

Open House Draws Hundreds

News, Page 3

Always vigilant, Maddy Lehman, 4, and her brother Carter, 2, stand by, ready to spring into action should the emergency alarm sound.

Captain Chaos Makes Appearance In Vienna Halloween Parade

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Dreaming in Chinese

News, Page 5

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Photos by Donna Manz/The Connection

Emergency responders don't get much cuter—or younger—than this.

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Holds Annual Open House

Equipment, activities, draw hundreds of families to Saturday's award-winning event.

What little child—or grownup child—doesn't like fire engines and ambulances? Vienna youngsters got their chance to climb aboard emergency equipment, learn about fire safety, jump in a bounce house, get tattooed and nibble on free hot dogs and popcorn, all while at the Fire Prevention Week Open House presented by the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department on Oct. 13. Several hundred families toured the apparatus bay and participated in activities and events spread out among the grounds and through the building. Parked outside was the new canteen truck, a fire engine, ambulance and antique fire engine. The bright red firefighter helmets were spotted on every little head.

Vienna's fire department won the "best open house" in the 2nd battalion for the second year in a row.

"We drive by here every day but this is the first time we've been here, and it's been great," said Vienna mom Alyssa Lehman, with daughter Maddy, 4, and son Carter, 2. Maddy said she liked the ambu-



The trick to winning a stuffed toy prize is to pull a white ball out of a sack. Although no adults achieved that feat, every child who tried was successful.

A Lesson Learned

My 4-year-old son and I attended the open house yesterday. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department did a great job of informing and entertaining at the same time.

This was demonstrated last night when my son, using Legos, gave his aunt a pretty complete lesson on fire safety, repeating much of what he heard during the 1:30 equipment and fire demonstration. He built a "fire line" of Legos to protect us, then took red Legos and bunched them into a pile to indicate the "fire." Finally, he taught his aunt how to put the "fire" out safely! Clearly the VVFD made an impact!

Chris Johns
Vienna

lance most of all while Carter showed a preference for the fire trucks.

VVFD volunteers put in over 29,55 volunteer hours last year. The station's fundraising efforts, from Bingo to craft shows, are paying for the station's new fire truck, costing a half a million dollars. VVFD Chief John Morrison said the station is expected to take delivery of the truck in mid-November.

The weather could not have been more conducive to a family outing. Cloud-free blue skies and coolish temperatures epitomized a fall day. Across the street from the firehouse, Vienna Youth Football teams played and bicyclists rode around Mill and Center streets.

The VVFD sponsors the Open House fair as a community outreach, a way to familiarize residents with Vienna's fire department.

"When you see the excitement, the smiles, and the way the kids' eyes light up, that is why we do this," said VVFD Auxiliary President Joan Dempsey.

The open house is not about fundraising. "It's to greet people and show them what we do," Dempsey said. It's for the kids to see fire department staff and volunteers as ordinary citizens, part of the community. "That's what this is all about," said Dempsey.

—Donna Manz



Photo Contributed

Doc Scantlin and his wife Chou Chou bring their high-octane floor show, with a cast of 23, to Vienna on Oct. 28, in a benefit performance for the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna. Doc Scantlin and the Imperial Palms Orchestra feature the music and mood of the 20s, 30s and 40s.

Big-Band Floor Show Comes to Vienna

Benefit fundraiser for SCOV.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

If you know who Glenn Miller was, what drug store soda fountains were, or if you have ever watched a Thin Man film, the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna [SCOV] is returning you to those times.

On Oct. 28 in the hall of Vienna Presbyterian Church, SCOV presents prominent entertainers Doc Scantlin and Chou Chou, and their entourage of dancers and musicians, in a swing-music benefit. Scantlin calls their World War II-era show "high-energy" and "spirited."

"It's all about having fun," said Scantlin, band leader of his Imperial Palms Orchestra. "It's a party." The music ranges from the romantic classics of the 30s and 40s, such as "As Time Goes By," to humorous novelty tunes—like "Minnie the Moocher"—that were the rage in those days.

Doc and Chou Chou, married and living in southern Maryland, present their shows primarily as dance opportunities at galas and corporate events. Concerts offer a different and challenging opportunity to entertain guests. There's lots of visuals, such as dance routines and costume changes. "We really like doing concerts," Scantlin said. "Everyone is paying attention to the band. You have to entertain them; that's our main incentive. The pressure is on and we like that."

The show includes 23 performers, including 15 musicians and four chorus girls.

Think back to the nightclubs of the 20s, 30s and 40s, and you get a feel for Doc and Chou Chou's show. Chou Chou, said Scantlin, does a lot of solos, going out into the audience, singing, to interact and engage the guests. She hands roses to the women and flirts with the men. There's a woman in the show who does Carmen Miranda-inspired routines, and a roving "cigarette girl" who sells candy rather than tobacco products. Doc and Chou Chou have been lighting up ballrooms throughout the Washington area for a couple of decades with their brand of nostalgia, big band music with oversized theatrics.

"We wanted something really different this year," said Jayne Young, office administrator of SCOV. "Doc and Chou Chou are just so exciting and unique. This concert is going to be a lot of fun for everyone."

Whether you remember "In the Mood" or "Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy of Company C" or are a fan of 40s and 50s movies, both Young and Scantlin say the Imperial Palms Orchestra offers a sophisticated interpretation of the music that became standards of the industry.

"I want people to leave saying, 'I've never seen anything like this,'" said Scantlin.

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra, along with soloist Chou Chou and chorus girls, perform on Sunday, Oct. 28, at 3 p.m., at Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE. Advance-purchase tickets are \$20; \$25 at the door. For more information or to reserve tickets, call 703-281-0538, or e-mail office@scov.org.

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Week in Vienna

Vienna Bank Gets Top National Ratings

For the 20th consecutive quarter, The Business Bank of Vienna is a recipient of the 5-Star Superior rating from BauerFinancial, Inc., (bauerfinancial.com).

A 5-Star Superior rating for financial strength and stability is the highest rating attainable from BauerFinancial (the nation's bank rating firm for over a quarter of a century) and is based on the overall financial condition of the bank.

Earning a 5-Star rating denotes that The Business Bank is one of the strongest banks in the nation. Achieving this designation for 20 consecutive quarters, like The Business Bank has, is an even higher honor.

President Harry Rauner notes that even in difficult financial times and after the expense of opening an eighth office, the bank is proud of maintaining its five star rating.

As of June 30, 2012, The Business Bank complies with 100 percent of the 15 bank safety tests conducted in the SNL Canary Report. SNL Financial, L.C. of Charlottesville (snl.com) is the premier provider of data on the banking and financial institution industry. The SNL Canary Report

is formatted to duplicate the 15 risk measurement tools that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) uses to identify institutions at risk for future financial distress. These tests measure ratios in regard to Credit Risk (six tests), Interest Rate Risk (four tests), and Liquidity Risk (five tests). An institution with a score greater than eight is considered to be at a higher risk for future financial distress.

The national median risk rating is four. The Business Bank's risk rating is zero which is a perfect score. The Business Bank complies with all 15 of these tests and is the only bank headquartered in Northern Virginia to do so.

The Business Bank is the primary subsidiary of the United Financial Banking Companies, Inc., with Title and Risk Management Insurance Services available at all of The Business Bank locations. The Bank has been serving the needs of businesses and consumers in Northern Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia since 1981.

The Business Bank has eight offices with locations in McLean, Reston, Sterling, Tysons Corner and Vienna as well as Alexandria, Ashburn and Ballston.

Additional information about The Business Bank can be found at www.tbbva.com.

Bulletin Board

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

Breast Reconstruction Awareness Day. 6:30-8 p.m., at the National Center for Plastic Surgery, 7601 Lewinsville Road, Suite 400, McLean. Learn about what the next step for a woman's altered silhouette can be; bring gently used bras for donation to women in shelters and third world countries through the Bra Recyclers. 703-287-8277 or manager@nationalpsurg.com.

Fall Community Meeting Prescription Medicine Awareness Night. 7-8:30 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A community discussion with local health and law enforcement experts on the topic of prescription drug abuse. www.mpaarts.org.

2012 Election Issues Panel. 7-9 p.m., at the American Legion Auxiliary, 330 Center Street N, Vienna. The American Legions hosts a panel to help educate voters. 703-242-7651.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Avoiding Divorce Court I—How to Negotiate or Mediate Settlement Agreements. 10a.m.-1p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St NE, Vienna. Separation, Custody and Property Settlement Agreement sans courtroom; the workshop led by a divorce attorney provides strategies. \$40, \$30 for Members or \$70 per couple, \$50 for Member couples. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657, ext. 276.

TUESDAY/OCT. 23

Milestones Meetings. 7:30 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 123 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The MCC Governing Board hosts meetings open to residents to evaluate the feasibility of renovating MCC's main facility; three concept floor plans will be presented. 703-790-0123, ext. 711.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Foster Parent Training Class. 9 a.m.-5 p.m., at 10455 White Granite Drive, Oakton.

This class answers questions and provides training for those with the time, energy and desire to provide support to a teen or child in need. 571-748-2557 or Nvfs.org/fosterparenting.

Avoiding Divorce Court II—Provisions of Settlement Agreements. 10a.m.-1p.m., at The Women's Center, 127 Park St NE, Vienna. Information on standard provisions and creative provisions available to parties negotiating or mediating an agreement. \$40, \$30 for Members, or \$70 per couple, \$50 for Member couples. Register at www.thewomenscenter.org or 703-281-2657, ext. 276.

TUESDAY/OCT. 30

Non-Profit Forum. 8:15 a.m.-3 p.m., Gannett Headquarters, 7950 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Robert Machen, CIO of ALSAC/St. Jude Children's Research Hospital is the keynote speaker. \$25-40. Register. 703-356-5424.

