

Saving Lives, One Animal At a Time

Buzz Stewart attends to Tacitus, adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Shelter works to find homes for homeless pets.

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PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY STEWART FAMILY

Dogs that Change Lives

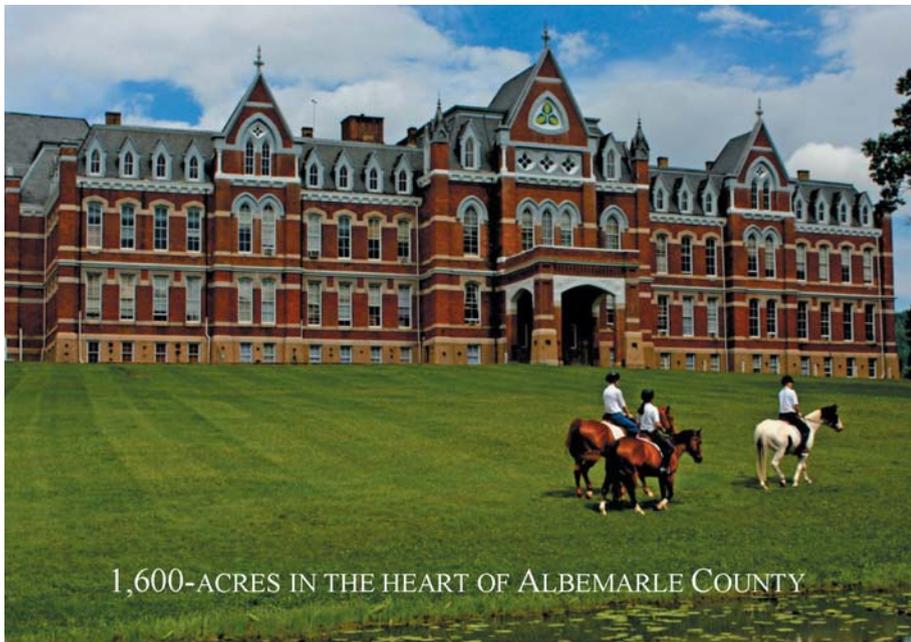
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Cats, Dogs Find 'Place To Belong'

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PET CONNECTION

Dogs that Change Lives

Pup raisers foster dogs for Guiding Eyes for the Blind.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Two week ago, Michele Kohl brought home her family's 11th foster child. That is, the 11th foster child with four legs and a tail. Kohl, her husband Curt, and the Kohls' two college-aged children are "pup raisers" for the non-profit Guiding Eyes for the Blind [GEB], Dominion region.

"I love dogs," said Michele Kohl. "I love that you can take a puppy and work with him every day. That you're able to make the dog into what these dogs are meant to be, guiding eyes for a blind person."



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

In this 2008 photo, Michele Kohl and her children, Betsy and Curtis, enjoy the companionship of the Guiding Eyes for the Blind dogs they were raising at that time.

CURRENTLY, the Kohls share their Oakton home with four dogs, all part of the GEB program. Gambit, a 9-week-old who arrived in early July, is a black and tan German shepherd, the half-brother of son Curtis' dog, Eben. Just two days into home life at the Kohls' house, Gambit was already comfortable, following Michele Kohl around and wedging himself among the bigger dogs.

"That's what they're supposed to do," said Michele Kohl. "These dogs are bred for specific desirable traits."

One of Betsy Kohl's previous dogs, Faraday, attended all of her classes at James Madison High School.

"That really increased awareness of Guiding Eyes for the Blind," said Michele Kohl. Last year, Curtis' new dog Eben became a Madison fixture, as well. Described by Michele Kohl as the "sweetest" German shepherd ever, Eben was popular and well-liked at the school. "People stopped Curtis in the halls to ask him about the dog," she said.

Madison awarded Curtis Kohl a scholarship for making a difference.

Eben is the third Kohl dog to go on to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms [ATF]. Eben is now in Mexico City, trained as an explosive detection dog. "That became his calling," Michele Kohl said.

When the fostered pups acquire a specified set of skills, they are jacketed, a public recognition that they are service dogs in-training.

One, like Buster, who accompanied daughter Betsy to Rochester Institute of Technology [RIT] in an experimental program, has a condition that made him unable to live his life as a guide dog for the blind. Dogs who graduate from the GEB program, for the benefit of the recipient, must be free from illness and medical problems.

Picasso is Betsy Kohls' newest charge and will leave with Betsy for school in early August.

"Once you meet the person who has the dog, and hear the story of how life has changed for them, it makes it worth having to give the dogs up."

— Michele Kohl, pup raiser, Guiding Eyes for the Blind

Buster became a folk hero of sorts at RIT. When a professor of alternative media read an earlier Connection story on Guiding Eyes and Buster, he contacted Betsy Kohl. In the second semester of her freshman year, the professor followed Betsy and Buster around campus, documenting their lives at the school. Buster, in RIT's pilot program, was so well-received, that RIT allowed Betsy Kohl to bring Faraday and now, Picasso, to the RIT campus.

"It was the Connection story on Buster that opened the door to allow Buster and all the other dogs to come to RIT," said Michele Kohl.

PUP RAISERS socialize their fostered dogs and teach them basic commands. The pups are trained by their raisers not to become territorial and to respond to simple words. GEB trains the animals to be guiding eyes.

"Pup raising is not for working people who have to be away from the animals for long periods," said Michele Kohl. "Basically, this is a lifestyle. That's what we tell people. The dogs are in-training at all times."

Michele Kohl works at night as a nurse so that there is always someone around to attend to the pup. "I'm willing to make sacrifices because I love raising dogs for the blind," she said. "I can never see myself not doing this. It becomes who you are."

Pup raisers receive no financial compensation for their dedication. You do it once, and you're hooked, Kohl said.

The pups are bred at a breeding colony in GEB's facility in upper New York State, and the top 3 percent of graduates are retained as breeding animals.

SEE DOGS, PAGE 15



PHOTO BY KIM THORNTON/THE CONNECTION

Nancy Sullivan and Noah, a 9-year-old Golden retriever, are all grins outside the Sullivans' Vienna home.

One Big Happy Family

The Sullivans of Vienna have five rescued pets.

BY KIM THORNTON
THE CONNECTION

When the youngest of her two sons starts college in August, Nancy Sullivan and her husband Gene won't be empty-nesters. That's because the Sullivans' Vienna home is also home to five pets: two dogs and three cats, all of whom are rescue or shelter animals.

Nancy Sullivan found the newest addition to the family, an 8-year-old Golden Retriever named Noah, through Golden Retriever Rescue Education and Training (GRREAT) earlier this year.

"His family had him since he was a puppy, but the owner was going blind from diabetes and

had to give him up," she said.

Noah is a great companion for the Sullivans' other dog Dixie, a 9-year-old Golden retriever also found through GRREAT.

In addition to the two Golden retrievers, the Sullivans have three cats: Pip, 7, Cuddles, 12, and Inky, 15. Like Noah and Dixie, all three cats have come from shelters or rescue centers.

The Sullivans have adopted many pets this way over the years, always with positive results. "They all have interesting

"Noah, he's incredible. He's so smart. There's just something about him."

— Nancy Sullivan

personalities," Nancy Sullivan said. "Noah, he's incredible. He's so smart. There's just something about him. They're just all so appreciative since they're rescues."

For anyone looking to add a canine or feline to their family Nancy Sullivan

recommends checking out shelters and organizations like GRREAT and 4Paws first because "there are so many great animals out there that need homes."



CONTRIBUTED BY AUDRA MECKSTROTH

Audra Meckstroth is fostering a Red-Eared Slider turtle named Ratchet. He was found with another hatchling abandoned in a small plastic container and brought to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. While these hatchlings are very small, the adult size for this species of turtle is well over 10 inches. They can live for more than 50 years.



FILE PHOTO FRIENDS OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

This young beagle came to the shelter as a stray. He was evaluated by two vets who determined that, at some point in his short life, the little beagle had sustained a serious injury to his right front leg. The age and the extent of the injury indicated that the only treatment that would eliminate the pain the beagle was experiencing was to have the leg amputated.

“Animals give us unconditional love, and inspire us to be better human beings in order to return that love and care for them.”

— Cindy Stewart, Hunter Mill District representative on Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Commission

“Everything we do is to help the animals at the shelter.”

— Audra Meckstroth, secretary, Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter

Saving Lives, One Animal at a Time

Shelter works to find homes for homeless pets.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

“We strive toward the day when no healthy, treatable or rehabilitatable companion animal is euthanized for lack of space or other resources.”

Twenty two words describe the vision of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, an open access refuge where no animal, of any kind, is turned away.

Many of the animals that come into the shelter find either forever-homes or live their final days protected by nonprofit rescue groups. Some do not.

Puppies and kitten and bunnies rate high on the cute factor. Senior pets, that are frequently trained and calmer, aren't as highly in-demand. Yet, as Animal Shelter Advisory Commission member Cindy Stewart of Vienna said, every one of these lives has merit.

