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Local Esthetician Recognized Nationally

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Girl Scouts Visit The State Capitol

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Local Leaders Praise Transportation Funding Bill

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PAGE 10

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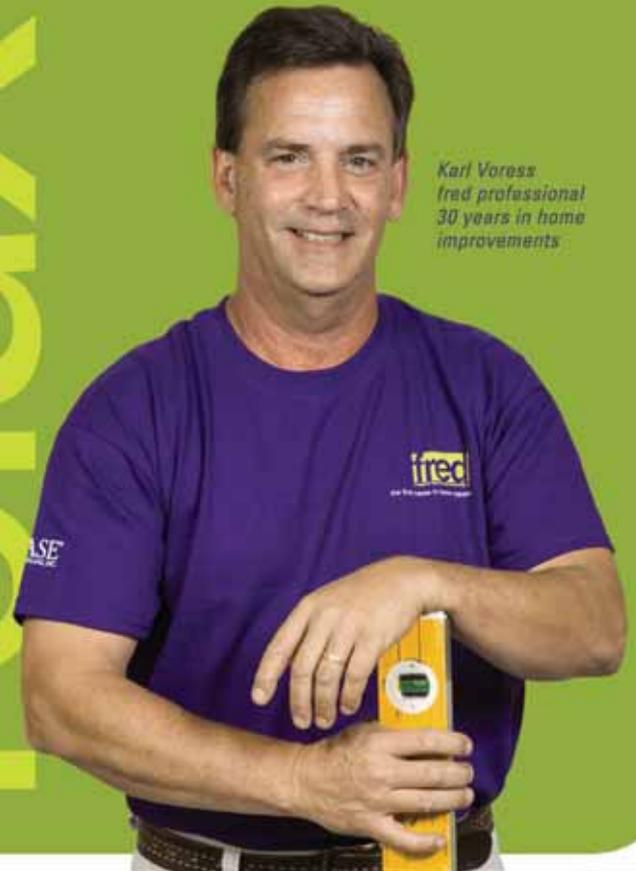
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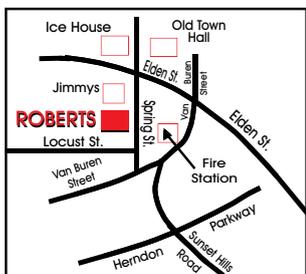


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Local Leaders Praise Transportation Funding Bill

State Senator Chap Petersen wants you to curb your enthusiasm.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

Politics makes strange bedfellows, and sometimes estranged ones as well. On Saturday, Feb. 23, the last day of the Virginia General Assembly, state legislators struck a bipartisan 11th hour deal to pass a comprehensive transportation funding plan—the first long-term plan in 27 years.

Republican Governor Robert McDonnell, who received credit for hammering out the “compromise” legislation, declared passage of the bill “a historic day in Virginia.”

“There is a ‘Virginia Way’ of cooperation and problem solving, and we saw it work again today in Richmond,” McDonnell said in a statement Saturday.

The proposal, financed largely by higher sales and car taxes, is projected to raise more than \$3.5 billion for roads and rails over five years and nearly \$900 million annually after 2018. Northern Virginia would get hundreds of millions from the state, including \$300 million committed to complete Metro’s Silver Line extension to Dulles International Airport.

Many local leaders—Republicans and Democrats alike—applauded the package as a “win” for Northern Virginia.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he was “thrilled” at the additional funding for Northern Virginia.

“Money in this bill will also help finish the Dulles Rail project, alleviate congested roads and ensure existing infrastructure is properly maintained,” Cook said. He added that he’s spoken with numerous voters in town halls and neighborhood meetings, and one of the top concerns has been the deteriorating condition of Fairfax County’s roads and increased congestion.

“With this bill, we’re one step closer to significant improvement in these areas,” he said.

SHARON BULOVA, the Democratic chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, said the bill was a “great step toward addressing the transportation challenges we face in Fairfax County and the Northern Virginia region.”

Bulova was instrumental in creating the Urban Crescent Coalition—a group of 54 mayors and county chairs of the state’s 46 most populous regions stretching from Northern Virginia to Richmond and Hampton Roads. For months, the coalition has been lobbying top commonwealth leaders to adequately fund Virginia’s “crumbling” transportation system.

Bulova said she was “especially pleased with the commitment of \$300 million for the Silver Line “which will help to keep tolls in the Dulles Toll Road affordable for Northern Virginia motorists.”

Both Cook and Bulova applauded the bipartisan efforts of Governor McDonnell, Sen. Janet Howell (D-32), Del. David Albo



Sen. Chap Petersen confers on the Senate floor with a colleague in Richmond on Monday, Feb. 18. Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) is sitting to Petersen’s right.

(R-42) and Del. Vivian Watts (D-39) for reaching agreement on a funding strategy that “moves us in the right direction,” Bulova said.

But State Senator Chap Petersen (D-34) put the brakes on the cross-party celebrating. In a series of scathing comments and posts on his blog OxRoadSouth, Petersen called the bill “the train wreck that was the final compromise on HB 2313,” and said it may be unconstitutional as well.

“If you like discriminatory taxes against Northern Virginia, then you might like this bill. I think it’s a terrible policy,” Petersen said in an email on Tuesday.

The bill provides new revenues for transportation through increased taxes and user fees that, in many cases, are higher for taxpayers in Northern Virginia than other parts of the state. For example, under the new bill, the sales tax rises from 5 to 6 percent only in Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads, and to 5.3 percent everywhere else in the state.

❖ There’s also a new 0.25 percent sales tax on homes in Northern Virginia. That means an additional transfer tax of \$1,250 on the sale of a \$500,000 home, on top of capital gains tax.

❖ Virginia’s car tax rises from 3 percent to 4.3 percent, meaning a new \$30,000 car or truck will come with a \$1,290 tax bill.

❖ The 17.5-cents-per-gallon tax on gasoline, which has remained unchanged since 1986, has been replaced by a wholesale tax on gasoline at 3.5 percent. For consumers of diesel fuel, the tax rises to 6 percent. The tax will not show up at the pump when consumers pay for gasoline, but will likely be incorporated into the price by distributors.

❖ State road funds are linked to Internet tax legislation currently pending (languishing) in Congress. For Northern Virginians,



Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) discusses an upcoming bill on the House floor of the Capitol in Richmond on Monday, Feb. 18.

the wholesale gas tax and diesel tax contain “triggers” that will cause them to rise if Congress does not authorize the state to collect sales tax on Internet purchases, which analysts say is unlikely to happen before the Jan. 1, 2015 “trigger date.” If Congress does not act on the legislation by that date, the tax will jump from 3.5 percent to 5.1 percent, increasing the gas tax to 17.85-cents-per-gallon.

