm mak-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Participants in the computer camp included (back row, from left) Nathan Spivy, Matthew Wright, Will Covey, teacher Bijoy Thomas and Daniel Wright; in front is Ben Spivy.

ing a Python program – coding language to make basic Windows."

Will owns a Raspberry Pi so, he said, "I'm probably going to use Python to create my own, original, puzzle and step-strategy games. I'd recommend this camp to others because it's fun and you get to learn about how stuff works; so if I had a computer problem, I could fix it."

Daniel Wright just graduated from St. Mark Catholic School in Vienna and will be a Paul VI High freshman in the fall. "I'm interested in electronics and robots and I like building things," he said. "I built a controller out of wires, batteries and duct tape to generate the energy to power the motor and gears in the BattleBots. Then the BattleBot could spin its wheels to move forward or backward."

AS FOR THE CLASS, he said, "I love it; I like that it requires some thinking and the teacher's nice. And the class is just long

enough to keep you interested. I've learned soldering, how to use Python and how a controller operates – and it's pretty cool how it all works together."

Daniel said both Raspberry Pi and BattleBots "are good for kids in sixth through ninth grades because they involve basic programming skills and learning how to begin circuiting – connecting electronics to each other."

Ben Spivy, a seventh-grader at Flint Hill School in Oakton, signed up to try making DS and 3D X-Box games and learn how they work. "We made a DS game called Breakout, where you have to break some bricks and go through different levels," he said. "It was really cool because DS games always looked so complicated to make, and I felt proud that I could make a working game. I had the most fun doing that."

Ben said Raspberry Pi taught him the skills to program and put together computers. He said the camp was hard work but,



Daniel Wright holds the BattleBot's engines.

"in the end, it's definitely worth it."

St. Mark eighth-grader Matthew Wright also likes "programming, figuring things out and building stuff. I really liked the whole week because we built the BattleBot robot from scratch. You soldered things and cut the wire, yourself – it didn't come in a kit. I'll definitely do another camp like this."

Flint Hill freshman Nathan Spivy joined the class because "I thought programming would be fun and exciting, and it was – and so was creating 3D games." He said designing his own video game and inputting the code that created it was his favorite part. "Now, I'll be able to make simple games like Asteroid and create them the way I want them to be. This camp was really fun and a great experience."

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Financial Education for College Students

Local experts offer budget tips to keep students out of debt.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

As the summer wanes, many recent high school graduates are preparing to head to college. For those who are living away from home for the first time, this means newfound independence. But that freedom brings responsibility — especially when it comes to money.

From student loans to credit cards, the financial maze can be filled with debt-traps and money pitfalls. A recent financial literacy assessment of 15-year-old students by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development shows that one in six lacks basic financial literacy skills.

That leaves approximately three years for them to learn about money management before leav-

ing home. And that education is key: financial education is the best way to develop sound money management skills, say financial advisors.

Taking a financial education class is an option. The Northern Virginia Urban League offers a financial literacy workshop series with Fairfax County Human Services and Fairfax County Homeownership & Relocation Services.

“College students can learn everything from understanding a [credit] score and avoiding credit traps to banking and money management,” said Vickey King of the Northern Virginia Urban League.

“College is not the time to live the lifestyle of your dreams,” said Rachel Powell of the Northern Virginia Council for Economic Education at George Mason University’s Center for Economic Education in Fairfax. “College courses, room, board, books are all



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Financial planners advise college students to avoid the credit card debt trap and make an effort to save money.

costly. You can expect to be poor in college, and if you use the many resources your college makes available to you in exchange for all the fees you are required to pay,

you can expect to be fed, safe and reasonably comfortable.”

THE FIRST STEP in financial literacy for college students is taking a personal money inventory. “Know before you go how much money you’ll have available from your income or allowance,” said Powell. “Will your folks be making regular contributions to your survival or are you on your own?”

Make a budget that includes all expenditures, including luxuries like frozen yogurt or coffee or movie tickets. Put some money aside for emergencies; even \$5 per week will add up over time.