SATURDAY/NOV. 10

The Marketplace: Pregnancy Center Fundraiser. 9 a.m.-noon, Grace Bible Church, 9115 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. Crafters, cooks, services and gifts are needed at the marketplace to sell goods for the benefit of the Assist Pregnancy Center; sign up for a table and/or register to bring your home business. julieadavidson@cox.net or sjfiz1@gmail.com. www.assistpcp.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 13

NAACP Officer Elections. 5:30-8 p.m., First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St. NW, Vienna. The election at the General Membership meeting will decide the new officers and NAACP committee members. www.fairfaxnaacp.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 15

Christmas Craft Show: Crafters Wanted. 10 a.m.-7 p.m., Oakton Church of the Brethren, 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The 19th Annual Christmas Craft Show's consignment shop-style market has space open for more wares. 703-281-4411 or www.oaktonbrethren.org.



Photo by David Hayes

Robert Fried hosts the Virginia Tech Summer 2010 Study Tour.



Photo by Lauren Nelson

Robert Fried and Jane Li.

Dreaming in Chinese

Brothers Robbie and Brad Fried of Vienna run Chinese Language Institute.

By Andrew Madigan
The Connection

Three years ago, with a loan from their father, two brothers from Fairfax County founded the Chinese Language Institute (CLI), an educational services company, in Beijing. Today, it's one of the leading Mandarin language schools in China.

Robbie and Brad Fried are from Vienna. Robbie went to James Madison High School and his older brother attended Flint Hill School. While a student at Virginia Tech, Robbie decided to study abroad in Beijing. He

enrolled in the Advanced Mandarin program at Tsinghua University. Brad was already living in China at that time. Several years before, he had studied abroad at Guangxi Normal University. Afterward, he took a job teaching high school English in Guilin, a city of five million in the Southeast corner

“Our goal is to give students, and particularly Americans, a leg up in a globalized world.”

— Robert Fried

of the country.

Robbie, with the help of his brother, founded the Institute from his dorm room at Tsinghua. From this humble beginning, they rented a three-bedroom apartment and held classes in the living room. A chalkboard represented their major investment in technology and teaching resources.



Photo by David Hayes

Robert Fried

In the fall of 2009, the institute had one student. Enrollment shot up to four during the winter term, and five in the spring. Despite this rather slow start, the Frieds maintained their focus and motivation. “I wasn’t turned off by the low turnout,” Robbie says. “I was all-in, and I was confident. My brother and I had something special.”

THE INSTITUTE expanded to incorporate other aspects of education, such as study abroad. The Frieds decided to relocate to Guilin, where Brad was now working as a professor. According to Marketing Manager Jason Rogers, Guilin was the perfect setting because of its “wonderful balance between urban excitement and rural hospitality.” The operating costs there are also much lower than in China’s larger cities.

Gradually, the company began to grow, but everything changed in 2010 when the



Photo by Lauren Nelson

Sunny Xu and Robert Fried.

institute negotiated a three-week study tour with Virginia Tech, Robbie’s alma mater. This helped put them on the map in America, where millions of potential customers were waiting. “I knew I wanted to do something big,” Robbie says. “I saw a quickly growing and under-served market, so I dove in.”

He dove in at just the right time. The Virginia Tech students had such a great time, and learned so much, that word spread back home. Nicholas Gacos was one of the students who participated in the inaugural study tour. “We crammed so much learning into those three weeks. The things we did, and saw, and ate, and the people with whom we interacted. It was an unbelievable learning experience.”

As Robbie explains, this is precisely what the institute aimed to accomplish: “Our goal is to give students, and particularly Americans, a leg up in a globalized world. If we’re to stay on top, we have to fully embrace an evolving landscape. CLI, if nothing else, is an effort to prepare Americans for an increasingly multi-polar world.”

Today, CLI is a full-range educational services company. It offers immersion courses in Mandarin for both students and profes-

sionals. The program is also available worldwide through Skype. They run a semester abroad program at Guangxi Normal University and offer study tours for high school and college students throughout China. The Institute also helps Americans secure positions teaching English in Guilin.

THE FRIED BROTHERS have been quite successful since opening in March 2009. CLI has hosted over 300 students from 45 universities, including Oxford, Harvard and Yale. In 2011 they launched their own learning center, which can accommodate 75 students and 20 full-time Mandarin instructors. One-quarter of all Peace Corps China volunteers enroll in a two-week intensive Mandarin course at CLI.

At 25, Robbie Fried is managing director of a successful and prominent business. Brad is a professor of English and Western Civilization at Guangxi Normal University, where he is also Head of the Foreign Teaching Staff. Jason Rogers sums up what the brothers have accomplished together: “[They] have shown that with enough hard work...anything is possible, and that the American Dream is alive and well. Even if, sometimes, it speaks Chinese.”

Opinion

Pick Your Own Election Day

It's called "absentee voting in person," and there are a lot of reasons why you should.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 6. The deadline to register to vote is past, although in Northern Virginia, it's clear that a very high percentage of eligible voters are registered.

Four years ago in the presidential election of 2008, there were 5,034,660 voters registered in Virginia and 3,752,858 actually voted. Just in the month of September 2012, Fairfax County saw more than 6,000 newly registered voters, for a total of 646,881 active voters. Arlington registered more than 3,300 new voters in September, with more than 130,000 active voters total. Alexandria added more than 1,300 new voters last month alone, with 81,847 active voters.

Voting on Election Day at one's home precinct is often a wonderful experience, especially if you are a regular voter. Yes, there will be lines, but if the weather is nice, you can chat with your neighbors and enjoy the process. Assuming you can get to your polling place, the weather is nice and...

In a survey by The Weather Channel last month in battleground states, between 20 and 35 percent of registered voters said that if there is bad weather on Election Day, they would be likely not to vote. Remember that the great Northern Virginia Earthquake was on a Primary Election Day, and that moderately unusual

Editorial
events, weather-related and otherwise can turn the commute home into a multi-hour ordeal that could cause many voters to miss the 7 p.m. closing time at the polling places.

There is a way for voters to choose their own Election Day. Pick a day that works for you, check the weather forecast and go vote.

From now until Nov. 3, you can vote absentee in person for a variety of reasons, but you must sign a form affirming that you do qualify. Almost everyone with a job in Northern Virginia qualifies for one particular reason, however: your work plus commute time would be 11 hours or more between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Election Day. Other reasons include planned travel, pregnancy, illness or disability, being a student out of area, and more.

In Fairfax County, you can vote at Fairfax County Governmental Center or any one of seven "satellite" voting locations. If you have not been to the government center, it's worth having a look.

❖ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035. Open for voting Monday-Friday: 8 a.m.-8 p.m. and the next three Saturdays, Oct. 20, Oct. 27, and Nov. 3: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

The satellite locations in Fairfax County are

also open for absentee in person voting through Nov. 3, Monday-Friday, 2-8 p.m. and Saturdays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

❖ Franconia Governmental Center, 6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria, VA 22310

❖ Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, VA 22101

❖ North County Human Services Building, 1850 Cameron Glen Dr. Reston, VA 20190

❖ West Springfield Governmental Center, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA 22152

❖ Mason Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

❖ Mount Vernon Governmental Center, 2511 Parkers La., Alexandria, VA 22306

❖ Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151

For more on voting absentee in Fairfax County, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>

Saturday, Nov. 3 is the last day to vote absentee-in-person.

Voters can also vote absentee by mail. The deadline to submit an application to have an absentee ballot mailed to you is Tuesday, Oct. 30 at 5 p.m. The application must be received at the Voter Registration Office by that time. Voters who request a mailed absentee ballot must return them to their local elections office by 7 p.m. on Election Day, Nov. 6, for the ballot to be counted.

It's worth looking at the absentee ballot application online before going to vote absentee in person. <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/Files/Forms/VoterForms/ABApplication.pdf>

and stop. Unfortunately, I am one of very few.

Before something really tragic happens and we lose a child, it would be wonderful if our community were to join together to request a pedestrian bridge or, at the very least, seriously high speed bumps on either side of the walkway across Route 193.

I'm absolutely certain that we would all prefer happy memories to a terribly sad memorial.

Penny Morrill
McLean

and beautifully do both. Fairfax is such a family friendly and great place to live primarily because of its dedication to green, historic, and recreational spaces. My hope is the County continues to add more of these gems throughout the region with your help on Nov. 6. Please remember to vote YES for our parks.

Beth Gamble
Burke

Protecting Visitors to Clemyjontri Park

To the Editor:

Clemyjontri Park captures memories. My grandchildren and I swing, climb, balance, run, jump, go through the maze and ride the carousel horses. On the weekends, we park in the overflow lot and have to make our way across Route 193. The street curves right before the point of crossing so we have to be extremely cautious. And when I drive by Clemyjontri and see families pushing strollers and waiting to cross, I slow down

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Letters to the Editor

Vote Yes for Area Parks

To the Editor:

As Connection readers know, the upcoming election is a pivotal one. What readers may not be aware of is that a park bond referendum question is on the ballot for Fairfax County residents. I'm writing to ask readers to vote YES for the 2012 park bond.

The Fairfax County Park Authority's operating budget is almost 60 percent funded by revenue generating park activities. The remaining 40 percent is covered by appropriations from the County's General Fund derived from taxpayer contributions. This total contribution to parks amounts to less than 1 percent of the entire County operating budget. However, the operating funds do not include capital improvements such as renovations, new facilities, land acquisitions and the like. The funds for those endeavors are primarily funded through general obligation bonds. These types of bonds require the approval of the County constituency. This is just one of the bond ques-

tions on this year's ballot.