❖ For Northern Virginia taxpayers, that means they are likely to be paying more in gas taxes after Jan. 1, 2015, than they are now.

❖ The local hotel tax increases 3 percent. Revenue from the Northern Virginia-specific taxes will be locally controlled, through the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority.

Petersen said that’s not enough to turn a bad bill into a better deal.

He described the final deal as “a grotesque combination of tax cuts, tax rebates, tax increases, new taxes, old taxes which are phased out (and then reappear elsewhere), regional alliances ... special projects, and exceptions to all of the above.”

He asked his Republican colleagues: “Did you have to rewrite the entire code book, so you could use the fake ‘but we’re cutting taxes too!’ line on gullible voters?”

He conceded the bill will raise millions for transit, including new support for Rail to Dulles, which is “critical” for the region.

And for many commuters in Northern Virginia, that may be enough reason to embrace a long-awaited transportation-funding package.

“This bi-partisan compromise is far from perfect, but it was supported overwhelmingly by the business community and weary commuters,” said former state delegate Margaret Vanderhye, a Democrat from the

34th district who was narrowly defeated in her 2009 reelection bid by Republican Barbara Comstock. “It contains \$300 million for Dulles Rail and a funding mechanism to allow our region to raise funds that stay here for our transportation priorities—something we tried and failed to accomplish with the 2002 referendum.”

Vanderhye said she was “outraged” that some Northern Virginia legislators would vote “no” solely based on their pledge to Americans for Tax Reform, the organization created by anti-tax crusader Grover Norquist. In the Taxpayer Protection Pledge, candidates and incumbents solemnly bind themselves to oppose any and all tax increases, and the ATR has the role of promoting and monitoring the pledge.

Since its rollout with the endorsement of President Reagan in 1986, the pledge has become de rigeur for Republicans seeking office.

Like most Democrats, Petersen staunchly opposes the ATR and its pledge. “The only pledge I will take is to my wife,” Petersen has said.

But his “no” vote on the transportation package puts him the same camp as Republican Del. Tim Hugo (R-40), who did not vote in favor of the governor’s bill “as I do not believe that it is the right vehicle to address Virginia’s transportation needs. Now is not the time to increase taxes on Virginia’s hard-working families. While I disagree with the bill’s approach, I appreciate my colleagues’ efforts to solve our transportation needs,” Hugo said.

AMERICANS FOR TAX REFORM applauded Hugo and 18 other Virginia lawmakers—including Comstock, Scott Lingamfelter (R-31), Robert G. Marshall (R-13) and David Ramadan (R-87) for “standing firm” against “a \$6.1 billion tax increase. ... These lawmakers serve as an example of what legislative leadership looks like,” the ATR said in a statement released Saturday.

Petersen said he’s unfazed by any false comparisons to those in the ATR camp, and stands by his opposition to the bill based on what he calls the bill’s “lack of vision,” the inequities to Northern Virginians and what he believes is the bill’s ultimate failure to solve the state’s transportation problems. Del. Scott Surovell and Sen. Adam Ebbins were the only other Northern Virginia Democrats to vote against the bill.

“The method for raising these funds is complicated, contradictory and will eventually create ‘two Virginias’—with differing tax rates and, ultimately, differing levels of support from Richmond,” Petersen said.

Petersen contends that any sustainable transportation funding solution should be “simple, uniform and equitable. It should stick to the historic premise that ‘the user pays’ for our highways. It should treat all taxpayers equally.”

“I’ve been told that my opposition to this plan may result in the demise of my political career. If so, I can only state, at least there’s some benefit,” Petersen quipped.

PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY EDE LINTERMAN

Vienna Girl Scout Troop #136 on the steps of Virginia's Capitol got a chance to meet Miss Virginia 2012 Rosemary Willis during their tour of the Capitol on Monday, Feb. 18.

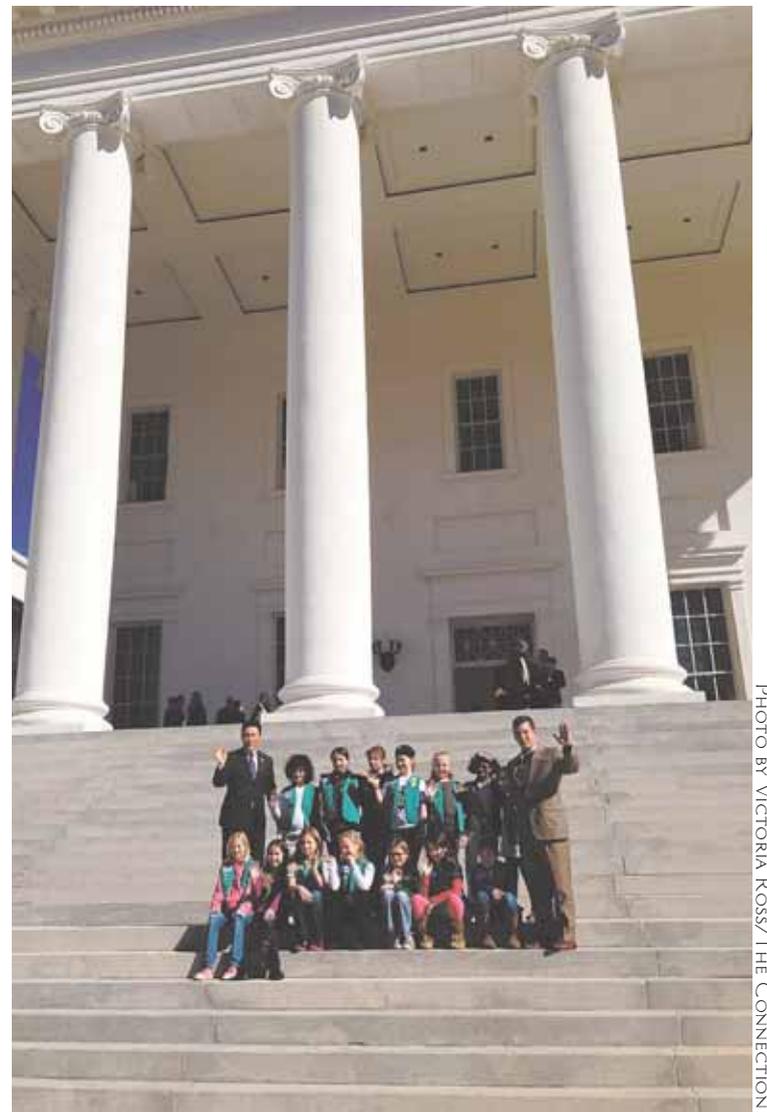


PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Del. Mark Keam (left) and Sen. Chap Petersen (far right) pose with Vienna Girl Scout Troop #136 on the steps of Virginia's historic State Capitol on Monday, Feb. 18.

