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**Vienna CONNECTION**  
Fighting  
Blindness

PEOPLE, PAGE 6

Naim Abu El-Hawa of Vienna, with his mother, Jihad, represents Virginia in the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles on June 28 .

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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

inside



Laser Show  
Highlights July 4th

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Shaping  
New City

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## Laser Show Highlights July 4th

Annual festival features rides, food, vendors and entertainment.

**T**he highlight of Vienna's summer season is coming up ... the annual 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival on the grounds of the Community Center and Waters Field.

A multi-media laser show caps off a day of celebration that features 40 vendors, eight amusement rides, all-day musical entertainment, children's programming, family games, and the ever-popular hotdog and beer tent hosted by the American Legion.

"We will have a 70-foot tall inflatable screen set up," said Vienna Parks

and Recreation Director, Cathy Salgado. "It's an on-site viewing experience. That means you have to be at Waters Field, in front of the screen.

**"... you have to be at Waters Field, in front of the screen."**

**— Cathy Salgado, describing the new Laser Light Show**

"There won't be any viewing from off-site or from behind the screen."

Images of Vienna and of traditional 4<sup>th</sup> of July experiences will be shown on the screen, accompanied by patriotic music. There will be "a bit" of laser lighting in the sky, making the laser light show a multi-media event.

While the music of Jimmy Buffet is the main inspiration for B2B, a Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band out of Richmond, B2B also plays beachy sound of the Beach Boys and others.

The Children's stage features a vaudeville show entertainer, a traveling medicine show, a magic comedy show, and a magical rodeo. A strolling clown takes to the turf with balloons and tricks.

The antique and classic car show is a popular staple of the Independence Day festival. Last year, Gov. Tim Kaine mingled with the crowd and signed the two banners strung along the fencing that made their way to Iraq and Kuwait. The vendors and amusement rides close down at 4:30 p.m. in preparation for the evening festivities, including the rock band, Nightwork, and the Vienna Community Band.

The laser light show begins at 9:15 p.m. sharp, and runs for 25 minutes.

"I want to emphasize that viewers have to be at Waters Field promptly at 9:15 p.m. You cannot be late. This is not something you can see from a block away," Salgado said.

— DONNA MANZ



**Amusement rides keep the kids entertained. Forty vendors, all-day musical entertainment, and family games round out the annual Vienna 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival. Hot dogs and beer are sold under the big tent of the American Legion.**

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



**Mayor M. Jane Seeman, Gov. Tim Kaine, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly, and Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins celebrate Independence Day at the annual Vienna 4<sup>th</sup> of July festival in 2007.**

### July 4th Celebration

**FRIDAY - JULY 4, 2008**

*(Raindate July 5 - Laser Light Show only)*

**MAIN EVENTS:**

11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Arts and Crafts, Food and Rides  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Antique and Classic Car Show  
2:30 p.m. - Family Games  
8 - 9 p.m. - Vienna Community Band  
9:15 p.m. - Laser Light Show

**MAIN STAGE:**

12 noon - 4 p.m. - B2B, The Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band  
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - NIGHTWORK - Rock  
**CHILDREN'S STAGE:**  
12noon - Vaudeville Show Entertainer  
1 p.m. - The Traveling Medicine Show  
2 p.m. - Magic Comedy Show  
3 p.m. - Mayhem's Magical Rodeo  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Strolling Clown  
Laser Light Show begins at 9:15 p.m. sharp; must be on grounds of Waters Field, facing front screen to view the projected show.



CONTRIBUTED

**Clark Tyler**

## Shaping New City

Clark Tyler presides over the Tysons Task Force facing diversity and division.

BY NICHOLAS M. HORROCK  
THE CONNECTION

**C**lark Tyler, the man who now heads the Tysons Land Use Task Force, likes to tell the story of the time he went to visit former Virginia Gov. Mills Godwin as a member of the Appalachian Regional Commission. In those days he listed his name on his business cards as M.L. Clark Tyler.

"The governor asked me 'what does the M.L. stand for?' I said Meriwether Lewis. I'm a distant relation of William Clark and my family decided to give me both names," referring to the famous pair that explored the west for President Jefferson.

"Please don't run for office in Virginia," Godwin implored, "with those two names you'd win in a landslide." I have kept that promise," Clark soberly assures a listener.

At the Tysons Task Force meetings, he appears as simply Clark Tyler.

It is too early to tell whether this will be a successful chapter of his life or a humiliating failure. The previous task force that proposed a redesign of Tysons Corner was defeated and the plan disappeared.

This task force has been working for almost four years. It has spent some \$1 million engaging professional planners and, of course, it has had the impetus of the Dulles Corridor Rail project about which to shape its plan.

From the opening of the Dulles International Airport in 1962, there was a plan to connect it by rail to Washington, D.C. 26 miles away.

SEE BLUEPRINT, PAGE 11

# Retiring 'Old Glory'

American Legion Post 180 disposes worn flags with honor.

In pouring rain, 300 worn and tattered American flags lay protected in large plastic bins under a canopy as contained fires defied the rain and raged in-wait for the honorable disposal of the un-serviceable flags. The sergeant-in-arms, reading from a ceremonial script, inspected the flags before presenting them, first, to the Post vice commander, and then to the commander, for "final inspection and dignified disposal."

Three or four times a year, American Legion Post 180 collects the American flags dropped off in their three Vienna collection boxes, and with solemn respect, disposes of the flags by fire. Approximately 10,000 flags have been disposed of in the past year, according to former Post 180 Commander Bob Hatter. Three months ago, Post 180 disposed of 6,000 flags.

"An incredible number of flags have come forth," said Hatter. "You wonder if people were flying them like this."

It is on June 14 — Flag Day — that the



First Vice Commander Robert Renner, of American Legion Post 180, presents the tattered American flag for consignment to "purging" flames.

## Flag Disposal Boxes

Post 180 center on Center Street; at the corner of Ayr Hill Avenue NE and Dominion Road NE; and in front of the Vienna Community Center on Cherry Street.

Post presents the most ceremonial of the flag retirements. A chaplain leads a prayer, and the Pledge of Allegiance is recited by the assembled Post 180 members and guests. The un-serviceable flags are inspected by the Sergeant-at-Arms and recommendation for disposal is made by him to the first vice commander and commander. The flags, worn out "from worthy service" are consigned to "purging" flames.

"A flag may be a flimsy bit of printed gauze, or a beautiful banner of finest silk,"

said Post 180 Commander, Phil Dunn. "Its intrinsic value may be trifling or great, but its real value is beyond price, for it is a precious symbol of all that we and our comrades have worked for and lived for, and died for, a free nation of men, true to the faith of the past, devoted to the ideals and practice of justice, freedom and democracy. "Let these faded flags of our country be retired and destroyed with respectful and honorable rites ...."

The American Legion Post 180 provides flag disposal boxes at the Post 180 center on Center Street; at the corner of Ayr Hill Avenue NE and Dominion Road NE; and in front of the Vienna Community Center on Cherry Street.

— DONNA MANZ

# Film Journey Around the World

Patrick Henry Library hosts monthly international film presentations.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Patrick Henry Library kicked off its international film journey on June 12 with the witty, and touching, English-subtitled Italian film, "Ciao, Professore." Produced in Italy, the film was distributed by Silvio Berlusconi, at the moment Italy's prime minister, and one of Italy's wealthiest men.

Imagine a humorous hybrid of "Goodbye, Mr. Chips," and "To Sir with Love" ripe with local flavor, and what appears is "Ciao, Professore."

An acclaimed 1993 comedy set in the fictional small town of Corzano outside Naples, "Ciao, Professore" explores with levity and affection the relationship between the upper-class Northern Italian teacher, Marco Sperelli, and the poor children whose lives are so grounded in the streets. Transplanted like a fish-out-of-water by a bureaucratic screw-up, Sperelli finds himself in a broken-down school at the mercy of the janitor, al-

leged to have ties to the Mafioso, who charges staff and students for supplies.

On the first day of school, only three of the 15 students are in class, and so, Sperelli takes to the streets himself, collaring the third-graders as they sell black-market goods around the town's piazza.

True to the formula, by the time Professore is transferred out of Corzano, he and his students have not only formed a bond, but teacher and students learn much about life outside the parameters of their upbringing.

"I haven't seen an American movie in 14 years," said film viewer, Jane Davoli, of Vienna. "I was attracted to this showing because it was an Italian film and it was shown at 1 p.m. instead of evening."

**COMING UP ON JULY 2** is a light-hearted comedy set in a fictional Scottish fishing vil-



John "Smitty" Smith of Vienna says that coming to the Patrick Henry film series is "better than going to the movies."

lage. Produced in 1983, the film precipitated a new movie genre, that of an American company trying to take over a rural, quaint, humble village to build something more financially-rewarding.

A company owner who laments that nothing is named after his family name, Felix Happer (played by Burt Lancaster), sends an earnest pre-dot.com kind of guy (Mac MacIntyre) to buy the fishing village of Ferness in order to build an oil refinery. The villagers are shrewder than Happer had imagined. MacIntyre grows to love the slow pace and intimacy of

Ferness, and grows attachments there, as well. Scheduled for Aug. 6 is a drama set in Brazil.

