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Saving a Life In Vienna

NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Capt. Roger McGehee, Robert Arnone, Alison Roney, Michael Worthington and Crystal Zorich. Easton Peterson and Marlon Garner couldn't be there but were part of the team that saved Roney's life.

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NEWS, PAGE 3

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NEWS

Jack and Deborah Roney credit the emergency personnel of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department with saving their daughter's life. Alison, 15, said she feels normal and good now.

PHOTO BY
DONNA MANZ/
THE CONNECTION



VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
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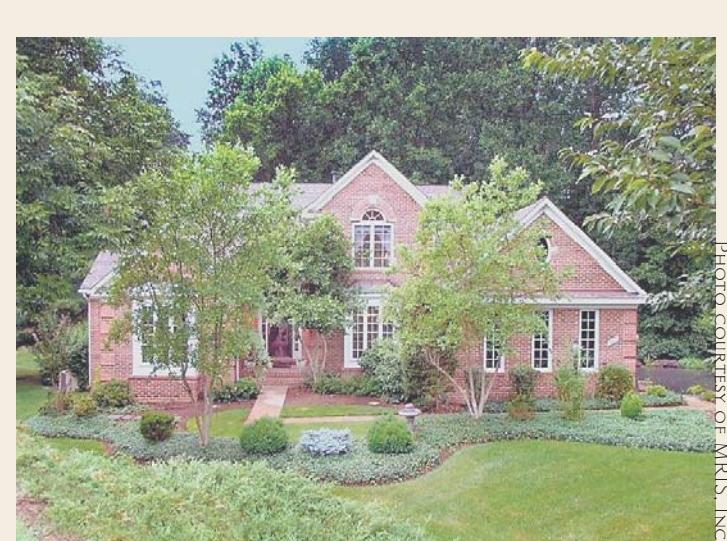


PHOTO COURTESY OF MRIS, INC.

Saving Life in Vienna

A family thanks Vienna Fire and Rescue Department's EMTs.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Ask Jack and Deborah Roney about their daughter Alison and they will tell you how the EMTs of Vienna's Fire and Rescue Department saved Alison's life on July 20.

There are two main things Jack Roney wants people around Vienna to know. "We want them to appreciate the incredible work of our EMTs, and to recognize the value of knowing CPR. That and her immediate emergency care is what saved Alison."

An outwardly-healthy 15-year-old who plays volleyball and performs Irish dance, Alison Roney went into sudden cardiac arrest at her home just two days after returning from counselor-in-training at a camp at Ferrum College.

ALISON has little recollection of the days preceding her heart attack. She said she woke up on July 20 feeling her "normal self." What happened next she does not recall, but, her mother does. Deborah Roney was in the computer room in her house at about 1:15 p.m. when she heard gagging sounds coming from the kitchen. She called out to her daughter, "Alison, is that you or the dog?" When she received no response, Deborah Roney made her way into the kitchen. She found Alison on the floor, gasping for breath. Deborah Roney called on her CPR training and began trying to save her daughter's life with cardio-pulmonary resuscitation.

Roney's 9-1-1 Fairfax County call came in at 1:25, and an ambulance left the Vienna fire station at 1:26. It, and a fire truck, pulled up at 1:29 p.m. At 1:30 p.m., EMTs were in the house. Three Vienna police cars responded, as well. When the rescue team arrived, Roney entrusted Alison's life to them.

"The real story is that they [the Vienna EMTs] got here so quickly and did such a great job."

— Jack Roney

She sustained a cornea injury during her episode, and while the eye aches a bit, Alison is coming along physically.

"I feel good, normal," said Alison, a rising sophomore in George C. Marshall High School's International Baccalaureate program. "Doesn't seem like any of this happened, except for the scar."

"I just expect to be alive."

"The real story is that they [the Vienna EMTs] got here so quickly and did such a great job," said Alison's father Jack.

Alison was intubated with fluid lines and blood draw lines within minutes. The Roneys later found out that Alison was shocked twice with a defibrillator, once at the house and again in the emergency vehicle.

With IV lines already in-place, Alison spent little time in the emergency room. The treatment Alison got at home and en route saved precious minutes in the emergency room at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She was transported shortly after arrival to her room in the intensive care unit.

A staffer from the emergency room stopped by Alison's room a day or two later. Jack Roney said the woman seemed to be "in awe" of the care that Alison received by the EMTs.

Alison Roney spent nine days in ICU, much of the time under sedatives. She recalls very little of her whole experience. Her first ingestible meal, spaghetti, came four days after her heart attack. Her mother said she ate and she remembers that. In the hospital's pediatric intensive care unit, Deborah Roney was called "the mom who saved her daughter's life."

Alison Roney left Fairfax Hospital with a defibrillator implant. The life-saving device, known as an ICD, is a small battery-powered electrical impulse generator. When the implanted defibrillator detects arrhythmia, it sends a jolt of electricity to the heart.

THE FAMILY plans on visiting the Vienna fire station to thank the rescue crew whose treatment and care not only preserved Alison's life, but prevented the teen from having permanent brain damage.

Vienna still wins major points for location.

BY KIM THORNTON
THE CONNECTION

The real estate market is showing improvements from last year, according to local experts and statistical reports. Total sales per quarter have gone up. In the Washington area market, unit sales are currently up 15.9 percent from last year and 60 percent from last quarter. Prices have improved slightly as well. In the Washington Market as a whole, the average sales price for a single-family home is up 4.2 percent from last year. Fairfax County prices alone have risen 9.6 percent from June 2009 to June 2010.

It is too soon to say exactly how the local market has been faring this summer. However, real estate agents in the area have picked up on some trends that they say are likely to continue into the fall. There is generally more demand than this time last year.

Gwen Brauer, a real estate agent with Re/Max Xecutex, said foot traffic in open houses has been a good indicator of increased demand over the past year. "Traffic in open houses is way more than it was last year," she said. "Open houses don't sell real estate usually, but

they're a good indication of the number of people who are starting to poke around."

She said that with so many more buyers out there lately, a home attracting as many as four or five serious buyers is not uncommon. The increase in demand has a great deal to do with interest rates, which "are ridiculously low right now," said Brauer, sitting as low as 4.375 percent.

MANY EXPERTS in the Vienna area say that it helps that Vienna is such a great location. Arthur DuHaime of Fairfax Realty has lived in Vienna for more than 30 years. He said he is not surprised that homes in Vienna are selling.

"Location, location, location," he said. "This area has been growing. More people want to live in this area. More companies want to have their home offices here."

DuHaime lists proximity to airports, beaches and cities like Richmond, Philadelphia and, of course, Washington, D.C. as other popular incentives for buyers of all ages. He pointed out that because Vienna is such a family-oriented community, potential buyers with children are going to be attracted to those aspects first.

Donna Henshaw, an agent with Avery Hess, said that "Vienna schools will attract people — you've got Madison which is right there in the town.

SEE MARKET, PAGE 7



WEEK IN VIENNA

Crime Solvers Seeks Burglary Suspect

Fairfax County Crime Solvers is asking for the public's assistance in identifying and locating a man who broke into an occupied home in the Vienna area. On the morning of Tuesday, July 20, the suspect forced entry into a home in the 9000 block of Edgepark Road. Inside, he encountered a resident and immediately fled back out. He left in a white car.