Girl Scout Day at the State Capitol

Learning Virginia's rich history.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

Picking Washington's Birthday to tour the Virginia State Capitol and learn a little about Virginia history—the birthplace of eight presidents—was perfect timing for a group of Vienna Girl Scouts.

"It was cool to see the statue of George Washington, especially since it was his birthday," said Holland, 9, who attends Marshall Road Elementary School.

The fourth-grader said she thought it was "really cool" to be recognized in the House Chamber by Del. Mark Keam (D-35), whose daughter, Brenna Keam, is also a member of Girl Scout Troop #136.

Keam took the troop of fourth-graders, who attend Marshall Road Elementary School and Mosby Woods Elementary School, on the tour along with Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), pointing out statues and architectural highlights of the capitol which, since 1788, has been home to the General Assembly, the oldest legislature

continuously operating in the Western Hemisphere. The girls also learned that the building was designed by Thomas Jefferson, and is the first public building in America constructed in the Monumental Classical style. It has served as a prototype for countless capitols, courthouses, municipal buildings, and even churches and residences for more than 200 years.

"The girls really enjoyed their trip to Richmond. The tour was part of earning the government badge," said troop leader Lisa Dauernheim. "Fourth grade is the year that they learn all about Virginia history, so they had been learning about a lot of the things highlighted on our tour and they were very quick to answer questions posed by our tour guide. ... It was a good and educational way to spend a day off of school."

The girls also got a chance to meet Miss Virginia 2012, Rosemary Willis. "That was fun for them. Miss Virginia was like a princess or a rock star to these girls," said mom Ede Linterman. The girls also met Virginia Secretary of Education Laura Fornash, who gave them a brief talk about Virginia's education system. The group was accompanied on the trip by troop leaders Lisa Dauernheim, Amanda Waltrip, Rita Monner and Erin Kane.

"Fourth grade is the year that they learn all about Virginia history, so they had been learning about a lot of the things highlighted on our tour and they were very quick to answer questions posed by our tour guide."

— Troop #136 leader Lisa Dauernheim



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Del. Mark Keam (D-35) shows Vienna Girl Scout Troop #136 around the Virginia State Capitol Grounds on Monday, Feb. 18.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) shows Vienna Girl Scout Troop #136 around the Virginia State Capitol Grounds on Monday, Feb. 18



NEWS

PHOTO BY FAITH BOETTGER

iSnack! Volunteers, from left, are Jack Boettger, Sue Huffman, Susan Hobbs, Sharon Heinz and Phyllis Lee. Not shown are Faith Boettger, iCAN!; and Karen Bradford and Angela Stacy of Kilmer Middle School.

Kilmer Middle iSnack Campaign Helps Alternative House

Kilmer Middle School's National Junior Honor Society, in conjunction with the eighth grade class, launched a "Fill 400 in February" campaign, donating over 400 snack bags for needy children and families in Alternative House's nine programs.

Working with iCANHelp4Kids, Kilmer launched "iSnack! Fill 400 in February" to provide students the opportunity to earn community service hours while learning about the needs of at-

risk teens and families in the community. Students donated over 400 iSnacks and earned 134 community service hours. According to Chris Maggio, director of development at Alternative House, "Most residents are unaware that one out of five Fairfax County students reported going hungry at least some of the time in the past 30 days. Kilmer's donation will make an incredible difference for children in our community."

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OPINION

Helping to Build a School in Ghana

Reston resident appeals for support in building a school.

BY GAYLE ROBINSON

My name is Gayle Robinson and I am a Reston resident currently working in Ghana as a health, water and sanitation educator with the Peace Corps. In addition to my primary health projects, I am working with my community to build a new school. I am writing to request support from the Reston Connection in order to spread the word about my project.

My town is a rural community of about 600 cocoa farmers in the Western Region of Ghana. Three years ago, the community approached the District Assembly about starting a junior high school in town. Previously, students would walk over an hour to an overcrowded and poorly performing junior high school in a neighboring town. The district agreed to fund teachers, but told the com-



Gayle Robinson playing with some of the students at the school.

GUEST EDITORIAL

munity they had limited funds and could not build the new classrooms. The community had begun construction on a new school but construction ceased due to limited funding. Since then, the community has made two makeshift classrooms but they are not sustainable. The new school building will include three classrooms, an office for teachers and a storage area. The building will also cater to town meetings and night classes, which are currently held by flashlight.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Out of Mainstream

To the Editor:

According to a Feb. 25 article in "Politico," two prominent Republican CEOs lambasted GOP gubernatorial candidate Ken Cuccinelli at the Feb. 22 meeting of the Republican Governors Association, saying his hard core socially conservative policies will make Virginia less attractive for business, and he is out of the Virginia mainstream.

It is good to finally see leading members of the Republican Party speaking up for the betterment of our state.

To date, Mr. Cuccinelli has not exhibited the same kind of moderation as his would-be predecessor Gov. McDonnell. As case in point, he has been quite vocal in his disdain for the transportation bill recently passed under the stewardship of McDonnell, who of course is a Republican as well. The bill is primarily based on new taxes and cuts, and was passed on a bipartisan basis. As alluded to in the article, this seems to be the breaking point amongst even establishment Republicans, such as these CEOs.

Instead of focusing on tangible issues such as roads, education and transportation, he has focused his attention on socially partisan issues such as limiting women's contraceptive rights. Perhaps now

that leading figures of Cuccinelli's own party have reprimanded him for deterring new business from coming to Virginia due to his socially extremist witch hunts, the voters of this commonwealth will move on to the business of determining a serious leader with real solutions.

RJ Narang
Vienna

'Green' Tax

To the Editor:

You have to laugh. You know how our liberal friends love to raise "revenue" for a variety of self-defined beneficent causes: Rail to Dulles, "transportation," school facilitators, "green" projects, and such. Plunging in to save the world, some folks purchased, at a price, hybrid vehicles. Now no sooner have these environmentally worthy folks been slapped with a small tax directly (with Democrat votes), they are rushing to the microphones at warp speed.

Our delegate, who has two such "environmentally responsible" vehicles, dislikes the hybrid tax ("All's Well That Ends Well," Reston Connection, Feb. 27-March 5, 2013). A matter of minutes after having commended Richmond's dubious transportation tax hike, Delegate Plum ("I was both amazed and delighted") says he is "writing to the governor to ask him to rethink that whole

proposition" (of a \$100 a year hybrid-vehicle tax). We feel the pain of owners of such hybrids (a whopping 1.3 percent of Virginia's vehicle fleet), but cannot forgo a wry grin. Oxen being gored, and all that.

Anyone seen a Volt anywhere?

