

Ruth and Chuck Ebert
married 62 years ago.
Respect, loyalty, perse-
verance, cooperation
and communication are
the keystones of a solid
marriage, they believe.

Vienna Love Stories

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 11 ♦ FAITH, PAGE 14 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 16 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 17

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Oakton's
Year-Round
Farmers' Market

NEWS, PAGE 3

Professional Theater
Comes to
Tysons Corner

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10



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The Collier family, Deb, Kimo and son Chris, buy some goat cheese from Heritage Farm and Kitchen. Heritage producers, Nevin Hostetter and John Showalter, make the trip from Pennsylvania. "Business is pretty good for winter, especially for our poultry," Hostetter said.



Smart Markets operator, Jean Janssen, chats with regular market customer, Barbara Harding.

Vienna Love Stories

Couples married for life reflect on their marriages.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

These aren't the kind of love stories found between the pages of People magazine or in hot romance novels. They are, instead, love stories of ordinary people whose marriages have stood fast for many years, through happy times and sad times, through lean times and richer ones.

RUTH AND CHUCK EBERT, married 62 years: Ruth and Chuck "Wib" Ebert met while both were in high school in small-town Charleroi, Pa. Wib's father owned a grocery store and the young man delivered groceries to Ruth's home. The night before he was to leave for Army training, May 3, 1943, "Wib" called up 17-year-old Ruth, asking her out for a bite to eat and the movies.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

"I guess, I wasn't busy so I said 'yes,'" Ruth Ebert said.

Ruth and Chuck Ebert married 62 years ago.

When Chuck Ebert heard her say that, he didn't miss a beat. "Thank goodness she wasn't busy or this might never have happened," he said.

The young couple wrote to each other while Chuck Ebert was in the service. He was released from the Army on Valentine's Day, 1946, and nine months later, the two got married. This past Nov. 27, the Eberts celebrated their 62nd anniversary.

"While he was overseas, I became well-acquainted with his parents," Ruth Ebert said. "They invited me over for Sunday dinner. I always called them Mother and Dad Ebert ... not first names."

Chuck and Ruth moved to Washington, Pa., where Chuck Ebert became a college student. Ruth Ebert worked while Chuck went to school and they lived in a "little furnished apartment," Ruth Ebert said. "We loved that time, it was beautiful. We had no car, so we walked everywhere."

Chuck Ebert credits his wife with his academic success. "The only reason I did as well and I did was that she studied with me," Chuck Ebert said. He continued at Wharton School of Finance, getting an MBA, and, in 1964, Chuck and Ruth Ebert moved to

Oakton's Year-Round Farmers' Market

Farmers' Market plans series of family events.

A year-round farmers' market, just a minute away from Route 123, has come to Oakton. From chicken freshly-butchered by Mennonite farmers to lean Piedmontese beef from Fauquier County cattle to hydroponic vegetables, freshly-baked breads and pastries and handcrafted pasta, there's enough variety for most cooks ... and diners.

"I saw a need from both the community's point of view and the farmers' point of view," said Smart Markets creator and operator, Jean Janssen of Fairfax.

Smart Markets opened last winter in Oakton on the grounds of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax at 2709 Hunter Mill Road. The winter market usually has about a half dozen vendors. Janssen would like to see a maximum of a dozen by summer.

Janssen had been a market master at Fairfax County farmers' markets at Nottoway Park and Wakefield Park. She created Smart Markets to fulfill a need, she said.

"The county doesn't guarantee producer-only products," Janssen said. "It takes a lot of time and expense to get to know the farmers, to know who is truly producing the products they sell and who isn't. The county doesn't have a community outreach program, either, at their markets."

Vendors man their booths from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., every Saturday morning, at the

What and Where

Smart Market, a year-round farmers' market, is located on the grounds of Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax at 2709 Hunter Mill Road. It is open on Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

VIEWPOINTS

What do you think of this year-round farmers' market?

Ann Marie Rodgers, Fairfax

"I think it's a great idea. It's a wonderful way to meet local people and find local products. I bought some meats and breads today."



Barbara Harding, Oakton

"I like to eat healthy food. The year-round market is an excellent idea. You don't get this type of food at standard grocery stores. I happened to be here the first morning they opened up and I've only missed two or three so far."



— DONNA MANZ

Nancy Peters, Vienna

"I think it's wonderful. I miss the farmers' markets when they close. This market has great quality goods and even though the weather is cold, they're always here. Almost every week I get vegetables from the Mennonites and



the fresh bread from Staff of Life is fantastic. Everything I've tried I like. The Angelic beef is very lean and the pasta is delicious."

Amalia Harte, Herndon

"I love it. It's really nice because I like farmers' markets. I like fresh meats and being able to sample organic food. I think a year-round market is a great idea."



Oakton site. Smart Markets has an inclement weather policy, but Janssen said the market has closed only once — in January of this year — since its introduction in early 2008.

"As spring approaches, we will be adding new vendors," Janssen said.

A children's book author is scheduled for May, as is a jazz concert. Volunteer children's cooking instructor, Sophie Frederickson, aka Miss Sophie, will be conducting free cooking workshops with children once a month in February, March and April, indoors in the church kitchen. Janssen said that when the weather warms up, Miss Sophie will be at the market twice a month.

Currently, Smart Markets runs three farmers' markets: Oakton, Reston and Fair Lakes.

A pound of Angelic ground beef sells for \$5.50, stew meat for \$6 a pound, up to \$22 a pound for filet mignon steak. Hydroponic lettuce was priced at \$3 a head, free-range chicken from \$5 to \$6 a pound, and eggs from uncaged hens for \$3.50 a dozen at Heritage Farm and Kitchen.

Cavanna Pasta sold gnocchi pasta for \$5 a pound and fresh crushed tomato pasta sauce for \$3 for a small container.

For further details, and inclement weather updates, go to www.smartmarkets.org.

— DONNA MANZ

SEE MARRIED, PAGE 5

Bulova Becomes Chairman

Democrat won special election by slim margin Feb. 3.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Former Braddock District Supervisor Sharon Bulova (D) was sworn in as the Fairfax County Board of Supervisor's newest chairman at the county government center Feb. 6.

Bulova defeated Springfield Supervisor Patrick Herrity (R) by 1,217 votes, a margin of less than two percent, in a special election for the countywide seat three days earlier. She replaces now U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), who left the office to join the U.S. Congress in early January.

A 21-year county board veteran, Bulova serves as chair of the supervisor's budget committee and was a founder of the Virginia Railway Express (VRE), a commuter train to Washington D.C. with stations in southern and central Fairfax.

In opening remarks at the swearing in ceremony, Fairfax County public information officer Merni Fitzgerald also said Bulova had "championed the redevelopment of Tysons Corner as an environmental project," while serving as Braddock District supervisor.

AS CHAIRMAN, Bulova has her work cut out for her in 2009. Fairfax County must close a projected \$650 million budget hole in the annual budget that begins in July.

Approximately 75 percent of the local government's revenue comes from real estate taxes and the county's property values have fallen significantly. The supervisors would have to raise the real estate property tax rate 14 to 15 cents just to keep county revenue at the same level as last year.

According to Bulova, residents should brace themselves for some cuts to county services, though Fairfax will try to take care of its most vulnerable citizens.

"We will adopt changes that will bring our budget into equilibrium ... [But we] need to take care of those among us who need our help now more than ever," said the new chairman at the swearing in ceremony.

"Working together, we will come through these difficult financial times. ... The darkest hour is just before the dawn," she added.

THOUGH FACING a tough situation, Fairfax County's economy is also resilient, according to Bulova.

Hilton Hotels recently decided to move its headquarters to Fairfax over other local jurisdictions. The military's Base Realignment And Closure process will also bring new jobs and economic development to the southern part of the county, said Bulova.



Sharon Bulova addressed the crowd after her swearing in as Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.



Judge Jan Brodie swore in Sharon Bulova as the new Fairfax County chairman Feb. 6.

As chairman, Bulova will also push for the extension of Metro rail west in the Interstate 66 corridor and the expansion of VRE services, she said.

HERRITY, whose father served as board chairman in the 1970s and 1980s, attended Bulova's swearing-in ceremony.

His race with Bulova is the closest high-profile countywide contest between a Democrat and Republican in several years. The last two Fairfax County chairmen, both Democrats, won their seats by a larger margin than Bulova did last week.

Former chairman Kate Hanley beat former Supervisor Elaine McConnell (R-Springfield) in a 1995 special election with 52 percent of the vote and approximately 3,500 ballots. In 2004, Connolly won his first chairman's race by nine points and approximately 17,000 ballots.

Bulova lost two magisterial districts, Mount Vernon and Dranesville, which Hanley and Connolly had won over the past four election cycles.

Fairfax County Chairman Special Election Results

Fairfax County provided these returns for the Fairfax County chairman special election Feb. 3.

District	Voter Turnout (%)	Bulova	Herrity
Braddock	22.7	8,750	5,849
Hunter Mill	15.5	6,655	5,129
Dranesville	17.1	5,810	6,252
Lee	13.3	4,665	3,489
Mason	15.7	4,510	3,519
Mount Vernon	14.7	5,066	5,256
Providence	14.7	5,148	4,356
Springfield	18.9	5,758	9,155
Sully	11.9	3,437	5,023
Absentee	-	2,150	2,704
Total	16.1	51,965	50,759

Herrity said the election results prove that not all residents are pleased with the direction of the county's leadership in recent years.