I know in our troubled economy some will argue that taking on debt is not a smart decision. However, I would argue that right now is the best time to embark on projects this bond will fund. Fairfax County maintains their debt payments at 10 percent or below tax revenue. The current bond request is projected to remain below that limit. With the current economic climate, purchases and construction costs are significantly lower so the funds can stretch further. Fairfax County's outstanding credit rating also enables it to obtain lower interest rates. Please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/2012bond.htm for more detailed information about projects funded by the bond and more about the bond process.

I live in a neighborhood near the recently completed section of Pohick Stream Valley Trail in Burke. This project was paid for with park bond funds and I am so pleased with the results. Living in the suburbs outside the beltway, it is rare that you can easily walk or bike to shopping centers or commuter hubs. I can now easily

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

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School Notes

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Achievement® Scholarship Program: **Taylor N. Brown** and **Zakiy S. Gharad** from McLean High School; **Margaret C. Secor** from James Madison High School; **Misa C. Mori** from Oakton High School.

Six Vienna residents graduated from Radford University at the end of the summer session. Earning Bachelor of Science degrees were **Anna Kathryn O'Mara**, interdisciplinary studies; **Steven Greer Campbell**, computer science and technology; **Whitney M. Atkins**, English; **Brendan H. Ginley**, exercise, sport, and health education; and **Lindsay Austin Kengla-Graber**, recreation, parks and tourism. Earning a Master of Science degree was **Ashlie Kathryn Donaldson** in education.

Three residents of Oakton graduated from Radford University at the end of the summer session. Earning Bachelor of Science degrees were **Travis Matthew Tinger**, computer science and technology; and **Troy Alexander Nardone**, communications. Earning a Bachelor of Arts degree was **Emily Catherine Walker** for philosophy and religion and English.

Stephen Wallace Jerome Gooding, the son of Ron and Susan Gooding of Vienna, has received a Bachelor of Science degree in management from George Mason University.

The following students were named semifinalists in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program: **Patrick F.**

See School Notes, Page 9



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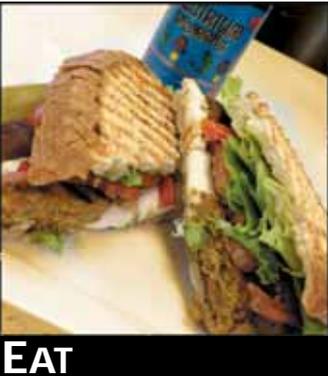
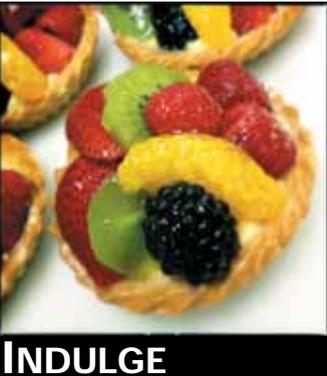
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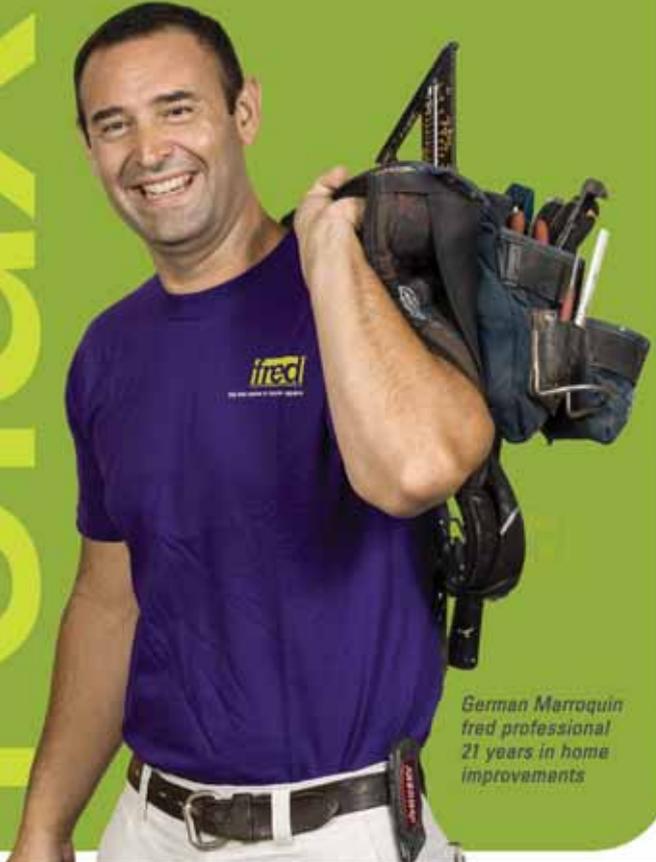
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News



Photo contributed

Gerry Connolly and Tom Davis appear together to discuss how to overcome congressional gridlock.

Connolly, Davis Present 'Tom and Gerry' Look at Congress

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and former 11th district Congressman Tom Davis (R) appeared together this week in a forum at the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors Convention at NVCC in Annandale on how Congress can cut through the partisan rhetoric and overcome gridlock. Billed as "Tom & Gerry - Political Cat and Mouse," two of Northern Virginia's best-known politicians presented a frank and sometimes humorous look at Congress. The two men, who have both served

as congressmen, chairmen of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and district supervisors, agreed more than they disagreed during the 45-minute presentation. Connolly and Davis, Democrat and Republican, have done similar presentations twice before at a Prince William County Committee of 100 dinner and at last year's Consumer Electronics Association Government show where their presentation was voted the best forum of the show. The title of the program was a play on a cartoon program from yesteryear.

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School Notes

From Page 7

Sanguineti from Flint Hill School; **Katherine Fowler, Benjamin Haines, Thomas F. Lomont, Atussa Mohtasham, Jeremy K. Park, Amanda N. Rones, Abigail C. Skwara, Anna E. Stone and Faith C. Tetlow** from James Madison High School; **Bridget J. Bauman, Melissa C. Chang, Ambareesh Gorle, Tamera R. Lanham, Irene S. Lee, Andrew R. Seastram and Stewart C. Silver** from Oakton High School; **Paul Bernstein, Ryan W. Cheng, Aimee A. Cho, Christie S. Goddard, Eunyoung C. Kim, Gene Kim, Margaret R. Mahoney, Yasmeen K. Mushtaq, Praveena Mylvaganam, Nadejda S. Nikolova, Kelvin Nui, Caitlin A. Rose and Mujtaba M. Wani** from Langley High School; **Taylor N. Brown, Shannon Chen, Maia D. Foster, Joshua D. Higbee, Annemieke L. Janssen, Vivek V. Kunnath, Lewis C. Milholland, Madelyn S. Paquette, Polina V. Tamarina, Nivetha Vijayakumar and Cedric Whitney** from McLean High School; **Stacey Y. Chiu, Charlotte A. Ferencbach, Julia L. Keller, Nicholas M. Kensinger and Caroline J. Resor** from Potomac School.

George C. Marshall High School is proud to announce National Merit semi-finalists: **Ryan Barrett, Annmarie Brinza, Sarah Chapin, Isabel Gross, Nicholas Kemp, Katherine Randazzo, Margaret Schumann, and Tracy Soon.**

Oakton High School: **Bridget Bauman, Melissa Chang, Ambareesh Gorle, Tamera Lanham, Irene Lee, Andrew Seastram, and Stewart Silver.**

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Elections Come to Area Schools

Educators use current election to teach students about campaigns and elections.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

How would you change the current tax situation and, at the same time, address the larger issue of our national debt? Do you believe it is the government's job to provide health care for all citizens? Why or why not?

Would you approve the Keystone pipeline and what other changes would you make to help make the U.S. energy independent, while also protecting the environment?

Sound like questions that belong in a presidential debate? These are actually inquiries written by Advanced Placement (AP) government students at Alexandria's St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, and they're just some of the local students getting involved in this year's election. From mock debates to in-school voter registration, some local educators are using the upcoming election to bring American government books to life.

"[Students in] ninth through twelfth grade are holding a student debate between the Peoples Democratic Front and the Young Conservatives, and then will hold a mock election after the debate," said Linda Stratton, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes' director of communications. Stratton said the students prepared questions to introduce the four debate topics: health care, the economy, foreign policy and energy and environment.

"The AP government class will be predicting the Electoral College result of the presidential race and the overall make-up of the House and Senate," she added.



Photo courtesy of Norwood School

Fourth graders at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., gather around the school's lower school election table to answer the "Question of the Day."

Students at the Potomac School in McLean even used social media to simulate a real campaign. "Students put together a mock Facebook profile for a selected candidate," Jenni Ashley, an intermediate school humanities teacher at the school, said. "To explore the issues, students researched the two candidates, particularly their websites and their positions on the issues."

"The majority of my students are 12. I would say that all of the students knew the candidates and had some idea of who they are. However, they were quite uninformed on the issues," she added, saying the election provides an opportunity to explore these issues.

Her students are learning about campaign issues in preparation for a pre-Election Day mock debate. "We will start to explore how the candidates are trying to win the election," said Ashley. "We are going to discuss the effectiveness of yard signs and create our own signs. And we will explore TV ads, both current and from past elections."

IN FACT, TEACHERS SAY mock debates are a way to teach students about elections and current events in way that keeps them engaged.

"A few days before the election, the [middle school] history department is hosting a mock debate that will lay out all of the issues of the election," said Stratton of students at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes. "On Election Day, they will set up polling places throughout the school where students will vote on issues." While the students will not vote on actual candidates, they will receive "I voted" stickers.