Volunteers, as well as staff, work to make that vision a reality. From fostering animals to playing with them at the shelter, from fund raising by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to the mission of the shelter's director, giving homeless and unwanted animals a second chance at life and



CONTRIBUTED BY SUSAN KING

A sweet, 'sensitive' kitty, Pom Pom was adopted and unadopted twice before she was adopted out of Friends of Homeless Animals by Vienna's Susan King.

being loved is the essence of the work at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

“THE SHELTER makes assessments about its animals,” said Stewart, guardian of two cats, Tacitus and Pearl, both adopted from the Fairfax County shelter. Everyone who comes in contact with an animal at the shelter is invited to comment on him, his

temperament, needs, and joys. Does he get along with other dogs or cats? Is he an abused animal a bit fearful of humans? Does he purr or wag a tail when a human strokes him?

“The shelter is more objective, more upfront, about the animals that need a home than a seller is,” Stewart said. “Nobody at the shelter wants a companion animal returned to it.”

An issue greater than that of reputable breeders are the puppy mills. “Puppy mill animals may be sick or have congenital disorders you don't know about. Puppy mill animals may not get needed medical care. At the shelter, all the animals with medical problems are treated if they can be.”

Stewart volunteers in the cat room at the shelter and is a member of the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, a private nonprofit dedicated to raising funds that are donated to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter to be used for medical and shelter services, programs and special projects.

Several years ago, Stewart, a retired government lawyer, read a note in a local newspaper that the Fairfax County was looking for members of various specific commissions. Living in Supervisor Cathy Hudgins' district, Stewart applied for the Hunter Mill position on the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Commission. Hudgins appointed her upon application in 2006.

AUDRA MECKSTROTH of Vienna volunteers at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, fosters exotic animals on the shelter's behalf and is secretary of the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. A graphic designer by trade, Meckstroth started volunteering in 2007 walking the shelter's dogs. She expanded her support by helping at adoption events. As an owner of four turtles, Meckstroth was approached by the shelter to

foster an abandoned turtle.

“People buy them in pet stores when they're tiny without realizing they grow to ten inches and live for 50 years,” said Meckstroth. Twenty turtles came through the shelter last year, and, at one time Meckstroth was fostering four or five. “We've adopted all of them out.” She credited the success to Dr. Karen Diviney, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter director.

Meckstroth said she fosters pets because a need exists and not a lot of people have experience with exotic pets. The shelter has many people stepping up to do everything in their power to find those animals a good home.

As a member of the Board of the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter [FFCAS], she sees the impact the Friends have made. Through its independent fundraising activities, FFCAS provides financial support to the shelter's programs, including subsidizing medical treatment that makes a pet more adoptable. “Friends only exists because of the support of the community,” said Meckstroth. “We're all-volunteer. Everything we do is to help the animals at the shelter.”

Before the difficult decision is made to euthanize an animal because of lack of space, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter calls on its rescue partners and foster homes, said Diviney. “We try to expand our resources beyond our shelter walls.

“Right now, we have over 80

NEWS

Recipients of the VTRCC 2010 Service Awards and local elected officials at the awards dinner on July 20 at Maggiano's Little Italy.



PHOTOS BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION

Service Awards Presented

ViennaTysons Chamber's annual dinner recognizes exceptional members.

Every year, the ViennaTysons Regional Chamber of Commerce [VTRCC] honors members who best represent service to the Chamber and to the community. On July 20, VTRCC recognized the 2010 service award winners at a dinner program at Maggiano's Little Italy at Galleria.

A select committee of previous winners identify businesses and individuals that extend commitment above and beyond their membership participation.

Eight committee-chosen businesses and business people were presented plaques of recognition by Virginia State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), acting as emcee, and VTRCC Board chairman, Gina Cocomello.

Cocomello presented the Chairman's Award, a salute to a member who makes an outstanding contribution to VTRCC and the community.

"Entrepreneurship is the lifeblood of the economy," said Babak Hafezi, whose company, HafeziCapital, sponsored the 2010 VTRCC Service Awards Dinner.

RECIPIENTS of the 2010 VTRCC Service Awards were:

* Business of the Year, The Business Bank, Vienna, accepted by Harold Rauner; Business Person of the Year, Keith Turner of the West Group, McLean, accepted by Corey Scott; Entrepreneur of the Year, Jeremy Rusnock, Jeremy Rusnock Photography, Rockville; New Member of the Year, Ameriprise Financial, represented by Bridget Halsall, Vienna; Citizen of the Year, Dan Shaw, CPA, Vienna; Nonprofit of the Year, Alternative House, accepted by Judith Dittman; Educator of the Year, Sandy Andrews of Flint Hill School, Vienna, who accepted the award on behalf of all educators; and Lifetime Service Award to Air Treatment Company, Vienna, accepted by Mary Kay Claus on behalf of Kathryn Whitecotton.

The Chairman's Award went to a newer member of VTRCC, Edward Gloninger of Otion Creative, recognized for his immediate contribution to VTRCC's launch of its new website in 2010. Otion Creative provides graphic design and web development.

A fixture of the Vienna community for 52 years, Air Treatment Company sponsored the 2010 Town of Vienna fireworks, two 2010 summer concerts on the Town Green, and the 2009 Vienna Halloween parade in-part.



Chairman of the VTRCC Board of Directors Gina Cocomello and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), right, congratulate Ed Gloninger of Otion Creative, recipient of the Chairman's Award.

Award-winners are recognized in the Halloween parade, as well.

Andrews has lived in Vienna for the past 34 years, and has chaired VTRCC's Youth and Education Committee for the last six years. Cocomello described Andrews as a "wonderful, warm and caring individual."

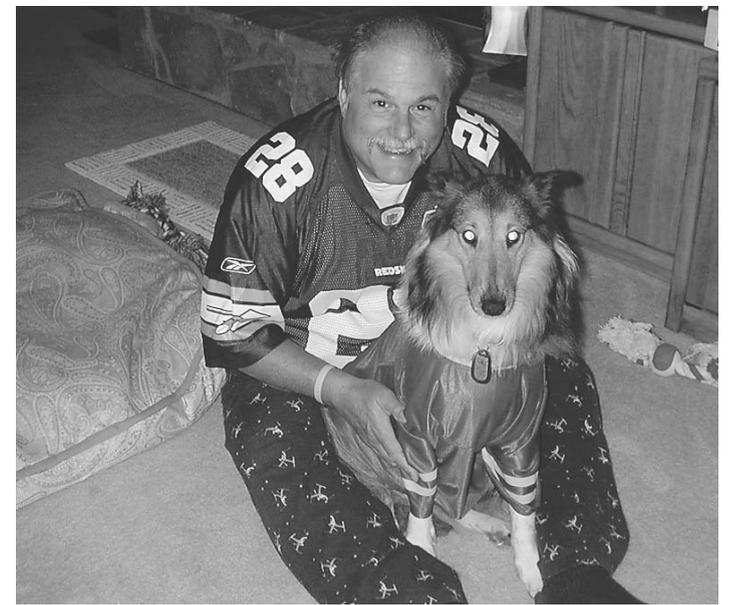
PETERSEN gave his perspective on small business as a working lawyer. "The reality of my life is that I'm a businessman supporting his family," said Petersen, whose area of expertise is in commercial litigation. "I have great admiration for people in business."

In addition to emcee Petersen, other local officials in attendance were Del. Mark Keam (D-35), Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), Supervisor John Foust, (D-Dranesville) and Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large).

Stephen Salley of Morgan Stanley Smith Barney chaired the 2010 Annual Service Awards Dinner.

Maggiano's Little Italy at Galleria hosted the event and HafeziCapital sponsored it. TR Cook of Cook's Photo-Art Studio, VTRCC supporter, photographed the awards presentation, and Jerry Ferguson of Fairfax Public Access television and VTRCC Board member videotaped the program.

— DONNA MANZ



Go, Redskins

Barry and Dreamer Lake cheering on the Redskins. Dreamer is a 6-year-old collie girl from Oakton.

Animal Shelter In Search of Love

FROM PAGE 4

active rescue partners," Diviney said. "Our Friends group does what a private sector group can do to support our mission."

Diviney emphasized the importance of spaying and neutering pets to prevent unwanted litters. Six million to 7 million unwanted pets pass through the country's shelters. The Humane Society of the United States estimates that 3 million to 4 million of those animals will be euthanized.

AT THE FAIRFAX SHELTER, a dog deemed dangerous by the courts may receive a death sentence, but for non-aggressive, treatable, adoptable animals, the shelter uses all its resources to save the animals' lives.

"Animals give us unconditional love, and inspire us to be better human beings in order to return that love and care for them," said Stewart. "They bring a never-ending source of pleasure and joy into your life."

Although senior pets are more of a challenge to place than younger ones, Stewart hailed the attributes of senior pets, noting that for senior humans, older pets — particularly cats — do have some advantages over younger friskier ones. They are more relaxed and calmer around humans and are more gentle and affectionate.