"I am going to continue to stand up for what I believe in. ... Clearly there is a difference of opinion in the county," he said.

THE ELECTION RESULTS do not necessarily reflect the views of the larger electorate. Voter turnout for the special election, at 16.1 percent, was low countywide.

Of the Fairfax's nine magisterial districts, Braddock — which Bulova has represented for over 20 years — had the highest voter turnout of 22 percent. Springfield — which Herrity and his father have both represented — had the second highest, with 18.9 percent.

With 11.9 percent, Sully was the magisterial district with the lowest turnout in the special election. It is also the only district besides Herrity's Springfield that is represented by a Republican, Michael Frey, on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

WEEK IN VIENNA

House Leaders Endorse Shannon

Del. Steve Shannon (D-35) announced that his campaign for Attorney General has earned the support of House Democratic Leader Ward Armstrong (D-Henry) and Caucus Chair Ken Plum (D-Fairfax).

"Having the support of people like Ward Armstrong and Ken Plum will be a tremendous asset as we take our campaign to the people of Virginia for the next nine months," said Shannon.

"Steve will be a terrific Attorney General because he has his priorities straight," said Democratic Caucus Chairman Ken Plum (D-36). "I've known Steve a long time and I know that he will fight everyday to protect Virginia families. He'll fight to protect children from gangs and predators, and he'll also fight to protect our jobs and our savings from fraud."

Man Burglarizes Occupied Home

On Feb. 7 at approximately 5 a.m. an unknown male entered an occupied home in the 1000 Block of Moore Place S.W. in Vienna and stole a laptop computer. It is believed that the individual entered the home through the front door and then began looking around the home. The man then checked inside several bedrooms, including the occupied bedroom of the resident and fled when she noticed him.

The man is described as a white male, 16-25 years of age, 5 feet 3 inches tall, wearing a dark hooded sweatshirt. Anyone with information on this case is asked to contact Detective Scott Leroux at 703-255-6332.

Man Arrested for Shooting Hawk

On Feb. 7 while on routine patrol, Officer Maiorana of the Vienna Police Department heard a gun shot coming from the yard of a citizen near Courthouse Road and Locust Street S.W. He then observed an individual with a shotgun in his hands.

The individual shot a hawk out of his tree because it was preying on squirrels in his yard. The man was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center and formally charged with Discharging a Firearm in a Public Place and Cruelty to Animals; both misdemeanors. He was released by the Magistrate on his personal recognizance.

Married for Life

FROM PAGE 3

Vienna with their 11-year-old son, Mark.

They've lived in the same house for more than 44 years. Both sets of parents moved to Vienna to be near Chuck, Ruth and Mark. Mother Ebert lived with them, doting on Mark. "She adored that boy," Chuck Ebert said. Ruth's parents lived nearby on Park Street.

"The years that our folks lived in town were good years," said Ruth Ebert. "I think that's important for young people, especially when they have children and the children and grandparents get to know one another.

"So many people only get to see their grandchildren once or twice a year. The closeness of family has always been very important to us," Ruth Ebert said.

'I DO' TODAY AND YESTER-

DAY: Ruth and Chuck Ebert reflect on the differences between the "old" days and now. "Younger people want to have so many things," said Ruth Ebert. "We didn't have much money when we were young, but it never bothered us. We didn't think of not having money that way."

"We've had a lot of highs in our lives," said Ruth Ebert. "And a lot of sad times, too," Chuck Ebert said.

There were deaths of close family members, loved ones whose time was cut short abruptly. Chuck's brother, wife and dog were killed in an accident on the Baltimore beltway. Change of jobs brought stress and during one Christmas season when Mark was young, Chuck Ebert was hospitalized. The train set Mark's parents bought just sat there.

"I didn't know how to set up a train, so our neighbor, who had no children, came over and set it up for me," said Ruth Ebert. "There's all the difference in the world between marriages made 50 years ago and now," said Chuck Ebert.

Chuck and Ruth Ebert note they got married young, she at 21, Chuck at 22.

"Couples now get married later and they tend to have financial backing when they get married," Chuck Ebert said.

"We had 39 cents when we came back from our big honeymoon," said Ruth Ebert. The couple spent two nights in Pittsburgh.

Twenty-five years ago, Chuck was diagnosed with diabetes and over the years has suffered two heart attacks. His vision is failing him now and he requires oxygen throughout the day and night. But



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Wayne and Onita Comer will celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary in June. They identify a forgiving heart, sense of humor, love, respect, knowing each other well and flexibility of character as foundations of a strong marriage.

still, the couple enjoy life and their time together with family and friends.

"I get large-print books for him," said Ruth Ebert. "He can read and likes to read, so it's important he keep that up."

Ruth and Chuck Ebert sprinkle their conversations with terms of endearment and finish each other's thoughts. "We have been so truly blessed," Ruth Ebert said.

The Oakton United Methodist Church is a big part of their lives, friends helping each other out. Ruth Ebert was made an "honorary member" of the men's fellowship club there because she used to drive Chuck to the meetings.

Ruth and Chuck Ebert have a son, Mark, married to Cindy, and four grandchildren, all girls. Mark and Cindy Ebert live in Fairfax and Ruth and Chuck see Mark and Cindy often.

What makes their marriage work?

Chuck Ebert said it's perseverance, loyalty, working together ... and communication is the key.

To those things, Ruth Ebert adds, "respect for each other."

"In our day, you had to work for things. You expected to work in a marriage. You didn't buy things if you didn't have the money to pay for them. Finances can be a big problem. Younger people seem to want more."

Sometimes, Ruth Ebert said, one person wants to go one way and

the other wants to go another way. "That's why communication is so important."

"I guess another thing I would say is that we've had our share of disagreements, but we've never had them in front of people," said Ruth Ebert. "We talk things out in private."

"And never go to bed angry," Chuck Ebert added.

Ruth Ebert smiles at her husband. "We're stuck together here. You can't get rid of me, Kid," she said.

ONITA AND WAYNE COMER, married 55 and half years:

Wayne and Onita met in October 1950. He was a 23-year-old law student at the University of Richmond, and Onita, then 21, moved to Richmond to work. Each had only been in town for a few weeks when fate stepped in. Wayne Comer made a date with a young woman, living in a women's boarding house. The woman canceled the date, but introduced Wayne to Onita.

"I don't remember where we went, but I didn't have much money then, so it had to have been inexpensive," says Wayne Comer.

It was an "Orange Julius," Onita Comer reminds her husband of almost 56 years. "Virginia was dry in those days." They did a lot of talking, she said, about their lives

SEE LOVE STORIES. PAGE 13

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PEOPLE



The Fairfax Symphony held its annual Valentine Pops Gala fund-raiser on Friday evening, Feb. 6, at the McLean Hilton.

Valentine Pops Gala at McLean Hilton

PHOTOS BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION



Former state Sen. Jeannemarie Devolites Davis and her husband, former U.S. Rep. Tom Davis of Vienna.



Cathy Connolly of Fairfax and Pete Johnson of Vienna.



Jane Lieberman and Mike Damato of Vienna.



Zan Vourakis and Pete Johnson of Vienna.



Jerry Gordon of Burke, Elizabeth Murphy of Oakton and Bob and Robin Thurman of Oakton.

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Selection of poetry, essays from Kathy Porterfield's fifth grade; Terri Connell's fourth grade and Sara Harper's third grade classes.

Home, Where the Heart Is

No matter where you go,
No matter where you fight.
There will always be,
A single burning light.
Your light is being guarded.
Even through the night,
By someone who still misses you,
But hopes you stopped the fight.
You long,
They long,
To return home,
Just for a night.
Home.
Where the heart is.

— PERRY FENG, GRADE FIVE

Santa's Ride

Ho, ho, ho, and down you go!
Down through the chimney to the fireplace below.
Ho, ho, ho and now you go!
Past the room where the children sleep.
Ho, ho, ho and then you go!
Tip toe, tip toe don't trip, tip toe,
To the big room with big green tree.
To put down the gifts wrapped all nice and neat
Under the tree for children who sleep.
Then, ho, ho, ho and back you go!
Tiptoe, tiptoe
And back you go
Past the room where the children sleep.
Ho, ho, ho and up you go!
Right up the chimney
And smile for you know
What the children will say
"Oh, oh, oh"
Ho, ho, ho and away you go!
'Till next year.
Where will you go?

— RACHEL JAMES, GRADE FIVE

Winter Blanket

Snow is delicately dancing down from the heavens,
Each flake unique.
It's coating everything in a light blanket of powdered sugar,
Making the world beautiful in a coat of white.

— ALYSSA MANCEBO, GRADE FIVE

My Holiday Wishes

My holiday wishes include world peace, for the economy to go up and the new president to make our country a better place. World peace means no wars, and less crime. It isn't just for the U.S.A. but all around the world! Everyone can have world peace! For example, in the U.S.A. we have troops in Iraq. We want them to come back to the U.S.A. The new president, Barack Obama, is the first African-American president in the U.S.A. He is probably going to make the U.S.A. a better place; bringing an end to the war and helping improve the economy. I think he will make a good president. The economy going up is another wish. Many families have or own businesses, where it is getting harder to pay taxes and employees. These are my holiday wishes and I hope they come true.

— ALDEN WAGNER, GRADE FOUR

Fall

The cold wind blows the red leaves fall slowly
Halloween and Thanksgiving are soon coming
Fall sports start the migrating birds come back
Home people are raking leaves and shaking trees

— RACHEL JACKSON, GRADE THREE

CRIME

Activities reported by the Vienna police department through Feb. 5.