Stratton added that the history department is sponsoring a "March Madness"-style contest to see which student can most accurately predict the results of the Electoral College and Senate races.

At Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., even kindergarten students are becoming politically active. "Students in kindergarten through fourth grade will be asked a "Question of the Day" relating to the election process in general and the presidential election specifically," said Leanne Gill, Norwood's director of communications. "The questions will be on display on an election table situated at the entrance to the lower school library."

Students write their answer on a piece of paper and place them in a box. The number of correct answers is posted each morning. "The goal ... is to provoke discussion and provide new information about the election process for our younger students," she said. The school is holding a

"I would say that all of the students knew the candidates and had some idea of who they are. However, they were quite uninformed on the issues."

— Jenni Ashley, the Potomac School in McLean

"Norwood School Voter Registration Week" prior to the Nov. 6 election. "As students attend library class, they will be given the opportunity to register as citizens of Norwood School," said Gill. "On Tuesday, Nov. 6, we will hold our own Norwood presidential election."

Students will also receive an "I voted" sticker after casting their ballots and teachers hope to announce the results of the Norwood election before the end of Election Day. "Throughout the weeks leading up to the election, the library will showcase a display of books about elections, presidents, and government," she added.

In addition, teachers asked Norwood seventh and eighth grade students to watch at least 20 minutes of each presidential debate. "The school is holding 'Election Days' after each debate when we discuss the debate and other issues related to the election," said Gill.

SOME STUDENTS SAY the lessons on political culture and good citizenship can extend beyond the election. "When you are running for president, it doesn't matter who you are—black or white, man or woman—it just matters that you work hard and do a good job," said Julius Camper, a fourth grade student at Norwood School.

Asma Poshni, also a fourth grade student at Norwood added: "Even though there are two people running in the election, none are bad. Both can do a good job."

Creating Path to Financial Stability

Advice for developing and strengthening sound money habits.

By Marilyn Campbell
The Connection

Michael Gallagher, a recent college graduate, just landed his first full-time job. He says that while he feels fortunate to be employed, he is nervous about the prospect of moving out of his parents' home and living on a budget.

"I have students loans, rent and I am planning to buy a car," said Gallagher, a 25-year-old Alexandria resident. "I also know that I should be saving some money, but I don't think that I am going to be making enough money to cover all of those expenses."

Money experts say creating sound financial health requires planning and discipline. One of the first steps, they say, is to understand the meaning of financial stability.

"Healthy finances include spending less than you make, establishing a savings habit—both in retirement accounts and outside of retirement, and using debt wisely," said Kristan Anderson, director of retirement plan services at West Financial Services in McLean.

Annandale resident and McLean-based senior financial adviser Susan E. Hamilton adds that obtaining financial well-being includes "having a healthy cash reserves fund for unexpected emergencies and opportunities, making sure that you have adequate insurance coverage, saving and investing money on a regular basis and carefully watching/limiting your overall debt level."

Steve Pilloff, Ph.D., assistant professor in the School of Management at George Mason University said, "Financial health is not just saying 'ok this month I had enough money to pay my bills,' its having a plan that lets me have enough to not only pay my bills but also save for retirement, buy a house or send

my kids to college."

SO HOW DOES ONE achieve financial health? The first step is deciding how income will be allocated. "The...most important piece of advice I have is create a budget and stick with it. [This is] easier said than done, of course," said Catherine England, Ph.D. associate dean of the School of Business Administration at Marymount University in Arlington.

Living below your means is another key, say experts. "That's how you will be able to save and get ahead," said Hamilton. "Be careful of adjusting your lifestyle upward every time you get a raise or come into additional money."

Pay down debt. "If someone has a significant amount of debt, they should make paying off balances with higher interest rates a priority," said Anderson.

Not all debt is bad, however. They key, say experts, is to make



Experts say the convenience of using ATM or debit cards can make financial discipline difficult.

sure one's debt load is manageable. "Most of us can't buy a house or a car with cash," said England. "Loan repayments [such as] mortgage or car payments and credit card payments that bring your credit card debt to zero as quickly as possible should be part of the budget."

When borrowing, make sure the repayment plan is realistic. "Just because a financial institution might be willing to qualify you for a higher loan amount, doesn't necessarily mean that you can comfortably afford it," said Hamilton. "Make sure that you own your



Professor Catherine England, associate dean of the School of Business Administration at Marymount University in Arlington, says the best plan for sound financial health is creating a budget and sticking to it.



McLean-based financial adviser Kristan Anderson says maintaining healthy finances includes spending less than you make, developing a savings habit and using debt wisely.

In fact, says Pilloff, saving should be a budgetary priority. "People should have a mindset that they're going to spend whatever is left after saving," he said. "They're not going to save whatever is left after spending."

Plan for the unexpected. "Everyone should establish an emergency fund of four to six months of expenses. This emergency fund should not be used for general expenses, but reserved for true emergencies like the loss of a job or a medical emergency," said Anderson.



Annandale resident and McLean-based senior financial adviser Susan E. Hamilton says wise financial planning includes having money for unexpected emergencies and opportunities.

Try the cash option. "In the old days, we'd often advise that you force yourself to adhere to a budget by carrying only so much cash each week, say for lunches or coffee breaks," said England. "If you knew that cash had to last for the week, it was easy to keep up with what you were spending. The ease with which we can whip out a debit or credit card makes it more difficult for us to maintain that financial discipline and stick to a budget."

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Private Schools

Considering private school? Local independent school officials offer advice on what to do and how to select the right school for your child after you've identified several choices.

"Now that you know where you are applying, be on time and follow the admissions calendar." Call the admissions director to introduce yourself, ask questions and let the director

Applying to Private Schools: Getting to Know the Schools

know who you are. "Putting a face, or at least a voice, with an application file can go a long way."

— **Rich Moss**, director of admissions, The Heights School, Potomac, Md.

them, you can still visit and tour the programs, but you will sometimes have missed the one opportunity to also meet faculty and talk with a variety of students and volunteers. Remember, your child spends the majority of her or his waking hours at school. You should want to get to know as much as you can about the schools you are interested in, this is the time to do that."

— **Pat Harden**, director of admis-

sions and financial aid, Connelly School of the Holy Child, Potomac, Md.

"Each school has its own mission and community. It's important to experience the school to get an accurate picture. Can you envision your child and family there?"

— **Diane Dunning**, director of admission and financial aid, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School, Alexandria.

"Track your application progress. Online systems are great and usually very efficient, but if you've not heard back from a school after you've applied, call to check on your status and to ensure that your application is complete and no further steps are needed."

— **Tim Simpson**, director of admission, Bullis School, Potomac, Md.

— Marilyn Campbell



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

MCC Governing Board
**Milestone I
Meeting on Renovations**
Tuesday, Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m.

Hobey Ford Golden Rod Puppets present
"Migration"
Saturday, Oct. 27, 2 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



**Sunday Soiree Dance
"Happy Halloween"**
Sunday, Oct. 28, 3-5 p.m.
\$5 at the door

**CHILDREN'S
Flea Market**

Saturday, Nov. 3
11 a.m.-1 p.m.
Free Admission



Insider Knowledge Series
**Jazz Masters
with John Eaton**
**"The Wit & Wisdom
of Cole Porter"**
Saturday, Nov. 3, 1 p.m.
Free Admission

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703-790-0123, TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

Entertainment

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

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 17

John Jorgenson. 7:30 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. "The U.S. Ambassador of Gypsy Jazz" and his quintet bring world class music to town. \$20. www.jamminjava.com.

Vienna Photographic Society's Photo Competition. 7:30-9:30 p.m., Thoreau Middle School, 2505 Cedar Lane, Vienna. Northern Virginia Photographic Society Photographer of the Year Sandi Croan will judge the VPS competition's three categories: digital, print and "Cemeteries" category photos. 703-451-7298 or www.vps-va.org.

The Greencards. 8 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Grammy-nominated foursome brings worldly influence to the country-bluegrass genre from their latest album *The Brick Album*. \$20. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

BoosterThon Fun Run. 9-11 a.m., at the GFES Baseball Field, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls. Run to fund a new track at the school while promoting lessons of leadership, fitness and character for the children who run. www.boosterthon.com or www.gfespta.com.

Susan Werner. 8 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The singer/songwriter brings introspective blues and folk from her latest album *Kicking the Beehive*. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 19

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Battlefield Band. 8 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The annual gig with Scottish folk music brings ballads, covers and compositions of their own. \$24. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Great Falls. A free, self-guided driving tour to meet 49 artists in their home studios or group venues with a concurrent tour to visit a home renovated by Sun Design; art purchasing info, map, artists details, all online. www.SunDesignInc.com and www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., at Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive, McLean. Handcrafted jewelry, silk floral arrangements, hand-carved birds, baked goods and loads of crafts; lunch between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. with brats, sauerkraut and the like. www.charleswesleyumc.org.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies, hearty breads, entertainers, candle-dipping, mulled wine, holiday shopping, and tradesmen and the militia make it a big celebration of fall. \$6, adults; \$3, seniors and



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www.GreatFallsStudios.com

Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour

From 10 a.m.-5 p.m. in Great Falls this weekend, Oct. 20-21, you'll get the chance to meet nearly every kind of artist—and get ideas for remodeling your home. The free, self-guided driving tour to meet 49 artists in their home studios or group venues also presents a concurrent tour to visit a home renovated by Sun Design. Find potters, painters, sculptors, photographers and digital artists, jewelry makers, weavers, printmakers, wood carvers, quilters, layered-paper artists all in their creative spaces and—an elegant home presenting solutions to remodeling challenges; art purchasing info, map, artists details, all online. www.SunDesignInc.com and www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

children ages 3-12. 703-442-7557 or www.1771.org.

