Nothing Stops Them

News, Page 3

Carolyn Coveney, grand winner in Vienna Optimists’ contest and a cancer survivor, says nothing can stop her from doing what she wants. “For me, optimism is believing I can achieve my goals.”

Pet Rescue Effort Goes On

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Givology Helps Students Abroad

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NEWS

From Bits of Glass to Art
Maverick Mosaics teaches, creates.

By Donna Manz
THE CONNECTION

In the mosaic art studio on Church Street, sheets of glass tesserae lay waiting to be transformed into artwork. Tables, tools and benches fill the workshops. Along shelves on one wall are mosaic art pieces produced by owner Bonnie Fitzgerald and her students. A gliterring intensely hued Venetian glass art-work highlights a single wall. Maverick Mosaics is the domain of Oakton resident, Bonnie Fitzgerald.

“You can find inspiration anywhere, from nature to lifestyle,” Fitzgerald said. “I think there’s a real desire for people to take mosaic classes for lots of reasons. I know a lot of people who are looking for a second career. Others learn mosaic art to enhance the beauty of their homes, to have beautiful things around them.”

Aspiring mosaic artists from around the D.C. area migrate to Maverick Mosaics. Fitzgerald teaches classes, mentors at scheduled “open studio time,” hosts workshops taught by prominent mosaic artisans and holds a summer camp for students. Somehow, Fitzgerald finds the time to produce custom mosaics for clients.

“The open studio is for people with experience and knowledge in mosaic work,” Fitzgerald said. “Students have access to tools and to each other’s companionship and knowledge.”

On a recent Saturday afternoon, a cadre of mosaic artists worked under the tutelage of visiting artist, Andrea Shreve Taylor, who was conducting a workshop on “installation” of mosaic pieces as part of a larger project. Susannah Dryden of Arlington, creating a pattern for her kitchen backsplash, took direction from Taylor. “I’m making a cartoon cardinal, lots of funky birds against a solid dark background,” Dryden said. “Lots of bright pieces for the birds. I do this because I enjoy it. It’s a creative expression.”

“A lot of the pleasure is the community of friends who get together to do this,” Dryden said.

Students new to Maverick Mosaics must commit to four open sessions. Otherwise, Fitzgerald said, it is pay as you go. In open sessions, students bring their own materials to work with.

The structured classes at Maverick Mosaics include supplies so students do not “have to worry about materials.”

AFTER STUDYING ART in college, Fitzgerald’s career took a different direction in Los Angeles. She worked as a television producer and, in 1988, moved to Northern Virginia. She produced the Kennedy Center Honors before coming full circle back to art. An Oakton resident for 18 years, Fitzgerald started her business there, in her home, 10 years ago. She moved her studio to Church Street last May.

“I use a lot of opaque stained glass because it’s reasonably-priced and readily available,” Fitzgerald said. “Some of the colors are fantastic.”

Color affects pricing. The richer the pigment, the more expensive it is. Red, for example, costs more than green in all tiles. Fitzgerald shares stories behind some of her artwork.

She holds a tray with an emotional history behind it. “A woman’s daughter died and the mother had her mosaic tiles left. She asked me to finish her daughter’s project.” Rather than take any risk with those irreplaceable pieces, Fitzgerald made a trial tray.

A client from Maryland contracted Fitzgerald to create a custom kitchen backsplash for her. Fitzgerald is pulling out slat pieces and replacing them with handmade mosaic tiles in random vignettes. The artist is pleased with the project’s progression. “The client is into red; we live in a beige world. Reds are not common enough,” Fitzgerald said.

FITZGERALD LOOKS to engage the younger generation in mosaic arts, an art form going back more than 2,000 years. It is the reason, she said, she holds the summer camps. The five-day camps run two hours a day and children are grouped, when possible, by age and grade. “Safety is a big issue. The classes are age appropriate.”

She is on the board of directors of the Society of American Mosaic Artists and is active in “Crafts for a Cure,” a cooperative of artists supporting cancer research. Fitzgerald never stops learning. She usually takes the workshops taught by Maverick Mosaic’s visiting artists and makes trips to Venice to learn under master mosaic artists. In 2006 she earned master in mosaico certification at Orsoni Smalti Veneziani in Venice, and she has taken classes and workshops at UCLA, USC, The Corcoran School of Art and Smithsonian Institution.

“When I have my druthers, I like to go to foreign countries like Italy to take workshops, just Venice.”

AT SATURDAY’S WORKSHOP the artists grabbed plates of hot pizza as they worked and talked to one another.

Jessica Maxson of Herndon agrees with Dryden’s description of the art form. “It’s a great outlet for creative expression, as Susannah said,” Maxson said. “Cutting, shaping, watching the picture come to life … it can be very therapeutic.”