FRAUD

300 Block Dominion Road N.E. An employee advised that sometime during the listed times unknown subject fraudulently filed tax papers using the identity of the employee. The Internal Revenue Service had contacted the employee to notify him that he needed to pay back taxes, between Jan. 1, 2006-Dec. 31, 2006.

400 Block Lewis Street N.W. A husband and wife discovered that an unknown individual had changed their addresses with a credit card company and made fraudulent charges to the card. This case is still being investigated, Dec. 26, 2008-Jan. 23.

600 Block Yeonas Drive, S.W. A citizen reported that an unknown individual had fraudulently used her credit card number to withdraw a large sum of money via a cash advance. This case is still being investigated, Jan. 30.

LARCENY

200 Block Lawyers Road N.W. A visible DVD/ Navigation System was stolen from inside a locked vehicle during the listed times. Forensic evidence was recovered at the scene. This case is still being investigated, Jan. 29-30.

200 Block Commons Drive, N.W. A set of sub woofer speakers were stolen from inside a locked vehicle. Entry was gained by breaking out the driver's side window, Feb. 2-3.

200 Block Ceret Court S.W. A pair of Nike shoes was stolen from inside a locked vehicle during the listed

times. Entry was gained by breaking out the driver's side window, Feb. 3-4.

900 Block Myers Circle S.W. A visible GPS unit was stolen from inside a locked vehicle during the listed times. The driver's side window was broken out to gain access. As officer Mangan was taking the above report he noticed another vehicle which had sustained the same damage and another visible GPS unit was stolen. A third vehicle was spotted by Officer Mangan with a broken out driver's window however nothing had been removed from inside the vehicle. This case and these events are being investigated further by Detectives, Feb. 3-4.

200 Block Ceret Court S.W. A visible backpack was stolen from inside a locked vehicle during the listed times. The driver's side window was broken out to gain access, Feb. 3-4.

100 Block Kingsley Road S.E. February 4 2:31 p.m. A subject purporting himself to be a contractor met with the victim at Stahlcup's Hardware Store and offered to give him an estimate on some work inside the victim's home. While there, the contractor told the homeowner/victim to remain in the basement while he "Walked around upstairs to see if ductwork moved". After the events, the contractor left and the victim noticed a quantity of Percocet painkillers was missing. Forensic evidence was collected at the scene. This case is still being investigated, Feb. 4.

500 Block Maple Ave. W. A bicycle was stolen from out side of McDonalds by an unknown black male while the owner was eating inside the restaurant, Feb. 4.

DOMESTIC DISPUTE

200 Block Park Terrace Court. Two women were having a verbal altercation and summoned police. The argument was over poor communication and was not physical in nature. PFC Lewis successfully resolved the matter, Jan. 31.

200 Block Elm Street S.W. A man and his girlfriend were having an argument regarding the girlfriend's children. The children were in fear of returning to their mother's house due to her condition after she had consumed alcohol. The mother relented and allowed the children to stay at another location. Fairfax County Child Protective Services was contacted and made aware of the situation, Feb. 1.

VANDALISM

300 Block Meadow Lane S.W. A citizen's vehicle was egged by unknown subjects during the listed time period, Jan. 30-31.

OTHER VIOLATIONS

500 Block Orchard Street N.W. Possession of Marijuana: Officer Maiorana conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for committing a traffic violation. After approaching the vehicle and speaking with the occupants, he detected the possible presence of marijuana inside the vehicle. Marijuana was located on the person of each of the two occupants. The driver and passenger were both summonsed for Possession of Marijuana. The driver was additionally charged with Failure to Stop for a Stop Sign. Both parties were released after signing summonses for the violations, Nov. 21.

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Right now, some of the guns sold at gun shows in Virginia are sold without the background check required of gun sales in any other official setting. This allows even convicted felons, stalkers with restraining orders against them, and people with documented mental health problems that could make them a danger to themselves or others a clear path to purchasing a firearm.

EDITORIAL

There is no reason for this.

In November, at the "Nation's Gun Show" the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly was the scene of record gun sales. It was an ebullient gathering of people with shared interests, and no doubt all but the tiniest percentage of participants were law-abiding, responsible people, fully qualified to own the guns they were buying. The record sales were motivated in part because of concern by some gun enthusiasts about new restrictions on some firearms that could come with Democratic control of Congress and the White House, and in part because of the recession.

Why would those people want to run the risk that a tragedy like the one at Virginia Tech nearly two years ago that claimed the lives of 33 people would involve a gun purchased without a proper background check at the Nation's Gun Show?

For the record, the Virginia Tech shooter was able to buy his guns legally because his name was mistakenly not included on the list of those excluded from gun ownership; he was previously ruled a danger to himself or others and should not have been able to buy from a licensed gun dealer. But if he had been excluded through normal means, he could have traveled a few miles from his home to the gun show in Chantilly in search of weapons he could buy without a background check.

In any event, legislation in the General Assembly that would have closed the gun show loophole is dead for this year. Only one Northern Virginia senator, Ken Cuccinelli, voted against closing the loophole.

Budget Dominates Assembly Discussions

BY MARGI VANDERHYE
STATE DELEGATE (D-34)

lition observed from the gallery.

We are halfway through our legislative session. All the bills that originated in the House have been passed or voted down in committee or on the floor and will now be considered by the Senate. We begin to deliberate this week on the bills that were passed in the Senate, some of which are similar to bills considered by the house.

One example of a bill that has a "twin" is HB2200, my bill to create a fund to treat underserved women with breast or cervical cancer. The bill passed unanimously with many co-sponsors from both parties. In the Senate, Mary Margaret Whipple (D-Arlington) introduced a version of the bill that also passed unanimously. The bills will be assigned to a conference committee to work out small differences between the two. This kind of affirmation reinforces the chance that the legislation will ultimately pass each house and be signed into law by the governor. The Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention and Treatment Fund will qualify for a two-to-one federal match and will reduce health-care costs and mortality through early diagnosis and treatment for indigent Virginia women. After working for more than a year, with the guidance and advice of numerous stakeholders and legislators on both sides of the aisle, I was thrilled to have HB2200 pass unanimously as representatives from the Virginia Breast Care Coa-

AT THIS WRITING I expect favorable consideration on several more of my bills that were reported out of committees without opposition. One of them is HB2201 that calls for consolidating the councils that advise the governor on research and development in technology. When enacted, the new streamlined technology authority will reduce current costs and will include university presidents, financial leaders and entrepreneurs among its appointees in order to make sure that our critical technology industry remains vibrant.

Another of my bills, HB2171, will remove legal barriers to farmers who want to invest in waste to energy technologies, such as methane digesters. The legislation paves the way for economic development for our farming communities, offers a way to clean up our water supply and gives us a chance to develop an alternative energy source right here in Virginia. On two headline issues that our citizens consider important, there is good news and bad news. The good news is that a compromise was reached to place limitations on smoking in restaurants, an important step to reduce the effects of second-hand smoke and related health-care costs. Considerable effort will be made to keep the compromise intact throughout the



RICHMOND REPORT

remainder of the session. The bad news is that once again, both the Senate and the House have declined to close the gun-show loophole, a measure that has overwhelming support in our district and throughout Northern Virginia. Despite intense lobbying, there is almost no chance this legislation will come to an up or down vote on the House floor before 2010.

THE BUDGET continues to dominate the discussions and debates in both houses. The extent to which the federal stimulus package will affect our Virginia

economy remains uncertain, but any help in transportation and education funding can offset some of the painful choices we must consider to close our current deficit of more than \$3 billion. A special session of the legislature is possible this spring to assess the impacts of the stimulus funds. Each of the bills I have successfully introduced this session have benefited from bipartisan cooperation and support. I hope that the budget deliberations receive the same serious bipartisan collaboration. The stakes for Virginia are too high to do otherwise.

As always, I welcome your comments and views about our state government. You can still fill out my survey by going to www.vanderhye.com. Thank you.

VIEWPOINTS

Valentine's Day: Celebration of Love

**Clint Leonard,
McLean High School
Class of '09**

"It's a day where people love each other."

**Natalie Holm,
McLean High School**

"It's just a day where you can go all out about your feelings for someone. On a normal day it would be weird, but Valentine's Day gives you an excuse."



— MERRILL ROTH AND DANIELLE LANDAU

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'Day of Service' in Neighborhood

A group of Vienna children who call themselves **The Global Warriors** celebrated Martin Luther King Day last week as their "Day of Service" cleaning up their neighborhood creek and park. The picture shows what they have collected from Foxstone creek.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

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.

The **sixth-graders of Colvin**

Run's Character Education program will be doing a project to clean up and beautify Wolf Trap on March 23 and 30. Three classes will participate each day. Fifth graders will lead sneaker recycling Saturday, May 16.

Sneakers in good condition will be donated to charity. Sneakers that are no longer usable will be donated to NIKE Grind, to be ground up and used to make sports courts around the world. The Kindergarten will hold a book drive March 23-27.

Second grade will be making art kits to donate to Georgetown University Hospital; the fourth grade team applied for a grant to start a recycling program at CRES. Details of the recycling are beginning to be discussed.

