

and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

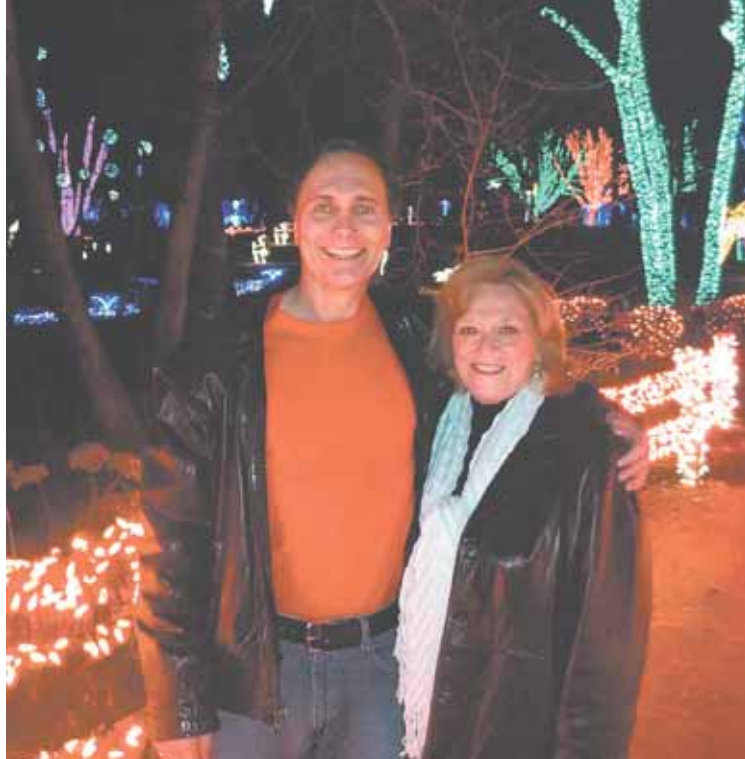
NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK

Vienna Residents Embrace the Wintry Months

Not just Vienna, but, the area surrounding it, as well, shifts gears in the winter months. There may be fewer events in Vienna to participate in, but Vienna residents find activities to keep their spirits up, their minds busy, and their bodies healthy. Here, some Vienna neighbors share their seasonal lifestyle.

Mike Davis said his number one favorite winter activity in Vienna is the Holiday Stroll, fun for everyone. "It is great watching the children when they talk to Santa on the front porch of the Freeman House. There are also many activities on Church Street that night to keep everyone entertained. It's wonderful that Vienna still retains that small town feeling by having the Holiday Stroll."

Davis added that he also loves to go to the Middleburg Hunt and Christmas Parade. He enjoys the festive Walk of Lights at Meadow



Mike Davis said his number one favorite winter activity in Vienna is the Holiday Stroll, fun for everyone. "It is great watching the children when they talk to Santa on the front porch of the Freeman House."



Dan Govan of Govan Builders said that he enjoys snowboarding with his daughters, Grace and Danielle, every weekend, at Bryce Resort, one and a half hours from Vienna.

SEE VIENNA WINTER, PAGE 5

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Schools to Expand by \$856 Million

Capital Improvement Plan approved, rising enrollment causes concerns about classroom space.

BY REENA SINGH
THE CONNECTION

Five more school buildings and renovations for several existing ones may be approved by 2020. The Fairfax County School Board approved the \$856 million Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at the Jan. 22 meeting to set priority on the projects the school system wants done in the next five years.

"We're developing a long view, because we have significant capital concerns," said Superintendent Karen Garza.

During the meeting, she and several board members said the projects will have to have separate public hearings and votes. The CIP was approved unanimously.

THE PLAN calls for the addition of five elementary schools and one high school. Both South Lakes High School and Westbriar Elementary School will have additions with construction expected in 2021. Additionally, capacity enhancements at Langley, West Springfield, Herndon and Oakton high schools are proposed.

"Construction funds for renovations at nine elementary schools and one middle



Fairfax County Schools Superintendent Karen Garza answers questions from the School Board about the Capital Improvement Program.

school, a renovation at one high school, and planning funds for renovations at eight elementary, one middle, and two high schools are also included and were part of the 2013 bond referendum," according to a press release.

The majority of the projects in the plan are expected to be completed between 2016 and 2020.

The only renovation planned in the CIP that will begin after are at North West County Elementary, Fairfax-Oakton area elementary, Silverbrook Elementary, Hughes Middle, Cooper Middle, Frost Middle, Oakton High School and Falls

Church High School. Light renovations at 10 unidentified elementary schools will also begin construction after 2021.

The plan, which is reviewed annually, is preparing the school system for nearly 198,000 enrolled students projected in the next five years.

\$220 million of the projects are funded through previous school bonds. Another bond referendum will take place in the fall.

The county Board of Supervisors also recently approved to provide FCPS an additional \$16.1 million to offset infrastructure replacement so bigger projects can begin taking priority. Typically, the funding is lim-

ited to \$155 million.

The Department of Defense is funding 80 percent of the build cost of a new elementary school on Fort Belvoir - with the rest of the balance funded by the county.

"This is a plan," said Springfield School Board member Elizabeth Schultz. "What's being executed now, how it will be done - that we don't know. We do have to have some very real conversations, especially with our peers at the Board of Supervisors, because they don't manage 2.6 million square feet. It's something quite less than that."

She said that during her visit to a local school that morning, she was concerned that parents were still having trouble getting into the parking lot to drop off their children six minutes after the bell had rung - a reason she said these capital improvement plans are important.

"How do you materialize visually or understanding 2.6 million square feet?" she asked. "The NASA Assembly building in Florida is one of the largest buildings that I looked up. That's eight of them. If you've ever been to the Louvre, it's four Louvre museums."

