

Carol Kelly chats with Stroke Comeback Center member, Mary Kay Patterson of Chantilly. The Vienna-based center is tying in the benefits of chocolate to the benefit of the nonprofit with its first fundraiser, 'Benefits of Chocolate' on Feb. 5 at Jammin' Java.

and Oakton  
**Vienna**  
**CONNECTION**

# Hearts and Chocolate

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Partners with CCH in the Haiti relief effort include: MedAssets; Inova Fairfax Hospital for Children; Missionary Flights International; and MTS Services.



"In addition to our prayers, the people of Haiti are in great need of our compassion and assistance."

— Charles Mann, Inova Health System Board Member



"Luciana and I have worked with the Community Coalition for Haiti and we ask you to join us in supporting the humanitarian efforts that are under way."

— Robert & Luciana Duvall



"We all need to take swift action to make sure that relief reaches the people of Haiti as quickly as it can."

— Darrell Green, NFL Hall of Fame

Photo by © Cameron Davidson

## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Beltway Ramp Closes Friday Night

The ramp from the southbound Interstate 495 Capital Beltway to southbound Dolley Madison Road (Route 123) will close overnight, Friday, Jan. 29, between midnight and 5 a.m., so crews can remove barriers.

Drivers will be directed to use the other three ramps of the cloverleaf to access southbound Route 123. Instead, take the exit to northbound Route 123, then use the entrance ramp to northbound Interstate 495, and immediately exit again to southbound Route 123.

Police will be onsite to direct traffic. Detour signs will also be in place.

### Sunrise Seniors Collect Donations for Haiti

Sunrise at Hunter Mill, a Sunrise Senior Living community, will conduct an Open House to collect donations for Haiti from residents and local families on Saturday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 2863 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton.

Non-perishable food, hygiene kits, over the counter medicines and monetary donations will be collected and sent to Haiti through organizations such as The American Red Cross, ADRA, HelpAge USA, Sal-

vation Army and several more.

For more information contact Christina Hutchison, 703-255-1006.

### Theatre Festival at Marshall High

Marshall High School is hosting the 2010 Liberty District Theatre Festival on Saturday, Jan. 30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Marshall High School will perform at 4:15 p.m.

The times for the one-act performances are as follows:

10-10:45 a.m., Langley High; 10:45-11:30 a.m., Thomas Jefferson; 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m., South Lakes; 12:15-1:15 p.m., lunch; 1:15-2 p.m., Stone Bridge; 2-2:45 p.m., McLean; 2:45-3:30 p.m., Madison; 3:30-4:15 p.m., Fairfax; and 4:15-5 p.m., Marshall High.

### 1st Stage To Donate to Haitian Relief

1st Stage in Tysons Corner will donate 20 percent of ticket sales to the American Red Cross Haitian relief efforts during the opening weekend of its new production, "By the Bog of Cats", Feb. 5-7. Tickets are available at [www.1stStageTysons.org/cats](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/cats).

"We want to join the community in helping support Haitian relief efforts," said ar

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'Benefits of Chocolate' art mentor Grace Rooney, physician-artist Daniel Rooney and Development Director of Stroke Comeback Center, Carol Kelly, talk about the upcoming Center fund-raiser.



Local artist Teresa Ahmad of the Vienna Arts Society is volunteering with the Center to bring art pieces in for sale at auction at 'Benefits of Chocolate.' Ahmad plans on selling her custom-crafted jewelry at the fund-raiser.

## Hearts and Chocolate

### Stroke Comeback Center hosts fund-raiser.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Heart Month was designated a February public service promotion because of Valentine's Day's iconic symbol, the heart. How serendipitous that it turns out that chocolate, the favorite of the romantic holiday, should actually be good for the heart.

The Stroke Comeback Center of Vienna, a therapy center for stroke survivors, is tying in the benefits of chocolate to the benefit of the nonprofit with its first annual fund-raiser, "Benefits of Chocolate." Jammin' Java is the venue for the Feb. 5 party and auction.

"All the net proceeds from this event will go to scholarships, in memory of Smith Bagley, to members of the Center," said Development Director Carol Kelly.

Center Director Darlene Williamson was inspired by a similar fund-raiser that took place in Texas, turning the event over to Kelly for implementation.

Bagley, philanthropist, Democratic fund-raiser and Stroke Comeback Board member, died in early January. The Center, a 501(C)(3), accepts any stroke survivor, regardless of ability to pay. Last year, the Center gave out \$20,000 in scholarships.

"I have been working on this, where I can help, and think it is a great cause," said contributing artist Teresa Ahmad. "They (Stroke Comeback Center) truly are spectacular at what they do, to help not only the victims of stroke, but their families."

**THE \$75 TICKET** entitles the holder to chocolate, live music, food, an open bar and more chocolate. A live auction, "Canvases for a Comeback," features area physicians creating masterpieces on the spot. At the end of the evening, these pieces will be auctioned off.

"The whole event is designed to be fun, but I think the most fun thing will be watching the physicians

paint their pieces," said Kelly. Mentors from the Vienna Arts Society will guide their proteges, the doctors, as they work.

Dr. Daniel Rooney, whose ears, nose and throat practice has been operated on Park Church for 28 years will be an on-site artist.

"This (the Stroke Comeback Center) is a much-needed facility," Rooney said. "Vienna and Oakton have been very good to me. I want to give something back to the community."

"The painters are the generalists, the artists are the specialists," said Rooney, who admits he doesn't know what he's doing when painting. "I've lived with an artist for a long, long time, and some of her skill has passed on to me." Rooney's wife, Grace, is active in the Vienna Arts Society, another nonprofit that is supporting "Benefits of Chocolate" with mentors and art pieces for auction.

Dark chocolate is rich in antioxidant compounds, said Kelly. Those compounds, flavonoids, have been shown by studies to improve heart health. Dark chocolate can decrease blood pressure and may be an anti-inflammatory agent. Guests at the fund-raiser will have the opportunity to sample an array of chocolates, all in the name of good health.

**MEMBER** Mary Kay Patterson knows from personal experience Stroke Comeback Center's role in rehabilitation. Four years ago at age 62, Patterson collapsed from a stroke. She said that she could not talk at all. Two years ago, Patterson began therapy at the Center when it had its offices in Oakton.

"Now, I can speak," Patterson said. "Sometimes, I have trouble getting the word out." Patterson appreciates the improvement in her speaking skills and said she will continue coming to the Center as long as she can. Currently, she visits the Center three times a week.

**LOCAL BUSINESSES** are providing support to the chocolate party. Contributors and sponsors include Valentine's Day gifts crafted and sold by artisans Teresa Ahmad, jewelry; Ellen Futterman, Instant

SEE FUBD-RAISER, PAGE 10



Diane and Scott Hammond at the 'sea of blue and red' at the Giants stadium.

## A Giant Boost

### Vienna teen fighting cancer attends New York Giants game.

BY KRISTIN MUDD

Scott Hammond turned 16 on Nov. 16, 2009. He is a sophomore at James Madison High School. He likes listening to Metallica, and he's a fan of the New York Giants football team. Hammond is also battling cancer. His journey began in the fall of 2007 when a small cyst the size of a pea popped up on his wrist. He was diagnosed with Stage IV Merkel Cell Carcinoma, a skin cancer rarely seen in children.

Hammond's treatment protocol called for six cycles of chemotherapy and two bone marrow transplants. In September 2009, a follow up scan showed that the cancer is relapsing in his lymph nodes. After consultations with oncologists, the Hammonds were told they would not be able to cure Scott's cancer. Scott's current treatment will keep him palliative between hospital stays and clinical trials at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Md.