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Photo by Kenneth M. Wyner

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Professional Theater Comes to Tysons Corner

'Pig Farm' runs four weeks.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

For several years, a group of theater enthusiasts talked about creating professional theater in Fairfax County. In June of 2008, their concept became reality. Housed a quarter mile from Leesburg Pike on Spring Hill Road, 1st Stage Theatre opened its 100-performance seat theater in September. On Feb. 13, 1st Stage premieres a four-man play, "Pig Farm." The play's original run, at the Roundabout Theatre in New York and the Old Globe in San Diego, was in 2006.

"We're trying to provide a place for young local talent to launch professional careers and get professional credits to their names," 1st Stage spokesman, Brad Kalbfeld, said. "Secondly, but just as importantly, we want to provide a local cultural center where people can see new productions at

a reasonable price. "1st Stage would like to be part of the betterment of Tysons Corner."

For the principals and founding members, 1st Stage is a labor of love, Kalbfeld said.

Only artists are paid; all others, from artistic director to operations, set design and construction, and fund raising, are volunteers. Volunteers pitch in where ever help is needed.

"We all find the time when we can do what we can to contribute to the success of the theater," Kalbfeld said. Kalbfeld and artistic director, Mark Krikstan, are retired. Krikstan spent 12 years teaching drama at George C. Marshall High School, leading the school's One-Act Play drama team to the state championship five times. Kalbfeld worked as a broadcast reporter and editor for the Associated Press in Washington, D.C., and Great Britain.

"There's no professional theater in Fairfax County," Krikstan said. "Kids go off to college majoring in theater and have nothing to come home to professionally. When I was at Marshall, I took kids on field trips to D.C. and New York, but never locally.

"That's where the impetus for this came from. To answer a need, to fill a void of the theater experience."

Founding members of 1st Stage are Krikstan, Deb Crerie, Alex Mandell, Lucas Beck, Nat Krause and Vienna residents Jane Kalbfeld, Brad Kalbfeld, Peter Van Valkenburgh, and David Winkler. Jane Kalbfeld, Brad's wife, studied in New York under famed acting coach, Stella Adler. She works as a voice and acting coach now. "Mark has such an eye for detail and that's how I was trained," said Jane Kalbfeld.

There are approximately 15 people volunteering their time and skills to 1st Stage. Stage manager, Lauren Friedman, is a 2003 graduate of Marshall High School and lives in Vienna. The theater company is a 501 (C) (3) nonprofit organization, primarily funded at this time by personal contributions. Ticket sales are 1st Stage's main source of financial support. "We are looking for opportunities to work with our corporate neighbors in Fairfax County," Brad Kalbfeld said.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Community outreach coordinator, Sean Whinnie, artistic director Mark Krikstan and spokesperson/set builder Brad Kalbfeld stand on the set of "Pig Farm."

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FROM THE PLAYWRIGHT of "Urinetown," "Pig Farm" is part

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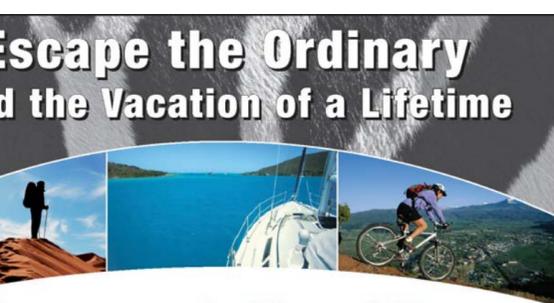


BRAD KALBFELD, 1ST STAGE

Wife, husband, farmhand, EPA agent ... the professional cast of "Pig Farm," the third production of 1st Stage Theatre at Tysons Corner.

love story, part commentary on government interference, set against the backdrop of a 1,837-pig farm. Four professional actors perform the play on a set built by theater company volunteers. 1st

Stage describes "Pig Farm" as the story of a "pig farmer who's struggling to keep his business going, whose wife is dallying with the new



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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com Wednesday/Feb. 11

Sonya Kitchell, "Burn Brightly," Residency and John Shannon. Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. \$10. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Chris Bohjalian signs "Skeletons at the Feast," 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. 703-506-2937 or www.bn.com.

Silly Sing-Along Stories, 10:30 a.m. Enjoy sing-along stories and a craft. Age 2 with adult. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Mothers First Book Club, 7:30 p.m., Amphora Restaurant, 377 Maple Ave. West. Discuss "Love in the Time of Cholera" by Gabriel Garcia-Marquez. Call Ceci Campbell at 703-281-0380.

THURSDAY/FEB. 12

Rokia Traore. Progressive West African music. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$25. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Taarka and Whiskey Rebellion. 8 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 E. Maple Ave., Vienna. Taarka, a gypsy string quartet, performs live with local band Whiskey Rebellion. Visit www.jamminjava.com and www.taarka.com.

Men's Only Shopping. 6:30-9 p.m., Studio Organics, 123 Church St. N.W., Vienna. A men's only shopping night will be held at the store with all

products discounted 10 percent. Staff will be on hand to help men pick the right Valentine's Day gift. www.StudioOrganics.com or 571-214-8689.

FRIDAY/FEB. 13

Julie Murphy Wells, Sophisticated Lady. Jazz and Broadway tunes. 8 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Family Skate Nights, 6:30-8 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center. \$1 per skater; bring your own skates and safety registration. Adults. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

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

Goth Valentine Bash, 6 p.m. Live music, duct tape roses, goth makeup and snacks. Age 12-18. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

K-Beta, Bo Jankans and D II. Rock. 10 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or jamminjava.com.

Pig Farm. 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents "Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit www.1ststagepringhill.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 14

Shemekia Copeland, blues vocals. 7:30 p.m. at The Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-877-WOLFTRAP.

Crash Boom Bang, Boys Will Be Boys, Sunset Shootout and Surprise Attack. Pop/rock. 5:30 p.m. \$15. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Mambo Sauce. Hip-hop. 10 p.m. \$12. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Valentine Day Treasure Hunt, all day. Valentine-themed treasure hunt. Age 3-12. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Presidents and Chiefs, 11 a.m. Storyteller Gary Lloyd presents America's leaders. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. 703-938-0405.

Propagation Workshop. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Horticulturist Tammy Burke will show how to start annuals and perennials from seeds and cuttings. Free. Reservations required; call 703-255-3631.

McLean Symphony. 7:30 p.m., Alden Theater, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingelside Ave., McLean. A celebration of love, Latin style with the music of the Americas. General Admission: \$25/person; \$20/seniors; \$12/youths 18 and under. Call the Alden Theater Box Office at 703-790-9223.

Fairfax Jubil-Aires Barbershop Harmony Chorus Singing Valentines, at a location of your choosing. Contact Ron at 703-978-7691 or order online at www.fairfaxjubilaires.org.

Dinner Dance and Silent Auction. 6 p.m., American Legion Auxiliary, 330 Center St. N., Vienna. The American Legion Auxiliary is holding a Valentine's Day Dinner Dance and Silent Auction to

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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CALENDAR

benefit the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Tickets: \$35/
person; call 703-625-5736 for tickets.

Pig Farm. 4 and 8 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring
Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents
"Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright
of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/
students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit
www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 15

**Rock 'n Roll Songwriters Circle featuring
Anthony Fiacco, Shane Hines and Todd
Wright.** Acoustic 7 p.m. \$10 advance, \$12 at
the door. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E.,
Vienna. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Bingo. 12 p.m., Vienna Volunteer Fire Department,
400 S. Center St., Vienna. The VVFD will host an
extended bingo session with 45 Regular and
Special Games paying \$100 each, one Jackpot
Game paying \$1,000, 8 Early Birds paying \$100
each, two Speed Bingo Game paying \$100, two
Winner-Take-All Games and a Vienna's Fortune
Treasure Chest Game paying \$100. \$20
admission includes all games and a free meal.

The Virginia Opera and "Tosca," 2 p.m.
George Mason University Concert Hall on the
Fairfax campus of George Mason University, at
the intersection of Braddock Road and Route
123. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket
holders, begins at 1:15 p.m. on the Center's
Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$44-\$98. Charge by
phone at 888-945-2468 or at www.tickets.com.
www.gmu.edu/cfa.

How to Raise a Moral Child. 1:30 p.m., 120
Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Arthur Dobrin will
conduct an interactive workshop. Free. 703-503-
3216 or www.noves.org.

Pleasant Piano. 3 p.m., Alden Theatre, 1234
Ingleside Ave., McLean. Chamber music. Free.
Tickets are not required. Call 703-790-0123.

American Legion Breakfast. 1 p.m., 6530
Amherst Ave., Springfield. The Auxiliary Buffet
Breakfast will be held at Post 180 followed by
the Regional Oratorical at Springfield Post 180.

Maple Syrup Boil-Down. 12-2 p.m., Colvin Run

Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.
Mason Maddox will demonstrate the maple
syrup-making process and guests can sample
syrup served on cornbread made from cornmeal
milled onsite. \$5/adults, \$4/children, free/
children under 4. Call 703-759-2771.

Pig Farm. 2 and 6 p.m., 1st Stage, 1524 Spring
Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage presents
"Pig Farm," a comedy by Greg Kotis, playwright
of "Urinetown." Tickets: \$25/adults, \$15/
students; call 1-800-838-3006 or visit
www.1stStageSpringHill.org.

MONDAY/FEB. 16

Open Mic Night with Ron Goad. 7 p.m. \$2.
Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. N.E., Vienna.
703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/FEB. 17

Game On: Grownup Edition, 11 a.m. Learn
how to play or share mastery of Wii bowling,
tennis, baseball, golf and more. Adults. Patrick
Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna.
703-938-0405.

