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**CONNECTION**

The picture was taken on  
Wednesday, Feb. 10, 12 p.m., at  
the corner of Westpark Drive and  
Leesburg Pike in Tysons Corner.

# Sparkling White and Quiet In Vienna

News, Page 3



## Vienna Nonprofit Helps Transform Lives

News, Page 3

## Vegas Visits Vienna

News, Page 4

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## COMMUNITY

# Friends Reach Out To Help Family

Couple has two terminally ill children.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

For most parents, learning that their child is going to die is devastating enough. Learning that both children are terminal is unthinkable. Yet that's the case for the McNeil family of Fairfax.

Daughter Waverly, 6, and son Oliver, 3, both have MPS III or Sanfilippo Syndrome, a degenerative, genetic disease with no cure. So parents Shannon and Matt McNeil are doing all they can to give them as happy a life as possible, while they still have them.

When they watch their children smile and play, it means the world to them. "You hold onto those moments a little more because you don't know how many more are to come," said Shannon McNeil.

So Shannon's former college roommates and close friends, Kamarah Sietsema and Michele Montenegro, are trying to help. The McNeils currently rent a two-bedroom apartment but, as the disease progresses, their children will need wheelchairs. So their friends started a fund called "A Hundred for a Home" to buy the McNeils a house that can be made handicap accessible.

Sietsema and Montenegro hope 4,000 people will donate \$100 each so they can raise \$400,000. Of course, contributions in any amount are welcome. So far, they've raised \$143,000 since October 2008, but still have a long way to go. People may donate online at [www.ahundredforahome.com](http://www.ahundredforahome.com) or mail checks payable to McNeil Family Fund, P.O. Box 147, Jamestown, MI 49427.

They and the McNeils attended Taylor University in Indiana, and that's where the couple met. They've now been married 11 years and Matt McNeil is a foreign service officer with the State Department.

"We planned to live that overseas, diplomatic life," said Shannon McNeil. "But everything changed when the children were diagnosed in 2008."

**WAVERLY** was 10 pounds at birth, so she was always big for her age, but her gross motor development always lagged behind other children's. She never crawled and was delayed walking. She was 3 when Oliver was born in January 2007.

"He was in the NICU [Neonatal Intensive Care Unit] for two weeks with heart and lung issues and was released with a hearing loss," said Shannon McNeil. "We took him to an audiologist who diagnosed the loss as moderate to severe, which was devastating, in itself."

Then the audiologist met Waverly and could tell from the way she was speaking that something was wrong with her, too. "She told us, 'I don't think Waverly can hear either,'" said Shannon McNeil. "So she was



DONATED PHOTOS

**Siblings Oliver McNeil, 3, and Waverly McNeil, 6, both have MPS III or Sanfilippo Syndrome, a degenerative, genetic disease with no cure.**



**The McNeil family of Fairfax, from left, Shannon, Waverly, Oliver and Matt hang out with Mickey Mouse.**

tested and had the same diagnosis. So we got both children hearing aids and figured that's why Wavy had a hard time being understood."

When Oliver was 4-months old, Matt McNeil was transferred to London, so the family moved there. Waverly attended a group-setting class for children with communication disorders. But after a few weeks, her teacher, who was also a speech therapist, said Waverly seemed to be dealing with more than just a speech loss and referred the McNeils to a pediatric neurologist.

"She examined Wavy, ordered tests and also referred us to a geneticist," said Shannon McNeil. "We had no family history of any genetic problems, on either side. Wavy's MRI showed abnormalities, but it took months to get the blood-test results because it was a rare and expensive test for the lab

to run."

Eventually, not wanting to wait any longer, since Shannon McNeil is originally from Philadelphia, she contacted Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. A neurologist there also examined Waverly and ran tests. Four weeks later, the results came back, and Matt McNeil flew there from London to join his family at the hospital.

"When we went into the room, we immediately knew something was wrong because there were too many doctors, plus social workers," said Shannon McNeil. "They told us Wavy had MPS III, or Sanfilippo Syndrome."

"The first thing I asked was, 'Is she going to die?' and they said yes," she said. "My husband and I started crying and asked, 'What can we do?' and they said there really wasn't any treatment."

Oliver was then 15 months, and doctors said that there was a good chance he could have it, too, especially since he had the same hearing loss. "We had him tested in Philadelphia and flew back to London," said Shannon McNeil. "Four weeks later, we got the results. I was pushing my kids' stroller in a shopping area in London and fell down on the street crying. I called my husband and he came home and we cried all day. It was earth-shattering, devastating."

She said one in 70,000 births have MPS, but type 3A, which her children have, is in "the hundreds of thousands. It's very rare and comes from a recessive gene from both parents. Because of it, both children lack the ability to make a specific enzyme so they can't break down a type of sugar in the body. As a result, the sugar builds up in their liver and brain, causing damage until the body can't take it anymore."

Typical life expectancy is 10-17 years, but it varies from case to case, and the McNeil children both have severe cases. Since there's no cure for Sanfilippo, doctors advised the McNeils to use their time to "enjoy and love your kids, and savor every minute with them."

They also said physical, speech and occupational therapy would help the children cope with the changes to come. For example, Waverly is already losing dexterity in her hands, so she's working on increasing her hand strength and using larger utensils.

One saving grace, said Shannon McNeil, is that Oliver and Waverly don't understand they're any different from other children, or that anything's wrong with them. She said Waverly's comprehension is in the 9-15-month range. She used to be verbal, but doesn't speak now. However, she loves music and will complete missing words in a song. She's in a special-needs class at Vienna Elementary and loves the school and its music program, plus adapted P.E. and art.

"Between 3 and 4, she started losing skills and would get frustrated," said Shannon McNeil. "But she's far enough along [in the disease] so that, when it happens now, I don't see that, anymore. She has trouble walking, falls a lot and fatigues quickly. But she's also a happy, passive, easygoing kid who enjoys observing other kids playing and having fun."

Oliver's also nonverbal, but understands things well and is just six

**"The first thing I asked was, 'Is she going to die?'"**

— Shannon McNeil, mother



Vienna streets were deserted throughout Wednesday morning, Feb. 10 except for snow removal equipment.

## Sparkling White and Quiet in Vienna

**Community works together in snowstorms.**

DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Last December's snowstorm, which throttled the region, taught Vienna government directors and workers several things about snow removal. What they learned gave the town the edge battling the snows of round two this past week.

"After the December event, we got all the principals together," said Vienna Mayor M. Jane Seeman. "Department directors, police department, fire department, Town Council. ... We did things differently this time. In this storm, we were able to do the right thing."

In December, cars lining residential neighborhoods and business areas impeded snow removal. In preparation for the predicted February storms, the town pursued a public education campaign to get cars off the roadways. The town put notices on the homepage of its Web site and neighbors pressured neighbors to keep the roads clear. Residents used e-mail and phone trees getting the message out.

At the time of the December snowfall, the town was still picking up leaves, which hindered plowing. Plowing was more efficient this time around.

**IT WAS "ALL HANDS ON DECK** for this one," said Marie Kisner, Town of Vienna public information officer. Retired public works staffers were invited back to drive plows. Many of the most experienced snowplow drivers had retired, but some returned to assist in the cleanup. The new drivers gained experience in the December storm and were better-prepared, the mayor said.

"Everybody is hanging in there together, doing their best," said Kisner.

One snowplow driver suggested that Monday trash pickup be moved to Tuesday to keep the plows moving since the weekend storm. That's what the town did. Vienna notified its residents of that change by posting on the Web and by leaving automated announcements on town offices' voicemail boxes.



VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT  
**Workers clear snow from the roof of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Station.**

"We've really been brainstorming about ways to get our messages out, promoting the use of our Web site more and the notification systems we have in place," said Seeman.

The Auxiliary of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department provides an emergency phone-centered check-up system for residents who voluntarily sign up for it. In severe inclement weather, a volunteer checks on the welfare of those enrolled in the program.

The town is also encouraging residents to sign up for e-mail emergency alerts from the town.

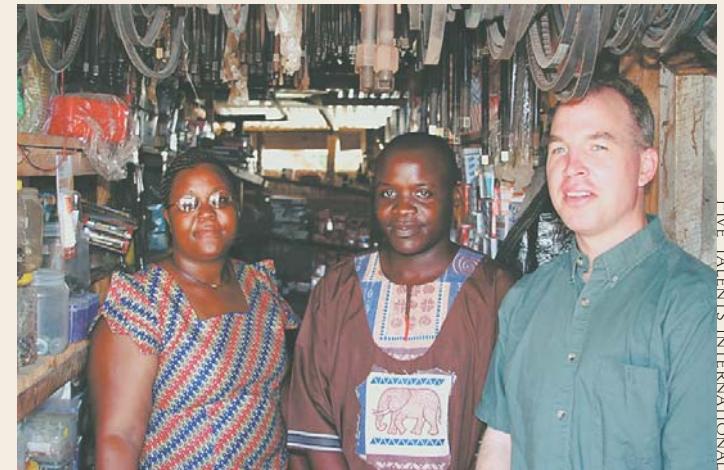
Between Saturday morning and Tuesday afternoon, Vienna offices received dozens of e-mails and phone calls from relieved citizens, thanking the town for its efficient snow removal and street treatments, Seeman said.

**ON WEDNESDAY**, Vienna's snowplow crews — and that included directors of various Vienna governmental departments — worked around the clock alternating in six-hour shifts. The open restaurants accepted vouchers issued by the Town of Vienna that covered the cost of food for essential employees who worked during the storm.

Several of Vienna's oldest restaurants — the Vienna Inn, the Virginian and the Amphora — opened for business, as did the Starbuck's at Center Street and Maple Avenue and Church Street Pizza. Breakfast and lunch business was brisk at those open food spots.

SEE VIENNA, PAGE 5

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC  
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FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL

Five Talents President and CEO Craig Cole visits a shop in Thika, Kenya, in 2007.

## Vienna Nonprofit Helps Transform Lives

**Five Talents reaches out to underdeveloped countries.**

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

From its headquarters in donated space in Vienna, Five Talents International directs micro-finance programs that help the poor in underdeveloped countries to pull themselves out of poverty.

Five Talents makes small loans to aspiring entrepreneurs in Africa, Latin America and Asia. The microfinance non-profit started small in 2000, with a program in the Philippines. Today, Five Talents has grown in reach to 12 countries, including Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Nigeria, Peru, the Philippines, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda.

"I love trying to help people understand they have value and dignity," said Craig Cole, Five Talents International president and CEO. Cole, of Vienna, was hired in 1999 to start operations.

Micro-credit keeps funding in circulation. As loans are repaid with interest, the money goes back out to the communities. Five Talents benefits from 90 percent loan repayment. Since 1999, Five Talents International has financed thousands of \$50 to \$300 loans to poor entrepreneurs. The majority of businesses are in food production and sales, street vending and sewing.

"We see so much opportunity to help the poor to increase their impact over the next three

"I've been blown away by see

SEE FIVE TALENTS, PAGE 7

## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Connolly Honored as 'Hero of the Children'

Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-11) was honored with the Hero of the Children Award from the Childhelp Children's Center of Virginia.

"I appreciate the award and the recognition, but the real heroes are the volunteers who make these important programs work for the children who have faced crises in their lives and help them prepare for the future," Connolly said at the third annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner for the organization dedicated to helping children who are victims of abuse and neglect.

In Congress, Connolly was successful in securing a \$200,000 grant through the Department of Justice to support prevention, treatment, and outreach programs for victims of child abuse and neglect and he was a strong supporter of legislation, which is now law, to expand the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) to provide health care services to more children in Virginia.

During his tenure as Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Connolly launched major anti-gang efforts, expanded after-school programs to all county middle schools, and invested in synthetic turf fields to expand recreational opportunities for children.

### Ticket to Art Goes on Sale

The 5th Annual Ticket To Art fundraiser sponsored by the Vienna Arts Society is starting: Raffle tickets are on sale now through March 20, the actual day of the raffle. Each person that buys a ticket will walk off with an original piece of art work created by a local artist. The minimum value of the artwork for selection is an average a great deal higher than the value of the raffle ticket at \$125. Join an Afternoon Tea and preview the work, Sunday, March 7, 3:30 - 5 p.m. Business hours at the Vienna Art Center, located at 115 Pleasant St NW, are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. You can also log on to the web to view the artwork being donated by membership as it comes in [www.viennaartssociety.org](http://www.viennaartssociety.org)

### Pear Tree Cottage Holds Spring Sale

Pear Tree Cottage will be holding its annual store-wide Spring Sale from Wednesday Feb. 17th through Sunday, Feb. 21 to make room for new merchandise. Markdowns will range from 20% - 45% off regularly priced merchandise.

All lighting, furniture, home accents and gifts will be marked 20-30% off. Fall and winter items will be marked 30%-45% off.

Pear Tree Cottage is a home, garden and gift boutique in the heart of historic Vienna. The shop combines a mix of European antiques, vintage and chic modern furniture and home accents. The shop also features unique gift ideas, lighting, original artwork and garden and architectural elements.

Extended Store Hours during Spring Sale: Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. and Sunday: 12-5 p.m. Pear Tree Cottage is located at 130 Maple Avenue East in Vienna, Tel: 703-938-1331. Email: [Info@ThePearTreeCottage.com](mailto:Info@ThePearTreeCottage.com)

Web site: [www.ThePearTreeCottage.com](http://www.ThePearTreeCottage.com)

### Antiques Show and Sale at Community Center

The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department will host an Antiques Show and Sale Feb. 26, 27 and 28 at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Admission is \$4.50 per person.

Hours are 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday, and 12 noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Dealers will display and sell a variety of furniture and collectibles.

For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360.



**State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) chats with Roy and Sharon Baldwin at the 2009 VTRCC Casino Night.**

PHOTOS BY  
DONNA MANZ/  
THE CONNECTION

## Vegas Visits Vienna

### Chamber of Commerce hosts Casino Night and Taste of the Town on Feb. 27

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

The 17th annual Casino Night, produced by the ViennaTysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (VTRCC), comes up this year on Feb. 27 at Westwood Country Club. Gaming tables and Taste of the Town restaurant sampling highlight the western-themed party. Raffles and auctions, not to mention a bar, add to the Vegas-inspired atmosphere.

"Casino Night is a great fun event in itself," said Gina Cocomello, VTRCC Board chairman. "You get gaming money, all the food you can eat, drinks and an opportunity for professional networking in a fun, social setting. A lot of people look forward to it every year."

**CRAPS, BLACKJACK AND TEXAS HOLD-EM** tables are sponsored by local businesses or individuals. VTRCC expects between 300 and 350 guests at this year's party. A ticket entitles the holder to \$25,000 in gaming money, two complimentary drinks, raffle tickets and as much restaurant samples as a person wants. The event includes live and silent auctions, with prizes ranging from restaurant dinners to sporting events, pampering activities and adventure.

