

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

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) chats with Harry Cole, who hosted his fundraising event in Vienna.

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PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

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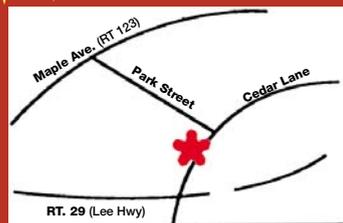
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**Del. Mark Keam (D-35), and his wife Kathy, attended the Vienna fundraiser to kick off Sen. Chap Petersen's re-election campaign.**



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**From left, Ted Velkoff, Ryan McElveen and Irylong Moon, the endorsed Democrats running for the three at-large seats on the Fairfax County School Board. Moon, the only incumbent to run, called Petersen "the people's senator."**

## Petersen Holds Fundraiser in Vienna

### High-profile Dems turn out to support Petersen's campaign.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**L**ike the experienced trial attorney that he is, Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) delivered a polished, persuasive and succinct speech to the 40-plus guests at a recent fundraising event in Vienna.

A lot of people think my family is from the City of Fairfax...We're really from Vienna," Petersen said, drawing laughter from the crowd gathered at the Vienna home of Harry and Laurie Cole on Saturday, Aug. 20.

Petersen explained that his ancestor, Jeremiah Moore, was a Baptist preacher who lived at "Moorefield" in the present-day Town of Vienna. "Jeremiah Moore preached with passion, and he was known for his belief in religious freedom," Petersen said, adding that it was a viewpoint enshrined in the Virginia and U.S. Constitution by George Mason, Jeremiah's Fairfax friend and neighbor. "Yes, we really do have strong Vienna roots," Petersen said.

During his remarks, Petersen praised his colleagues in the Virginia General Assembly, noting that while the nation is paralyzed by spiraling debt, Virginia has a balanced budget.

"While the U.S. jobless rate is 9 percent, we are near 6 percent. Virginia has again been rated the number one state for business," Petersen said. He said that 22-18 Democratic edge in the Virginia Sen-

ate is a healthy mix for a balanced government. "We fuss, we feud, but we don't have time for showdowns, threats or brinksmanship" because of the short legislative sessions. "We get things accomplished."

He noted that Northern Virginia has to be prepared for the post-stimulus world. "That's a challenge for us. We have a lot of smart folks in Northern Virginia, and we have to find a way to capture that human capital and manage resources in other parts of our state."

The event was attended by high-profile local Democrats, including: Del. Mark Keam (D-35), City of Fairfax council members Scott Silverthorne and David Meyer, as well as Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman.

Petersen, whose fourth child was born just 17 days before the event, said, "My two great loves are my wife and the Commonwealth. I love to represent you. I consider myself the people's senator. There are 70 days until the general election, and I'm not taking anything for granted."

**"A lot of people think my family is from the City of Fairfax... We're really from Vienna."**

**— Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34)**

The fundraiser is the first of many slated for Petersen, who is challenged by newcomer Gerarda Culipher of Oakton in the Nov. 8 general election. A lawyer and mom, Culipher will debate Petersen on Thursday, Sept. 22 at the Vienna American Legion, 330 North Center Street. The debate is scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m.

Although Petersen is the incumbent, the 34th district underwent its first redistricting since Reconstruction last March, and put traditionally Republican parts of Chantilly and Centreville in play.

Petersen said he will focus his energy on meeting the 30,000 new constituents in Centreville and Chantilly "So, I'm going to trust you, rely on you to get the votes here in Vienna. I need you to speak positively about me, put out signs. I need everybody to be on board," he said.



**Leonard Ignatowski (left), Vienna, accepts a plaque honoring him as 'National Member of the Year' from John Rowan, VVA President.**

## Vienna Vietnam Veteran Receives National Honor

Leonard Ignatowski of Chapter 227 was selected as the 2011 Vietnam Veterans of America Member of the Year at their national convention on Aug. 18 in Reno, Nev.

The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) is a congressionally chartered Vietnam veteran service organization dedicated to addressing veteran issues and benefits through its founding principle, "Never Again Shall One Generation of Veterans Abandon Another."

VVA led the political fight to establish the Vet Center concept and the veteran judicial review court. It played a critical role in the 1991 court case that opened veteran disability claims for Agent Orange.

VVA is employing its resources and knowledge in not only meeting Vietnam veterans' issues, but working with the new generation of veterans with their own service issues like the Post 9/11 GI Education Bill and the new Veterans Health Council.

Ignatowski's selection was based on his exceptional and dedicated service at the chapter, state council, and national office levels since 1987. He has served as a chapter leader, officer and director, and has been involved with many chapter activities including newsletter editor, DMZ to Delta Dance chairperson, membership affairs chairperson, speakers panel chairperson, national convention delegate, and a chapter member who addresses local homeless veteran and active duty military needs. He started the Minuteman Alert email distribution to solicit members and partnered with local social agencies and chari-

ties in responding to immediate emergency veteran and active duty needs. He initiated the chapter program, "Keep A Candle Burning" for members and the public to light a candle in a window to remind everyone that our military personnel are serving in harm's way 24 hours a day.

He serves as the chapter's delegate to the state council and as the council's regional liaison for several chapters. He serves on the national membership affairs committee and participates in VVA's national events.

Chapter 227 President Byron Sheldon said, "[Len] is the super glue that inspired and held together our chapter since he joined VVA in March 1987. His guidance and wealth of knowledge about VVA matters, locally, at the state level and nationally are invaluable to the Officers and the Board of Directors responsible for successfully managing the affairs of our chapter."

Ignatowski served as an army infantry lieutenant with the 169th Engineer Battalion (Construction Support), Corps of Engineers in South Vietnam during 1970 and 1971. He currently resides in Vienna with his wife, Diane. They have two sons, Daniel and Leonard and daughter-in-law, Kate. Ignatowski is a retired federal employee and manages his consulting firm, Ignatowski Environmental Engineering Consultant.

Chapter 227 has the distinct honor of being the only chapter with two national members of the year. Lou James, who received the honor in 1995, was a Vienna resident at the time too.

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## NEWS

# Winning Gold in China

Victoria Xia of Vienna, Thomas Jefferson sophomore, wins gold medal in the 2011 China Girls Mathematical Olympiad.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

To say that Victoria Xia is good at math is an understatement. Victoria, sophomore at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, was awarded a gold medal on Aug. 3 at the 2011 China Girls Mathematical Olympiad (CGMO) held in Shenzhen, China, where 188 girls competed.