The Von Bondies and Nico Vega. Rock. 8 p.m.
at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.
\$10 in advance, \$12 at the door. 703-255-1566
or jamminjava.com.

Beer Dinner, 6:30 p.m., Wildfire Tysons Galleria,
3rd floor, 1714U International Drive, McLean.
Wildfire will host a four course beer dinner
where each of the courses will be paired with a
different beer from Old Dominion Brewery.
\$40/person. 703-442-9110 to reserve.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 18

Sonya Kitchell, Residency and Naia Kete.
Acoustic/indie. 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227
Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or
jamminjava.com.

**C. J. Chenier & The Red Hot Louisiana
Band.** General admission dance. 8 p.m. at The
Barns. Tickets \$20. Wolf Trap Foundation for
the Performing Arts, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. 1-
877-WOLFTRAP.

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NEWS

Love Stories

FROM PAGE 5

and their dreams. "We talked and talked. On most of our dates, we went back to where I lived and talked."

They learned each other's history, and Wayne Comer said he told Onita what a great life she would have if she married a young lawyer. "I was pretty confident of my future in those days," he said. They discovered they shared many common interests; they are both "devoted to music," Wayne Comer said.

"We both realized on our first date that something special was going on," Wayne Comer said.

When they married on June 13, 1953, they had little money. "We didn't expect to have everything at once back then," Onita Comer said.

Onita Comer has a vision problem in one eye, but other than that, they "feel good." From their back yard in Dunn Loring Woods, the Comers can watch wildlife among the trees. A lone stag appeared and Wayne Comer snapped to its attention. When Wayne and Onita Comer celebrated their 50th anniversary, more than 100 guests showed up to share the milestone with them. Their friends lent their talents to the entertainment and Wayne Comer said guests still remember the festivities.

On Dec. 23, 1956, the couple had a son, Steve.

Steve Comer, a pianist, lives with his wife and three children in Northern Virginia and Wayne and Onita see them frequently. Wayne Comer could retire, but does not. He still runs a family law practice in Oakton.

'I DO' TODAY AND YESTERDAY: "As a divorce lawyer, I get the feeling that a lot of these break-ups have to do with more job opportunities for men and women," Wayne Comer said. "Women have the potential for financial dependence. They have the freedom to get married with no worry of consequences. If the consequences are not good, they have more confidence in getting out."

In his whole extended family, there are no separations, no divorces.

Onita Comer thinks the support and caring of extended family supports marriage and there's not much of that support nowadays

SEE LOVE STORIES, PAGE 19

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'Pig Farm' Opens Friday

FAITH

FROM PAGE II

farmhand — a 17-year-old fresh out of Juvenile Hall — and who has suddenly come under the eye of the feds, in the person of a gun-toting EPA inspector asking questions about sludge washing up on the shores of the Potomac. When the feds demand a count of just how many pigs there are on the farm, havoc reigns.”

“Pig Farm” is the third production in the five-show schedule planned for this season, the first. Actors audition for the roles in all 1st Stage productions.

THE 1ST STAGE VENUE is New York-artsy, a former industrial facility turned theater with soaring ceilings. The volunteers who conceived the theater company focused on making an environment that was “interesting and different,” Brad Kalbfeld said.

Sean Whinnie attended 1st Stage’s first show with a friend. After the show, they talked to Krikstan, and asked, “How can we help?” Since then, Whinnie has avidly supported the theater company, becoming its community outreach coordinator and database master. Whinnie, an energy engineer by profession, said, “this

is an organization of people. We can benefit from the skills set of everybody.”

Brad Kalbfeld calls 1st Stage an “intersection of learning and performance.”

“Mark, Jane and others impart their knowledge and experience to a younger generation,” Brad Kalbfeld said.

Presently, 1st Stage offers a Saturday class, taught by Lucas Beck, for high-school students. The company’s goal is to offer a series of classes for both adults and students. 1st Stage plans on running a summer camp for high-schoolers.

“Our shows have gotten really rave reviews,” Brad Kalbfeld said. “We have free parking, reasonable pricing for professional theater and we’re less than a gallon of gas away from most places in Fairfax County.”

“When people come here, they are going to be entertained and delighted by what young local artists are doing on our stage.”

‘PIG FARM’ RUNS from Feb. 13-March 8, at 1st Theatre, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Suite LL. Parking is free. See <http://www.1ststagespringhill.org> for further information and for ticket sales.

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

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or www.meditation-dc.org.

The Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, at 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton chorale, a 60-voice adult choir, welcomes new members any time and meets Thursdays, 7:15 p.m. The Circle of Music Makers meets the first Monday of the month, for those who can share a vocal or instrumental solo. Contact Judy Harrison at 703-281-4230, ext. 26, or jharrison@uucf.org. Joint Activities in Music at Sunrise is for preschoolers, kindergarteners, parents and residents of Hunter Mill Sunrise Assisted Living Center, on Wednesdays, 1-1:30 p.m. Contact Marsha Giusti at 703-425-1902 or giustim@juno.com.

A **Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at mthomas211@hotmail.com or call the church at 703-759-3509.

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.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

MUSIC MASTERS

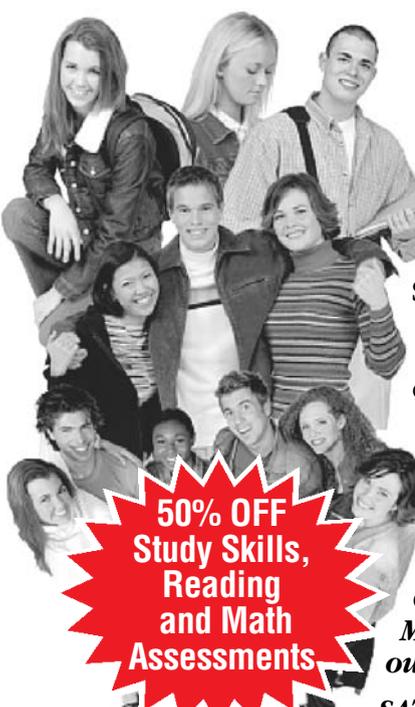
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THE COUNTY LINE

Getting Started on Start Times

School Board asks for answers on impact to athletics.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County School Board members pushed staff to answer questions about the impacts of changing school start times as they launched a community outreach effort this week.

The School Board is considering moving back start times for older students, in part because research suggests it is beneficial for teenagers to start school later so they don't need to rise so early. With current start times, high school and secondary school buses pick students up shortly after 6 a.m.

The proposal would also affect the start times for several elementary schools since Fairfax County Public Schools uses the same buses in three different shifts to carry the entire student population to school.

Currently, Fairfax schools start between 7:20 a.m. and 9:25 a.m., with most high schools in the "first tier" of school start times, beginning before 8 a.m. Under the new proposal, which could go into effect next year, all schools would start between 7:50 a.m. and 9:40 a.m., with no high school classes getting under way earlier than 8:30 a.m.

The school system hopes to get feedback from the public on the proposal at seven community dialogues scheduled for Feb. 24, 25 and 26.

They are also encouraging residents to fill out a new survey about the bell schedule change, which can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start>.

The School Board expects vote on the bell schedule proposal in early March.

FOR YEARS, a group of citizens have been advocating for the later high school start times, attending nearly every school board meeting and signing up to provide public testimony on a regular basis. They formed the organization SLEEP, which stands for Start Later for Excellence in Education Proposal, and collected thousands of signatures in support of their cause.

But recently, community members wary

Community Dialogues on Bell Schedule Changes

The School Board will hold public meetings about proposed changes to school start times. Note multiple locations on each night.

FEB. 24, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Annandale High School, Longfellow Middle School, Oak View Elementary School

FEB. 25, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Herndon High School, Rocky Run Middle School

FEB. 26, 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.

Providence Elementary School, Whitman Middle School

of the initiative, particularly those who have concerns about its impact on high school activities like sports, have started to organize in opposition to later start times.

They formed advocacy organizations like WAKE (Worried About Keeping Extracurriculars) and SOS (Save Our Sport). Many are particularly concerned how later start times might impact the high school swim program.

DURING A WORK SESSION Feb. 9, some School Board members pressed staff for answers regarding the later high school start times' effect on "late buses," which provide transportation for students participating in sports and other programs after school.

Get Involved

Fill out a new survey about proposed bell schedule changes at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/start.htm>. A list of current start times and proposed start times for every school in the county is available at the same site.

The school system's transportation department was unable to give specifics on the later high school start times impact on "late bus runs." But transportation official Linda Farby said the buses would need

roughly 30 more minutes to come back to the high schools after their traditional afternoon drop-offs. Instead of elementary schools, several middle schools would be among the last dismissals in the school system each day and buses would have to complete longer routes before coming back to pick up students at high school late for sports events or other activities, said Farby.

"The answer is yes it will delay late bus service," she said of the proposal to change the bell schedule.

THE SCHOOL SYSTEM could also face a shortage of bus drivers if the high school start times — and therefore the high school "late buses" — were pushed back since some employees are not willing to work the later hours, according to Farby.

Farby also left open the possibility that the school system could be forced to lease or rent more vehicles to help with "late bus" transportation if the existing fleet was not able to accommodate the later transportation schedule by itself in a timely manner.

Under the current proposal, the school system would save money if it switched to later school start times, though the need to rent or lease more buses could affect the estimates of the proposal's cost savings, according to staff.

School Board member Kathy Smith (Sully), who has been skeptical of the proposal to change the bell schedule, said officials also have no way of modeling how the new bell schedule would interact with traffic patterns.