MAVERICK MOSAICS is located at 145 Church St. N.W., Vienna. Phone: 703-938-1755. For more information on workshops, classes and art sales, see www.MaverickMosaics.com.
Students with hearing impairments described their goals, as well as their present. Eight students from the Camelot Center who are hearing impaired competed in the Optimists club’s “For Me, Optimism is …” The children described their goals, as well as their present. Nothing Stops Them Students with hearing impairments face the future with optimism.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

Eight fourth- and fifth-grade students stepped up to the podium at the Vienna Optimists Club on Jan. 21. They described their goals, their interests, their past and their challenges. The students spoke on what “optimism” is to them. These children, described by those who heard them speak as “amazing,” are hearing impaired. The Vienna Optimists Club supports learning resources for students at Camelot Center, a Fairfax County school-within-a-school concentrating on the needs of hearing-impaired elementary-school children. Besides contributing financially, Vienna Optimists host a Communication Contest for the children in which they recite a speech they have written on “For Me, Optimism is …” And if they share anything, it is optimism.

“Every night my parents ask me how my school day was. I tell them I had a good day,” said Bravan Dhakal, who said he has a strong desire to go to a good college and become an astronaut when he grows up. “I believe our dreams can come true if we work hard.”

GRAND WINNER, Carolyn Coveney, said her “mummy helped” her write her presentation, as did her teacher. “But they were your ideas,” Coveney’s mother, Jennifer Click, told her. Carolyn detailed her diagnosis of cancer at age 4 and half, her chemotherapy and subsequent loss of hearing. “You can’t change what happens to you,” Click said. “The only thing you have control over is your attitude toward it.”

Carolyn had a list of things she wanted to accomplish. “Optimism is not being afraid of trying new things. Nothing stops me from doing anything I want to do. For me, optimism is believing I can achieve my goals. Optimism is being grateful for my life.” Kevin Reyes is optimistic that he will “grow up and be a good person.” He would like to be a carpenter and build houses for people. “I want to build houses to make money so I can buy my own house, just like my dad.” Sonu Phillips said her parents had faith and a belief that everything “will be OK.”

“Optimism to me is to look on the bright side,” Sonu said. She calls herself a hard worker who never gives up and she wants to be a teacher someday.

“I can do anything I want to do even though it’s very hard and it takes me a long time,” Yasmine Iskander said. “I like to make things and go bowling and golfing. I want to be a teacher to work with students who have a hearing problem.”

For Angela Stone, optimism is being cheerful even though she has a hearing loss. “I know I’ll be OK no matter what,” she said. When she grows up, she wants to work at a place like Home Depot, to help people find things they need to make their homes beautiful. “And I want to be a bicyclist, with the wind blowing through my hair.”

Karina Lucas said that, for her, optimism is the belief that “things will turn out for the best.” All of her friends at her new school have hearing aids, she said, just like her. Her older brother helped her write her “beautiful speech.” She wants to be a teacher or a doctor when she grows up.

Quimari Sawyer agrees with Karina that optimism is believing that things will work out for the best. “In my old school, I felt like I was different, but not at my new school,” Quimari said.

She said she has friends who are hearing-impaired and friends that are not. She loves to read and write about her family. “College will be hard because it will be hard to hear my teachers,” she said.

By Paul D. Shinkman
The Connection

I n his inaugural speech Jan. 20, President Barack Obama addressed poor nations throughout the world, saying Americans will “work alongside you … to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds.” The president need look no farther than across the Potomac River to see his words already in action through a locally founded nonprofit organization.

“Givology is all about transforming education philanthropy,” said co-founder and Vienna resident turned Rhodes Scholar Joyce Meng, explaining how her organization focuses on transparency and making giving easy, something she felt is lacking with larger donation-oriented nonprofits.

This organization, whose main purpose is raising funds for impoverished students abroad, functions primarily through its Web site community where potential donors can peruse listings of students throughout the world, their life story, specifically how much money they need and for what purpose and how much they have already received.

“We have an entirely volunteer staff with no overheads,” Meng said. “All of the donated money goes directly to the students.”

THROUGH THE WEB SITE, donors can post to student’s journals to follow-up on their donation directly or simply relay moral support.

Givology’s staff dedicates much efforts to carefully selecting viable, responsible nonprofit organizations, such as the Peach Foundation or the Peace Nursery and Primary School of Uganda, based in locations lacking education support. Meng insists that donations as small as $5 will make a big difference.

“One hundred dollars may not seem like a lot to [Americans], but it can build a library in China,” she said.

In the five months since its inception Givology has raised more than $2,500 with 198 donations.

“It’s always a good thing when Northern Virginians can pause from their beltway routine to think about people in the world around them,” Stuart Stein of Northern Virginia, an active Givology donor and a former classmate of Meng’s said.