Movies begin at 7 p.m. and refreshments are provided by Friends of Patrick Henry Library, starting at 6:45 p.m.

Fairfax County Library's licensing agreement prohibits Patrick Henry from advertising the titles of its publicly-presented films.

## Child Left at Vienna Library

On June 17, at approximately 1:25 p.m. officers from the Town of Vienna Police Department responded to the Patrick Henry Library after an employee of the library called to advise that a small child, 6 years of age, had been left unattended at the library.

The child reported that his mother had dropped him off at the library and then left. The child was able to provide his name but not his address or his phone number. The child was able to provide limited information about his mother's place of business and stated that he was not due to be picked up for three hours.

A dispatcher with the Vienna Police Department made contact with the mother at the restaurant where she worked and asked her to respond to the library. The mother and father both came to the library and spoke with officers. Mother, Mei Mei Lin, 37, of Lavender Mist Lane in Centreville was charged for neglecting child.

The violation is punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2500 fine. She was released on a summons and the child was released to the father's custody.

## Amateur Radio Field Day

The Vienna Wireless Society invites the public to its 2008 Amateur Radio Field Day event beginning at 2 p.m. on Saturday, June 28 at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, just south of Fairfax City.

Field Day activities continue for 24 hours ending Sunday afternoon. The Hams also offer a chance for the public to "Get on the Air" and information on becoming a Ham. Look for the Hams, antennas and radio tents along the service drive to the left just after turning into the main Park entrance, south of the Golf Course, off Ox Road (Route 123), about four miles south of Fairfax City.

## Bicyclist Collides With Cruiser

On June 17, at approximately 6:25 p.m. a Town of Vienna Police Officer was stopped at the intersection of Center Street and Maple Avenue, SE. The cruiser had begun making a right turn from Center Street on to east-bound Maple Avenue. According to the police report, a female adult bicyclist was stopped at the SE corner of Maple Avenue and Center Street waiting to traverse Center Street. As the police cruiser was in the process of turning, it was struck on the passenger side front door. The bicyclist sustained a minor abrasion to her knee.

# CRIME

Incidents reported by the Town of Vienna police department through June 22.

## DISORDERLY EVENT

**900 Block Hillcrest Drive, SW**, June 20, 7:08 p.m.  
An individual was outside cursing and being disorderly to neighbors. In the course of their investigation, officers determined that the same subject was in another incident outside of Vienna. The subject was arrested by Fairfax County Police after they secured a warrant for the previous event.

## DRUNK IN PUBLIC

**200 Block Cedar Lane**, June 21, 2:21 a.m.  
An intoxicated individual was observed approaching a group of men wielding a knife. Vienna Police intervened and the man was arrested and charged with being drunk in public. Arrested: Marvin Robelo Reyes- Martinez, 24, of Cedar Lane in Vienna.

## CREDIT CARD FRAUD

**300 Block Maple Avenue, East**, June 22, 7:50 p.m.  
A wallet was found by a citizen. After investigating, officers determined that the credit cards had been used fraudulently.

## RECKLESS DRIVING-CRUISER STRUCK

**300 Block Maple Avenue, East**, June 22, 7:50 p.m.  
An individual was driving aggressively and threatening other drivers. He was located and during the stop, he

SEE CRIME, PAGE 7



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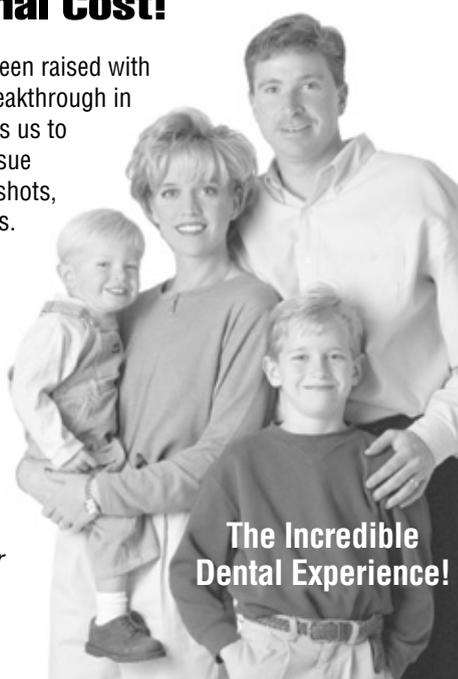
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PEOPLE

# Fighting Blindness

## Vienna's Naim Abu El-Hawa is finalist in National Braille Challenge.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Naim Abu El-Hawa has been reading Braille since he was four. On June 28, he represents Virginia in the National Braille Challenge in Los Angeles.**

### More Information

<http://www.braillechallenge.org/> ;  
<http://www.Brailleinstitute.org/>  
Foundation Fighting Blindness:  
[www.blindness.org](http://www.blindness.org)  
Foundation for Retinal Research:  
[www.TFRR.org](http://www.TFRR.org)

Ten-year-old Naim Abu El-Hawa learned to read in pre-school, plays sports, loves learning about the weather, and was once an SCA officer at Stenwood Elementary School. He is also the Virginia representative, one of 12 finalists in grades three and four, in the National Braille Challenge running in Los Angeles on June 28.

Naim was born with Leber congenital amaurosis (LCA), caused by mutations in the RPE65 gene, and the condition was diagnosed in the infant when he was two months old. "His eyes were not tracking like they were supposed to," said Naim's mother, Jihad. "He had early intervention. Naim was reading by four years old."

Jihad Abu El-Hawa, Naim's mother, was born in Jerusalem and moved to Vienna when she was one-and-a-half years old. She went through Vienna-area schools, from Freedom Hill to Kilmer to Marshall, and settled down here to raise her family. Naim transferred to Stenwood Elementary from Freedom Hill after his family moved internally in Vienna. A vision specialist, Linda Major, works with Naim at Stenwood. His schoolbooks are already translated into Braille, and Major translates homework into Braille for Naim.

In preparation for his participation in the Braille Challenge, Naim is reading more to practice his spelling.

"The day school ended, I got a big pile of worksheets to practice with from Mrs. Major ... things like reading a story for comprehension."

Naim wears glasses for eye protection, says his mother. It is Naim, however, who states, with a broad smile, "I just wear the glasses to look fancy in the photos."

The Abu El-Hawas have four children, ranging in ages six to 12 years old, two boys, two girls. Naim's six-year-old brother, Ahmad, was also born with LCA, and Naim says he helps Ahmad around the house.

No adjustments had to be made in the home for Naim and Ahmad, says Jihad Abu El-Hawa. "The kids get around well. They have light perception, and they know where things are, even in their classrooms."

Advances in gene transfer therapy show promise in Phase I clinical trials, testing which is specifically designed to evaluate safety. Jihad Abu El-Hawa is hopeful that a cure for this congenital condition may not be far off. She and her husband stay on-top of research and programs through commu-

nications with the Foundation for Retinal Research and the Foundation Fighting Blindness, based in Maryland.

Naim plays Beepball and is taking swim classes at Spring Hill Recreation Center. His mother reminds him that he's also a good student, getting all As and Bs. He counts as among his favorite subjects geography, history, writing, reading, weather, almost everything, he says. "And he loves food," Abu El-Hawa said.

"When I grow up, I want to be either a livestock farmer or a doctor," says Naim. "I like animals, such as sheep and dogs ... cats and ducks ... farm animals."

A reception kicks off the Braille Challenge on Friday night, and on Saturday, the competition goes full-swing, topped off with an awards banquet on Saturday evening.

Competitors compete in five Braille categories: reading comprehension, proofreading, chart and graph reading, spelling, and speed and accuracy using a specialized transcribing device, the Perkins Brailler.

Every competitor receives a participation trophy, and first through third-place winners in each age group also receive savings bonds, provided by the Walter Lantz Foundation. In addition, first-place winners will receive a PAC Mate, a portable PC device adapted for the visually impaired, provided by Freedom Scientific.

This summer, Naim is spending two weeks at the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind camp, and he's excited about spending all day there with new friends.

"You don't have to get all sad if you can't see because you're not stopped from anything. You can do whatever you'd like to do. You do not have to worry about being scared or anything."



CONTRIBUTED

**West\*Group's President and CEO Gerald T. Halpin presented Juanita Harris, Westgate ES Principal, with the matching donation — a check for \$25,000.**

## West\*Group Supports Westgate Elementary

In November of 2007, West\*Group, a real estate development company headquartered in McLean, launched a fund-raising campaign to provide Westgate Elementary School and its students with a technology upgrade. West\*Group challenged the community to help raise \$25,000 and promised to match that amount dollar for dollar to reach their goal of \$50,000. The community rose to the challenge.

In front of an audience that included Westgate staff, students, parents, West\*Group employees, FCPS's Superintendent Dr. Jack Dale, FCPS Cluster II Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Pajardo, and

FCPS Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Technology Maribeth Luftglass, Gerald T. Halpin, West\*Group's president and CEO, presented Juanita Harris, Westgate Elementary School principal, with the matching donation — a check for \$25,000. Westgate Elementary School and West\*Group are currently celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> year of their partnership. West\*Group was named Fairfax County Public Schools Partner of the Year for 2006-2007, and was honored for its numerous programs that exist between the company and Westgate Elementary School as part of their Business / School Partnership.