Many chamber members buy extra tickets to give to clients as a



### Casino Night

Feb. 27, 7-11:30 p.m., at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., E., Vienna. \$75 per ticket in advance; \$85 at the door.

Chamber contact number: 703-281-1333 or go to [vtrcc.org](http://vtrcc.org) for more information and to reserve tickets. Complimentary valet parking available.

are sending over team prizes, as well.

Winnings can be applied toward "buying" additional raffle tickets.

By mid-February, 14 restaurants had signed up for Taste of the Town. They include Gordon Biersch, Lebanese Taverna, Brio Tuscan Grill, Noodles & Co., Maplewood Grill, Inox, La Sandia Mexican Kitchen, Shula's Steak House, Glory Days Grill, Pie Gourmet, Plaka Grill, Monterey Bay Fish Grotto, the Vienna Inn and Bazin's on Church.

Sponsors provide the gifts included in the goody-bags that each guest takes home.

Cocomello, development director of the nonprofit Alternative House, encouraged guests to come in western-wear. "Pull out your cowboy boots, a cowboy hat, anything that reminds you of the west," said Cocomello. "Casino Night is always a great event."

The Casino Night committee has been planning the gala event since early November. Tysons Corner Center and Karin's Custom Images are event sponsors. Tysons Corner Center was actively involved with the planning committee, as well.

Participating restaurants provide their food gratis to the Chamber event.

The Casino Night committee, decorators, and post-event clean-up staff are all volunteers, Cocomello said.

"I think that after all this snow, everyone's ready for a fun night out," Cocomello said.

## NEWS



TOWN OF VIENNA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS  
A convoy of Town of Vienna snowplows makes its way down a deserted Maple Avenue on Wednesday, Feb. 10.

# Vienna Praised for Snow Removal

FROM PAGE 3

Marty Volk, owner of the Vienna Inn and Church Street Pizza, offered free pizza to Town of Vienna workers on Wednesday, during the height of the storm. Volk ensured staff made it safely to his restaurants. He drove his own truck picking up and dropping off staff.

Kisner spent a couple of nights at Town Hall. Public Works supplied her with an air mattress and she brought food and personal supplies from her home in Maryland. She said she needed to be able to work on producing the March town newsletter.

On Tuesday, Feb. 9, the post office on Lawyers Road was evacuated when snow build-up caused a buckling of the flat roof. Emergency vehicles responded. The roof was cleared off and a Fairfax County building inspector assessed the damage. It was declared safe, but the incident propelled the occupants of other flat-roofed structures to clear their own roofs of snow. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department hired a crew of workers to shovel the snow off the station's roof.

Strangers helped dig stuck vehicles out of snow ditches on main roads and residential streets. Down a county road off Beulah Road, a convoy of four-wheel-drive vehicles, led by a Hummer, tried to flatten the 24-inch snow blanketing the street untouched by a VDOT plow for two days. State Sen. Chap Petersen's (D-34) office in Richmond called constituents who wrote Petersen's office complaining they were trapped with no power and no way out of blocked neighborhoods.

**WHEN THE GOVERNOR** declared Virginia to be in a state of

emergency last week, he cleared the way for the state and municipalities to be eligible for federal government assistance through FEMA.

The Town of Vienna had budgeted approximately \$97,000 for snow removal and road treatment, and for food vouchers for employees working during the storm. The money was spent before the second round of February storms. Seeman said Vienna is applying to FEMA for reimbursement. "We've gotten money from them in the past," the mayor said. "Whatever reimbursement we get helps."

Eddie Caccavari of McLean wasn't about to let a snowstorm keep him homebound during Wednesday's blizzard. By Jeep, he drove into Vienna, picking up two friends. They stopped by the Virginian restaurant for breakfast and were still there at 2:30 p.m., even after the restaurant had locked its doors.

"I love eating here," Caccavari said. "This is a wonderful local hangout. Epioni (the owner) is great."

Vienna and its surrounding areas were quiet on Wednesday with very few vehicles, other than government ones, on the streets. A water main break near Maple Avenue and Lawyers Road caused no traffic back-ups because there was no traffic. Julie Carey of NBC4 Washington spent the day reporting from Maple Avenue, photographed outside the Vienna Inn and Starbuck's. An early morning broadcast by Carey pronounced the people in Vienna as very nice.

"We're plowing constantly," said Kisner. "As soon as a road is plowed, it's covered again with a couple of inches of new snow."

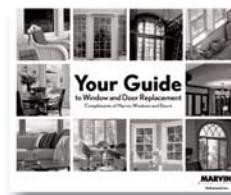
"Life is good if you've got a four-wheel-drive vehicle."



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# OPINION

# New Housing Blueprint

## Ending homelessness, moving beyond preservation of affordable housing.

BY SHARON BULOVA

**S**everal years ago, on a freezing February morning, I rode the VRE into Washington, D.C. for a Council of Governments meeting. As I was leaving Union Station, I noticed a middle-aged woman, with sacks of belongings and bedding gathered around her. She was clearly a person with mental illness, muttering to herself and batting the air at imaginary objects.

I remember thinking, "I'm so glad I live in Fairfax County. We have social services programs that would help someone like this woman."

GUEST EDITORIAL  
But later that week, while jogging down an old alignment of a road near my home, I spotted a tent tucked way back in the woods. It was a homeless person's encampment.

Fairfax County has established a "hypothermia program" to shelter homeless individuals during the cold winter months. The program is a partnership among county agencies, area houses of worship and nonprofit organizations. The hypothermia program has served to crystallize how inadequate our human services network is for dealing with homelessness.

In March 2008, our Board of Supervisors endorsed a "Housing First" strategy to end homelessness as we know it. Working with houses of worship and charitable organiza-



Sharon Bulova

tions, Fairfax County has adopted a strategy for making sure people in our community have a roof over their heads and receive the help they need to get back on their feet.

At our Jan. 26 meeting, the Board of Supervisors approved a new Housing Blueprint to ad-

dress the challenge of ensuring there is accessible, affordable housing for all members of our community. Affordable housing was a key topic when the Board considered our current Fiscal Year 2010 budget and the Board dedicated considerable time to discussing housing issues at our post-budget retreat last June.

At the retreat, we agreed that our housing programs must emphasize serving those with the greatest needs, that affordable housing represents a spectrum of needs, and that we can be most effective in accomplishing these goals by working with Faith Community and non-profit partners in the community.

The Housing Blueprint is a strategy for addressing these priorities and represents a new direction compared to the previous policy of

### Blueprint Highlights

Resolved: End homelessness; provide affordable housing options to those with special needs; cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half; produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

preservation. The new goals stated in the Blueprint are comprehensive: to end homelessness in 10 years, to provide affordable housing options to those with special needs, to cut the waiting lists for affordable housing in half over 10 years, and to produce workforce housing to accommodate projected job growth.

The Blueprint is the product of impressive collaboration by county agencies, concerned citizens, houses of worship and local non-profits. Because of the metrics it includes, the Blueprint sets short and long term goals and can be used to evaluate our programs.

**TO VIEW** the Housing Blueprint, please visit <http://www.e-ffordable.org/>.

If you would like more information, or would like to volunteer in efforts to address homelessness, the County's Office to End Homelessness can be reached by going to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless>.