Meng, 22, first had the idea for this organization in April 2008 while an undergraduate at the University of Pennsylvania’s Huntsman Program in International Studies and Business. She worked with co-founder Lauren Zarzar of Oakton, a classmate of Meng’s at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and also at Penn, to develop the model and successfully launched Givology in September. It is awaiting receiving 501(c)(3) nonprofit status.

THE ORGANIZATION has since developed a core group of 10 volunteers, all of whom were seniors together at Penn, who manage Givology. This group includes a chemistry doctorate candidate at Harvard, a bioengineering student at the University of Virginia, and Carl Mackey, a doctorate candidate at Penn who designed Givology’s sophisticated Web site.

“You can pay a firm thousands of dollars to make a Web site like this,” Meng said of the integral feature of the organization. “But one guy did it for us. For free.”

Meng has extensive experience with international development and microfinance through internships at Goldman Sachs, the World Bank and Credit Suisse in Hong Kong to name a few. She is reading for a master of science in economics for development at Balliol College, Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

“I’m tired of talking about what we ought to do,” she said. “Now let’s do something.”

For more information, visit givology.org and peacefoundation.org.
Giguere Guilty

Jury of six men and six women to recommend sentence for voluntary manslaughter this week.

By Ken Moore
The Connection

Marysusan and Ronald Giguere’s 12- and 14-year-old sons had been sleeping in their Crowell Road home in Vienna the night their mother fatally shot their father feet away from their son’s bedroom on March 3, 2008.

Neither testified or attended their mother’s three-week long murder trial in Fairfax County Circuit Court. But the boys’ heartbreaking and anguished cries in the background of their mother’s 911 call remained palpable in the courtroom as a jury contemplated a prosecutor’s argument of murder and their mother’s version of self-defense.

“Oh God, I can’t believe this happened, oh God,” Marysusan Giguere said in the 911 call. Giguere, 53, begged the dispatcher to send help minutes later, although she told the emergency dispatcher she was too frightened to check on the status of her husband after he was shot in the forehead from her .38 revolver.

“We were having, my husband and I, a domestic and the gun went off,” she said. “It was an accident. Oh please, oh please, help us. ... I am so, so, so sorry.”

Last Friday, Jan. 23, the jury of six men and six women found Marysusan Giguere guilty of the lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter. She faces up to 10 years in prison.

The jury is expected to hear final arguments on sentencing Tuesday, Jan. 27, after the Connection’s press deadline, before deliberating on the sentence to recommend.

POLICE FOUND the body of Ronald K. Giguere, 60, in the upstairs bathroom, fatally shot once in the forehead.

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Robert McClain called the scene “nothing short of murder.” The prosecutor described how Ronald Giguere cringed and cowered and knelt down to shield himself when he was shot.

“The evidence is the defendant and Ron Giguere were at least four-to-five feet apart when he was shot,” said McClain.

“Ron Giguere was unarmed when this defendant shot him in the head. That, ladies and gentlemen, is the evidence in this case,” he said.

Police first talked with Marysusan Giguere, dressed in a Redkinks T-shirt and cotton snowman pajama pants, around 2 a.m., March 3 in the driveway of the couple’s home.

Earlier that evening, Giguere spray-painted messages on the roadway — condemning words filled with sexual accusations. Giguere told officers she and her husband had been in an argument and that her husband threatened to kill her.

During the trial, Giguere’s defense attorney Peter D. Greenspun said that the domestic argument couldn’t only be viewed from the upstairs bathroom where Ronald Giguere was shot.

The entire house was a continuous scene for the marital conflict that led to Ronald Giguere’s death, Greenspun said, with drops of Ronald Giguere’s blood throughout the house, demonstrating how Marysusan Giguere attempted to defend herself.

One of the family’s dogs even bit Ronald Giguere during the conflict, Greenspun said.

IN ADDITION to self-defense, Greenspun was expected to argue insanity at the time of the offense during the trial.

Giguere suffered “physical abuse, sexual assault, significant, significant emotional abuse, and torture of abandonment,” said Greenspun in motion hearings last year. But during the trial, there was no mention of the insanity defense.

He is expected to reveal these issues as mitigating factors for the jury to consider in sentencing Tuesday.

In an earlier motion hearing, Greenspun called his client a “physical disaster,” who has had more than 140 appointments with doctors the last couple of years for breast cancer, a double mastectomy, hysterectomy, chemotherapy, fatigue syndrome,See: Giguere. Page 7

Pet Rescue Effort Goes On

Oakcat and dog rescue saves lives, holds adoption fairs.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

T he tiny, 7-week-old patient was driven from Greensville, S.C., to Charlottesville International Airport in the morning of Christmas Eve. An escort met the patient in Charlotte and accompanied him on a mercy flight to Dulles International Airport, where the two arrived in late afternoon. The escort, who paid her own way, turned the baby over to her sponsor and new foster “mom” and returned to Charlotte on the next flight out.