When Victoria Levi, whose daughter Mackenzie is a cancer survivor, learned of Scott's story she offered the Hammonds two tickets to see a New York Giants game. Victoria works for the Assistance Support Kindness (ASK) — an organization that

enhances the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Department at VCU Health Systems in Richmond. ASK together with The ReeseStrong Foundation and the CJ's Thumbs up foundation donated money to cover all of the accommodation for their trip up to New York to see the Giants play. ReeseStrong was founded to honor the life and spirit of its namesake, Julia "Reese" Klauer. The Foundation is dedicated to helping families stay strong in the battle against childhood cancer. ReeseStrong also strives to raise awareness of Childhood cancer by supporting research, and displaying the gold ribbon, the symbol for Childhood cancer awareness.

**"I loved watching the look on his face."**

— Diane Hammond

"The stadium was a sea of blue and red," said Diane Hammond. "It was full of pumped up Giant Fans. Scott was in awe watching the players warm up on the field. I loved watching the look on his face. We can't put into words how we feel about the love, prayers, and support that everyone has shown us over these last many months."

To follow Scott's cancer journey visit [www.caringbridge.org/visit/scotthammond](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/scotthammond).

To learn more about the organizations mentioned in this story and how to help, go to [www.ReeseStrong.org](http://www.ReeseStrong.org); [www.askweb.org](http://www.askweb.org); [www.connorsheroes.com](http://www.connorsheroes.com); and [www.cjstuf.org](http://www.cjstuf.org).





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## WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 2

tistic director Mark Krikstan. "We hope that our audience will want to join us in helping Haiti deal with nature's catastrophe even as they enjoy this performance." "By the Bog of Cats" tells a timeless, heart-rending story of love and abandonment in rural Ireland populated by misfits, ghosts and witches.

Performances are Fridays at 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The production runs through Feb. 28.

## PRS Names Vienna Giant Employer of Year

Wendy Gradison, president and CEO of PRS, Inc., has announced that the Giant Food Store #763, located at 359 Maple Ave. E., in Vienna, has won the 2009 PRS Tysons Employer of the Year Award. PRS Employment Services Specialists work closely with David Short at this Giant Food Store to find competi-

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## 5 Tax Tips That Could Save You Thousands

AMY MCANARNEY



Each year many taxpayers miss out on thousands of their own hard-earned dollars, simply because they are unaware of the many tax deductions and credits they are legally eligible to receive. Here are some of the recent tax law changes you need to be aware of, courtesy of Amy McAnarney, Executive Director of The Tax Institute at H&R Block.

**Capital Assets:** Thinking of selling an appreciated capital asset such as stock or a vacation home? You may even want to consider giving the asset to a child or grandchild who is in a lower tax bracket. He or she may be able to sell the property and have all or most of the gain taxed at 0%. However, be careful of "kiddie tax" rules which may tax some of your child's income at your rates.

**New Vehicles:** Did you know that you can deduct the sales tax paid on up

to \$49,500 of the purchase price of a new vehicle bought in 2009? This is helpful particularly if you do not itemize and instead take the standard deduction on your tax return. In that case, remember you can add the sales tax to the standard deduction. In order to deduct the sales tax paid on the purchase of a new vehicle, the auto must have been purchased between Feb. 17, 2009 and Dec. 31, 2009.

**Business Vehicles:** If you own a small business that bought an SUV or other vehicle that weighs over 6,000 pounds in 2009, and it's used

for business, you may be able to deduct up to \$25,000 of the cost this year, plus take a 50% depreciation deduction on the remaining cost of the vehicle. For example, if your new SUV cost \$75,000, you may be able to take a tax deduction of \$52,000 on your 2009 business return.

**New Homebuyers:** If you bought a home in 2009 or plan to in 2010, you may get some tax relief. First-time homebuyers can get a tax credit of up to \$8,000, and repeat homebuyers may be eligible for a credit

of \$6,500. Existing homeowners must have lived in their current home for five of the last eight years to be eligible in 2010 for the \$6,500 homebuyer credit.

**Virginia Residents:** Finally, in Virginia, there's a deduction for 20% of the sales tax paid on certain energy efficient equipment or appliances, up to \$500 per year for those who are married filing jointly. Visit an experienced Tax Professional to ensure that you are getting all of the credits and deductions you deserve.

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4472



# Vienna Walgreen's Now Open

Store focuses on customer service and convenience.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith no advertising, no promotion, no announcement, Walgreen's in Vienna, nevertheless, opened to a steady stream of customers on Friday, Jan. 22. They drove by, saw the "open" sign and turned directly in to the parking lot.

On Saturday, the parking lot was filling up.

"My sister-in-law and I have been waiting for Walgreen's to open," said Molly Helm of Vienna. As she and her son Jonathan drove past, he spotted the open store and there they were. On their way in, Molly Helm walked texting her sister-in-law on her cell: "Walgreen's is open."

The Maple Avenue store in the former Safeway location shows a repaved parking lot and new exterior. One of the largest Walgreen's in the country, the Vienna store stocks an array of fro-



**Walgreen's manager Jarees Peeples says the store focuses on customer service and convenience. Peeples points to a selection of local logo merchandise.**

zen foods from ice cream to mini-meals, cold-weather sportswear, household staples, a full-service

pharmacy, user-friendly photo center, dog bedding and double promotion aisles. The store also offers

a selection of George Mason University sweatshirts.

Manager Jarees Peeples referred to attributes that he believes make his store different. "We focus more on customer service and convenience," Peeples said.

**MERCEDES BUTLER** sees Walgreen's and thinks of her mother back home in Oakland, Calif. "At home, they cater to the seniors and they have everything my mom needs," said Butler. "I drove by and thought, 'that looks like a Walgreen's sign. I got to stop in.'"

Another example of the customer-focused design comes at eye level. Shelves are lowered to the average human height, particularly accommodating to senior adults. H1N1 flu shots are offered daily on a walk-in basis at a cost of \$18.99. The pharmacy accepts Medicare and Medicaid insurance.

The Vienna Walgreen's is located at 225 Maple Ave. E. It's open daily, 8a.m.-10 p.m. Phone number is 703-259-6342.

A grand opening celebration is planned for early February.

"We want to be a part of the community," said Peeples. "If anything comes up, we're ready to reach out to the community."



**Molly Helm texts her sister-in-law with the big news on the store opening. Her son Jonathan noticed the 'open' sign as they drove up Maple Avenue.**



**Mercedes Butler says Walgreen's back home in Oakland caters to seniors. The Vienna store reminds her of her mother living in Oakland.**



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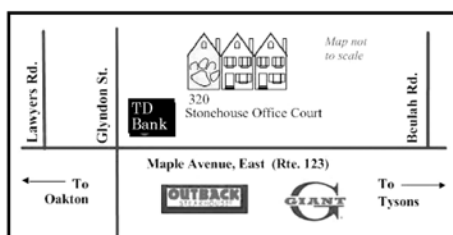
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# OPINION

## Time for Civil Redistricting

### Governor campaigned on non-partisan redistricting; now is time for proposals in General Assembly.

The U.S. Census is underway, an every-10-year process that attempts to count every single person in the United States at their home address. From the results of the count come a nearly infinite number of critical decisions. The way those decisions are carried out have consequences for every one of us.

One of those decisions is the redrawing of political lines for all political offices, including the General Assembly, U. S. Congress and local offices. In Virginia, the current process allows the political party in charge to draw the lines.

Proposals in the Virginia General Assembly could lead to a change in politics and democracy here. The measures would establish the Virginia Redistricting Commission to redraw Congressional and General Assembly district boundaries without the bitter partisan hatchet that has characterized Virginia's process under each party in the past.