To people who examine logic problems – and solve them – Victoria's prowess is enviable. To people who have yet to figure out how long it takes for two trains coming from different directions at different speeds to pass one another, Victoria's achievement is extraordinary.

The daughter of computer programmers Frances Shi and Bo Xia of Vienna, Victoria has practiced mathematic problem-solving since starting school. For her love of math, she credits her father.

"He's the one who started me off on it when I was really little," said Victoria, who has been in Fairfax County's Gifted and Talented programs since the third grade. "Math, problem solving-wise, stems from logic puzzles. I think they're what got me interested in math. They're more interesting than computational math."

Victoria has always been active in school math programs and owes a lot of her skills to her teachers and coaches. "Being good at it has to start from a love of math because if you're forced into it, I don't know how likely you are to last."

Even super-mathematicians like Victoria go through a period of disinterest. Somewhere in fifth grade, Victoria decided she no longer "liked" math.

"Even though I stopped liking it, I was good at it, so I continued. I think, at that point, I would have stopped if I weren't good at it."

**THE TEAM'S EIGHT** high school students were chosen from the top ranks of the female finalists in the 2011 USA Mathematical Olympiad (USAMO). The finalists were divided into two teams for the CGMO competition.

Victoria took the first of the qualifying exams last February. She advanced to the next level, taking the second level exam in March. In May, she took the final exam that sent her to the MAA Mathematical Olympiad Summer Program at the University of Nebraska in June. There, Victoria trained with other qualifiers from which the eight-member umbrella team was selected.

The 15-year-old math whiz has hobbies besides problem-solving. She's on the Thomas Jefferson tennis team, and does what most other teens her age do:



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**Victoria Xia of Vienna, a Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology sophomore, won a gold medal at the 2011 China Girls Mathematical Olympiad.**

play around on the computer. Unlike most other teens, though, Victoria said she is trying to get herself to read programming books. Right now, she believes she might major in computer programming in college.

"The way I see it, I feel that math is a really good foundation. With math, you can stem off into a lot of things. Programming and math are really very tied together in the way you approach logical thinking."

Victoria's older sister, Cassandra is a senior at MIT. "She's the smart one," said Victoria.

**THE CGMO**, founded in 2002, began as a regional competition for teams of female students from China and other eastern Asian countries and Russia. Later on, invitations were extended to other countries, including the United States, Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom, and Australia. The U.S. sent its first team in 2007.

The U.S. girls' team was sponsored by the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute (MSRI) and the Mathematical Association of America (MAA). MSRI and MAA funded the trip for the participating girls and two coaches. The U.S. team left the country on July 27, getting to Shenzhen a few days prior to the competition to adjust for jet lag. The teams were welcomed on July 30, and opening ceremonies took place on July 31. The girls tested for four hours a day for two days. The Olympiad closed on Aug. 3.

That period of not liking math is long over, Victoria said. "I'm just glad to say I really like math now."

# NEWS

## A Couple Robs PNC Bank on Maple Avenue

On Aug. 29, at 4:39 p.m. officers responded to a bank robbery at the PNC Bank located at 355 Maple Avenue, East in Vienna. Upon their arrival officers determined that two perpetrators had exited the bank on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.

One suspect is described as a black male, in his late teens, wearing black pants and a black shirt. The other suspect is described as a black female in her 20s, wearing a purple sweater, black and white headpiece, sandals, and tight blue jeans. Nobody inside the bank was injured as a result of the robbery.

The Fairfax County Police Department's K-9 unit was requested and responded to aid in the tracking of the individuals. The Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to assist in the investigation.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to call Detective Leroux of the Vienna Police Department at 703-255-6332.



**Two perpetrators exited the bank on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash.**

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# OPINION

## Crazy Week

Contested primaries about as comfortable as earthquakes, but with far greater benefit.

A 5.8 earthquake gave the region a shaking up last Tuesday, and while it was mostly harmless, two landmarks, the Washington Monument and the National Cathedral, are still closed.

The quake came amidst primary election day for both Republicans and Democrats, with at least two somewhat unexpected results. It's a sign of health for both parties that candidates are prepared to compete in primary elections.

While some have cited the negativity in one of the Democratic primary races, the benefits of contested races outweigh the negatives, especially in districts that lean so heavily to one party, the primary is the election.

(It's true that the vitriolic negativity in the primary for the 31st, carried out via hundreds of thousands of dollars in slick mailers, was an unfortunate introduction for the many voters new to the district.)

But voters in the 30th and 31st Senate districts were offered real choices. Too often these

races involve the anointing of incumbent or heir-apparent who are then practically guaranteed a seat after the general election.

Not this time.

The message was that good candidates can rise up and seek election. And the Republican challengers in these two races cannot be counted out, especially Caren Merrick in the 31st.

### EDITORIAL

There were also Republican races for the right to challenge Virginia Senators George Barker, Toddy Puller and Dave Marsden, and Sheriff Stan Barry (D) of Fairfax.

Two Democrats faced off in a very close race for the right to challenge Supervisor John Cooke in the Braddock District of Fairfax County.

The sad part was the timing and the turnout. The August primary, necessitated by the resolution of redistricting, and other factors lead to a voter turnout of less than 10 percent in most areas.

## Nuclear Caution, Food for Thought

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is sending a team to the North Anna nuclear power plant, which shut down during last week's earthquake. The plant, located just 10 miles from the epicenter of Tuesday's 5.8 quake, was reported designed to withstand that magnitude quake and no more, but shaking at the location of the quake might have exceeded that.

The plant could be shut down for six weeks to six months according to a report in the Freelance Star newspaper. North Anna is about 70 miles from our area.

In April, the Surry nuclear plant, about 140 miles away, automatically shut down after losing power when a tornado hit the electrical switchyard next to the plant, reported the Virginia Gazette newspaper. Diesel generators kicked in to provide emergency power.

- MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM,  
ON TWITTER @MARYKIMM

# Virginia: The Brightest Pro-Business Star

Virginia wins top ranking as a pro-business state.

BY BARBARA COMSTOCK  
STATE DELEGATE (R-34)



“Virginia is the unquestionable brightest star on the American flag when it comes to being pro-business... Virginia is truly in a class by itself.”

This was the summary of the nationally respected Pollina Corporate Real Estate study, released earlier this month, which annually reviews the pro-business climate of all 50 states. The study evaluates and ranks states based on over 30 factors including: “taxes, human resources, right-to-work legislation, energy costs, infrastructure spending, workers compensation laws, economic incentive programs and state economic development efforts.”