## Worley Honored for Contributions to Education

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) and the FCPS Office of Adult and Community Education (ACE) have recognized G. Ray Worley for his contributions to education, dedicating a community meeting room in his honor at Dunn Loring Center. Worley is a native of the Dunn Loring community and has been a staunch advocate of lifelong learning in Fairfax County.

A member of the Adult and Community Education Advisory Committee since 1979, Worley presided as its chair for most of his 29-year tenure on the committee. He promoted and eventually realized the establishment of adult learning centers in high-need areas of the county. His vision of "education for everyone" helped pave the way for a variety of programs that have improved the quality of life in the county, including family literacy, education for unemployed or underemployed single parents, and juvenile court school programs. Worley also spearheaded the revitalization of the Willston Multicultural Center in the Bailey's Crossroads area of Fairfax County. The Washington Post and the Fairfax Federation of Civic Associations recognized him as Fairfax County Citizen of the Year in 2004, citing his "outstanding work in advancing adult education opportunities in the county." Worley also served for 28 years as a member of the Superintendent's Community Advisory Council.

Born in Dunn Loring, Worley attended Vienna Elementary School, Fairfax High



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### G. Ray Worley

School, and American University. He earned a doctoral degree from Florida State University and, after graduation, became a businessman and consultant in real estate.

The location of the G. Ray Worley Community Meeting Room at Dunn Loring Center holds special significance. In 1937, Worley's mother galvanized community interest to petition for an elementary school in Dunn Loring; subsequently, Worley's sister and brother were able to attend the new Dunn Loring Elementary School in 1939. Later, in the early 1980s, Worley enlisted community support to retain the school as a community school resource and recreation area.

# CRIME

FROM PAGE 5

attempted to leave and ran into a Vienna Police cruiser. Minor damage sustained. Charged with reckless Driving: Jamal D. Afifi, 22, of Spring Ridge Road in Vienna.

### DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

**500 Block Lawyers Road, NW,**  
Between June 14 and 22.

Unknown object broke glass out of a door. A neighbor reported hearing gun shots but nothing further substantiated that claim.

### ARREST

**Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E.** 1:10 p.m. June 17.

Police responded to a report of an abandoned 7-year old boy at the library. The mother was located and charged with contributing to the delinquency of a minor: Mei Mei Lin, 37, 13503 Lavender Mist Ln., Centreville.

### VANDALISM

**1000 block Cottage St., S.W.** -  
Between 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. June 17.

The glass was broken on a door at a house.

### ARREST

**Foster's Grille, 138 Maple Ave., W.**  
8:01 p.m. June 17.

Police responded to a report of a car parked illegally in a handicap space at the restaurant. It was determined that the registration had expired and the car would be towed away. The occupant of the car refused to get out and he was charged with disorderly

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# OPINION

## Hoping for Something Special

Special session in search of transportation solutions begins this week in Richmond.

**S**natching defeat from the jaws of victory, the Virginia Supreme Court overturned an unlikely and hopeful transportation funding plan passed by the Virginia General Assembly earlier this year.

At the same time, funding for rail to Dulles has hit several bumps that could derail the project.

**EDITORIALS** But at the beginning of this week, members of the General Assembly were back in Richmond, supposedly to produce a plan that would replace the \$300 million or more that the now defunct plan would have raised.

Gov. Timothy M. Kaine has made some sensible proposals, but the forces of “no, never, no taxes” say they will scuttle many if not all of the possible sources of new revenue to pay for transit, roads and other transportation improvements.

Kaine points out that Dulles Airport and the Port of Virginia are responsible for an estimated 375,000 jobs and \$895 million in state revenue. “These are our two most valuable con-

nections with the global economy, but they depend upon a network that will allow easy movement of people and goods to and from these critical transportation hubs,” Kaine said at the opening of the special session Monday.

Here’s what he proposes:

- ❖ Raising the annual vehicle registration fee by \$10 and increasing the sales tax on automobiles from 3 to 4 percent. Virginia’s auto title tax would still be significantly below the national average.

- ❖ Fix the regional packages by imposing a 1 percent regional sales tax on goods other than food, medicine or automobiles.

- ❖ A grantors’ tax on property sale proceeds — 25 cents for each \$100 in value to create a Transportation Change Fund, with 75 percent of the revenue going for new transit strategies

and 25 percent dedicated to projects for economic development. This would support public transit, carpooling, teleworking, etc.

These add up to a sensible proposal, and would provide money needed for maintenance as well as dedicated funding for Metro.

Meanwhile, if you’re sitting in traffic, higher gas prices might be the future source of some relief. Finally, with a clear economic motivation, perhaps some real alternatives will arise, some plan that calls for something other than millions people with jobs getting into cars one person at a time and heading to and from work at about the same time every weekday.

We can only hope that new technologies and new approaches developed over the next decade or two will provide less need to clog the roadways.

## Without Basics

**E**lectrical storms have left many people without electricity in Fairfax, Loudoun, Arlington and Alexandria in the past few weeks, most of us for brief periods, but some for a couple of days at a time.

Across the river in Montgomery County, hundreds of thousands of people lived without drinkable water for a couple of days.

Being without either or both serves as a reminder that ordinary events (rather than terrorism) also require a little preparedness.

Recommended: Three days worth of non-perishable food and water for everyone in your household, plus flashlights, a battery powered radio and extra batteries. What’s in your storage cupboard?

## Free Dedications to Troops in Afghanistan

**F**riends and family of military members may now dedicate a song to their deployed service member via email. The song will air on AFN (American Forces Network)-Afghanistan’s Freedom Radio.

Though AFN-Afghanistan doesn’t have every song ever recorded, the Freedom Radio music vault contains over 50,000 titles, representing top-40, country, R&B and classic rock. When possible, the radio jocks will pull dedications from the mail box, read a short message and play the dedication.

Freedom Radio plays “Hits from the Home Front” throughout the country of Afghanistan and at Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Disk jockeys based out of Bagram Airfield keep service members informed of issues at their location as well as the latest Morale, Welfare and Recreation events and services. To make a music request or dedication, e-mail the disk jockey’s in the Freedom Radio studio at [freedomradio@swa.army.mil](mailto:freedomradio@swa.army.mil). In addition to the ability to dedicate a song, [www.defenselink.mil/afn-afghanistan](http://www.defenselink.mil/afn-afghanistan) is the one-stop location for issues of Freedom Watch Magazine and Freedom Watch Afghanistan television news. Get the current news about troops serving in Operation Enduring Freedom. AFN-Afghanistan is an affiliate

of the world-wide American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). AFRTS is part of the Department of Defense, and is headquartered in Alexandria, Va. The AFRTS mission is to communicate Department of Defense policies,

priorities, programs, goals and initiatives. AFRTS provides stateside radio and television programming, “a touch of home,” to U.S. service men and women, DoD civilians, and their families serving outside the continental United States.

MY DAD AND ME



**Tom and Laura Meloy with their children. 11 1/2-year-old Jessica, and 10-year-old twins Kelsey and Thomas pictured last summer at Nags Head, N.C.**

## THE CONNECTION

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# COMMUNITY

Send community notes to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Babysitters Training** for boys and girls age 12 and older will be offered on Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. An American Red Cross instructor will teach basic child care, safety, first aid, and what to do in emergency situations.

The fee is \$70 for Town of Vienna residents and \$87.50 for out-of-town participants. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Summer Playground Program** for children ages 6-11 has opened at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Weekly sessions are scheduled through August 8, Monday through Friday, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Supervised activities will include arts and crafts, games, field trips and special events. The cost per session is \$100 for Town of Vienna residents and \$125 for out-of-town participants. Extended care will be available before camp and after camp for an additional fee. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Summer Excursion Camps** for ages 11-15 will be held weekly through August 8. Adventures will include white water tubing, ropes courses, mountain biking, the rides at Kings Dominion, and more. The cost is \$250 per camp for Town of Vienna residents and \$300 for out-of-town participants. For informa-

tion on dates and themes for each camp, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Family Skate Night** will be held each Friday until August 1, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Admission is \$1 per person. Bring your own roller skates or in-line skates and safety equipment. Parents are required to stay with their children and are welcome to participate. Call 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

**Women's Self Defense Class.** The Town of Vienna Police Department is offering a summer session of the women's self defense class commonly known as R.A.D. The R.A.D. training class is a four evening, three hour a night class that helps women make wise decisions regarding their personal safety. During the classes, specially trained police officers from the Vienna Police Department in conjunction with several local volunteers train women to be alert and mindful of their personal safety. Escape and response techniques are trained in practical scenarios as well as several non-physical techniques which help women stay safe.

Classes run from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. The Summer 2008 Session will be held August 4th, 6th, 11th, and 13th.

Registration fee is \$5; \$7.50 for non-town residents.