Two days later in Vienna, the ailing patient, tended to by his benefactors, visited the first of medical consultants who would diagnose, treat and try to rehabilitate the baby’s paralyzed back legs.

Commonwealth Cat Rescue Inc. is operated by Chris Haslam of Oakton and a small staff, sponsored the furry patient, Tiny Tim. It is an all-volunteer group with no permanent shelter facility. Rather, Commonwealth relies on foster homes to care for its cats, kittens and dogs prior to adoption. A 501(c)(3) charity, Commonwealth Cat Rescue was formed in the spring of 2006 to support local animal shelters and to assist other rescue groups in the community. It focuses on rescue, rehabilitation and “rehoming.”

Tiny Tim was “famous” by the time he arrived at Dulles.

“ ‘There’s always something about that one animal that grabs you, appeals to you,’ Haslam said. “So, I went to bat for him.”

Without the kind of treatment he’s going to get here, he’d have no chance at all of making it.”

AT PATRICK HENRY LIBRARY Jan. 17, Commonwealth Cat Rescue Inc. hosted a cat and kitten adoption fair. Library patrons stopped by to visit with the cats looking for a permanent home and animal supporters who heard about the adoption fair made their way to Patrick Henry purposefully.

Haslam takes Betty Lou out of her cage. She’s 8 or 9 months old and came to Commonwealth pregnant direct from death row in Culpeper. Betty Lou gave birth to four kittens who were raised by Susan Spaulding in her home. The babies have been adopted and now Betty Lou, soft and fluffy, is waiting for someone to bring her home.

“ ‘Betty Lou’s a typical case,’ Haslam said. “She won’t be here long because she’s cuddly, sweet, friendly and purrs nonstop.”

Haslam said about two-thirds of the adoption fair cats and kittens come from the Morgan County (Va.) Animal Shelter, a no-kill shelter. The two organizations work closely together and Haslam said they have a healthy adoption rate.

“ ‘There’s a demand in this community for healthy, happy, well-socialized cats,’ Haslam said. “The Morgan County shelter has excellent policies and procedures to keep their animals healthy.”

When new guardians leave with their Commonwealth cats, they go with a special adoption kit that includes food and instructions. Commonwealth pays and neuters its animals when they are of safe age.

Eight cats were adopted out from the Patrick Henry adoption fair.

TINY TIM WAS RESCUED by a Greeneville, S.C., animal rescue league after suffering a bite that injured his fragile spinal column. A plea was sent to an e-mail-based community of more than 10,000 animal supporters and more than 100 groups and individuals offered to take Tiny Tim. The rescue group protecting the little creature met to evaluate the suitability of potential rescuers.

“They asked, ‘What resources do you have?’ Haslam said. “I wrote to them by e-mail and made my case.

I detailed financial support and available veterinary care. And the ‘kitten mom’ said she would foster him. We sponsor Tiny Tim, but Susan Spaulding, the ‘kitten mom,’ is fostering him. She’s known across the country.”

Two weeks later, on Jan. 7, a little girl kitten with a similar disability arrived from Georgia to join Tiny Tim and the Commonwealth family. Haslam and Spaulding named her Cristobel.

Commonwealth Cat Rescue Inc. welcomes cash donations to help defray costs of medical care for Tiny Tim and Cristobel. See http://www.petfinder.com/shelters/VA393.html or e-mail chris.haslam@cox.net.

“At the end of the day, we’re not gods, we’re just people and it doesn’t always work out the way we want it,” Haslam said.

TINY TIM TOOK ILL suddenly late afternoon Jan. 14. En route to Hope Emergency Center in Vienna, Tiny Tim died in the arms of foster mom Spaulding. The loss of Tiny Tim, Haslam said, was devasting to all who came to know the sweet-tempered kitten. Cristobel lost her fight the evening of Jan 20.

Chris Haslam of Oakton, director of Commonwealth Cat Rescue Inc., said new mom Spaulding, the ‘kitten mom,’ is typical of shelter cats dropped off when pregnant and left for euthanasia.
Opinion

Crossover Point

A recap of last weekend’s town hall meeting.

By Steve Shannon
State Delegate (D-35)

This past weekend, Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) and I held a town hall meeting in Vienna to provide an overview of this year’s General Assembly and to seek input from constituents. I want to thank all those who attended, as well as the mayor and Town Council for allowing us to use Town Hall on Saturday. I wanted to utilize this article to highlight some key points discussed at the meeting.

This year, House members prefilled 1,193 bills, and Senate members prefilled 831 bills. The House of Delegates will consider House bills until Feb. 10, after which time the Senate will consider the House bills. The Senate likewise will consider Senate bills until this crossover point in the session, and then it will consider the House bills.