Some senior residence facilities understand the therapeutic nature of pets. Frequently, the senior living facility has house pets that were adopted and encourages pet visits from volunteers, even in

skilled nursing units where seniors cannot take care of themselves, let alone an animal.

Sunrise Senior Living sees pets as important in the life of many seniors, said Paul Kelley, Northern Virginia regional director of Operations for Sunrise.

Sunrise permits residents in independent living facilities to bring their pets to live with them.

"Sunrise works with each resident on a highly individual basis regarding their pets," said Kelley. "We understand that, for some residents, caring for a pet is part of their daily lives."

"And if the resident can no longer care for the pet, we explore innovative ways to keep the resident and pet together. Some of those approaches include adopting the resident's pet as a community pet or gaining additional pet-care support from families or volunteers," Kelley said. "A lot of people think animals are something you buy and can dispose of when you grow tired of it, like shoes or a coat. They're living creatures, not commodities. They shouldn't be classified as property or an item rather than as a living being."

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is located at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. Phone: 703-830-1100. The shelter is open to the public Tuesday-Friday, 12-7 p.m. and Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

To learn more about adopting a pet or to volunteer at the shelter, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animal/>.

To join the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter or to contribute, see <http://www.fcas.org/>

OPINION

Welcome to the Pet Connection

It would be easy, based on some measures, to say that some areas love their dogs more than others, although we are quite confident that most families love their dogs and other pets in a way that defies quantification.

Nevertheless, we will point out that the City of Alexandria, with a population of more than 150,000 and more than 70,000 households, is also home to 17 different dog parks, including both fenced and unfenced areas for dogs to run free of their leashes and play with other dogs. (Nationally, 39 percent of households average 1.7 dogs, so even assuming a normal level of dog ownership in Alexandria (we suspect it exceeds national numbers), there are likely more than 46,000 dogs. That's one dog park for every 2,700.

In Fairfax County, with a population of about 1,038,000 people and more than 393,000 households, statistics would predict at least 260,000 dogs, but only eight dog parks. That's one dog park for every 32,000 dogs or so ...

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Keeping Our Eye on the Prize

To the Editor:

A number of community groups, newspapers, and local politicians have criticized, often in strident tones, some recent decisions of the Fairfax County School Board. The decision to close Clifton Elementary School is one such example. According to the critics, members of the Board supposedly ignored the "wishes of the community," and relied too heavily on the Superintendent and his professional staff. One editorial accused the Board of depriving the citizens of information, and adopting a "we know what's best" attitude. By ignoring the unprecedented amount of information the School Board makes available and the open nature of the Board's processes, the critics miss the mark.

The voters of Fairfax County elected the School Board – not single issue or self-appointed "community watchdog" groups – to exercise responsible stewardship over the education of our children. This means it is our job to work harder, study more, and exercise sound judgment about what works best for all of Fairfax County and the children we serve. It means that the loudest, most persistent voices do not always carry the day, the supposed opinion of a "majority" of community members is not always right, and what may be the best decision for some community advocates is not always the best decision for all the children.

In Arlington, 217,000 people live in about 103,000 households, and a statistically likely 68,000 dogs also has eight dog parks, or one dog park for about every 8,500 dogs.

In Montgomery County, Md., about 970,000 people live in about 364,000 households, and so probably about 240,000 dogs, and just five dog parks, so more than 48,000 dogs per dog park.

EDITORIAL

Fortunately, we found no evidence of overcrowded dog parks in any of our areas, just happy dogs and owners enjoying one of the amenities of this area. And lots of dog parks mean less likelihood of dog owners running their dogs off their leashes in other less appropriate parks. In fact, the growing numbers of dog parks are just one more indicator of how important pets and animals are to us.

A third of local households are likely homes to cats, with the average household with cats having 2.4 cats, but there are not cat parks ... Most "cat people" agree that cats are safer indoors, although we all know exceptions.

When former School Board Chair Bob Frye used to say we must always "listen to the silence," he was reminding us to take account of the voices of those in our County who do not organize e-mail and petition drives, who do not hold mass rallies, and who have never written a letter to the editor or a check to a candidate for School Board. As a result, we sometimes make decisions that, as one Clifton resident wrote to a Board member, "offend the rich and powerful." That comes with the territory.

What should not come with the territory, however, are disrespectful personal attacks on individual Board members and their integrity, whether from community members or other elected officials. And yet angry Clifton residents have sent hate mail to the homes of School Board members and called some Board members names that cannot be printed in the newspaper. One so-called community group has questioned not only the integrity of the Board, but also the competence of the Superintendent and everyone who works for him. That group – which has yet to offer any support for the Board, its budget, or any of its decisions – apparently believes that recent gains in student achievement all happened by magic. A member of the Virginia House of Delegates accused one School Board member of "throwing Clifton children under the bus." Still another official threatened political retaliation against a member of the School Board. We would never tolerate

this behavior from our own children. We should not tolerate it from adults.

Even though we have to make decisions about many things, the Board must always focus on one thing: student achievement. By all measures, we are succeeding. More children are achieving greater success than ever before. Achievement gaps are steadily shrinking. In some schools they have disappeared altogether. We have achieved our successes by working together with parents, teachers, administrators, and support staff. That is how we should be working.

At the end of the day, we must make decisions that focus on supporting our mission to "inspire, enable, and empower students to meet high academic standards, lead ethical lives, and demonstrate responsible citizenship." When we start trying to please or pander to vocal, well-organized groups of single-issue advocates, or elected officials trying to make political hay, we will have lost sight of our goal. And when some Board members and the public treat the professional staff as adversaries, not as partners, student achievement will suffer. No one can afford that.

Stuart D. Gibson
Member,
Fairfax County School Board
Hunter Mill District

Tessie Wilson
Member,
Fairfax County School Board
Braddock District

Of all these animals, 19 percent of dogs and 22 percent of cats are adopted from animal shelters. Most pets (75 percent of dogs, 87 percent of cats) are spayed or neutered. There are so many pets that need homes, it's a local and national crisis. If you are considering adding a pet to your family, please consider the humane society, the shelter or a rescue organization.

In the pages of our Pet Connection this week, you'll find stories of many families and their pets, plus information on how and where to adopt dogs, cats, birds, small animals and even horses that desperately need homes.

For much more information, look online at www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on Pet Connection.

If you'd like to share information about other pet resources, or about your pet, we still look forward to hearing from you.

Statistics from U.S. Census and the American Pet Products Manufacturers Association 2009-2010 National Pet Owners Survey.

Decisions First, 'Dialogue' Later

To the Editor:

Re: Kathy Smith's letter [School Board Welcomes Dialogue, Connection, July 21-27, 2010].

The process the School Board has used to reach every important decision has been flawed, because in each case the outcome was predetermined by how the board framed the questions and restricted the discussion. Hosting "community dialogs" in which the scope of the discussion is limited only to the answers the School Board wants to hear is a sham. That was the case with redistricting, and it was the case with the bell schedule discussion. The only options provided were "bad" and "worse," with the board nudging people toward retaining the current bad schedule. They said at the time that other alternatives, made possible through more efficient bus scheduling were not possible. Then, only months later when the budget crunch hit, they miraculously found new bus schedule efficiencies that permitted them to save money by making adjustments to some school's bell schedules.

The fact is that this School Board routinely predetermines its decisions and then structures false debates to create the appearance of engagement and support for those predetermined decisions.

Dan Carney
Herndon

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PET CONNECTION



Political Pets

Fairfax County Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D- At-large) called her cat Winston 'the love of our lives.' She picked him out at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter two years ago.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



Providence District School Board member Patty Reed poses with her dog Abigail.



PHOTO BY EMILY ERNST

Missing Max

This is a picture of Max and Madeleine Ernst of Vienna. Max was adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter in 1997 as a puppy. Max was 13 this spring when he died due to a tumor on his liver. He loved all animals and wanted to be friends with everyone — squirrels, chipmunks, snakes, cats and deer. His best friend was Madison the cat, and they loved to play together by chasing each other around the house. Madison misses her buddy but always refused to be photographed with him. His human friend, Madeleine, adored Max and misses him everyday and his other human friends, Emily, Lauren and Chris miss him, too. Madeleine is 7 and lives in Vienna with her 5-year-old sister Lauren.

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 **PET CONNECTION**

Dog's Day at Dog Park

A walk to Vienna dog park, from the dog's perspective.

BY TIMOTHY P. MUHA

Sniff! Sniff! Where is he taking me? We better not be going to that place with the cold rooms and mean people, where they're always touching me and poking me with things.

Yes! The window's down! The air feels so good on my face. OK, we're slowing down, what is this place? I've never been here before. Grrrr! What are these other dogs doing here? My Master knows I don't like them. He's opening the door. OK, keep your composure, don't get upset!

Woof, Woof, Woof! Stay away from him! He's my Master! You're lucky he's holding me back, or I would be taking you down right now! OK, Master, let's check this place out! I smell some things that I like. This is not like my home at all! Where is the swing-set? Where is the pool? And why are there all these masters and their dogs here?