Tradition in Virginia holds that the ruling

party decides how to redraw the lines around political districts after each census. The process in the past has involved the majority party using its power without any checks or balances to create districts that protect incumbents of the majority party and try to force out incumbents of the minority party.

#### EDITORIAL

The losers in the process are the citizens of Virginia, who first find themselves in political districts that make little sense geographically or in terms of communities of interest. They then find that even if they are unhappy with their elected officials, the gerrymandering has created districts that have killed any competition between parties, and that each party strongly discourages any primary challenges.

The result: most voters have far less choice in who represents them than they should.

There are probably hundreds of ways to set up a commission or non-partisan board that would take the politics out of the process.

House Bill 323, introduced by Del. Ken Plum

### Summary of Redistricting Bill

"Bipartisan Redistricting Commission created. Establishes a seven-member temporary commission to prepare redistricting plans in 2011 and each tenth year thereafter for the House of Delegates, state Senate, and congressional districts. Appointments to the Commission shall be made one each by the four majority and minority party leaders of the House and Senate and by the state chairmen of the two major political parties. Those six appointees shall appoint the seventh member and chairman of the Commission. If they cannot agree, they shall submit the names of the two persons receiving the most votes to the Supreme Court for the Court to select the chairman. The Commission will prepare plans and submit them as bills to the General Assembly. The General Assembly shall then proceed to act on the bills in the usual manner. The bill provides for Commission comments on plans as they change in the legislative process. It also spells out the standards and process to be followed by the Commission in preparing plans, including limitations on the use of political data and opportunities for public comment on the plans."

SOURCE: <http://leg1.state.va.us/lis.htm>

(D) of Reston, and Senate Bill 626, introduced by Sen. Jill Holtzman Vogel (R) pave the way for real reform and integrity in the political process.

— MARY KIMM.

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

#### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Adjust the Local Composite Index

To the Editor:

Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has the opportunity to act on principle and reverse the LCI freeze proposed by former Gov. Tim Kaine (D). This freeze unfairly targets Northern Virginia school systems and will result in degraded schools, lower property values, and a lower incentive for

businesses to locate in Northern Virginia. Because Northern Virginia's tax revenues fund schools throughout Virginia, the freeze will have a long-term impact on public schools throughout the state.

Virginia's school funding formula, the Local Composite Index (LCI), is designed to equalize school funding in Virginia. A county's LCI is based on property and sales tax revenues. Schools in less affluent, often more rural, areas receive a higher share of state funding for their school systems, while schools in higher-income areas are rightly expected to provide more of their own funding and thus receive a lower amount of money from the state. The average share of state funding for Virginia school districts is 48 percent. By contrast, Northern Virginia schools receive about 19 per-

cent of their funding from the state.

Under the LCI, tax revenues from high-income counties in Northern Virginia are redirected to school systems downstate. Northern Virginia has accepted this education formula although we do not benefit from it directly. We recognize that funding less affluent school districts benefits the entire Commonwealth. It is the right thing to do.

The LCI is scheduled to be adjusted this year. Because real estate values in Northern Virginia have dropped over the past few years, and school enrollment has increased, Northern Virginia schools expected some relief from a funding formula that does not usually benefit us. If the LCI were adjusted this year to reflect the current economic situation, Fairfax County's LCI would be .71, a tiny adjustment that would bring our school system \$60 million in a year in which our school system faces a \$176 million budget shortfall. To be clear, Fairfax County would still pay 71 percent of our school budget. Our state share would remain well below the state average.

But the LCI is frozen. The freeze targets Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William counties, locking Northern Virginia into, in the words of State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), "a real estate market that

no longer exists." This year, we will be asked to come up with tax revenue based on totally unrealistic housing values and send it to the rest of the state, while our schools face ever-increasing student enrollment and steep cuts. Northern Virginia schools are not asking for a handout from the state, we are just asking for our fair and relatively small share of the state funding that our own tax revenues provide. Gov. McDonnell should take a principled stand and lift the freeze.

Kristen Fennel  
Vienna

### Estate Tax Under Scrutiny

To the Editor:

Is George W. Bush continuing to write our nation's tax policy?

As many readers may already know, the estate tax has been cut five times since 2001, with the result that few people pay it now — only one in 400 Americans. A couple can pass on \$7 million tax-free, and a single person, \$3.5 million.

So, what is the problem with this? For many of us, there are several problems. The first one is this: Repealing the estate tax would increase the federal deficit by \$1.3

trillion over 10 years and leave the struggling middle class even worse off. A second problem is that cutting the estate tax again would give a huge tax break to the very same corporate executives and Wall Street speculators who wrecked the economy and then paid themselves multi-million dollar bonuses after taxpayers bailed them out. Do these folks, the people who helped wreck our economy, need more government relief?

What readers may not know is that a few super-wealthy families who own giant companies have funded the anti-estate tax campaign. These folks are not looking out for the common good, not looking out for the most vulnerable as well those of us who work hard for a living and still have problems meeting our financial obligations.

In 2010, debate over the permanent estate tax will be taking place, and the Senate will be the main battleground. There are several plans already on the table. One on the table is The Sensible Estate Tax Plan. Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.) introduced a bill — the Sensible Estate Tax Act, HR 2023 — that sets the exemption at \$4 million per married couple (\$2 million per individual)

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# WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 4

tive employment for PRS clients, persons in recovery from serious mental illness. More information about the Vienna Giant Food Store can be found at: [http://www.giantfood.com/our\\_stores/locator/store\\_details.htm?storeNumber=0763](http://www.giantfood.com/our_stores/locator/store_details.htm?storeNumber=0763).

Additional information about PRS can be found at [www.prsinc.org](http://www.prsinc.org).

## Amateur Photo Contest

Applications to enter the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's annual Amateur Photography

Contest and Exhibit will be available beginning Feb. 1 at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

Exhibit dates are Saturday and Sunday, March 20 and 21. Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded in eight categories: animals, architecture, digital, nature, pictorial, photojournalism, portraiture and scenic. There will be a separate contest section for middle school and high school students.

The entry fee is \$10 per person. Entries are limited to four photos per person and two per category. For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or visit [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov).

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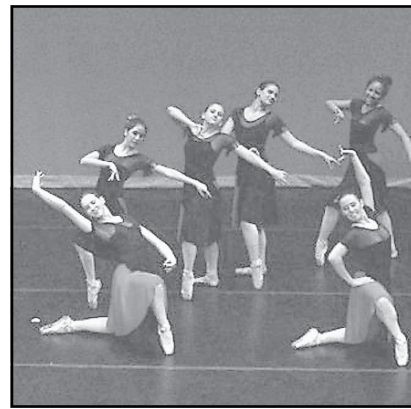
*Whether it's reconfiguring existing space or adding new, this seminar will address creative ways to make your home work better for you and your family. The experts will discuss basements, in-law suites, home offices, exercise rooms, play rooms, creative storage ideas and more.*

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# Petition Drive Begins at Libraries

**Budget cuts rally library supporters.**

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

In less than four hours on Jan. 23, Friends of Patrick Henry Library had obtained over 100 signatures on its "Save Fairfax County Public Libraries" petition. It was the first day that the Friends group manned a volunteer desk in the foyer. They were there to ask the public's support in protesting proposed library budget cuts.

"Ever since I was little, the library was always a haven with good things to be had," said Jodi Condes, petition desk volunteer. "I'm a member of Friends of Patrick Henry because I believe in the value of libraries."

