

Officer Kristin Ruddy receives the Vienna Police Officer of the Year award from Chief Robert Carlisle. American Legion Post 180 sponsored the award. From left, American Legion Post 180 Vice Commander Phil Dunn, Commander Bob Hatter, Carlisle and Ruddy.



# Officer, Firefighter Of the Year Honored

NEWS, PAGE 3

# Snowed In

NEWS, PAGE 3

# Vienna Inn Turns 50

NEWS, PAGE 4

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION  
 OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ CALENDAR, PAGE 8 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 13

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## SCHOOL NOTES

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'The Secret Garden' will be performed at **Marshall Road Elementary** on Feb. 4-5 at 7:30 p.m. The musical is based on Frances Hodgson Burnett's novel and was selected to coincide with the opening of the school's own garden this year. Students auditioned for parts at the beginning of the school year and have been rehearsing since September. 703-937-1500 or [jeheiges@fcps.edu](mailto:jeheiges@fcps.edu) or event liaison Judy Butler at

[jdbutler@fcps.edu](mailto:jdbutler@fcps.edu).

**Thoreau Middle School** is holding a Living History Day 8-11 a.m. on April 22. Members of the community are invited to share life experiences with students, and provide firsthand oral histories. The organizers are looking for individuals who have lived through a historical time period: The Great Depression, World War II, Cold War, Korean, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraqi Wars. Speakers would share their stories with 7th graders through three informal sessions of approximately 40-45 min-

utes including a question and answer period. Contact [Jason.penticoff@fcps.edu](mailto:Jason.penticoff@fcps.edu) or [Sarah.Elkalban@fcps.edu](mailto:Sarah.Elkalban@fcps.edu).

**Nicki Rosencrans** of Vienna, a sophomore theatre major at York College of Pennsylvania, was selected as lighting designer for the York College Players' performance of "A Raisin in the Sun".

**Barbara Rosecrans** of Vienna, a sophomore theatre major at York College of Pennsylvania, has been named to the fall 2009 dean's list.



**Zachery Bonner speaking to a young audience about his experiences with the Red Wagon Foundation.**

## STAMP Program Kicks off New Semester Zachary Bonner to inspire children to community service.

BY WILLIAM SCOTT MARTIN  
THE CONNECTION

**S**TAMP, standing for Science, Technology, Art, Music and Performance, has begun another year at Waples Mill Elementary. The service program kicked off on Jan. 15 with special guest Zachary Bonner, the young founder of the Little Red Wagon Foundation.

Dozens of students and adults packed the Waples Mill Elementary gymnasium that day. High-school volunteers directed activities. Flanking the room were over a dozen presentations outlining child-inspired philanthropic projects, much like exhibits at a science fair. There was also a fair amount of press, all seemed to focus on 12-year-old Bonner.

Zachary Bonner was 6 when he first started collecting bottles in his neighborhood for the survivors of Hurricane Charlie, where the news of the devastation incited him to action. Since then, the Little Red Wagon Foundation has snowballed into an organization that has raised millions of dollars to build apartments for homeless families. Bonner himself has grown in celebrity, having appeared in "Good Morning America" and being named the most inspiring person of 2009. Now he is the subject of a new movie.

**BONNER** said that if he had to impart any message to the students at Waples Mill, it would be that no one is ever too young to make a difference.

"I thought it was really cool how [Bonner] did those things for the homeless people and all those kids," said Dorothy Smith, a Waples Mill Elementary School student.

"I thought it was really neat that ... he was 6 and he went around

with his little red wagon," said Ellie Donahue, also a Waples Mill student.

After Bonner had spoken, the students were taken to their breakout sessions where they were briefed according to the different tract they had chosen, for Science, Technology, Art, Music and Performance respectively. Each student was allowed to pick a first and second tract.

"The major program we are outlining for 2010 is a universally acceptable garden," said Deatma Abdul-Latif, program developer with the Children's Philanthropy Center. "We have had a student design our garden and actually work with the master gardener."

"We are tying curriculum to community-type support," said Abdul-Latif. STAMP described its students as "social entrepreneurs," who unlike business entrepreneurs, measure success in social change rather than profit.

**STUDENTS** are asked to apply the skills they learn in school to making community service ventures using "entrepreneurial principles."

"[The program] was uniquely designed for the Waples Mill community," said Abdul-Latif. "Many of our students do fairly well academically. What was really lacking was a service component ... really showing them how to show empathy towards their peers and really being able to shore up service and be of support to others who are less endowed."

She described how students are not only challenged to conceptualize new ideas, but to use input from other students to solve problems. In the example of the universal garden, the student who initiated the project received feedback from other students in wheelchairs what they would want to see in a garden.

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PHOTO BY CATHY CISSEL

**High snow trapped this Dunn Loring rescue vehicle in the Tysons Woods Development at the intersection of Electric Avenue and Chestertown Drive. Among the neighbors helping free the vehicle were Ryan and Nathan Tewell, 10, and Ed Cissel.**

## Snowed In

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Virginia Department of Transportation expected to remove 500,000 tons of snow from Northern Virginia roads this week, and that was before weather teams started calling for a second storm to hit the region this week.

Parts of Fairfax County received as much as 34 inches of snow during the initial storm that started Friday, Feb. 5. A few days later, local emergency responders were bracing for a second wave of winter weather, expected to bring as much as 10 to 20 inches of additional snow on Tuesday, Feb. 9.

A few Fairfax neighborhoods had not recovered from the first storm, let alone been able to prepare for second wave of harsh conditions. Parts of West Springfield, McLean, Great Falls, Clifton and Kings Park West remained totally unplowed and, in some cases, without power four days after first storm and less than 24 hours before the second storm was scheduled to arrive, according to local elected officials.

"If we get [another] 20 inches of snow, that is going to be a huge problem. I think the next couple of days are going to be harder than the last couple of days," said Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), whose neighborhood street in McLean still had not been plowed on Feb. 8.

**DOMINION POWER**, the largest local utility com-

## Emergency personnel work around the clock to respond to large snowfall.

pany, expected to restore service to all their Fairfax customers by the 10 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 9. As of Monday afternoon, approximately 100 households in the county served by Dominion still had no electricity, said company spokesperson Daisy Pridgen.

A few of the more isolated parts of Great Falls and some older West Springfield developments were still without electricity on the eve of the second storm, according to local elected officials.

The level of electricity service that had been restored by Feb. 8 was an improvement over the prior two days, when thousands of Fairfax residents were without power, according to Fairfax County spokesperson Merni Fitzgerald.

"It went off all across the district. We had huge patches of Great Falls and McLean without power. Dominion has made very significant progress with getting them back online" said Foust.

The county opened two emergency shelters at the Robert E. Lee Center in Franconia and Oak Marr Recreation Center in Oakton after the storm, partly to respond to the needs of those communities without electricity, said Fitzgerald. No one showed up at the Franconia location and only two families went to the Oakton location before the county shut both shelters down Feb. 8.