Equipment fee is \$15.00. Fees are due first night of class. To register, contact the Vienna Community Center at 703-255-6360. For further information contact MPO Bill Murray of the Vienna Police at 703-255-6396 or via email at

[wmurray@viennava.gov](mailto:wmurray@viennava.gov)

The McLean branch of the **American Association of University Women** will collect used books on **Saturdays, July 12 and 26** for upcoming sales, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Suntrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Gently used books, CDs, tapes and software are accepted, children's books are especially needed. No records or textbooks are accepted. Call 703-448-9195 or visit [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

**2008 Hot Ticket Awards Party.** This party, always the "hottest" ticket in town, honors the accomplishments of local tech entrepreneurial companies poolside at the home of Bobbie Kilberg, NVTC President & CEO. Award categories include: Hottest Buzz, Hottest Bootstrap, Hottest Exit, Hottest Management Team and Hottest Venture Capital Deal. Wednesday, June 25, 5:30 - 6:30 p.m., Pre-Party for Hot Ticket Award Nominees, Judges and Hot Ticket Sponsors, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m., Hot Ticket Awards Party and Awards Ceremony; Kilberg Residence, McLean, VA; NVTC Member: \$ 65.00, Non-Member: \$ 85.00. For more info: <http://www.nvtc.org/events/geteventinfo.php?event=HOTTICKET6>.

The **Vienna Woman's Club** 49th annual **Holiday Bazaar and Fall Festival** is planned for **Saturday, Nov. 8** at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE. Funds raised are used for the annual Scholarship Program and other community projects. To rent a space, call N. Volpe 703-938-7716 or email [jvolpe@cox.net](mailto:jvolpe@cox.net) for information or an application.

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**Valerianne**, a luxury home furnishings boutique featuring the finest available for bed, bath, table, home, and gifts, opened last Tuesday night with an intimate gathering of friends and family on historic Church Street in Vienna.

Owner, Aimee Wedlake, says the shop represents over twenty designers and manufacturers. "It is my goal to help the customer draw from each of these resources to create a unique look, perfect for their lifestyle and for the most important room in their home, the bedroom," Wedlake says.

The boutique sits above the popular Dandelion Patch stationary shop and the trendy Bazin's restaurant in downtown Vienna.

Wedlake recently relocated to Northern Virginia from Scottsdale, Ariz., where she and her mother, Gloria Wedlake, ran Valerianne of Scottsdale. Valerianne can be found at 111 Church Street NW, Suite 201 in Vienna. Hours of operation are Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday 12 noon-5 p.m. Valerianne will be closed on Mondays.

**LeapFrog Solutions, Inc.** (LFS), a full-service Oakton-based strategic marketing communications firm, announced that **Linda Kolker**, communications specialist, received a Leadership Award from the Charlottesville Business Innovation Council (CBIC) at the Charlottesville Innovation Awards Gala held on May 22.

The award is given to an individual volunteer member of CBIC who has provided exemplary contributions to the organization. Kolker chairs the organization's Communications committee, is the communications officer of CBIC and serves on the Board of Directors.

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# Blueprint Emerges

FROM PAGE 3

**NOW, 46 YEARS LATER,** Dulles handles some 24 million passengers a year and it is expected to become one of the world's largest airports. There is a Metro rail from Washington as far as Falls Church and there is Tysons Corner, the edge city that almost "accidentally" became the biggest economic engine in Fairfax County.

The rural landscape that was Fairfax County in 1962, now is home to some 1,300,000 people, the largest political entity in the Commonwealth of Virginia and Tysons is the region's economic center.

This is not to say that everyone wants a redesigned Tysons Corner or a rail system, or a rail system above ground. Clark Tyler is surrounded by diversity and division in his task force. Indeed, Hedrick Smith, a Pulitzer Prize winning New York Times bureau chief and now the head of a television production company is filming task force meetings to see how diverse views are handled as he prepares a public broadcasting documen-

tary on Puget Sound and the Chesapeake Bay.

Clark is the second chairman of the task force and has the backing of Gerald Connolly, chairman of Fairfax's Board of Supervisors and tough leader of the county's Democrats. (Connolly won the Democrats' nomination for Congress earlier this month.)

Connolly's vision of Tysons is to make it a city, not an edge city, but a regular city with perhaps 100,000 residents, a work force of 200,000, theaters, museums, concert halls, parks and schools. Connolly often points out that Tysons' 1,800 acres is the same size as the downtown of his native Boston.

This is also the vision of most of the major landowners in Tysons and many citizens as well.

But Tysons Corner is surrounded by some of America's most famous suburban communities — McLean, Vienna, Falls Church, Reston — built on the single family homes with a driveway, a garage and several cars. The political leaders of these areas are anx-

SEE TASK FORCE, PAGE 17

## PROGRAM FOR KIDS

# Healthy weight management and obesity prevention

The 2008 sessions will be held on **Saturdays** in the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Medical Plaza Conference Center, 3700 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax, VA.

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [mclean@connectionnews.com](mailto:mclean@connectionnews.com). Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit [www.connectionnews.com](http://www.connectionnews.com).

### WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25

**Cas Haley and Woodbelly.** Jah Roots. Reggae. Show 8 p.m., tickets \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Ricky Scaggs and Bruce Hornsby.** 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$40/in-house, \$22/lawn.

**Beauty & Wellness.** Flock Network Night at the River Bend Golf and Country Club in Great Falls with 150 of the most affluent consumers and country club members from the D.C. metro area, as well as top industry experts such as plastic surgeons, dermatologists, aesthetic dentists and the most exclusive cosmetic and skincare lines, salon and spas. 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$45 pre-registered; \$50 at door. Call 703.268.5626 or Email [info@FLOCKevents.com](mailto:info@FLOCKevents.com) to register as the number of the event attendees is limited to 150.

### THURSDAY, JUNE 26

**The Temptations and The Four Tops** 8 p.m. at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets are \$38/in-house, \$52/lawn.

### FRIDAY, JUNE 27

**'Thousands of Years - Rome.'** The McLean Drama Company's production of "Thousands of Years - Rome" by Rachael Bail, which takes a young Roman couple through various vicissitudes from the 1st Century AD to the 21st Century, premieres at the Alden Theatre. June 27-29, Friday and Saturday 8 p.m., Sunday 2 p.m. Following Sunday's matinee, there will be a performance of "Open Communication," the comedy by Katie and Alex Lewis, of McLean, which won first prize in the McLean Drama Company's 10-minute play contest. \$15/\$12 students and seniors. Tickets are on sale now! To purchase tickets, stop by the Alden Theatre Box Office, or charge by phone (703-573-SEAT) or online through Ticketmaster. For more information, call the Box Office at 703-790-9223, TTY: 711.

**Movie in the Park.** Enjoy a favorite family movie outdoors at Vienna's Glyndon Park at sundown (about 8:45 p.m.) Friday, June 27. Admission is free. Bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating. For information on which G-rated film will be shown, call 703-255-7842 after noon on June 25 and for weather information on the day of the show.

**Splinters,** roots rock and alternative country. 6:30 p.m., Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave. E., 703-255-6360

**First Dance of the Summer** at Our Lady of Good Council Church, 8601 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. Free dance lesson from 8 to 8:30 p.m., dance from 8:30 p.m.-12 a.m. Cost \$15 includes lesson; snack and soft drinks provided. Admission only \$10 with this article. For more information contact Colleen Burnett 703-437-1190.

**Rent** Through Sunday, 29 June, at the Filene Center, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna, 877-WOLFTRAP. Tickets \$25 to \$80.

**Pierce Pettis.** Acoustic. Show 7:30 p.m., tickets \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**bob, Jackmove.** Rock. Show 10 p.m., tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna, 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**RENT.** Tony Award-winning rock musical returns to the Wolf Trap stage starring "Idol" contestants Anwar Robinson and Heinz Winckler. Friday, June 27 - Sunday, June 29 at 8 p.m. with matinee 2 p.m. performances on Saturday and Sunday. Tickets range from \$80 to \$25. 877-WOLFTRAP.

### SATURDAY, JUNE 28

**Marshall Maley Quartet.** 6-8 p.m. Free. Local musicians will perform pop, rock, and jazz standards. Outdoors at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. 703-288-9505.

**Serguei Popov and Family.** McLean Bible Church, Community Room C, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will host Serguei Popov and Family in a colorful program of Hebrew folk, classical and praise music with dancing and drama. 7:30-9 p.m. No admission fee; no registration. Call Vanessa Tillett at 703/639-2000 X3310 or [vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org](mailto:vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org).

## WD Miller Band beat out 105 other bands for the chance to perform live on Fox Morning News.

BY REBECCA BAIRD-REMBA  
THE CONNECTION

**W**D Miller Band, with its blend of retro pop, Southern rock, and multi-part harmonies, recently won the Fox Rocks contest, hosted by Fox 5 Morning News. WD Miller Band beat out 105 other bands for the chance to perform live on Fox Morning News on June 6. They also performed at Jammin' Java on Wednesday, June 11.