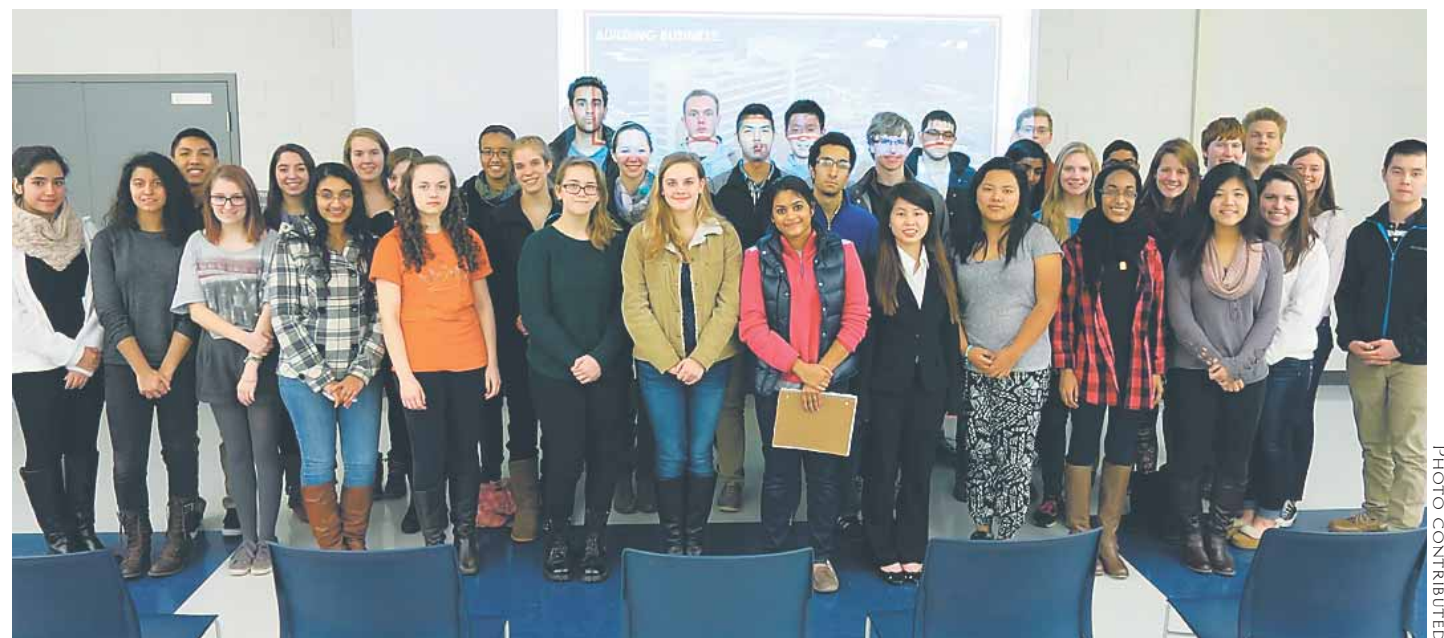
MEMBER AT LARGE Ryan McElveen said board members are not the only one's excited about the CIP.

"This is the first year I have ever had someone come up to me on the streets of Washington, D.C. and ask me about the CIP just randomly," he said. "We always question as a board whether the community reads these documents, and I think it's become quite clear this year that they do."

Tyson's Chamber, LearningRx Kicks Off Job Shadow Program

Maureen Loftus, executive director of LearningRx of Vienna and Reston is leading the kick-off of the Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce (TRCC) job shadow program for 11th and 12th grade students of Oakton, Madison and Marshall high schools in Fairfax County, where students will shadow professionals in various industries in January and February. The program received a Blue Ribbon Award from Fairfax County Schools in 2014. Loftus is heading up the program as she is the chair of the TRCC's Youth and Education Committee. For more information, go to www.learningrx.com.

Students of Oakton, Madison and Marshall high school that are interested the TRCC Job Shadow Program filled out an application to select their areas of career interests. Job shadow programs



Students of Oakton, Madison and Marshall high schools will shadow professionals in various industries in January and February.

are available in the following professions: accounting/finance, international business, aerospace, network security/administration, business management, PC support/help desk, Cisco, programming, computer graphics, public relations, computer engi-

neering operations, sales/marketing/business operations, database management/Oracle, software development, engineering (electrical/mechanical), business start-up/entrepreneurship, human resources/staffing/recruiting and Web design/develop-

ment. For more details, go to www.tysonschamber.org.

Loftus has been the TRCC's Youth and Education Committee chairperson for the past two years and a TRCC member for five years.

OPINION Outlook

Many bright spots will be overshadowed in the coming budget season.

Long awaited, the opening of the Silver Line promises to bring transformation to Tysons and around the current station in Reston, with another Reston station and Herndon to come.

The opening of Springfield Town Center has been greeted by enthusiastic shoppers, showing plenty of demand for retail and restaurants.

Housing prices are up, although so is the number of houses on the market, while the number of houses sold is down from last year.

But from local government, current economic conditions overall look more like this:

Job growth has slowed, and the jobs that are being created are lower paying. There is a decline in federal and business services employment, while the job growth that the region is experiencing is dominated by gains in hospitality and retail sectors. Slowing job growth and lower wages mean lower demand for home purchases and retail spending, while declines in federal jobs and government contractors mean lower demand for office space. The region is growing, but it is growing at a slower rate than projected one or two years ago.

Lower demand for office space translates into 19 million square feet of vacant office space in Fairfax County alone. Just for some sense of

scale, that is like having eight malls the size Tysons Corner Center (2.4 million square feet) completely empty. Arlington County has an office vacancy rate of more than 20 percent; in Rosslyn, the rate is approaching 30 percent (27.7). Overall, Northern Virginia has an office vacancy rate of more than 17 percent.

Not only are companies moving their offices from older office space to newer space, more transit-oriented space, but as they do so, they are downsizing the amount of space, leaving more less modern space vacant in the process.

The result will be a very difficult budget year in Northern Virginia. It's also a call to do things differently.

Critical to a successful economy will be to create housing that service and hospitality workers can afford. We have a massive shortage of affordable housing, and the opportunity transform some of the massive quantities of vacant office space into thoughtful, well-designed housing.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish Feb. 25, 2015.

We invite you to send us stories about your

pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets (great preference for photos of pets and people), tell us what is happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by Feb. 18.

Email editors@connectionnewspapers.com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Challenge for Garza: Excessive Homework

To the Editor:

Your article "How Does She Do It" - Karen Garza's vision: the irresistible force moving immovable object of Fairfax County Public Schools (The Connection, December 24-10, 2014) showed FCPS Superintendent Dr. Garza as a force for change. In the Fairfax County school system, students demonstrate excellence by collaborating and achieving good grades with the assistance of teachers.