Virginia won the 2011 top ranking by the largest margin in the history of the study. This follows upon Virginia being named as the country's “Best State for Business” by CNBC in July. This good news came the same week that we were able to report a surplus of \$544.8 million in the Commonwealth.

Brent Pollina, Vice President of Pollina (www.pollina.com) and author of the study, noted, “Virginia can certainly be emulated by other states, which should view

Virginia's economic policies as a coloring book. All they need to do is stay between the lines of the coloring book, and they, too, can create a powerful pro-business environment.” In the annual study of job retention and creation by the 50 states and the federal government, Pollina emphasizes, “the effort to make America more business-friendly must come from all levels of government. Many states are doing such a poor job of creating a pro-business environment that they can't even come close to competing with each other, much less compete globally.”

Not only is Virginia number 1 nationally, we are growing as an international competitor. As a member of the Governor's Economic Development and Jobs Creation Commission, I worked together with my colleagues and our business community throughout the Commonwealth to promote and pass many business friendly tax incentives and policies that contributed to our robust job climate and expands our opportunities nationally and internationally. This year I was the sponsor of Virginia's first Tele-work Tax

Credit bill to promote telework and family friendly work policies, as well as relieve traffic congestion in Northern Virginia.

We also finally passed a Research and Development Tax Credit in Virginia to promote our high tech community. For years other states adopted an R & D Tax Credit and Virginia was among only a handful that did not yet have this tool. This year, we went to work to change that and as the chief co-patron of the R & D Tax Credit, I was pleased that we had the invaluable support of our local business community, Chambers of Commerce and the Northern Virginia Technology Council to help us pass this important measure which will grow technology jobs in our area.

In Virginia, we made jobs our priority and passed these and many other job creation bills with strong bipartisan support. We have opened up international business offices around the globe to expand Virginia's commerce opportunities. Our economic efforts also included bills to promote all types of energy production — solar, wind, oil and natural gas, and others. And this year's budget was passed unanimously — a first in over 50 years!

As a member of the Transportation Committee, it was particularly rewarding that after 20 years of gridlock on transportation, we

were able to fashion an historic \$4 billion transportation bill that is already getting money to projects around Northern Virginia. An educated workforce is another reason for our high ranking; so, our unanimous passage of the Higher Education bill this year is another way to enhance our overall business and family friendly climate. This bill will expand science, technology, engineering and math education, as well as provide more in-state college spots to our students, while tackling the growing tuition bills. On the K-12 education front, we were also able in Northern Virginia — with the help of an activated group of parents and businesses — to reverse the \$120 million in cuts that had threatened Northern Virginia schools.

As the Pollina study noted, Virginia has established a pro-business environment, which includes low taxes, limited regulation and litigation, a highly educated workforce, a strong economy and a great quality of life. We were able to accomplish all of these things without raising taxes in these tough economic times.

To be lauded in this study as “the model for the rest of the county” demonstrates that in Virginia, we have a solid foundation to build upon. With the surplus created by these policies, we can now continue to reinvest in our people, reward success, and focus on the right priorities that bring continued prosperity and opportunity for all.

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# LETTERS

## A 'Commuter for Culipher'

To the Editor:

I have lived in Oakton for one and a half years. However, I have spent roughly 420 hours commuting to and from work during this time. My tax dollars deserve good, quality, efficient transportation solutions. And that's why I'm voting for Gerarda Culipher for State Senate (District 34) on Nov. 8.

Gerarda Culipher has common-sense solutions for cutting my commute and my taxes because she's for my family and friends.

Gerarda's six-point transportation solutions not only decrease commuting time so we can be with those we love, but more importantly, it does so without raising our taxes.

For example, Gerarda intends to fight for a flexible HOV, which will react in real-time to car accidents and construction near 495. Additionally, she will advocate for clearer temporary exits and better, more visible signs to relieve congestion.

My neighbor Gerarda lives several blocks from me and has commuted into D.C. for years. She understands how my most precious commodity—my time—diminishes with an increasing commute to and from work. Gerarda truly cares and will work to decrease the time I'm in the car and on the metro because she, like me, wants to spend more time with those most precious.

I am a "Commuter for Culipher." Join me in electing Gerarda Culipher as our next state senator Nov. 8. [www.CulipherForSenate.com](http://www.CulipherForSenate.com)

**Lauren Hart**  
Oakton

## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 6

**Mommy Boot Camp.** 10 a.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Tuesdays and Thursdays through Dec 1. Each workout is led by two certified instructors and accommodates all levels of fitness. The cost for 24 classes is \$240 for residents and \$290 for out-of-town participants. Register at 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.org](http://www.viennava.org) and reference class number 203050-A1.

### Morning Fitness Wakeup for Adults.

Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE., Vienna. Taught by certified personal trainers and includes weight training, indoor and outdoor cardiovascular exercises and flexibility training. Three sessions are available: twelve classes from Sept. 7-Oct. 3 at \$149 for residents and \$186 for non-residents; eleven classes from Oct. 5-31 at \$137 for residents and \$171 for non-residents; and twelve classes from Nov. 2-30 at \$149 for residents and \$186 for non-residents. All classes are Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6-7 a.m. Register at 703-255-6360 or [www.viennava.org/](http://www.viennava.org/).

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PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION FILE PHOTOS

Volunteers in traditional dress serve flavorful, aromatic Middle Eastern dishes at the 17th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival hosted by Holy Transfiguration Church on Lewinsville Road, near the intersection of Springhill Road, spit.



Volunteer chef Omar Samaha grills a hunk of beef on a spit.

## Holy Transfiguration Church Hosts Middle Eastern Food Festival

18th annual festival features food, entertainment and kids' activities.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

In these parts — “these parts” being McLean and Vienna — Labor Day weekend is more than barbecues and pool parties. It also brings the area's largest food festival, a celebration of traditional Middle-eastern delicacies, and music and dance, augmented with pony rides and moon bounces for children, vendors and tours of the Byzantine-styled church. On Sept. 3 and 4, Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church hosts its 18th annual Middle Eastern Food Festival on the church's grounds.

“I really believe what distinguishes us from other festivals are our people, their enthusiasm,” said Protodeacon and festival chairman, David Baroody. “It's really their enthusiasm and hospitality, and welcoming nature to everybody. Everyone who comes is welcomed in the same manner of warmth.”