WD Miller sings and plays rhythm guitar, and since he started writing songs over 20 years ago, he has composed over 250 songs. He has released two CDs, Sugarland Run (2000) and Whirly Town (2006). In 2006, Miller formed a band to play at the Whirly Town CD release party, and the band has played at clubs around the Northern Virginia area, including Bangkok Blues in Falls Church, Jammin' Java in Vienna, and Iota in Arlington.

**THE BAND** includes bass guitarist Peter Locke, drummer Reid Saunders, lead guitarist Blayne Beeler, and singer Patty Williams. In addition, Gene Miller, WD's older brother, has played bass or sung harmonies on both of WD's solo CDs. Both Locke and Saunders have extensive experience: Locke has been playing guitar for over 30 years and has played in local bands such as Exotic Vibrations and the Idylwood Band, and Saunders has been playing the drums on and off for 30 years, with local bands such as The Cravin' Dogs. Although the newest member of the band, Beeler has played with many cover and show bands over the past 20 years, such as The Marcells, of 1950s "Blue Moon" fame.

A child of the Baby Boom generation, WD Miller — who grew up in McLean and now lives in Vienna — said that he was heavily influenced by the music of his childhood and teen years. "I was weaned on Beatles and the Beach Boys," said Miller, "and in high school I discovered the Eagles, Bread, Crosby Stills Nash and Young, and America." Miller has recorded with a variety of local artists, including Mike Melchione (Buckwheat Zydeco), Scott Shuman (Jackson St. Band, Henry Townsend Band), Kai Kapitano (Lost Highway Band), Bill Kotopish (Code Blue), and Jim Opeka. At this year's Grammy Awards in February, Scott Shuman won the Grammy for Best Traditional Blues Album for "Last of the Great Mississippi Delta



WD Miller and his band pose at the Fox 5 Morning News Studio, where they played on June 6 after winning the Fox Rocks Contest.

Bluesmen: Live in Dallas," which he helped produce and record.

**IN TERMS** of the band's sound, Miller said, "We have sort of an eclectic sound. I have some Southern rock, some Irish music in 3/4ths time, and some sunny pop with lots of harmonies and jangly guitars."



WD Miller, who grew up in McLean and now lives in Vienna, plays his guitar for a gig at a local venue.

glish at Pimmit Hills High School in Falls Church, teaching the work of authors such as Steinbeck, Hemingway, and Spinelli.

Visit WD Miller Band on the Web at [www.wdmillerband.com](http://www.wdmillerband.com) or at their Myspace page. Its music is also available for purchase through iTunes.

Parlor, 709 West Broad Street, Falls Church. (703) 538-6266. Artist Website: [www.gascot.com](http://www.gascot.com)

### FRIDAY, JULY 4

**Vienna July 4th Celebration**  
MAIN EVENTS:  
11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Arts and Crafts, Food and Rides  
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - Antique and Classic Car Show  
2:30 p.m. - Family Games  
8 - 9 p.m. - Vienna Community Band  
9:15 p.m. - Laser Light Show  
MAIN STAGE:  
12 noon - 4 p.m. B2B, The Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band  
5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. - NIGHTWORK - Rock  
CHILDREN'S STAGE:  
12noon - Vaudeville Show Entertainer  
1 p.m. - The Traveling Medicine Show  
2 p.m. - Magic Comedy Show  
3 p.m. - Mayhem's Magical Rodeo  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - Strolling Clown  
Laser Light Show begins at 9:15 p.m. sharp; must be on grounds of Waters Field, facing front screen to view the projected show.  
Raindate July 5 - Laser Light Show only)

[www.busara.com](http://www.busara.com)



Photo by Kenneth M. Wyner

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For reservations and information please call The Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center 703-385-8414 or 800-545-7950. Tour leaves the Moore House, 3950 Chain Bridge Rd, Saturdays at 7:00pm [weather-permitting] \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Proceeds benefit HFCA and the preservation of the City's historic buildings.



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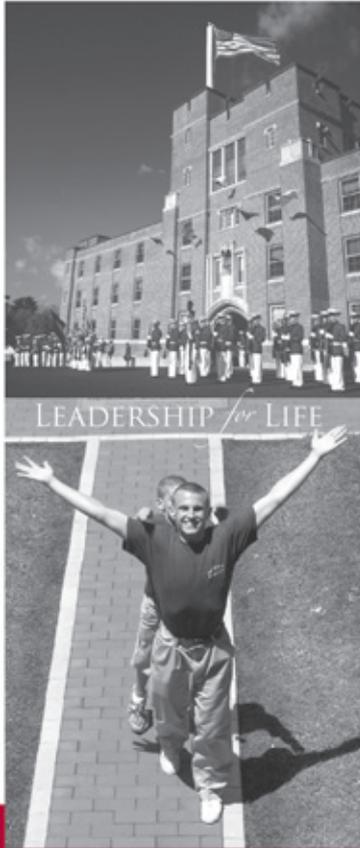
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## HOME SALES

| Address                   | BR | FB | HB | Postal | City   | Sold Price  | Type              | Lot AC | Date Sold |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|--------|--------|-------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|
| 3697 WAPLES CREST CT      | 5  | 4  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$1,337,500 | Detached          | 0.89   | 05/01/08  |
| 810 DESALE ST SW          | 3  | 2  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$475,000   | Detached          | 0.29   | 05/01/08  |
| 9709 FLINT HILL CT        | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,300,000 | Detached          | 0.53   | 05/01/08  |
| 10219 BLAKE LN            | 3  | 3  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$447,000   | Townhouse         | 0.06   | 05/02/08  |
| 8424 FALCONE POINTE WAY   | 4  | 4  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,287,000 | Detached          | 0.15   | 05/02/08  |
| 3439 LYRAC ST             | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$925,000   | Detached          | 0.83   | 05/05/08  |
| 2834 NORBORNE PL          | 4  | 4  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$805,000   | Detached          | 0.14   | 05/05/08  |
| 137 EAST ST NE            | 3  | 2  | 2  |        | VIENNA | \$565,000   | Townhouse         | 0.05   | 05/05/08  |
| 8424 FALCONE POINTE WAY   | 5  | 5  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,287,000 | Detached          | 0.15   | 05/05/08  |
| 1695 ABBEY OAK DR         | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$800,000   | Detached          | 0.46   | 05/06/08  |
| 205 LOCUST ST #Q          | 3  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$415,000   | Townhouse         |        | 05/07/08  |
| 10320 DUNN MEADOW RD      | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$915,000   | Detached          | 0.64   | 05/07/08  |
| 502 WOODLAND CT NW        | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$732,500   | Detached          | 0.33   | 05/08/08  |
| 423 HOLMES DR NW          | 3  | 3  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$552,000   | Detached          | 0.30   | 05/08/08  |
| 1700 LANDON HILL RD       | 5  | 4  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,050,000 | Detached          | 1.21   | 05/08/08  |
| 606 TAPAWINGO RD SW       | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$612,500   | Detached          | 0.24   | 05/09/08  |
| 103 OAK ST SW             | 3  | 1  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$430,000   | Detached          | 0.33   | 05/09/08  |
| 609 DELANO DR SE          | 4  | 2  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$480,000   | Detached          | 0.34   | 05/12/08  |
| 9962 LONGFORD CT          | 3  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$379,000   | Townhouse         | 0.03   | 05/12/08  |
| 10097 BIRD RD             | 5  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,125,000 | Detached          | 0.61   | 05/12/08  |
| 10200 WENDOVER DR         | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,200,000 | Detached          | 1.84   | 05/12/08  |
| 9457 SHOUSE DR            | 5  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$714,700   | Detached          | 0.35   | 05/14/08  |
| 10317 BRITTENFORD DR      | 6  | 6  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,025,000 | Detached          | 0.40   | 05/14/08  |
| 1571 LEEDS CASTLE DR #102 | 2  | 2  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$402,500   | Garden 1-4 Floors |        | 05/14/08  |
| 1529 LAUREL HILL RD       | 5  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$615,000   | Detached          | 1.00   | 05/14/08  |
| 2541 BRIDGE HILL LN       | 4  | 5  | 2  |        | OAKTON | \$1,705,000 | Detached          | 1.90   | 05/15/08  |
| 3460 VIRGINIA OAKS DR     | 5  | 4  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$1,070,000 | Detached          | 0.93   | 05/15/08  |
| 209 CENTER ST N           | 5  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,037,500 | Detached          | 0.21   | 05/15/08  |
| 103 HARMONY DR            | 4  | 2  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$628,000   | Detached          | 0.27   | 05/15/08  |
| 2523 ROCKY BRANCH RD      | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$749,000   | Detached          | 0.43   | 05/15/08  |
| 2570 OAK VALLEY DR        | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$606,000   | Detached          | 0.37   | 05/15/08  |
| 2504 GLENGYLE DR #198     | 3  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$275,000   | Townhouse         |        | 05/15/08  |
| 9501 CHESTNUT FARM DR     | 5  | 4  | 0  |        | VIENNA | \$835,000   | Detached          | 0.32   | 05/15/08  |
| 8005 RESERVE WAY #29      | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$739,000   | Townhouse         | 0.02   | 05/15/08  |
| 903 WESTWOOD DR NE        | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$625,000   | Detached          | 0.30   | 05/16/08  |
| 2232 GERKEN AVE           | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$745,000   | Detached          | 0.50   | 05/16/08  |
| 1628 IRVIN ST             | 4  | 4  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$1,322,223 | Detached          | 0.37   | 05/16/08  |
| 11713 LARIAT LN           | 4  | 3  | 1  |        | OAKTON | \$636,450   | Detached          | 0.46   | 05/19/08  |
| 8339 CARNEGIE DR          | 4  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$480,000   | Detached          | 0.27   | 05/19/08  |
| 2515 MEREDITH DR E        | 5  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$850,000   | Detached          | 0.35   | 05/19/08  |
| 2808 ROESH WAY            | 3  | 2  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$539,000   | Townhouse         | 0.06   | 05/19/08  |
| 9541 DANIEL LEWIS LN      | 3  | 3  | 1  |        | VIENNA | \$535,000   | Townhouse         | 0.06   | 05/19/08  |
| 8263 TRAILWOOD CT         | 5  | 4  | 2  |        | VIENNA | \$1,400,000 | Detached          | 0.16   | 05/19/08  |
| 9859 SWEET MINT DR        | 3  | 2  | 2  |        | VIENNA | \$417,000   | Townhouse         | 0.05   | 05/20/08  |
| 3388 HICKORY HILLS DR     | 4  | 3  | 0  |        | OAKTON | \$675,000   | Detached          | 0.81   | 05/21/08  |