The suspect was described as white or Hispanic, 25- to 30-years old. He was 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet tall with a medium build. He was wearing a white T-shirt and a gray baseball cap. Detectives have released a composite sketch of the suspect and are hopeful someone may recognize him.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477), e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES(274637). A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information that leads to an arrest. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court.

Free Brush Pick Up

In an effort to assist Town of Vienna residents with the aftermath of the storm that occurred on Aug. 5, the town will provide a onetime only free brush pickup for each residence in town. In order to receive this onetime brush pickup, residents must request the pickup no later than Sunday, Aug. 22. This free brush pickup is for one load only and must meet the requirement for a Special Pickup: trees and limbs less than 6 inches in diameter and less than 8 feet in length. This service is for Town of Vienna residents only.

To request this onetime free brush pickup, Town of Vienna residents can call the Public Works' Special Pickup Line at 703-255-5727 or can order online at http://www.viennava.gov/Town_Services/trash.htm#pickups.

Sanctuary on Church Opens for Business

Sanctuary on Church, a lifestyle and interior design boutique, has opened on historic Church Street in Vienna. Founded by Hillary Diamond Staats, an interior designer with more than 25 years of residential design experience in the Washington, D.C. area, and Christine Sonu, a native of the D.C. area who left a career in law to pursue interior design. Sanctuary on Church is a full-service interior design boutique devoted to an aesthetic that has traditional roots, but a fresh and eclectic finish.

In addition to offering design consulting, Sanctuary on Church sells an assortment of home accessories, furnishings, and gifts at various price points, from \$15 picture frames to a \$6,500 chandelier. The lifestyle concept behind Sanctuary on Church is seen in the range of merchandise carried in the boutique, such as exclusive lines of jewelry hand-picked by Staats and Sonu, gift items like coin purses made from vintage fabrics, and European bouquets of fresh flowers.

Sanctuary on Church is located at 109 Church St., N.E., in Vienna. For inquiries, call 703.865.6477 or e-mail info@sanctuaryonchurch.com. Visit Sanctuary on Church online at www.sanctuaryonchurch.com.

Paisano's Inks Vienna Franchise

Fouad Qreitem, CEO of Paisano's, extends a welcome to NPV-1, LLC, as a new Paisano's franchisee with Town of Vienna as its targeted development territory. In July 2005, CNN/Money and Money magazine ranked Vienna fourth on its list of the 100 best places to live in the United States.

"At Paisano's, we create and deliver the finest quality, best tasting and highest value pizza and Italian specialties available anywhere, now, soon to be had in the Vienna area," said Qreitem.

Other Paisano's outlets include Herndon, Reston, Chantilly, Fair Lakes, Fairfax City and Bella Pizza of Centreville.

NEWS

Pets Rule in Vienna

Vienna offers veterinary emergency care, MRIs and animal dentistry.

By DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

If the large number of Vienna-area animal hospitals are indicative of the familial relationship Vienna residents have with their pets, then the diversity of specialty-care animal clinics say, "pets rule."

From pet imaging to 24-hour emergency care to animal dentistry, Vienna offers world-class veterinary specialty care to residents and, even, to zoos.

ANIMALSCAN

When AnimalScan opened in Vienna in 2002 as IAMS Pet Imaging, it was one of only two stand-alone pet imaging centers in the United States. A lot has changed in eight years. Now, dozens of stand-alone pet imaging centers exist throughout the U.S., and, in August 2009, Proctor and Gamble, parent company of IAMS, sold the pet imaging center to Animal Scan.

What hasn't changed, though, is much of the staff. Dr. Julie Smith, trained in animal anesthesiology, still runs the imaging center. Its mission, to produce state-of-the-art MRIs (Magnetic Resonance Imaging), interpret the results and identify abnormalities, continues, as well.

All MRI technologists are human-trained and certified for human MRI technology.

"Their training is instrumental in helping us take that technology into use for animals," said Smith.

Most of AnimalScan's patients, about 89 percent, are dogs. Another 10 percent are cats, and a small number of MRIs are performed on exotic pets or zoo animals. While most patients come from the Washington-metro area and West Virginia, some make the trip to Vienna from Delaware, Pennsylvania, and the Outer Banks. A Doberman pinscher trainer from Pennsylvania researched and evaluated MRI centers before bringing her dog to AnimalScan in Vienna.

Nancy Puccini's 11-year-old dog Abigail has been in severe pain and has trouble walking. Puccini's vet wanted an MRI of Abigail's spine, suspicious of a tumor. Abigail came to Puccini of Reston from a rescue organization that took Abigail out of the pound. The little shelter dog was just 17-weeks old



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Sherry Murray had Ariel's teeth extracted by Dr. Barron Hall at Vienna's Animal Dental Clinic. The town offers veterinary emergency care, MRIs and animal dentistry.

when she entered Puccini's life. Doing what is best for Abigail, doing an MRI to locate the source of the dog's pain and suffering, came naturally to Puccini.

"She's been the best dog in the entire world," Puccini said while sitting in the front room of AnimalScan. "I'm going through chemo now, and she's been with me every step of the way. I feel that God made Abigail especially for me. There's nothing better than a shelter dog."

A family's veterinarian refers the client for imaging. Staff at AnimalScan talk with the pet's guardian about the procedure, which includes a pre-MRI exam and the administration of anesthesia. "We want the guardian to know what's going to happen," Smith said.

After the MRI, the pet's vital signs are rechecked to make sure the animal is stable. The scan itself takes approximately 30 minutes, and the pet is in recovery another 20-30 minutes.

"We're an MRI practice but also an anesthesia practice," said Smith. AnimalScan performs 25-30 scans a week. The scan costs anywhere from \$1,700 to \$2,200.

AnimalScan of Vienna is located at 328 Maple Ave., E. For more information, e-mail vienna@animalscan.org or call 703-281-9440. To learn more about AnimalScan, see www.animalscan.org/.

THE HOPE CENTER

"We're unique in that besides



Abigail, adopted by Nancy Puccini of Reston, was referred to AnimalScan by the family veterinarian because the dog's symptoms suggested a serious spinal condition.

providing 24/7 emergency care, we also have all these other departments, internal medicine, oncology and ophthalmology, run by the Hope Center," said Hope CEO Kristine Boucher.

Within the Hope Center's building are other veterinary specialty practices including the Veterinary Surgical Center [VSC], Chesapeake Veterinary Cardiology Associates [CVCA], and CT scans by PetsDX.

Beth Crowder and her family, including 4-pound, 6-ounce Nacho, live in McLean. When the almost-5-year-old dog became lethargic in early July, Crowder brought him into the family vet's office for thorough evaluation and testing. "He couldn't even hold his head up," said Crowder, from an examination room at Hope a week later. The doctors at Great Falls Animal Hospital ran tests and told Crowder her dog was very ill and in-need of 24-hour medical care. Go to Hope, the vet told her. She did.

"We almost lost him," said Crowder. "He had severe pancreatitis. They put him on IVs. He was here from last Thursday through Tuesday."