Sharon Bulova is chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Voice Vote' vs. Accountability

To the Editor:

In many ways Virginia is a progressive state; it's rated as the best managed state and so forth. But in the area of our state legislator's transparency we are stuck in the past century.

The strong message the voters sent last November is that it's time for a change. During the campaign, candidate McDonnell introduced a "good government" plan to bring more responsibility to Richmond in the way the state budgets and

spends money. Polls show voters favor transparency. The voters have responded well to this.

In the current session of the General Assembly, our signature issue is to stop using Temporary Assistance For Needy Families (TANF) federal block grant funds for everything under the sun. Because funds are distributed through "earmarks," we support Del. David Englin's (D-45) proposal (HB 80) for good government and transparency by moving to a competitive TANF Funding Pool. HB 80 would ensure scarce dollars are targeted to effective and efficient programs and would

de-politicize the allocation of these funds. Additionally, the McDonnell Administration and the Department of Social Services supported the bill as a needed accountability reform.

Regrettably, to avoid accountability, on Monday Feb. 8, HB 80 was "tabled by a voice vote" in the House Appropriations subcommittee. Without a recorded vote, it is impossible to know who voted to table. Unfortunately, the legislators who currently have the power to direct "earmarks" are also the legislators who must approve reforming the earmark process.

It is amazing how legislators

who profess to support accountability will not vote yes for good policy. They can get away with this because with "the voice vote" their votes are never recorded. Unless you get up at the crack of dawn and are lucky enough to get into the meeting room to see the vote occur, or have a video recorder it's nearly impossible to know what happened. Even being in the room is no guarantee.

The question is one of accountability. The public ought to know what happened.

**John Horejsi**  
Coordinator, Social Action  
Linking Together, Vienna

**Keeping Pace with Kids' Internet and Digital Technology Use: Empowering Parents**, 7:30 p.m. at Cooper Middle School, 977 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Find out how parents can help protect children's digital reputations, which are put at risk by their use of Facebook, MySpace, online gaming, emailing, texting, sexting, and other cyber-bullying. Speaker: Iris Beckwith, President of ConnectED4Safety LLC. Sponsored by Safe Community Coalition with funding from Verizon. (Snow Date is Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30.)

## THE CONNECTION

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

### 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.

### SATURDAY/FEB. 20

**McLean Branch of the American Association of University Women Monthly Meeting.** 9:30 a.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The program will focus on being a Muslim woman in Northern Virginia, with speaker Wafika Albani, Fairfax County Public Schools Translator and Parent Liaison. The community is welcome. 703-830-6503 or [www.mcleanaauw.org](http://www.mcleanaauw.org).

**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).

### THURSDAY/FEB. 25

# NEWS

## Five Talents Helps in 12 Countries

FROM PAGE 3

ing what micro-finance can do to change people's lives," Ross said.

Some loans are as little as \$15, some just enough to buy a pig or cow, sewing machine or even to purchase medicines to resell.

Ross said Five Talents is always looking for volunteers to help out

in the office and at events.

X-OUT Poverty, the seventh-annual golf classic fund-raiser, is scheduled for June 10 at the Clifton Westfields Golf Club. Five Talents is looking for sponsors. The organization has made \$270,000 since the first golf tournament in 2004. The money goes directly to the international programs Five Talents supports.

"To empower people to be able to care for themselves and their families is life-changing," said Ross.

**TO LEARN MORE** about Five Talents International, go to [www.fivetalents.org](http://www.fivetalents.org). To participate in the golf tournament or to underwrite a sponsorship, see [www.fivetalents.org/content.asp?pl=423&contentid=634](http://www.fivetalents.org/content.asp?pl=423&contentid=634).



FIVE TALENTS INTERNATIONAL

**Five Talents Director of Communications Kelli Ross meets with Mothers' Union members in Wau, Sudan, in May 2009.**

### Some remodelers give out free pens. We give out something more valuable. Free knowledge.



#### FREE KITCHEN & BATH SEMINARS:

**Thursday Feb. 11th and Wednesday Feb. 24th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA

You'll learn about the latest kitchen and bath design trends; the three levels of remodeling (cosmetic, "pull and replace" and custom); setting a timeframe for project completion; how to live through a remodeling project; and setting a realistic budget for each room.

#### FREE GAINING SPACE IN YOUR HOME SEMINAR:

**Saturday Feb. 27th, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm**

At Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery, 5650-D General Washington Drive, Alexandria, VA

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.

Join us for these 2 hour seminars. Plus, lunch will be served. But spaces are limited, so reserve yours today. Oh, we'll also give you a free pen.

To RSVP visit [casedesign.com/content/seminar](http://casedesign.com/content/seminar) or call 703.667.7397.

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10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Not valid with other discounts or sales.

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Everything

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Monday 2/22/10  
7 p.m.-9 p.m.

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BRING IN THIS AD AND RECEIVE AN EXTRA  
20% OFF NON SALE ITEMS GOOD THRU 2/24/10  
9960 Main St. Fairfax, VA • 703-385-9517 • [www.yesterdaysrose.org](http://www.yesterdaysrose.org)

**SHILLELAGHS**  
THE TRAVEL CLUB

NEWPORT & BLOCK ISLAND, MARCH 24-27 .....\$599  
Includes Motorcoach from Vienna or Rockville, 3-Nights Hotel with Daily Breakfast & Dinner Sightseeing CALL FOR AN ITINERARY

THE OUTER BANKS OF NORTH CAROLINA, APRIL 12-15 .....\$495  
Includes Motorcoach from Vienna or Rockville, 3-Nights Hotel with Breakfast & Dinner, Sightseeing CALL FOR AN ITINERARY

GREECE & THE ISLANDS, APRIL 13-21 .....\$2239  
Includes Air from Dulles, 4-Nights Athens, 3-Nights Cruise of the Islands, Daily Breakfast, 3 Lunches, 4 Dinners. Transfers & Sightseeing CALL FOR ITINERARY

**SHILLELAGHS TRAVEL CLUB**  
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for a listing of all our upcoming trips and socials

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AN A CAPPELLA MUSIC FESTIVAL TO BENEFIT THE  
ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION  
Featuring the Winner of  
NBC's "The Sing Off": **NOTA**  
4 CONCERTS & 20 MASTERCLASSES  
**MARCH 5, 6, 7**  
SOUTH LAKES HIGH SCHOOL - RESTON, VA  
**WWW.SINGSTRONG.ORG 888-893-4323**

FRIDAY @ 6PM: A CAPPELLA IDOL COMPETITION  
SATURDAY @ 2PM: HIGH SCHOOL COMPETITION  
SATURDAY @ 8PM: MAIN EVENT CONCERT  
SUNDAY @ 2PM: ENCORE MATINEE CONCERT  
SUNDAY & SUNDAY: MASTERCLASSES ALL DAY



## SPRING SALE

February 17th - February 21st  
20-45% OFF!

All gifts, home accents, furniture and lighting  
will be marked 20% - 45% OFF!  
We are making room for new inventory.