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To search for a home online, visit www.HomesDatabase.com.

# Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park



All concerts will be held in the gazebo at McLean Central Park. The park is located at the intersection of Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123) and Old Dominion Drive. Parking is available at the Center. These hour-long concerts will be held on Sundays at 4 p.m.

All concerts will begin at 4 p.m. and are **FREE** and open to the public.



**The Grandsons**  
• June 29  
WAMMIE award winners whose music is described as "American music in a blender with the lid off."



**Difficult Run Jazz Band**  
• July 13  
Sounds of the swing era



**Ocean Orchestra** • July 6  
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**Roni Stoneman**  
• July 27  
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# SCHOOLS

School Notes are for awards and achievements, as well as special events. Send information to schools@connectionnewspapers.com, call 703-917-6434.

**Allison Bitterman of Vienna** was placed on the Dean's List at Gettysburg College for the Spring of 2007. Students with a quality point average of 3.6 or higher for a semester's work are placed on the Deans' Honor List.

**Timothy Atwood of Vienna** was named to the Dean's List at Saint Joseph's University for the fall 2007 semester. Students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or above.

**Deborah Shaffer of Vienna** was named to the Dean's List at Liberty University for the fall 2007 semester. Students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or above.

**Melissa Rogers of Vienna** was named to the Dean's List at Liberty University for the fall 2007 semester. Students must earn a GPA of 3.5 or above.

**Keith Diggs of Vienna** was named to the Dean's List at Emory College in Atlanta. He is the son of David and Darcy Diggs of Vienna. Students must have a GPA of at least 3.84 to be named to the Dean's List.

**Jade Zaharoff of Vienna** has accepted a scholarship for the President's Leadership Program (PLP) beginning Fall 2008 at Christopher Newport University.

**The Vienna Woman's Club** is offering a \$1,000 scholarship award this year. Students who will be attending a two- or four-year college this fall, who have a Vienna home address (ZIP code 22180 through 22183) are invited to apply. High Schools Career Centers have applications and information about this scholarship. Call 703-938-6632. Mail the application to the Vienna Woman's Club, P.O. Box 513, Vienna, VA 22183.

**Daniel Grant Cloyd** of Vienna graduated magna cum laude from St. Mary's College of Maryland with a Bachelor of Arts in theater, film, and media studies and a minor in film and media studies.

On Monday, **June 9, Bailey's Elementary School for the Arts and Sciences** held a celebration of student work in the form of a museum exhibit, which included new outdoor murals, cultural fences, and cloth stories. With perseverance as their theme, some 150 students in grades 2-5 worked on a cloth story project. Students interviewed their family members about times they didn't give up on a project or event. Each student then selected his or her favorite story and created a storyboard; the student's favorite part of the story was then illustrated and became a cloth story when they hand-stitched or embroidered the illustrations on fabric. The school hosted the second annual Community Art Reach Celebration to showcase the students' work. Art Reach was created to offer students the opportunity to work with local artists and community volunteers, promote cultural exchange, and build meaningful community relations.

**Navy Ensign Paul A. Bridgers**, son of Janet Bridgers of Gaithersburg, Md., and Robert B. Bridgers of Vienna, recently graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Navy. Bridgers successfully completed four years of intensive academic, physical and professional military training, resulting in a Bachelor of Science degree. Bridgers is a 2004 graduate of Gaithersburg High School of Gaithersburg, Md.



ANDREW HARTNETT/THE CONNECTION

## Walk and Bike to School Challenge

During the last week of school, June 9-13, Louise Archer Elementary School launched its Walk and Bike to School Challenge in which students were encouraged to travel to school either on foot or on a bike.

"This is something that our school and PTA wanted to do to promote exercise and making healthy choices," said school principal Michelle Makrigiorgos. "In addition, this helps to display our commitment to creating a community atmosphere by walking through the neighborhoods to the school."

During October, the school had a similar week in which students were challenged to travel to school on their own. The PTA and faculty are hopeful that their most recent attempt in June will continue to heighten student awareness and help to promote good exercise habits over the summer.

"I think this week was a really good idea, but the school should do it for a whole year instead of just a few days," said fifth-grader Maaikie Van Worenden. "I ride my bike to school every day for exercise and because it is good for the environment."

— ANDREW HARTNETT

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# FAITH

## Labyrinth Offers Quiet Reflection

Church of the Holy Comforter in Vienna has a permanent outdoor labyrinth. The labyrinth, a memorial gift, is patterned after the ancient labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in France. The labyrinth is open to the public. All are invited to experience the blessing of silent prayer as they walk in this quiet setting. Four guided walks are scheduled for the summer as an introduction to the labyrinth. Weather permitting; the first walk will be Wednesday evening, June 25, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. The other two walks will be held on Wednesday, July 23 and Wednesday, Aug. 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.



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## FAITH NOTES

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**New Pastor at the Good Shepherd.** The Church of the Good Shepherd, a United Methodist church in Vienna, will welcome its new pastor Mark Burgess with a reception on Sunday, July 13, following its 10 a.m. worship service.

The Rev. Burgess, whose appoint-

ment to the church begins July 1, will preach his first service on July 6.

The church, located at 2351 Hunter Mill Rd. in Vienna, has a summer worship schedule with a single 10 a.m. service through Aug. 31.

The Rev. Burgess comes to Good



**Mark Burgess**

Shepherd from Benn's United Methodist Church in Smithfield, where he has served since 2001. A graduate of Wesley Theological Seminary, he has served as pastor at churches in Hampton, Altavista, Fredericksburg, Waynesboro and Winchester. His wife, Ruth, has been appointed pastor at Bruen Chapel United Methodist Church in Fairfax. The Church of the Good Shepherd celebrated its 40th anniversary in 2007. For more information, visit [www.GoodShepherdVA.com](http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com) <http://www.GoodShepherdVA.com>

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### Church of the Brethern

Oakton Church of the Brethern ... 703-281-4411

### Catholic

Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877  
Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828  
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555  
St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

### Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

### Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

### Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

### Episcopal

Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521  
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-281-3987  
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

### Jehovah's Witness

Jehovah's Witnesses ... 703-759-1579

### Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church...703-938-2119  
St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

### Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509  
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987  
Dunn Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5386  
Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494  
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705  
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233  
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594  
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

### Non-Denominational

Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

### Presbyterian

Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ... 703-560-6336  
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577  
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

### Quaker

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

### Seventh-Day Adventist

Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001  
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383

### Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230

### Unity

Unity of Fairfax ... 703-281-1767

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#### Assembly of God

Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736  
Washington Christian Church...703-938-7720  
Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-938-7727

#### Baha'i

Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345

#### Baptist

Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134

Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075

Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525

The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

**To Highlight Your Faith Community  
call Karen at: (703) 917-6468**

**Summer Extravaganza.** Start the summer with the first dance of the summer at Our Lady of Good Council, 8601 Wolf Trap Rd., Vienna, VA 22182. Friday, June 27. Free dance lesson 8-8:30; dance 8:30-12:00 p.m. Cost: \$15 - includes lesson, snack and soft drinks. Sponsored by PWP a non profit organization.

**Patriotic music.** On June 29 at 5 p.m., McLean Presbyterian Church will host The Dominion Brass in a performance of patriotic music, at 1020 Balls Hill Rd. in McLean. This ensemble of professional musicians, many of whom are music educators from the D.C. area, comes together to bring praise to God through music in concerts, worship and other events. Since it's founding in 2002, the group has raised over \$20,000 for various ministries. Admission is free and a freewill offering will be received to further the ministry of Dominion Brass.