"This model does not and cannot tell you the effect of being in traffic," said Smith.

Some school staff said it is also difficult to judge the impact a bell schedule change could have on high school sports travel, given that team schedules are likely to

change if the proposal takes effect next year.

For example, in order to accommodate the later high school start times, more games and sporting events are likely to take place on Saturday, said school officials.

But School Board members generally supportive of the bell schedule change said staff should to provide more specific information, not just speculation, about the impact the later high school start times would have on after-school activities like sports.

"I think it is a mistake to go into town hall meetings without any more information. ... [The information on late buses] should be made available to the public," said School Board member Kaye Kory (Mason).

"I would say if we don't have the facts together, then we don't do the public meetings," said School Board member Tina Hone [At-large] of the community dialogues scheduled for later this month.

FURTHER DISCUSSION of the public meeting format revealed how touchy the issue of a bell schedule change has become for the school system and School Board members.

Officials are taking pains to record an introduction to the issue of bell schedule changes that will be played at all public meetings on the topic, so that there is no differentiation between the staff presentations at each session.

"We have tried to do so that it is not biased in any way," said School Board member Liz Bradsher (Springfield).

"That is why we are taping the introduction, so everything can be the same across the board," said School Board member Tessie Wilson (Braddock).

Yet there was some question at the School Board's work session about what type of role the "science of teenage sleep" should play in the recorded presentation.

In general, School Board members who support the bell schedule change thought studies linking later high school start times to better teenage health and academic performance should play a larger role in the video. But others, who are skeptical of the proposal, said they had not seen any evidence that there was link between high school start times and academic performance.

"I have never seen a correlation between later start times and student achievement," said Smith.

"If there is not an impact on learning, then why are we even looking at this?" replied School Board member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner (Providence) to Smith's statement.



Some Fairfax County residents feel high school students have to be on school buses too early in the morning.

PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/THE CONNECTION

COUNTY NOTEBOOK

County Tax Rate Over The Years

Fairfax County faces a projected deficit of approximately \$650 million next year and several supervisors had admitted the county will probably have to increase the real estate property tax rate to close the budget gap.

If the supervisors wanted to hold county revenue — and the average residents' real estate tax bill — to its 2008 level, they would have to increase the tax rate approximately 14 to 15 cents per \$100 of assessed value, the highest single real estate tax rate increase of the last 30 years.

But even with a 14 to 15 cent increase, the real estate tax rate would still only be \$1.03, significantly lower than any rate approved by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors from 1978 to 2005.

Still, most residents have seen their actual real estate tax bill nearly double since 2000, even as the tax rate has continued to go down every year. The tax rate — at its lowest in 2007 and 2008 — did not provide much tax relief, given that most residents were still paying much more to the local government for their home or commercial property than they had in years past.

The following is a chart of the Fairfax County real estate tax rate and the amount it has fluctuated annually since 1978:

FAIRFAX COUNTY REAL ESTATE

Tax Rates per \$100 of Assessed Value

Year	Tax Rate	Annual Fluctuation
1978	\$1.74	
1979	\$1.64	(\$0.10)
1980	\$1.54	(\$0.10)
1981	\$1.54	\$0.00
1982	\$1.51	(\$0.03)
1983	\$1.47	(\$0.04)
1984	\$1.47	(\$0.00)
1985	\$1.46	(\$0.01)
1986	\$1.39	(\$0.07)
1987	\$1.35	(\$0.04)
1988	\$1.32	(\$0.03)
1989	\$1.30	(\$0.02)
1990	\$1.19	(\$0.11)
1991	\$1.11	(\$0.08)
1992	\$1.11	\$0.00
1993	\$1.16	\$0.05
1994	\$1.16	\$0.00
1995	\$1.16	\$0.00
1996	\$1.16	\$0.00
1997	\$1.23	\$0.07
1998	\$1.23	\$0.00
1999	\$1.23	\$0.00
2000	\$1.23	\$0.00
2001	\$1.23	\$0.00
2002	\$1.23	\$0.00
2003	\$1.21	(\$0.02)
2004	\$1.16	(\$0.05)
2005	\$1.13	(\$0.03)
2006	\$1.00	(\$0.13)
2007	\$0.89	(\$0.11)
2008	\$0.89	\$0.00
2009	\$0.92	\$0.03

Three Marshall Wrestlers Earn District Crowns

Madison High, meanwhile, advances six to this weekend's regionals.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

Marshall High had three individual champions crowned, while Madison had two second-place finishers, at last Saturday night's Liberty District wrestling championships. The postseason competition took place at Langley High School in Great Falls.

Marshall's district champions were Andrew Embree (215-weight class), Mark Bergenholtz (189) and Dan Montes (135).

The next postseason stop is this weekend's Northern Region championships, set to take place at Fairfax High School.

MARSHALL HIGH had a solid fourth-place team standing with 122 points, thanks in large part to the championship wins of Embree, Bergenholtz and Montes.

In the 135 finals, Montes (22-9) bested Woodson opponent Ben Breazille, 8-1. The senior built a 4-0 lead going into the third period, then scored two points with 1 minute, 35 seconds left to take a 6-0 advantage on way to the win.

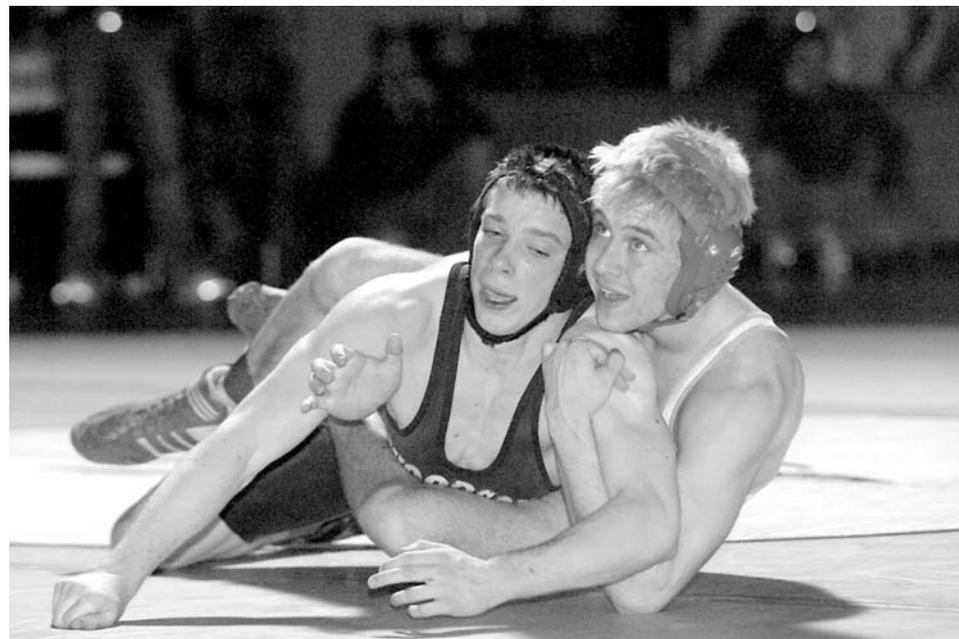
"It's an emotional win," said Montes, who was fifth at districts last year. "It took real hard work and lots of dedication. It feels great."

He looks forward to regionals.

"It will be fun and a good experience," said Montes, who is 97-32 during his varsity career with the Statesmen. "Hopefully I can [qualify] for states."

Marshall's Embree, in his 215 finals match, pinned Jefferson's Joe Latta (18-12) with 1:22 remaining in the third period. The junior took his opponent down at the edge of the mat at the 1:33 mark before recording the decisive pin.

Embree (32-5), who is headed for



Marshall High senior Dan Montes, right, captured his first district title by defeating Woodson's Ben Breazille in the 135 finals last Saturday night at Langley.

regionals for the third time, won matches over McLean's Abdelhadi Jarrar and Stone Bridge's Connor Calderwood to reach the finals.

In the 189 finals, Bergenholtz of Marshall defeated Woodson's Alex Jabaley by technical fall in the third period. The match ended when the Statesmen junior, who finished third at districts last year, scored a takedown to go ahead 16-0. Bergenholtz improved his season record to 31-7.

Marshall's Andy O'Meara made it to the 130 finals before losing to Langley's Jay Ives by a second-period pin. O'Meara, a senior won districts last year at 119, will be competing at his fourth region tournament this weekend.

FROM MADISON, Mason Keena (119) and Albert Schultz (112) both reached the finals round before losing.

Keena, in his championship match, fell to McLean senior Palmer Dickson, the top seed at 119, by an 8-0 score. Dickson controlled the match against his Warhawk opponent. It marked the second-straight year in which

"The team score was close with Madison and I wanted a pin. We were trying real hard to beat Madison."

— Palmer Dickson,
McLean High Senior

Palmer has won a district title.

"It's great and I'm very happy about it," said Dickson, who holds a 28-7 record on the season.

Dickson said one of his motivations to do well in the finals was to help the Highlanders, who did not win a single district dual team meet this season, finish ahead of rival Madison in the team standings. As it turned out, Madison (75 points) and McLean (74) finished seventh and eighth, respectively, in the eight-team field. Langley High (193) was district champion for the ninth-straight year.

Dickson said he was going for a pin in the finals, which ultimately would have pro-

pelled the Highlanders out of last place. But he was not quite able to get it against the determined Keena (20-11), who twice was turned on his back in the first period before getting out the period trailing 5-0. Palmer, later in the match, wrapped up the scoring with a two-point standing takedown with one minute remaining in the third and final period.