At the Oakton location, one family took hot showers and left immediately. Another family spent several hours there and went home around midnight once they found out their power had been restored,

SEE ANOTHER STORM. PAGE 10

**"If we get [an additional] 20 inches of snow, that is going to be a huge problem."**

— Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**American Legion Post 180 Firefighter of the Year Matthew Troy accepts congratulations from former Volunteer Vienna Fire Department Chief, Jeff Gray, and Post 180 Commander Bob Hatter.**

## Officer, Firefighter Of the Year Honored

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

**E**very year, Post 180 of the Vienna American Legion honors a Vienna police officer and a firefighter. On Feb. 3 at American Legion Hall, Officer Kristin Ruddy and volunteer firefighter/EMT Matthew Troy were presented, by their commanding officers, with engraved plaques awarded by Post 180. Commander Bob Hatter of Post 180 presided over the program.

"AN AWARD like this is not normally awarded to someone with just three years' experience," said Vienna Police Chief Robert Carlisle from the podium. "But Kristin has set herself apart in her three years, in the way she works on cases and with youth. She has done a magnificent job for us."

Ruddy serves as a patrol officer, Rape Aggression Defense (R.A.D.) instructor, bicycle officer and has served in undercover capacities during discreet criminal operations within the town.

"Officer Ruddy has a great personality," said Carlisle. "She comes to work every day in a good mood, she's always smiling. She's always willing to learn. She has drawn a lot of respect from her peers."

Police department spokesman MPO Bill Murray described Ruddy as "highly respected within the Vienna Police De-

partment for netting a significant amount of arrests and convictions for individuals committing criminal acts." Officer Ruddy has received letters of commendation from citizens as well as her superiors.

She was nominated for the award by her sergeant, Peter Elias.

**TROY** works as a Department of Justice attorney, married with children, who nonetheless makes time to volunteer his services in the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Troy joined the fire department approximately five years ago, training first as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) and then as a firefighter. When Troy arrived, the VVFD was stronger in the area of EMTs than it was with firefighters.

"Matt helped build up our fire suppression program, making it much stronger than it had been," said former VVFD Chief Jeff Gray, who was sitting in for VVFD Chief John Morrison.

Morrison has recently returned from Haiti with the Fairfax County emergency response task force, as one of only three volunteers on deployment in Haiti with the County.

**CLOSING** out the honors was a presentation by Emil Guglielmo, representing Vienna Host Lions, of a flag commemorating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Korean conflict.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALEXANDRA BATES

USAID volunteer Jeff Bates with his oldest son, Avery, 12, camping out with the Boy Scouts last November.

## Vienna Man on Mission in Haiti

After 20 years, Jeff Bates returns to people he loves.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Jeff Bates is no stranger to humanitarian work. The Vienna resident volunteered as a Church of Latter Day Saints (LDS) missionary in Haiti 20 years ago, and on Jan. 27, he returned there with the USAID task force.

"I know the language, I know the country. And I love the people," said Bates.

He spent two years as a LDS missionary in Haiti, learning French and Creole in preparation for his mission there. USAID needed help in Haiti with translation and they turned to LDS who had an untapped ready-reserve of Creole-speaking missionaries from which to draw.

On Jan. 20, the LDS church

sent out an e-mail to all its former Haiti missionaries asking for help. Bates had no second thoughts about participating in the humanitarian effort there. His original plan was to help reestablish a medical clinic destroyed in the Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I'm there as an interpreter, but also, primarily, to reestablish a devastated medical center, helping the sick and wounded, doing demolition and construction.

"We're there to do whatever they tell us to do," said Bates.

**BATES HAS HAD INTERNET** access since his arrival in Port-au-Prince and has been in contact with wife Alexandra. His first morning in Port-au-Prince, Thursday, Bates SEE HELPING HAITI, PAGE 5



Jeff Bates on the right, as a young Mormon missionary in Haiti in 1988.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Karen and Tom Decker have been coming to the Vienna Inn since 1985. In background, Neal Byrd of Vienna, with son Nicholas and daughter Natalie, 5.

## Vienna Inn Turns 50

Maple Avenue icon celebrates all year long.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

To its loyal customers, every hour is happy hour at the Vienna Inn. Throughout the month of February, Maple Avenue's iconic nostalgic restaurant celebrates 50 years of honest food and its unique style of customer service. Happy Hour specials and commemorative logo merchandise mark the anniversary of the local restaurant and bar known around Vienna as the VI.

"What made the VI. special is that it is the VI.," said former owner and first lady of the Inn, Mollie Abraham. "The food is special. People got value for their money."

Mollie and Mike Abraham bought Freddie's in 1960 and immediately renamed it the Vienna Inn.

The hamburgers, turkey burgers and chili are made fresh at the VI., which still has a bar where older men and much younger men sit to drink beer. The Vienna Inn is a white clapboard and brick stand-alone structure, an old building that Mollie Abraham calls "the beauty of the Inn, too."

**CUSTOMERS** always seem to have stories to tell.

When Tom and Karen Decker began dating in 1985, he lived in Kansas City and she in Vienna. "We had a competition, who had the best dives," said Tom Decker. When Karen visited him, he brought her to his favorites. When he came to Vienna, Karen always took him to the VI. The VI. won, unsurpassed in divinity.

"What really put the VI. over the top was the day there were three gray-haired ladies in here, dressed to the nines, slamming down chili dogs and beer. 'This place wins, hands down, because of the clientele,' I said," Tom Decker said.

They recall sitting down at a table not yet cleaned, piled with used napkins. Mike Abraham ran over to chastise them for using so many napkins. Their pleas of innocence were ignored, Karen Decker said.

The Deckers live in Aldie, Va., now, but when personal business takes them around here, they stop off at the VI. Karen Decker refers to it as a special occasion place. After shoveling snow for Karen Decker's parents in Falls Church last week, they drove through Vienna to stop at their old haunt.

"The place is still the same," said Karen Decker. "It looks the same, the chili dogs taste the same." But the Deckers observed that the clientele has changed over the years, more women, more families, more local workers.

"It's a good family place," said Neal Byrd, lunching with his son Nicholas, 7, and daughter Natalie, 5, on a recent weekday. "This is one of those special local haunts."

Ingrid Schweitzer, lunching with co-worker Bob Douglas, bought a Vienna Inn T-shirt for another co-worker. Douglas, who has lived in Vienna for two years, comes to the VI. as often as he can. "I like dive-bars with chili dogs and beer ... and I mean that in the best possible way," he said.

**MOLLIE ABRAHAM** said that while Mike was tight with money, he was generous with local sports teams, donating to George C. Marshall, James Madison and Oakton high schools, and then sponsoring Vienna youth sports. Mollie Abraham said they gave whatever they could. "Mike did a lot for the community. We were a soft touch," she said. "And we were happy to do it."

The plaques and trophies chronicle Vienna sports history in the second half of the century.

When the youth team managers approached Mollie Abraham for contributions, she made a demand of them. "I want every kid who comes out to play ball to get the chance to play," she said. "I want them to get off the bench to play, whether the team wins or loses."

It was Mike Abraham who started the chili dog and the chili-cheese dogs and the chili mac. Soup, from bean to vegetable and New England clam chowder, was a VI. specialty.

Mike Abraham worked seven days a week, Mollie Abraham said. The Vienna Inn was his baby. He kept a watchful eye over the operation and the food.

The old Super Bowl-era Redskins used to be regulars — John Riggins, Joe Jacoby, Donny Warren and Russ Grimm, among others. The coaches came, too. Mollie Abraham made sure they had their privacy unless they wanted to share their time there with other customers. Mollie Abraham remembers when Riggins used to bring his daughter in for breakfast on Sundays.