Outside on the back lawn, volunteers grill chicken, beef and lamb. In the kitchen, volunteers prepare stuffed grape leaves and

authentic Middle Eastern side dishes from handed-down recipes. The recipes, Baroody said, have been in families for generations, as are many of the cultural traditions. Forget the diet ... the Middle Eastern pastries — gooey, syrupy, nutty — would make the sugar plum fairy swoon. Baklava, maamoul — date-filled shortbread cookies — and other typical Middle Eastern sweets, line tables across the hall. They partner with American favorites, from cakes and cookies to brownies and fudge.

**THE FESTIVAL** is as much about cultural identity as it is about food. Servers and volunteers wear traditional dress, colorful and frequently sparkly. The Turkish coffee is served, well, Turkish-style. Perhaps, though, the piece de resistance is the roast lamb dinner served on Saturday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. and all day on Sunday. Spoiler alert: the squeamish might want to avoid looking at the spit on the lawn, but the aromas emanating from the church grounds cast a gustatorial spell.

“We try to offer a real insight into our Middle Eastern culture, along with our Byzantine Eastern Chris-



The sweets table, laden with syrupy, gooey, nutty confections, runs the length of the church's hall.

nual food festival fundraiser. To the members of Holy Transfiguration, the food festival gives the church members an opportunity to reach many people outside the church, sharing their culture and faith with visitors.

The festival, at 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean, near the intersection of Spring Hill Road, has introduced pony rides to keep children entertained. There are also two moon bounces, face painting and games.

**THE HOLY TRANSFIGURATION CHURCH** Middle Eastern Food Festival runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 3, and noon to 6 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 4.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Admission and parking are free, but there is a charge for pony rides. The price of menu items, from sweets to complete plates, range from a couple of dollars to \$14 for the roasted lamb dinner. To learn more, call 703-734-9566 or visit [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

“It's [the food festival] a perfect chance to show everybody the various facets of our Middle Eastern traditions,” said Lani Kanakry. “You're going to get fantastic food and get educated about it, too.”



The first ‘Musical Salute to Our Military’ concert was held last year.



McLean Orchestra event sponsors, Col. C. Allen Jorgenson and Lilian Jorgenson, with Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and McLean Orchestra Board President Wayne Sharp at a wine tasting at Barbara Comstock's home to support this concert.

## McLean Orchestra Salutes Military

‘Musical Salute to Our Military’ to be held on Sept. 10.

The McLean Orchestra's Second Annual “Musical Salute to Our Military” will be held at Vinson Hall Retirement Community on Sept. 10, at 7:30 p.m. This concert, which will showcase the McLean Orchestra Brass Quintet, is being performed on the eve of

the 10th anniversary of the events of Sept. 11, 2001. The concert program will feature music that honors and celebrates the brave men and women of the military.

“Vinson Hall Retirement Community is the perfect place to hold this special event. We want to bring our music directly to the military

community,” says Executive Director John Huling. Vinson Hall Retirement Community has been home since 1969 to commissioned military officers ages 62 and older and their immediate family members.

According to Dr. Wayne Winston Sharp, President of the Board of Trustees of the McLean Orchestra, “The McLean Orchestra is committed to honoring our warriors, both past and present as long as we have soldiers in harm's way. Our won-

derful orchestra boasts many talented musicians who are currently members of the top military bands in Washington, D.C. It is an honor for us to do this concert at Vinson Hall.”

The concert is free and will be followed by a cake and champagne reception, a McLean Orchestra tradition. Seating is limited. Reservations may be made by contacting the McLean Orchestra office at 703-893-8646.

### FAITH NOTES

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

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**, 10550 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, will mark the beginning of the Sunday School year for all ages on Rally Day, Sunday, Sept. 11. To celebrate, the church will host a Rally Day BBQ on the front lawn following the 11 a.m. service. Members and visitors are invited to join in the fun, including burgers and dogs and all the fixings. [www.gflutheran.org](http://www.gflutheran.org).

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive, N.E. in Vienna, has an Adult Sunday School class that will begin studying John B. Cobb's book *Spiritual Bankruptcy: A Prophetic Call to Action* on Sunday, Sept. 11. Coffee at 9:30 a.m., class at 9:45 a.m. office@epiphanyumc.com or 703-938-3494.

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax**, 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton, seeks female actors for production of “Mother Wove the Morning,” a play by Carol Lynn Pearson. All ages and types needed. Play will be performed Oct. 21-22 and proceeds benefit The Fistula Foundation. Auditions will be held on Tuesday, Sept. 13. Schedule an audition appointment at [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org) or [scbennett@cox.net](mailto:scbennett@cox.net) 703-281-4230.

**Andrew Chapel United Method-**

**ist Church**, 9201 Leesburg Pike in Vienna, has a 10 a.m. Sunday Worship Service through Sept 4. Beginning Sept. 11 Worship is 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., and Youth Fellowship at 6 p.m. September study groups are Monday night's “Companions in Christ,” and Tuesday 10 a.m. Bible Study. Bell Choir practice is Wednesday at 7 p.m. and choir practice at 8 p.m. Call 703-759-3722 to register for PreSchool and Mother's Day Out. 703-759-3508.

**Epiphany United Methodist Church**, 1014 Country Club Drive in Vienna, will celebrate its 50th anniversary with a special worship service on Sunday, Sept. 25 at 11 a.m. [www.epiphanyumc.com](http://www.epiphanyumc.com) or 703-938-3494.

**The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA)** offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**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](http://www.havenofnova.org) for schedules and registration information.

**McLean Bible Church Fitness Class** at Body & Soul Fitness. Balance is key, energy is renewed and strength is gained. 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**Vajrayogini Buddhist Center** offers ongoing classes on meditation and Buddhist philosophy, Mondays at 7 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. \$10 per class. 202-331-2122 or [www.meditation-dc.org](http://www.meditation-dc.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.

**Vienna Presbyterian Church**, 124 Park St. in Vienna, presents the 12-week program “Passages,” for those experiencing separation or divorce. The DivorceCare series meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost of materials \$20, scholarships available. 703-938 9050 or [Passages@ViennaPres.org](http://Passages@ViennaPres.org).

**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](http://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](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**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](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

**A Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at [mmthomas211@hotmail.com](mailto:mmthomas211@hotmail.com) or call the church at 703-759-3509.

**The Jewish Federation of Greater Washington** and the Jewish Outreach Institute offer the Mothers/Parents Circle, an umbrella of free educational events and resources. Jewish rituals, ethics and the creation of a Jewish home, regular meetings and group Shabbats and holidays. Participants include Sha'are Shalom, Congregation Beth Emeth, Temple Rodef Shalom and the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. [ShalomDC.org](http://ShalomDC.org).

**Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, Sunday worship services at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday School for adults is at 9:30 a.m. and for children during the 10:30 a.m. worship service. Youth Group for grades 7-12 meets Sundays at 6 p.m. A 20-minute service of Holy Communion is held each Wednesday at 12 p.m. 703-356-3312 or [umtrinity.org](http://umtrinity.org).

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# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/AUG. 31

**You Are Not Alone Tour: Hawthorne Heights, ViFolly and The Getaways.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**One-on-One Computer Tutoring.** 3 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn the basics of the Internet, Word and Excel. Adults. 703-242-4020.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 1

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. "Pay-What-You-Can Preview." 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**Oh Susannah.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Atlas, Harlen Simple and Go (acoustic).** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 2

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**Fireday V: "Fifth Flight Forward."** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 3

**Holy Transfiguration 18th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.** 11 a.m.-11 p.m. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Live music and dancing, vendors, church tours and activities. Join the Debke dance or participate in a game of backgammon or chess. Children can enjoy pony rides, moon bounce, face painting and more. Outdoor grills will offer kibbee, chicken kebabs, falafel, fattoush, hummus, stuffed

grape leaves, or a \$14 Roast Lamb Dinner served from 6-9 p.m. Enjoy baklava, maamoul, namoura, ghraybeh, or American favorites from cakes to cookies to brownies and fudge. Free admission and parking. 703-734-9566 or [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

**Dulcie Taylor.** 5 p.m. Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Ave., McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.

**Sonus II: A Wizard Rock Festival** at 12 p.m., **Robin and Linda Williams and Their Fine Group** at 9:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 4

**Great Falls National Park Civil War Day.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Great Falls National Park, 9200 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Demonstrations by living historians and ranger guided

hikes to the site of Civil War skirmishes within Great Falls Park. 703-285-2965.

**Holy Transfiguration 18th Annual Middle Eastern Food Festival.** 12-6 p.m. Holy Transfiguration Melkite Greek-Catholic Church, 8501 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Live music and dancing, vendors, church tours, a wide variety of food and activities. \$14 Roast Lamb Dinner served all day. Free admission and parking. 703-734-9566 or [www.holytransfiguration.org](http://www.holytransfiguration.org).

## SUNDAY /SEPT. 4

**TheRuinCity CD Release, Let's Be Honest, Hit This City, The Concussion Theory, All In Karma and Bandits & Beggars.** 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Early Fall Tour of the Potomac Valley Native Plant Collection.** 2 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Enjoy goldenrod, sunflowers, wild senna and more. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 6

**Sarah Jebian is "Goin' Back": A Cabaret Event.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 7

**Kyle Andrews, Ernie Halter and Taxicab Racers.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 8

**Murphy's Kids, Future and Teddy and the Purple Funk.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. With a demonstration of still

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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#### Assembly of God

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First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525

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#### Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

#### Church of the Brethren

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

#### Catholic

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

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

St. Mark's Catholic Church ... 703-281-9100

#### Charismatic

Christian Assembly ... 703-698-9777

#### Church of Christ

Berea Church of Christ ... 703-893-7040

#### Disciples of Christ

Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

#### Episcopal

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

Church of the Holy Cross ... 703-698-6991

St. Francis Episcopal ... 703-759-2082

#### Jehovah's Witness

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

#### Lutheran

Emmanuel Lutheran Church... 703-938-2119

Christ The King Lutheran Church... 703-759-6068

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church... 703-455-4003

#### Methodist

Andrew Chapel United Methodist ... 703-759-3509

Church of the Good Shepherd ... 703-281-3987

Dunn Loring United Methodist ... 703-573-5386

To Highlight Your Faith Community call Karen at 703- 917-6468

# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 10

life oil painting by Jill Banks. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 9

**Friday Night Steak Dinner.** 5:30-8 p.m. American Legion Post 180, 330 North Center St, Vienna. Grilled rib-eye steak, baked potato and salad. \$9. 703-938-9535.

**Banjo Man.** 10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**We Were Kings CD Release and Dance Party, Big Hurry and Breaking Borders.** 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. [www.1ststage Tyson's.org/jeeves](http://www.1ststage Tyson's.org/jeeves) or 703-854-1856.

**Koi and Bonsai Show.** 12-4 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Koi displays, judging, informational seminars, pond and koi vendors. Bonsai will also be on display. Free and open to the public. 703-255-3631.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 10

**Virginia Indian Festival and Showcase for Native Arts.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Members of seven native tribes present a cultural demonstration of the arts and their ancient way of life. Tribal dancing, rhythmic drumming, pottery, crafts, food, hands-on activities and more. Use chopping tools to help build a dug-out canoe, hit the mark at the archery range or throw spears with the atlatl.



**"July Peaches" by Jill Banks. The Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting on Thursday, Sept. 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., N.W. in Vienna, will feature a demonstration of still life oil painting by Jill Banks. Free and open to the public. 703-319-3971 [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).**

Admission \$5. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend/) or 703-759-9018.

**Championship Boxing.** George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. Jimmy Lange to fight Raul Muñoz for WBU title. Tickets \$35-\$500, available at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and 703-573-SEAT.

**James Madison High School Marching Band Tag Day.** 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Instrumentalists, drum line and color guard members will walk through neighborhoods in the Madison school district handing out Tags with details about this year's competitions and concerts. Money raised on Tag Day helps pay for competition and travel fees, instruments, uniforms and more. Contributions can be mailed to James Madison High School Band Parents, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna Va. 22181. [www.jmhsband.org](http://www.jmhsband.org). **Kids Show: The Diggity Dudes.**

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**Ian Axel, Bess Rogers and Allie Moss** at 7 p.m., **River City Extension and Mokey Dorris** at 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. [www.jamminjava.com](http://www.jamminjava.com).

**"A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum."** 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. James Lee Community Center, 2855-A Annandale Road, Falls Church. Musical comedy about mistaken identity and young love. \$6-\$15. 703-615-6626 or [zbleck@aol.com](mailto:zbleck@aol.com).

**"Don't Dress for Dinner, or Pajamas for Six."** 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. 1st Stage, 1524 Spring Hill Road in Tyson's Corner. A farce by Marc Camoletti about mistaken identity and infidelities with more twists than a corkscrew. Tickets \$25. [www.1ststage Tyson's.org/jeeves](http://www.1ststage Tyson's.org/jeeves) or 703-854-1856.