The proposed library budget would cut funding by 15 percent this fiscal year. Last year, the library budget was cut by 18 percent and staffing and hours were reduced at both community and regional libraries. A Fairfax County



**Jodi Condes, petition desk volunteer, belongs to Friends of Patrick Henry Library. She said she believes in the value of libraries, calling them a 'haven.'**

alliance of Friends groups has banded together in purpose to promote awareness of the proposed cuts and to gather grassroots backing. An online petition at <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-fairfax-county-public-libraries> was signed by over 1,000 Fairfax County residents within the first few weeks of its online presence.

Hee K. Song stopped by to sign

the petition along with his 2-year-old daughter Elianne. "We are upset about not getting the service we used to get," said Song. "It's taxpayer money. We deserve the service." Song, of Vienna, said the family has participated in the library's free children's events and his daughter likes picking books out.

Arti Kotadia, a Vienna consult-

ant who travels frequently, said she relies on evening and weekend hours and the library's services. "It's important for everyone to have access to free services in the library," said Kotadia. "Especially in a recession where people aren't buying books and movies as much as they used to."

Kotadia emphasized that people who work can't make it to the library by 6 p.m. and that Saturday appeared to be the busiest day of the week.

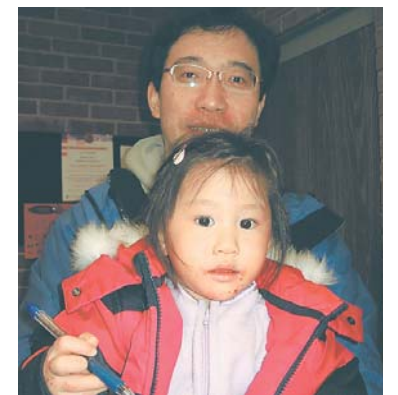
"It would be silly to cut down on staff on weekends," said Kotadia.

Many patrons said they were not familiar with the proposed library cutbacks but signed the petition once they were made aware of what the cuts resulted in. Others said they had already signed the petition online.

"I know that the county is in dire straits," said petition signer Paul Fauteux of Vienna. "If you're going to cut programs, I'd much rather see programs for adults cut than those for children."

At a recent "Lunch Bunnies,"

SEE LIBRARY, PAGE 13



**Hee K. Song, with daughter Elianne, said that taxpayers deserve the services that fully-funded libraries provide.**



**Arti Kotadia said that working people are not able to get to the library during the daytime hours. She relies on Saturday staffing and services.**

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# CALENDAR

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

## THURSDAY/JAN. 28

**Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Stories and songs. Age 2 with adult. 703-938-0405.

**Patrick Henry Book Club.** 1 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Book discussion. Call for title. Adults. 703-938-0405.

**Al di Meola.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## FRIDAY/JAN. 29

**Turner to Cézanne: An Evening with Corcoran Director, President and Exhibition Curator Paul Greenhalgh.** 7 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-1953 or [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

**English Conversation.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Group for adult non-native English speakers of all levels. Call for details. 703-938-0405.

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

**The Kennedys and Maura Kennedy's Solo CD Release.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$18. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Aspen Ensemble: The Discovery Series.** 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## SATURDAY/JAN. 30

**Sing Me Insomnia, The Goodnight Anthem and Struan Shields.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**An Evening with Charlie Hunter.** 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association.** Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance beginning at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m., open dancing 8:30-11 p.m. \$10 members, \$12 non-members, \$5 for ages 16-20 with student ID. website, [www.nvcwda.org](http://www.nvcwda.org) or 703-860-4941. Michelle Singletary, with Power to Prosper: 21

**Days to Financial Freedom.** 1 p.m. Barnes & Noble Books, 7851L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. [crm2238@bn.com](mailto:crm2238@bn.com).

**John Eaton.** 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or [wolftrap.org](http://wolftrap.org).

## SUNDAY/JAN. 31

**Martina McBride and Trace Adkins.** 7:30 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Tickets are \$49.75-\$69.75, available at all Ticketmaster locations or Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. 703-993-3000 or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Pianist Audrey Andrist.** 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aldenconcerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/aldenconcerts).



**Pianist Audrey Andrist will perform on Sunday, Jan. 31 at 3 p.m. at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center.**

## MONDAY/FEB. 1

**Patrick Henry Bookworms.** 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Youth book club. Age 9-12. 703-938-0405.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 2

**Alternative House: Open Door at the House.** 8-9 a.m. at 2100 Gallows Road, Vienna. Alternative House offers counseling, shelter, neighborhood support and after school programs. Learn about issues facing young people and get an overview of the House's history and services. Talk with the Executive Director, a Board member and staff, and take a tour of the teen shelter. Space is limited; contact Gina Cocomello at [gina\\_cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org](mailto:gina_cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org) or 703 506-9191 or [www.TheAlternativeHouse.org](http://www.TheAlternativeHouse.org).

**Literary Heroines.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Explore the role of female characters in A Room with a View by E.M. Forster. Adults. 703-242-4020.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 3

**Gals in the Gallery.** 7-9 p.m. at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With jewelry artist J.J. Singh. Donations accepted. 703-790-1953 or [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

**Buckwheat Zydeco, General Admission Dance.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Patrick Henry Film Odyssey.** 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Travel around the

world through movies. Adults. 703-938-0405.

**English Conversation Group.** 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.

**Anger Awareness for Women.** 7 p.m. Wednesdays through March 17 at The Women's Center, 127 Park St., N.E., Vienna. With Paula Donovan, MSW, LCSW, TWC Therapist. \$175 non-members, \$155 members. Register at [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or call 703-281-2657.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 4

**Fairfax High School Choral Department Cabaret Night.** 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets cover admission, dessert and a beverage. \$10 adults; \$5 seniors, students or children over two years old. \$25 for a family of four. A separate raffle for gift baskets will also be available. [www.fhschorus.net](http://www.fhschorus.net)

**The Persuasions.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 5

**Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala: Amore!** An Evening of Italian Love Songs. At the Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. 6:30 p.m. silent auction and cocktail reception, 8 p.m. dinner, 9 p.m. FSO in concert with tenor Robert Petillo and soprano Jeanine Thames. \$300 per person or \$3,000 per table, available by credit card at 703-563-1990, or by check to Fairfax Symphony Orchestra, 3905 Railroad Ave., Suite 202N, Fairfax, Va. 22030. [www.fairfaxsymphony.org](http://www.fairfaxsymphony.org).

**Black History Celebration.** 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove Church, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Voices of Worship community choir to present a musical journey through African-American history, including a sing-along with the audience. Free admission. Museum viewing available. 703-893-9075 or [www.historicpleasantgrove.org](http://www.historicpleasantgrove.org).

**Spagetti Dinner.** 5-7 p.m. at the City of Fairfax Senior Center, Green Acres Center Cafeteria, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Pasta, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage. Adults \$8, students and seniors \$7, \$6 under age 10. Children under age 2 free. Proceeds benefit the Senior Center. Open to the public, walk-ins welcome. 703-359-2487 or [jormesher@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:jormesher@fairfaxva.gov).

**Yu Wei Chinese Dance Collection.** 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

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# Fund-raiser Promotes 'Benefits of Chocolate'

FROM PAGE 3

Garden - life-like floral arrangements; Shari MacFarlane, fabric painting on accessories; and Marilyn Mueller of terracotta, chocolatier.

Supporting businesses count Plaka Grill, Johnny's Pizza, Whole Foods, Noodles & Co., Black-Eyed Susan, Vienna Complementary Medicine, Foster's Grille, The Greek Grille, Cafe Renaissance, Diamond Spa, Nielsen's Frozen Custard, Princess Jewelers, Great Harvest Bread Co., Vienna Rexall Drug Center, curtsies & petals, Luciano's Restaurant and World Market Fair Lakes.