Wounded Warriors Lobster Boil & Barnyard Festival. 2-7 p.m., American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, Vienna. Project Enduring Pride provides New England lobster, caribbean music, bar-b-cue chicken. GM Silverado Warrior trucks and live music from the Charlie Groover Band. \$25; Wounded Warriors dine free. slddgn@gmail.com.

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Amanda McBroom. 7:30 p.m., at The Barn at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Broadway songstress, famous for her Golden Globe-winning song "The Rose," brings her songs to Vienna. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

McLean Orchestra: Phantoms and Fantasies. 8 p.m., at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. A night of Halloween haunts, with Mussorgsky, Debussy and Hector Berlioz's *Symphonie Fantastique*; post-concert cake and champagne

reception. www.mclean-orchestra.org.

The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance. 8:30-11 p.m. (lesson starts at 7:30 p.m.) at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. Learn two step, waltz, line, swing, cha cha and specialty dances then dance the night away to the DJ's music; couples and singles invited. \$10, members; \$12, non-members; \$5, children under 18 (with adult). 703-860-4941 or www.nvcwda.org.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Ninth Annual Great Falls Studios Art Tour. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Great Falls. A free, self-guided driving tour to meet 49 artists in their home studios or group venues with a concurrent tour to visit a home renovated by Sun Design; art purchasing info, map, artists details, all online. www.SunDesignInc.com and www.GreatFallsStudios.com.

Claude Moore Colonial Farm 1771 Market Fair. 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m., at Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Crisp local apples, warm savory meat pies, hearty breads, entertainers, candle-dipping, mulled wine, holiday shopping, and tradesmen and the militia make it a big celebration of

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

From Page 12

fall. \$6, adults; \$3, seniors and children ages 3-12. 703-442-7557 or www.1771.org.

Great Falls Tree Walk. 1 p.m., at River Bend Park, Great Falls. Local and County officials including Supervisor John Foust and Senator Barbara Favola walk the new one mile Tree Walk along the Potomac River, beginning and ending at the visitor's center.

You Can't Take it with You. 2 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

Music from Oberlin at Oakton. 7:30 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The Oberlin College Conservatory of Music brings an 12th season of concerts to the church; the program includes Fugue Gottschalk Le banjo; fantasia grotesque, Hummel Concerto in E-flat Major and Neruda Trumpet Concerto in E-flat Major, among others. 703-842-3156.

MONDAY/OCT. 22

The Apiarists' Tale. 1 p.m., at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. The Ayr Hill Garden Club hosts an apiarist who tells how he and his wife decided to start beekeeping, from classes on raising bees to building top bar hives. RSVP at

latripp24@gmail.com.
Coffee Cupping Event: Penny University, Coffee of Three Continents. 7-8:30 p.m., at Caffe Amouri, 107 Church Street NE, Vienna. Grind, steep, slurp, spit, sit back and describe the flavors; this coffee-tasting class pushes you to ID the nuts, body and myriad flavor notes. Register in the shop or at caffeamouri@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/OCT. 23

Food Day: Feeding Academic Success. 6 p.m., at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Community leaders, teachers, parents and students team up with Real Food for Kids for a panel discussion, keynote speaker and a high school salad bar team challenge—judges will present awards for the freshest, most appealing and nutritious salad bars meeting USDA National School Lunch Program guidelines. RSVP. FoodDay2012@realfoodforkids.org.

The George C. Marshall Orchestras. 7 p.m., at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church, 8601 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. The choir and orchestra perform. www.fcps.edu/marshallhs/.

Langley Choral Department Fall Concert. 7:30 p.m., in the Langley High Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The award-winning choral department presents their annual fall concert. 703-790-9573.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 24

Vienna Halloween Parade. 7 p.m., at Maple Avenue and Branch Road, Vienna. Big name entertainment, a crowd of tens of thousands and parading costumed children; gather

with children at 6:30 p.m. at the Virginia Commerce Bank to walk. www.viennahalloweenparade.org.

THURSDAY/OCT. 25

You Can't Take it with You. 7:30 p.m., at the James Lee Community Center Theater, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. The Providence Players present the Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy classic about grandpa and his eccentric family as they clash with the stuffy Kirbys. \$18, adults; \$15, students and seniors. 703-425-6782 or www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Jacqueline Saunders is the featured artist. 703-790-0123.

The Bradley Farm Haunted House. 6-10 p.m., at 13159 New Parkland Drive, Herndon. Exhibits and well-hidden scares within "The Evil Around Us,"-themed house, deeply haunted with local spook and legend. \$5. www.bfhauntedhouse.com.

What I Did Last Summer. 8 p.m., at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The WWII coming-of-age story set in Lake Erie about a rebellious 14-year-old who works as a handyman for a bohemian teacher and develops radical ideas leading to a clash between Charlie's conservative mother and the former member of the upper crust; ages 15-plus. MCP offers a \$200 prize and publication for the winning essay on the subject of the play. \$16; \$14 for seniors, students and MCC members. www.mcleanplayers.org.



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By A. R. Gurney

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Santa Claus

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Washington Redskins Marching Band

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No Registration Required.

Meet at 6:30pm in the parking lot of Virginia Commerce Bank (374 Maple Ave., East)

The Vienna Halloween Parade is a not-for-profit community partnership.

For more information, visit www.ViennaHalloweenParade.org

News

Vienna Resident Completes New Zealand Expedition

Lara Sagatov, 20, of Vienna recently completed a 77-day expedition in New Zealand with the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS).

The first section of the Semester in New Zealand was a backpacking section exploring New Zealand's high country. Students developed backcountry camping and traveling skills in New Zealand's temperate rainforest/alpine environment. They learned campsite selection, cooking and baking with stoves and fires, Leave No Trace techniques and traveling techniques. Students then built on these basics with classes on map reading, compass use, route finding, outdoor hygiene and sanitation methods, expedition behavior and outdoor leadership. Finally, they covered first aid skills, emergency procedures, location-specific hazard evaluation, conflict resolution techniques, communication styles, group evaluation techniques, local flora and fauna, natural phenomena and environmental issues.



The third section of the course was sea kayaking through the Marlborough Sounds.

Photos contributed



Lara Sagatov of Vienna climbed high on rocky ridges of shingle and boulders.

THE MOUNTAINS start at 1,000-2,000 feet and rise to 6,000 feet in elevation. There was significant elevation gain and loss, sometimes in the same day over 3,000 feet. Their route followed a series of ridges and valleys along the alpine backbone of the South Island. Lara and her course climbed high on rocky ridges of shingle and boulders. They also traveled through snow, grasslands, thick forest and along rivers. Some of the travel was on marked tracks in the valley bottoms, while some of their routes were exploratory that no other NOLS course had done before. These areas are also home to a variety of introduced mammals such as European red deer, Austrian chamois, and Australian brush-tailed possum. There are also many native birds like tuis, bellbirds and mountain parrots or Kea.

The second section of the semester was the cultural section. Students visited a local marae (meeting house) for a one-day cultural section with the Ngati Kurt people, a community of Maori. Maori are the original inhabitants of New Zealand. The course learned about the traditions, art and mythology of a very warlike people with a deep and sacred connection to the land. The cultural section is an educational experience that enriches the student's understand-

ing of New Zealand's cultural and natural history.

The third section of the course was sea kayaking through the Marlborough Sounds. Marlborough Sounds is a partially submerged mountain range at the northern end of the South Island. The section began with introduction to the sea kayak and basic maneuvering, with additional classes on paddling techniques including bracing and Eskimo rolling. Students also learned navigation, tides and currents, marine weather and communications and other aspects of kayak seamanship. The students traveled most days on fairly protected waters; however the area is well known for strong winds and tidal currents that influenced the overall travel plan.

THE LAST SECTION was the sailing section Lara and fellow students sailed in the outer Marlborough Sounds/Cook Strait on two 30-45 foot keelboats. A comprehensive yacht coastal cruising curriculum was covered, which included nautical terminology, sail theory, boat handling under power and sail, docking and anchoring theory and practice, tides, currents and weather, rigging, knots, charts and coastal navigation, rules of the road, aids to navigation and crew over board drills.

Lara graduated from her NOLS course prepared to lead an expedition of her own. The course equipped students with the outdoor skills to safely and responsibly travel in the backcountry, coupled with the leadership skills to do so with others.

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"Hey Beez; Beez, It's Me"



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

It was my father all right – in a dream. Standing five feet away, approximately, in a well-lit, local convenience store with which I am extremely familiar. This was no case of mistaken identity. Besides, he was wearing those blue, terrycloth shorts of his that my mother always hated. So yes, I called out to him, surprised as I was to see him, locally as it were.

It's been nearly six years since my father died. But this was the first time (of the half-dozen or so dreams I've had in which my father was present) where he did not respond to me, either verbally or physically (we've actually touched in a couple of dreams). Mostly, we've exchanged pleasantries, looks, awareness and/or acknowledgment of one another. This dream, however, offered no such comfort. It was him. It was me. But it wasn't us.

Disconcerting, unsettling, disappointing; depressing if you want to know the truth. I woke up thinking that whatever connection we had maintained since the his death in early December, 2006 had been severed somehow. Not that we spoke regularly since his passing, or that I ever had a sense of his spiritual hand guiding me, but I did feel he was sort of aware of who I was/what I was doing. Oh sure, I visit his grave site and update him – and my mother of course, on what's happening in my life, but never had I heard back, so to speak, except in the occasional dream where although nothing of substance was ever discussed or any references/inquiries made acknowledging my graveside utterances, I always felt looked after, you know what I mean?