Teachers play a massive role in the successful education of students because teachers have high expectations for their students,

they consistently stress the material that students need, and the teachers provide in class discussion which allows students to relay what information they have obtained. However, the total combination of homework assigned by high school teachers for any one student is often excessive. As a result, students become overwhelmed with excess homework, even though the students might already understand the specific material. Students with excessive homework in school have less time to spend in after school activities, less time to study on their own,

and less time to accomplish personal achievements.

Most experts agree, as do Fairfax County Public Schools' own guidelines that high school students should only have two hours of homework per night, in total. Currently, many teachers expect at least one or more hours of homework for each of their classes, especially at the honors levels. Another problem is that the teachers are not coordinating large tests and assignments as efficiently as possible. The end effect is that students taking various classes have too much homework dumped on

them all at once, as well as at too many tests on certain testing days.

Students will be able to obtain more sleep next year due to the later start times of high schools. Superintendent Garza plans to solve any issues that arise in the school systems; hopefully she will recognize that the failure to coordinate and limit homework among teachers is also a massive issue for high school students in FCPS.

James Adams
Herndon

Better Safe Than Sorry

To the Editor:

This letter is in response to a recent letter to the editor in opposition to Fairfax County's Fall Cankerworm (FCW) spraying program.

I am the Chairman of the Fairfax County Tree Commission, which is appointed by the Board of Supervisors to advise them on all matters relating to tree preservation in the county, including the benefits and threats to our urban forests and the potential environmental impact. The commission has positions for a representative from

each county district, as well as one from the Fairfax County Park Authority, the NV Soil and Water Conservation District, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), the VA Dept. of Forestry, and the Virginia Cooperative Extension program.

Last year the Commission held a special meeting to hear and discuss the concerns of county citizens about the potential environmental impact of the spraying program, as well as its necessity, cost and alternative means of control. We also participated in a similar

meeting held by EQAC. The spraying program is maintained by the County's Urban Forest Management Division, and it was present at both meetings to describe the program and answer questions.

After much discussion and further research, we concluded that FCW threat to our already stressed tree canopy is limited but real, and that without a carefully monitored and precisely targeted spraying program, we risk a potential outbreak of FCW that can defoliate, weaken, and ultimately kill mature trees. These includes oaks and beeches, which are favored by the

FCW caterpillars. Last year, almost 57,000 acres of trees in eastern Virginia suffered light to heavy FCW defoliation, including in nearby Fauquier, Prince William and Stafford Counties. Yes, we are aware that the spraying can also kill other native butterfly and moth caterpillars that mature at the same time in the early spring, and that migratory birds, especially chickadees, feed on such all such caterpillars. But the Fairfax County spraying program is triggered only when careful monitoring of trees in areas of previous

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Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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NEIGHBORHOOD OUTLOOK



Jack Delaney put "Snowmageddon" on the top of his list. "Walking down Park Street to see who's open, who's not. It's a great feeling to find a coffee shop open."

Vienna Residents Embrace the Wintry Months

FROM PAGE 2

lark Park with his wife Ann. He looks forward to fewer tourists in the metro region during the winter months, making it an ideal time to see attractions in Northern Virginia and Washington, D.C. He particularly loves walking the grounds of Washington's Mount Vernon especially after a snowfall. "It really makes you feel you are back in time," Davis said, especially when he's taken a candlelight tour.

— DONNA MANZ



Cindy Williams, PetMAC owner, said she hates being stuck in the house when it's nasty outside, so she uses the time to work on her cooking skills by taking classes at places like Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna.



Vienna Mayor Laurie DiRocco: "I like to get out and walk even when the weather is cold. I started a Mayor's Walking Group, and we walk on Fridays. We have been walking this winter. Anyone is invited to join us. We meet at Town Hall at 9:30 a.m."

Lu Cousins, director of the Vienna Arts Society said, "My winter in town is as busy and as special as a Hallmark Christmas movie depicting small town America. There are receptions to attend, exhibits to open and close, terrific restaurants to visit - so many within walking distance, friends gathering at my home to sit by the fireplace to sip wine, meeting at Jammin' Java for some world-class entertainment, stopping by Bazin's for happy hour or the Maplewood Grill for the piano bar, Vienna Inn for chili dogs and watching hockey games, attending Town Hall meetings, and, always working on the next function at the Vienna Arts Society — our Mardi Gras-themed Bunco Night on Feb. 11."



Mary Ellen Larkins, glass artist in her work gear, said that The Vienna Arts Center has wonderful exhibits. "I look forward to the great art at the Center." She's excited about the Vienna Arts Society's Mardi Gras Bunco night on Feb. 11.

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WINTER FUN

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

FRIDAY/JAN. 30 - SATURDAY/FEB. 15

"13: A Hilarious Coming-of-Age Musical."

The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The show chronicles the story of Evan Goldman, a New York City boy whose life is on the cusp of teen-hood. Evan finds himself dealing with a divorce, trying to fit in with the cool kids at a new school in an Indiana town, and one other major event ... his impending Bar Mitzvah. The MCP production of "13" includes a seasoned, yet all adolescent cast of 17 between the ages of 12-16. Selected through an open audition, the cast members include students from Northern Virginia schools such as Langley High School, McLean High School, Frost Middle School, Longfellow Middle School, Rachel Carson Middle School, Thoreau Middle School, Spring Hill Elementary School Our Savior Lutheran and the Metropolitan School of the Arts. Tickets: \$23-\$25.

THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers. 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and



Actors Allison Shelby, Casey Bauer, Daddy Issa and John Barclay Burns rehearse a scene from Vienna Theatre Company's production of Ken Ludwig's romantic comedy, "Be My Baby," running through Feb. 8.

ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Ice Skating at Tysons Corner Center.

Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7

p.m. Tysons Corner Outdoor Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. Adults, \$10; Child/Senior/Military, \$9; Skate Rental, \$6; Group of 10+, \$12 and includes skates

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 28

Winter Wonderland. 10:30 a.m. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Avenue, McLean. Learn how different animals survive in winter. Presented by Riverbend Park. Sponsored by Dolley Madison Friends of the Library. Age 3-5 with an adult. Call branch to make arrangements for sign language interpreters, listening systems or real-time captioning by calling the library branch.

Pokemon League. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends!

THURSDAY/JAN. 29

Reading Buddies. 4:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Beginning readers practice reading to teens.

Adult Book Discussion: The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt. 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna.

Jonathan Edwards. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Champion of the acoustic guitar, this vibrant singer/songwriter spreads "Sunshine" through earnest songs, feel good folk, and heartfelt Americana. Tickets: \$25.

Crys Matthews. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Three of the mid-Atlantic's most notable up-and-coming singer-songwriters are coming together for one night of music. On Thursday, January 29, Crys Matthews, Andrea Nardello and Kipyn Martin will perform at Jammin' Java. Tickets: \$10-\$15.

FRIDAY/JAN. 30

Playdate Café. 10 a.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Toys and playspace for children, coffee and conversation for grownups!

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 7

This Weekend!

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WINTER FUN

FROM PAGE 6

Drop-in Chess. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play chess. All skill levels and ages welcome.

Preschool Age Puppet Show: Lighters and Matches for Tools. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Our dedicated Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department highlights fire safety.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JAN. 30 - FEB. 1

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Browse and buy items and fine art created by more than 250 celebrated American artists. Jury-selected artists will display one-of-a-kind items in sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, home accessories, leather, photography and fine art. The Festival also features live music, children's entertainment and specialty food vendors. For more information, including admission discounts, a list of artists participating in the show and discount hotel rates, visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com. Adults: \$8 online; \$10 at the door. Children under 12.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31

Cars and Coffee. 7 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find an amazing gathering of cool cars - antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here.

Schooner Fare. 7:30 p.m. Wolf Trap,

1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Maine's premier folk duo presents an exuberant mix of original folk songs, country ballads, and maritime masterpieces laced with "Down East" humor. Tickets: \$27-\$32.

"Richard Rodgers: One Man and His Lyricists." 1 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Jazz Masters with John Eaton. \$10/\$5 MCC district residents.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Old Schoolhouse, 9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The history of the Old Schoolhouse on display on Saturdays at the Great Falls Historical Society table through mid-February.

SATURDAY/JAN. 31 - SUNDAY/FEB. 8

"Be My Baby." 8 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street, Vienna. *Be My Baby* is a romantic comedy that tells the story of John, an irascible Scotsman and an uptight English woman, Maud, and how they're brought together when his ward marries her niece and the young couple decides to adopt a newborn baby. The older couple has to travel to California to pick up the child and bring her home to Scotland but John and Maud despise each other. While in California, they learn some startling lessons about life and love. Tickets: 14.

WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/FEB. 4-5

International Guitar Night. 8 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A night of international guitar virtuosos featuring poetic lyricist (Gore), Grammy-winning classical

guitarist (York), jazz master (Figueiredo), and steel string prodigy (Jamal). Tickets: \$25-\$27.

SATURDAY/FEB. 7

Cars and Coffee. 7 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find an amazing gathering of cool cars - antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Old Schoolhouse, 9812 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The history of the Old Schoolhouse on display on Saturdays at the Great Falls Historical Society table through mid-February.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Climate Action Movie Night. 7:30 p.m. Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Rd, Oakton. Join the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions' screening of "Thomas Berry: The Great Story". As a pioneer in the field of spiritual ecology, Thomas Berry created a quiet revolution. Discussion will follow the film. Free. <http://www.faithforclimate.org>; 571-882-9312.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Cars and Coffee. 7 a.m. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find an amazing gathering of cool cars - antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here.

Great Falls Farmers Market. 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Old Schoolhouse, 9812

Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The history of the Old Schoolhouse on display on Saturdays at the Great Falls Historical Society table through mid-February.

ONGOING

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice.

Through March 21. Free Tai Chi beginners' practice. Open to all. Every Saturday, 8-9 a.m.

St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

Free Comedy Showcase. Thursdays 8:30 p.m., at Kalypso's Sports Tavern, 1617 Washington Plaza N., Lake Anne Village Center, Reston. Kalypso's hosts weekly comedy shows that feature some of the best national touring and local comedians in the area. Free of charge.

Family Fun Entertainment Series. Saturdays 10-10:45 a.m., at Reston Town Square Park, 11990 Market St., Reston. Every Saturday enjoy live shows, children's music and other child-friendly entertainment. 703-476-4500.

Movies and Mimosas. Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m., at Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St., Reston.

Showings in the morning; look up showings online. www.bowtiecinemas.com.

Smart Markets. Wednesdays 3-7 p.m., Smart Markets at 12001 Sunrise Valley Drive, Reston. Smart Markets is a producer-only farmers' market that offers food and live music from local jazz group, devoted to supporting local economy and a healthier environment. For more information visit, facebook.com/smartmarketsreston, twitter.com/smartmarkets and www.smartmarkets.org.

Open Mic Night. Wednesdays 9:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m. Jimmy's Old Town Tavern, 697 Spring St., Herndon. Register your band at BluesSlide@aol.com or 703-593-5206. www.jimmystavern.com.

TGIF Free Fridays. 5-7 p.m., at Greater Reston Arts Center, 12001 Market St., Suite 103, Reston. An evening of family art making and storytelling. 703-471-9242 or www.restonarts.com.

Insomnia Theater. Friday and Saturday 11:30 p.m., at Reston Town Center, 11940 Market St., Reston. Look up showings online. www.bowtiecinemas.com.

Correction

The last week's article "Marshall Academy CyberPatriots Advance to the National Competition" was incorrect in declaring the team national finalist: The scoring process is underway and to date, neither Marshall Academy nor any other team has been designated as a CyberPatriot National Finalist team.

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Herndon swim and dive had senior night on Jan. 23 against Centreville.

Herndon Swim, Dive has Senior Night

Herndon swim and dive had senior night against Centreville on Jan. 23, with the Hornets' boys' and girls' teams winning. All Herndon seniors will advance to the Conference meet Jan. 30-31.