"Everyone at Hope was fantastic, extremely professional and knowledgeable and caring," she said.

Since the initial diagnosis, Nacho lost 10 ounces off her tiny frame. Dr. Kelly Gisselman changed Nacho's diet and the dog was in several days after release for a vitamin B12 injection.

SEE SPECIAL FRIENDS, PAGE 5

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Beth Crowder of McLean was referred to the Hope Center by Nacho's veterinarian. Nacho took quite ill with a severe case of pancreatitis.



Dr. Barron Hall, oral surgeon at the Animal Dental Clinic, examines a cooperative dog's mouth.



Dr. Julie Smith of AnimalScan examines a little dog recovering from anesthesia administered prior to the pet's MRI.

Special Friends Get Special Care

FROM PAGE 4

Crowder is hopeful that her little dog will pull through with no relapses.

Hope Center opened more than 30 years ago in Vienna as an emergency care center open when traditional practices are closed. Then called the Emergency Veterinary Clinic of Northern Virginia, animals were vectored to their own vets in the morning when the family vet's office opened. As needs from clients developed, EVC evolved, as well.

In 2002, the Veterinary Surgical Center and Veterinary Internal Medicine, were added to the clinic. In February, 2008, 30 years after its beginning as a veterinary emergency care practice, the medical center moved to a 15,000-square-foot building, renaming itself "Hope."

Today, the Hope Center has, on-staff, 14 doctors and two interns. The independent specialty practices doctors add ten more to that number.

The Hope Center for Advanced Veterinary Medicine is located at 140 Park St., S.E. Phone 703-281-5121, visit <http://hopecenter.com/>.

THE ANIMAL DENTAL CLINIC

If your pet has a bad toothache or needs to check a root canal, the chances are you'll call Dr. Barron Hall, owner of Vienna's Animal Dental Clinic and its experienced dentist and surgeon.

Hall, board-certified in veterinary dentistry and oral surgery, is one of only 106 American Veterinary Dental College Diplomates in the world and the only one in Fairfax County. He is also a Fellow of the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry.

Hall came into animal dentistry

by accident, he said. The veterinary hospital in Michigan he was practicing in 15 years ago sent Hall to a weekend seminar on animal dentistry in Indianapolis. That seminar changed the direction of Hall's life work.

"I spent the whole weekend with my jaw wide-open," said Hall. Veterinary schools taught dentistry as something any animal health provider could do with no specialized training. For the first time, Hall thought, this is how you extract teeth.

"Because animals don't complain, you think you're doing a good job," Hall said. He wasted no time once he learned of the specialized treatment of animal dentistry. At the seminar, Hall bought a dental unit, similar to what you see used on humans. It was his, his to take with him when he left the Michigan practice. "I could use it to benefit my patients so I bought it right there."

Animal dentistry has advanced over the past 15 years as has Hall's abilities. Hall moved to the Fairfax area three years ago for two primary reasons: to buy into Dr. Chuck Williams Animal Dental Clinic and to be in close proximity to the National Zoo. Last July, Hall bought the practice out completely.

Hall performs one to two full-mouth extractions on cats every week. Sherry Murray's cat Ariel had surgery in Hall's office on Wednesday after being referred to Hall by her family vet. Ariel was not eating and was dropping weight when her family vet examined her. Hall extracted all of Ariel's teeth and when Murray picked him up six hours later, the cat was still recuperating from the trauma. "She's like a family member," Murray said, pressing Ariel, wrapped in a blanket, to her chest.

"She's my daughter's cat."

When pets are brought into Hall's office, he first consults with the pet's guardians to be sure the person knows what will happen. He does pre-op and post-op evaluation and uses both injectionable and inhalant anesthesia. "They're monitored the same way we would monitor humans," said Hall.

Hall performs dental work on the National Zoo's animals at no charge at all and is at the zoo's disposal whenever they need him. His brag book is filled with photos of the zoo's residents that he has examined and worked on, and, alongside the photos, are thank-you notes from the human caretakers there. From lions, Sumatran tigers and gorillas needing root canals to wallabies, peccaries, gibbons, leopards and sloths needing diverse treatments, Hall has treated multiple dozens of the National Zoo's resident animals. Tai Shan was a patient and Hall took an impression of his teeth.

He's treated a bear at the Salisbury Zoo, and a jaguar belonging to an Abu Dhabi sheik, as well.

"We're getting around to teaching more animal dentistry in our veterinary schools now," Hall said. About one-third of vet schools have someone board-certified or with advanced training in animal dentistry on-staff, Hall said. "There are still animal hospitals out there where vets, or even technicians, are extracting teeth without appropriate training or equipment."

The Animal Dental Clinic is located at 410 Maple Ave., W., Suite 1. Telephone 703-281-5900. e-mail animal_dental_clinic@yahoo.com. To learn more about the Animal Dental Clinic, go to http://www.adcvacva.com/site/view/121506_Home.pml.

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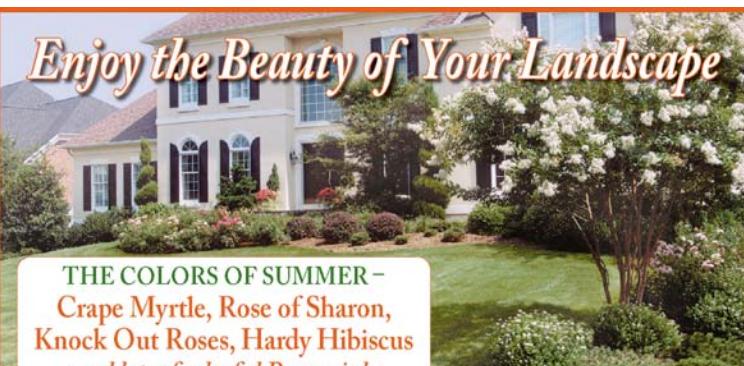


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OPINION

Send Ideas for Connection Insiders Guide

What do you love about your community?

Connection staff and interns are already preparing its annual special edition community guide, the Insiders Guide. We invite area residents, students, business owners and others to help.

Answer these three questions and send your responses via email.

We'll print selections from the answers along with your name. Feel free to give more than one answer to each question, or to send just one comment. Answer one question or all of them; give as many answers as you'd like to each question.

EDITORIAL

- ❖ What do you love about your community?
- ❖ What "insider's tip" about your town would you share with a friend? Places to go, things to do, can't-miss events, ideas on what it means to live here.
- ❖ What advice would you give new residents on how to make themselves at home and get involved here?

The Insiders Guide will publish the last week in August. Please send in your tips and answers no later than Aug. 17.

What tips do you have for someone new to your town? What interesting, almost secret, places would you like to have learned about earlier when you moved in?

We invite you to share the expertise you've gained in living in your hometown with your neighbors and with people new to the area. We invite calendar listings for major events for

the upcoming year, information on how to get involved in nonprofits and charities, details about your club or other organization.

When are the major festivals, celebrations and other events at your church or temple or mosque?

We also invite readers to contribute directly to the newcomers and community guides. Send us a short letter: what do you love about your community? Tell us about one special place you've discovered. Does your family have different favorites in different seasons? How did you get involved in your town? Share your favorite park. Tell us about your favorite annual event.