## 'American Grandeur' at Great Falls Library

"American Grandeur," an exhibit of traditional, hand printed, black and white photographs by Great Falls photographer Jan Bender, is on display Sept. 2 - 29, at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The images of Yellowstone, Grand Teton and Glacier National Parks were hand crafted with an old-fashioned camera and sheets of film. The images were printed by the photographer in a traditional darkroom. Jan is a member of Great Falls Studios and has been exhibiting her photographs for more than 15 years. Visit [www.janbenderphoto.com](http://www.janbenderphoto.com) or call 703-430-9566



**Saturday, Sept. 10, 9 a.m-1 p.m.**

**Free Admission**  
Business Bank Parking Garage, across from J. Gilbert's Restaurant, Ingleside Ave. and 1451 Dolley Madison Blvd. (Route 123).

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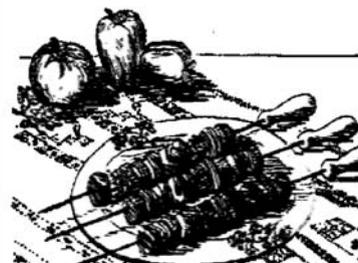
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**Sun., Sept. 4, 12-6 pm**

# New High School Football Season Kicks Off This Week

**Madison, Oakton, South Lakes all have new coaches; Langley and McLean both coming off playoff seasons.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
THE CONNECTION

**H**igh school football stadiums throughout the Northern Region will be alive with buzz and excitement this Thursday and Friday night with week one action of the new season.

While some folks are still in a summertime mode, many families within Fairfax County are kicking off the new school year. One of the most recognizable transition signs of the new school year is the start up of prep school football. Let's take a look at where some of the local teams — Madison, South Lakes, McLean, Langley, Oakton, Herndon, and Marshall — finished off in 2010 as they prepare to launch into the upcoming 2011 campaign.

Madison, under former head coach Gordon Lieb, struggled through a re-building season last year. The Warhawks, a perennial Div. 5 playoff contender during Lieb's decade-long tenure at the helm of the program, were just 2-8 last year, winning their final two games following a 0-8 start.

Lieb stepped down as head coach during the offseason in order to accept the head coach position at Paul VI High in Fairfax. Meanwhile, former Madison assistant Lenny Schultz was named Madison's new head coach. The Warhawks will begin their new football era with their annual season-opener versus cross-town rival Oakton — in the Outback Bowl — this Friday night, Sept. 2 at 7:30.

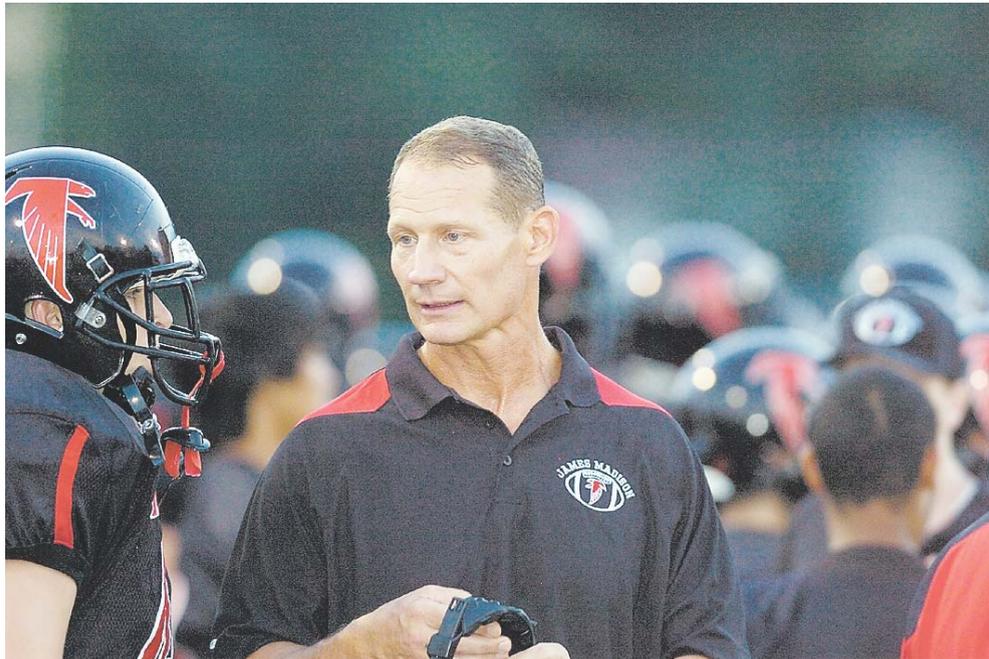
Oakton, like Madison, is under a new head coach this season following the resignation of Joe Thompson, who recently accepted an administrative position at Annandale High School. Thompson, as Oakton's head coach since 2002, led the Cougars to outstanding success, including a state title victory in 2005 and another trip to the state playoffs in 2008. Last year, Oakton went 7-3 during the regular season before losing in a first round playoff game to Robinson, 14-7. One of the Cougars' best wins last year was a 17-14 triumph over Chantilly in the final game of the regular season.

This year's Oakton squad will be led by new head coach Jason Rowley, the Cougars' defensive coordinator last year. The Cougars host Madison on Friday of this week and will also be at home versus South County the following Friday (Sept. 9).



**McLean, on defense here, will host Washington-Lee on Thursday of this week in both teams' season opener. The Highlanders began the 2010 season with a 14-6 win over the Generals.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Gordon Lieb was head coach at Madison for 10 years before taking the football position at Paul VI this past offseason.**

Marshall, under second year head coach Bill Laphorn, will be looking to improve on last year's 1-9 record. The Statesmen, on Thursday, Sept. 1 of this week, were scheduled to play at Lee High in Springfield at 7:30. The following week, on Friday, Sept. 9, Marshall will open its home schedule with a game versus Mount Vernon.

**ANOTHER PROGRAM** which will be under a new head coach this season, like both Madison and Oakton, is South Lakes High, which enjoyed a fine season a year ago in since-departed Andy Hill's lone season at the helm. Hill, who had led Park View High (Sterling) to prominent success for several years within the Dulles District, brought his

magic to Reston in 2010 as head coach of the Seahawks, who qualified for the Div. 5 playoffs where they defeated Mount Vernon in the first round before losing in the semifinals to eventual region champion Stone Bridge. South Lakes' high-powered offense averaged 27 points per game.

Hill stepped down during the offseason and has returned to his roots in Minnesota. South Lakes' new coach is Marvin Wooten, a South Lakes assistant the past four years under both Hill and previous coach John Ellenberger. Wooten's right hand man will be assistant head coach Galvin Morris.