Wow, this place is fun! I hate other dogs, but everyone here seems fun. I need some new friends! Everyone hangs out with everyone, masters talking to masters, poodles playing with terriers, this park is better than Scooby Snacks!

Throw it! Throw it! Yes, he threw it! OK, Jump! Yes! I got it! Yes, look at me, I did just that, what can you do for your Master? (staring at the bulldog). Not that



PHOTO BY TIMOTHY P. MUHA/THE CONNECTION

Taffy and 'Master Tim' Muha during the dog's first trip to the park.

I bet! I think I like this place - open fields, the other dogs I usually could do without seeing, but that stud golden over there looks better than that steak I stole off the grill last week.

Is that what I think it is? Water? I need a cool down! Splash! Splash! Oh this feels fantastic!

Why is my Master yelling at me? I guess I better get out. Woof, Woof! I want to stay! I'm not getting back in that hot car! Stop it! Put me down! I wonder if I ever will come back to this place? Yes! The windows down! Ahh ... the air feels great! I wonder if we're going home? I'm hungry!

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PET CONNECTION

Tom Spitznagel and wife Dianna of Vienna pose with Molly, the foster dog, and Tetra, the foster cat they adopted.



PHOTOS BY CATE WILLING

Cats, Dogs Find 'Place To Belong'

Pet fostering: A risk worth taking.

BY JAYNE O'DONNELL
THE CONNECTION

Tom Spitznagel and his wife Dianna, of Vienna, have fostered about 300 cats since 1998. That includes two black cats named Rita and Hunter, which have been living in the guest room for a year. Despite the long-term residency, Tom Spitznagel said the couple still considers the duo foster cats.

Welcome to the world of pet fostering, where it's easy to get attached, but a risk rescue groups and foster families say is worth taking. Groups such as 4Paws, where the Spitznagels volunteer, say every new foster home is a chance for them to rescue a pet from shelters ready to euthanize them or off the streets. It also gives the groups a chance to learn more about the animals' health and behavior so they can best describe and match them with prospective adopters.



Tom Spitznagel points to a wall with pictures of the 300 kittens and cats the couple have fostered since 1998.

Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, which has a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., hosts five adoptions fairs a weekend at Petsmart locations in Northern Virginia and finds homes for dozens of pets a week. Christina Perez-Bass, the group's foster coordinator, said Lost Dog's 94 foster homes are critical to its success.

"It helps us socialize the dogs and find their real personality," said Perez-Bass. "And it's fantastic for the dogs to have another place to belong."

The Spitznagels already own a dog and a cat that started out as foster pets and a cat they adopted after its owner, a neighbor, died. So they remain hopeful the lovable, plus-size Hunter will get adopted at one of 4Paws' adoption fairs at local Petco stores. Rita, who is quite shy and can only walk on three legs, is a bit less likely to find a home, they worry. They once fostered two kittens with leukemia for the two years they survived.

"We tend to get the ones that stay awhile," said Tom Spitznagel, with a smile.

4Paws President Barbara Lipson said adopting one of their foster pets often makes it easier for foster "parents" to give up kittens and cats when they find permanent homes.

"They always have that furry reminder of why they are volunteering for 4paws and of all the good they are doing by fostering," said Lipson. "If adopting a cat makes it easier for them to continue fostering then I'm all for it."

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Ryan and Simba
 Ryan P. Carney, 6, of Vienna with his dog Simba that Santa brought him when he was 5. They go on long walks with Ryan's daddy.



Valentine's Day Gift

Neil, 13, Quinn, 8, and Kip, the furrier one, Feeney, of Vienna, share lots of love. Kip was born on Valentine's Day 2010 and has had the Feeney heart captured ever since. Kip is a 9-pound "Morkie," Maltese and Yorkie mix, who has a beautiful caramel coat with black tips, which perfectly camouflages him while asleep on hardwood floor.



PHOTO BY JANE PARADISO

Ah, That Squirrel

Neko, which is Japanese for 'cat,' swishes his abbreviated tail as he crouches at the end of his penthouse condo, focused on a taunting squirrel that he'll never capture.

Saving 'Kodi'

A 17-year-old Brianna Crane of Oakton with a 9-year-old German shepherd "Kodi," whom her family rescued through Virginia German Shepherd Rescue. The picture was taken at the annual reunion at Lake Fairfax in Reston.



PET CONNECTION



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Pat Morrell and her rescued dog Jasper hiking Mount Evans, Colo.



Sharon and Everett Hollenbeck and their three adopted cats, all with exotic-sounding names.

Rescue Tails

Adopters share their stories.

BY DONNA MANZ
 THE CONNECTION

Behind the rescue and the adoption is a story of pride and gratitude. The guardians who have picked up stray animals and the families that have adopted or rescued animals talk about the place their animal family members have in their homes and their hearts, and why they chose to adopt rather than to purchase.

Pat Morrell, Vienna, on Jasper "We were not 'in the market' for a dog at the time we adopted Jasper, but as it turned out, he came into our lives at just the right time. Our daughter was in middle school, I was no longer working and my husband had recently retired. In October 2002, a neighbor appeared in our driveway just as my daughter and I returned from volleyball practice. She asked if we might be interested in the little white dog she had in-tow. He was one of two dogs she bought, for \$100 each, from a woman who rescues dogs from a shelter in Maryland. Jasper was about to be put down when she was saved by a rescue organization.

"He looked terrible as he had hot spots, sores, all over his body resulting from an allergic reaction to fleas. Despite his appearance, my daughter and I fell in love with him

immediately. He was jumping up on me and my daughter.

"My husband agreed the dog could spend one night, but we would re-evaluate the situation in the morning. We never had a dog before.

"By the next morning, my husband was sold, too.

"Jasper is a big part of our lives. He goes nearly everywhere we do. It's embarrassing to admit, but four years ago, we bought an RV, in large part, so we could take Jasper with us on our travels.

"The primary reason to go to a shelter to adopt is that you are, indeed, saving a life that has merit."

— Cindy Stewart, shelter volunteer with two adopted cats

"I've always felt that adopted animals are appreciative of finding a home and someone to love them. There's a special bond with a rescued dog, maybe, because they spent time in a cage or were mistreated. When they get a home, they are finally treated as a family member.

"Had we been 'in the market,' we definitely would have shopped at



Bill Mylander and Maggie whose important job is to protect the bed during the day.

the shelter. I guess I just have a soft spot for rescue dogs. They seem to sense that you have saved them and they are forever grateful. Jasper rewards us every single day. He's given us as much as we've given him."

Kim and Evan Montgomery-Recht, Vienna, on Schatzi

"We went to Petfinder.com, looking for a Lab mix. We got her from Friends of Homeless Animals. They were great to work with. They think she's lab and weimaraner.

"She's awesome with Addie, very laid-back. Schatzie is pretty easy-going. She lets Addie play all over her. They're like best buds. They keep each other entertained. Addie will lay down on the pet bed with



Kim and Evan Montgomery-Recht with daughter Adalie and rescued dog Schatzi

Schatzi. She loves other dogs and gets excited when she sees them.

"She's on medication for hypothyroidism.

"There's so many dogs who need homes? We just thought it was better to find a dog that needed a home than to buy one."

Bill Mylander, Reston, on Maggie "Maggie was born June 2004. We adopted her in August of 2004 from Lost Dog and Cat Rescue. We went looking for a dog. We lost ours.

"We saw her photo online and went specifically for her. She was one of a litter of four. They were in foster care. She would've eventually gotten placed.

"Mutts have a better disposition,

not as many health problems. And they need homes.

"Her place in our home? She protects the bed during the day."

Sharon and Everett Hollenbeck on Chimerita, Shanghai and Mbarara

"Chimerita was a feral kitten," said Sharon Hollenbeck. "She's 5-years old. My sister-in-law found her and suggested we take her. She's a people cat. She'll come up to anybody to be stroked."

"She was the cutest thing we ever saw," said Everett Hollenbeck.

"We went to Petsmart or Petco, one of the pet stores, for the Little Buddies cat adoption, said Sharon

SEE STORIES, PAGE 13

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PET CONNECTION

Dog Parks

Talk of the Town



Photo by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Roxy, a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog, gives a high-5 for a treat from companion Agnes Vanek, while Vanek keeps the other pups who would also like a treat at bay at the Reston Dog Park.

A BARON CAMERON
11300 Baron Cameron Avenue, Reston
Established: September 2001
Capacity: 40 dogs
Special Features: Water supply and separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)
Sponsor: RestonDogs, Inc.

B BLAKE LANE
10033 Blake Lane, Oakton
Established: June 2000
Capacity: 25 dogs
Sponsor: OaktonDogs, Inc.

C CHANDON
900 Palmer Drive, Herndon
Established: January 4, 2003
Capacity: 42 dogs
Sponsor: Herndon Dogs, Inc.



Photo by Chloe Mulliner/The Connection

Olivia Wagner and her dogs Zena and Zoey spend time at the South Run dog park.



Dogs are free to run around and play at the fenced-in South Run dog park.