Send you comments and submissions to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com or mail to Insiders Guide, McLean Connection, 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314.

Banning the Book Is Not an Answer

BY TALLEY MURPHY
MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL

For years, Alabama resident Laura Mallory campaigned against the wildly successful Harry Potter books, claiming them to be "dangerous and deceptive" and blaming them for "mainstreaming witchcraft [for children]."

Mallory challenged the books' placement in school libraries and appealed multiple times in effort to have the Potter series banned from her local schools. However, Mallory no longer had any children in public schools by the time she was making her most recent appeals.

Mallory's campaign is not unique, but ones like it are rarities in Fairfax County. Though on the school level, books have been restricted or banned, no county-wide bans

have occurred, at least as of 1983, when records of challenges were first kept.

This overall lack of bans has not really deterred people from attempting to remove them from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). In 2006, a challenge was brought to the FCPS School Board against "Of Mice and Men" and, in 2007, "Plastic Man: On the Lam" was challenged. In 2009, Lauren Myracle's instant messaging-style teen novel, "TTYL," the first in the three-part series, was challenged.

Though book challenges and bans are minimal in Fairfax County, they still exist, especially on a school level. Parents have the option, according to School Board regulation, to challenge material in school based on how "suitable"



Talley Murphy

they find them or how they "perceive students would be affected by exposure to [the] material." However, it is the teacher's, not the parent's, job to determine what material is suitable for a learning environment.

BOOK BANNING is not a material issue. It is one of free speech. It does not matter how anti-religious or vulgar or inappropriate you, or your parents, might find it to be. If the book is against your religion, do not read it. If you disagree vehemently with the opinions presented in the book to the point that you find the book offensive, do not read it. If you feel that the book is inappropriate for a school setting, do not read it, because that is not your call to make.

It is not all right for other people's parents to implement their views on what is school-appropriate on students who may not share the same views. Appropriate school reading material is an issue that should be left up to the best judgment of the student, his or her parents, and the school li-

brary. Unless the text is factually incorrect material presented to students as truth, it is not the job of the parents to regulate books in school libraries and classrooms. Parents need to trust that teachers will not be having their second graders read "Huckleberry Finn."

Books that are educationally beneficial yet controversial, like "1984," a commonly challenged novel by George Orwell that has the potential to offer students a new take on the Cold War, should not be removed from classrooms because parents are upset by its material.

Sometimes the books parents are most ardently set against are the ones that offer the most learning opportunities, especially for young students. Books like "Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry" by Mildred D. Taylor, which is heavy in racial epithets that seem inappropriate today, can give elementary school students real perspective on the environment during the 1960s. Children can handle a surprising amount of mature content when learning about history. By saying books like this are too much for students to handle, parents are

selling their children short.

While it may be completely inappropriate for fourth graders to read a book heavy in reference to sex and drugs, it is not the responsibility of an unrelated to decide that. There is a fine line between educational and inappropriate. However, books that use strong language but are period-accurate are not unreasonable. For older students, books with some drug references that offer context are not inappropriate.

Although parents should have input in the learning process and should be involved in their child's education, it is important they do not smother their students to the point of impacting others' learning. Parents who advocate the banning of books are infringing on the rights of the student body as a whole. Just because one person feels the material is inappropriate in a school setting does not mean that others cannot derive educational value from it.

Talley Murphy is a 10th grader at Marshall High School. She spends her free time synchronized skating, acting and writing for her political blog, "Liberal Hype."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Looking for Classmate

To the Editor:

I am looking for a former classmate from Harrisburg High School, class of '63, Harrisburg, IL 62946. His last known residence was Vienna, but the e-mail address listed in our newspaper's alumni list is no longer viable. His name is Alan Hansen. I was wondering if you could post a short notice in

your community newspaper, asking Alan to contact Susan (Hamby) Howton at mamachick6@hotmail.com in Harrisburg, Ill.

My mailing address is 206 W. Church St., Harrisburg, IL 62946. I actually live next door to a home he lived in when he was in high school here. I would appreciate your help!

Susan (Hamby) Howton
Harrisburg, Ill.

THE CONNECTION

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Newspaper of
Vienna & Oakton

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

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NEWS

Market Shows Promising Signs

FROM PAGE 3

Marshall has the IB program, which is appealing to certain people." From a business perspective, Henshaw mentioned Vienna's proximity to Metrorail and to Tysons Corner as key considerations. The Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project, which will extend the Metrorail system to Tysons Corner, Reston and even parts of Loudoun County, is said to have some influence on real estate demand, among other things, even now in its earliest stages.

Another key observation over recent months is that homes are spending less time on the market before being sold. Statistics compiled in the MRIS Trends in Housing mid-year report for 2010 showed single-family homes spending an average of 56 days on the market, down 37 days from last year in the Metropolitan area. In the inner ring of the district, which includes all of Fairfax County, this number is slightly higher at an average 58 days, down from 97 days just a year ago.

According to MRIS, "Recent market statistics indicate that buyer and seller pricing expectations are moving toward each other." Experts in the area say that homeowners are getting smarter about pricing their homes now that market conditions are a bit more stable than they were last year. Experts say that homeowners who need to sell their homes — for financial reasons, job relocation, or other — are much better off choosing a reasonable asking price from the start, even if that means settling for lower numbers.

"The first couple of weeks on the market are critical," said Brauer. "Everyone who's been educated about what we have in inventory sees [newly listed homes] first. Price it right [and you will] attract serious buyers who have lost out on other contracts. After 60 days, you don't get those people — they move on right away because they've been looking for awhile."

Due to the rise in inventory and the pick up in construction projects, serious buyers are spending less time browsing old listings

and checking new listings every day. Therefore it is important to think about what the initial listing will look like to buyers. "If a house has been on the market for 90 days and was just reduced to \$900,000, which is what it should have been listed at all along," Brauer said, "then it still won't sell as well as if it was \$900,000 to start."

AS A RESULT of smarter pricing, the ratio between average selling price and list price is the highest it's been since 2007. The average selling price for spring 2010 was 95.2 percent of the original list price. "We aren't seeing houses sell for 10 percent under the asking price very often," said Brauer.

These trends apply largely to single-family homes in the \$800,000-and-under price bracket in Vienna, though the number of houses selling for \$1 million or more have increased slightly as well. The condo market is slightly down in the Vienna market, though it still sees increased sales in the Washington market as a whole.

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Silent Auction to Support Shepherd's Center

VAS members contribute pieces to benefit local senior organization.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

For the second year, Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna [SCOV] is partnering with the Vienna Arts Society [VAS] to produce a silent benefit auction featuring more than 70 donated pieces of art, from paintings to photography and jewelry. VAS is contributing 100 percent of the proceeds to the operating fund of SCOV, a learning, social and assistance resource for seniors.

The silent auction closes on Saturday, Aug. 28, with a "Bid, Buy and Bye-Bye" reception from 2-5 p.m. Bidding ends at 4 p.m. on Aug. 28.