Musical selections will include works by Copeland, Ives and Sousa with the McLean Presbyterian Choir joining the band to close the concert with America, the Beautiful and Battle Hymn. Contact [mcleanpres.org](http://mcleanpres.org) or call 703.821-0800.

**Serguei Popov and Family** in a colorful program of Hebrew folk, classical and praise music with dancing and drama. June 28, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m., McLean Bible Church, Community Room C, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. No admission fee; no registration. Call Vanessa Tillett at 703/639-2000 X3310 or [vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org](mailto:vanessa.tillett@mcleanbible.org).

**Yard Sale.** Great Falls United Methodist Church holds yard sale. Come shop or sell, Saturday, July 12, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls, Va. 22066. To rent a space (\$20) or for information contact Carol Wesley Wright at [carolwright@starpower.net](mailto:carolwright@starpower.net) or (703) 582-1640.

# Task Force Chairman Sees Benefits of Planning

FROM PAGE 11

ious that the Task Force will put the cart before the horse by increasing zoning densities and encouraging giant high rise offices and apartments before building the rail system.

It has not helped matters that the rail project has been such an on-again, off-again proposition.

**THROUGH ALL OF THIS** controversy, Clark Tyler, like his ancestor heading west, has soldiered on, keeping meetings orderly and civil and quietly helping bring this massive subject down to a size that by fall may produce coherent recommendation to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

From the time he left Harvard

University, he has been in government, but more importantly he has served on things like the Appalachian Commission which were trying to persuade local governments to take action. He has served on White House boards and with AMTRAK as well as years in the private sector as an expert on mass transit, which to anyone who knows Tysons is a key skill in

changing an area that is choked by traffic from dawn to dusk.

The other quite vital skill in Washington for a man like Clark Tyler is a gentleness of nature. He began his career as a "lyric writer for American Broadcasting Company" and still delights in writing "musical plays for my Sunday school class," and still teaches Sunday school long after his own chil-

dren have grown.

As the Dulles Rail controversy broke around him and the battles over high rises and land density have sharpened, Clark Tyler has hone to one clear belief: with or without rail, with or without the task force, Tysons Corner will grow just as it has in the past 40 years and the growth would be better planned than "hodge-podge."

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## 2008 Senior Send-Off

As this year's class of graduating seniors prepare for the next phase of their lives, the Connection Newspapers would like to take one more look at the student-athletes that made a difference, on and off the field, during their four years of high school. Honorees were chosen for a variety of reasons – whether to highlight the top athletes in our area one last time, to shine light on an athlete who may have been overlooked during their time in school, to praise those whose success on the field was matched by their success in the classroom, or just to tell a story that needs to be told.

Special thanks to Robbie Hammer, Craig Sterbutzel, John C. Marcario, Nicolas A. LaMont, Michael Garcia, Andrew Dodson, Greg Rosenstein, John Smith and the entire production staff at the Connection Newspapers.

—PAUL FROMMELT, ERIC J. GILMORE, RICH SANDERS

**Westfield:** Mike Glennon, Kelsey Maloney  
**Centreville:** Brienne Pease, Drake Diamond  
**Chantilly:** Christina Patton, Ian Mills  
**Madison:** A.J. Cybulski  
**Oakton:** Ashley Kimener, Joe LoRusso  
**Fairfax:** Carlos Perez, Emily Ferguson  
**Lake Braddock:** Melanie Akwule, Shane Halley  
**W.T. Woodson:** Mike Muldoon  
**Robinson:** Katherine Yount, Derek Bui  
**South County:** Jesse Beal  
**West Springfield:** Jeff Haeuptle, Brittany Klippstein  
**Hayfield:** Daniel Mills, Erica Guevara  
**R.E. Lee:** Clint Bronder, Brittany Groppe  
**Edison:** Tara White, Ademola Titcombe  
**West Potomac:** Kelly Carmichael, Elizabeth Crowe  
**Mount Vernon:** Beverly Hoath, Bryan Bahr  
**T.C. Williams:** Cara Donley, Carlos Canales  
**Wakefield:** Ben Huff, Maddie Torres  
**Washington-Lee:** Daniel Abecia, Natalie Dahlstrom  
**Yorktown:** Maggie Dean, Steven Kouril  
**Bishop O'Connell:** Eric Kurtzke, Katie Walls  
**Bishop Ireton:** Nick and David Weber, Colleen McFadden  
**St. Stephen's & St. Agnes:** James Williams, Annie Taylor  
**Episcopal:** Zach Glubiak, Trina Brady  
**Marshall:** Samantha Sulser  
**McLean:** David Roffman  
**Langley:** Alex Meadows  
**Herndon:** Marra Hvozdivic  
**South Lakes:** Santos Cerda  
**Broad Run:** Kelly Smith  
**Potomac Falls:** Uche Onyeador  
**Park View:** Samantha Louk  
**Stone Bridge:** Kevin Elliott  
**Dominion:** Dee Dee Fryer  
**Briar Woods:** John Maghamez

# SPORTS Standing Out in the Crowd

## WHAT'S ON THE WEB?

Read more 2008 Senior Send-Off athlete profiles at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

## Oakton's Ashley Kimener leaves her mark.

BY PAUL FROMMELT  
THE CONNECTION

As the youngest of six children, Oakton's Ashley Kimener found it tough to stand out during her childhood.

"We truly didn't know that there were any hidden talent," said Kimener's mother, Carol. "We didn't know anything was special about her."

With siblings ranging from 10 to 3 years older, Kimener always played well above her age.

But when Kimener entered high school and started playing lacrosse with girls her own age, that talent became all-too apparent. The numbers speak for themselves – 143 goals and

### SENIOR SEND-OFF

61 assists during her career at Oakton, including 51 goals this year. This spring, Kimener led the Cougars to their third-consecutive Virginia state title to finish out her stellar high school career.

How's that for standing out?

**COMING FROM A** very athletic family, Kimener, according to her mother, "had a stick in her hand before she could walk." A celebrated high school field hockey player as well, Kimener and her siblings played as many sports as possible – often forcing her parents to run back and forth between games.

Carol Kimener remembers setting up a "friendly family rivalry" during youth games.

"Your brother just scored this many, or your sister just scored this many," she would tell Ashley. "Now beat it."

When Ashley Kimener entered Oakton, she immediately became a starter for the Cougars.

"She has been a starter and a major player on our field for four years," said Oakton head coach Jean Counts.

The Cougars won their first official state title during Ashley Kimener's sophomore year



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Ashley Kimener led the Cougars to three consecutive Virginia state girls lacrosse titles.**

and followed it up with another title in 2007. She was also named the Concorde District and Northern Region player of the year in 2007.

Many believed that 2007 was the peak of the Cougars' success with 10 seniors graduating. When the Cougars started the 2008 season with a 4-4 record and then lost in the district tournament to Chantilly, the Cougars' doubters became louder. All that only strengthened Ashley Kimener's resolve.

"Once it got into playoffs, I took it upon myself and realized that I needed to step it up," she said.

Ashley Kimener lobbied for longer practices during the Cougars' final few weeks, setting the example for work ethic.

"She is the reason that we had three hour practices every day. When I would ask for one more, she would want five more," said Counts.

With Ashley Kimener at the forefront, the

**Name:** Ashley Kimener

**Sports:** Field hockey, lacrosse

**Notable:** Finished her four-year lacrosse career with 143 goals and 61 assists. Led the Cougars to three-consecutive Virginia state titles.

**Quotable:** "Once it got into playoffs, I took it upon myself and realized that I needed to step it up." — Ashley Kimener

Cougars tore through the Northern Region and a Virginia state playoffs. The Cougars' star scored nine goals in the Northern Region finals against Chantilly and then followed it up with a seven-goal performance in the state finals, cementing her place in Oakton athletics history.

James Madison University-bound, Ashley Kimener isn't done with her lacrosse career. When she thinks back to her time playing lacrosse at Oakton, "winning the state title three times in a row will probably pop up," she said with a laugh. "Maybe."

## The Lone Senior Statesmen Marshall's Sulser went from role player to all-district selection.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

Being the lone senior on her team this past season, Marshall High girls' softball player Samantha 'Sissy' Sulser stepped up to the plate in more ways than one.

"She has really great leadership qualities," said Marshall coach Laura

Campbell, who recognized those characteristics right away as the Statesmen's first year head coach this past spring season. "She really stepped up as a leader on the team. She helped the other kids during their ups and downs."

The left-handed hitting Sulser, a designated hitter/first baseman, usually batted fifth or sixth in the line-up for Marshall and

could be counted on to get big hits in key spots. Although the young Statesmen finished just sixth in a tough Liberty District, Sulser, the fourth year varsity player, could be counted on to give her team quality play both at the plate and in the field. Defensively, she committed just one

SEE SULSER, PAGE 19

## SPORTS

# Determination in His Eyes

Oakton's Joe LoRusso finishes high school career with 15 titles.

BY PAUL FROMMELT  
THE CONNECTION

Oakton head coach Phil Tiller could look into Joe LoRusso's eyes and already know the outcome of a race. It was the determination in Tiller's star distance runner's eyes that allowed him to finish with eight district championships, five Northern Region titles and two AAA Virginia state titles over his three-year varsity career.