But now, since this last dream, maybe I don't feel so "looked after." And so what? So who knows? Maybe six years is the median length of time after a loved one dies when the spiritual connection fades? Maybe six years is a world record for such relationships and maybe the next dream which includes my father will be different and my father will be cracking some of the same Henny Youngman jokes back to me that I regularly – and repeatedly, said to him after his second stroke left him semi unresponsive? He could never remember the jokes or remember hearing them, so every visit (every other day; my brother and I alternated days), I would start our visit by saying: "Hey Beez, I just came back from a pleasure trip. I took my mother-in-law to the airport." Smile, laughter. "Hey Beez, do you know I've been in love with the same woman for 30 years? If my wife finds out, she'll kill me." Bigger smile. More laughter. "Hey Beez, I just came back from the doctor; he gave me six months to live. I told him I couldn't pay his bill. He gave me another six months." "Yeah, I know that one," he'd mumble. And on and on I'd go for as long as he laughed.

We had multiple connections: sports, humor, both salesmen, words (he loved crossword puzzles); and we all got along and enjoyed spending time together. However, in this last dream, although we were together, it felt like we were apart. A part of me has accepted it and moved on; and a part of me, as reflected in this column, hasn't.

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

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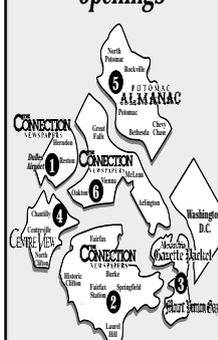
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The County Line

What Would \$155 Million Bond Package Buy?

New fire stations, library renovations, park improvements and more on Nov. 6 ballot.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

On a recent Saturday afternoon, Monique Bell of Oakton helped her 5-year-old daughter McKenzie sort through a dozen Halloween craft books at the Reston Regional Library.

The library, one of the busiest branches in Fairfax County, has a collection of more than 215,000 volumes and circulates more than a million books a year.

For children, there is a separate wing with everything from board books for infants to chapter books for school-age readers; special events such as Spiderella's Spooktacular Tales, and a full-service children's information desk.

"We're new to the area," Bell said, "but this has already become one of our favorite places. It's where a lot of moms spend time. We love all the story-time events."

Built in 1985, the 30,000-square-foot library is located north of the Reston Town Center and near the planned Reston Parkway Metro station. Because that area may be redeveloped into a more urban, mixed-use center, the library may be relocated.

The \$10 million project, which includes site studies, design and construction of a new library, is just part of Fairfax County's \$155 million bond package on the ballot Nov. 6. Specifically, the ballot will include four bond referendums for parks, public safety facilities and storm water projects.

"I didn't know about the project, but I can't imagine not supporting library projects," Bell said. "They're important for our children, like good schools, and one of the reasons we moved here."

IF MOST VOTERS think like Bell, their approval of the bond package would allow the County to borrow \$25 million to redesign the Reston library, as well as renovate three other libraries: Pohick Regional, Tysons-Pimmit Regional and John Marshall Community libraries.

The public safety bond would raise \$55 million, including \$35 million to replace three fire stations—Baileys Crossroads, Jefferson and Herndon—and \$20 million to renovate 22 courtrooms in the Jennings Judicial Center.

The \$75 million park bond for local and regional parks, according to County officials, would generate \$63 million toward a 10-year, \$435 million capital improvement plan and \$12 million to renew a four-year plan to contribute capital funds to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority. Another \$30 million is earmarked for a levee and other storm-water improvements in the Huntington community.

"The projects the bond referenda will pay for are community priorities that essentially enhance our quality of life," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large). She said Fairfax County's triple-A credit rating—one of only 39 counties in the country to earn the rating - allows

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Monday, Oct. 29 at 10 a.m. on the Parks bond exclusively at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/AskFairfax/ActiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=45

the County to borrow money at a low cost to pay for public facilities and infrastructure. She said the County has a fiscally-conservative policy of rapid debt retirement and strong debt management. Since 1978, the County has saved more than \$543.28 million on bond and refunding sales as a result of the triple-A ratings. Bulova said none of the bonds are expected to raise tax rates for residents.

"The County has benefited from the low cost of construction to make these kinds of improvement to our parks, libraries and public safety facilities. It's the silver lining, so to speak, in the economic downturn," she said.

In Fairfax County, bonds typically have a high rate of passage and, for the most part, have bipartisan support from the Board of Supervisors.

"All residents benefit from parks, libraries and, of course, the courthouse renovations. Efficient handling of court cases come from better facilities. Park and library funds are spent in an order established based on needs. Over time that covers the whole County," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock).

However, a partisan divide separated supervisors on the \$30 million storm water bond referendum, which would provide flood-prevention measures such as a new levee for residents in Mount Vernon's flood-prone Huntington community.

In April, Huntington residents appeared before the board, asking the County to support measures that would protect their community from continued flooding along Cameron Run. On Sept. 8, 2011, during Tropical Storm Lee, Cameron Run peaked at 15 feet and flooded homes, causing the evacuation of more than 200 residents.

"We have 1,341 signatures from people who support our request. By our count, 1,193 of them are Fairfax County residents," said Huntington Community Association (HCA) secretary David Coon, who spoke about the community's "Stop the Floods" campaign at the April 12 board meeting.

During the May 22 board meeting, Supervisor Gerry Hyland (D-Mount Vernon) urged the board to include a \$30 million bond referendum for flood-prevention measures in Huntington, arguing that the county should fulfill a 40-year-old promise to protect the neighborhood.

THE BOARD'S THREE Republican supervisors—John C. Cook (Braddock), Michael R. Frey (Sully) and Patrick S. Herrity (Springfield)—opposed the extra bond referendum for flooding.

"I voted against the storm water bond because it only helps about 200 households in Huntington," Cook said. "It will significantly increase the value of those homes, which is good for them, but at others' expense." Cook said supervisors should have explored the option of a private developer who had expressed an interest in buying the homes and building an apartment building, which would meet current FEMA floodplain regulations.

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When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Ashburn | |
| 23432 Twin Falls Terr..... | Call Agent.....Sat 1-3.....Dorian Ritchie...Samson Props...571-299-9793 |
| Burke | |
| 6100 Eagle Landing Rd..... | \$649,900.. Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812 |
| 9506 Yawl Ct..... | \$559,950.. Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808 |
| Centreville | |
| 6071B Wicker Ln..... | \$394,900 Sun 12-3.....John Queeney.....Century 21...703-868-0061 |
| Chantilly | |
| 42344 Astors Beachwood.. | \$838,000.. Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert...703-447-1662 |
| Clifton | |
| 8215 Cub Den Ct..... | \$699,999.. Sun 12-3.....Lisa Clayborne...Long & Foster..703-675-5461 |
| Fairfax Station | |
| 10817 Windermere Ln.... | \$1,398,000.. Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812 |
| 6901 Wolf Run Shoals Rd.. | \$899,900.. Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812 |
| 7507 South Reach Dr..... | \$869,950.. Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert...703-862-8808 |
| Falls Church | |
| 7937 Freehollow Dr..... | \$582,000.. Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX...703-475-3986 |
| Herndon | |
| 1206 Cameo Ct..... | \$739,900.. Sun 1-4.....Pat Gallagher...Long & Foster..571-241-6324 |
| Leesburg | |
| 451 Heartleaf Terr SE..... | \$375,000.. Sun 1-4.....Paul Gunning...Samson Props..703-606-6068 |
| Manassas | |
| 7078 Token Valley Rd..... | \$389,000.. Sun 1-4.....Danny Samson...Samson Props..703-378-8886 |
| McLean | |
| 1825 Westmoreland St..... | \$639,000.....Sat 1-4.....Kevin Canto...Keller Williams..703-338-9416 |
| Oak Hill | |
| 2905 Robin Glen Ct..... | \$564,900.. Sun 1-4.....Debbie Tencza...Long & Foster..703-597-4667 |
| Reston | |
| 1876 Post Oak Trl..... | \$625,000.. Sun 1-4.....Dale Repshas...Long & Foster..703-408-2626 |
| Sterling | |
| 701 Dickenson Ct..... | \$379,900.. Sun 1-4.....Julie Hertel.....Century 21...571-243-5952 |
| Stone Ridge | |
| 24783 Prairie Grass..... | \$569,900.. Sun 1-4.....Chris Pezzana.....Weichert...703-447-1662 |
| Vienna | |
| 252 Glen Ave SW..... | \$1,285,000.. Sun 1-3.....Vicky Beach-Chrisner..Fieldstone..703-669-3142 |
| 522 Kingsley Rd SW..... | \$1,125,000.. Sun 1-4.....Casey Samson...Samson Props..703-508-2535 |
| 1402 Patrick Circ SW..... | \$585,000.. Sun 1-4.....Billy Thompson...Samson Props..703-409-0340 |
| Woodbridge | |
| 15120 Snapper Ct..... | \$494,000.. Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX...703-503-4365 |
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Marshall Field Hockey Falls to Fairfax

Statesmen lose emotional Senior Night contest.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

Katie Clark knelt on the sideline and emptied her emotions following the Marshall field hockey team's regular season finale on Oct. 11. After a teammate consoled Clark, head coach Christina Carroll crouched by the senior midfielder and placed a hand on her head.

Marshall had just lost to Fairfax. It was Senior Night for the Statesmen, who failed in their attempt to beat the Rebels and earn the top seed in the Liberty District tournament, which comes with a first-round bye and automatic regional berth. Adding to Clark's disappointment was the experience of playing against Fairfax captains Shannon Cosgrove and Sam Zelenack, who are club teammates with Clark and fellow

Marshall captain Madeleine Lewsen.