\* The Washingtonian Magazine endorsed  
Pear Tree Cottage as one of the best shops  
in Northern Virginia (Nov 2009) \*

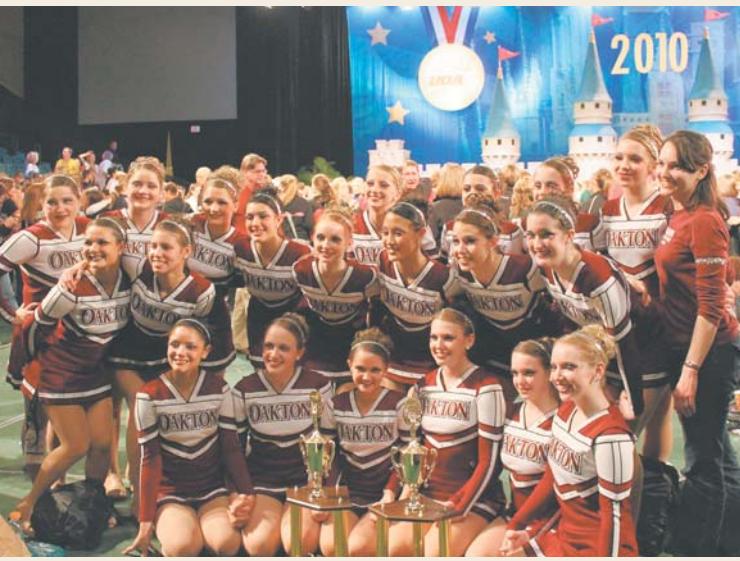
\* Pear Tree Cottage has, "just the thing for any  
occasion", Washington Spaces Magazine  
(Nov-Dec 2009) \*

Extended Hours during Sale:  
Mon & Tues: Closed • Wed through Sat: 10 am - 6 pm • Sun: 12-5 pm

Pear Tree Cottage  
130 Maple Avenue East  
Vienna, VA 22180  
703-938-1331

email: Info@ThePearTreeCottage.com  
Website: www.ThePearTreeCottage.com

**Oakton High Dance Team** brings home two finalist trophies at National Championships. Front: Jasmine Palmer, Erin Turley, Kristen Fish, Carly Isakowitz, Ashley Scifo, Danielle Brown. Middle: Sarah Kowarski, Leslie Corbett, Bethany Johnson, Ceci Nguyen, Sara Iacovino, Kit Mahoney. Back: Maria Canales, Alex Sommese, Sarah Smith, Sophia Calopedis, Taylor Johnson, Morgan Doss, Lindsey Bolger, Lorelei Christie, Coach Karen Rowley.



## CALENDAR

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

### THURSDAY/FEB. 18

**Vienna Woman's Club**, 1 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. With Roberta Huy of Guiding Eyes for the Blind and guide dog Fancy. 703-938-6632.

**Potomac Rose Society Meeting and Rose Growing Program**, 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. Recommended roses for 2010, hybrid teas, floribundas, old garden roses and more. Free and open to all. 301-869-4948 or www.potomacrose.org.

**VTRCC Valentine's Luncheon with the Vienna Choral Society**, 11:30 a.m. at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Enjoy a Valentine treat for your heart, soul and appetite. 703-281-1333 or www.vtrcc.org

**Sharon G. Flake: You Don't Even Know Me**, 7 p.m. Barnes & Noble Books, 7851 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. crm2238@bn.com.

**V.I.P. Vienna**, 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 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.

**David Choi**, 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY'**, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-281-2657.

**Washington DC Childhelp 5th Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show**, 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Co-hosted by Reunions Magazine, the workshop includes a presentation by Edith Wagner, as well as tips in planning a family reunion. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Pre-register by email to dmiller@fxva.com.

**Langley High School Fashion Show**, 7 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets \$10.

**tricia.poythress@fcps.edu**

**Understanding Rights To Marital Assets**, 10 a.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$40 non-members, \$30 members. www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

**Washington DC Childhelp 5th Annual Luncheon and Fashion Show**, 10 a.m. at the Sheraton Premiere, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Group for adult non-native English speakers. 703-938-0405.

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**Legal Aspects of Child Support, Custody, and Visitation**, 10 a.m. at 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. \$45 nonmembers, \$30 members. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY'**, 8 p.m. and 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

**The Bigger Lights, Sing Me Insomnia and Action Item**, 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$13 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**The D.R.A.M.A Kings and The Blackjacks**, 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY'**, 8 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

**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.

**Brittany's Singer Nolwenn Monjarret**, 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.

**The Northern Virginia NTRAK Model Train Club**, 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. N Scale Model Trains will be running in both the station and the caboose. \$2 for adults, \$1 ages 4-10. 703-425-9225.

**Alternative Takes: An Acoustic Evening with The Verve Pipe**, 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave.

**Minh 'Dreamgirl's Heart' CD Release**, 2 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Rocknoceros Family Happy Hour**, 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Middle East MicFest Tour 2010**, 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10 advance, \$12 day of show. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

**Northern Virginia Country Western Dance Association**, Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Line dance lessons at 7:30 p.m., couples specialty dance at 8 p.m. Open dancing 8:30-11:00 p.m. \$10 for members, \$12 for non-members, and \$5 for ages 16-20 with student ID. www.nvcwda.org or 703-860-4941.

**Family Reunion Workshop**, 7:30 a.m. at the Sheraton Premiere Hotel, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Co-hosted by Reunions Magazine, the workshop includes a presentation by Edith Wagner, as well as tips in planning a family reunion. Breakfast and lunch will be provided for all attendees. Pre-register by email to dmiller@fxva.com.

**Langley High School Fashion Show**, 7 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Tickets \$10.

**tricia.poythress@fcps.edu**

**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.

**Understanding Rights To Marital Assets**, 10 a.m. at The Women's Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. \$40 non-members, \$30 members. www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657.

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**Here's What's Happening at MCC**

### The Real World of Fiji

With Filmmaker Rick Howard

Wednesday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m.

### John Eaton

Friday, Feb. 19, 8 p.m.

\$28/\$10 district residents

Jazz treasure John Eaton celebrates the immeasurable contributions of Duke Ellington and Fats Waller. Part of our Black History Month celebration.

### Concerts at the Alden

Sunday, Feb. 21, 3 p.m.

# NEWS



**Whatever you have, wherever you are, I can work with that.**

Free, one-on-one help planning for the Third Half<sup>SM</sup> of your life. Call me today and let's start the conversation about your retirement.

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## Honoring Verdia Haywood, Supporting Life Circle Alliances

**A**t January's retirement party at Government Center for Verdia Haywood, Fairfax Deputy County Executive for Human Services, Sharon Bulova, Chairman-Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, read a proclamation on behalf of the residents of Fairfax County naming Jan. 14, 2010 as Verdia L. Haywood Day. The Proclamation said: 'Verdia Haywood has dedicated his thirty year career to improving the way that government serves the people, especially those in the greatest need. It is his vision and wisdom that has guided Fairfax



**Pictured, from left, are Kay Larmer, Board Vice Chair-Life Circle Alliances (LCA); Harriet Hopkins, Sharon Bulova, Chairman-Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Gerry Hopkins (LCA Board member); Verdia L. Haywood, retiring Fairfax Deputy County Executive and Christine Hyland, Executive Director-LCA.**

County's human services.' During the same event, Oakton couple, Harriet and Gerry Hopkins, presented their matching gift of

\$5,000 to Life Circle Alliances (LCA). Haywood has requested that all donations in honor of his retirement be given to the charity.

### FAITH NOTES

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

**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 en-

courages women to go beyond everyday life to walk with Christ. Tickets are the two-day event are \$45. Register at www.lifeway.com/goingbeyond or 800-254-2022.