"You either liked the place or you didn't," said Mollie Abraham. "It was the place to go for chili dogs and beer. If you had a problem with it, it was you."

CIA and Navy Federal Credit Union employees were SEE HAPPY HOUR, PAGE 7

# NEWS

## Margaret Allen Grant, a Vienna Resident for 50 Years, Dies

**M**argaret Allen Grant, who lived in Vienna for 50 years, died peacefully on Jan. 31 in Portsmouth, N.H., surrounded by her children. Preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, James A. Grant, former Town Planner of Vienna, she is survived by James Allen Grant of Takoma Park, Md., Ruth Suzanne Grant of Seattle, Wash., Peggy Grant Minckler of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Lucinda Grant Clarke of Portsmouth, N.H., six grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She is also survived by her sister, Mary Lou Winkler, of Duncan, Okla.

Born in Sapulpa, Okla. Margaret Allen Grant attended high school in Flora, Ill., Ball State Teacher's College, and worked at the Pentagon during WWII for the War Department in the Office of the Chief of Staff (General Eisenhower).

Margaret Allen Grant was devoted to her family. Actively contributing to her church, she served on the Vestry and the Altar Guild, as Junior Warden and as President of ECW. She helped establish and volunteered at the Pennywise



**Margaret Allen Grant**

Shop and appreciated her long friendship with The Dear Ladies book club. She enjoyed traveling the world with her husband, the neighborhood parties and bridge club, being a Girl Scout leader, cooking for her family, decorating, crafts, sewing and her dogs. Her positive outlook, creative talents and beautiful blue eyes will be fondly remembered and missed.

A memorial service will take place March 26 at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, in Vienna. Donations in Margaret Allen Grant's name may be sent to the church.

## Helping in Haiti

FROM PAGE 4

and his group were to make a five-kilometer hike, but the destination was unknown to Alexandra at the time.

On Friday, Alexandra received this e-mail from her husband.

"We went to an orphanage and helped some pretty sick babies. They really needed it.

"It was great to see the city. It sounds and smells the same. Other odors are not too prevalent, either. There are plenty of buildings down, but the people are the same, thrilled to see us. I will try to send pics later. Jeff"

He has the full support of his wife of 16 years, Alexandra, and his four children, ages 12, 9, 6 and 4.

His employer, CRGT, Inc. gave him the professional support that made his three-week effort possible. He's on leave from his job with pay; his vacation time remains intact. "None of this would have been possible without my company," Bates said.

"Haiti is near and dear to me," Bates said. "I spent two years there. It's in my blood.

"It will always have a special place in my heart."

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# OPINION

## Surviving the Blizzard as a Community

Connected neighbors save the day; time to check contingency plans, emergency supplies.

**M**ore than 48 hours after more than two feet of snow stopped accumulating, after two nights of single digit temperatures in many areas, there are still tens of thousands of households without power.

During this blizzard, random and not-so-random acts of kindness have made all the difference for stranded families in the cold and dark.

A little preparation to “shelter in place” also helped.

**EDITORIAL** In neighborhoods around the region, families with power offered help to those without. Consider a few examples of list-serve messages, all sent with addresses and phone contact information, and instructions to spread the word:

“If any neighborhood residents still need a place to stay, you are welcome to come over. You can hang out for just a while to watch the game or stay overnight. We have lots of room and can accommodate a family with kids and pets — we have a large dog who would love to have a playmate for a while.”

“We have hot coffee, food and beds to sleep in. We also have a 4-wheel drive and if my husband can help with driving please let us know. Happy to help!”

“We have a warm house and food and beds. Anyone in need is most welcome. We are unplowed, so we can’t drive out ourselves.”

Consider one family’s experience: an elderly mother who lives alone in the suburbs while her children live in other states. Stranded by two-feet of snow, and out of power for the second day, her children lost phone contact with her. While friends tried to get to her by 4-wheel drive, an appeal via list-serve brought multiple offers from “strangers” to hike through the snow to check on her, and offers to provide a place to stay. The friend of the family was able to reach her, and found indoor temperatures of 31 degrees before getting her to a warm, safe place. But another 24 hours in that house could have been disastrous.

It’s hard to fathom the combination of no power, bitter temperatures and no way to get

out of the house or the neighborhood.

By the time you read this, written on Monday in the respite between the blizzard and Tuesday’s predicted storm, we may already be dealing with the next round of snow in this record-breaking winter.

It’s a great time to think about emergency contingencies. Do you know who on your block might need some extra thread in the safety net? Elderly, or lives alone, or any other special circumstance? Do you have a way to reach your family members during a power outage? Do you have food and water for a few days without power?

Here are two links to Ready.gov, explaining the basics of an emergency kit and the required elements of an emergency plan.

<http://www.ready.gov/america/getakit/index.html>

<http://www.ready.gov/america/makeaplan/index.html>

We welcome your snow stories, snow tips and snow pictures. Do you know of a random act of kindness to share? Please let us know. Email the editor at [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

— MARY KIMM,  
[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Children Need Full-Day School

To the Editor:

Having attended meetings with our county, school board, and elected state officials and reading news reports during recent weeks, I think it’s worth clarifying the real concern about losing full-day kindergarten. It’s not about providing childcare to help parents. It’s about providing children with the superior education that begins with full-day kindergarten and not retreating from Fairfax County’s commitment to provide full-day instruction to all students.

For the past five years, I’ve been a stay-at-home mom after having taught in county elementary schools for five years before that.

I now face the kindergarten conundrum as I get ready to return to teaching and my daughter readies for kindergarten this fall. I empathize with parents facing the logistical and financial uncertainty of childcare next September for their rising kindergartners. School Aged Child Care in many schools already faces waiting lists, even without the influx of additional kindergartners. I’m hopeful, though, that many parents, families, and schools will be able to work around this.

What concerns me more is being able to address the academic impact that losing full-day kindergarten would have. My oldest child was part of the first year of full-day kindergarten class at our neighborhood elementary school three years

ago. I saw him blossom from a preschooler to an elementary school student. Full-day kindergarten provided my oldest child and his teachers with time for full blocks of math, science, social studies and language arts. Teachers also used the time for reading remediation, extra reading instruction, and foreign language practice to develop their language skills. Full-day kindergarten students also had twice the opportunities for the full breadth of school activities — P.E., music, art, library, and computer lab. Even school lunch with peers provides kindergartners with social opportunities they might not otherwise get. Full-day kindergarten gets these kids ready for the demands of first grade, Virginia Standards of Learning assess-

ments, No Child Left Behind Act requirements, and beyond.

Many Fairfax County schools still do not have full-day kindergarten. Their half-day kindergarten teachers do an excellent job providing instruction during the shortened school day. But I’ve directly experienced how full-day kindergarten benefits children. It would be a shame to cut full-day kindergarten in schools that have already successfully implemented it. Children don’t need another year of pre-school. They’re ready for kindergarten and Fairfax County should not retreat from the important goal of providing full-day kindergarten for all its students.