"This is a wonderful cause," said Vienna artist Marie Ordeman. "When Michelle [Scott] asked if I'd like to donate something, I said I'd be happy to put in a piece." Michelle Scott, SCOV Executive Director, volunteers in other capacities around the Vienna area, and has a network of colleagues beyond SCOV.

Marie Ordeman donated a mixed-media piece, a lion - named Leonardo - created in watercolors and collage.

Frank Van Lierde participates in SCOV's Adventures in Learning, and has for many years he said. He is trying to support the nonprofit senior organization by donating six pieces to the benefit auction. One of the pieces



Michelle Scott (second from left) of the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna and some of the artists who donated pieces to the benefit silent auction held at the Vienna Art Center on Pleasant Street. Left to right, Frank Van Lierde, Scott, Marie Ordeman, Sandy Smith and John Sichenze.

PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

he donated is a photograph snapped last winter at Wolf Trap Creek in Vienna, that of a fuzzy yellow duck perched on glimmering ice.

John Sichenze, a friend and neighbor of Michelle Scott, donated three photographs, two of which were shot in high-definition range. That's a creation in which three photographs of the same scene are taken and combined together giving the final product an almost three-dimensional feel. In "Great Falls After the Storm," rocks seem to pop out of the image. Lots of fun is his face-on photograph of Thomas the Tank Engine, photographed at the Strasburg Railroad in Pennsylvania.

Sandy Smith belongs to SCOV and said she wanted to support it.

She contributed a decorative quilted wall hanging, its bids starting at \$25. "I used to paint," Smith said. "I like to play with fabric, color and design."

Framed watercolors, oils, photographs, mixed media works and serigraphs, and quilting, jewelry and ceramics count among the donated art pieces. There are dreamy landscapes of Americana and of foreign locales, whimsical images and studies of nature. The collection took Art Center Director Teresa Ahmad and SCOV's Scott three hours to arrange.

Bidders fill out individual bidding sheets created for each item. Bids begin at levels appropriate to the value of the piece, with minimum bidding as little as \$10 for some pieces and as high as \$200

Frank VanLierde donated six art pieces to the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna benefit auction. Behind VanLierde is his photograph of a fuzzy yellow duck standing on ice at Wolf Trap Creek.

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CALENDAR

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

THURSDAY/AUG. 12

Nottoway Park Concert Series: Capital Focus Jazz Band, 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Legally Blonde, 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$46-\$184. 703-938-2404 or www.wolfttrap.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.vnpva.org/park/meadowlark_botanical_gardens.

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.

Evening Book Discussion, 7:30 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St., Fairfax. Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet by Jamie Ford. Adults. 703-293-6227.

Practice Your English, 6:30 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-790-8088.

Mystery Book Discussion, 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Call for title. Adults. 703-790-8088.

Lyle Lovett and his Large Band, 7:30 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$42 in-house, \$25 lawn. 703-938-2404 or www.wolfttrap.org.

Wolftrap Children's Theatre in the Woods, Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. 10 a.m. Dance Institute of Washington: West Side Story, 11:15 a.m. Rocknoceros: Painting the Town PINK! Free workshops follow the 10 a.m. performance; reservations required at 703-255-1824. \$8-\$10. www.wolfttrap.org.

Dance! with Powerlaces and DJ Lova, 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Brain Benders, 2:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. See everyday objects through scientific eyes. Presented by Maryland Science Center. Age 6-12. 703-938-0405.

Summer on the Green: Elise Kress - Celtic, 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.org.

Legally Blonde, 8 p.m. at Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. \$46-\$184. 703-938-2404 or www.wolfttrap.org.

Land Of The Giants, Sparks To Inferno, Rosy Likes Red and Basmati, 1:30 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

The OK Corral, 8 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Rock music. theokcorralmusic.com or jamminjava.com.

NOTTOWAY PARK CONCERT SERIES: BLUES CONCERT WITH CATHY PONTON KING, 7:30 p.m. at

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Narnia, The Musical, 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. The first and most famous story of the Chronicles of Narnia. \$13 general admission, \$11 for students and seniors. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.org.

Tom Freund: Hug Trees Kids' Show, 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Rock music for children. jamminjava.com.

Paul and Storm, 7 p.m., **Melodime and Louis Fabrizi** 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. 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. 703-790-8088.

Tobacco Harvest Participatory Event, 1:45 p.m. at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Admission \$3 adults, \$2 children and seniors. Complimentary admission with farm membership. Free parking. www.1771.org.

Rick Thompson Jazz Quartet, 5 p.m. at the Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

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SUNDAY/AUG. 15

Summer on the Green: Wayne Tymanick Quartet, 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.org.

Paint a Mosaic Plate, 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Decorate a summer-themed plate. Glazed and fired plates returned to the library two weeks later. Age 12-18. 703-790-8088.

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Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Free. 703-324-7469 or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

MONDAY/AUG. 16

The Dangerous Summer "Reach for the Sun Tour" with The Morning Of And City Lights, 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. jamminjava.com.

Paint a Mosaic Plate, 7 p.m. Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Decorate a summer-themed plate. Glazed and fired plates returned to the library two weeks later. Age 12-18. 703-790-8088.