Online tools can help college students organize their finances and track their spending and savings patterns. Alexandria-based financial planner Mark Friese recommends mint.com, which categorizes spending, and bettermoneyhabits.com, which offers videos clips on how to budget better.

“Many people, especially teens and young adults, are surprised when they look at their entire spending picture because they haven’t ... had to make the money

they spend,” said Friese. “They just don’t know the value of a dollar until they are lining their own wallets with their own money. So the big picture tools that highlight spending and savings habits are helpful.”

Know the difference between needs and wants: “Don’t buy what you don’t need,” said Powell. “Cold medicine — yes. The latest movie on DVD — no.”

Open a checking and savings account at a bank located close to campus, one that offers products and services for students, advises Powell. “Don’t accept accounts that require minimum balances or charge fees,” she said. “Shop around for the right bank.”

Find a way to establish or build savings, especially if you plan to work during college. “Pay yourself first,” said Friese. “When you have a job, take a set portion of it and save it for your future self. If the job offers a retirement plan such as a 401(k), take advantage of it. A 401(k) provides the significant benefit of saving before taxes are taken out.”

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 13

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Madison Graduate Kerrigan Heading to Ohio State

Q&A: Lacrosse standout fan of musician Mat Kearney, mom's lobster bisque soup.

Katie Kerrigan was a two-sport standout at Madison High School known for her hustle and play-making ability. On the basketball court, Kerrigan was a relentless defender who helped bring the Warhawks within one victory of the state tournament during the 2013-14 season. On the lacrosse field, the 2014 graduate was an offensive threat who helped win two state championships in her four varsity seasons.

"She's one of those girls if she decided basketball was her main sport, she would have been a Division I basketball player," Madison girls' basketball coach Kirsten Stone said. "She's just an athlete and a workhorse."

Kerrigan, however, chose to play lacrosse in college, and she will suit up for Ohio State University in the spring. Kerrigan recently participated in a Q and A via email with The Connection.

❖Connection: What made Ohio State the right fit for you?

Kerrigan: I chose Ohio State because I've always wanted to go to a big school that was so involved with athletics. It also has a great atmosphere and great academics. I also chose it because right when I met my coaching staff, off the bat I thought they were great and had a winning vision for the program.

❖Connection: What is your major? What position will you play?

Kerrigan: I want to major in communica-

"I'm excited about the new environment and the challenge of playing lacrosse in the new Big Ten. I'll be competing against the top teams and players in the country."

— Katie Kerrigan

Katie Kerrigan, a 2014 Madison High School graduate, will play lacrosse at Ohio State University.



ways pictured myself playing college basketball. But then I caught the lacrosse bug. Through my senior year of basketball, college coaches were still interested. I wish I could play both!

❖Connection: What is your favorite memory of playing high school lacrosse?

Kerrigan: Winning two state championships.

❖Connection: If you could go back and change one thing about your high school athletic career, what would it be?

Kerrigan: I'd work on my basketball shooting game more during the offseason.

❖Connection: What are you most looking forward to about the transition from high school to college?

Kerrigan: I'm excited about the new environment and the challenge of playing lacrosse in the new Big Ten. I'll be competing against the top teams and players in the country.

❖Connection: Who is your favorite music artist? Why?

Kerrigan: Mat Kearney, because I really enjoy his songs and they're soothing.

❖Connection: What is your favorite movie? Why?

Kerrigan: My favorite movie is 'Elf,' because I love Christmas and Will Ferrell is hilarious.

❖Connection: What is your favorite food?

Kerrigan: My mom's lobster bisque soup.

❖Connection: What is your favorite hobby outside of lacrosse and basketball?

Kerrigan: I enjoy painting and drawing.

❖Connection: What location is the farthest you have traveled from the Washington, D.C. metro area?

Kerrigan: California is the farthest I've traveled.

❖Connection: Did you follow the World Cup? If so, for which team(s) did you cheer?

Kerrigan: Yes. Team USA, of course!