Procedurally, some positive changes have occurred in the House of Delegates this session to make the policymaking process more transparent. First, the House of Delegates will now record votes taken in subcommittees. This is important because subcommittee votes can prevent a bill from being considered by the entire House and thus this change allows the public to know how members voted. In addition, the House of Delegates proceedings are now available through a streaming video at http://legis.virginia.gov. While the Senate has provided this service to the public for years, it is a change for the House. Budget discussions dominate the activities of the General Assembly. Declining retail sales, stagnant wage and job growth, and a stressed housing market have resulted in declining projected revenues to the state. We currently estimate that the shortfall in the state’s general fund for the two-year budget is $3 billion, which amounts to about 12 percent of the overall general fund budget. In early February, we will receive another revised revenue forecast, so the shortfall may be larger.

Virginia’s constitution requires the state to maintain a balanced budget. Thus, the governor has proposed amendments to close the budget shortfall, and the General Assembly currently is considering whether to provide alternative amendments. The current proposal calls for transferring the maximum allowable limit from the state’s reserve fund to the general fund, amounting to approximately $500 million. In addition, about $400 million in savings to the current two-year budget can occur by shifting to bond financing for several state projects. The more difficult proposals include the following: more than $400 million in funding reductions to the state’s Medicaid program, more than $400 million in funding reductions to K-12 public education, 15 percent funding reductions to most public universities (10 percent cuts to the community college system), more than $100 million in funding reductions to the Department of Corrections and eliminating the budget’s 2 percent state employee pay raise.

In addition, the current proposal contemplates increasing the state cigarette tax from 30 cents to 60 cents.

See Crossover, Page 7

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Major Party Candidates Plea Their Cases

**Why Vote for Bulova?**

By Sharon Bulova
Democratic Candidate for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

In her own words:

In my years as a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, I have had the opportunity to meet and work with many people from all parts of Fairfax. I am grateful that people tell me that they have chosen to live here because they enjoy the excellent schools, exceptional public safety, and first-rate business climate. They tell me that they realize that is a good place to live, work, raise a family and grow old.

In the upcoming Feb. 3 election for the Chairman of the Board, the most important message that I hear from voters is that they realize the good things about Fairfax County haven’t happened by accident. Voters know that we are one of the best-managed jurisdictions of our size in the country because we have had public leaders who have paid attention, set priorities, made the tough decisions, and demanded quality in all that we do.

In the 21 years I have served on the Board, I have chaired the budget committee for 17 of those years. I know that our budget is our most important statement of our values. We can say we are for something, but it is not. We are putting resources there, we are misleading. I know that building the annual budget is a constant quest for the best balance between revenue and expenses. We have a AAA bond rating, and we also have schools that rank among the very best in the country. We’ve had a Triple-A bond rating since 1975, and we have been the economic engine for the state.

Yet our future success is not preordained. We currently face significant challenges. Most pressing is our $650 million shortfall, the largest in our history and larger than all of our surrounding jurisdictions combined. We face this shortfall despite the fact that taxes on homeowners have doubled in the past seven years. County spending has exploded, growing the budget by a billion dollars beyond inflation and population growth, squandering the good times on misplaced priorities.

We’ve spent $200 million in the past two years to buy government housing and build a large housing bureaucracy that makes us among the largest landlords in the County. We’re subsidizing housing for those making $99,000 a year.

At the same time, our schools are in dire need of renovations and class sizes continue to increase.

Teacher pay has dropped from highest in the region to sixth highest. Despite this, the School Board, with my opponent’s support, wants to spend $130 million on a fancy administration building.

Fairfax County needs a leader with tested financial skills, who knows how to read a balance sheet, how to say “no,” and who will focus spending on priorities. I am a chief financial officer with an award-winning financial track record of turning around troubled companies. I am the only candidate for Chairman with the financial experience necessary to lead us out of this financial train wreck.

I am also a recognized leader in transportation. I sit on the operations board for VRE, and was leading the effort for telecommuting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council before telecommuting was an accepted concept. On the Board, I have led the efforts for both short-term and long-term improvements to the I-66 corridor.

Contrary to my opponent’s accusations, I did not attempt to block the Dulles Rail project. In 2002, I filed suit against the project in order to ensure it was competitively bid, in an effort to save taxpayer money. To date, the project has never been competitively bid. I believe if it had, we would have been able to build a tunnel, the best option for Tyson’s Corner, and still have met federal cost standards.

We can’t afford to wait for Richmond to solve our problems. Thirty years ago when my father, Jack Herrity, was chairman of the Board, private-sector funding for transportation outweighed federal, state and local funding combined. Developers were held accountable for infrastructure improvements. We need to return to this kind of responsible leadership and creative solutions.

We also need to make our commercial tax base a priority. The commercial tax base was 27 percent but has now fallen to 17 percent, shifting the tax burden onto homeowners. It is important now more than ever for government to be responsive to the need for tax relief for residents. That is why last year I proposed a balanced budget that included an actual tax cut for homeowners. My budget also included an increase in education spending and more money for public safety programs than the budget passed by the Board.