Ari Alvarez of Alexandria brought her 5-months-old Presley the Pug, right, to the Herndon Dog Park on a puppy date.

D GRIST MILL
4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy, Alexandria
Established: April 2006
Capacity: 64 dogs
Special Features: Interior space is one acre of bluestone dust surface. Clean and dry.
Sponsor: Mt. Vernon Dog Opportunity Group

E QUINN FARM
15150 Old Lee Rd., Chantilly
Established: March 2006
Capacity: 90 dogs (80 large/10 small)
Special Features: Separate area for small dogs (under 25 lbs.)
Sponsor: CentrevilleDogs

F MASON DISTRICT
Intersection of Alpine Drive and Pinecrest Parkway, Annandale
Established: June 2002
Capacity: 62 dogs
Sponsor: Mason District Dog Opportunity Group

G SOUTH RUN
7550 Reservation Drive, Springfield
Established: December 2001
Capacity: 85 dogs
Sponsor: Lorton Dogs, Inc.



Photos by Deb Cobb/The Connection

Kathy Hale, a Herndon resident, is pictured at the Herndon Dog Park with two of her dogs — and the pug Presley hoping for a treat — her 9-year-old black border collie mix Rosie, far right, and her 5-year-old beagle/pug mix, Carly.

H TOWN OF VIENNA VIENNA DOG PARK
700 Courthouse Road
www.viennadogs.org

This new off-leash dog park is situated in Moorefield Park. The fenced 90 x 150 area is shaded with on-site water. Owners and dogs must follow posted rules and regulations. Dogs must be licensed by the Town of Vienna or Fairfax County. The park is open from dawn to dusk. Please respect others by following the posted rules and picking up after your dog. To find out more about the Vienna Dog Park. Open: Daylight to Dusk.

Fairfax County Park Authority has always welcomed leashed dogs in all of its parks. Now, well-mannered canines can enjoy a good run or a friendly romp in one of 8 dog parks - fenced areas where unleashed dogs can have free play. Additional off-leash dog areas are in the planning stage. See <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/wp-offleash.htm> for more.

All of the dog parks are public/private partnerships, developed in cooperation with sponsoring organizations of pet owners. The sponsors are the agency's liaison between users and local residents, Animal Control and the Police Department. They monitor and clean up the facilities, publicize dog park rules and regulations, and report maintenance needs to the Park Authority.

The hours of operation of all off-leash dog areas are dawn to dusk, unless posted otherwise.

All dogs four months of age or older must be licensed. Licenses are good for one year and must be purchased by January 31st.

1. The off-leash dog area is for dogs, their handlers and those accompanying them. No other use is allowed.
2. All dogs must be legally licensed and vaccinated, and shall wear a visible dog license.
3. Dogs under 4 months of age and female dogs in heat are prohibited.
4. Dogs must be on leash when entering and exiting the off-leash dog area.
5. Dogs must be under the control of their handler and in view of their handler at all times.
6. Spiked collars are prohibited.
7. Children 8 years and under are not allowed in the off-leash dog area; children ages 9 - 15 years must be accompanied by an adult.
8. Handlers must be 16 years of age or older.
9. Handlers must have possession of the dog leash at all times.
10. Handler is limited to a maximum of two dogs.
11. Handlers must "scoop the poop" and fill any holes dug by dogs under their control.
12. Food and drinks in glass containers are prohibited; training treats are allowed.
13. Dogs must be removed from the off-leash dog area at the first sign of aggression.
14. No animals other than dogs shall be permitted in the area.
15. Handlers are responsible for any injuries caused by the dog(s) under their control.
16. Users of the facility do so at their own risk. Neither Fairfax County nor the Fairfax County Park Authority shall be liable for any injury or damage caused by any dog in the off-leash area.



Stories of Pride, Gratitude

FROM PAGE 11

Holleneck. "Little Buddies rescues cats only. We got Shanghai about four years ago. He was in the same cage as his brother.

"And when we brought him home, he cried and cried. We really only wanted one, but a week later, we went back and got his brother, too. Mbarara.

"My cats are so funny, too funny. I really just love my cats. I'd have more if my husband would let me.

"I know there's so many cats who need homes. I never dreamed I'd own a cat. Boy, are they a lot of work, but worth it. They have the best life."

Cindy Stewart on Tacitus, Pearl and Buster

Stewart is the Hunter Mill District representative to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Advisory Commission, an appointed citizen body, as well as a volunteer at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

"Tacitus and Pearl were both adopted from the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

"Here is the story about Tacitus.

"Before I started to volunteer in the cat room, I would volunteer for some of the shelter's special events, like adoption or rabies clinics. I was volunteering at a special adoption event and during the two-hour or so period, I noticed Tacitus and thought he was a cute little guy. However, no one was asking to look at him, take him out of the cat condo to the play room.

"When I was about to leave, I went to say good-bye to Tacitus and he stood up and started to paw

the door to the cage. At that point, I called Buzz, my husband, who came immediately. He held Tacitus, who started to purr, and we adopted him that day. He was a stray. Some good Samaritan had brought him to the shelter.

"He was not in good shape but the shelter took excellent care of him. The shelter estimated he was about 3-years old. He must be about 6 now.

"Pearl was 10-years old when we got her from the shelter. She's now 14.

"Pearl is a success story. She was a senior cat at 10-years old when her owner surrendered her. Her owner was an elderly woman who had to go into a nursing home and couldn't care for the cat. She wasn't in the shelter very long when I saw her. I adopted her immediately.

"Senior cats really are appropriate pets, especially for senior people.

"In the first place, an older cat is more relaxed, calmer and quieter, more gentle and affectionate.

"Secondly, with a senior cat, you have a track record, an idea of their personalities.

"The primary reason to go to a shelter to adopt is that you are, indeed, saving a life that has merit. In many cases, they had been a pet in a loving household.

"In a typical shelter, not only has the staff gotten to know the animal, but all the volunteers who come in get to know the animal, too. Everyone who comes in contact with the animal is invited to note com



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Cindy Stewart with Tacitus, named after the Roman historian

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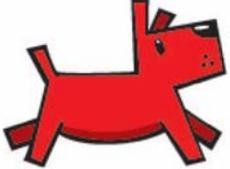
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house, \$25 lawn. www.wolftrap.org.

**Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the
Woods.** Wolf Trap Foundation for
the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road,
Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth
Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo,
11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets:
Dragon Feathers. Free workshops
follow the 10 a.m. performance;
reservations required at 703-255-
1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

The Winstons Band. 7:30 p.m.
Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse
Road, Vienna. Motown. Free. 703-
324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

**Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers
and Matt Hires.** 8 p.m. Jammin'
Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.
\$20. jamminjava.com.

English Conversation. 1 p.m. Patrick
Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East,
Vienna. Conversation group for adult
non-native English speakers of all
levels. 703-938-0405.

Parent-Child Time Together. 5:30-
7:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical
Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens
Court, Vienna. Bring a bag supper to
the Picnic Area and enjoy garden-
based activities. \$2 per adult-child
duo. Reservations required.
pdietly@nvrpa.org.

"Curtains." The McLean Summer
Theatre Program presents a hilarious
musical/comedy whodunit at Langley
High School (6520 Georgetown
Pike), 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and can
be purchased at the door.

Naturally Curious. 2-4 p.m.
Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750
Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna.
Activities and discussions about
nature and science. People and
plants: taxonomy, nomenclature, and
style. For grades 6-9. \$15.
pdietly@nvrpa.org.

FRIDAY/JULY 30

**Summer on the Green: Cravin
Dogs - Rock.** 6:30 p.m. at the
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave.
E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets
for seating. No alcoholic beverages
allowed. It is recommended that pets
be left at home. 703-255-6360 or
www.viennava.gov.

"Little Women, The Musical." 8
p.m. McLean Community Players,
Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean. Based on the Louisa May
Alcott story. \$17-\$19, group rates
available. 703-790-9223 or
www.mcleanplayers.org.

**Stephen Kellogg and the Sixers
and Matt Hires.** 8 p.m. Jammin'
Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.
\$20. jamminjava.com.

"The Pajama Game." 7:30 p.m. St.
Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale
Road, Vienna. A musical comedy
about a pajama factory labor dispute.
\$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors.
Proceeds support mission projects in
Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-
5656.

**NSO@Wolf Trap: Distant Worlds,
Music From Final Fantasy.** 8:30
p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation for the
Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road,
Vienna. Arnie Roth, Conductor. \$20-
\$52 www.wolftrap.org.



SATURDAY/JULY 31

**Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the
Woods.** Wolf Trap Foundation for
the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road,
Vienna. 10 a.m. Maryland Youth
Ballet: Caroline Goes to the Zoo,
11:15 a.m. Bob Brown Puppets:
Dragon Feathers. Free workshops
follow the 10 a.m. performance;
reservations required at 703-255-
1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolftrap.org.