Harry Locock
Reston

Protecting Open Spaces

To the Editor:

I am writing to express my concern regarding the current proposal to build a new indoor recreation center at Baron Cameron Park. Our open spaces and parkland are limited. Once our open spaces and parkland are replaced with buildings and parking areas, cement and asphalt, they are gone for good.

Baron Cameron Park currently provides a variety of recreational amenities, including football fields, soccer fields, community garden plots, a dog park, and open parkland.

Reston and Fairfax County already have plenty of buildings, with many more buildings on the way. We need more open space not less. Reducing the open space at Baron Cameron Park is in opposition to the Fairfax County Park Authority's own recognition of the importance of providing open

space. To quote from the FCPA's policy plan posted on their website: "As residential densities rise and individual yards become smaller or disappear, the need for public open space, woodlands, trails and open play areas increase."

The FCPA and Reston Community Center do not need to reduce already limited open space and parkland to provide new indoor recreation facilities. There are a number of opportunities in Reston to develop private and public indoor recreation facilities that would enhance and revitalize existing centers. As just one example, Tall Oaks shopping center has been struggling for years. An indoor recreation center could stabilize this area, bringing in people and revenue that could attract and keep businesses and restaurants.

Gayle Robinson is a health, water and sanitation educator, Peace Corps Ghana.

The FCPA and Reston Community Center do not need to reduce already limited open space and parkland to provide new indoor recreation facilities. There are a number of opportunities in Reston to develop private and public indoor recreation facilities that would enhance and revitalize existing centers. As just one example, Tall Oaks shopping center has been struggling for years. An indoor recreation center could stabilize this area, bringing in people and revenue that could attract and keep businesses and restaurants.

The FCPA and RCC need to look for other options to meet indoor recreation needs without reducing outdoor recreation opportunities. To quote again from FCPA policy: "Collaborative efforts between the private and public sectors, especially through the land development process, can result in better appreciation, protection, and stewardship of natural and cultural resources, as well as the provision of adequate recreational facilities and amenities to serve residents."

Angie Loving
Reston

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PHOTO COURTESY OF GC MARSHALL OCTAGON CLUB

Joining Empty Bowls Drive at Marshall High

In February 2013 the GC Marshall HS Octagon Club organized, glazed and delivered 20 hand thrown ceramic bowls to the Empty Bowls Charity, under the direction of Juie Veenstra (GCM Sci/Adv) and assisted by student Delaney Conway. The Empty Bowls Benefit was held Feb. 28, 2013, at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. GC Marshall HS Octagon Club Empty Bowl contributors: Front row, from left—Dany Chaillo, Caroline Vaughn, Jordan Arbuckle, Angela Zadrima, Anna Shipman, Katrina Uher, Hannah Barker. Second row: Doreen Nidizeye, Angela Helberg, Emily Hoang, Prayasha Chaudhary, Barsha Bhujet, Will French, Ms. Veenstra (GCM Sci/dir) Back Row: Mr. Conway/potter, Delaney Conway, Drew Friedman, Lindsay Charters, Kelly Mills, Will Ferrer, Bevy Daniel, Owen Crizer and Brian Weiss.

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Vienna School of Rock students rehearsing for their March 9 gig with guitar rock legend Earl Slick.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ / THE CONNECTION

Vienna Musicians Rock With a Legend

Earl Slick joins School of Rock students in workshop and performance at Tysons.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

A guitar rock legend is coming to the McLean-Vienna area and students from the Vienna School of Rock will be joining him onstage the weekend of March 9.

Earl Slick, lead guitarist for rock-star David Bowie, will perform each set with the students. For rock-music fans, this is a big catch.

Slick was a guitarist for John Lennon on his post-Beatles "Double Fantasy" album, and for Yoko Ono's album after Lennon's death. The show is part of the School of Rock's Guest Professor Program.

"There are a lot of rock and roll fans in Vienna and it's always fun to have someone with a direct connection to the rock gods come to our area," said Vienna School of Rock co-owner Laura Bollettino. "We have a lot of students—and their parents—who are very excited about this opportunity."

The show, at the Iris Lounge in McLean, is from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 9, and Slick will be doing a Q&A with the audience at 6:30 p.m.



Brooke Seibert of Oakton, 11, says she uses her imagination when interpreting songs. She wants to sing professionally some day.

THE TWO-HOUR SHOW is combination workshop and performance. Slick will rehearse with the children on Friday, March 8, and Saturday, March 9, at the Vienna School of Rock at 111 Center St. S.

Many of School of Rock's students are familiar with Slick's playing on Bowie's albums even if they do not know him by name, Bollettino said. One of the School of Rock's seasonal shows performed last summer was dedicated to the music of David Bowie. The school's guitar players on that show know his work, as do the more dedicated guitar students. Slick was recently featured on the cover of Guitar Player magazine and has been in Rolling Stone magazine many times, Bollettino said.

who has been a key musician in Bowie's recordings and tours including Bowie's new album, The Next Day, which comes out two days after our show.

"Our mission is to inspire our students to rock on stage and in life, and what is more inspiring than the chance to learn from someone like Earl Slick," Bollettino asked.

School of Rock has relationships with major artists across the rock and roll spectrum so it was easy to reach out to Slick, said Bollettino. "We hope to 'grab' more artists to come by when the chance presents itself."

The performing students range in age from 11 to 18 and they cover all the rock instruments, including guitar, bass, drums, keys and vocals. Some of those have been with School of Rock for more than six years, others less than a year. Laura Bollettino describes them all as passionate about music and about honing their craft.

"The thing we're trying to do is ignite their passion for music and fan that flame so it will last throughout their lives," said Bollettino.

VIENNA'S SCHOOL OF ROCK is one of three Metro region School of Rock franchises owned by Jeff and Laura Bollettino. Their programs are staffed by about 30 professionals representing all areas of rock music.

Jeff and Laura Bollettino left the corporate world in 2007 to open their first franchise, the Vienna operation. The Bollettino family—Laura, Jeff, and their two early-teen daughters live in Oakton.

The Iris Lounge is located at Spring Hill and Tyco roads in the warehouse formerly occupied by Ecitie. Free valet parking is available. Admission is \$10 at the door. For more information, visit the School Of Rock website at www.SchoolOfRock.com/ Vienna or e-mail nova@schoolofrock.com. For directions or information on Iris Lounge, go to www.irisloungeva.com.

School of Rock in Vienna is located at 111 Center St. S., next to Town Hall. School of Rock's hotline is 703-850-2100.

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

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Wine Tasting Fundraiser. 6-9 p.m., at Oakton Wine Shop, 2952 A, Chain Bridge Road. Enjoy a wine or beer tasting to benefit Operation Walk-Virginia which performs surgeries in Virginia and abroad for those in need of joint replacement surgeries without means to otherwise receive them; donations of crutches, canes, walkers, wheelchairs, etc., accepted. \$10. 703-307-4305, connieroofohlerot@gmail.com or opwalkvirginia.org.