The Friedlander family, who recently lost a family member, provided support to the event.

"Hopefully, people will come to the event this year, have fun, and next year, it will grow to be a larger event," said Kelly.

**"Hopefully, people will come to the event this year, have fun, and next year, it will grow to be a larger event."**

— Carol Kelly

The first Stroke Comeback Center fund-raiser is Friday, Feb. 5, 7:30-11:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., in Vienna.

To buy a ticket to "Benefits of Chocolate," e-mail [ckelly@strokecomebackcenter.org](mailto:ckelly@strokecomebackcenter.org) or call 703-255-5221. For more information on the services offered at the Stroke Comeback Center, go to [www.strokecomebackcenter.org](http://www.strokecomebackcenter.org).

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

**Universalist Congregation of Fairfax**, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, will show 'Until The Violence Stops' at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 29. The film is a documentary about how the play The Vagina Monologues grew into an international grassroots movement called V-Day to stop violence against women and girls. Donations accepted to benefit V-Day Oakton 2010. 703-716-0150 or [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org).

**McLean Bible Church**, 8925 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, will host LifeWay Women's Going Beyond with Priscilla Shirer, at 7 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 26 and 9 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27. Shirer encourages women to go beyond everyday life to walk with Christ. Tickets are the two-day event are \$45. Register at [www.lifeway.com/goingbeyond](http://www.lifeway.com/goingbeyond) or 800-254-2022.

## LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

and establishes a progressive rate structure starting at 45 percent, with a higher rate of 55 percent on estates above \$10 million. SALT believes that the McDermott bill would result in billions more revenue and would be more effective at reducing economic inequality than the current Obama proposal. The bill is the most fiscally responsible bill of all current proposals.

**John Horejsi**  
SALT Coordinator  
Vienna

## Taking Initiative On Climate Issue

To the Editor:

While admitting that greenhouse gas emissions are a danger to public health and welfare, Senator Webb apparently also shares Sen. Lisa Murkowski's (R-Alaska) concerns about the EPA regulating these pollutants. His stated reasoning for having a foul taste for the EPA taking action: overreach of the executive branch. Yet, the Supreme Court ruled in 2007 that the Clean Air Act — adopted by Congress — instructed the EPA to regulate these pollutants.

To disagree with the Supreme Court ruling would be one thing, but to reason that the EPA is beyond its responsibilities in this case is unfounded. Moreover, it raises the question of his reluctance to take initiative in pushing climate legislation forward in Congress. Passing legislation to address the matter is arguably the better route, yet we have seen no such champion, only obstructionism.

**Kate Pollard**  
Vienna

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## Cancer Can, Or It Can't (Me, Too)



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I can mostly handle this cancer stuff. However, there is one area I can't totally manage – emotions. Specifically when certain things – physical, mental, spiritual – happen. I never know if what I'm feeling is attributable to the cancer, and thus worthy of a phone call/email to my study nurse and/or oncologist, or more a function of simply being who I am, independent of the cancer business; meaning a middle-aged, slightly overweight ("Slightly?" Be quiet, Dina.), out-of-shape, -collar worker bee. I don't want to overreact to symptoms, nor do I want to be stubborn and stupid and underreact either. For all I know (and it's not really very much), whatever I'm feeling might actually matter, or it might not. Ergo the problem.

It's hard, make that impossible (for me anyway) to separate fact from fiction, cancer-related from normal wear and tear, the beginning of the end from the end of the beginning. I am encouraged by the medical staff to call with any concerns (real or imagined) that I may have. Still, when I called last week to report a non-stop runny nose that required constant blowing and tissue use (which ultimately lead to a very chapped and sore nose, inside and out) I felt funny. Here I have stage IV lung cancer and I'm worried about a runny nose. Even the description "runny nose" sounds insignificant and not nearly as serious many of the other symptoms familiar to cancer patients: nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, loss of sleep, loss of appetite, weight loss, nose bleeds, tingling and loss of use/control of your extremities and so forth that might warrant a cancer-call. Runny nose! What am I going to call about next? A skinned knee? A boo-boo on my buttock? A pimple on my poopik? Finding that line between compulsively obsessing over my symptoms to accepting what's happening to me as normal, given my age (and thus not particularly worthy of cancer-induced worry/anxiety/fear/depression) has been most difficult for me.

This difficulty has manifested itself because my coping mechanism diagnosis-to-date, has been not to consume myself (or try not to) with everything that is happening to me medically (or could be in the future). That's not to say that I'm ignoring what's occasionally been happening, but more so attempting to keep it in perspective/context: try not to overreact to the things (side effects, symptoms, deficiencies), that typically happen to cancer/chemo patients and conversely, try to react positively to the things that don't happen. My concern is that I'm taking too much in stride, attributing too much of what cancer stuff I think I feel to the inevitability of the underlying health situation in which I find myself immersed (and thus not unique or worth mentioning) and instead go with the proverbial flow and not fight this rising tide.

I don't want to be swept away and drowned by these waves of emotion and end up in a sea of non-tranquility. Somehow I need to, as Katie Winter of Secret Deodorant marketing fame once made famous, "Keep myself cool, calm and collected." I don't imagine that being in denial would help, but neither do I think proactively pursuing pathology reports (as but one example of the endless amount of information available from your health care provider) would provide the solace and balance I seek. I am open to suggestion.

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

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to **vienna@connectionnewspapers.com**. Deadline is Friday.

Army Pfc. **Eric Z. Reynolds**, a 2007 graduate of Oakton High School, has graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of James and Susan Reynolds of Oakton.

**Michael Thompson**, of Vienna is among 10 James Madison University students that trained for three days with Special Forces soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., as part of the Army ROTC Ranger Group.

**Army 2nd Lt. Roman A. Terehoff** has graduated from the Infantry Basic Officer Leader Course at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. He is the son of Alex G. and Irina P. Terehoff of Borge St., Oakton, Va. Terehoff graduated in 2001 from Oakton High School, and received a bachelor's degree in 2008 from George Mason University.

**Jennifer E. Fulco** has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader's Training Course at Fort Knox, Ky. Fulco is a student at George Mason University, and a 2007 graduate of James Madison High School. She is the daughter of Bruce R. and Judy A. Fulco of Podium Drive, Vienna.

**Jerard M. Paden** has graduated from the Army ROTC (Reserve Officer Training Corps) Leader Development and Assessment Course, also known as "Operation Warrior Forge," at Fort Lewis, Tacoma, Wash. Paden is a student at Norwich University, Northfield, Vt., and is the grandson of Eleanor Clark of Carrhill Road, Vienna.

Air Force Airman **Kimberly J. Werman** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Frank Werman of Silverstone Court in Oakton, and sister of Kyle Werman of Plum Run Court in Fairfax. Werman is a 2005 graduate of James Madison High School.

Air Force Airman **Kristen N. Farmer** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. She is the daughter of Robert Farmer of Gosnell Road, Vienna, and Michelle Farmer of Fairview Heights, Ill.

Army National Guard Pfc. **Nathaniel A. Rausch** has graduated from the Infantryman One Station Unit Training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Ga. The training consists of Basic Infantry Training and Advanced Individual Training. He is the son of Charlotte Rausch of New Providence Drive, Falls Church, and brother of Craig Johnson of Westwood Drive, Vienna. Rausch graduated in 2004 from James Madison High School, and received an associate degree in 2007 from Jefferson County Community College, Louisville, Ky.