Rebecca McNaull  
Vienna

### BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

#### THURSDAY/FEB. 11

**VTRCC Valentine’s Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

#### TUESDAY/FEB. 16

**VTRCC Monthly Mixer.** 5:30 p.m. at the Lebanese Taverna, Tysons Galleria, 1840G International Drive, McLean. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

#### FRIDAY/FEB. 19

**VTRCC Brown Bag University.** 12

p.m. at the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd. #450, Vienna. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

**Republican Club of Greater Reston Annual Lincoln-Reagan Dinner.** Hidden Creek County Club, Reston. 703-406-9740.

#### SUNDAY/FEB. 21

**NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting.** 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. [restonbell7@gmail.com](mailto:restonbell7@gmail.com).

#### MONDAY/FEB. 22

**Haven of Northern Virginia Six-Week Suicide Bereavement Support Group.** 7:30 p.m. at 4606 Ravensworth Road, Annandale. Free. Registration required at 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org), or e-mail [havenofnova@verizon.net](mailto:havenofnova@verizon.net).

#### SATURDAY/FEB. 27

**Vienna-Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce Casino Night & Taste of the Town.** 7pm-12 a.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. Samples from area eateries, cash bar, live auction, casino games and more. Prizes include trips, gift certificates, gift baskets, jewelry and more. \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. 703-281-1333 or [www.vtrcc.org](http://www.vtrcc.org).

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# Happy Hour All Month Long

FROM PAGE 4

regulars at the Vienna Inn. Under Mollie Abraham's supervision, the restaurant either had a "seat-yourself" sign or a "wait to be seated" sign. If the latter were up, customers had better-well wait to be seated. And if they didn't, Mollie Abraham and the staff put those who ignored the sign in their places. It was a source of fun, too.

"Sometimes, CIA people would bring new people in," Mollie Abraham said. "They'd tell them, 'Go take a seat.' I knew they were being set up. But I would say to them, 'Don't move from that spot until I tell you to.'" The instigators thought that was funny.



**Vienna Inn has been a local favorite, serving families, town athletes, friends and tourists with the VI.'s famous chili dogs, among other specialties.**

**WHEN MOLLIE AND MIKE** Abraham bought the Vienna Inn, they couldn't afford to buy a house in Vienna. So, for 40 years, they commuted daily from Alexandria, the restaurant open from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. "Nobody put in the hours we did," said Mollie Abraham.

The three Abraham children were always around the Vienna Inn. Philip Abraham graduated from New York's Culinary Institute of America and returned to Vienna to run the kitchen for 15 years. He perfected the hotcake recipe and added some contemporary touches.

Marty Volk's parents moved to Vienna in 1962 and Volk has lived here ever since. He first came into the Vienna Inn as an "anklebiter" football player in 1969. Volk grew up playing Vienna youth sports and always loved the VI. He ate hot dogs there as a child, drank beer there as a young adult. He has lots of recollections about the place when the Abrahams owned the place. Mike Abraham did not like it if a customer used too much catsup, Volk recalled.

Not long before Mike Abraham's death in fall of 1999, a quiet word got out that Philip and Mollie Abraham were looking to sell the restaurant. Volk couldn't believe it. "I always loved coming to the VI.," said Volk. "I called Philip and told him, please, don't sell that place to anyone else. I want it."

When Mollie and Philip Abraham asked Volk what he intended to do with the VI. if he owned it, he answered honestly.

"I'm not gonna do anything with the place," he said. "That's the way it's been for 40 years. Why change anything?"

In late 1999, Volk bought the Vienna Inn. He assumed ownership on May 1, 2000.

"We sold it to Marty because we wanted it to continue to be the same," said Mollie Abraham. "You still get the greatest breakfast at the Inn, anywhere, barring none."

Mollie and Philip Abraham were confident that Volk would keep alive the menu and spirit of the VI. "There's not another person who would've done it. I'm glad Marty got it," she said.

**A LOT OF THINGS** made business sense to Volk as a young man. Once, he and his friends stopped in for a beer, asking to sit at a table. Mollie Abraham asked if they planned on eating lunch. When they replied that they did not, she told them the tables were for diners. Anyone who is only going to drink beer must sit at the bar. That was almost 30 years ago.

"That makes sense," said Volk. "Why take a table

when diners need them?"

The logo products, including children's stuff, will be sold throughout the year to commemorate 50 years of the Vienna Inn. Volk is considering doing a special event in May to mark his 10-year custodianship of the VI.

Volk said he got lucky twice. When it came up for sale and when he bought it.

"I've enjoyed it," said Volk. He has carried on the Abrahams' tradition of being a part of the community, continuing to display the plaques, trophies and photos of the Vienna Inn's sponsored youth teams, donating food to nonprofit events. "In this small town, the best way to advertise is to get out in the community, be a part of it," said Volk.

The VI. has been selling 10,000 chili dogs a month, using the same recipe for chili that Mike Abraham created. Volk thinks they are now selling upward of 11,000. He said he wouldn't touch the recipe.

Volk fell in love with New York-style pizza while he was in his teens. "I told myself I would have a New York-style pizza place someday," he said. When retail space opened up on Church Street in the Savia Building, Volk jumped at the opportunity. Church Street Pizza, Volk's second Vienna enterprise, is as popular with young mothers and their youngsters as well as with local professionals.

**UNDER MIKE AND MOLLIE'S OWNERSHIP,** the service at the VI. really did have no equal — for good reason.

For half of its lifetime, the VI. was a man's bar, the only women in the place were the waitresses. The strong-minded female staff, Mollie Abraham included, made sure the clientele never doubted who was in charge in the place. But the waitstaff was as much a part of the color of the Inn as the chili dogs were. They gave good service, watching out for their customers, and earned good tips, Mollie Abraham said.

Mollie Abraham is 83 now, with three children, seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She lives in Coconut Creek, Fla., for six months of the year, the colder six months. When she comes back to Northern Virginia, she'll bring friends to the Vienna Inn. She misses the restaurant business, though, especially the people of the VI., saying she loved being there. "The Inn is special," said Mollie Abraham. "It will always be special. It endured because people knew what it was. Every town deserves to have a VI."



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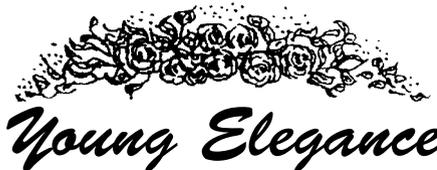
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## THURSDAY/FEB. 11

**McLean Historical Society: George Washington's Mind or, A General's Genius.** 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. William M. Ferraro demonstrates the potency of Washington's mind and the centrality of Washington's intellect to his achievements through an analysis of Washington's correspondence, especially his Revolutionary War letters. Ferraro is an assistant professor and assistant editor with the Papers of George Washington at the University of Virginia. Free, the public is invited. 703-442-9370 or [www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org).

**Toddlin' Twos.** 2:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Join us for stories and songs. Age 2 with adult. 703-938-0405.

**Swing Dance with JP McDermott and Western Bop.** 7:30 at The Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-424-1745 or [www.headoverheelsdance.com](http://www.headoverheelsdance.com).

**Cracker (acoustic) and Michael McDermott.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

## Vienna Artist Exhibits at 1<sup>st</sup> Stage Theatre

Vienna resident, Cheryl Patton Wu, is exhibiting her two- and three-dimensional art during the month of February in "The Gallery" at 1st Stage Theatre. 1st Stage ([www.1ststagespringhill.org](http://www.1ststagespringhill.org)) is located in an industrial office park off of Spring Hill Road in Tysons Corner.