"Little Women, The Musical." 8
p.m. McLean Community Players,
Alden Theatre, 1234 Ingleside Ave.,
McLean. Based on the Louisa May
Alcott story. \$17-\$19, group rates
available. 703-790-9223 or
www.mcleanplayers.org.

**Asylum Street Spankers at 7 p.m.,
The Chuck Shaffer Picture
Show, Conditions and Madrone**
at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple
Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Fairfax County Master Gardeners
Association, Inc.** 10 a.m. City of
Fairfax Regional Library, 10360
North St., Fairfax. Master Gardeners
provide horticultural tips,
information, techniques and advice
to home gardeners. Adults. 703-293-
6227.

Neighborhood Plant Clinic. 10 a.m.
Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven
Place, Oakton. The Fairfax County
Master Gardeners Association gives
tips and strategies. 703-242-4020.

Plant Clinic. 10 a.m. Tysons-Pimmit
Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg
Pike, Falls Church. Masters
Gardeners from the Fairfax County
Cooperative Extension answer
gardening questions. Adults. 703-
790-8088.

"The Pajama Game." 7:30 p.m. St.
Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale
Road, Vienna. A musical comedy
about a pajama factory labor dispute.
\$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors.
Proceeds support mission projects in
Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-
5656.

Artist's Reception. 6-9 p.m. at
Applegate Gallery & Custom
Framing, 101 Church St. N.W., Suite
C, Vienna. Lark McPhail will be on
hand to answer questions about her
artwork. Refreshments served.
Exhibition open July 31-Aug. 25.
info@applegateframing.com.

**Summer Gala and Fundraising
Auction.** 7:30 p.m. at 1st Stage
Theater, 1524 Springhill Road,
McLean. Musical performance,
announcement of next season's
shows, champagne reception with
hors d'oeuvres and desserts, and an
auction of theatre mementos, lessons
and more. Tickets \$50. Reserve at
703-854-1856 or
www.1ststageperformingarts.org.

Tropical Plants. 10 a.m. Meadowlark
Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark
Gardens Court, Vienna. A free walk
through the gardens to learn how to
grow, propagate and over-winter
tropical plants. pdietly@nvrpa.org.

Folsom Prisoners. 5 p.m. outdoors at
the Palladium Civic Place Green,
1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Country
music. Free. 703-288-9505.

**NSO@Wolf Trap: The Planets in
HD.** 8:30 p.m. Wolf Trap Foundation
for the Performing Arts, 1624 Trap
Road, Vienna. Emil de Cou,
conductor. \$20-\$52.
www.wolftrap.org.

**Dhoonya Dance's
Bollywood & Hip Hop
Dance Camp will be Aug. 2-
5 at James School of Dance,
6723 Whittier Ave.,
McLean. Ages 7-10 and 11-
15 can attend Dhoonya
Dance's summer camp
intensive, for a combina-
tion of Bollywood and Hip-
Hop styles that culminate
in a performance at the end
of the session. Register at
tinyurl.com/dhoonyacamp.**

SUNDAY/AUG. 1

**Summer on the Green: Difficult
Run Jazz Band.** 6:30 p.m. at the
Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Ave.
E., Vienna. Bring chairs or blankets
for seating. No alcoholic beverages
allowed. It is recommended that pets
be left at home. 703-255-6360 or
www.viennava.gov.

Hamburger James. 6 p.m. Great Falls
Village Green, at the corner of
Georgetown Pike and Walker Road
in Great Falls. Rock.
www.gfcitizens.org.

Butterfly Garden Guided Tours. 3
p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens,
9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court,
Vienna. An introductory guided
stroll. Learn how the gardens attract
butterflies. Members free, non-
member adults \$4, seniors and age 7-
17 \$1.50, under age 6 free. Rental
binoculars available at the Visitor
Center. 703-255-3631, ext. 0 or
[www.nvrpa.org/park/
meadowlark_botanical_gardens](http://www.nvrpa.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens).

"The Pajama Game." 2 p.m. St.
Mark's Catholic Church, 9970 Vale
Road, Vienna. A musical comedy
about a pajama factory labor dispute.
\$12 adults, \$10 students and seniors.
Proceeds support mission projects in
Haiti. www.stmark.org or 703-938-
5656.

**Vienna Volunteer Fire Department
Bingo.** 7 p.m. at the VVFD, 400
Center St. South, Vienna. Games held
every Sunday in the Flame Room.
www.vvfd.org.

**The Goodnight Anthem, Jonas
Sees In Color, The Love Light
and Forever Is Forever.** 8 p.m.
Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E.,
Vienna. jamminjava.com.

**Reggae: For the Love of It with
Beres Hammond, Inner Circle,
Kenyatta Hill of Culture, Lenya
Wilks and DJ Inferno.** 3 p.m.
Wolf Trap Foundation for the
Performing Arts, 1624 Trap Road,
Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn.
www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/AUG. 2

Alejandro Sanz. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap
Foundation for the Performing Arts,
1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$30-\$48.
703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

**Dhoonya Dance's Bollywood & Hip
Hop Dance Camp.** 2 p.m. at James
School of Dance, 6723 Whittier Ave.,
McLean. Ages 7-10 and 11-15 can
attend four days for a combination of
Bollywood and Hip-Hop styles,
culminating in a performance at the
end of the session. Register at
tinyurl.com/dhoonyacamp.

TUESDAY/AUG. 3

Willie Nelson. 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap
Foundation for the Performing Arts,
1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$25-\$45.
703-938-2404 or www.wolftrap.org.

**Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the
Woods.** Wolf Trap Foundation for
the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road,
Vienna. 10 a.m. PROJECT Trio: From
Hip-Hop to Bach, 11:15 a.m. Wolf
Trap Opera Studio: Instant Opera!
Free workshops follow the 10 a.m.
performance; reservations required at
703-255-1824. \$8-\$10.
www.wolftrap.org.

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Dogs Trained To Help

FROM PAGE 3

Common disorders, such as hip dysplasia, are bred out. "You don't want to continue a line with medical or confidence issues," said Michele Kohl.

Dogs that do not graduate as GEB dogs are sent to other agencies or organizations or adopted by the person or family that raised them. When they retire as guiding eyes, the family who raised them has first choice to adopt them as family pets.

Raising a GEB pup is a \$50,000 investment. GEB puppies are tested at 8 weeks of age for temperament and physical condition. If they do not make the first cut, the puppies may be adopted privately. They will not go on to GEB puppy raisers.

"GEB has been doing this for 51 years," said Michele Kohl. "We're the premier guide school in the world."

GEB works overseas, as well. People come

from other countries to adopt a GEB dog. All recipients of graduated dogs get their guide dogs free of charge.

GEB partners with ATF, the Connecticut State Police, the Canadian Guide School and several other organizations whose requirements can be met by dogs that do not graduate from GEB school as a guide dog for the blind.

The newest GEB-affiliated program, started two years ago, is "Heeling Autism," a program in which dogs are matched with children who will benefit from having a canine pal. One of Betsy Kohl's dogs, Taz, a red Lab, was accepted into the program. Taz graduated in November and was matched with a 5-year-old New York boy.

GEB DOGS RAISED LOCALLY have gone on to different arenas of law enforcement. One swept for the Super Bowl. Another works as a police dog in the Sully District.

Others have gone on to drug and explosive work throughout the country.

Eagle, a yellow Labrador retriever, is retired and back at the Kohls' home in Oakton where he was raised. When Betsy Kohl takes Picasso with her to school, it will fall upon Buster and Eagle to be the wise, experienced GEB-trained dogs teaching a frisky little Gambit.

"People say they can't give the dog up if they raise him," said Michele Kohl. "I say, that once you meet the person who has the dog, and hear the story of how life has changed for them, it makes it worth having to give the dogs up. Would you ever do anything else in your life that has such a powerful impact?"

For more information on Guiding Eyes for the Blind or to learn about pup raising, go to www.guidingeyes.org or to <http://gebdominion.org/>. Call Michele Kohl at 703-242-2232 to talk with a GEB pup raiser.



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Michele Kohl, rewards her well-behaving dogs with treats. Gambit, who arrived at the Kohl's home just two days prior, thinks he's one of the big guys.

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SUNDAY: 10:00 AM 

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Baha'i Faith for Northern Virginia ... 703-821-3345

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Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877
Peace Baptist Church ... 703-560-8462
Bethel Primitive Baptist Church ... 703-757-8134
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

Buddhist
Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

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Oakton Church of the Brethern ... 703-281-4411

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Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828
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Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

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Church of the Holy Comforter ... 703-938-6521

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991
St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

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

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

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Epiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494
Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705
Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233
Vale United Methodist ... 703-620-2594
Smith Chapel United Methodist ... 571-434-9680
Wesley United Methodist ... 703-938-8700

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Christian Assembly Church ... 703-698-9777

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Grace Orthodox Presbyterian Church ...
703-560-6336
Korean Central Presbyterian ... 703-698-5577
Vienna Presbyterian ... 703-938-9050

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Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

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Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
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Growing Scrap Metal Recycle company looking for an outside buyer/purchasing agent. Prospective hire MUST have clean driving record - be hard working driven and honest. Sales experience and knowledge of metal recycle industry a plus. Willing to train the right individual. Paid health insurance, monthly bonus, paid vacation and company vehicle. Call Mark or Eric - 703.430.3667 o.