"He didn't want to be an average kid," said Tiller. "I could look at him before races and just know that he was going to win. You just know it."

Never was that determination more evident than at this year's AAA Virginia state outdoor track and field meet, in which LoRusso, battling the effects of mononucleosis, won the boys 1,600-meter run to close out his stellar career.

"He has just an unbelievable drive to be successful. I don't think it's common at all," said Tiller, who has coached at Oakton for seven years. "It's not like I haven't seen enough kids to know that this isn't something that you see every day."

LoRusso placed second in the mile run at the Concorde District meet this spring and again fell short in the Northern Region meet.

"That was hard for him to swallow," said Tiller.

LoRusso, however, wasn't going to let his physical health stop him from winning what became his last race as a high school runner.

"Mentally, it was taking a toll on me," said LoRusso of the mononucleosis. "It was tough for me to say that I can win the race when I'm feeling terrible."

LoRusso pushed through, finishing with a personal best time of 4 minutes, 13.38 seconds.

"He really is one of the toughest runners that I have ever met and ever coached," said Tiller.

**WHILE LORUSSO'S RUNNING** career began as a way to stay in shape for soccer, it



Oakton distance runner Joe LoRusso won his second state title at the AAA Virginia state outdoor track and field meet this spring.

took only one season of cross country during his freshman year for LoRusso to realize that distance running was the way to go.

"To me, it wasn't about the actual running, but the connection that he made with the team. The coach and the team, they were all his life. It was a way of life," said Sharon LoRusso, Joe's mother. "It was such a nice environment for a young kid starting out high school. I knew that he wouldn't want to leave that group of kids."

It was during that freshman year, when Joe LoRusso ran on the junior varsity team, that Tiller first saw runner's determination.

Joe LoRusso set out to break the Oakton High School record for a freshman mile.

"Even then, I could see that he was trying to make his mark," said Tiller. "He didn't want to be an average kid."

While Joe LoRusso finished just shy of breaking the record, he has succeeded in leaving an indelible mark in Northern Region dis-

**Name:** Joe LoRusso

**Sports:** Cross country, outdoor track and field, outdoor track and field

**Notable:** Named all-district, all-region and all-state 40 times during his high school career.

**Quotable:** "He didn't want to be an average kid. I could look at him before races and just know that he was going to win. You just know it." —Oakton head coach Phil Tiller

tance running.

In three seasons of cross country as well as indoor and outdoor track and field, Joe LoRusso recorded 19 all-district finishes, 13 all-region finishes and eight all-state finishes — a total of 40 medals. The previous high-water mark during Tiller's career at Oakton was 20.

As for a favorite race, Joe LoRusso, who will run for Villanova this fall, has a hard time naming just one.

"Each one is pretty special to me," he said.

## Quiet Confidence

Madison's A.J. Cybulski excelled in football and lacrosse.

BY PAUL FROMMELT  
THE CONNECTION

A.J. Cybulski played football and lacrosse during his four years at Madison. While many of his teammates on the football field also picked up a lacrosse stick during the spring, Cybulski's transition was a little more extreme. A 175-pound offensive lineman during the fall, Cybulski became a speedy attackman during the spring season.

"It is really not natural to go from [offensive guard in football] to attack in lacrosse," said Alan Cybulski, A.J.'s father.

While offensive guards in football are known for their size and strength, attackmen in lacrosse are known for their quickness and agility.

A.J. Cybulski, however, didn't really see a problem.

"I wasn't fast enough to play running back or big enough to play fullback," he said. "That's where I was put."

A.J. Cybulski shined in both sports, helping pave the way for the Warhawks' offense during the football season while become one of the Warhawks' all-time most prolific goal scorers during the lacrosse season.

"[He had] a quiet confidence. No flash, no trash talk. He just went out and did his job, 100 percent," said Nate Dewey, Madison boys lacrosse head coach. "His play was very much a lightning rod for the rest of the team."

A.J. Cybulski finished with over 200 points during his career at Madison, a mark that placed him in the top three in the history of the Warhawks' program.

**DESPITE HIS SUCCESS** on the field, A.J. Cybulski believes that it's the bonds that he formed with his teammates that he will remember as he moves on to the Naval Academy Prep School in the fall.

"I made some great friends in both sports," he said. "You meet a lot of people. It was nice to experience it with them for four years."

He was also able to share the lacrosse field this year with his younger brother, sophomore William.

"It was really nice because we are two years apart and that doesn't usually happen with that age difference," said A.J. Cybulski. "To be able to come home and watch game films with him, to be able to experience the whole season with him. It was awesome. It was nice that we could experience that together."

## Sulser Finishes Softball Career at Marshall

FROM PAGE 18

error all season long.

"She got a lot of big hits for us and she played good defense," said Campbell.

Late in the season, Sulser was honored at Marshall's annual Senior Night home game versus Jefferson. It was a strange feeling for Sulser as the lone Statesmen recognized that evening.

Prior to the game, Sulser was recognized for her contributions to the program. Typically, teams honor several 12<sup>th</sup> graders during Senior Night tributes. But because Sulser was her team's lone senior, she got all the attention.

Teammates had spelled out with plas-

tic cups, 'We love you, Sissy,' on the fence along side the field. And around the on-deck circle, a large blue 'M' for Marshall with 'Sissy' was painted on the grass.

"They went through all that trouble for me," said Sulser, who was touched by the Senior Night tribute. "I just tried to roll with it. I was a little nervous."

**AS A YOUNGSTER**, Sulser played youth baseball for nine seasons (summer and fall) within the Falls Church Kiwanis Little League. One time, she was even teammates with her brother, Garlin, who is one year older than Samantha. Both were members of the Marlins' team.

"It was fun," said Sulser, of playing baseball with boys as a kid.

She went on to make a smooth transition to playing girls' softball. At Marshall, Sulser was not a full-time varsity starter until her senior season. Her freshman year, she played on the JV squad and was a team captain. The following year, as a sophomore, she played JV again, but also got playing time on the varsity as well. And as a junior, she was a backup first baseman on the varsity.

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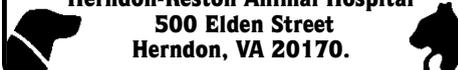
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## Prescription For Pain Re-lief



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I've often wondered, as I get older and wider, and have to take more prescription medications as a direct result, if there is some kind of practical, safe and sensible recyclable-type option concerning all the various and unused prescription medications still bottled up in my (and in so many other's, too, I'm sure) medicine cabinet. It just seems like such a waste of good and effective medicine — not to mention money — to allow these medications to sit idly by, ignored mostly, and not doing what the pharmaceutical companies intended them to do.

Obviously I'm aware that prescription medications, new or used (or rather unused) are prescribed for a specific medical reason/patient and as such are hardly as donatable/usable as an unopened jar of mayonnaise or a canned good, as an example of some of the items collected for good will. But if condiment makers can create a blend of mustard and mayonnaise (dijonaise), certainly the pharmaceutical companies or the creative minds at the F.D.A. (Food and Drug Administration) can devise a system, a secondary-type market, where prescription medications bought and paid for by person "x" can somehow be recertified/requalified as a 100 percent reusable option for those less able to pay. I mean, we recycle trash, can't we find a way to recycle health and welfare products, too? Granted, this task is fraught with danger and regulatory reflux but what greater good is there than to provide aid and comfort to your own citizens — and fellow countryman — at a time when more and more of them, it seems, need it (the aging of the population) and an increasing percentage of them can't afford it; medications that is, to ease their troubled minds and insufficient incomes? If, as a country/planet, we are becoming an ever-greening/carbon footprint-type populace, and we're motivated to "save the trees," as but one example of the hundreds of selfless acts of compassion witnessed on a daily basis, can't we at least attempt to save/conservate the beneficiaries of all these other "conservation" efforts, too, the actual people themselves? I mean, it's only human, to save the humans, even if corporate America is involved, right? Despite the fact that corporations are entities (things, not individuals), they are in fact made up of human beings who know full well the trials and tribulations of their fellow man. It's getting them to take care of it that's the problem. If we could somehow devise a system that would enable corporate America to turn the problem into a solution, and a profitable one at that, thousands, if not millions of their fellow citizens (perhaps even some of their fellow shareholders) could benefit. And what better story to market than one that advances the causes and minimizes the concerns of an entire generation (the Baby Boomers), a generation that will dominate, demographically speaking, for decades yet to come? Who among us doesn't have bottles of prescription medications, some unopened even, accumulating dust, and serving no particular — and current — purpose other than taking up space? Certainly there has to be a better and more useful end for these potentially life saving, and at the very least, life changing medications, than a flush. Our best and brightest have researched and tested, and mass-produced solutions to hundreds if not thousands of conditions/problems, everything from angina to xenophobia, problems that are symptomatic of the times in which we all live. Let's not allow their good work and good deeds to go undone. Why not find a way to "treat" every American with the respect and dignity he — or she — deserves? America is a wealthy country. Unfortunately, many of its citizens are not. So let's find a way to share that wealth, medically speaking. Now that would be a prescription worth paying for.

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

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