The show, entitled Cheryl Patton Wu - A Personal Duality, runs through the 28th. "The Gallery" is open during performance times.

There will be an Artist's Reception on Saturday, Feb. 13, 6-7:30 p.m.



Artist Cheryl Patton Wu with oil pastel collage entitled **Doorway**

**Shemekia Copeland.** 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$22. 703-938-2404 or [wolfrap.org](http://wolfrap.org).

## FRIDAY/FEB. 12

**Benefit Chocolate Festival.** 6-9 p.m. at Epiphany United Methodist Church, 1014 Country Club Drive N.E., Vienna. All proceeds to benefit Doctors Without Borders. Dinner served from 6-7 p.m., including pasta, salad, bread and beverage; desserts and coffee served until 9 p.m. The cost for dinner is \$5 per person, \$20 maximum per family; 50¢ tickets will be sold to purchase desserts and treats at the Chocolate Shop. A Craft Station will be available to make Valentines. 703-938-3494 or [office@epiphanyumc.com](mailto:office@epiphanyumc.com).

**Philadanco.** 8 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. 703-790-0123.

**By The Bog of Cats.** 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. 1st Stage, Fairfax County's non-profit professional theatre, presents a loose retelling of Euripides' Medea, set in rural Ireland. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/cats](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/cats).

**English Conversation.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Group for adult non-native English speakers. 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.

**Mercury in Summer CD Release.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Marco Benevento Trio and Nathan Moore.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

Vienna. \$35. 703-938-2404 or [wolfrap.org](http://wolfrap.org).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 13

**McLean Orchestra Concert: Sweet Sorrow.** 8 p.m. at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Romeo and Juliet Program including music of Tchaikovsky, Prokofiev and Berlioz. 703-893-8646 or [www.mclean-orchestra.org](http://www.mclean-orchestra.org).

**Episcopal Church Women Lace & Grace Tea.** 2 p.m. at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Hudson Hall, 8991 Brook Road, McLean. Live music and a variety of tea delicacies and sweets. A portion of the proceeds will benefit local women served by Alternative House in Vienna. \$30 per person. Reserve at 703-442-0330; group sales

welcome. 703-272-7796 or [mollieregan@verizon.net](mailto:mollieregan@verizon.net).

**Further Winter Tour 2009 with Phil Lesh and Bob Weir.** 8 p.m. at The George Mason University Patriot Center, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$53.50 at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) or via Phonecharge at 703-573-SEAT. Accessible seating is available for patrons with disabilities at 703-993-3035. [www.phillesh.net](http://www.phillesh.net) or [www.patriotcenter.com](http://www.patriotcenter.com).

**Moscow State Radio Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Under the direction of Alexei Kormienko, with pianist Alexander Sinchuk and cellist Julian Schwarz in a program that includes Rimsky-Korsakov's The

Tsar's Bride' Overture and 'Scheherazade,' Symphonic Suite for Orchestra, Op. 35, Rachmaninoff's 'Rhapsody on a Theme of Paganini,' Op. 43 and 'Variations on a Rocco Theme in A for Cello and Orchestra,' Op. 33. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. Tickets are \$28-\$56, available at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**Chinese New Year 2010.** At Peking Imperial Restaurant, 6827 Redmond Drive, McLean. With a traditional lion dance show. 703-785-6495.

**By The Bog of Cats.** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/cats](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/cats).

**Deborah Owens: A Purse of Your Own.** 12 p.m. Barnes & Noble Books, 7851L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. crm2238@bn.com.

**Chinese Lunar New Year Festival: The Year of the Tiger.** 10 a.m.-7 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Opening ceremony, 2:30 p.m. Live performances, New Year's Parade, children's games, Chinese language and cooking workshop, a variety of Asian food, and a Lantern Gate and Dragon mold will be created. Free admission. Hosted by the Asian Community Service Center. [www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org](http://www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org) or [www.AsianServiceCenter.org](http://www.AsianServiceCenter.org).

**Microsoft Excel.** 2:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Introduction to creating spreadsheets. Age 13 and up. 703-293-6227.

**Liberty Treasure Hunt.** 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. A treasure hunt in the library. Age 5 and up. 703-938-0405.

**Disney Princesses.** 4 p.m. at the Vienna Baptist Church, 541 Marshall Road S.W., Vienna. Music from the classic Disney fairy tales, featuring youth soloists and multilingual narration. Adults \$18, seniors and students \$14, under 8 free. Tickets available at [www.viennachoralsociety.org](http://www.viennachoralsociety.org) or 703-255-5508.

**Deanna Bogart Band Reunion- esque Show.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$15-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Punch Drunk Poets, Brainfang and The Resistance.** 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

**A Tribute to Neil Finn-Crowded House.** 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25. 703-938-2404 or [wolfrap.org](http://wolfrap.org).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 14

**The Acting Company in Romeo and Juliet.** 4 p.m. at George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4500 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets are \$18-\$36. Charge at 888-945-2468 or [www.gmu.edu/cfa](http://www.gmu.edu/cfa).

**By The Bog of Cats.** 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Tickets \$25 adults, \$15 students. 703-854-1856 or [www.1stStageTysons.org/cats](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/cats).

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 15



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## NEWS

# Another Storm Set To Arrive

FROM PAGE 3

said Fitzgerald.

"The shelters were very well promoted but people found other ways to deal with the lack of electricity," said Fitzgerald.

Fairfax will consider opening the shelters again if they needed after the second snow storm, she added.

GOV. BOB McDONNELL (R)

has deployed 62 members of the National Guard to Fairfax County to help with both snowstorms. The guardsmen arrived Feb. 7, sleeping on cots set up in the Fairfax County Government Center and a few fire stations around the county.

The Virginia National Guard is able to provide back up to emergency responders overwhelmed

with hundreds of requests for assistance. For example, on Monday, Feb. 8, the guard transported an 88 year-old dialysis patient who was snowed in to a medical appointment.

"Our mission here is medical transports, employee transports, helping out police and fire squads, and medical assistance," said Specialist Jeremy Anderson, who was stationed at the National Guard's emergency operations center, set up in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center in Fairfax.

Fairfax officials also said regular citizens have been of great assistance in the storm. Some county residents have been volunteering their four-wheel drive vehicles to transport other people to medical centers and doctor appointments.

In a few cases, regular citizens have also picked up and driven county employees — such a fire and rescue workers — to a job site, said Fitzgerald.

"A lot of the people staffing the shelters were picked up by volunteers and brought here," she said.

INOVA HOSPITALS have seen fewer snow-related injuries during this storm than the mid-December storm, said Tony Raker, the health system's spokesperson.

"We believe the reason is the difference between a 6-inch and 26-inch storm. The larger amount of snow has had a paralyzing effect on activity while the smaller amount has a tendency to generate a bit of over confidence, causing folks not to exercise as much caution in the elements as they should," said Raker.

The second storm may have posed a new set of problems.

Virginia could have run out of the salt before the end of the second snow fall.

"Salt could be a challenge during the next storm — we've been replenishing but the domes aren't full," said Morris.

A few county officials also wonder where all the plowed snow will go once it is cleared, as the shoulders of major roads and large parking lots run out of space.