"It's really hard," Clark said after the game. "I have a lot of friends on the Fairfax team. I play club with them and it's hard to play against them."

"It's really hard. I have a lot of friends on the Fairfax team. I play club with them and it's hard to play against them."

— Marshall senior captain Katie Clark

ALONG WITH PLAYER RELATIONSHIPS, Carroll and Fairfax head coach Amber Beaudoin are friends. Neither side was overly thrilled with having to complete against the other. Beaudoin said coaching against Carroll can be "awkward" at times. Cosgrove said playing against her club teammates is "tough because all four of us are really competitive." In the end, it was the Rebels that made the most of an

uncomfortable situation, beating the Statesmen 2-0 at Marshall High School.

Cosgrove scored on an assist from Zelenack with 8:41 remaining in the first half and junior Sara Allen added an insurance goal late in the second half as Fairfax improved to 15-1 and completed an undefeated run through the Liberty District. The Rebels' last loss to Marshall came in 2010.

Cosgrove's goal was her team-leading 15th of the season and proved to be the game-winner.

"I think it completely affected the game," Cosgrove said. "I think we started dominating after that, especially at the end of the second half. We were moving the ball really well and that set the whole tone for the game."

Fairfax started the season 11-0 before suffering its only regular season defeat—a 3-0 loss to Westfield on Sept. 24. Cosgrove said the loss caused the Rebels to address their sub-par practice habits. Beaudoin said it gave younger players a taste of adversity.

"We have a lot of sophomores on our team and they just don't understand that things aren't



Photos by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Marshall senior captain Katie Clark led the Statesmen with 14 goals in the regular season.



Marshall senior Alexandra Sandlin, right, defends against Fairfax senior captain Shannon Cosgrove on Oct. 11.

always going to be awesome," the coach said. "When you lose like that...it makes them have to work."

The Rebels responded with four straight wins, outscoring opponents 8-0. During the regular season, Fairfax outscored its opposition 45-4.

MARSHALL FINISHED the regular season with a 12-4 record and earned the No. 2 seed in the Liberty tournament with a 4-2 district mark.

Lewsen, who finished the regular season with 10 goals, said Marshall will use the loss to Fairfax as motivation in the postseason.

"The drive is all there and the want to win is all there," she said, "especially now that we have this loss on Senior Night."

Clark led Marshall with 14 regular season goals.

Marshall hosted No. 7 South Lakes in the first round of the district tournament on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. Fairfax will play in the semifinals.

"It's so emotional for so many different reasons—but for Senior Night, specifically," Carroll said after Marshall's loss to Fairfax. "We tell [the players] that we're still in it, we still have a season... We need to pick up the pieces and go. So what? We didn't get the automatic [berth] into regionals and we have to work for it. It's OK. We can do ..."

"I was just saying [to Beaudoin] that we're in the same situation every year playing for first place. One of these times, I'd just like to beat her."

Langley Football Falls to Yorktown

The Langley football team lost to Yorktown, 24-14, on Oct. 12. It was the Saxons' third consecutive loss and fourth in the last five games.

Langley (3-4) will close the regular season with Liberty District contests against South Lakes (home, Oct. 19), Fairfax (away, Oct. 26) and McLean (home, Nov. 2). The Saxons are 2-2 in the district, with wins against Thomas Jefferson and Marshall, and losses against Madison and Stone Bridge.



Photo by Joe Gattley

Langley's Philip Mun runs against the Yorktown defense on Oct. 12.

Madison Football Beats South Lakes

The Madison Warhawks beat the South Lakes Seahawks by a score of 38-35 in a fiercely contested Liberty District game on Oct. 12 at Seahawk Stadium.

Mitchell Goddard, filling in at quarterback for the injured Dan Powers, led the Warhawks on a thrilling 67-yard touchdown drive in the final two minutes for the winning points. The win raised Madison's overall record to 6-1 and 4-0 in the District. South Lakes fell to 2-5, including 0-4 in the district.

Jacob Hall provided much of the offense for the Warhawks, rushing for 168 yards and three touchdowns, catching two passes for 19 yards, and returning three kicks for 76 yards. Goddard played well at quarterback for the Warhawks, completing 13 of 21 passes for 183 yards and one touchdown. In addition, Goddard rushed for 18 yards on four carries, including a one-yard touchdown dive with 20 seconds left in the game.

Madison rushed to an early 13-0 lead behind two Hall touchdowns. On the other side of the ball, the Warhawks defense seemed in complete control. However, South Lakes came roaring back with an 88-yard touchdown pass and a 40-yard touchdown run to take a 14-13 lead. Nick Dorca converted a 31-yard field goal to give Madison a 16-14 halftime lead.

The Seahawks put together two long touchdown drives in the third quarter and started to look unstoppable on offense. Madison responded with a 20-yard touchdown pass from Goddard to Tom House. House,

who finished the game with five catches for 69 yards, made a leaping grab deep in the right corner of the end zone. After three quarters, the Seahawks led, 28-23.

Madison regained the lead in the fourth quarter on Hall's third rushing touchdown of the game, a 25-yard run. The two-point conversion game Madison the lead at 31-28.

Once again, South Lakes responded with a 12-play drive to retake the lead at 35-31 with two minutes remaining in the game. That set the scene for Goddard, who calmly led the Warhawk offense down the field on nine plays to set up his winning one-yard dive with seconds left in the game. Jordan Durham intercepted the final Seahawks pass to seal the victory for Madison.

The Warhawks defense had three interceptions, three sacks and seven tackles for losses. Madison's next game is against Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 19 at Madison.



Photo by Craig Sterbutzel/The Connection

Courteney West and the Langley girls' cross country team finished in 22nd place at the 20th Annual Glory Days Invitational on Oct. 13 at Bull Run Regional Park.

Faith Notes

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

Rev. Lari R. Grubbs speaks at the **Antioch Christian Church**, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna, from 9:30-11 a.m. A luncheon in the church follows the 11 a.m. worship service; child care is provided and the public is invited. 703-938-6753 or www.antiochdoc.org.

The Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road NE, Vienna, holds a 5 p.m. contemplative worship service in the style of the Taizé on Sunday, Oct. 28; the service combines chant, scripture with time spent in silence and a setting of greenery, candles and icons. 703-938-6521 or www.holycomforter.com.

The Holly Hill Garden Club will meet on Wednesday, Oct. 17, at 9:45 a.m. at the **Trinity United Methodist Church**, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. Mark Ludlow, owner of For the Wild Birds, will give a lecture and presentation entitled Winter Backyard Birds and Getting Ready for Winter. 703-790-0682.

The Shepherd's Center of McLean and Falls Church sponsors a concert at McLean Baptist Church, 1367 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, called the **Lunch n' Life** performance and luncheon on Wednesday, Oct. 17 at noon, featuring the Harmony Heritage Singers. The men's chorus sings popular tunes from the "good old days," in barbershop style. \$10. Prepay by Oct. 11, 703-506-2199 or rekkockcalb@hotmail.com.

Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft

Fair. Charles Wesley United Methodist Church, 6817 Dean Drive McLean is hosting Oktoberfest Bazaar and Craft Fair on Saturday, Oct. 20, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Handcrafted Jewelry, Silk Floral Arrangements, Hand Carved Birds, Baked Goods, and Loads of Crafts. Lunch will be served between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. including: Bratwurst, Sauerkraut, German Potato Salad, Hot Dogs, Soft Pretzels, Chips, Drinks, and Desserts. Sponsored by the United Methodist Women of Charles Wesley United Methodist Church <http://www.charleswesleyumc.org>

St. John's Episcopal Church in McLean welcomes everyone to an All Saints' Sunday service of Holy Eucharist featuring the Requiem by André Campra on Nov. 4 at 5:30 p.m. Requiem will be sung by the St. John's Choir and a vocal solo quartet. Violins, viola, and organ will provide the accompaniment. St. John's Episcopal Church is located one mile east of Beltway Exit 44, at 6715 Georgetown Pike in McLean. For more information, call the Church Office at 703-356-4902 or visit www.stjohnsmclean.org.

A Walk through Ancient Bethlehem, Dec. 8-9, 2012. Walk through a replica of ancient Bethlehem during the time of Jesus Christ's birth. On Dec. 8 and 9, Parkwood Baptist Church of Annandale will present its 12th annual re-creation of Bethlehem. Tours conducted from 4 to 8 p.m. will feature costumed re-enactors including Roman soldiers and tax collectors, musical performances, and a nativity scene with live performers and animals. Activities and crafts for children and refreshments for all. No admission charge. 8726 Braddock Road, Annandale. Details available at www.parkwoodbaptist.org

www.bwalk.org or 703-978-8160.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, at the intersection with Westmoreland Street has Sunday worship with Holy Communion at 8:30 a.m., traditional style worship; 9:45 a.m., contemporary style worship; and 11 a.m., traditional style worship. Sunday School and Adult Forum is at 9:45 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool invites the community to help them celebrate their first 50 years with a birthday party for the young and young at heart on Saturday, Sept. 29 from 10-2 (rain or shine). There will moon bounces, slide, games, food and fun for all ages. In lieu of admission, there will be a Canned Food Drive for Share, Inc. of McLean to help neighbors in need, so you are encouraged to bring canned goods. Questions: call 703-356-3567. The address is 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean.

Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra. Will perform on Sunday, Oct. 28, 3 p.m., at the Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St. NE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Vienna-Oakton presents the benefit performance. www.GoodShepherdVA.com.

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton, offers a rich and unique Religious Exploration (RE) program for all children, from pre-K toddlers through high school seniors, emphasizing exploration of all religious traditions while developing a personal spiritual path. Registration for the RE program, which offers classes on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings, is now open by calling 703-281-4230.