Herndon seniors are: Jessie Blystone (captain), Jack Van Camp (captain), Charlie Shen (captain), Karly Ginieczki (captain), Sam Racine, Sam Caballero, Matthew Williams, Austin Rider, Justin Bradley, Jason Maccannon, Marin Deutrich (1-year manager) and Christina Sneed (4-year manager).

Friday's winners were: Emily Meilus (100 free, 200 IM), Karly Ginieczki (200 free, 100 back), Carey Rice (50 free), Bella Back (500 free), Christian Ginieczki (200 IM, 100 back), Jack Van Camp (50 free, 100 fly) and Dylan Cudahy (200 free, 500 free).

South Lakes Track Shines at First Day of Conference 6 Meet

South Lakes High School sophomore Devyn Jones won two events and juniors Eric Kirlew and Anas Fain placed in the top three of two events in Day 1 of the Conference 6 indoor track and field championship Thursday, Jan. 22 at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover, Md.

Jones led a SLHS sweep of the girls' 55-meter hurdles, winning the event in 8.85. Seniors Maya Rodriguez (9.44) and Claire Nieusma (9.88) finished second and third, respectively. Jones also won the long jump (16-08.50). Senior Comfort Reed with third (16-03.50).

Kirlew led the SLHS boys' long jumpers with a winning distance of 19-10.00. Junior Skander Ballard was second (19-06.00) and Fain finished third (19-05.00). Kirlew finished third in the 55 meters (6.84) behind sophomore teammate Timiebi Ogbri, who was second (6.68).

Fain won the 55-meter hurdles in 7.94 followed by senior teammate Nathan Stone (8.01).

Senior Jordan Lozama won the 55 meters (7.45) and finished fourth in the shot (27-01.50). SLHS took the top two spots in the girls shot with senior Ozioma Chinaka winning it with a throw of 28-04.50 and fellow senior Natalie Schauer finishing second (28-01.50).

In the boys' 3,200 meters, senior Andrew McCool ran a 10:04.65 for second and teammate Sean Miller, also a senior, took third (10:11.99). Sophomores John Swecker, Ashton Reinhold, juniors Connor Smith and John LeBerre finished second in the 4x800 meter relay (8:33.16) while freshman Olivia Beckner, juniors Golden Kumi-Darfour, Monica Lannen and senior Augusta Durham were third in that event with a 10:00.09.

South Lakes is leading in the team standings after the first day with the girls scoring 81 points and the boys scoring 92. The conference championship concludes Thursday, Jan. 29, with the top six finishers in each event and the top three relays advancing to the 6A North region championship meet Feb. 19.

Both will take place at the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex in Landover.

The South Lakes girls' team posted a score of 81 on Day 1, followed by Madison (41), McLean (33), Langley (27), Washington-Lee (17), Hayfield (14) and Yorktown (4).

The South Lakes boys had a score of 92, followed by McLean (35), Washington-Lee (26), Madison (23), Langley (23), Fairfax (13), Yorktown (4) and Hayfield (1).

Oakton Girls' Basketball Improves to 16-1

The Oakton girls' basketball team defeated Herndon 69-50 on Jan. 23, extending its winning streak to 15 games while improving its record to 16-1.

The Cougars haven't lost since Dec. 4. The Cougars will host Robinson at 7:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Herndon Girls Win Conference Championship

The Herndon High School indoor track women's team is the Conference 5 champion in the 4x800 relay. The Hornets' time of 9:46.34 is the 11th-fastest in school history. This was third time HHS has won the event and the first since 2008. The girls need to finish in the top six at regionals or run under 9:40.00 to advance to the state meet at Newport News the following week. The team is: Hannah Wolfe, Gabby Bustamante, Lauren Butler, and Olivia Duston.

Madison Girls' Basketball Beats Hayfield

The Madison girls' basketball team defeated Hayfield 60-34 on Jan. 23, improving the Warhawks' record to 11-5.

Madison is scheduled to travel to face Yorktown at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 30.

Basketball Skills Camp

Jump Ball Basketball is running a basketball skills camp for boys and girls in grades 3-8 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 16 at Patrick Henry College in Purcellville. Visit www.catotcinbasketball.com to register or email JumpBallBasketballVA@gmail.com for more information.

Register Now for Spring Baseball

Registration is now open for Vienna Little League, home of the 9/10 Virginia State Champs.

Spring baseball is right around the corner. For boys and girls ages 5-12, Vienna Little League offers an excellent program to help develop your child's love for the Great American Pastime.

Tryouts begin Feb. 6. New members meetings will be held Jan. 21 and Feb. 18. Visit www.vll.org for more information and to register online. Come join the fun.

Youth Field Hockey Registration Open

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring youth league for ages 5-18 (U8, U10, U12, and U14). No experi-

ence necessary. Once-weekly team practices with games on Saturdays. Season runs March 23-June 13. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Field Hockey Open House

Potomac Field Hockey is running an open house, which is free and open to the public. This drop-in style clinic will run at Dulles Sportsplex on Tuesday, March 10 from 5-7 p.m. Equipment is provided. Try your hand at field hockey before registering for the spring season. For more information or to RSVP for this event, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

High School Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring High School 5s game-only league for 9-12th graders. Players will be grouped by school. No experience necessary. Season runs Thursdays from 6-9pm at the Dulles Sportsplex, April 9-May 14. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

Adult Field Hockey

Registration is now open for Potomac Field Hockey's spring game-only league for adults aged 18 and up. All games on Sundays at Loudoun Soccer Park on sport turf. Season runs April 12-June 7. For more information or to register, visit www.potomacfieldhockey.org or email info@potomacfieldhockey.org.

NEWS

A 700-year-old Legacy Comes to Vienna

Local entrepreneur bottling family's Greek olive oil, putting it out to market.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

A Vienna man has lassoed his dream, bringing to Vienna – and the U.S. – the legacy of 11 ancestral generations of Greek men and women — olive oil extracted from Spartan olive trees 700 years old. Pericles “Perry” Konstas left a career as a CEO in 2014 to produce and export olive oil made from his family’s olive groves outside Sparta, Greece. Spartan Oil bottled its first product in October 2014, and, through “tastings” and social media promotion, demand for Spartan Oil has been steadily increasing.