Coast Guard Seaman **Nicholas C. Pfautz**, son of Terry Pfautz of Warrenton and Richard Pfautz of McLean, recently graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, N. J.

Air Force Airman **Hyun H. Jeong** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. Jeong is the nephew of Sunny Chung of Spring Gate Drive, McLean.

Air Force 2nd Lt. **Courtney N. Hintz** has entered the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., as a first-year medical student, to be trained as a physician. She is the daughter of Roger M. and Nancy K. Hintz of Seneca Knoll Drive, Great Falls, a 2005 graduate of Langley High School, and a 2009 graduate of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville.

**Constance Lynne Solina** was promoted to U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander on Sept. 3. Currently with the Functional Integration Management and Training Directorate for the Center for Seabees and Facilities Engineering, she previously served in Iraq with the 4th Naval Mobile Construction Battalion in 2007, earned a civil engineering degree from Purdue University and a masters of environmental engineering from the University of Texas, Austin. Solina is the daughter of Pamela Beck Danner and David L. Danner of McLean, and a 1996 graduate of Langley High School.





PHOTO BY VERONICA GARABELLI/ CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Del. Mark Keam (D-35), center, at the General Assembly session.

# School Funding Formula Angers Fairfax Delegates

**'Legal action' under consideration.**

BY VERONICA GARABELLI  
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Gov. Bob McDonnell's (R) plan to continue using an education funding formula that takes money from more affluent school districts and gives it to less affluent ones has so upset Fairfax County supervisors that they are considering legal action.

"This is really a cut-and-dried issue," said Supervisor Jeffrey C. McKay (D-Lee). "It's outright discrimination against Northern Virginia."

McDonnell's decision will cut \$61 million from the Fairfax County Public Schools' budget, said Paul Regnier, a spokesman for the school district.

According to the school system's Web site, Fairfax County's school budget for the 2010 fiscal year is \$2.2 billion, so the funding cut amounts to 3 percent of the budget. Regnier said that could mean larger class sizes, the elimination of full-day kindergartens or the curtailment of foreign language emergence services.

McDonnell's office confirmed Friday, Jan. 22, that he would uphold the use of the school funding formula proposed in December by then-Gov. Tim Kaine (D).

Details will be given to agency heads next week, McDonnell's press secretary, Stacey Johnson, said in an e-mail to Capital News Service.

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) said he was furious when he heard the formula would be frozen at the level set by Kaine.

Petersen noted that because the real estate market had fallen in Northern Virginia, Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun counties received lower scores on the scale than they had in the past.

Ordinarily, the lower scores would have resulted in more money from the state for basic education.

"Now, thanks to the plan that was put forward by Gov. Kaine, the rules are being changed on us," Petersen said.

On Jan. 12, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted 10-0 to look into legal action if the McDonnell administration upheld the freeze in the school funding formula.

The formula is called the Local Composite Index, or LCI. It determines which localities can pay the most for basic kindergarten-through-12th-grade education and which ones cannot. It is calculated using adjusted gross income, taxable retail sales and true value of real property.

This year, Fairfax's score went from .76 to .71; Loudoun fell from .67 to .58 and Prince William dipped from .44 to .40.

That should have meant more money for those school districts. However, Kaine — and now McDonnell — decided to freeze the formula at the previous scores.

That decision will please some localities, such as Russell County, in the southwest corner of Virginia.

Dr. Lorraine C. Turner, superintendent for the Russell County Public Schools, said her school district would benefit from the LCI freeze.

"If it's frozen at last year's rate, the state will give us more money, as opposed to asking the locality to pay for it," Turner said.

In December, Kaine proposed freezing the LCI until the 2012 fiscal year. He said this would help protect 97 school divisions that would lose money if the formula were re-calculated.



## Long Term Care Report Presented to Foust

Citizens representing Fairfax County's Long Term Coordinating Council (LTCCC) recently paid a visit to Supervisor John W. Foust's (D-Dranesville) office in McLean to present a report entitled 'Creating Partnerships and Building Community' authored by The Long Term Care Coordinating Council. The report highlights the accomplishments of the 45 member Council in 2009. Pictured, from left, are Christine Hyland, executive director, Life Circle Alliances (LCA); Kay Larmer, board vice chair, LCA; Foust; Myles Nienstadt, executive director, Evergreen Senior Care, Inc; and Roscane Rodillosso, member of the Long Term Care Coordinating Council Health Care Advisory Board. For more information [www.lifecirclealliances.org](http://www.lifecirclealliances.org).

## Library Friends Protest Budget Cuts

FROM PAGE 8

most of the young mothers in the packed room said they were not aware that programming and staff were on the chopping block. They expressed surprise, then, dismay. Angie Rile, with her 2-year-old son Noah, shared her thoughts on children's programming at the library, particularly "Lunch Bunnies."

"I think this one is fantastic," said Rile. "It's always full. I signed up two weeks in advance to make sure we got a spot. I'd be disappointed if this was no longer offered. It's a good way to introduce kids to reading and books. Reading here is different than reading at home. It's a very active process here with songs and activity. It's a social event for mother and child. For Vienna, this is really a great place."

Early Saturday afternoon, cars circled Patrick Henry's parking lot looking for a space. Adults and children, arms filled with books, crossed into adjacent parking area. In Patrick Henry, the seating in the children's area and around the computers was full. Information desk staff answered questions, something that will disappear on Saturdays under the proposed library budget.

In the public meeting room, four women at sewing machines talked about their use of library facilities. This quilter's bee, part of Vienna Quilters Unlimited, can no longer hold its business meetings at night because of a whittling of evening hours.

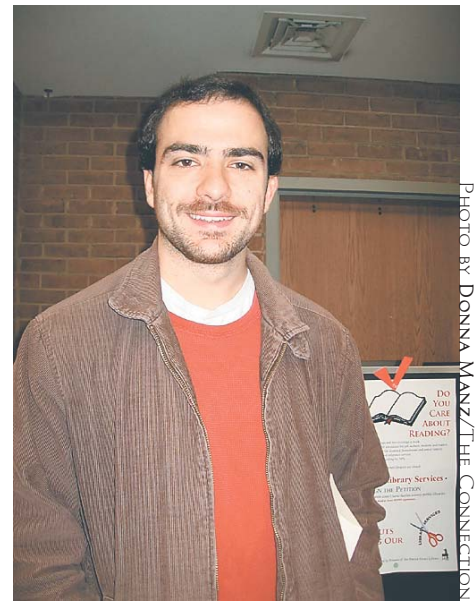


PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/ THE CONNECTION

**Paul Fauteux prefers cuts be made to adult programs rather than to children's programs.**

There was lots of grumbling from library users who stopped by the petition desk.

"It's not just the kids, but retired people who come in the morning, working people who come to adult programs and lower-income people who come to use the computers," said Condes. "Everyone is affected."

To sign online petition, go to <http://www.thepetitionsite.com/1/save-fairfax-county-public-libraries>.



# SPORTS

## Oakton Boys Experience Winning Season Under Brooks

Cougars already have nine wins following three victory season a year ago.

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

While Dave Brooks has brought a new mindset to the Oakton High boys' basketball team during his first season as head coach, he indicated there is still plenty of room for improvement.

"I want to keep improving and make sure we're playing our best basketball at district tournament time," said Brooks, who this past offseason was hired to take over an Oakton program that struggled through a 3-19 record last year. "I knew that there was talent here. For whatever reason, that talent didn't mesh [a year ago]."

Oakton, following a 77-75 non-district home loss to Lee High on Saturday night, Jan. 22, stood at 9-7 overall, a vast improvement from last year. In Concorde District play, the Cougars entered this week 2-3. While Oakton is hardly a Northern Region power, it is clearly a better team than last year's edition. Brooks has stressed team work and defense.