The transportation department typically hauls snow from the Capital Beltway and Interstate 95/395 to an area under the Woodrow Wilson Bridge near the City of Alexandria.

"Not running out of space [there] yet ... You can check again later," said Morris, in response to a question about snow storage.

Reporter Mike DiCicco contributed to this article.

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## SCHOOLS

# Facing Challenges, Artfully

Artwork helps students with disabilities.

BY JENNA PUGRANT  
THE CONNECTION

The painting hanging in the hallway of The Kilmer Center looks exactly like the painting by Jamaican artist Bernard Stanley Hoyes. The painting, however, is not an original, but was painted by the students of Classroom 4 with the help of their classroom volunteers and teachers.

The Kilmer Center is a Fairfax County Public School for students ages 5 to 21 with severe disabilities and autism. Classroom 4 has five students who are cared for by the help of the classroom teacher Betsy Calvert and other classroom workers and volunteers. Approximately five years ago, Calvert and her classroom aid Hye Chae started using painting as a method to help educate their students about art while working on their physical mobility. "The initial painting we did was an experiment," said Calvert. "We were trying to find an activity that would satisfy the volunteer as well as help the students." Chae takes a work of art that the classroom wanted to paint and sketch out the picture onto a full sized sheet of paper. Afterwards, Hye helps guide the students as they filled in the lines of the painting, slowly recreating the work of the artists.

Classroom 4 recreates a painting almost every month with an artist or subject matter that pertains to something they are learning. For example, in the past, they have painted artwork by Jonathan Warmday in honor of Native American Heritage month and artwork by Janet Fish in honor of Women's History month. The classroom started with a painting by Georgia O'Keefe and have covered the work of masters such as Monet since the start of their projects.

The students are currently working on the painting "The Lake Anney," an 1896 work by Paul Cezanne. In every painting they replicate, the classroom aids work to educate the students about the work they are painting. For Cezanne, the students watched videos on Cezanne's painting and the class-



PHOTOS BY JENNA PUGRANT/THE CONNECTION

**In Classroom 4 of the Kilmer Center, classroom aids Hye Chae of Fairfax, Betsy Calvert of The Plains, and volunteer Adiya Taylor of The Madeira School in McLean, help student Rahaf, 14, work on recreating Paul Cezanne's painting 'The Lake Anney.' Students of Classroom 4 are intellectually disabled and the classroom uses painting as a way to educate the students about art and improve their hand mobility.**

room always completes write-ups to hang in the hallways with picture symbols using a program called Boardmaker. "We paint and identify colors, subject matter, and shapes in the painting," said Calvert. The paintings also help the students with their limited mobility and eyesight. "We use a tactile color system so they can feel and see the colors at the same time," said Calvert. "It gives them the experience of using their hands in a way they would not have otherwise. The students can create something that they are really proud of."

## Seventh Graders Raise \$2,000 for Haiti

Seventh graders Wynne Treco, Meg Kirby, Nikki Pope and Kailee Sibley (not pictured) from Kilmer Middle School conducted a bake sale outside of the Giant in Reston to raise money for the victims of the Haiti earthquake. The group of four students raised \$2,000 for the American Red Cross. The girls organized the bake sale on Saturday, Jan 29 at the home of Nikki Pope and baked most of the day to prepare for the sale the following day. On Sunday, the group of seventh graders set up their table outside of Giant and were amazed at the support and encouragement they were given and the generosity shown by everyone.



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# SPORTS

## Madison, Oakton Girls Compete In Shortened Region Swim Meet

**In district track, Cougar girls garner a title; Marshall's Johnson wins three events.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**oth the Oakton and Madison High girls' swim teams put together impressive showings at the Northern Region Championships postseason event on Thursday, Feb. 4 at the Oak Marr Recreation Center in Oakton.

The meet was shortened due to the snowstorm that hit the Northern Virginia and surrounding areas over last weekend. Thursday's preliminary events ended up counting as finals' scores. Originally, the region meet was scheduled to conclude on Saturday, Feb. 6.

The region boys' meet, other than diving, never got started. The make-up date for the boys' competition is set for this Friday, Feb. 12 at Washington-Lee High's pool in Arlington. The meet will be shortened to one night with all of the races counting as finals. Girls' dive competition, meanwhile, is also scheduled to take place on Friday.

At the girls' region swim championships, Oakton's Kaitlin Pawlowicz, a junior, captured first place in the 200-yard individual medley race. She finished ahead of Laura Schwartz of Falls Church. Also placing in that event for the Cougars was senior Brooke Ream, who finished fifth.

Pawlowicz was also region champion in the 100-butterfly event, finishing ahead of Yorktown senior Kaitlin Wolla.

The Oakton girls had two relay teams that placed at regionals. The 200-free relay team of Leanne Hyer, Quinn Wilkinson, Erin Reynolds and Pawlowicz finished third; and the Cougars' 400-free foursome of Dylan Staniszewski, Wilkinson, Stephanie Hallock and Pawlowicz was fourth.

Staniszewski, a freshman, finished third in the 200-free race and was fifth in the 500-free. Also placing for the Cougars was Wilkinson, a senior who was eighth in the 50-free.

Madison High's Laura Kellan, a freshman, was sixth in the 100-freestyle race and sophomore Sami Fletcher was eighth in the 100-breaststroke. The Warhawks' 200-medley relay team of junior Lindsay Mottola, Fletcher, junior Liz Bertollett and senior Katarina O'Reilly finished fifth.

**THE OAKTON HIGH GIRLS' TRACK** and field team captured first place at the recent Concorde District Championship meet. The two-day postseason event, at Prince George's Sports and Learning Center in Landover, Md., began on Jan. 28 with preliminary events. The second and final day of action took place a week later on Feb. 4 with event finals. The Cougars won the title with 109 points, besting second place Robinson (104) and third place Herndon (86).

Oakton senior Alex Straton captured titles in both the girls' long jump and triple jump events. In both of those field events, freshman teammate Meghan

Jean-Baptiste took second place honors.

Straton was also a second place finisher in both the 300 and the 55 races. Jean-Baptiste was second in the high jump and third in the 55-hurdles.

Other place finishers for Oakton were: junior Erin Degutis, fifth in shotput; junior Jennifer Markin, fourth in pole vault; sophomore Danielle Fitzgerald, fourth in 55 dash; senior Lanie Smith, third in both the 3,200 and 1,600; and freshman Brianna Stewart, sixth in 1,000.

The Oakton girls were second place in the 4x200 relay, and third in both the 4x800 and 4x400 relays.

The fifth place Oakton boys received place finishes from the following: senior Faris Patterson Khan, third in long jump and fourth in triple; senior Brandon Henton, fifth in triple jump; senior Allan Meyer, fifth in high jump and sixth in 300; senior Trevor Yarnall, sixth in shotput; senior Ryan Mazon, third in pole vault; junior Stephen Michaelis, fifth in 55; senior Patrick Fulghum, fifth in 1,600; junior Matt Henton, second in 500 and fourth in 300; junior Mike McNamee, sixth in 500; senior Andrew McCullum, fourth in 3,200; and senior Matt Woodhouse, sixth in 3,200.

The Oakton boys 4x400 relay team finished second, and the 4x200 team was third.

**THE MARSHALL HIGH GIRLS** finished fourth overall at the seven-team Liberty District track and field championships in Landover last Thursday. Jefferson was the team champion, followed by second place McLean and third place Langley.