"The team score was close with Madison and I wanted a pin," Dickson said. "We were trying real hard to beat Madison."

Keena reached the finals with a semi-finals win over Langley's Daniel Hozik.

AT THE 112 FINALS, Madison's Schultz (33-8), a sophomore, lost a 9-5 decision to Woodson junior Bob Hauser (28-8), who won the title after finishing second last year.

Hauser, the top seed, took a 2-0 lead into the second period. Late in the second, Schultz turned Hauser onto his back to score his first points. But Hauser quickly got back on top and accumulated several points to take a 7-4 lead. Schultz drew within 7-5 midway through the third period before Hauser scored late match back points to earn the title.

Schultz, who finished third in the district at 103 division last year, reached last weekend's finals with wins over South Lakes' Andrew Goldberg and Jefferson's Devan Samant.

Other locals who placed — top four finishers — at districts and will compete at regionals this weekend were Marshall's Quan Nguyen, third at 140, Marshall's Daniel Picado, third at 145, Madison's Ryan McGuire, third at heavyweight, Madison's Daniel Feldman, fourth at 103, Madison's Brian Wymer, fourth at 145 and Madison's Paul Hedrick, fourth at 152.

Langley's David Helmer (44-1), competing at 152-weight class, won his fourth-career district title and will be going for his fourth region crown at Fairfax. He was named Most Outstanding Wrestler at districts and helped the Saxons win their ninth consecutive team title.

"Davey's just a tough kid, no doubt," Langley coach John Belyea said. "When he came in as a freshmen we knew we had something special there."

Two Cougars Win District Titles

The Oakton High wrestling team had two champions crowned at last Saturday afternoon's Concorde District Championships. Cougar wrestlers Matt Patinos (160-weight class) and Chris Butters (125) both captured their respective weight-class titles.

Westfield High finished first in the team standings with 196.5 points, finishing ahead of second-place Robinson (188.5) and third-place Fairfax (119). Chantilly (85), Oakton (71), Herndon (52) and Centerville (36) finished fourth

through seventh, respectively.

Patinos defeated Robinson's Wes Jones in the 160 finals. He reached the title match with wins over Chantilly's Wes Scholnick and Herndon's Adam Valcott.

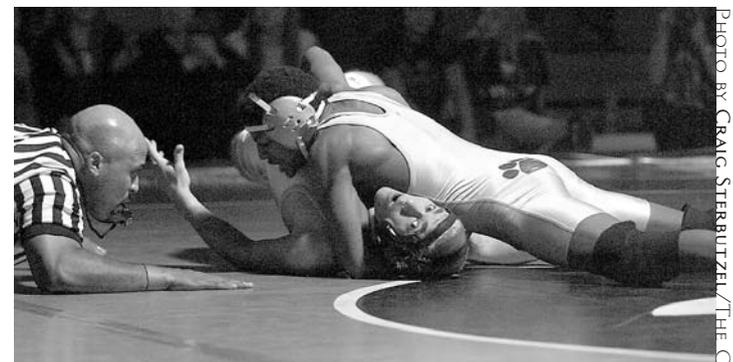
At the 125 finals, Oakton's Butters defeated Westfield's Jerrod Branch in the championship match. He made it to the finals with a semifinals win over Chantilly's Lloyd Tenaglia.

Other top-four finishers for Oakton who will advance to this weekend's Northern Region Cham-

pionships at Fairfax High School were David Millago, third at 215, Wade Kostkan, fourth at 152, Chris Lopina, fourth at 145 and Ethan Doyle, fourth at 140.

Herndon High saw three of its wrestlers advance to regionals. The Hornet wrestler to go the farthest at districts was Nick Ziegler, who reached the 130 finals before losing to Westfield's Brandon Berling. Ziegler made it to the title match by defeating Oakton's Ryan Wood and Robinson's Charlie Vanney.

Other place finishers for Herndon were Matt Olem, fourth at 135 and Gabe Pike, fourth at 103.



Oakton's Chris Butters, top, reached the 125 finals at last Saturday's Concorde District Wrestling Championships. There, he defeated Westfield's Jerrod Branch, bottom.

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Dying To Find Out, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I have to admit, the pain was a bit unusual, and it had migrated so, at my wife, Dina's, insistence, I made the trek to my HMO's emergency room, relayed my symptoms to the receptionist and took a seat in their waiting room.

All things considered, the wait wasn't interminable, nor was it hours; of course, it wasn't minutes, either, but given the holiday-nature of the day, it could have been much worse.

And apparently, so could the diagnosis. After having my vital signs taken by a nurse, and answering questions from a physician's assistant, there was no clear picture (heck, at this point, it wasn't even blurry, it was completely befuddling, even after the chest x-ray was viewed) to explain my discomfort. It was so befuddling that the physician's assistant actually involved a doctor.

He asked me the standard questions. My answers offered no standard help. So much so, that I remember asking the doctor, if it only hurt when I make certain movements, perhaps I shouldn't make those movements; and then watching as the doctor shrugged his shoulders and said, "Yes, probably." And so I was excused, with the ever-popular: "If it gets worse, come back." And symptom-wise, it didn't; it got better, until five days later.

That's when the same physician's assistant called back. Still puzzled by my pain and lack of symptoms, she had, on her own initiative sought out the opinion of a Radiologist to review my chart/x-ray. Based on that consultation, I was urged to go to my nearest HMO pharmacy, that evening, to pick up a precautionary prescription to begin taking immediately. The concern was, despite being asymptomatic, perhaps I had a touch of pneumonia. And so it continued.

The next day, still improving and symptom free, my HMO called to tell me that they had ordered a CT Scan. Somewhat perplexed by their uncharacteristic speed, I nonetheless complied and went the very next day. TWO HOURS after completing the scan, my primary doctor called to discuss the results. Unfortunately — and surprisingly — there was cause (given my age and health history) for concern.

Perhaps I'd like to schedule an appointment to discuss the findings, my doctor suggested. "No, just tell me," I said. And so he did. There were lesions on my lungs that might be malignant. WHAT! Still unsure, however, the doctor scheduled an appointment with a pulmonary specialist as soon as possible. Two hours later, ON THE SAME DAY, the appointment was made for the next afternoon, with a P.E.T. scan to follow, all of which seemed incredibly fast and efficient given my previous experiences with this same HMO. Nevertheless, I was appreciative of their record-breaking haste.

The pulmonary doctor didn't interpret the x-ray and CT scan as the cancer threat that my primary care doctor and radiologist had (canceling the P.E.T. scan in the process), but nonetheless, suggested I return in a week, take a second x-ray and see what develops. And so I did. Still symptom free.

A week later, I'm back with the pulmonary specialist, second x-ray in hand. The second x-ray confirmed the doctor's suspicions that maybe I had indeed had pneumonia and so two weeks after the initial fact, I was once again excused; with the "We'll call you if ..." goodbye.

THE NEXT DAY, the pulmonary doctor calls back to say that, upon further review with yet another radiologist, he now wants to me to see another doctor, a thoracic surgeon.

Five days later, I see the thoracic surgeon, x-rays and CT scan in hand. Likewise puzzled by what he sees, he apologized for his inconclusiveness and says he too, would like to review the x-ray and scan with his radiologist to get a better understanding A biopsy and/or surgery are certainly possible but he's not sure. Moreover, he's not sure another diagnostic test (P.E.T. scan, M.R.I.) would clarify anything. Let him review everything he asks, and he'll get back to me, probably in the next day or two.

THE NEXT DAY, the thoracic surgeon calls back to tell me that he now thinks I should have the P.E.T. scan and to schedule it as soon as it's convenient. And so it continues.

Four weeks later and still wondering, I wouldn't say I'm worrying yet, however, but I am beginning to have a little trouble falling asleep.

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

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PROPOSAL TO MODIFY CORRECTIVE ACTIONS IMPLEMENTED AT A PETROLEUM RELEASE UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK (UST) SITE

A petroleum release from former underground storage tank systems had occurred, and corrective actions have been implemented, at:

2758 North Washington Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) is requiring Mr. Frederick Kline to prepare a Corrective Action Plan Addendum to address cleanup of petroleum fuel contamination at the site. If you have questions regarding the cleanup please contact:

John Diehl
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
(703) 327-2900

The Corrective Action Plan Addendum will be submitted to the Remediation Division of the Northern Regional Office of the DEQ by January 30, 2009. If you would like to review or discuss the proposed Corrective Action Plan with the staff of the DEQ, please feel free to contact Mr. Randy Chapman of the DEQ at (703) 583-3816 after the date of the Corrective Action Plan Addendum submittal. The DEQ Remediation Division will consider written comments regarding the proposed Corrective Action Plan Addendum until March 6, 2009, and may decide to hold a public meeting if there is significant public interest. Written comments should be sent to the DEQ at the address listed below. The DEQ requests that all written comments reference the tracking number for this case; PC # 1991-1474.

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Northern Regional Office
Remediation Division
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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Peggy and Harry Reinhardt, married for 46 years come March 1, credit hanging in there, not giving up easily, working for a common purpose and giving each other space as keys [for a happy marriage]. Gunston and Miss Piggy provide the entertainment at home.

Love Stories

FROM PAGE 13

because families are not nearby. "We look at everything from our own personal viewpoint, I was always close to my mom, dad and two sisters. My parents expected a lot of us, but they were loving and giving. I think they go together," she said.