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21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

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In execution of a Deed of Trust from Madhav P. Ghimire and Rima U. Ghimire, dated June 27, 2007, and recorded June 28, 2007, in Deed Book 19423 at page 518 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Lot 25, Oakleigh, as the same appears duly dedicated, platted and recorded in Deed Book 5793 at page 1627, among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia.

Commonly known as 2993 Oakleigh Lane, Oakton, Virginia 22124.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$30,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 7.125 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale. Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prensley
Chasen & Chasen
5225 Wisconsin Avenue, N.W. #500
Washington, D.C. 20015
(202) 244-4000

TRUSTEE'S SALE

OF VALUABLE

IMPROVED REAL ESTATE

Improved by the premises known as
814 Leigh Mill Road, Great Falls, Virginia

In execution of a Deed of Trust from Fahraneh S. Sohrabian, also known as Farzaneh S. Hashemi and Shawn Sohrabian, dated February 23, 2006, and recorded March 1, 2006, in Deed Book 18249 at page 934 among the Land Records of Fairfax County, Virginia, the undersigned substitute trustee will offer for sale at public auction at the front entrance of the Judicial Center for Fairfax County, at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, Virginia, on

Tuesday, August 3, 2010
At 9:30 a.m.

the following property being the property contained in said Deed of Trust, described as follows:

Tax Map No. 013-1-01-0085

Commonly known as 814 Leigh Mill Road, Great Falls, Virginia 22066.

TERMS OF SALE: A deposit of \$300,000.00 or ten percent (10%) of the sale price, whichever amount is less, in the form of cash or its equivalent will be required of the purchaser at the time and place of sale; the balance of the purchase money being due and payable within fifteen (15) days after sale, time expressly being of the essence, with interest at the rate of 7.75 percent per annum from date of sale to date of settlement. Provided, however, that if the holder of the secured promissory note is the successful bidder at the sale, no cash deposit shall be required, and part of or the entire indebtedness, including interest and costs, secured by the Deed of Trust, may be set off against the purchase price.

Any defaulting purchaser shall forfeit the deposit and stand the risk and cost of resale.

Sale shall be made subject to all existing easements and restrictive covenants as the same may lawfully affect the real estate. Sale is further subject to mechanic's and/or materialman's liens of record and not of record. The property will be sold subject to all conditions, covenants, restrictions, rights of redemption of federal lienholders or encumbrances, and agreements of record affecting the same, if any.

In the event the undersigned trustee is unable to convey to the purchaser good title, then purchaser's sole and exclusive remedy shall be in the refund of the deposit paid at the time of sale.

The subject property and all improvements thereon will be sold in "as is" condition without warranty of any kind. Purchaser shall be responsible for any and all building and/or zoning code violations whether of record or not of record, as well as for all unpaid and enforceable homeowners' or condominium owners' association dues and assessments, if any. Purchaser also shall be responsible for obtaining possession of the property at his/her expense. Purchaser shall assume the risk of loss and shall be responsible for any damage, vandalism, theft, destruction, or the like, of or to the property occurring after the time of sale.

Conveyance will be by special warranty deed. Conveyancing, recording, transfer taxes, notary fees, examination of title, state stamps, and all other costs of conveyance are to be at the expense of purchaser. State and local taxes, public charges, and special or regular assessments, if any, shall be adjusted to the date of sale and thereafter shall be assumed by the purchaser.

The undersigned trustee unconditionally reserves the right: (i) to waive the deposit requirement; (ii) to approve or disapprove the creditworthiness of any bidder and/or purchaser; (iii) to withdraw the property from sale at any time prior to termination of the bidding; (iv) to extend the time for bidding; (v) to reject any or all bids; (vi) to postpone or set over the date or time of sale; and (vii) to extend the period of time for settlement hereunder.

Additional terms and conditions of sale may be announced at the time of sale.

DAVID N. PRENSKY
Substitute Trustee

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:
David N. Prensley
Chasen & Chasen
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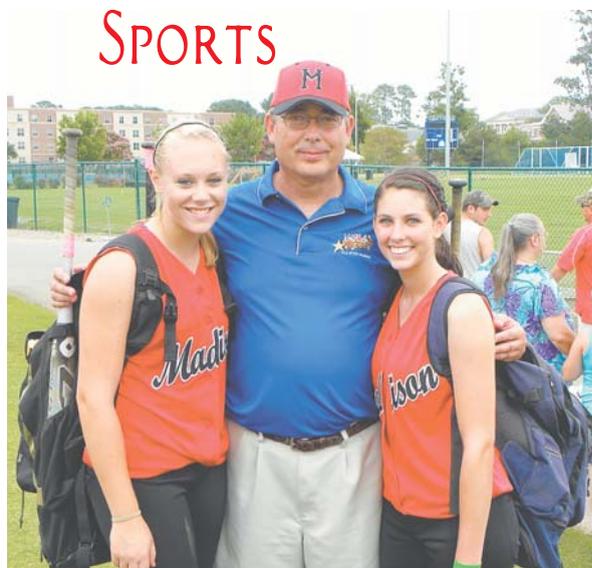
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SPORTS



Madison High girls' softball coach John Schneeberger coached the West Team at the recent showcase summertime all star game. Two of his Warhawk players — Kaila Conlon, left, and Laura Wolff — were members of the squad.

COURTESY PHOTO

Madison All Stars

James Madison High girls' softball coach John Schneeberger was at the helm of the West Team for the recent Virginia State High School All Star Softball Game, played on July 8 at Christopher Newport University. Two of Schneeberger's ball players from Madison — Kaila Conlon and Laura Wolff — were a part of the West Team.

This past spring, Madison had an outstanding season, winning the Liberty District, both the regular season and tournament titles, as well as the Northern Region crown. Schneeberger, in leading the Warhawks, received both District and Region Coach of the Year accolades.

Conlon was named District Player of the Year for Madison while Wolff was an honorable mention All-Met selection. Both Warhawk standouts were scholar athletes and named to the All Madison Team, the

highest honor at their high school. They will both continue their softball careers in the fall as Kaila attends George Mason University and Laura attends Virginia Tech.

THE VIENNA BABE RUTH 14-UNDER baseball team beat Arlington, 2-1, and Northern Falls Church, 7-6, to advance to the championship game of the District 7 All Stars Tournament in Arlington.

In the finals, Vienna once again defeated Northern Falls Church, 10-0, to capture the title and advance to the state tournament in Stafford County.

The Vienna All Star team players are: Patrick Abrahamsen, Eric Alvarez, Brian Boehm, Bruce Briglia, Nick Brady, Daniel Delgado, Tommy Doyle, Patrick Eason, C.J. Graves, Nick Grisius, Chris Kim, Nick Nelson and Will Sparrow. Ken Graves is the head coach of the 14-under team.

District 7 Champs: The Vienna Babe Ruth 14-under baseball All-Stars are competing at the Virginia State tournament.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIENNA BABE RUTH

VIENNA SWIM REPORT

The Shouse Village Sharks lost to the Sully Station II Piranhas, 245 to 157, last Saturday in NVSL Division 7 action.

Double winners for the Sharks were Sinead Eksteen, Christi Geisler, MJ Minutoli and Christopher Oakley. Single winners were Monica Balistrere, Evan Bremser, Karl Myer, Paige Pilewski, Ellie Springsteen and Catherine Zysk.

Westwood Country Club won its fourth consecutive dual meet of the season last Saturday as it defeated Country Club of Fairfax, 358-158. Four event winners for Westwood included Carly Billak, Krissy O'Malley, Palmer Lloyd, Laura Kellan and Matt Callahan. Two event winners were Tyler Banks and Alec Dolton. Single event winners were Melissa Kellan, Alexander Gomez, Natalie Brendsel, Sam Colligan, Audrey Kellan, Kelly Lloyd, Lexi Novak, Brian Harris, Spencer Brayman

and Tom Fenninger.

Also scoring points for Westwood were Lachlan Suter, Alana Suter, Casandra Picard, Riley Motz, Tommy Fisher, Molly Anspach, Zack Thornburg, Andee Brayman, Clement Greco, Lyana Katz, Victoria Tilson, Jeremy Timblin, Chandler Kourtesis, Kiana Secharan, Jackson Miller, Justin Gomez, Cathleen Arase, Tristan Timblin, Jillian Hickey, Stephanie Brendsel and Craig Strasbourger.

The Oakton Otters, in Division 2 swim action, went into their meet against McLean undefeated. But McLean edged out Oakton, 205 to 197. Double winners for Oakton were Eric Koplaski, Jodie Koplaski and Laura Branton. Single winners were Meghan Kenefick, Layne Stikeleather, Carter Sharer, Kathleen Smith, Lindsey Liddell, Michael Ambrose, Evelyn Pickett, Steven Howard, Kaitlyn Power and Devon Thomas.