I want my children to raise their children in a Fairfax County that is the best place to live, work, and play. I ask for your vote on Feb. 3.

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**Write**

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

Letters to the Editor
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info@connectionnewspapers.com

**Vote Feb. 3**

All Fairfax County polling places will be open on Tuesday Feb. 3 for the special election for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors to replace Gerry Connolly.

**Why Vote for Herrity?**

By Pat Herrity
Republican Candidate for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors

In his own words:

Campaigns are about highlighting differences, but I am confident we can agree on one thing: Fairfax County is a great place to live. For decades we have had the best schools and beautiful parks. We’ve had a Triple-A bond rating since 1975, and we have been the economic engine for the state.

Yet our future success is not preordained. We currently face significant challenges. Most pressing is our $650 million shortfall, the largest in our history and larger than all of our surrounding jurisdictions combined. We face this shortfall despite the fact that taxes on homeowners have doubled in the past seven years. County spending has exploded, growing the budget by a billion dollars beyond inflation and population growth, squandering the good times on misplaced priorities.

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I am also a recognized leader in transportation. I sit on the operations board for VRE, and was leading the effort for telecommuting with the Northern Virginia Technology Council before telecommuting was an accepted concept. On the Board, I have led
**Approaching Crossover Point**

From Page 5

cents per pack, resulting in approximately $148 million, to cover the increasing Medicaid costs from smoking-related illness. It also proposes eliminating the state’s “dealer discount,” which allows retailers to retain a portion of collected sales tax revenues, amounting to an increase of $64 million to the state’s general fund.

Finally, it is important to note that these measures only address balancing the state’s general fund. They do not address the revenue shortfall in non-general fund expenditures, most prominently a large portion of the state’s construction and maintenance funding for transportation projects.

The General Assembly continues to hold public hearings to elicit input on the proposed budget amendments. I would encourage you to contact my office directly as well. We can be reached in Richmond at 804-695-1035 or by e-mail at delshannon@house.state.va.us.

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**Lions Club Sponsors Scholarships**

The Vienna Lions Club will present its 47th James A. Bland Memorial Music Saturday, Feb. 28, 2 p.m., at the Vienna Assembly of God Church, 100 Ayr Hill Ave. N.E., in Vienna. This event is intended to stimulate students who enjoy music to continually grow in their instrumental or vocal skills while performing before an appreciative community audience. Eligibility is open to public, private, parochial and homeschool students up through grades 12. A panel of accredited vocal and instrumental music educators will be serving as judges for this event.

Prizes are awarded to first- and second-place winners in both instrumental and vocal categories. Each first-place winner becomes the Vienna Lions Club representative in run-off contests that lead to a statewide finale in May for 12 scholarships and awards totaling $12,600. There is no cost for eligible students to enter this competition. Interested students wishing to participate should contact their music teacher for guidance in preparing for this contest. Registration forms and contest rules are available from www.blandfoundation.org. Applications must be received by Feb. 23.

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**Giguere Guilty of Killing Husband**

From Page 4

spinal fusion, pneumonia and an irregular heart beat, among other conditions and treatment.

After the death of their father and arrest of their mother last March, the Giguere’s two teenage boys lived for a month with their friend’s family in their Vienna neighborhood. They now live with their aunt, MarySusan Giguere’s older sister, who has custody of them.

“They’re doing well, they’ve been through a lot,” the boys’ aunt testified in the courtroom Monday. “All things considered, they’re doing well.”

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Vienna Dog Park, maintained by the Town of Vienna, features a mulched surface, agility equipment, water and shade. If you have a dog, you’re invited to try the dog-friendly Vienna Dog Park.

Almost 100 acres of beauty and serenity, Meadowlark Botanical Gardens is home to native Virginia plants, flowering trees, ponds and event facilities. Horticultural workshops are offered.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department’s annual Pancake Breakfast is a fun way to start the day, with delicious breakfast foods, entertainment and shopping. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department presents this annual event at the Town of Vienna Community Center. Admission is free, but donations are welcomed.

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**School Notes**

Send School Notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

**Green Hedges School, 415 Winderover Ave. N.W., Vienna, will celebrate International Day, a long-standing school tradition, Friday, Jan. 30, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. The day is focused on promoting the children's vision of peace, where all faiths and cultures respect and understand one another. Vienna Mayor M. Jane McNamee will attend. Schedule of events:

10:15 a.m., Assembly; 11:15 a.m., Parade of Nations; 11:45 a.m., Peace Tree Ceremony. 12 p.m., Cultural foods, games and art projects. 1:15 p.m., Coleman McCarthy speaks to grades 5 – 8. 2:15 p.m., Cultural assembly featuring Indian Dance.