South Lakes opens its season this Friday night, Sept. 2 at 7 p.m. versus visiting Westfield High. The Seahawks will also be

home the following Friday night (Sept. 9) versus cross-town opponent Herndon.

Herndon, under the longtime leadership of head coach Joe Sheaffer, struggled through a 1-9 record last year. The Hornets had experienced one of their better seasons the previous fall (2009) when they qualified for the Div. 6 playoffs.

Herndon will try to bounce back from its tough 2010 season with a good season this fall. The Hornets will open with a home game on Thursday night, Sept. 1 versus Langley at 7:30. That will be followed with a week two game at South Lakes on Friday, Sept. 9.

Sheaffer's coaching staff includes two former Washington Redskins in assistant head coach Todd Liebenstein and offensive line coach Raleigh McKenzie.

**AT MCLEAN HIGH**, the Highlanders had a breakthrough 2010 season which local fans will always remember for their 8-0 start. And although the Highlanders ultimately lost their final three games of the season, including a Div. 5 first round playoff loss to Hayfield, the season overall was a highlight reel for a program which, just two years earlier, had gone winless.

McLean, 8-3 last year and 6-5 in 2009, has now experienced two consecutive winning seasons under fourth year head coach Jim Patrick. The Highlanders' quest for a third straight winning record will begin Thursday night (Sept. 1) of this week versus visiting Washington-Lee. A year ago, the Highlanders opened their season with a 14-6 win over the Generals.

Following this week's game with Washington-Lee, Mclean will hit the road for two weeks versus both Falls Church (Sept. 9) and Fairfax (Feb. 16) before returning home for a week four game versus Madison on Sept. 23.

Also making the playoffs last year was Langley High, which qualified for the eight-team Div. 6 postseason tournament. The Saxons lost their first two games of the season before winning five straight. Their best game of the season came in week 10 when they closed the regular schedule with a 56-12 home win over local rival McLean. That victory clinched a winning season for veteran head coach John Howerton and his Saxons, who would see their season end the following week with a first round 34-10 playoff loss to eventual two-time region champion Lake Braddock.

The 2010 Saxons had one of the top passing attacks in the state behind since-graduated quarterback Braden Anderson, who passed for a school record mark of 2,300 yards. Only the high-powered Lake Braddock offense, with QB Michael Nebrich behind the center, could match the Saxons' region aerial success in 2010.

Langley will open the new season this week with a road game at Herndon on Thursday, Sept. 1 at 7:30. The Saxons will play their home opener the following week against Jefferson on Friday, Sept. 9.

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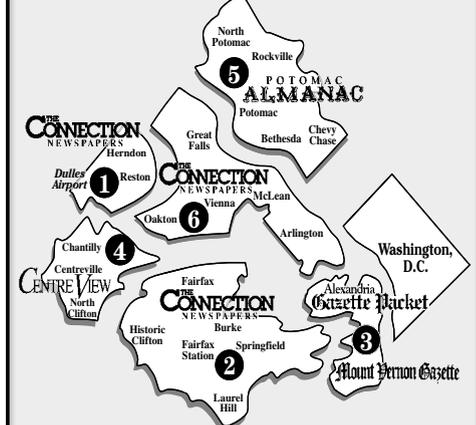
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# In The Throes



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not really in a significant way. But when there's one more thing, and that thing can run the gamut from the sublime to the ridiculous, and/or from the serious and time-sensitive to the familiar and regularly recurring, it may be just enough additional mental weight at the least opportune time, and over the mental edge I go. Not in any sort of way where I need psychiatric assistance or 24/7 monitoring, but in a way where it affects how I want to be: calm, functioning and relatively normal ("normal" meaning, in this context: not having cancer).

As much as I don't want this cancer diagnosis/living-with-cancer existence to define me, it does, more often than I care to admit, control me; sometimes consciously, other times, subconsciously. I don't want to think and feel certain emotions, some of which are really unhelpful in my daily pursuit of normalcy, but circumstances beyond my control – unfortunately, inevitably, trigger some sort of acknowledgment of my cancer reality, and as a result, sometimes, I go to a bad place. Moreover, if the timing of that trigger is particularly poor – like now, it adds to the weight that all of us cancer/terminal patients carry and unbalances that mental load. At least it does for me.

What's caused me to bend but not quite break of late is the need to change my health insurance coverage. Given that I've now been on Social Security Disability for two years (as of 8/1/2011; that's what happens when you outlive your prognosis), I am eligible, though "underage" for Medicare. My wife however, is not eligible. Ergo, the complication. Medicare is not a family plan. As such, if I elect to participate, I no longer need the health insurance offered by the Connection. And once my inclusion in that plan ceases, the coverage for my wife ceases, so not only am I changing my coverage, I'm changing hers as well.

With these changes comes: uncertainty. And if there's one area/subject where I'd rather not have any uncertainty right now, it's health insurance, for me and my family. To say that making the wrong decision/assessment about what we decide to do could cost me my life and/or our life savings is almost not doing justice to the seriousness and depth of this situation/problem we face. (Or maybe that's simply the cancer diagnosis talking?)

I am hardly at the age and/or in the health circumstance where I could afford (literally and figuratively) one wrong move. And once going forward, I doubt there's much recourse, other than to suffer/endure the consequences of my/our actions. (If my father impressed anything on me, it was to "be aware of the consequences of your actions.") Ordinarily, as a long-time, former insurance salesman/financial planner, these sorts of insurance/financial decisions/calculations were fairly routine and not at all emotionally charged. But I hadn't been diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer back then (by the way, in case you don't know, there's no stage V). And as much as I try to pretend and/or deny now, that I don't have cancer – or not admit it's who I am, the more frequently my subconscious seems to take over and complicate my life. What tasks used to be simple now seem more challenging, even though I don't consciously think I feel any different. But I am different. And some days, certain decisions really make that obvious.

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

## VIEWPOINTS

### How did Vienna residents ride out Hurricane Irene?

— DONNA MANZ

#### Michael Burgess, owner, Pure Pasty Co., Vienna

"The biggest fear was losing power here. We protected the food, kept the refrigerators filled with ice, we followed the health department's recommendations. We kept Pure Pasty open all day, people were coming in all day. After we closed, I went the easy route for suppers. I picked up Indian carry-out.

"We battened down with Indian food, watched it all happening on TV.

William (3 months old) woke up about half past 2 a.m. It wasn't the hurricane that woke him, he just wanted to eat. We had no power so we had to feed him by candlelight. I heated up his bottle on the gas stove. We changed his diaper by candlelight, and, then, we put him back to sleep.