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3134 VALENTINO CT	4 .. 3 ..	1 ..	OAKTON .. \$470,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	OAKTON VILLAGE
3413 HICKORY HILLS DR	4 .. 3 ..	1 ..	OAKTON .. \$460,000 .. Detached .. 0.50 ..	HICKORY HILLS
306 BRANCH RD SE	4 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$451,000 .. Detached .. 0.38 ..	EAST VIENNA WOODS
603 KINGSLEY RD SW	3 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$450,000 .. Detached .. 0.30 ..	VIENNA WOODS
10216 BALTSUROL CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	OAKTON .. \$445,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.05 ..	TREEBROOKE
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504 TAPAWINGO RD SW	3 .. 2 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$440,000 .. Detached .. 0.24 ..	VIENNA WOODS
611 MEADOW LN SW	4 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$440,000 .. Detached .. 0.41 ..	VIENNA WOODS
9924 WOODROW ST	3 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$440,000 .. Detached .. 0.61 ..	LITTLE VIENNA ESTATES
105 TAPAWINGO RD SE	4 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$439,000 .. Detached .. 0.24 ..	VIENNA WOODS
2602 BOWLING GREEN DR	4 .. 2 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$435,000 .. Detached .. 0.31 ..	DUNN LORING WOODS
3124 WINDWOOD FARMS DR	3 .. 3 ..	1 ..	OAKTON .. \$434,900 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	CONCORD VILLAGE
2368 WHEYSTONE CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	VIENNA .. \$430,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.07 ..	WHEYSTONE
2982 BORGE ST	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	OAKTON .. \$428,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.06 ..	CHERRYWOOD SQUARE
8221 GOLDSTREAM CT	3 .. 3 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$428,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.06 ..	CEDARS OF TYSONS
1577 NORTHERN NECK DR#201	2 .. 2 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$422,500 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	WESTWOOD VILLAGE
2338 WHEYSTONE CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	VIENNA .. \$417,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	WHEYSTONE
2949 WATERFORD CT	4 .. 3 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$412,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	WATERFORD
3209 GEMSTONE CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	OAKTON .. \$410,250 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	ARROWOOD
2816 BALLIETT CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	VIENNA .. \$405,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.04 ..	MERRIFIELD VIEW
2217 LAUREL RIDGE RD	3 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$385,000 .. Detached .. 0.64 ..	LAUREL RIDGE
907 SYMPHONY CIR SW	3 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$380,000 .. Detached .. 0.24 ..	VIENNA WOODS
2665 MANHATTAN PL #02/108	2 .. 2 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$367,000 .. Townhouse ..	WESTBRIAR PLAZA
10421 GRAYSTONE CT	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	OAKTON .. \$365,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.03 ..	FLINT HILL MANOR TOWNHSE
2726 GALLONS RD #1116	2 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$345,000 .. Hi-Rise 9+ Floors ..	WILTON HOUSE
9921 LONGFORD CT	3 .. 3 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$330,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.03 ..	WATERFORD
9812 SWEET MINT DR	3 .. 2 ..	2 ..	VIENNA .. \$326,000 .. Townhouse .. 0.03 ..	CYRANDALL VALLEY NORTH
2726 GALLONS RD #1211	2 .. 2 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$325,000 .. Hi-Rise 9+ Floors ..	WILTON HOUSE
2452 GLENGLYLE DR #246	3 .. 2 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$280,000 .. Townhouse ..	MOSBYS LANDING
10201A WILLOW MIST CT#97	2 .. 2 ..	0 ..	OAKTON .. \$275,000 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	TREVOR HOUSE
9486 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD #401	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$245,000 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATN
2726 GALLONS RD #206	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$230,000 .. Hi-Rise 9+ Floors ..	WILTON HOUSE
9490 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD#131	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$215,000 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATN
9486 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD#208	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$209,900 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATN
10302 APPALACHIAN CIR#110	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	OAKTON .. \$191,400 .. Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors ..	THE FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
3176 SUMMIT SQUARE DR#4-E5	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	OAKTON .. \$190,000 .. Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors ..	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
109 CENTER ST #C-204	1 .. 1 ..	0 ..	VIENNA .. \$175,000 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	100 CHURCH STREET
2420 GLENGLYLE DR #275	2 .. 1 ..	1 ..	VIENNA .. \$175,000 .. Garden 1-4 Floors ..	MOSBYS LANDING

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FAITH

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

The Happy Hearts, Senior Adult Group, hosted by the Antioch Christian Church will meet on Thursday, Aug. 12 at 12:30 for a pot-luck luncheon, discussions and games. The public is invited. Antioch Christian Church is at 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Contact 703-938-6753 or www.antiochdoc.org.

Vacation Bible School SonQuest Rainforest will be at the Alliance Church Centre of the Christian & Missionary Alliance, 12113 Vale Road, Oakton, from Wednesday, Aug. 18-Friday, Aug. 20. The Toddler Program will be 9 a.m.-12 p.m. Ages 3-12 will be divided in 3 age groups from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Songs and skits, Bible stories, games, arts and crafts. Children are to bring lunch; afternoon snack provided. Free. 703-264-1273 or 703-391-7819.

Epiphany United Methodist Preschool, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, is now enrolling 3-4-year-old students for the 2010/2011 school year. Contact 703-938-2391 or www.epiphanypreschool.com.

Good Shepherd Preschool, a new outreach ministry of the United Methodist

Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road in Vienna, opens on Sept. 14. The Preschool will be available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Contact 703-281-3987 ext. 18 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Vienna Assembly of God has a ministry to children on Wednesdays, 7-8 p.m. at the corner of Center N and Ayr Hill Avenue, N.E. Children's Church on Sundays also available. 703-938-7736 or www.ViennaAG.com.

Vienna Christian Healing Rooms, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com.

English classes at McLean Baptist Church on Mondays, including beginning, intermediate and advanced levels. Advanced electives are Literature, U.S. Government, World Religions, and current events. Free class and registration, but students must buy their own books. 9:30 a.m. at 1367 Chain Bridge Road. 703-356-8080 or www.mcleanbaptist.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean. The third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. allows children to play active roles

in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Nursery is available at the 10:15 a.m. service. 703-356-7533.

Chesterbrook United Methodist Church is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. Rev. Kathleen Card, Pastor. 703-356-7100 or www.ChesterbrookUMC.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.

Charles Wesley and Chesterbrook United Methodist Churches invite the community to a 20-minute weekly service of prayer and Holy Communion in the Charles Wesley sanctuary, 6817 Dean Drive in McLean, at 12 p.m. Thursdays. At the conclusion of the service, there is a time of individual blessing, anointing and healing prayer. 703-356-6336.

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.

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Global Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

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Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400

New Union Baptist Church...703-281-2556

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Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

Church of the Brethren

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

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Our Lady of Good Counsel ... 703-938-2828

St. Athanasius Catholic Church ... 703-759-4555

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Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

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"Yes."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's my standard answer to the second most asked question I hear: "Are you getting out, Ken?"

As with last week's column subject—that matters, the problem is not with the question or questioner, it's with the "questionee:" me. Of course I'm getting out. I'm out all the time (although the neuropathy in my feet makes walking when "out," difficult). If I was out any more, I'd need a key to get back in. (That's a M*A*S*H reference: when Radar asked Col. Potter if Corp. Klinger could have a three-day pass. The Col. replied: "He's been AWOL four times this month. He's forever digging, wiggling, sidling, tunneling out of here. A pass? He needs a pass to get into this place.")

However, for people who don't see or talk to me regularly, and who know I have cancer, their instinctive curiosity seems to be about whether I'm shut in (so to speak) or if I'm "getting out." After snickering and smiling my response to their question, what I've listened to and now learned is, apparently, there are some magical, presumptive powers about "getting out." Well-meaning though these inquiries may be, I believe their underlying message is one of concern. "Getting out" seems to be – in my opinion, a sort of euphemism for living, like people without terminal diseases live, normally, whatever that is. Folks want to know if I'm living – in the figurative sense, and what I'm doing, specifically. Additionally, it seems important, informative, instructive even, to these people to know if I am in fact, "getting out," and to find out what I'm doing, if anything. The "doing" I think, is an indication of the impact the diagnosis is having on my life and whether I'm living with it or dying because of it.

As an example: sitting on the couch watching television isn't exactly reflective of an active life, if that was my complete answer to their "getting out" question. Their presumption would be, I'm assuming, that I'm not doing well. On the other hand, if I'm out of the house – and about, I believe their presumption would be that I'm doing okay since I'm not at home. Furthermore, it sounds/feels – to me anyway, that staying at home is tantamount to being housebound, which is somewhere between shut in and shut out of life, meaning that I'm incapable, disinclined, and not healthy enough to live outside the house – again, figuratively speaking. And since I have stage IV lung cancer, a good barometer of how I'm "doing," how I'm feeling and whether or not I'm thriving (I am a Kaiser Permanente member) must be reflected in my answer to their "getting out" question. Oh, if it were only that simple.