Marshall senior Brittany Johnson won three events. She captured a district title in girls' high jump, besting second place Tania Ermark of Jefferson. She took the 300 event, ahead of McLean's Ayom Izegebu. She also won the 55 dash, ahead of Fairfax's Elizabeth Nguyen. On top of all that, Johnson finished third in both the triple jump and high jump events.

Marshall's Meara Goss, a senior, took home the girls' shotput title, finishing ahead of McLean's Logan Tapscott.

Marshall freshman Alexandra Sandlin finished second in the 55-hurdles, behind champion Dominique Graham of McLean.

Other place finishers for the Statesmen girls were freshman Madeleine Lewsen, sixth in 55 hurdles, and junior Courtney Herbolsheimer, fifth in 1,600 and sixth in the 3,200.

The Marshall boys' place finishers were senior Steven Savage, fourth in shotput, and senior Andrew Dickson, fifth in the 1,000.

The Marshall boys' 4x800 relay team finished third.

**MADISON'S BOYS** finished fifth in the team standings. Senior Duncan Hartt placed in four events. He took third place in the high jump, fourth in the long jump, fourth in 55-hurdles, and sixth in pole vault. Senior Jesse Evans was a second place finisher in shotput. Other place finishers for the Warhawks were junior Travis Johnson (fifth in shot) and senior Stephen Swartz (fourth in 500). Madison's 4x400 relay team was third.

For the Madison girls, senior Laura Wolff was a third place finisher in the long jump. She also finished sixth in both the triple jump and 55 dash events. Also for the Warhawks, sophomore Liz Ale was fourth in shotput.



**Ian Doyle, a member of the Madison High boys' basketball team, passes the ball during a game at Stone Bridge earlier this season. The Warhawks (1-16) are experiencing a tough season. Weather permitting, they will close out the regular season this Friday night with a Liberty District game at Jefferson.**

### SPORTS ROUNDUPS

**Vienna Babe Ruth Baseball**, for players ages 13 to 18, is conducting registration for the spring 2010 season. Returning players can register online at [GVBRL.org](http://GVBRL.org). New players to the league must register in person on Thursday, Feb. 18, from 7-9 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, located at 120 Cherry St. in Vienna. The Vienna Community Center phone number is 703-255-5721. Players of all skill levels are wanted. Managers, coaches and volunteers are also needed. The league will also have Sunday Select All Star Teams for 13s and 14s.

**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 on-line. 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.

**Vienna's Matt Callahan and Mclean's Stephen Seliskar** led the Thomas Jefferson High boys' 200-free relay team to a first place finish at the Liberty District swim and dive championships two weeks ago. The two were part of a relay team that set a new school mark in the relay event with a team record and All American Consideration time of 1:27.96. Also, in individual events at districts, Seliskar placed second in both the 100-fly and the 200-freestyle races. His 1:43.39 time in the 200-free was a school record. Callahan, meanwhile, tied for second in the 50-free and was fourth in the 100-free.

McLean's Ana Lee finished sixth in the girls' 100-backstroke event. Additional Jefferson swimmers who scored points for the Colonials were Mclean's Kelsey Rainey and Leah Gonzalez, and Oakton's Steve Howard.

**Christine Grilliot**, a senior and a standout athlete at Marshall High, has committed to play softball at the University of Mary Washington next school year. Grilliot, recruited as a pitcher, earned First Team All-Liberty District honors the past two seasons as a member of the Statesmen's softball program. She was also named the team's Most Outstanding Player each of the past two seasons as well. Last spring, Grilliot led the Lady Statesmen on the pitching mound and was her team's top hitter, leading Marshall in batting average, RBIs, and total hits. She is the daughter of Carl and Cathy Grilliot.

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## Really?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"No turn on red when pedestrians are present." That's what the sign says; many of them say it (print it, actually) throughout Old Town Alexandria (maybe other jurisdictions, too, but I've not noticed them elsewhere). And it's a good thing that it is said, and said/printed so clearly and placed so prominently (on the right side of the road on which I'm idling, staring at the aforementioned red light while contemplating a right-hand turn) because otherwise, I might not react as carefully to the sight of pedestrians walking directly in front of me and my car.

I have to believe that, given the increasing numbers of licensed (and unlicensed) practical drivers out there, a percentage of whom might not read and write English as their primary language, it never hurts to offer refresher-type signage stating the fairly obvious. I mean, drivers have a lot more going on inside their cars (and perhaps even inside their heads) than maybe they used to just a few short years ago.

Cell phones, leap to mind, especially when they're set on ring, are distracting; more so when there's an ongoing conversation, whether hand-holding or hands free. Either way, there's more information in-car (and in-ear) than drivers have previously ever had to assimilate. And of course, this doesn't even take into consideration the demands/activities of any passengers, who we'll assume (for the sake of this column) are not so much interested in, or demanding of, the driver, given their likely involvement within their own hand-held devices (cell-phonng, texting, gaming, video) as in the past.

Speaking of cell phones and distractions, one cannot address the demands on drivers without mentioning the scourge of texting, a silent assassin, if there ever was one. Created presumably to enhance and assure the lines of communication, their use and abuse; anytime, all the time, without regard to time and place, has created an alternative to speaking that unfortunately has led drivers to additional distractions; requiring drivers who decide to reply, something else to do in-car with BOTH HANDS instead of/in addition to HOLDING THE WHEEL AND STEERING.

And lest we not forget the absolute newest distraction to drivers: G.P.S-type navigation systems, the search-and-hopefully-not-destroy-the-driver, computerized rescue devices that will direct drivers to their destination, so long as they manually enter the correct information into the device (most likely also while in the car and driving), and then actually listen to its calm, reassuring voice advising you where to turn, and/or looking at the pop-up navigation screen for further "directionality." A helpful device for sure, but one often strategically placed out of your line of sight for convenient viewing no doubt, but a location which draws the driver's eyes away from watching ahead (or into the rear- or side-view mirrors) to watching down a bit and to the side. Nevertheless, this is information which has provided countless motorists; verbally, visually, digitally and repeatedly, happy endings to an otherwise potentially harrowing journey. Still, this kind of real-time-type streaming data is imposing itself on drivers in a frequency and duration never before imagined and certainly not one for which there has been any training or driver education.

It's obvious, with so much that is new (technologically speaking, especially), that Alexandria has decided to go old school and offer its local drivers a reminder of one of their basic behind-the-wheel responsibilities: to respect their fellow non-drivers. It sounds/reads simple enough, "No turn on red when pedestrians are present," but considering all the cell-phonng, texting, gaming and navigating going on in the car, apparently it made sense to "sign in" while drivers were signing on.

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

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## Many Legislators Support Autism Coverage

Five state senators and eight delegates from Fairfax County signed on to support Sen. Janet Howell's (D-32) bill that would require health insurance companies to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of Autism spectrum disorder until a child turns 10. The bill was awaiting a vote in the Senate Commerce and Labor Committee Feb. 8.

Howell's proposal does allow some health care plans, such as those that cover individuals or small groups, to sidestep the provision. State health insurance would also not have to offer the benefits until 2015.

A similar bill that covered children until an older age died after being introduced last year. Advocates said they hoped a pared down proposal, with a lower cost, would stand a better chance of passing this year.