Onita Comer said love and respect for one another are keys to a strong marriage. "It takes a forgiving heart because all marriages have ups and downs. A sense of humor is very important, too," she said.

"It takes an ability to adjust to one another," Wayne Comer said. "You need flexibility of character."

PEGGY AND HARRY REINHARDT, married 46 years this March 1: In the mid-50s, teens drove over to the "Dog House" in the Pittsburgh area. The restaurant sold hot dogs and pizza and carloads of boys and girls drove up. That's how Peggy met Harry Reinhardt. "A car full of girls, a car full of guys ... we just started talking to the guys next to us," she said.

They played miniature golf on dates and went to drive-in movies. "Drive-in movies were a lot of fun," Peggy Reinhardt said. "I don't know if there are any left."

After they met in 1957, Harry Reinhardt joined the Air Force, leaving in 1961. On March 1, 1963, Peggy and Harry got married. They lived in New Jersey after they got married, where Harry Reinhardt worked on the wiring for the first camera that went to the moon. Then, to Arlington, and finally, to Vienna in the early 1970s. They live in the same house today that they moved into more than 35 years ago.

Peggy and Harry Reinhardt are active in Vienna Post 180 of the American Legion and are season ticket-holders to George Mason University's basketball games. Harry Reinhardt isn't big on dining out, so they bring home carryout more often. They say they are in "pretty good health."

"When we lived in Arlington, [former Washington Redskin] Billy Kilmer dated our next door neighbor," Harry Reinhardt said. "Her daughter used to tell Peggy she knew Billy and [fellow Redskin] Sonny Jurgenson. Peggy didn't believe her. Peggy told her, if you know them, I'd like a signed photograph. One day right after that, the little girl comes over with an autographed photo of Billy Kilmer."

"We still have the photo," Peggy Reinhardt said.

'I DO' TODAY AND YESTERDAY: "We would think we're going to last forever, but maybe people nowadays don't think like that," Peggy Reinhardt said. "Marriages that seem to last the longest are the ones with people who come from the same towns. Younger people are more transient."

Harry Reinhardt agrees with his wife. "Back then, you never even thought you might part ways. But couples now, I think, they have a different attitude.

"We didn't have much money when we got married. I was unemployed; I was going to school. Peggy was working.

"I guess I was an optimist. I got a diploma in electronics and then I went back for a bachelor's degree at George Mason. I had two kids, a job, and I was going to school at night," he said.

"I think we're both easygoing," Peggy Reinhardt said. "We believe in give and take. We don't argue about money. We agree on most things and we both have simple tastes.

"He lets me have a certain amount of freedom. If I want to go somewhere with the girls, I go."

Harry Reinhardt said he never thought much about the reasons his marriage works, but he believes they "get along well."

"I let her get her way most of the time," he said.

"The first hundred years are the hardest," Peggy Reinhardt said. "Hang in there. Don't give up easily. Work for a common purpose. You can't stifle each other. Give each other space."

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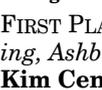
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Matthew Razak



David Schultz



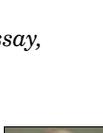
John Smith



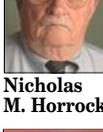
Stuart Moll



Nicholas M. Horrock



Michael O'Connell



Steven Mauren



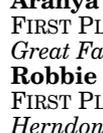
Meghan Williams



Paul Frommelt

Kemal Kurspahic, Meghan Williams, Paul Frommelt, John Smith, Christopher Staten, Aranya Tomseth

FIRST PLACE, General makeup, Great Falls Connection



Aranya Tomseth

Robbie Hammer

FIRST PLACE, Business and financial writing, Great Falls Connection



Lea Mae Rice

Amber Healy

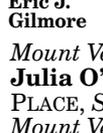
FIRST PLACE, General news photo, Herndon Connection



Robbie Hammer

Eric J. Gilmore

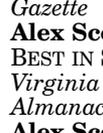
FIRST PLACE, Feature photo, McLean Connection



Eric J. Gilmore

Julia O'Donoghue

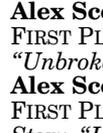
FIRST PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, Mount Vernon Gazette



Alex Scofield

Alex Scofield

BEST IN SHOW, Local Coverage of Virginia Tech Shooting, Potomac Almanac



Alex Scofield

Alex Scofield, Christine Brown

FIRST PLACE, Sports Page Design, "Congressional Crash Course", Potomac Almanac



Laurence Foong

Stuart Moll, Steven Mauren, Mirza Kurspahic, Mary Kimm

FIRST PLACE, Editorial pages, Reston Connection



Mirza Kurspahic

Mirza Kurspahic

FIRST PLACE, Feature series or continuing story, Reston Connection

Robbie Hammer

FIRST PLACE, Sports feature photo, Springfield Connection

Chuck Hagee, Louise Krafft, Greg Wyshynski

SECOND PLACE, Combination picture and story, Alexandria Gazette Packet



Chuck Hagee

Michael Lee Pope

SECOND PLACE, In-depth or investigative reporting, Alexandria Gazette Packet



Michael Lee Pope

Michael Lee Pope

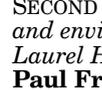
SECOND PLACE, Feature series or continuing story, Alexandria Gazette Packet, School Board Power Struggle



Steve Thurston

Greg Wyshynski

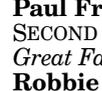
SECOND PLACE, Page design, Alexandria Gazette Packet



Steve Thurston

Louise Krafft

SECOND PLACE, General news photo, Arlington Connection



David Schultz

David Schultz

SECOND PLACE, Feature writing portfolio, Arlington Connection



Steve Thurston

Steve Thurston

SECOND PLACE, Column writing, Arlington Connection



Mike DiCicco

Mike DiCicco

SECOND PLACE, Feature story writing, Vienna Connection



Steve Thurston

Amber Healy

SECOND PLACE, Health, science and environmental writing, Laurel Hill Connection



Steve Thurston

Paul Frommelt

SECOND PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, McLean Connection



Paul Frommelt

Paul Frommelt

SECOND PLACE, Sports pages, Great Falls Connection

Robbie Hammer

Robbie Hammer

SECOND PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, Great Falls Connection

Robbie Hammer

Aranya Tomseth

SECOND PLACE, Government writing and public safety writing, Great Falls Connection

Paul Frommelt

Paul Frommelt

SECOND PLACE, Sports pages, Centre View

Steve Hibbard

Steve Hibbard

SECOND PLACE, Front page, Centre View

Mary Kimm

Mary Kimm, Jennifer Lesinski, Kim Centazzo, Erika Jacobson

SECOND PLACE, Editorial pages, Cascades Connection

Aaron Stern

Aaron Stern

SECOND PLACE, Spot News, Shock and grief in the wake of the suicide deaths of two young women, Potomac Almanac

Aaron Stern

Alex Scofield

SECOND PLACE, General News Story, Coverage of the "Smoothie King" robbery and its aftermath, Potomac Almanac

Robbie Hammer

Robbie Hammer

SECOND PLACE, Sports Photo, Tennis, Potomac Almanac

THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Aaron Stern

SECOND PLACE, Sports Feature Story, "Return of a King", Feature on Marcus Mason, Potomac Almanac



Kenneth Lourie

Kenneth Lourie

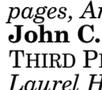
SECOND PLACE, Sports Column, "Sports Jeopardy", Potomac Almanac



Michael Lee Pope

Michael Lee Pope

THIRD PLACE, Education writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet



Mary Anne Weber

Mary Anne Weber, Rebecca Halik, Greg Wyshynski, Rich Sanders, Lawrence Foong, Stuart Moll, Louise Krafft, Rich Sanders

THIRD PLACE, General makeup, Alexandria Gazette Packet



Greg Wyshynski

Greg Wyshynski, Rebecca Halik, Matthew Razak

THIRD PLACE, Lifestyle or entertainment pages, Arlington Connection



John C. Marcario

John C. Marcario

THIRD PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, Laurel Hill Connection



Christopher Staten

Christopher Staten

THIRD PLACE, Feature story writing, McLean Connection



Christopher Staten

Christopher Staten, Greg Wyshynski, Louise Krafft, Lea Mae Rice

THIRD PLACE, Specialty pages or sections, Fairfax Connection



Robbie Hammer

Robbie Hammer

THIRD PLACE, Sports news photo, Great Falls Connection



Nicholas M. Horrock

Nicholas M. Horrock

THIRD PLACE, Business and financial writing, Herndon Connection



Julia O'Donoghue

Julia O'Donoghue

THIRD PLACE, Government writing and public safety writing, Herndon Connection

Christopher Staten

Christopher Staten

THIRD PLACE, Page design, Herndon Connection

Mike DiCicco

Mike DiCicco

THIRD PLACE, Feature story writing, Ashburn Connection

Erika Jacobson

Erika Jacobson

THIRD PLACE, Government writing and public safety writing, Ashburn Connection

Jennifer Lesinski

Jennifer Lesinski

THIRD PLACE, Page design, Ashburn Connection

Paul Frommelt

Paul Frommelt

THIRD PLACE, Sports writing portfolio, Centre View

Lauren Glendenning

Lauren Glendenning

THIRD PLACE, General news writing, Burke Connection

Robbie Hammer

Robbie Hammer

THIRD PLACE, Picture story or essay, Burke Connection

Kim Centazzo

Kim Centazzo

THIRD PLACE, Feature writing portfolio, Cascades Connection

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