**James Madison High School** is producing a set of eight student-directed one-act plays, nicknamed “bite-sized plays.” These plays, eight in all, are completely produced, directed and acted by students, with minimal-to-no involvement by the adult supporters of the program. The plays run Feb. 5 – 7, with four plays running on the nights of the 5th and 7th at 7 p.m. and four other plays running at 7 p.m. on the 6th and at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday the 7th. $5 for all shows.

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**Faith Notes**

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community. Send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

A staged reading of Archibald MacLeish’s Pulitzer prize-winning play “JB: A Play in Verse” will be performed at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, Sunday, Feb. 8, 4 p.m. The play translates the Book of Job into the modern day story of JB. A discussion will follow the performance, which is free and open to the public. Call the UUFC office at 703-281-4230, or see Special Events, www.uufc.org.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children’s Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.VAOG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachr.com.

A BlankDay of Prayer on “With the Dawn Rejoicing: A Christian Perspective on Pain and Joy” will be held Monday, Feb. 9 at the Dominican Retreat, 7104 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Call 703-356-4243 or visit www.dominicanretreat.org.

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"An Empty Plate in Café du Grand"

SATURDAY/JAN. 31
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Miró Quartet

FRIDAY/JAN. 30
Sonny Landreth,

THURSDAY/JAN. 29
"An Empty Plate in Café du Grand"


The Greatest Hits of the Who, 6 p.m.
Pink Floyd’s The Wall, 7 p.m.
The Greatest Hits of the Who, 6 p.m.
Pink Floyd’s The Wall, 7 p.m.

An Empty Plate in Café du Grand Boeuf
at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Vienna. 2 p.m. $10 adults, $9 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.gov.

National Symphony Orchestra
Ensemble at the Alden Theatre at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean at 7 p.m. Free.

Celtic Concerts, 4, 6, and 8 p.m., The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Pavilion 3 will play Celtic, Belgian and French music. $15/ticket. Call 703-759-3309.

The Birds and the Bees, 11 a.m., Northern Virginia Ethical Society, 225 Nufly St. N.W., Vienna. Melissa Sinclair will discuss how sex education is taught in schools now, describe our society’s attitudes to sex education and suggest what we all can do to improve how we view and talk about sex in society. Free.

Super Bowl and Bingo Party. 5 p.m., Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 S. Center St., Vienna. The fire department will hold their regularly scheduled bingo starting at 5 p.m., followed by the Super Bowl on their big screen television.

MONDAY/FEB. 2

Early Literacy Storytime for Parent and Preschooler. 10:30 a.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

TUESDAY/FEB. 3

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 4

Around the World in Film, 7 p.m. Adults. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

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Vienna Connection  January 28 – February 3, 2009  6
The Madison High boys basketball team, with just a few weeks remaining in the regular season, is in a pretty good position as the postseason looms.

The Warhawks, having won six of their last eight games going into this week, are playing good basketball, especially on the defensive end of the floor. But they know they can get even better and hope to be at or near their peak when the Liberty District playoffs begin Feb. 17.

“We’re doing it with defense,” Madison coach Chris Kuhblank said of his team’s winning ways in recent weeks.

The defense will have to continue to boost Madison (9-5), which does not have a high-powered offensive team.

“We’re putting everything we have into our defense,” said Kuhblank, who added his team’s half-court style of offense, backed up by its all-out, in-your-face defensive prowess, is not the prettiest thing to watch. But it has proven quite effective for the Warhawks, who are 4-3 in district play, third in the standings behind South Lakes (7-1) and Woodson (6-2).

Madison gave it one of those gritty efforts last Friday night in a 50-38 win at district opponent Marshall. The Warhawks were led by their top-two scoring leaders this season, senior post Will Clarkson and senior guard Omi Ogolo, who scored 16 and 10 points, respectively, in the victory over the cross-town rival Statesmen.

BESIDES CLARKSON (20 points per game average) and point guard Ogolo (11.5), Madison does not have any true offensive scoring standouts. That’s fine, as long as the Warhawks smother teams defensively and keep games relatively low scoring. Last year, Madison had the Northern Region’s top-ranked defense and this season the Warhawks are in the top-three defensively.

In Friday’s win, Madison held the Statesmen to just four second-quarter points after Marshall had scored 17 in the first quarter. That shutdown quarter kept Madison in the game as it trailed the home team, 19-15, at the half before outplaying the Statesmen in the second half to win.

Madison struggled with its shooting in the first half against Marshall’s tough 3-2 zone defense. But over the course of the game, the Warhawks made some key plays defensively that resulted in some easier transition baskets. Madison, following its 15-points in the first half, netted 35 after the intermission.

“It was a big road win,” said Kuhblank, whose Madison team lost to Marshall at the 2006 Northern Region semifinals at the Patriot Center after having beaten the Statesmen in the district tourney finals two weeks earlier.