Compared to last week's column, "Fine," which is my simple answer to what I perceive as an extremely complicated – but well meaning – "How are you feeling, Ken?" question; the "Yes" title/answer concerning this week's "Are you getting out?" question is, a complicated one-word answer to a simple question. The question relates very specifically to me being a cancer patient, someone presumably not healthy. You wouldn't ask a healthy person if he was "getting out," would you? So I now know how to answer this week's question, and I don't mind being asked. It's just easier – for me, to answer a complicated question with a simple answer rather than complicate an answer to a simple question.

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

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-William Van Horne

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21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE

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ABC LICENSE

SPOil Inc, trading as Lee Hwy Shell, 5630 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sanjai Agarwal, President

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-William Van Horne

21 Announcements

STATE WATER CONTROL BOARD PUBLIC NOTICE

An enforcement action has been proposed for the Arlington County Board for violations in Arlington County. These violations include unauthorized discharges of partially treated sewage from the Arlington County Water Pollution Control Plant into Four Mile Run. A description of the proposed action is available at the DEQ office named below or online at www.deq.virginia.gov. Sarah Baker will accept comments by e-mail (Sarah.Baker@deq.virginia.gov), fax (703-583-3821) or postal mail (Northern Regional Office, 13901 Crown Court, Woodbridge, VA 22193) from August 17, 2010 through September 16, 2010.

21 Announcements

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COUNTY NOTEBOOK

McKay Proposes Smoking Ban In Bus Shelters

Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) has asked Fairfax County staff to draft an ordinance to prohibit smoking in bus shelters owned by the locality.

"At a time when we are doing everything we can to encourage the use of transit, imagine how unpleasant breathing smoke in a crowded bus shelter would be, certainly not something that would make you want to use transit," wrote McKay in a proposal to his fellow board members.

Wolf, Connolly Get Telework Bill Through House

U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) and U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) pushed a bill through the U.S. House of Representatives that the local congressmen hope will increase teleworking among federal employees.

The legislation, which passed the House last month, requires every federal agency to designate a senior-level employee as a telework management officer. It also requires federal agencies to include telework in their strategy to cope with a manmade or weather-related emergency, according to Connolly's press release.

"This winter's blizzard shut down the federal government for four and a half days but telework programs allowed us to retain some productivity. Thirty million dollars was saved because some telework programs were in place," said Connolly.

Many private companies already use telework successfully.

Thirty-three percent of workers at AT&T work remotely, according to Connolly's press release. Approximately 25 percent of Washington D.C.'s local workforce telework occasionally, according to a survey released by the Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance this summer.

"The private sector has found that productivity remains high when employees are teleworking," said Wolf.

Medicaid Assistance

Local Unemployment Rates

The following information was provided by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Jurisdiction	June 2009 Unemployment Rate	June 2010 Unemployment Rate
City of Alexandria	5.0 percent	4.8 percent
Arlington County	4.6 percent	4.3 percent
Fairfax City	5.7 percent	5.9 percent
Fairfax County	5.2 percent	5.1 percent
Montgomery County, Md.	5.8 percent	5.7 percent
Virginia	7.1 percent	7.1 percent
United States	9.7 percent	9.6 percent

Below Expectations

The Virginia General Assembly was counting on the U.S. Congress to allocate extra financial support for Medicaid benefits to state governments. But the U.S. Senate has not approved the Medicaid extension as of Aug. 1.

Without the extra federal funding, programs that serve people with disabilities and their families in Virginia could undergo far more severe cuts than some members of the General Assembly originally intended.

During budget deliberations last spring, state legislators passed an austere spending plan for assisting people with disabilities because they were confident the U.S. Congress would soften the blow by providing extra Medicaid money.

Some said they would not have voted for such drastic cuts to programs for people with disabilities had they known the federal assistance might not arrive.

With no additional financial help, Virginia will have to cut the budget for housing and employment programs that serve people with intellectual disabilities by five percent.

Some group homes or employment programs – such as those that help people with intellectual disabilities secure jobs in grocery stores and mail rooms – may go out of business, since this cut would result in a lower reimbursement rate for their services, said George Braunstein, executive director of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board.

Fairfax County would also not be able to award any new people an "MR waiver," which allows individuals with intellectual disabilities to receive services in the community for independent living. According to Braunstein, approximately 900 people in the Fairfax and Falls Church area are on the waiting list for such a waiver.

Braunstein said the amount of respite time those caretakers for people with disabilities currently in the system – including parents and other family members – receive would go from 720 hours per year to 240 hours per year.

"That may sound like a lot but it isn't. Families who have a loved one with disabilities at home have a hard time running errands or getting time to themselves. They need to have someone come watch their loves ones so they can go out," he said.

SPORTS

Swimming It Up at All Stars

NVSL's final meet of the summer is a mixture of fun, pride and even some sadness.

BY RICH SANDERS
THE CONNECTION

All kinds of emotions unfurled at last Saturday's Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) All Stars meet. The official, summer season-ending event, in which the league's top swimmers gathered from early morning until mid to late afternoon, took place on Aug. 7 at the Brophy Crest Swim Club, a cozy, suburban pool site nestled in Annandale's back roads.

A sense of sadness underscored the renowned postseason showcase event, because it not only played out the final hours of the summer season, but it also spelled the end of the careers for those swimmers who would soon be turning age 18 and therefore no longer be eligible to compete on their respective teams anymore in the future.

"This is a fun event because the whole league is [represented] here," said 13-year Claire Collins, a member of the Highlands Swim team in McLean and a rising eighth grader at Washington Episcopal School in Bethesda. "There's tons of competition. I swim year round so I see a lot of girls I know here."

Jessica Cruzado, 14, was experiencing her first All Star meet competition. A friend and teammate of Collins, Cruzado, who competes in free and fly events, was pleased to be going through the All Star experience.

"It's something I've been really looking forward to," said Cruzado, who will be a

ninth grader this fall at Potomac School in McLean. "I've never been able to race in All Stars until this year."

THE DAY'S RACES began shortly following the color guard presentations, which took place at around 8:30 a.m.

All Stars is not so much about winning and losing as much as it is swimmers giving their best efforts. By season's end, most swimmers have improved immensely in their respective events. Those who swim the best at the divisional championships qualify for All Stars, where the top eight boys' and girls' swimmers compete in their respective age category events.

"A lot of it is real fun for me - relaxing and having a good time," said Hunter Mill (Vienna) swimmer Sean Fletcher, a former Madison High swim star who competed at the University of Michigan this past school year.

Fletcher, at Saturday's All Stars, broke a league record in the 50-backstroke event.

"It's nice to go out with a ribbon in my last race," said Fletcher, who completed his final summer of eligibility with Hunter Mill.

While winning is not the primary emphasis at All Stars, swimmers want to make a good showing for themselves for individual pride sake as well as to represent their teams well.

"The whole league is here to watch," said Katherine DeCrosta, an assistant coach for Division 1 Tuckahoe (McLean), of the All Stars extravaganza. "It all builds up. You can win awards, get some recognition and



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Sean Fletcher, right, a Madison High graduate, won both the boys' 15-18, 50-back and 50-fly events at All Stars last Saturday. His backstroke time was a new league mark.

there is excitement. [League announcer] Billy York is up there calling your name. It's more than just a regular season meet. You're showing off [in a good way] the best you can."

DeCrosta said she is thrilled with how Tuckahoe fared during the season, putting together a winning 3-2 record in Division 1.