SPORTS

Northern Virginia's SYA Storm U11 girls soccer team, made up of players from all around Northern Virginia, hit Ocean City under an alias nickname — "Category 5" — and finished as champion at the 2010 Beach 5 Sand Soccer Tournament, on June 26 in Ocean City, Md. The team's Ocean City trip was sponsored by Keller Williams Fairfax Gateway Realtor Group. The Storm, competing at the tournament for the third straight year, went unbeaten at 4-0-0, scoring 21 goals and allowing just five. It was a follow up to their impressive play at The Virginian Tournament, which they won over the Memorial Day weekend.

The Storm — or Category 5 — was victorious against its three opponents in the preliminary round. The victories came over teams from the Eastern Shore of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Columbia, Md. Category 5, which outscored its preliminary round opponents, 18-4, then advanced to the championship game where it defeated a team from Massachusetts, 3-1. It marked the third straight year in which Category 5 has won the tournament.

Stellar play and a quick grasp of the beach style barefoot soccer play by Category 5 was what an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE STORM

The U-11 Storm made a girls' soccer splash in Ocean City.

chored the team's strong finish throughout the tournament. Quick transition and passing of the ball was the key to Category 5's success.

The SYA Storm soccer team continues to develop a strong bond and has produced a strong team chemistry in which the players show respect for one another. The coaches, Kurt Gordon and Ray Motha, focus on building confidence individually and collectively as a team.

"These girls are special and they just 'wow' you on and off the field," said Gordon.

Late afternoon thunderstorms cut short the Northern Virginia Swim League's annual Cracker Jack Dive Championships. Two-hundred and sixty-five divers from community pools from across Northern Virginia competed in this year's meet, which was at Truro Pool in Annandale.

The Cracker Jack, which according to meet organizers is the world's largest one-day diving competition, was established in 1987 to provide a skill-appropriate championship for beginner divers. The annual event exemplifies the goals of the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL).

The Fifth Annual SERVPRO Invitational High School Golf Tournament will take place Aug. 10-11 at Twin Lakes Golf Club, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Spectators will have a chance to see the best up-and-coming golf stars that Northern Virginia has to offer. Last year's annual tournament included 28 teams from Northern Virginia and 140 high school students.

SERVPRO is proud to be the title sponsor of this event. Funds acquired through sponsorship and donations will generate full scholarships, both academic and athletic, allowing students to pursue their educational dreams.

Those interested in attending or with further questions can contact Rati Bogdan at brati@fwm1.com or 703-595-6712.

Both the U-19 and U-16 Northern Region Girls Lacrosse teams brought home Gold Medals for finishing first at the Commonwealth Games tournament, in Lexington two weeks ago. The U-19 team started strong in tournament play and held on in the last minute for the win in the Gold Medal game against a talented East team. The U-16 team started slowly in tournament play, but came together,

played as a team, and finished strong in their Gold Medal game win. The players for both teams were invited to participate, acknowledging their high level of performance for their respective school and league teams this past season.

On Sunday, July 18, Northern Virginia Swim League's diving division conducted its annual Wally Martin 3-Meter Championships at the Oak Marr Recreation Center in Oakton.

One-hundred and two divers, ranging in ages from 8 to 18, competed in the annual competition. The following were champions in their respective age groups:

Freshman Girls - Hailey Fisher (Mansion House)

Freshman Boys - Conor Casey (Truro)

Junior Girls - Mariana Hershner (Sleepy Hollow Bath)

Junior Boys - Grayson Campbell (Vienna Woods)

Intermediate Girls - Elena Bavalack (Lee Graham)

Intermediate Boys - Matthew Hubbard (Truro)

Senior Girls - Kelly Corish (Dunn Loring)

Senior Boys - Corey Bowersox (Old Keene Mill).

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43611 Parisville Court.....\$825,000...Sat 1-4...Denene Crabbs.....Century 21.....703-803-3898

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3528 Military Road N.....\$798,500...Sat/Sun 2-4...Hal Logsdon.....McEneaney.....202-372-6273
2929 N. Sycamore St.....\$979,000...Sun 1-4...Jennifer Caterini.....Coldwell Banker.....703-609-6258
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9433 VAN ARSDALE DR	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$630,000	Townhouse	0.05		VIRGINIA CENTER
8603 ANTIOCH CIR	5	4	1		VIENNA	\$620,000	Detached	1.17		DUNN LORING WOODS
2315 TANGLEVALE DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$620,000	Detached	0.28		TANGLEWOOD
8712 HIGDON DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$619,000	Detached	0.24		TYSONS GREEN
8032 TREVOR PL	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$617,000	Townhouse	0.06		COURTHOUSE STATION
804 DESALE ST SW	5	4	0		VIENNA	\$600,000	Detached	0.23		VIENNA WOODS
8808 HUNTING LODGE CT	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$600,000	Townhouse	0.02		TYSONS VILLAGE
512 WOODLAND CT NW	5	3	0		VIENNA	\$595,000	Detached	0.24		VICTORIA WOODS
9761 OLEANDER AVE	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$590,000	Detached	0.29		SUTTON MANOR
2324 MALRAUX DR	4	3	1		VIENNA	\$590,000	Detached	0.23		TYSONS WOODS
11219 GERALD LN	3	3	0		OAKTON	\$589,000	Detached	0.92		TIMBERTON
2406 CAREY LN	5	2	2		VIENNA	\$585,000	Detached	0.50		TOWN AND COUNTRY GARDENS
1501 CERRITOS CT	5	3	0		VIENNA	\$585,000	Detached	0.58		CINNAMON CREEK
2903 OAKTON CREST PL	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$579,000	Townhouse	0.05		OAKTON CREST
2530 BULL RUN CT	5	2	1		VIENNA	\$575,000	Detached	0.25		STONEWALL MANOR
2116 SHERIFF CT	5	2	1		VIENNA	\$575,000	Detached	0.34		BARRISTERS PLACE
2911 OAKTON CREST PL	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$575,000	Semi-Detached	0.07		OAKTON CREST
521 HERITAGE LN NW	4	3	0		VIENNA	\$570,000	Detached	0.30		HERITAGE OF VIENNA
2055 PIERIS CT	3	2	2		VIENNA	\$560,000	Townhouse	0.05		TYSONS STATION
1851 CLOVERMEADOW DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$559,500	Detached	0.70		SUNNYBROOK
601 ORRIN ST	3	3	0		VIENNA	\$559,000	Detached	0.26		EAST VIENNA WOODS
8524 WOLFTRAP RD	4	3	1		VIENNA	\$556,000	Detached	0.26		OLD COURT HOUSE
8301 1ST AVE	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$555,000	Detached	0.18		WEDDERBURN HEIGHTS
2405 ROCKBRIDGE ST	4	3	0		VIENNA	\$551,000	Detached	0.24		KENDALE PARK
203 GLYNDON ST SE	3	2	1		VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.35		KATRINA HINE ECHOLS
2518 JACKSON PKWY	5	2	1		VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.24		STONEWALL MANOR
641 TAZEWELL RD NW	3	3	0		VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.33		VIENNA HILLS
520 WOODLAND CT NW	5	3	0		VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.24		VICTORIA WOODS
111 ROSS DR SW	4	3	0		VIENNA	\$549,450	Detached	0.27		VIENNA WOODS
3019 BARDEN OAKS CT	3	2	2		OAKTON	\$540,000	Townhouse	0.08		BARDEN OAKS
10126 BLAKE LN	3	2	0		OAKTON	\$540,000	Detached	0.56		GRAYS OAKTON
212 AYR HILL AVE NE	4	3	0		VIENNA	\$540,000	Detached	0.34		AYRHILL BERRYS
905 TIMBER LN SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$539,000	Detached	0.30		VIENNA WOODS
8255 1ST AVE	3	2	1		VIENNA	\$534,900	Detached	0.14		WEDDERBURN HEIGHTS
2617 BOWLING GREEN DR	4	2	1		VIENNA	\$531,700	Detached	0.31		DUNN LORING WOODS
104 SHARON LN NW	4	2	0		VIENNA	\$530,000	Detached	0.29		BRADMOOR
505 KIBLER CIR SW	3	3	0		VIENNA	\$526,000	Detached	0.27		VIENNA WOODS
105 DOGWOOD ST SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$524,900	Detached	0.27		WEST VIENNA WOODS
2301 MCGREGOR CT	4	3	1		VIENNA	\$520,000	Townhouse	0.07		DUNN LORING HIGHLANDS
120 DOGWOOD ST SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$519,900	Detached	0.27		WEST VIENNA WOODS
10625 MILLER RD	2	1	0		OAKTON	\$515,000	Detached	2.00		POND VIEW ACRES
705 MEADOW LN SW	4	3	0		VIENNA	\$515,000	Detached	0.36		HAMPTON
1745 CY CT	3	3	1		VIENNA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.03		TYSONS COURT
1010 HILLCREST DR SW	3	2	0		VIENNA	\$508,000	Detached	0.24		VIENNA WOODS

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