**The United Methodist Church of the Good Shepherd**, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, will celebrate the publishing of its 11th annual Devotions for

Lent booklet at the 7:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday service on Feb. 17. The booklet of daily devotional was written by friends and members of the congregation, and will be available by contacting the church at 703-281-3987 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

**Emmaus United Church of Christ** will offer the lecture series "Nurturing the Body through Nutrition." Classes will be 7 p.m. in the parlor of Emmaus Church, 900 East Maple Avenue, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Contact Dana Krauskopf, 703-272-8675 or hamanasi@bellsouth.net, or Marsha Komandt, 703-938-1264 or mgkomandt@verizon.net.

♦Monday, Feb. 22. Learning to Reconnect to Your Body in Healthy Ways: Energy Enhancement.

♦Monday, March 8. Sugar: The Unsweet Truth.

♦Monday, March 29. Food is Medicine.

**Oakton Church of the Brethren**, 10025 Courthouse Road in Vienna, will hold an Ash Wednesday prayer service, "In Desert or Flood: Standing Firm in the Lord," at 7:30 p.m. on Feb. 17. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.

**Maggie Page** of Vienna is beginning a one-year service assignment with Mennonite Central Committee in Europe as a teacher's assistant. Page has a bachelor's in studio art from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. She is associated with Emmanuel Mennonite Church, Shoreview, Minn. Page is serving through MCC's Serving and Learning Together program for young adults. MCC is a relief and development organization of Mennonite and Brethren in Christ churches in Canada and the U.S. mcc.org.

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. Contact Gary Axelrod, 301-610-8309 or gaxelrod@jssa.org, or www.jssa.org.

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. Contact 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org for schedules and registration information.

## Visit These Houses of Worship Join A Club, Make New Friends, or Expand Your Horizons...

**Assembly of God**  
Vienna Assembly of God ... 703-938-7736  
Washington Christian Church ... 703-938-7720  
Cristo Es Mi Refugio ... 703-938-7727  
**Baha'i**  
Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345  
**Baptist**  
Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877  
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462  
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134

**Church of the Brethren**  
Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075  
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516  
First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525  
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877  
Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400  
New Union Baptist Church ... 703-281-2556

**Catholic**  
Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877  
Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828  
St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555

**Disciples of Christ**  
Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

**Episcopal**  
Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521  
Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991  
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

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

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

**Methodist**  
Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509  
Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987  
Diana Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5386  
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# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

East, Vienna. \$17 advance, \$20 day of show. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Burke-Fairfax, VA Chapter of Jack & Jill of America, Inc., Black History Forum 2010.** 3 p.m. at the Flint Hill School, Olson Theatre, 10400 Academic Drive, Oakton. Black history trivia competition and celebration of African-American history with contestants from area high schools. Speaker, Dr. Greg E. Carr, Chair of the Department of Afro-American Studies at Howard University. Free. Register at [Black.History.Forum@gmail.com](mailto:Black.History.Forum@gmail.com).

**Dan Dietz's 'tempODYSSEY.'** 2 p.m. at George Mason University Black Box Theater, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Tickets \$6, students and seniors \$3. Tickets to performances canceled due to snow will be honored. 703-993-8888 or 703-993-1120.

## MONDAY/FEB. 22

**Treasured Threes to Fives.** 10:30 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Stories and songs. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

**Game On Afternoon Edition.** 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Wii Mario Kart and Super Smash Bros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

**Brain Games.** 3:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. After-school drop-in program with chess, Blokus, Battleship, Rush Hour and more. Age 6 and up, with adult. 703-242-4020.

**Bushwalla.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 23

**Paul Elliott: 60 Hikes Within 60 Miles, Washington, DC;** Including Suburban and Outlying Areas of Maryland and Virginia and Easy Hikes Close to Home. 6 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Free, register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or 703-938-0405.

**Bob Wallace, author of Spycraft:** The Secret History of the CIA's Spytchcs from Communism to Al-Qaeda. 7 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free, register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library) or 703-242-4020.

**Great Decisions Seminar.** 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 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.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

**Lunch Bunnies.** 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

**Toothy Grins.** 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Celebrate Children's Dental Health Month with a storytime program presented by a pediatric dentist. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

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

**Steve Moakler, Ben Rector and Andrew Ripp.** 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).

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# SPORTS

## Ready Or Not, High School Sports Teams Enter Playoffs

**Following a week-plus of inactivity due to snowfall, Northern Region squads must immediately turn it on again for the postseason.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**F**or Fairfax County high school sports teams, last week's snow storm brought seasons to an abrupt halt just as they were preparing to wind down regular season schedules and head into district postseason competition.

The momentum and continuity of the winter athletic seasons evaporated as snow continued to rise in accumulation and intensity. Most student-athletes remained at home over the week-and-a-half period as schools closed and extracurricular activities, including sports practices and contests, were postponed or canceled.

"We played last Thursday [Feb. 4]. Then there was no contact with the kids until Saturday [Feb. 13] when we practiced," said Jim Smith, the Chantilly High boys' basketball coach. "I would send out e-mails [to the team] and things like that."

Since late November, local high school teams throughout Northern Virginia have practiced almost daily and competed in games or meets once or twice a week. Then, all of a sudden, it all came to the weather-related halt. Coaches or players could do little except to stay at home and wait for things to clear up outdoors. Fairfax County schools were closed throughout last week. Monday, Feb. 15 was President's Day so students were not expected to get back into school until the following day.

At Centreville High, members of the indoor track and field team had actually considered the possibility of weather problems later in the season.

"We have discussed all season how unpredictable the weather can be and how flexible we must be with our training [and] how we must be diligent about keeping our fitness levels up," wrote Kelley Devlin, a Centreville track and field assistant coach, in an e-mail. "We can't afford to take multiple day breaks. Our team is very good with using cross training machines — ellipticals, treadmills, bikes — if not in their own home, at a neighbor or friend's close by. Or when the roads are safe, they get to a gym or find some safe streets that are close to clear to run on."

Devlin was pleased with how the Wildcat athletes responded to the school and activities' shutdown.

"They have done a wonderful job sticking together and using indoor track facilities in the area to get track workouts in when possible and the parents have been extremely supportive with transporting them," she said.

Centreville, along with the other track programs in the area, concluded their respective postseason district championship meets on Thursday, Feb. 11, just before the latest snow fall hit the area in what has been



**No. 2-seed Marshall, led by senior center Will Simonton, shown here, will host No. 7 Jefferson on Thursday night, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.**

a record-breaking winter of accumulation in this part of the state. The Northern Region track and field championships are scheduled to take place this Saturday, Feb. 20 at the George Mason University field house.

"We are incredibly thankful to have gotten our district meet in," said Devlin, who saw the Wildcat boys' team garner a first place tie with Robinson at districts. "The runners are highly motivated after much success at the district level. They know they have unfinished business at the regional meet, and are prepared to race hard to get to the Virginia State meet."

**BASKETBALL DISTRICT** tournaments are slated to begin this week. In the Concorde District, teams' district records over the first round of the regular season schedule are being used to determine tournament seeding. Any games played over the second half of the regular season district schedule do not count toward postseason seeding. In the case of the Chantilly boys' team (13-6 overall record), that meant recent district wins over Oakton on Feb. 4 and Robinson on Jan. 28 got wiped off the board in regards to tournament seeding.

The top-seed Herndon boys and the No. 2-seed Centreville team both were scheduled to receive first round byes in this week's six-team Concorde tournament. Chantilly, the No. 3 seed, was scheduled to host No. 6 Robinson in a district quarterfinals round game on Wednesday, Feb. 17, while No. 4 Oakton was set to host No. 5 Westfield in the other quarterfinals. Wednesday's winners will advance to Friday's semifinals round and a seeding at next week's 16-team Northern Region tournament. Meanwhile, Wednesday's district

quarterfinals round losing teams will see their seasons end.