Photo by Marsden Media

Four-year-old Henry Carlson of Reston follows Bantu, an African Spurred Tortoise, at the St. Francis Country Fair. The fair included a petting zoo hosted by the Bar C Ranch of Berryville. Other fair activities included games, hayrides, music and a regional quilt show.

Country Fair at St. Francis Episcopal Church

St. Francis Episcopal Church in Great Falls held its annual country fair on Saturday, Oct. 6.



Ben Shelton, assistant rector of St. Francis Episcopal Church, endures the dunk tank at the church's annual country fair.

Photos by Penny Bridges



Quilters from throughout the Washington region attended the quilt show at the St. Francis Country Fair.

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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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Antioch Christian Church ... 703-938-6753

Episcopal

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

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

Langley Hills Friends...703-442-8394

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Northern Virginia Christian Fellowship ... 703-242-9001
Vienna Seventh Day Adventists ... 703-938-8383

Unitarian Universalist

Congregation of Fairfax ... 703-281-4230



Photo contributed

A smiling Sean Fennelly, aka Captain Chaos, is comfortable in his boat costume. His grandfather, Bob Becker [left], came up with the idea, and longtime friend Vito Florimonte designed and constructed the unit.

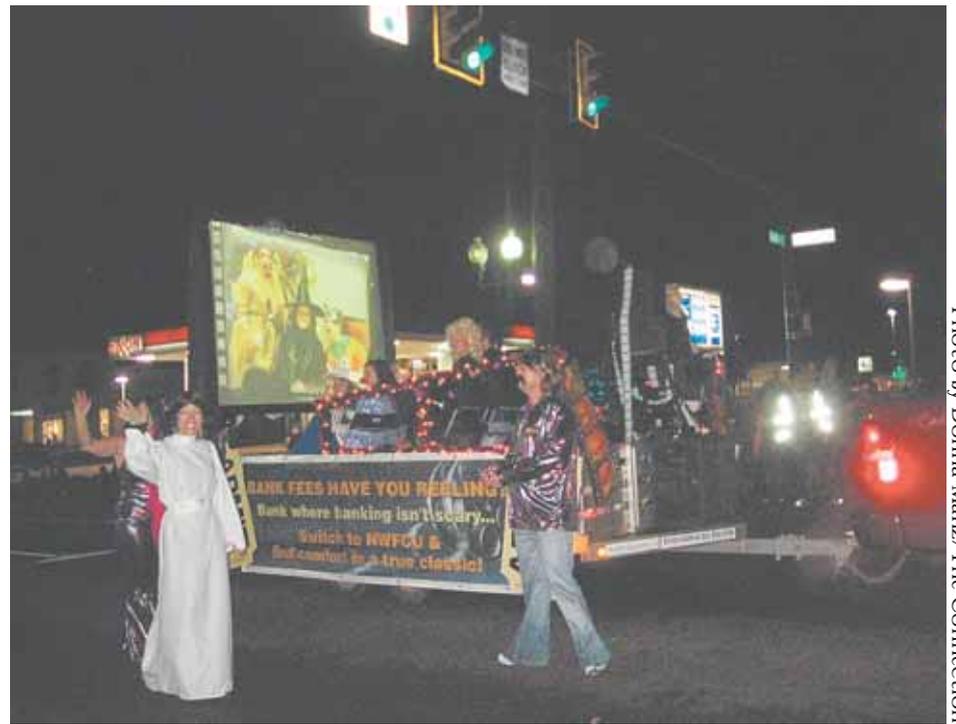


Photo by Donna Manz/The Connection

Vienna-area businesses promote themselves in style.

Captain Chaos Makes Appearance in Halloween Parade

66th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade hits town on Oct. 24.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

When the 66th annual Vienna Halloween Parade steps off at 7 p.m. on Oct. 24, a very special 12-year-old will parade down Maple Avenue for the first time in his life. Riding in a custom-designed, custom-handcrafted “boat” attached to his wheelchair, Sean Fennelly, aka Captain Chaos, will watch spectators waving to him in the event that he himself has watched from the curb every year.

Sean, a smiley, vivacious child, has Angelman Syndrome, a genetic disorder that primarily affects the nervous system.

The boat-costume was the brainchild of Sean’s grandfather, Bob Becker. The doting granddad collaborated with longtime friend Vito Florimonte, who built the Masonite enclosure in four hours.

“I asked myself, ‘what would really intrigue Sean,’” Becker said. “He loves water, and then, it occurred to me to build a boat for him to use in the parade.”

Becker and Florimonte, Vienna friends of more than 30 years, belong to the same Oakton church, St. Mark’s Catholic Church, and the same Knights of Columbus affiliation in Fairfax. They have shared in each other’s families’ lives over the many years, and, when Becker knew he needed the expertise of a craftsman, he turned to Florimonte. In early October, Becker brought his idea to Florimonte. In a week, the “boat” was designed, constructed and painted. A mini life preserver hangs on one side and on the “boat” is printed Captain Chaos.

“Vito had the construction design figured out in four or five minutes,” said Becker.

With Florimonte’s bill of materials in-hand, Becker shopped at the Home Depot at Fairfax Circle. When the staffer there heard that Becker needed a sheet of Masonite cut down for use by a disabled child, the employee did the cutting at no charge, something that touched Becker. Masonite, said Florimonte—an engineer by profession—is flexible, a material that allowed him to form the boat’s bow.

By late evening on the same day, all the needed materials were at Florimonte’s home.

“When you work with the materials for so long, you understand how they work,” said Florimonte, who has been woodworking since 1968.

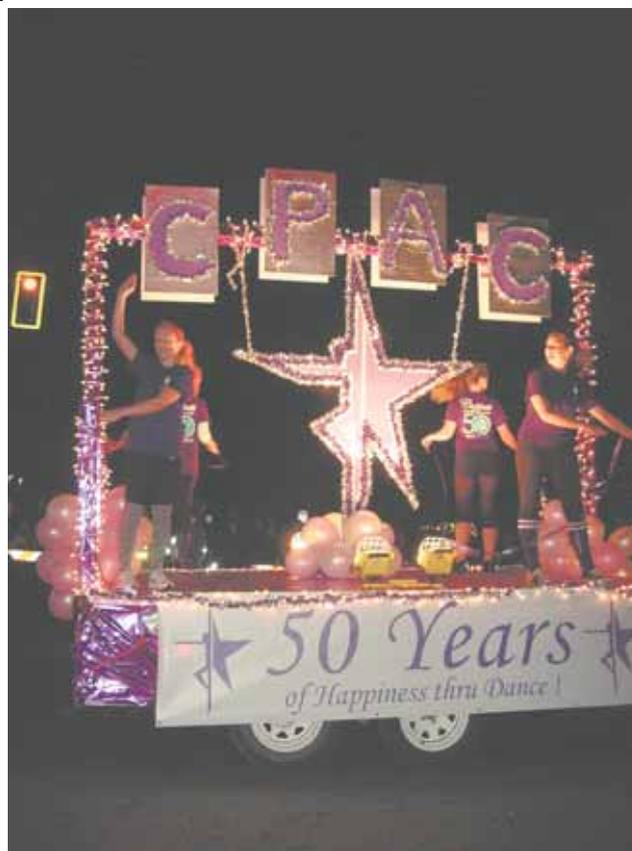
Angelman Syndrome (AS) is a severe neurological disorder characterized by profound developmental delays, problems with motor coordination, no development of functional speech and seizures. It is estimated that AS affects one in 15,000 births.

Most affected children have recurrent seizures, as Sean does, but maintain a happy demeanor. Many individuals with Angelman Syndrome are attracted to water, as is Sean.

Sean is one of the more severe cases of Angelman Syndrome, his mother Ann Marie Becker Fennelly said.

Sean is completely non-verbal. His receptive communication skills, however, are much stronger than his expressive skills, his mother said. He needs full assistance with the routines of daily life. “Despite these challenges, he is a very happy child with a contagious smile and laugh,” said Fennelly. “He has enriched our lives more than words can say.”

It has always been a challenge for Sean to participate in Halloween-related activities, such as trick-or-treating, Fennelly said.



Float dancers from Cuppett Performing Arts Center celebrated 50 years of Cuppett history in 2011.

rade, his mother said. Fennelly knows that Sean wants to be in the parade by his gestures. “When they wave to the spectators, Sean thinks they are waving to him,” Fennelly said.

The Beckers have attended the Vienna parade since Sean’s own mother was a young child. “So many people who live in Vienna know him and will be excited to see him participate,” Fennelly said.

Ann Marie Becker Fennelly graduated from Vienna schools and met her husband at St. Mark’s. She is the oldest of Kathleen and Bob Becker’s five children. The Fennellys have three children younger than Sean, the Becker’s first-born grandchild.

In early October, Sean took 20 steps independently, and his family is hopeful that he will one day walk without assistance.

On Oct. 17, Sean and his parents arrive at Tampa General Hospital where Sean will begin the first human clinical trial for AS. Just 24 children worldwide were selected for the clinical trials. Sean will be treated with minocycline over a period of several months. Researchers believe that treatment for

Angelman Syndrome is likely.

“Minocycline could potentially improve Sean’s seizure control, motor skills, memory and cognition,” said Fennelly. “This is a very exciting time in Sean’s life.”

The compound administered to a mouse model of AS, after three weeks, showed a significant decrease in motor deficits and an increase in long-term learning and memory.

“These children teach us the greatest lesson of all, which is humanity,” said Sean’s grandmother, Kathleen Becker. “I think we’ve learned a lot more from Sean than he’s learned from us.”