“It became clear to me that once people tried it, they wanted to buy it.”

THE OLIVE TREES, several thousands of them, are owned by “a lot of family,” Konstas said. Under their watchful eyes, olives are harvested from ancient trees and pressed within 24 hours of harvest.

About four or five years ago, Konstas started sampling and comparing olive oil from all over the world to his family oil. He always “knew” he wanted to start a business of his own some day, something he was truly passionate about. He said he had a true epiphany about three years ago when he ordered and tasted a gold-medal award-winning olive oil from California. Konstas set it out for tasting with friends. “I couldn’t eat it. It was harsh, bitter-tasting,” he said, too “peppery.” It got to the point, he said, where friends were encouraging Konstas to bottle his own family olive oil. Spartan Oil was born from his tastings.

Spain is the world’s largest producer of olive oil, followed by Italy and, then, Greece. Greece, however, is the world largest producer of extra-virgin olive oil. “Consumers have become much more aware of the health benefits of olive oil but the mass-produced olive oil industry has made it difficult for consumers to determine what is high-quality authentic extra-virgin olive oil,” said Konstas.

Tasting olive oil has a less defined protocol than wine does. To taste, Konstas said he sips a bit or dabs a rustic bread in it, definitely “not sourdough,” though. “We use olive oil on everything at home,” said Konstas. “Greeks consume more olive oil per capita than any other people in the world.”

SPARTAN OIL differs from most commercial brands – even “high-end” ones – in a few regards. The oil is harvested from trees 700 years old, and pressed within 24 hours of harvest. It is honestly extra-virgin, raw, and unfiltered. Konstas refers to his brand as “bold,” but not bitter nor too peppery. He calls it “smooth.”

Even the bottle it is sold in is bespoke, a 500 ML stoneware vessel imported from Germany. Stoneware is thicker and more protective of the unadulterated oil than is glass or ceramic, and was used by the Greeks throughout the centuries. Spartan Oil sells a



Pericles “Perry” Konstas of Vienna harvests olives from his family’s 700-year-old olive trees near Sparta, Greece, and bottles extra-virgin olive oil in Vienna for sale throughout the region and country.

refill pouch at a lower price than the stoneware bottle.

The olive seedlings are planted when they are about one meter high. It takes, at least, 10 to 15 years before a tree produces a commercially-viable product. Konstas goes to Greece and packs the oil for shipping to Vienna by boat.

Maple Avenue Market was the first retailer to stock Spartan Oil when it was initially released in mid-October. Konstas has done tastings there and at other shops around the area. When he presented samples at a fall D.C. cooking show, Konstas sold 150 bottles in two days, calling it a “great response.”

KONSTAS GREW UP primarily in Vienna. He went through Vienna schools and graduated from George Mason University in 2000. Konstas married in 2004 and the couple has two children, a daughter almost 6 years old, and a son, age 4. In 2014, Konstas and his wife were looking to buy a home and they narrowed their choices to Vienna and McLean.

“Ultimately, the decision came down to all the family events in Vienna. To me, it [Vienna] always felt like home. When my wife started to feel like Vienna was home, that was it for me.”

Spartan Oil sells for \$22 for a 500-ml stoneware bottle, the middle range for a high-end product, and is available online and at select local shops, including Maple Avenue Market. Konstas offers free local delivery for orders in Northern Virginia.

To learn more about Spartan Oil and to order it online, go to www.spartan-oil.com. Konstas’ tasting schedule is updated there and on the company Facebook page, www.facebook.com/SpartanOil. Contact Perry Konstas at pk@spartan-oil.com or by phone at 703-408-5815.

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Traffic Caught

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



If I were writing this column in Massachusetts – where I was born and mostly educated (K-12), and had a thick Boston accent, that's how court would likely be pronounced; changing a noun into a verb. But I'm not in Massachusetts. I'm in Maryland, and the traffic court to which I semi-refer is in Virginia, so I'm not "accenting" any "misannunciating," I'm merely invoking a bit of literary licensing and a double entendre of sorts, in advance of my twice-delayed court appearance, scheduled yet again for this Friday, January 30; and hoping for the feather while ever mindful of the hammer.

Transgression-to-date, the administrative office staff serving the Alexandria Traffic Court has been extremely reasonable in responding to my scheduling challenges. Due to my ongoing treatment for lung cancer, which mostly consists of every-three-week chemotherapy infusions, (same day, same center), every-three-month face-to-face appointments with my oncologist (same doctor, same center) and an every-three-month diagnostic CT Scan (same center; for luck, of course), I am not always in control of my schedule/availability. Moreover, given the nature and timing of these appointments (generally scheduled weeks/sometimes months in advance), especially infusions, which should occur on the same day (my day is Fridays) every three weeks to keep the cycle/protocol where it is supposed to be – meaning not subject to change if at all possible – I am beholden. And as it relates to my "case," the officer who ticketed me back in November is only in court on Fridays; ergo, the potential for trouble and the need for understanding.

Now, my infusion schedule may change, even though I said it doesn't. And it changes – without my control (but with my knowledge) – when certain levels measured in my pre-chemotherapy lab work (completed the Wednesday before the Friday infusion) are either too high or too low. When this occurs, my infusion is delayed a week to allow my body to recuperate, while a retest is planned for the following week/Wednesday when the same too-high or too-low potential exists and another week's delay is possible (this fifth week infusion has occurred once – mostly the delay has been to a fourth week – nevertheless, the potential exists). This is my routine and it is prudent that delays in my treatment occur to allow certain major organs in my body to not be any more collaterally-damaged than they already have been. Such is my life and I'm glad to live it.

However, this unpredictability can cause problems, since it takes precedence over any other appointments, as it has twice already with the Alexandria Traffic Court. Typically, I won't know my availability until the day before the actual infusion is scheduled (and coincidentally, the day before my scheduled traffic court appearance as well), so I really have no notice to provide; I am a victim of my own circumstances. But this Friday, Court will finally see me in person. No more excused absences – as reasonable and necessary as they have been. It will be time to pay the piper (hopefully not). Planning forward then, should I bore the Court with an abbreviated version of this column, appealing to their generosity of spirit, or shall I just admit my mistake, take my punishment like a man and get on with life? After all, I may not exactly be on borrowed time, but I'm not naive enough to think my clock isn't ticking.