It might not seem fair that teams that have not played in 11 days all of a sudden have to compete in a do-or-die district playoff game. But that's the way it is for teams in the Concorde and elsewhere. Teams are in the same quandary as a result of the final week-and-a-half of the regular seasons being wiped out.

Smith, the Chantilly coach and the former head coach at McLean High, said it was good to get back onto the practice floor on Saturday. Like other coaches across the region, he hopes his team will be ready to jump into playoff action following the long layoff.

"It's kind of hard to gage the emotional tempo of the team," said Smith. "But I thought we had a great practice [although] the kids got tired quickly and the conditioning was a little bit of a factor."

Smith told his players, weather problems or not, just one district champion will be crowned in each of the region's four districts — the Concorde, Liberty, Patriot and National.

"The thing I said to my kids on Saturday [at practice] is that there will be four district champions, and the following week there will be one region champion," said Smith. "The teams that win [championships] will be the teams that navigated best and did not allow [the schedule disruptions due to the snow] to be a distraction. There is nothing we can do about [the past two weeks] or change. Our next step is to get ready for Robinson."

Tim Anderson, the Langley High girls' basketball coach, said the biggest factor going into district tournament play following the less than ideal conclusion to the regular season is to excel in basics.

"The bottom line is to execute on the floor," said Anderson, whose Saxons were set to host cross-town rival McLean in a Liberty District tournament contest Thursday, Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m. "And, if you don't win, your season's over."

Anderson said his squad, which had its first practice in over a week this past Saturday, was not overly distracted by the unusual end to the regular season.

"Our girls on the varsity team practiced on Saturday and we had a normal practice," he said. "They seem to really roll with things pretty well when they know [the weather is] something they can't control. The thing that is frustrating for them is that they have missed school and classes, and they've missed the practices and games."

The following Liberty District girls' basketball tournament first round games were scheduled for this Thursday night, Feb. 18: No. 8-seed Jefferson at top seed Madison (7 p.m.); No. 5 McLean at No. 4 Langley (5:45 p.m.); No. 6 Fairfax at No. 3 Stone Bridge (5:45 p.m.); and No. 7 Marshall at

No. 2 South Lakes (7 p.m.).

The girls' semifinals will take place the following night (Friday) at Madison High School. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The Liberty District boys' first round play-off games will also take place on Thursday and are as follows: No. 8 Madison at top seed Langley (7:30 p.m.); No. 5 South Lakes at No. 4 Fairfax (7 p.m.); No. 6 McLean at No. 3 Stone Bridge (7:30 p.m.); and No. 7 Jefferson at No. 2 Marshall (7 p.m.).

The Liberty boys' semifinals games will be held on Friday night at South Lakes. The first game will start at 5:45 p.m.

The boys' and girls' district finals will take place next Monday evening, Feb. 22 at South Lakes. The girls' title game will be at 5:45 p.m., followed by the boys' championship.

**WRESTLING**, as a result of the long lay-off, was scheduled to forego its district tournaments and, instead, have an expanded Super Regional's tournament on Tuesday, Feb. 16 and Wednesday, Feb. 17 of this week at Fairfax High School. Then, in a quick turnaround, the state AAA tournament is set to take place this Friday and Saturday at Robinson Secondary School.

This week's region meet was to consist of 32 wrestlers competing at each weight class with the top four advancing to states. The field of 32 wrestlers at each weight class is double the usual number of 16 wrestlers who would compete at regionals in a normal year.

Wrestlers were set to miss school on Tuesday for the first round of region matches. Many of the athletes were planning to report with their teams to Fairfax as early as 6 a.m. And some will be there as late as midnight. Those wrestlers who qualify for states later in the week will miss school on Friday as well.

Mike Gonzales, the Herndon High wrestling coach, said his team members were getting emotionally geared for the postseason districts and regionals before the snow storm buried the end of the regular season and forced cancellation of districts. The coach said his Hornets have done a good job of re-grouping for the revamped postseason.

"There was a lot of momentum going into the postseason," said Gonzales. "Then you get a week off and feel you have to get back in shape again. But they're ready. The kids who are [usually] motivated will still be motivated. The kids I have are motivated and see the opportunity of making it to states."

Other region wrestling tournaments across Virginia took place this past weekend. Those wrestlers will have close to a week to get ready for the state meet. Northern Region wrestlers, on the other hand, still have to compete at regionals and then, for those who qualify, get right back into action again two days later at states.

"This wacky schedule will work as a disadvantage, especially at a high level of wrestling," said Gonzales, of Northern Region wrestlers who qualify for states. "They'll only have one day off."

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# Snow Day Make Ups Considered

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale was scheduled to release his plan for coping with instructional time lost to snow days at the local school board's Feb. 17 meeting. The school board will vote on a final solution March 4.

Virginia requires school system to provide approximately 180 days — or an equivalent number of hours — in instruction. Fairfax County builds 183 days of instruction into its calendar in anticipation of snow cancellations.

But the school board said it exhausted its three "extra" snow days in December, when another large snowstorm hit. Legally, it will have to find a way to make up many, though not necessarily, all of the snow days missed since then.

According to School Board president Kathy Smith (Sully), the fourth and fifth days of school missed because of snow in one year have to be made up.

"I have never seen us miss this many snow days. We had one year where we went through 10 days but I think we are going to have more than that," said School Board member Jane Strauss (Dranesville), who has served since the early 1990s.

Several school board members are concerned that another major storm may hit the region, causing students to miss even more class.

"Virginia says we have to have 180 days. I don't know what we do if this keeps going," said Smith.

Dale had not released his proposal at the time The Connection Newspapers went to press but several school board members said he was probably considering lengthening the school day for the rest of the year as well as adding on school days in June.

According to Strauss, any solution is likely to irritate parents.

In the past, parents and teachers have not been willing to give up parts of spring break to make up snow days. They have also been unhappy about an extension to the school day when it was used in prior years. Simply adding extra days onto the end of the school year also doesn't seem viable.

"I am pretty sure we are not going to extend the school year into July," said School Board member Stu Gibson (Hunter Mill).

Just adding school days onto the end of the year would also do very little to assist high school student who have to prepare for Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate exams in the late spring. The tests take place on a national schedule and cannot be moved back as a result of the snowstorm.

"I think you are going to see some high school students coming into school on Saturdays so they can be ready for those AP and IB tests," said Strauss.

— JULIA O'DONOGHUE

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## A Mutiny on this Bounty



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now I don't want to pick on a paper towel any more than I have to, especially when it comes to First Amendment rights, but if they can print it, I can certainly talk about/object to it; Fletcher Christian (Clark Gable) wouldn't have it any other way. I don't know if anybody's noticed, I only have of late, but on some of the paper towel rolls in my last "8-like-getting-12" jumbo pack, there were sayings, expressions, philosophical points of view (albeit with a garden theme for some reason), about how to live that I found somewhat objectionable. Not quite intrusive or offensive, but inappropriate somehow.