Helen Reddy. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The "Queen of '70s Pop" revives her legacy at The Barns at Wolf Trap by singing her favorite uncharted tracks. \$45. 877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Virginia's American Legion Irish Dinner. 5:30-8 p.m., at the Vienna American Legion, 330 Center St, N, Vienna. Corned beef, cabbage and potatoes. 703-938-9535.

SATURDAY/MARCH 9

Annual Spring Craft Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department in the Flame Room, 400 Center St. S., Vienna. A bazaar with crafts from home-based businesses offering holiday decorations, home decor, gifts and other wares; lunch, baked goods and cookbooks available. 703-309-3468 or Dancers1023@aol.com.

Enter the Haggis. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road Vienna. Indie-Americana rockers Enter the Haggis bring their popular Celtic sounds to The Barns at Wolf Trap. \$22. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Tropicals! Opening Reception. 2-4 p.m., at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St. N.W., Vienna. An exhibition of original works by local artists featuring flora, fauna and scenes of sun and heat; tropical drinks provided. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

GovCon Debrief—How to Survive in an Environment of De-escalation. Noon-1:30 p.m., at the Tysons Chamber Office, 7925 Jones Branch Road, Suite LL200, McLean. An open forum for contractors to discuss critical issues in today's business environment including pricing strategies, finding cost savings, employee compensation and benefits, hiring and retaining talent, cost allocations and re-negotiations. \$25 for members; \$25 for non-chamber member government contractors; \$50 for non chamber member non-contractors. info@tysonschamber.org.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screenings. By appointment at Great Falls United Methodist Church, 10100 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Take up to five 60-90 minute



PHOTO COURTESY OF WOLF TRAP

Helen Reddy, the "Queen of '70s Pop" comes to The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna on Thursday, March 7, 8 p.m.

Capitol Steps. 4 p.m., at James Madison High School Auditorium, 2500 James Madison Drive, Vienna. A quick-witted, multi-faceted congressional staffer-acted musical political satire benefits the Class of 2013's drug and alcohol-free All-Night Grad Party. \$25-30. madisoncapitolsteps2013@gmail.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 12

Vienna Arts Society's Children's Printmaking Workshop. 4-5 p.m., at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Children ages 7-12 will print a fish, create reliefs, monoprints, and other prints with the help of a dozen local artists. 703-938-0405.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Paul Thorn. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Former boxer turned bluesy rocker Paul Thorn returns with his gritty vocals and powerful Southern beats. \$24. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 14

Paint with Paper! 10 a.m.-noon, at the Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St.

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

screenings to reduce risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. \$159. Register. 1-877-237-1287 or www.lifelinescreening.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 12

Future of Energy. 7:30-9 a.m., at Tysons Chamber Office, 7925 Jones Branch Road, Suite LL200, McLean. A discussion on the topic of the future of renewable energy led by Dominion Virginia Power Director of Customer Solutions Phillip Sandino. \$15 for members; \$25 for non-members. info@tysonschamber.org.

NARFE Oakton Chapter 1116 Meeting. 1:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., Vienna. Hear Angel Patton and Gary Downer, funeral directors at Money and King Funeral Home, on the topic of how to plan your life celebration. 703-938-7346.

N.W., Vienna. Collage artist Megan Coyle demonstrates her mixed media method of creating landscapes and portraits with paper. 703-319-3971 or www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 15

Johnnie Walker Whisky Night. 6:30 p.m., at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, third floor, McLean. Join for a special evening at Wildfire, when we explore and enjoy the most widely distributed brand of scotch whisky in the world, Johnnie Walker; featuring Ewan Morgan. \$90. 703-442-9110.

Chatham Baroque: The Discovery Series. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Pittsburgh-based chamber music ensemble Chatham Baroque arrives at The Barns at Wolf Trap to perform renditions of 17th and 18th century arrangements. \$35. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 16

BandHouse Gigs' Tribute to Chrissie Hynde & The Pretenders. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road Vienna. Bethesda-based BandHouse Gigs joins forces with 35 local musicians to recreate the music of '70s rock legends. \$25. 1-877-WOLFTRAP or www.wolftrap.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

Lunch n' Life. Noon, at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. ABC7/WJLA-TV Chief Meteorologist Doug Hill speaks on forecasting weather and life at the educational series for seniors and those caring for seniors; blood screenings available from 11 a.m. on. Reservations by March 11. \$10. 703-281-0538, www.scov.org or office@scov.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 19

Good Food, Good People, Good Fun and Some Business. 6:30 p.m., at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Suriyah Shahnil, wife of the deputy chief of mission for the Embassy of Malaysia, accompanied by diplomatic wives in Malaysian dress, shares Malaysian attire and designs used in traditional attire; cultural and culinary treats as well as the annual branch meeting potluck dinner precede the business meeting. www.mcleannaweb.org.

Fiscal Year 2014 Budget Presentation.

7 p.m., at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Dranesville Supervisor John Foust holds a town hall meeting to give residents an opportunity to learn about and discuss the proposed FY 2014 budget. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Mom & Pop Stores in Great Falls. 7 p.m., in the Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Historical Society presents the history of the town's mom and pop stores, featuring an in-depth account of TheLma's Store presented by friend Doris Carpenter and a talk from Carol Wright on Buck's Store. kathleenjm@aol.com.

Vienna Writer Selected for Poetry Publication

Bernadette Geyer of Vienna was selected for the 2012 Hilary Tham Capital Collection for her poetry manuscript, The Scabbard of Her Throat. The Tham Collection showcases outstanding poetry of writers in the greater Washington, D.C., area and beyond.

Geyer's "The Scabbard of Her Throat" is being published by The Word Works. Word Works, founded in 1974, is a nonprofit literary and educational organization that publishes contemporary poetry in collector's editions and presents public programs.

"The Scabbard of Her Throat" will be officially launched in conjunction with the upcoming Book Fair at the Association of Writers & Writing Programs Convention in Boston, Mass. Geyer will have a book signing and a special reading on Friday, March 8, 2013 during the convention. She will also be appearing at Iota Club and Cafe, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington, this coming Mother's Day for a reading of her poetry. Her poetry has appeared in North American Review, The Midwest Quarterly,



PHOTO BY EMILY KOREE/VIENNA PHOTOGRAPHY

Bernadette Geyer

Verse Daily, and elsewhere.

Geyer is a 2010 Strauss Fellowship recipient from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. Geyer works as a copy editor in the Washington, D.C., area.