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

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VIRGINIA COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON REVENUE BOND FINANCING BY

VIRGINIA COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY

FOR MARYMOUNT UNIVERSITY

Notice is hereby given that the Virginia College Building Authority (the "Authority") will hold a public hearing on the application of Marymount University (the "University"), a nonprofit institution of higher education within the Commonwealth of Virginia whose principal business address is 2807 North Glebe Road, Arlington, Virginia 22207, for the Authority to issue, pursuant to the Educational Facilities Authority Act (the "Act"), its educational facilities revenue bonds, which may be tax-exempt or taxable, in one or more series from time to time in a maximum aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$175,000,000 (the "Bonds"). The proceeds of the Bonds are to be used to assist the University in the following plan of financing (collectively, the "Plan of Financing"): (a) refunding the outstanding principal of the Authority's (i) Educational Facilities Revenue and Refunding Bonds (Marymount University Project) Series 1998 issued to refund a portion of prior bonds of the Authority which financed and refinanced a prime computer system, acquisition and renovation of an eight-story, 100,000 square foot office building located at 1000 North Glebe Road (the "Ballston Campus") in the Ballston neighborhood of Arlington County, Virginia, acquisition of approximately 1.45 acres of land contiguous to the University's main campus at 2807 North Glebe Road (the "Main Campus") in the Yorktown neighborhood of Arlington County, Virginia for use as a parking lot, and construction of an 88,640 square foot academic parking structure on the Main Campus, and financed the renovation and expansion of the University Center on the Main Campus and the upgrading of the University's telecommunications wiring system and (ii) Educational Facilities Revenue Note (Marymount University Project) Series 2009 (the "2009 Note") issued to finance the construction and equipping of a residence hall, academic science and health science building, and parking facility on the Main Campus; (b) refinancing certain debt incurred by the University to finance renovations to the academic buildings known as the Main House and Rowley Hall on the Main Campus; (c) funding swap breakage costs in connection with the 2009 Note; (d) financing certain deferred maintenance improvements and renovations to the Main Campus, which may include, without limitation, window replacements, parking facility repairs, bathroom renovations, elevator replacements and carpet replacements; (e) financing or refinancing the construction and equipping of an approximately nine-story, 165,000 square foot academic building to be owned by the University and located on the site of the Ballston Campus; and (f) financing other eligible costs associated with the Bonds, including the funding of reserves, capitalized interest and issuance costs.

The public hearing, which may be continued or adjourned, will be held at 10:30 o'clock a.m. on Wednesday, February 11, 2015, before the Authority or its designee, in the Treasury Board Conference Room, 3rd Floor of the James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. As required by the Act, the Bonds will not pledge the credit or the taxing power of the Commonwealth of Virginia or the Authority, but will be payable solely from revenues derived from the University and pledged therefor. Any person interested in the issuance of the Bonds or the locations or purposes of the projects to be financed pursuant to the Plan of Financing may appear and be heard. Written comments may be submitted prior to February 11, 2015, at the Authority's address set forth below. A copy of the University's application materials may be inspected at the Authority's office, 3rd Floor, James Monroe Building, 101 North 14th Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219, during business hours.

VIRGINIA COLLEGE BUILDING AUTHORITY



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The 300-room, 18-story Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center will open in winter/spring 2015.

Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center to Hire More Than 100 Employees

Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center, located in Tysons Corner, anticipates it will be hiring more than 100 employees. The new hotel, which is expected to open in winter/spring of 2015, is accepting online applications for positions in sales, room service, food and beverage, management, culinary, engineering, and more. The online application process is now available.

"In preparation for opening the brand new Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center, we are hiring more than 100 staff members in a variety of positions," said Daniel Amato, general manager of Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center. "Job opportunities range from event sales managers and front desk supervisors, to room attendants, hospital-ity specialists, staff accountants, and much

more."

People who are interested in applying for a position at Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center are asked to visit www.tysonscornercenter.regency.hyatt.com and select the "Careers at this Hotel" link at the bottom right-hand side of the page. From there, they are able to see a list of the open positions and complete the online application form.

Once the application is submitted and received, a hiring representative for the hotel may contact the applicant regarding further information on interview and hiring opportunities.

For more information on Hyatt Regency Tysons Corner Center and hiring opportunities at the property, please visit www.tysonscornercenter.regency.hyatt.com.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 4

ring soil bacterium and is approved by the ISDA for use in organic gardens. The spraying is done by helicopters at low altitudes over small blocks to limit drift, open areas are not sprayed, and a 200 ft buffer is maintained inside the tree line. The BTW is in low concentration, and it persists for only two weeks or less. Individual property owners can opt out of the spraying or have it done from the ground, and the Board of Supervisors must give final approval before spraying begins. Furthermore, the county has sprayed only four times in the last 15 years. In 2014, only 2,000 acres were sprayed, which is less than 1 percent of the county's tree canopy.

The Tree Commission has just sent a

resolution to the Board of Supervisors that essentially says we wish that the already limited and carefully targeted FCW spraying program were unnecessary, but until this is so, the benefits to trees outweigh the costs and potential risks. Once mature canopy is lost, it can take decades to replace, and the environment suffers. We also ask the County to reach out to volunteers and neighborhood groups to further study the longer term environmental impact of Btw spraying and to ensure that all other reasonable alternatives are used to prevent and mitigate future FCW outbreaks.