"Our team was constantly getting high

scores all year," she said. "From the seasons' first practice to the last practice they worked hard."

She said Tuckahoe's swimmers who qualified for All Stars experienced a special high this past week.

"They were so excited and getting so pumped for All Stars," said DeCrosta, a former Tuckahoe swimmer. "We had special practices for them this week."

NVSL All Stars First Place Winners

Ben Charles (Highlands Swim), boys' 8-under 25-free
Leaya Ma (Mosby Woods), girls' 8-under 25-free
John McClorey (Dunn Loring), boys' 9-10, 50-free
Isabella Rongione (McLean Marlins), girls' 9-10, 50-free
Chris Murphy (McLean Marlins), boys' 11-12, 50-free
Hannah Baker (Commonwealth), girls' 11-12, 50-free
Paul O'Hara (Hollin Meadows), boys' 13-14, 50-free
Laura Branton (Oakton), girls' 13-14, 50-free
Larry Dow (Dowden Terrace), boys' 15-18, 50-free
Rachael Burnett (Wakefield Chapel), girls' 15-18, 50-free
William Jackson (Lee-Graham), boys' 8-under 25-back
Leaya Ma (Mosby Woods), girls' 8-under 25-back
Jonathan Day (Overlee), boys' 9-10, 50-back
Cassidy Bayer (Mount Vernon Park), girls' 9-10, 50-back
James Murphy (Little Rocky Run), boys' 11-12, 50-back
Robyn Dryer (Orange Hunt), girls' 11-12, 50-back
Lucas Cherry (Lee-Graham), boys' 13-14, 50-back
Emma Merrill (South Run), girls' 13-14, 50-back
Sean Fletcher (Hunter Mill), boys' 15-18, 50-back
Clara Domroski (Holmes Run Acres), girls' 15-18, 50-back
Ian Thompson (Poplar Heights), boys' 8-under, 25-breast
Mary Kominski (Poplar Tree), girls' 8-under, 25-breast
Duncan Green (Chesterbrook), boys' 9-10, 50-breast
Jacqueline Clabeaux (Greenbriar), girls' 9-10, 50-breast

Chris Stankiewicz (South Run), boys' 11-12, 50-breast
Beth Cashin (Poplar Heights), girls' 11-12, 50-breast
Howe Wang (Mosby Woods), boys' 13-14, 50-breast
Brooke Malone (Crosspointe), girls' 13-14, 50-breast
Sean Nickley (Hunt Valley), boys' 15-18, 50-breast
Alessandra Troncoso (Old Keene Mill), girls' 15-18, 50-breast
Max Cruz (Holmes Run Acres), boys' 8-under 25-fly
Elise Mozeleski (Sully Station), girls' 8-under 25-fly
Jaya Kambhampaty (Chesterbrook), boys' 9-10, 25-fly
Cassidy Bayer (Mount Vernon Park), girls' 9-10, 25-fly
Chris Murphy (McLean Marlins), boys' 11-12, 50-fly
Carrie Heilbrun (Crosspointe), girls' 11-12, 50-fly
Ben Southern (Lee-Graham), boys' 13-14, 50-fly
Laura Branton (Oakton), girls' 13-14, 50-fly
Sean Fletcher (Hunter Mill), boys' 15-18, 50-fly
Kaitlin Wolla (Overlee), girls' 15-18, 50-fly
John McClorey (Dunn Loring), boys' 10-under, 100-IM
Isabella Rongione (McLean Marlins), girls' 10-under, 100-IM
James Murphy (Little Rocky Run), boys' 11-12, 100-IM
Hannah Baker (Commonwealth), girls' 11-12, 100-IM
Paul O'Hara (Hollin Meadows), boys' 13-14, 100-IM
Emma Merrill (South Run), girls' 13-14, 100-IM
Stephen Richards (Highlands Swim), boys' 15-18, 100-IM
Rachael Burnett (Wakefield Chapel), girls' 15-18, 100-IM



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Friends Making Music Together

Springfield band headlines show at Vienna's Jammin' Java.

BY KELLY CARLIN
THE CONNECTION

Of the hundreds of local bands in Northern Virginia, few can break through the barriers and find fame. The OK Corral is getting its first taste of success. On Sunday, Aug. 15, the Springfield-based band will be performing at Jammin' Java in Vienna for the sixth time and headlining the concert.

The OK Corral is made up of Springfield natives Mike Matthews, Michael Burbrink, Mike Baird, and brothers Brett and Scott Nickley. Founded in 2007, the band began when Brett Nickley and Matthews, who met at Robert E. Lee High School, decided to start playing music together. The lineup was expanded when the



The OK Corral performs at Jammin' Java in 2009.

band played its first show at Jammin' Java and brought in Scott Nickley on keyboards and Burbrink on the drums. In August 2009, the lineup was completed with the addition of bassist Baird.

"We grew up listening to bands around here and seeing their shows," said Brett Nickley, 22, who began playing and writing music when he was in middle school.

The band members all work strenuous jobs, including swim team coach Scott Nickley, 20, and camp counselors Brett Nickley, Matthews and Burbrink, but they

still make time for their music. Up to this point, they have amassed about 40 original songs, mostly written by Brett Nickley.

"It starts with me either having a riff or a chord progression," he said. The band mates then work from that starting point at practice and come up with the final result that creatively matches their goals for the song. The music shows the personality and attitude of the band that they put into it. Although the songs begin with Brett Nickley's jumping off point, each member provides their own

input. "There's a lot of collaboration in the sense that we all put our own touch on it," said Matthews, 22.

THE SONGWRITING is not the only challenging accomplishment the band has met. Having played more than 30 shows throughout Virginia, they are constantly finding new places to perform and ways to improve their music to get it exposed. The efforts have resulted in the band's debut album, "Something American," which will be released sometime in the fall.

The album was recorded with Sean Small, who has worked with other local bands such as The Friday Night Boys, Crash Boom Bang and The Downtown Fiction.

"It's a culmination of all our efforts," said Brett Nickley, of the album. "As opposed to our EP we just did in our basement, we're doing it professionally, getting it pressed, getting it on iTunes, basically everywhere we can."

With the album's release comes hope for the band's future, which they are very optimistic about.

"My hope in the coming weeks

More

Tickets are available for The OK Corral's Aug. 15 Jammin' Java show at www.jamminjava.com. The band is available for bookings at theokcorralmusic@gmail.com or at 703-851-8219. More information on The OK Corral at www.theokcorralmusic.com.

and months is to play more and more shows for people who haven't heard us before and get our music out there to new fans and new people," said Burbrink, who, along with the other members is hoping to someday tour.

Although the future opportunities for the OK Corral's expansion seem bright, for now, band members plan to stay in the Northern Virginia area.

"We hang out a lot outside of music making," said Matthews. "I think that's one of the coolest things about this band. The reason we are so ambitious and have good chemistry onstage is because we are friends outside of making music."

The band's growing success has not changed its members' outlook on music, or the reason that they play. Matthews sums up the band's optimistic attitude by explaining their mission of having fun.

"We have fun doing it," he said, "so we want the people who show up to have fun as well."

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