In addition to Howell's legislation, Del. Dave Albo (R-42) and Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67) introduced bills to expand health insurance coverage of Autism spectrum disorder.

Albo's bill specifies that those insurance companies who cover "early intervention" of Autism cannot deny coverage for certain services, including speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, applied behavioral analysis or assistive technology. A house committee voted to table the bill for the 2010 session.

LeMunyon's bill would allow Virginians to purchase insurance plans from other states that covers Autism spectrum disorder diagnosis and treatment. This bill is awaiting a vote in a House of Delegates subcommittee.

## In Divorce, 'Pleading the Fifth' Just Wouldn't Be The Same

In a 49 to 48 vote decision, the House of Delegates has approved a bill that could roll back the protections offered by "pleading the fifth" in divorce and marital separations.

Juries or judges overseeing court proceedings are not supposed to view a person's refusal to answer certain questions while under oath in a negative light, because of a constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

But the legislation that just cleared the House Courts of Justice committee would carve out an exception to that rule for divorce and separation proceedings that address spousal support, child custody or parental visitation rights.

If a person refuses to answer questions about adultery, sodomy, fornication or buggery outside of marriage on the grounds that he does not want to incriminate himself, the new bill would allow the court to draw a negative conclusion from the person's silence on the matter.

A few legislators who have private law practices said the change would be helpful because adultery can be difficult to prove independently.

When it comes to this legislation, the Fairfax delegation broke its support along political party lines.

Four Republican delegates – Barbara Comstock (R-34), Dave Albo (R-42), Jim LeMunyon (R-67) and Tim Hugo (R-40) — supported the bill. The majority of the delegation – and all Fairfax Democrats – voted against the measure.

Del. Tom Rust (R-86) did not vote on the bill.

## House Kills Stronger Ban on Texting While Driving

Del. David Bulova's (D-37) attempt to make a ban on sending text messages while driving more enforceable has failed in a House of Delegates' Militia, Police and Public Safety subcommittee.

The legislation was killed through a subcommittee voice vote, meaning no official tally was recorded for the public record. No Fairfax County delegate sits on this subcommittee.

Texting while driving is already illegal in Virginia, but police officers are prohibited from using it as the primary reason for pulling over a driver on the road. The driver can only receive a citation for sending texts while driving if the police catch the driver texting while violating another law, like running a stop sign or speeding.

Several legislators argued that leaving the texting ban as a "secondary offense" waters down the law, making it ineffective.

Legislators against a stronger text and driving ban often say they are protecting residents from too much government interference.

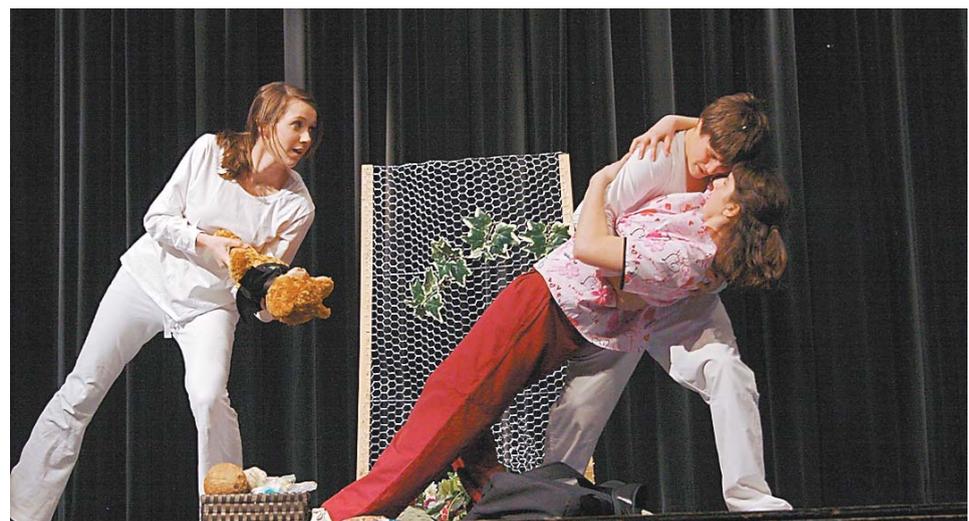
Bulova had solid support for the stronger enforcement measure from many other Fairfax legislators, including Dels. Kaye Kory (D-38), Ken Plum (D-36), Jim Scott (D-53), Mark Sickles (D-43) and Vivian Watts (D-39) as well as senators Janet Howell (D-32), George Barker (D-39), Dave Marsden (D-37), Toddy Puller (D-36), Patricia Ticer (D-30) and Mary Margaret Whipple (D-31).



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE KNAPP/THE CONNECTION

Sydney Sampson, Nicole Pradas, and Daniel Sheehy, of Madison High School, playing patients and nurse in "Two Nuts and an Acorn" at the recent Liberty District festival at Marshall High. Pradas wrote and directed the play.

## Madison High Drama Performs at Festival



Sydney Sampson (left) plays a patient slightly off her rocker who talks to her stuffed bear. Pictured with Nicole Pradas and Daniel Sheehy.

## CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

[www.1stStageTysons.org/cats](http://www.1stStageTysons.org/cats).

**Chinese Lunar New Year Festival: The Year of the Tiger.** 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Free admission. [www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org](http://www.ChineseNewYearFestival.org) or [www.AsianServiceCenter.org](http://www.AsianServiceCenter.org).

**Matt and Shannon Heaton:** bouzouki, guitar and accordion. 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. \$15. Reserve at 703-759-3309. [www.oldbrogue.com](http://www.oldbrogue.com).

**Dancers Todd Borzych and Migle Gineityte.** 12-3:30 p.m. at Border's Bookstore, 8027 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. How to keep fit with dance. 703-556-7766 or [www.ctabois.com/events.php](http://www.ctabois.com/events.php).

**What A Night!, Light Up The Sky, Sub-Radio Standard and The Miniature Bears.** 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**All You Need Is Love Songwriters Circle: a tribute to The Beatles & love songs.** 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Getting your Rose Garden Ready for Spring.** 2 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. With Joe Mirilovich, Rose Expert of the Arlington Rose Foundation. Free admission, door prizes, refreshments and an opportunity to order discount products for your rose garden. 703-371-9351.

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 2 p.m. at George Mason University's Black Box Theater in the Performing Arts Building, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. \$6, \$3 for students and seniors. Tickets

may be purchased at the door or by phone at 703-993-8888.

### MONDAY/FEB. 15

**Eric Lindell and Jamie McLean Band.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

### TUESDAY/FEB. 16

**PJs and Popcorn.** 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Come and watch a movie in your pajamas. All ages. 703-938-0405.

**Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program.** 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes once a week. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

**Joe Firstman, The Kin and Ernie Halter.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Avoiding Divorce Court.** 7 p.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$40 non-members, \$30 members.

[www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.  
**Reclaiming Your Financial Future.** 7 p.m. at 10600 Arrowhead Drive #310, Fairfax \$45 non-members, \$35 members. [www.thewomenscenter.org](http://www.thewomenscenter.org) or 703-281-2657.

### WEDNESDAY/FEB. 17

**OK Book Discussion.** 7 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Selected Short Stories of William Faulkner. Adults. 703-242-4020.

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