"About 4 a.m., I came out to the restaurant to check on it. The power wasn't lost. I just needed to know that everything was okay. Where I live, everything was dark. As I drove down Maple Avenue, everything was lit. I checked the restaurant and everything was fine. Went back home to bed happy and contented. Most of the storm was over by then."



#### Will Andes, high school student, Fairfax

"We just stayed around home. It wasn't that big of an impact where we live in Fairfax. We went to a little party last night, barbecued at my cousin's in Oakton. We had our own 'Cheeseburger in Paradise' concert (Jimmy Buffet's Jiffy Lube concert was cancelled) with family. We had cheeseburgers, made cookies, played video games."



#### Chap Petersen, State Senator, Va-34th, new father, Vienna

"I went for a bike ride on Saturday morning with two of my children and picked up fresh fruit at the farmers' market. During the storm, we stayed in with our new baby and watched a movie. Was checking CNN every hour for news."



#### Cherie Lejeune, owner, Digiboomer, Vienna

"We watched movies, had a special lobster dinner, just stayed at home. Went to bed about 11 p.m., woke up at 2:30 a.m. and realized the power went out. My husband had the portable generator up and running by 7 a.m. We may not even have power today [Sunday].

"But, to amuse myself, I created a day in the life of Irene, started it at Farmers' Market yesterday."



#### Michael Amouri, owner, Caffe Amouri, Vienna

"The first thing I did was to go to Whole Foods to buy our milk for the coffee house for the weekend. Back at the café, I looked over the schedule. Then, I had to go to Giant to get half and half. I realized I needed my own things to get through



the storm.

"I needed something to go with coffee, so I bought cookies. I picked up two blocks of cheese, Fritos and potato chips. I didn't know which I'd want so I covered my bases with the variety.

"Got an extra propane tank because I could always find something in the freezer to throw on the grill.

"We closed early yesterday [Saturday] to get employees home. I got something to eat, went home and watched a movie. I had planned on working, but, then, I thought, 'you're supposed to hunker down in a disaster,' so, I did.

"It was rather nice, relaxing."

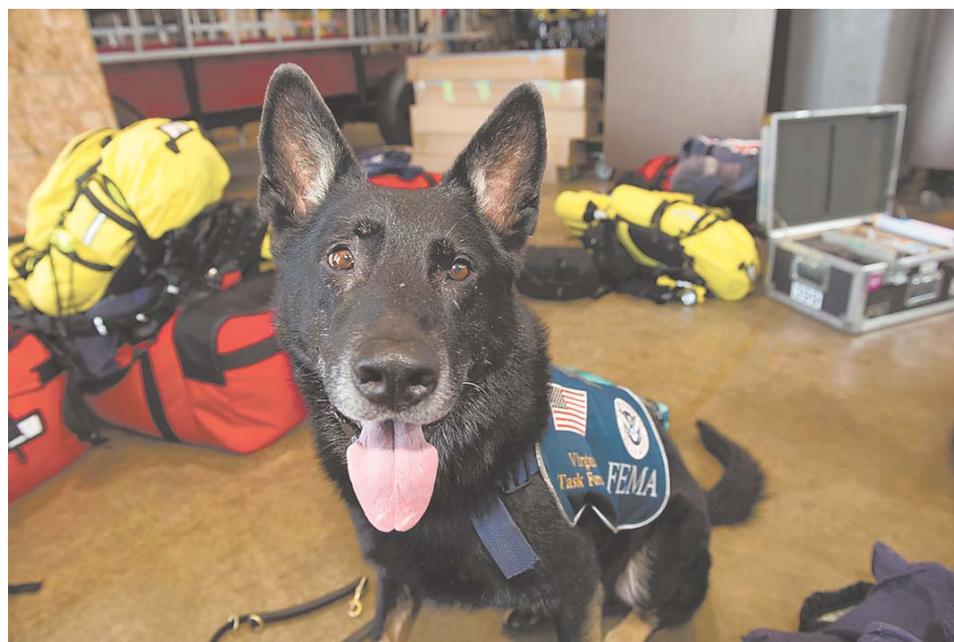
#### Andrea Docos, Vienna

"I actually had to work last night until midnight at a construction site. We were just running around tying everything down. I drove home from Bethesda at midnight. I slept through most of the hurricane."





Tim Dingess reviews deployment orders Aug. 26 as his dog Lago sits next to him. Dingess is a professional civilian canine handler with Virginia Task Force 1 and is currently deployed to New England to assist with recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irene.



Czaro, an 8-year-old German shepherd, waits to deploy Aug. 26 with Virginia Task Force 1, the international urban search and rescue team sponsored by the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department.

# VATF-1 Continues Hurricane Irene Operations

Search and Rescue team deployed in New England.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County's Urban Search and Rescue team, known as Virginia Task Force 1, is continuing its rescue operations along the East Coast in the wake of Hurricane Irene. "We have 74 team members standing by in Waterbury, Conn.," said Battalion Chief Chris Schaff Tuesday, Aug. 30. "Flood waters are anticipated as rivers crest later today and they will remain in place as long as they are needed."

VATF-1 deployed on Friday morning, Aug. 26, to

Fort Bragg, N.C. They returned to Fairfax headquarters briefly Sunday afternoon to retrieve additional rescue equipment.

"Our team returned home for a few hours to pick up swift water rescue gear and four additional boats," Schaff said. "They were then immediately deployed to McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey and then to Connecticut where they remain activated."

The VATF-1 team includes doctors, structural engineers, hazardous material specialists, heavy riggers and four canine rescue teams.

"We had one injury to a team member in New Jersey," Schaff said. "A hand laceration required surgery but the team member was released this morning and is heading home. Otherwise, everyone is doing well and prepared to continue recovery operations in the wake of Irene."

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/THE CONNECTION



Firefighter Kris Sacra of Fire Station 12 in Great Falls helps Firefighter John McDonnell weigh his gear before both deploy Aug. 26 with Virginia Task Force 1, the urban search and rescue team sponsored by the Fairfax County Search and Rescue Department.



In anticipation of Hurricane Irene, 74 members of Virginia Task Force 1 and four canines fit their gear into two buses prior to heading to Fort Bragg, N.C., Aug. 26 at the request of the Department of Homeland Security and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.



Firefighter Michael Moore of Station 14 in Burke checks through his bags Aug. 26 before he deploys to North Carolina with VATF-1. The team is in Connecticut assisting in the wake of Hurricane Irene.