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George Mason University Professors Fred Bemak and Rita Chi-Ying Chung will be honored by the American Counseling Association for their dedication to human rights, social justice and culturally sensitive mental health treatment.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

Mental Health Counseling Professors Honored

Cultural sensitivity at the heart of their work.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Fred Bemak and his wife Rita Chi-Ying Chung, who are both professors at George Mason University in Fairfax, recall being in Haiti shortly after the catastrophic earthquake of 2010. They were there to provide mental health counseling to those traumatized by the natural disaster.

"We were working in one of the tent camps," said Bemak who, with Chung, has been a professor of counseling and development in George Mason's College of Education and Human Development since 2000. "There were tents and each contained about 30 cots. People lived side-by-side with no privacy. There was little food and little water."

They worked with a woman who was so traumatized that she had been unable to get out of bed for three months. "The traditional response is 'let's get her off to the side and speak to her alone,'" said Bemak. "But that is the Western model of therapy. When you're looking at family-oriented communities, there is a tremendous need to connect with others."

As Bemak spoke with his bed-ridden patient, others began to join the session. "We started to talk to her and crowds started to gather around her cot," he said. "It became a huge healing intervention where for the first time in three months, she got out of her cot. We had a [session] that was conducive to the community in Haiti."

Bemak and Chung's peers will salute their dedication to human rights, social justice and culturally sensitive mental health treatment later this month when they receive two of the American Counseling Association's highest honors.

Chung will receive the Gilbert and Kathleen Wrenn Humanitarian and Caring Person Award, which Bemak was awarded in 2011, and Bemak will receive the Kitty Cole Human Rights Award, which Chung garnered last year. Additionally, Chung will receive the 2013 Outstanding Faculty Award from the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia

and Dominion Resources.

"I am deeply honored that I was even considered for these awards. It is a true honor. I feel so privileged to be in this field," said Chung, who noted that her background fuels her passion for her work.

"I am a person of color and I grew up in another country," said Chung, whose parents moved from China to New Zealand after the World War II. "Being an immigrant to the United States myself, I understood the struggles and challenges of immigrants and refugees. A lot of counseling theories are based on Western beliefs. Coming from an Eastern background, I know that culture plays a major part in the way we react and respond to major life experiences."

Bemak worked as a counselor and also served as director of the Upward Bound Program at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. "I worked with white, African American and Latino students who were struggling academically," he said. "When they came together, for many it was the first time that they'd been around people of other races."

Bemak and Chung say cultural sensitivity and insights are often lacking in mental health care. This underscores the importance of their work with Counselors Without Borders, which Bemak founded. It provides culturally responsive humanitarian counseling after disasters. Together, they've led teams of therapists and students in providing mental health therapy along the Mississippi Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, and on American Indian reservations and in Latino migrant communities after the San Diego wildfires.

"The two of them have traveled to more than 55 countries, together and individually, where they have worked with at-risk youth, immigrants and refugees; counseled child-trafficking and post-disaster victims; and guided students of color and former child soldiers," said Catherine Probst, a spokeswoman for George Mason University.

The couple also co-authored "Social Justice Counseling: The Next Steps Beyond Multiculturalism" last year.

"We both do the work because we want to give back," said Chung. "We're trying to instill in the next generation of counselors to give back. I am not working to be recognized, but I hope this will inspire people to do the work because there is so much need out there."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Esthetician Mali Amini's facials were awarded the best in Washington, D.C., by "Allure" magazine in fall 2012. Amini has been with Skintelligence medical spa in Vienna for four years.

Local Esthetician Recognized Nationally

McLean resident Mali Amini of Skintelligence of Vienna does the best facials in Washington, D.C.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The award for the best "facial" in the Washington, D.C., area goes to... medical spa Skintelligence of Vienna and its master esthetician Mali Amini.

"Allure," a top nationally distributed beauty magazine, recognized Amini, a McLean resident, in its October 2012 issue. Amini was nominated by a client and "Allure" sent an incognito reviewer to Skintelligence to evaluate Amini's treatment. The spa's clients are not surprised by the accolade.

"They're very up-to-date here with products and techniques," said Skintelligence client Nina Schultz of Vienna. Schultz, who said she has used facial, waxing and make-up services there, brings her daughters as well. "I love the products and the staff. They don't push you to buy here."

Registered nurse Theresa Caputy worked in a hospital for years before deciding she wanted a change of focus. She trained with a local dermatologist, picking up skills from him. In 2004, Caputy got an opportunity to work with a skin care salon in Alexandria. She took medical esthetic courses to master techniques and develop her skills, and, in 2006, she opened her own medical spa in Vienna, the town she lives in.

SKINTELLIGENCE SERVICES include traditional spa treatments such as facials,

photofacials, make-up, massage, waxing and laser hair removal, but also more medical procedures, such as Botox injections, cosmetic fillers [Juvaderm and Radiesse] and microdermabrasion. A medical doctor supports the staff and facility.

"People come with self-esteem and self-confidence issues, they come to relax and be pampered," said Caputy. "Almost 90 percent will say, 'I don't want to look 20. I just want to look better.'"

Amini said that every treatment the spa offers isn't just good for looks, but it's good for the mind, the soul. "I think we live in a society that has so many ways to enhance our appearance," said Amini. "We want to make people feel good about themselves."

"All of us here, none of us look like glamorous movie stars. We're just real women with real feelings."

Amini emphasized that when women walk in the door, they're part of the spa family there, sharing their personal lives. "Most are hard working, well-educated professional women, moms, women taking care of families," said Amini. "They need a little time for themselves, to be pampered. They become good friends. We're all here for each other."

Amini and Caputy believe that their integrity is as important as the products they use. "You can trust us," said Caputy.

SEE ESTHETICIAN, PAGE 11

Town Budget Available for Review

The proposed Town of Vienna budget for fiscal year 2013-2014 is now available for public review on the town's website at www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=420. Copies are also available for review in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S., and at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E. A "Budget Highlights" summary may be obtained at Town Hall free of charge. For more information, call 703-255-7824.

Town Council budget work sessions are scheduled at Town Hall on Saturday, March 9, at 9 a.m. and Monday, March 11, and April 22, at 7:30 p.m. Work sessions are open for the public to attend; however, public comment is not permitted. The public is invited to provide their input during the public hearings on the proposed budget, tax rate and water and sewer rates on Monday, April 1, and April 15, at 8 p.m. in Town Hall. The Town Council will consider the adoption of the budget at its May 13 meeting.

Registration Open for Summer Camps

Registration for youth summer camps sponsored by the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department is now open. Register early as camps fill quickly.

Camps include extended day camp, tennis, basketball, fencing, soccer, baseball, football, and other sports camps, teen excursions, computer, art, chemistry, skateboarding, biking, engineering, Lego, summer playground camps and more. Before and after care is also available for certain camps and ages.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360, or view the Vienna Parks and Recreation Summer Camp Brochure online at www.viennava.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=62. Camp information is located on pages 31 through 38.