— JON ROETMAN

Advancing to the State Tournament

The Vienna American 9/10 All-Star team won the District 4 championship and head to Grundy, Va., to compete in the Virginia State Tournament. Pictured from left: Manager Chris Leggett, coaches Ken Tyrrell and Adam Vance, VLL AL President Jitendra Joshi, Assistant District Administrator Lanny Bernier, Jack Emory, Kyle Robinson, Tyler Schoeberlein, Jaden Kritsky, Owen Taylor, Tommy Fiocchi, TJ Smith, Dean Vance, Nick Toole, Bryce Eldridge, Alex Jreige, David Neidecker and Kevin Wilson.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Budget Tips for College Students

FROM PAGE 11

AVOID USING CREDIT CARDS for immediate gratification and focus on building a high credit score for the future, said Friese. “That score, that number, will be more important and reap greater rewards than any grade or SAT score ever was or could be,” he said. “If you build and maintain a good credit score, you will be rewarded time and time again with preferred lending rates.”

When it comes to financial aid, take time to do research, and don't underestimate the availability of college scholarships.

Friese points to a study from scholarship.com, which shows that

billions of dollars in scholarship funds go unawarded every year.

“Take advantage of the opportunities out there,” he said. “Don't assume that scholarships are only for top scholars or athletes because many scholarships start with GPA requirements of 2.5 or less. Start looking as early as sophomore or junior year and apply as soon as you qualify.”

“Saving as much as possible from summer jobs ... can help with at least some of the expenses,” said Powell.

“Loans are available for all the expenses you cannot pay for through gifts, grants and scholarships. Be aware that money borrowed must be repaid and the in-

terest [accrued] is the cost of the rental of those funds.”

In fact, the Department of Education reports that 10 percent of U.S. college graduates default on student loans so only borrow money as a last resort.

Investigate federal loans first. “Loans such as the Stafford loan can be far more cost effective than higher-priced private loans,” said Friese.

College students should also estimate how much they will be able to afford to repay after graduation, said Powell. “Make sure that your target labor market is willing to compensate you with income commensurate with the cost of your education.”

Vienna Saints Second in National Tournament

The Vienna Saints, fifth grade girls team, competed in the 2014 United States Basketball Association National Tournament and placed second in their age group. The team, comprising fifth grade Vienna area residents, beat teams from Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, and Georgia before succumbing in the final minute in the championship game. The team finished with a tournament record of 5-1.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Saints players, from left, front row - Kara Vietmeyer, Amalia Makrigrigios, Stephanie Zaso, Izzy Williamson, Mary Trivisonno, Christina Trivisonno. Back row: Nicole Collins, Kelley Strike, and Val Dirske. Monica Balistrere - not pictured.

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Angela Wertz, daughter of Daniel and Lori Wertz of McLean, and a former student of Langley High School, has graduated from Duquesne University's Rangos School of Health Sciences. Angela will be attending the twelve month Accelerated Nursing Program this year at George Mason University.

Grayson Smith, of Great Falls, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in accounting, cum laude, during the spring commencement exercises at Auburn University. He is currently enrolled in Auburn's Master's of Accounting Program.

Courtney Cross, of Great Falls, graduated from Bishop O'Connell high school. She is a sophomore at Villanova Univer-

sity and was named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013.

Curtis A. Khol, Jr., of Vienna, graduated from the United States Naval Academy in May 2014 and was commissioned as an Ensign in the United States Navy. Ensign Khol graduated with Distinction (top 10 percent) and received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the Systems Engineering Honors Program.

Matthew Kent, of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at Carnegie Mellon University for the fall semester of 2013.

Lindsay Weber, a 2010 graduate of James Madison High School, has been named to the Dean's List for the fall semester of 2013 at Radford University.

Julian Kell, of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at Uni-

versity of New England for the fall semester of 2013.

Aline Dolinh, 15, is a sophomore at Oakton High School in Vienna and has been appointed as the National Student Poet by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities. Dolinh will participate in readings and workshops at libraries, museums and schools in Virginia as well as create community service projects to expand their reach while increasing engagement in the literary arts.

Kate E. DeWeese, daughter of Randi and Steve DeWeese of Vienna, graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School, and first-year student in the Bachelor of Arts Program, has been inducted into Alpha Lambda Delta honor society at Bucknell University.