"I want to make sure I get the right talent on the basketball court, that we have the right defensive schemes and that we play hard as a team," said Brooks, who grew up in Long Island, N.Y. "I want to try and utilize my personnel and try to take advantage of the players' [talent] we have. We try to look to the hot hands as much as possible."

Oakton's leading scorer this season has been senior small forward Andrew Daniels, who is averaging 16 points per game. Lately, Daniels has been a particularly effective scorer. He netted 21 points in the loss versus the Lancers on Saturday, a game that was originally scheduled to be played in December before snow forced it to be postponed. In an 84-72 district overtime loss at Centreville earlier last week on Jan. 19, the 6-foot-1 inch Daniels scored 30 points. He tallied 23 in Oakton's 60-56 district home win over Westfield last Friday night.

"He can score in a variety of ways, off of screens, out on the wing and around the top of the key," said Brooks. "He has the ability to put the ball on the deck and get all the way to the basket. His [shooting] extends to three-point range as well."

Oakton has also received good scoring contributions from junior guard Steele Shemeld, who is putting up 13 points per game. Shemeld scored 12 points in both the Lee and Westfield games over the weekend.

"He has really shot the ball well behind the three-point line," said Brooks, of the shooting guard. "Teams are now respecting his shot and coming out to guard him. He's stepping up and hitting the 15-footer against them."

Against the Bulldogs, he did not score through three quarters before breaking through for all of his points in the fourth quarter as Oakton outscored Westfield, 22-13, in that final stanza of a comeback win.

"He knocked down a couple of 15 to 18 footers and hit a big three-pointer," said Brooks, of Shemeld's outstanding fourth quarter scoring surge. "He's a very

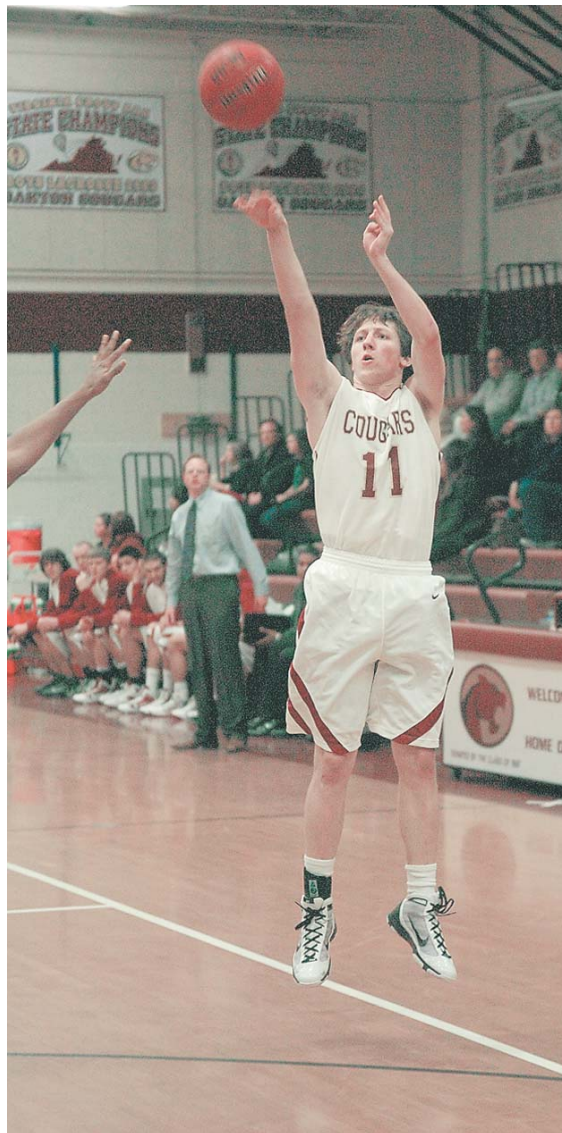


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Andrew Daniels, a senior captain for the Cougars, scored 21 points versus Lee on Saturday night.**

confident player and a confident shooter."

**OAKTON** has received good play off the bench from senior center Nick Koutris, an All-Region offensive lineman for the Cougars' football team this past fall that has been a key basketball contributor on the hardwood.

"He does all the little things to help us win," said Brooks, recalling a key, late game offensive foul charge the 6-6 Koutris drew in the Westfield win, as well as a converted free throw he made that clinched the victory with five seconds remaining.

Other key members of the Oakton line-up include power forward David Larson and point guard Kris McNeil, who scored 20 points in the Lee game.

"We've been going well this year and have had a real balanced attack," said Brooks, a George Mason University graduate who served as a Langley High assistant the past four years under head coach and best friend Trevor Hess. "We have a combination of kids who can score from the outside and kids who can go the basket."

Oakton's district wins have come over Robinson and Westfield, and its district losses have come to Herndon, Chantilly and Centreville. The Cougars are scheduled to host Herndon this week on Thursday, Jan. 28.

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**The A-list team** is a placement program for young athletes with special needs, organized by The Vienna Youth Incorporated (VYI). The program is designed to bring the opportunity of learning and enjoying basketball. Its goal is to enable young athletes with special needs to experience the fun, team building and pride associated with learning a sport. It is also aimed to work on teaching according to the abilities of team members. The league, currently accepting registration for boys ages 8-to-10, is looking for volunteers with interest and/or experience working with children with exceptional personalities. Volunteers will be interviewed and must be willing to commit to 40 hours of service during the season, including training and working one-on-one with the children who take part in the program. To find out more or to volunteer, contact Anne Ganten, League Commissioner, at [anne.ganten@yahoo.com](mailto:anne.ganten@yahoo.com).

**Online or mail-in registration** is now open for the spring season of the Vienna Girls Softball League at [www.vgsl.org](http://www.vgsl.org). Girls ages 5-to-18, who reside in Northern Virginia, are invited to play. Teams will be formed in March for league play. The season will run from April through early June.

**The Vienna Little League** (VLL), which provides baseball programs for boys and girls in the greater Vienna area, is now accepting registrations for its Spring T-ball and baseball seasons. Children born between May 1, 1997 and April 30, 2005 are eligible to participate. The VLL Web site, [www.vll.org](http://www.vll.org), has extensive information on the League's programs, as well as comprehensive details on the VLL spring season fee schedule. All registrations must be made online. Vienna Little League will also have a Challenger Program, designed for children with disabilities who want to play baseball in a supportive environment at no cost to their families. Contact information is available on the Web site.

**James Madison High graduate Katie Wilmer** scored 15 points for the Mary Washington University women's basketball team in its 75-49 home win over York College (Pa.) on Jan. 20. The

Eagles improved to 13-3 with the win. Wilmer, a sophomore guard, resides in Vienna.

**James Madison High School** will be inducting four individuals and one team into its Athletic Hall of Fame next fall on Saturday Oct. 30 at Westwood Country Club in Vienna. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a cocktail hour followed by a reception in which the new members will be officially inducted. For ticket purchases or more information, call 703-319-2499 or e-mail [john.lingenfelter@fcps.edu](mailto:john.lingenfelter@fcps.edu).

**The Flint Hill Huskies swim team** lost to St. Albans in an early season boys meet, 109-61, while the Huskies' girls fell to National Cathedral School, 105-61. Rachel Swarts was a double-event winner, taking both the 100-fly and the 100-back events. Other event winners for the Huskies included Brian DeMocker (500 free); Lauren Petka (500 free); Rob Ikeda (100 back); and Luke Guthrie (100 breast).