Stroke and Osteoporosis Screenings Coming to Vienna

Residents living in and around the Vienna community can be screened to reduce their risk of having a stroke or bone fracture. Church of the Holy Comforter will host a Life Line Screening on March 11, 2013. The site is located at 543 Beulah Road N.E. in Vienna. Four key points every person needs to know:

- ❖ Stroke is the third leading cause of death and a leading cause of permanent disability
- ❖ 80 percent of stroke victims had no apparent warning signs prior to their stroke
- ❖ Preventive ultrasound screenings can help you avoid a stroke
- ❖ Screenings are fast, noninvasive, painless, affordable and convenient

For more information regarding the screenings or to schedule an appointment, call 1-800-697-9721 or visit our website at www.lifelinescreening.com. Pre-registration is required.

Family Flashlight Egg Hunt at Glyndon Park

A family friendly flashlight egg hunt will be held rain or shine at Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St. N.E., on Friday evening, March 22. Beginning at 7 p.m., children will be able to visit with the Easter Bunny and jump in the moon bounce while they wait for the egg hunt to begin at dark.

The fee for this activity is \$3 per family member and free for children less than 12 months. A maximum of six tickets may be purchased per family. Tickets go on sale for in-town residents on Saturday, March 9, from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. All remaining tickets will go on sale Monday, March 11, at 8 a.m.

For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Old-fashioned Egg Roll at Freeman House

An old-fashioned Easter egg roll for children ages 12 and under and their parents will be held on the lawn of Vienna's historic Freeman House, 131 Church St. N.E., on Saturday, March 23, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

This activity is free of charge and no registration is required. Roll eggs, visit with the Easter Bunny and listen to a storyteller.

For more information, call Historic Vienna, Inc. at 703-938-5187 or visit www.historicviennainc.org.

Esthetician Honored

FROM PAGE 10

"We're not going to sell you what you don't need or want. We really do have the best interests of the clients at heart."

Amini said that clients don't even ask her what her treatments cost. "They trust me," said Amini. "If they come in late, they still get their full time. When they are with me, I give them my complete attention, focusing on them, not how much revenue I need to get for the business."

The layout of Skintelligence, tucked in an office building on Church Street behind Wu's Garden and the ABC, affords each specialty its own room, from make-up to massage, skincare/facial and esthetic medical treatment. A New York company specially makes the Tica cosmetics and skin care products for Marti Wright.

Marti Wright applied wedding day make-up to Vienna bride Kristan Beck and her bridal party and Beck and her family loved the natural look of Wright's touch. A photofacial "took away" sunspots from Beck's face, the effects lasting for months, Beck said. "It really works. I'll do that again."

Joanne Shaack, Vienna, confesses to not wear-

ing make-up. At the celebration, Shaack won a complimentary make-up session. "I've never worn make-up so I am going to have Marti teach me," Shaack said.

AMINI AND CAPUTY feel that client satisfaction is one of the reasons for the spa's success. "They get our experience and skills, but they also get good value," said Amini. "If I go for a massage, it's a break for me. I want to get my money's worth." A reason Amini left a former employer was the daily emphasis on revenue generation, pushing people to buy more than what they needed, charging them for missed appointments.

"It isn't just us doing for our clients. Our clients do so much for us, too.

"It's amazing how special they are."

Staff onboard Skintelligence includes Theresa Caputy, RN; Mali Amini, master esthetician;

Marti Wright, makeup artist; Rhonda Griffin, massage therapist, and Dr. Morad Tavallali, medical director.

Skintelligence is located in an office building at 421 Church St., Suite A, Vienna.

To make an appointment, call 703-255-7237. For more information on Skintelligence, see www.skintelligencepartners.com.

"If they come in late, they still get their full time. When they are with me, I give them my complete attention, focusing on them, not how much revenue I need to get for the business."

— Mali Amini

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5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service
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703-759-3705 ~ www.greatfallsumc.org



Sunday Schedule

Worship Services ~ 10:00 am
Children's Sunday School ~ 10:00 am
Adult Sunday School ~ 9:00 am
Nursery/Childcare ~ 9 to 11:00 am
Youth Group ~ 5-7 pm

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Cristo Es Mi Refugio...703-675-0144

Baha'i

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

Baptist

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

Bethel Primitive Baptist Church
... 703-757-8134

Cartersville Baptist Church ... 703-255-7075
Fellowship Baptist Church ... 703-385-8516

First Baptist Church ... 703-938-8525
The Light Mission Church ... 703-757-0877

Vienna Baptist Church ... 703-281-4400
New Union Baptist Church... 703-281-2556

Buddhist

Vajrayogini Buddhist Center... 202-331-2122

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

The Vine Methodist Church ... 703-573-5336

Ephiphany United Methodist ... 703-938-3494

Great Falls United Methodist... 703-759-3705

Oakton United Methodist ... 703-938-1233

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Join the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for one of three informative Open Houses about Metro's operating plan for the new Silver Line service to Reston. You will have a chance to view informational exhibits about the Silver Line, speak with and ask questions of Metro representatives, and learn what changes are planned for the Orange and Blue Line service, as well as local buses. Metro seeks public feedback as the plan continues to be refined.

Tuesday, March 12, 2013
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Faith Temple #2 Baptist Church
211 Maryland Park Drive
Capitol Heights, MD 20743
Metrorail: Capitol Heights (Blue & Orange Rush)
Metrobus: 96, 97

Thursday, March 14, 2013
5:00-8:00 p.m.

Reston Community Center Hunters Woods
2310 Colts Neck Road
Reston, VA 20191
Fairfax Connector: RIBS 1/3, RIBS 2 & Route 551

Saturday, March 16, 2013
11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sheraton Crystal City Hotel
1800 Jefferson Davis Highway
Arlington, VA 22202
Metrorail: Crystal City (Blue & Yellow)
Metrobus: 9A, E, S; 10A, E

Learn about service changes on bus and rail. Families are welcome to attend. Children's activities, including coloring books and a dress up play area, as well as snacks will be provided. Enter a raffle for the chance to win a SmarTrip® card!

The public comment period will run from February 28 through March 18, 2013. You may submit your comments at the Open Houses or online on the project's website, wmata.com/silverline.

For special assistance for persons with disabilities or interpretation in another language, call (703) 934-4639 at least 3 days prior to the Open House you wish to attend and these services will be provided at no cost.