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Between Halves



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

At present, July 12th, I'm halfway, approximately, between my last CT Scan which showed a previously unseen silver-dollar sized growth in my lower left lung and my next CT Scan scheduled for August 6th, one month earlier than my usual three-month interval in order to make an evaluation sooner rather than later; to determine if this is new growth or nothing more than old growth that is now visible due to the combination of shrinking tumors and dissipating fluid opening up the viewing area, so to speak. Apparently, the chemotherapy drug, Alimta, with which I've been infused every three weeks since last September appears to be doing its hoped-for job: shrinkage.

My reaction to this new finding in late May was not negative. At worst, it was neutral, at best, it was positive; something seen for the first time because previously there was too much of other unhealthy stuff in the way for it to be seen at all. Less clutter, if you'll allow a lay person's description to suffice. And for all my oncologist knows, this growth may have been there all along and is not the least bit a cause for concern, quite the opposite in fact. But we don't know enough yet, so he decided not to wait three months. Heck, this growth could even be smaller than it was originally (affected by the Alimta also) and smaller even on this next scan. But we won't know definitively, we'll only know comparatively – between late May and early August.

To say I'm looking forward to the results would be a bit overstated. Curious, I'll allow. Moreover, I don't want to express any real confidence about my prospects, because so much of what cancer does it will do, regardless of what I think or hope or pray. But two things/symptoms my oncologist advised me to e-mail him about: pain in the area of the "new" growth and/or a persistent cough, neither of which I've experienced in the slightest. Now he didn't give me a timeline as to when I might feel something, but six weeks out, I haven't felt a thing. (I know better than to ask him hypotheticals; presumably patients feel symptoms differently, manifest symptoms differently and tolerate/notice symptoms differently, so feeling/not feeling might mean something or nothing; it varies. Uniformity is hardly at play here.) Still, I suppose I would have to go along with my brother Richard's encouragement: "It's better not to feel anything, KB, isn't it?" Heck yes! But it's hard not to worry. It's cancer, after all.

Following the calendar and chemotherapy schedule, I will have one more infusion before my next – and final – CT scan before I see my oncologist to discuss the results and dare I say, treatment options. On or about August 15th, I will once again know the tale of the tape. I will learn if my life goes on as it sort of is, with relative calm, or if I'll be thrust into the unknown vortex of clinical trials/N.I.H-type studies and the educated hands of researchers.

I've been extremely fortunate so far, diagnosis-to-date. And I'd like to think (wishing, naively) that my luck will continue to be exceptional. Although, I realize I may be beginning to bump up against some shorter odds here, having survived five-plus years already (only 16 percent of stage IV NSCLC survivors live beyond five years). Nevertheless, I'm thrilled to be an aberration. In fact, I can't think of anything I'd rather be called.

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

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English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults. 703-938-0405.

SATURDAY/JULY 19
McLean Child Safety Inspection. 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Lewinsville Center, 1609 Great Falls Street, McLean. The McLean District Police Station holds child safety seat inspections once per month.

MONDAY/JULY 21
English Conversation. 10:30 am. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Spanish Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/JULY 22
Improve Your English Skills. 11 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Get focused help with reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Adults. 703-356-0770.

Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

One-on-One Computer Tutoring. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Work with a volunteer tutor to learn about using the Internet, setting up an email account and using basic software. Adults. 703-938-0404.

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WEDNESDAY/JULY 23
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English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Practice conversational English in a group setting. Adults. 703-356-0770.

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Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

FRIDAY/JULY 25
English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Practice your English conversation skills in a group. Adults. 703-938-0405.

MONDAY/JULY 28
English Conversation. 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. English practice for non-native speakers. Adults. 703-242-4020.

Spanish Conversation Group. 1 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Practice Spanish as a foreign language in this casual conversation group. Adult. 703-757-8560.

TUESDAY/JULY 29
Computer One-on-One. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Pl., Oakton. Internet, Microsoft Word, Excel and Powerpoint. Adult. 703-242-4020.

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