**Matt Callahan of Vienna**, a member of the Thomas Jefferson High boys' swim and dive team, was a double-event winner in the Colonials' recent team loss to Fairfax. He clocked a state-meet qualifying time in the 100-back event. Also winning two events for the Jefferson boys (4-2 record) was Stephen Seliskar (McLean). The boys 200 medley relay team, including Seliskar, Callahan and Sam Speers (McLean), had a state-qualifying time, placing second in a fast and exciting race.

A week earlier in Jefferson's meet against Madison, Callahan and Seliskar were double winners, with Seliskar swimming a state-qualifying time in the 100-back. The boys' 200-free relay, of which Steven Howard (Oakton) was a member, finished second and was a Northern Region qualifier.

For the Jefferson girls (6-0), Anna Lan (McLean) finished third in the 200-free in the Colonials' team meet versus Fairfax. A Jefferson girls 400 free relay team, which included Jae Sim (Reston) and Lan, finished second. In action a week earlier against Madison, Jefferson's 200 free relay, which included Leah Gonzalez (McLean) and Sim, was victorious.



# Family PASS for the Future

**Vienna rental assistance program provides more than money.**

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**A** year and a half ago, Shanetta was just barely able to make ends meet, supporting herself and her young daughter. She had no family nearby to help her out, either with babysitting or with financial support.

Today, the 23-year-old is a full-time college student and part-time employee. Her 4-year-old is safe and supervised in a Reston preschool while Shanetta attends college and works. Mother and daughter live in a rental in Vienna. She owes her change in good fortune to Vienna-based Family PASS, a rental assistance nonprofit serving Fairfax County residents.

"I was working and able to support myself, but living paycheck to paycheck," Shanetta said. "I was not going anywhere. I made the best decision for me and my daughter when I said I wanted to further my education."

Shanetta met Suezette Steinhardt, director and case manager of Family PASS, in 2005 through another nonprofit program. In 2008, Shanetta turned for direction from Steinhardt whose program, Family PASS, had recently been approved for 510 (c)(3) status. When Shanetta described her financial struggles and will to better herself through education, Steinhardt immediately came to her aid.

**FAMILY PRESERVATION** and Strengthening Service (Family PASS) is a three-year rental assistance program combined with intensive case management. The Board of Directors are all unpaid volunteers and its headquarters is housed in Steinhardt's basement to save money. Steinhardt is passionate about what she does, working 60-hour weeks. Family PASS received a leadership award from the Washington Area's Women's Foundation for its work with women. Steinhardt was recognized by CNN as a community hero.

Not yet 3 1/2 years old, Family PASS has supported more than 15 families throughout their journey to financial independence.

"These are people who work in our banks, retail stores, etc.,"



PHOTO BY CNN

**Suezette Steinhardt founded Family Preservation and Strengthening Service (Family PASS) to help working families with rental assistance and social supports.**

Steinhardt said. "They have vehicles that don't have many miles left on them. They are forced to live hours from their jobs. They sacrifice time with their children all just to survive. They are never going to get ahead and they are always just one car repair away from homelessness."

Family PASS requires that families be in the U.S. legally and adults have to be working but struggling to pay rent. Many need skills to find better employment, and educational training is one of the organization's ways of support.

"If a parent needs to go to school at night, we need to make sure they have the means to do that," said Steinhardt. "They want to be sure their children are safe."

Family PASS works with landlords who will accept its rental assistance to help clients qualify for approval. In its assistance formula, no more than 31 percent of a family's income will go toward rent. Family PASS subsidizes the rest.

"Shelters are an expensive way to handle the homeless," she said. Steinhardt pointed out that when families are placed in shelters, children change schools and workers may not be able to get to their jobs without transportation. "Living in a shelter destabilizes the family and the community."

"The community has a stake in providing a stable housing environment."

Family PASS raised about \$200,000 in 2009 and spent everything they got, Steinhardt said. Approximately 80 percent of the nonprofit's funding comes from private donors, 10 percent from churches, and 5 percent each from foundations and Fairfax County.

"We have certain committed donors. If a church says they're

going to get behind a family, they do it."

**FAMILY PASS** provided Shanetta with intense counseling, from money management and planning to housing assistance. "I'll be completely out of debt by February of this year," Shanetta said. "I'm happy and proud. She (Suezette) helped me to look at the long term and plan for it." Family PASS will stick with Shanetta until she finishes college. Steinhardt set up a strategy for Shanetta, factoring in income and out-go.

**REALTOR** Kathe King of the Vienna Weichert office sits on the Board of Directors of Family PASS. When Steinhardt and her family moved to Vienna, King found the family a home. She was aware of Steinhardt's involvement with charitable organizations and King was looking for ways to help the homeless. It was a perfect fit. King serves as a resource for finding rental properties for clients of Family PASS.

"I've seen first-hand the uphill battles facing people who want to get out on their own but just can't do it," said King. "It doesn't make a difference how they got to that point, but if they need help, they need help."

King credited Steinhardt, as case manager, for the successes they have had. King noted Steinhardt's personal involvement with each family, her dedication to working on budgets with them.

Last fall, the Vienna Weichert office conducted a charity yard sale to benefit Family PASS and Committee for Helping Others.

To learn more about contributing to Family PASS, go to [www.FamilyPASSFairfax.org](http://www.FamilyPASSFairfax.org).

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# My Grandpa's 'Caliphate'

BY BRITTANY THOLAN

Just the other day, I was walking through the bookstore, looking for the calendars, when I found myself face to face with a book that had my grandfather's name written across the top in large, capital letters, "André Le Gallo" and under it, "The Caliphate".

When I was little, my grandfather would tell me stories, true stories, of his adventures as a spy in the CIA. The stories my mother didn't hear until she was 16. Like how they received a death threat under the door of their house, how he had to get through checkpoints without being recognized as an American and how when he finally left the country, he disassembled a gun and hid the pieces in different furniture in his house, just in case he had to come back. And now my grandfather has gathered up all his knowledge and laid it out magnificently in a book, fictional, but attention grabbing, even for me, a teenage girl who was just in the bookstore to finally buy her 2010 calendar.

Of course I bought "The Caliphate." I went home and turned to a random page and read it, I was so drawn into it that I flipped to next page and read



on. I got a good four pages into it when my mom snatched it and told me to read it from the beginning. I flipped to Chapter 1 and read,

"In the darkness of Neuilly-sur-Seine on the outskirts of Paris, Farid stood on the ladder leaning against the wall separating the Saudi ambassador's and the American's back gardens. Wearing designer glasses and dark silk slacks, he looked more like an aging poster boy for the business-casual look than like the typical second-story man ..."

The book's main character, Steve Church, is based on André's son, Christopher, to whom the book is dedicated to, and who lived in McLean as an adult, but died in 2002 at age 33. Steve's personality and mannerisms are modeled on Christopher's family say that through this book he has been brought back to life.

Andre Le Gallo's "The Caliphate" can be found in bookstores under "New in Paperback". Go to [www.andreleгалlo.com](http://www.andreleгалlo.com) to read more.

*The writer is a 14-year-old Vienna resident who recently moved from California and now attends Langley High School.*



## Area Students Helping Haiti

Seventh graders Nikki Lockwood, Courtney Gistaro, Kate Garrow, Marry Geren and Kathryn Karnaze from The Langley School conducted a bake sale outside of the Giant in McLean to raise money for Haiti Relief. The group of about dozen 12- and 13-year olds raised about \$1,600 for Doctors Without Borders.

PHOTOS BY LAURA FRIBERG

Langley seventh grader Courtney Gistaro holds up one of the signs her fellow classmates made to try to get people to buy their baked goods for Haiti.



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