PHOTO COURTESY FLINT HILL SCHOOL

Flint Hill had a commitment signing ceremony on Feb. 19 for its athletes who will play sports at the collegiate level. Pictured from left: (front row) Natalie Lyon, Marlo Sweatman, Ansley Gibson, Hannah Donegan, Rachel Swarts, Becca Ploetz, Haley McClure, (middle row) volleyball coach Carrol Anderson, girls' soccer coach Stephanie Hulke, Blake McGinley, Ricardo Manosalvas, swimming coach Ellen MacGregor, Kasey Kettle, Kody Kettle, boys' soccer coach Chris Brown, (back row) football coach Tom Verbanic, tennis coach Steve Spratt, Ben Kase, boys' lacrosse coach Adam Rice and girls' lacrosse coach Justin Fitzgerald.

Flint Hill Athletes Sign for College

School honors 13 student-athletes who have committed to collegiate-level athletic programs.

On Feb. 19, at an annual commitment signing ceremony, Flint Hill School honored 13 student-athletes who have made commitments to Division I, II or III collegiate-level athletic programs. These athletes represent eight different sports, including football, men's lacrosse, women's lacrosse, men's soccer, women's soccer, women's swimming, men's tennis and volleyball.

"We are proud to recognize these student-athletes who have the opportunity to continue their passion for their sport at the collegiate level," Athletic Director Steve Henry said. "These achievements reflect their commitment and hard work both in athletics as

well as in the classroom. We wish these individuals the best and know that they will continue to represent Flint Hill well in everything they do."

The Flint Hill Seniors committed to compete in sports at the collegiate level include: Ansley Gibson (women's lacrosse, Denison University), Ben Kase (football, Davidson College), Kasey Kettle (men's lacrosse, Virginia Military Institute), Kody Kettle (men's lacrosse, Gordon College), Natalie Lyon (volleyball, Mount Holyoke College), Ricardo Manosalvas (boys' soccer, Lynchburg College), Haley McClure (volleyball, Morgan State University), Blake McGinley (men's tennis, Occidental College), Stevie Peterson (football and men's lacrosse, St. Lawrence University), Becca Ploetz (volleyball, Connecticut College), Rachel Swarts (women's swimming, The University of Pennsylvania), Marlo Sweatman (women's soccer, Florida State University) and Hannah Donegan (women's lacrosse, Connecticut College).

"It is always exciting to see our students' dreams of playing sports in college become a reality," said Headmaster John Thomas. "Working alongside our outstanding staff of coaches, their tenacity, determination and grit have earned them these opportunities, and we look forward to following their college careers in the years ahead."

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NEWS

Volunteers Appreciated

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department holds their Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Banquet.

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department (VVFD) and its Auxiliary celebrated its members at their Volunteer Appreciation and Awards Banquet on Saturday, Feb. 9. The VVFD is currently in their 110th year of service and awarded several deserving members for the year 2012.

Firefighter Holly Harrison won Firefighter of the Year. EMT Michael Medwedeff was the recipient of both EMS Provider of the Year and Volunteer of the Year. Jean Schafer received the President's Award for her service as hall rental coordinator. Chief John Morrison awarded Monica Haley, Christopher Cikra, and Corey Merdler the Chief's Award for their work in designing the brand new fire engine scheduled to be placed into service this March.

Other recipients included Technician Eric Bartholomew of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department who got the Robert Hunter Award for his continuing commitment to embracing the Career/Volunteer partnership. The Kate Johnson Award, which is given to a member of the VVFD and a member of the Auxiliary for selfless service, was awarded to Anthony Stancampiano (VVFD) for coordinating



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Michael Medwedeff receiving Volunteer of the Year award from President Anthony Stancampiano. Medwedeff also received EMS Provider of the Year award.

the first Annual Taste of Vienna, and to Vera Lloyd (Auxiliary) for sustained outstanding service. Dagny Shiells won both the Auxiliary's Volunteer of the Year Award and the President's (Vera Lloyd) Award.

The Leon Freeman Award, which is named after the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's founder, and is awarded to a Life Member who exhibits continued professionalism and dedication, was awarded to Howard Springsteen. Between the VVFD and its Auxiliary, members volunteered over 27,600 hours in 2012 alone. The VVFD relies on volunteers from the community. For information on becoming a volunteer, visit vvfd.org.

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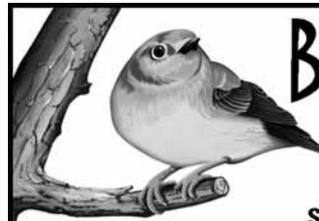
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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

My oncologist is a man. He has e-mail. He works for an HMO that encourages/advertises its connectivity and responsiveness – electronically, to its members. If I want to get medical answers in a reasonable amount of time – save for an emergency, typing, "mousing" and clicking is the recommended methodology. No more phone calls, preferably. Though pressing keys on a keyboard rather than pressing buttons on a phone might have felt counter-intuitive at first as a means of receiving prompt replies, it has proven over these past few years to be a fairly reliable and predictable information loop. Not in minutes necessarily, but more often than not during the same day – and almost always by the very next day. In fact, I've received e-mails from my oncologist as late as 9:18 p.m. (time-stamped) after a sometime-during-the-day e-mail had been sent. The content of the sent e-mail has almost always been helpful or constructive, even instructive concerning the issue at hand. I've never felt disconnected, though; alone maybe, but that's more because, other than our three cats, there is rarely anyone else at home with me. Being a salesman can sometimes be a solitary pursuit. And though there are many advantages – freedom and independence being the two most important, occasionally you find yourself alone with your thoughts, literally.

Attempting to speak directly with my oncologist during the day – at my convenience, given the too-numerous-to-list responsibilities of his non-stop, double-booked routine, seems a bit unrealistic. And if there's anything I've learned during this cancer experience, it would be to minimize/manage my expectations in a way – any way, to avoid any totally understandable but fairly unhelpful jumps to discouraging conclusions. Patience can be a virtue, although being one of many, less so. And though I consider myself an important patient (I would imagine most "terminal" patients would characterize themselves as such) and thus deserving/expecting exceedingly prompt and predictable feedback, the reality appears to be somewhat less Kenny-centric. Not that I need constant care (I don't, thank God!) or reassurance for that matter; however, when your oncologist shortens up your life expectancy by say, 30 years, you kind of think/feel that you've risen to the top of his to-do list. Which I certainly don't know that he has/keeps. If he did/does, perhaps my placement on it would warrant a more immediate reply, electronic or otherwise. Nevertheless, my diagnosis-to-date sense has been that though I am likely on a list, there are probably other equally less fortunate people who have become listed as well. All of whom feel as I do: that they're the most important name on that list – real or imagined.

Apparently, for the medical system's exchange of information and for the treatment of patients to sync, e-mail has to suffice. And though it may have taken me a little while to sync up, I am now a regular e-mailer to my doctor and an equally regular receiver of his electronic expertise. It's not perfect, but four years into it, I feel fortunate to have the access that I do. It's not exactly any port in a storm, but the weather has been inclement and having lines of communication available to me 24/7 has smoothed out many rough patches.

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

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