“It’s a big cross-town rivalry and we always get [Marshall’s] best effort,” Kuhblank said. “It’s a good healthy rivalry.”

Friday’s win marked the second time Madison has beaten Marshall this season. In the first meeting between the two teams on Dec. 19, Madison won at home, 61-51.

Madison, going into the Marshall game, was coming off a 53-33 district road loss to Woodson last Wednesday. The Warhawks held a 31-30 lead early in the final quarter of that game before the Cavaliers overtook them.

Prior to that game, Madison had won three straight district games over McLean, Langley and Jefferson. The wins over McLean and Langley both came at home where Madison, going into this week, is a perfect 6-0.

Madison has been a dominant home team in recent years, going 40-6 the past four years. Kuhblank said Madison has a wonderful home-court advantage in its cozy, but loud gymnasium. And he said the Warhawks receive outstanding support from the Vienna community.

“It’s small, but it’s our home,” Kuhblank said of Madison’s home floor. “We have a strong following. The Town of Vienna has high expectations and they want us to win. We have an amazing home crowd and a school and student body that really supports us. It’s a Warhawks Nation.”

Madison was scheduled to play two district home games this week — against South Lakes on Tuesday, Jan. 27, and Stone Bridge this Friday night. The Warhawks will be looking to avenge earlier season losses to both teams.

Vienna Connection Sports Editor Rich Sanders 703-978-5439 or richsand8@aol.com
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This is a great opportunity! The job will involve performing on site bookkeeping for clients in the Vienna area and at our Burke Centre offices. 2 years of experience and college level accounting principals are required as well as proficiency in QuickBooks, Microsoft Word and Excel. This is a truly flexible and enjoyable working environment. Fax resume to (703) 239-1067.

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Program Developer (Position FA039) Workforce Development & Continuing Education, Woodbridge Campus. Full-time, 12 month position; Starting salary range 80,400-121,540 + benefit’s This position will serve as program developer for customized contract training and the development of new non-credit programs which are the most needed and in demand contracts for employers in the market place. Starts as soon as possible. Fax resume to (703) 273-9676.

Counselor (Position FA292) Student Services, Woodbridge Campus. Full-time, 12 month position; Starting salary range: 60,161-84,069 + benefits Position will provide general academic and career counseling to current and prospective students, including program and course selection, transfer planning, new student orientation, high school outreach and career planning. Meets degree in counseling or related with a minimum of 18 semester hours in counseling required. Experience counseling of college and university level and with program development desired. Fluency in Spanish a plus. Some evening and weekend hours required.

NOVA Northern Virginia Community College
NOVA is currently seeking an Advertising Representative for The Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.

By KENNETH H. LOURIE
I did something with my wife, Dina, the other day that I haven’t done in a very long time. I got her car with gasoline for under $25, and that’s with the reserve fuel light on! Meaning her car wasn’t merely low on gas, it was beeping with very few miles to spare before low was empty and the side of the road was in our sites. A sight that, due to the reduction in the price of a gallon of gasoline (regular was $1.79 at my local service station this morning), I won’t be seeing anytime soon since I can all times before the fuel light illuminates.

However, if I am to stop — and then we few short months ago was not available. This change gives me more money to spend, but not to spend on necessities, and I am not so greedy economically-speaking, it would be because consumers/businesses are consuming more (and presumably can afford to pay more) and consuming more means the economy is growing and the price would likely increase to reflect the increasing demand (Capitalism at work). And increased demand is a good thing, right?

The cumulative effect for me through this moment in time, seems to be new-found money. Money that is now available after gassing and heating up that only a few short months ago was not available. This change gives me more money to spend, but not to spend on necessities, and I am not so greedy economically-speaking, it would be because consumers/businesses are consuming more (and presumably can afford to pay more) and consuming more means the economy is growing and the price would likely increase to reflect the increasing demand (Capitalism at work). And increased demand is a good thing, right?

Nevertheless, as bad as those “things” are, I can’t imagine how much worse it would be for consumers if the price of gasoline and/or home heating oil were to return anywhere near their ‘08 peak. But I suppose that couldn’t happen unless there were actual buyers increasing their demand which, with a slowing, maybe even contracting world economy, there simply doesn’t appear to be. As such, since many consumers/businesses can’t afford the price of gasoline/home heating oil at its present levels, it seems like we’re really very appreciatively so I suppose I can keep smiling, especially so if I still have a job.

However, if something dramatic were to happen to the supply, then that would be another story, literally, and probably another column or two as well. Vienna Connection • January 28 - February 3, 2009 • 14
Be the first person to fax in the correct crossword puzzle answers, and we’ll put your name here! Fax the completed puzzle, with your name, the puzzle number, and the time and date of the fax, to the Crossword Puzzle Desk, fax (703)-917-9633.

The winner of puzzle #0415-6 is:

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January 28 - February 3, 2009
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