Who exactly is a paper towel manufacturer to advise me on how to live my daily life, in or out of the garden? What follows are their exact words: "No two days are the same in one garden." "No two gardens are the same." "You can bury a lot of troubles digging in the dirt." "The flowers of all tomorrow are the seeds of today." "Friends are flowers in a life's garden." As my recently deceased mother might have said, and I quote, "Puke city." Is there a reason why, as a paper towel-buyer, I am being subjected to, proselytized to even, concerning my life (with the garden serving as some kind of metaphor)? I'm not looking for absolution here, I'm looking for absorption, not some observance to some subtle code of conduct. Hubris could not be more clearly evident than when a paper product, a disposable "quicker picker upper," presumes to pontificate in print for its buyers, who are presumably not yet aware. Caveat Emptor has just taken on a whole new meaning, for me. I used to be careful what I wished for; now apparently, I have to be careful about the reasons the manufacturers are selling their products for.

I naively thought that their reasons were product performance, market share, profitability, jobs, retirement, maybe even improving/enhancing their buyers' quality of life vis-à-vis the use of an affordable and effective product. I never thought it was for mind control. Who do they think they are? They're making paper towels (napkins, toilet paper, tissue, etc.); they're not feeding the homeless/changing the world. They're providing goods and services for it, not providing answers to philosophical questions. Have they all of a sudden begun to think of themselves as role models of altruism? Has the pursuit of the almighty buck empowered them to believe they have powers beyond their receipt of dollars and the sense that it accrues? Is there some sort of entitlement which their success has created/spawned? I realize money is paper (linen, actually), but what do they hope to gain (other than more paper/currency) by preaching more than cleanliness?

Oh, I just got it. Since cleanliness is next to Godliness, I suppose the manufacturer figured that they would straddle that blurry line between business and religion (the commercial equivalent of church and state) to win friends and influence lots of people, and hopefully generate profits in the process. "Not a sermon, just a thought."

Whether I'm tilting at windmills here or making much to do about nothing is for readers/buyers to assess. My objection to this paper-towel ploy is really about abuse of power. Just because your product makes it into my home on a regular basis, don't think for a minute that you can influence what we think before or after we actually use it. However, if I have any philosophical questions or concerns in the interim, I'll make sure to call the 800 number listed on your package.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for  
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Superior Court of the District of Columbia Civil Division Order of Publication - Change of Name

In RE:

Application of Lindsay Greer McCullough  
Civil Action Number: 0000478-10

Lindsay Greer McCullough, having filed a complaint for judgment changing Lindsay Greer McCullough name to Lindsay Greer and having applied to the Court for an order of publication of the notice required by law in such cases, it is by the Court, this 27 day of January, 2010, ORDERED that all persons concerned show cause, if any there by, on or before the 3 day of March, 2010, why the prayers of said complaint should not be granted: PROVIDED that a copy of this order be published once a week for three consecutive weeks before said day in the Arlington Connection.

"Judge Eilperin"

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# COMMUNITY

## 'Floored and Grateful' for Support

FROM PAGE 2

months shy of where he should be. "Which is incredible," said Shannon McNeil. He loves going to the playground, and both he and Waverly enjoy swinging and being outside. Oliver also likes painting and doing puzzles and crafts.

Such normal, everyday activities are precious to his parents because they know it's only a matter of time before his skills start diminishing. "As much as you enjoy these things, you can't help but think of the inevitable," said Shannon McNeil. "In a lot of ways, it's easier knowing about Oliver so I can adjust my expectations."

**THE SITUATION** has drawn her and her husband closer together and "made us more intentional in being honest with our feelings," said Shannon McNeil. "Matt said, 'The disease has taken so much away from us, we can't let it take our marriage away from us, too.'

She said part of her sees it as a genetic fluke. "And although I haven't fully reconciled the why-does-God-let-things-like-this-happen part, I see Waverly's and Oliver's impact on other people's lives. The blog on the Web site has taught people to cherish what they've been given, and I hope it raises awareness of Sanfilippo and makes them approach special-needs children in their community in a more friendly, open way."

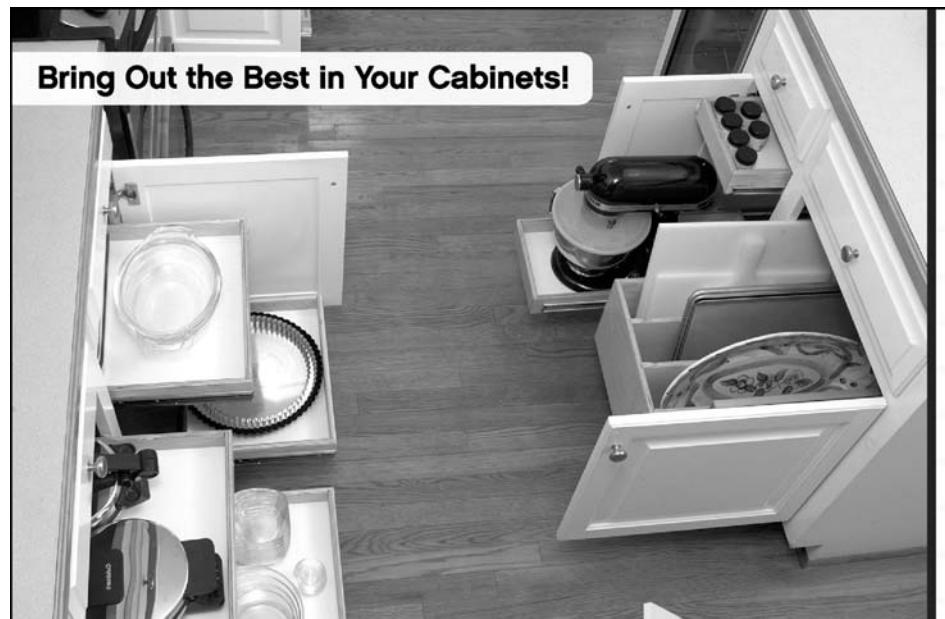
Meanwhile, the McNeils celebrate the little things. "We won't have the typical, first day of school, sports games or sleepovers," said Shannon. "But, for example, Wavy loves birthdays so, every two months, we celebrate her birthday with a cake and balloons and she has a great time."

With just one income, since Shannon is at home with the children, the McNeils can't afford a house here. But between Matt's job, their doctors at Children's National Medical Center and Waverly's school, they don't want to leave. So when Sietsema and Montenegro approached them about the house fund-raiser, they were both floored and grateful.

"It's amazing and extremely humbling that they're doing this," said Shannon McNeil. "So many people have greater needs than we have, but we consider this a gift to our children. They want Waverly and Oliver to be able to have the best quality of life in the time they're given."

She said there are so few children afflicted by MPS that pharmaceutical companies don't find it profitable to try to develop a drug for them. "It's so unfair – it's just wrong," said McNeil. "But lots of enzyme-replacement and gene therapy is being done, so we haven't given up. I'm hoping my kids will be able to participate in the trials; who knows what will happen? So I try to stay positive for that – you have to."

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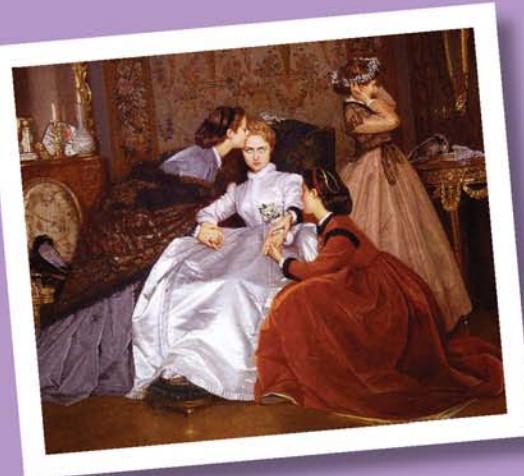
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