Robert Vickers, Chairman
Fairfax County Tree Commission
Great Falls

Two Vienna Students Named Semifinalists in Science Competition

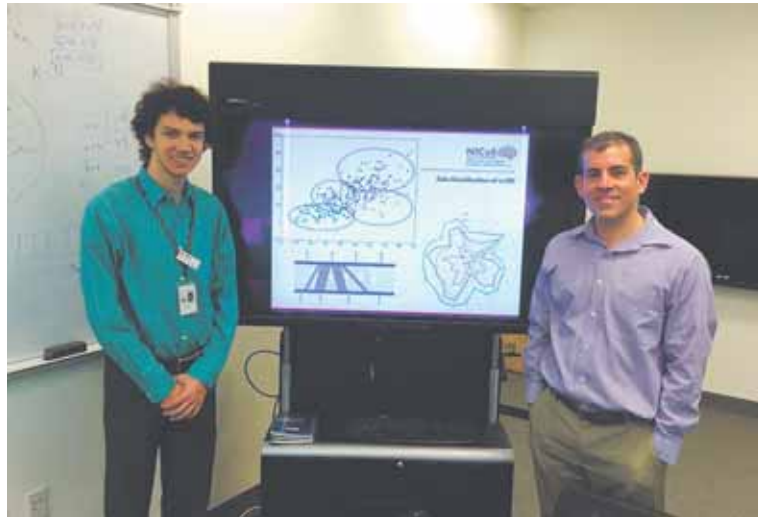
BY MARISSA BEALE
THE CONNECTION

Referred to as the nation's oldest and most prestigious science and math competition, the Intel Science Talent Search (Intel STS), a program of Society for Science and the Public, has granted prize money to some of today's leading thinkers and scientists, and two Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) students from Vienna are among just 300 high school seniors selected to move on to the semifinalist stage of the competition.

Eduard Danalache is a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and Michael Qu is a senior at Oakton High School.

Danalache's project dealt with categorizing mild traumatic brain injuries (mild TBI). Because mild TBI is a broad diagnosis, Danalache was prompted to investigate ways to divide the categories of mild TBI, even further.

"There is lots of confusion surrounding the topic of traumatic brain injury," said Danalache. "So



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EDUARD DANALACHE:

Eduard Danalache, senior at TJHSST, and Dr. Jesus Caban, chief of Clinical and Research Informatics at the National Intrepid Center of Excellence, at work on a project dealing with mild-traumatic-brain-injury clustering.

I started to talk to one of the doctors about investigating it." The title of his research is "A Cluster-Based Approach to Determine Subcategories of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury."

Previously, Danalache interned at the Bethesda-based National Intrepid Center of Excellence (NICoE), a Department of Defense Institute that researches damage

caused by traumatic brain injury and psychological health conditions, in the lab of Dr. Jesus Caban.

In the summer of 2014, Danalache returned to Dr. Caban's lab to do research on mild TBI. His research resulted in four subcategories, or clusters, that deal with the levels of severity in the different brain injuries found in different patients.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GEORGE MASON ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

Michael Qu, Vienna, semifinalist in the Intel STS Competition.

"I think it will have a significant impact in the scientific community treating people with concussions," said Caban. Currently, mild TBI accounts for over 80 percent of traumatic brain injury diagnoses.

Michael Qu, a senior at Oakton High School was a semifinalist in the Intel Science Talent Search competition as well for his project, A Study of Global Warming and Its Impacts on Food Security in the Continental United States.

"I started after doing a summer internship at George Mason University," said Qu. "The following summer I returned to Mason to continue with the research." Qu also worked intermittently throughout the year, analyzing trends among data sets that Mason had unique access to. The biggest challenge with projects like this is that students are using skills not necessarily taught in the classroom. It takes their own initiative in order to do well. For Qu, he became involved with this research because he wanted to learn more.

"My biggest challenge working on this project is that everything was completely new. It's not taught how to conduct research. In school they mostly teach you information and formulas. But when you get into research, it's all different." After graduating, Qu will attend Columbia University in New York City where he plans to expand his research interests. As semifinalists, both Qu and Danalache were awarded \$1,000 in prize money from the Intel Foundation, and an additional \$1,000 was also awarded to their schools.

Make A Difference in Your Community! Run for a Seat on the McLean Community Center Governing Board

PUBLIC NOTICE OF ELECTIONS McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER GOVERNING BOARD SMALL DISTRICT 1A OF THE DRANESVILLE DISTRICT FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA

This **OFFICIAL NOTICE** of elections to select members of the 2015-2016 Governing Board of the McLean Community Center (MCC) is given to residents of Small District 1A of the Dranesville District, Fairfax County, Virginia (referred to as "Small District 1A"). The McLean Community Center operates as a Special District Agency of the Fairfax County Government through a Memorandum of Understanding between the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and MCC. On February 8, 1984, the Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding, which authorizes the elections. The MCC is funded by residents of Greater McLean for their use through a real estate tax surcharge, the result of a 1970 Small District 1A bond referendum.

Elections are held on **McLean Day** at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, Virginia. This year, McLean Day is on **Saturday, May 16, 2015. Voting on McLean Day takes place from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

Candidate Qualifications: Each resident who lives within Small District 1A is eligible to run for a seat on the Governing Board within the appropriate category. If you need help determining whether you reside in Small District 1A, please contact the MCC at 703-744-9348, or by emailing elections@mcleancenter.org.

Governing Board seats to be filled through the election are:

Three (3) Adult Governing Board Seats:

Adult candidates must be residents of Small District 1A and must be at least eighteen (18) years of age on McLean Day. The candidates who receive the three (3) highest numbers of votes will serve three-year terms on the Governing Board.

Two (2) Youth Governing Board Seats:

One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the McLean High School boundary area
One (1) Governing Board youth seat for teens living within the Langley High School boundary area

ADULTS: Must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are 18 years old or older.

TEENS: Must live within Small District 1A. However, you **do not** have to attend either McLean or Langley high schools. You may attend another school, including one that is outside of Small District 1A, or you may be home schooled. You can only run for the seat for the high school boundary area where you live. Teens must get the signatures of ten (10) residents of Small District 1A who are between 15 and 17 years old (on McLean Day), **and** who live within the same high school boundary area as the candidate.

Candidate Petitions:

Petition Packets containing outlined instructions and all pertinent paperwork may be obtained at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean, Virginia, 22101, beginning at 9 a.m. on **Monday, January 26, 2015.**

DEADLINE: Each resident seeking election to the Governing Board shall file a completed petition with the MCC at the address shown below **by 5 p.m. on Friday, March 2, 2015:**

McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean VA 22101

For more information about the election, please call 703-744-9348, or email the McLean Community Center at elections@mcleancenter.org.

Paul Kohlenberger, Chair
Elections & Nominations Committee
McLean Community Center Governing Board

