

# Autism Speaks Volumes For Student Volunteers

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**Making Life  
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On April 2, Oakton Elementary School participated in “Light it up Blue Day,” a national day of awareness and acceptance of people affected by autism. Jonelle Shipley, the school’s speech-language pathologist, tie-dyed tees for the autism students, teachers and volunteers to wear. Top row, from left, Shipley; Enhanced Autism program teachers Anna Siller and Mary Lou Marcantuono; Bottom: Students Devin Martin, 12, Anna Kate Martin, 12, and Sarah Carmen, 11.



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**First baseman Fletcher Davis gets ready to bat for the Vienna Muckdogs (an under-10 travel baseball team) in Leesburg, Sunday, April 7, on the last day of the ninth annual Longhorn Stampede Baseball Tourney. The Muckdogs went on to win the tournament.**

## Vienna Muckdogs Take the Tourney

The Vienna Muckdogs, a 10-and-under travel baseball team from Vienna, played in the ninth annual Longhorn Stampede Baseball Tourney, held Friday, April 5, through Sunday, April 7, at Philip Bolen Park in Leesburg. The Muckdogs managed to beat out all their competition.

Head coaches Sean Murakami and Tony Echazarreta led the team against 13 other teams from around the region and state. The Muckdogs played Friday, Saturday and three games on Sunday, making it to the finals and beating the Colangelo Baseball

Academy 10U team.

The Vienna Muckdogs are Fletcher Davis, Miguel Echazarreta, Anise Jreige, Brandon Kim, Bo Kuhblank, Owen Maguire, Nick Morgan, Jordan Murakami, Jason Pan, AJ Pritchett, Colin Tuft and PJ Whitworth.

The Muckdog players also compete with various teams in Vienna Little League (majors).

The next tournament will be held over Memorial Day weekend—Kyle's Kamp Memorial Day Wood Bat Tournament—and will raise money for the Children's Hospital Foundation.

See more at [www.kyleskamp.org/](http://www.kyleskamp.org/).



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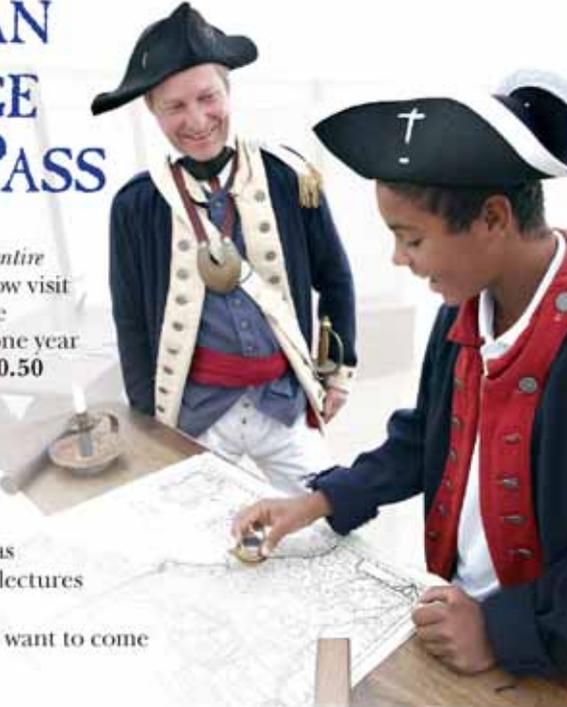


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PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

The Thoreau Middle School Green Eagles are adopting out spider plants.

## Making Life 'Greener' in Vienna

### Vienna Green Expo showcases community conservation options.

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

There were three hybrid cars outside the Vienna Community Center the evening of April 18 and one electric car: Pulling up the rear of a line made up of a Chevy Volt, a converted Prius and a Nissan Leaf, was a Tesla, America's only consumer-battery-powered four-door sedan. Children and adults crowded around it, even sitting in the vehicle. This was no ordinary Thursday night at the community center. This was the 5th Annual Vienna Green Expo, an exhibition focusing on ways local residents can strengthen their own ecological conservation efforts. Businesses, civic groups, government-allied agencies and school groups demonstrated tools to make lives "greener."

"There are lots of things that both the town and its residents can do to make Vienna a more sustainable community," said Community Enhancement Commission Chair Susan Stillman. "Sometimes, it is overwhelming and one doesn't know where to start. An event like the Vienna Green Expo gives a smorgasbord of opportunities for learning."

Vienna Town Council member Edythe Kelleher thought up the idea for a community green expo more than five years ago and it was at that time the Town Council voted to change the scope of the Community Enhancement Commission to include "sustainability" for the town and the town's residents. The Department of Parks and Recreation, under Director Cathy Salgado, executed the concept, growing the expo a little each year. Sustainability, explained Stillman, means using fewer non-renewable resources so that future generations will have these

#### THREE LOCAL BUSINESSES RECOGNIZED FOR GREEN PRACTICES

During the 5th Annual Vienna Green Expo on Thursday, April 18, three Vienna businesses were recognized for incorporating green practices into their business. The Vienna Town/Business Liaison Committee awarded Maple Avenue Market, Vienna Paint and Caffe Amouri with the 2013 Vienna Green Business Recognition Award.

❖ **Maple Avenue Market**, 128 Maple Ave. E., is a small, family-owned local food store and was recognized for its role in educating the community on where food comes from and where it should come from. Their wide variety of offerings includes local meats, dairy, produce and specialty items, most of which are organic or naturally grown.

❖ **Vienna Paint**, 203 Maple Ave. W., was recognized for its use of the environmentally friendly paint tint called Natura, a zero Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) product. In addition, they actively take measures to discard non-usable paint in an environmentally friendly way and donate miss-tinted and discontinued paint to Habitat for Humanity.

❖ **Caffe Amouri**, 107 Church St. N.E., has incorporated several environmentally focused practices into its business including using wood coffee stirrers or fettuccini stirrers and cold cups made from compostable corn products. In addition, they provide coffee grounds to customers for use in compost piles and gardens and have implemented a single stream dumpster that is used for all of their waste except for food.

resources for their use.

**EXHIBITS** in the community center's gym ran the gamut from school science and Eagle Scout projects to bicycling, from natural resource conservation and protection to businesses that offer energy audits and geothermal heating and cooling. Hundreds of people walked through the hall during the evening, asking questions and picking up brochures.

Bike shops showed off the latest in bicycle concepts, from foldable bikes to a long, tail cargo bike, what Bikes@Vienna owner Tim Fricker called a "stationwagon on two wheels."

The Town of Vienna, in partnership with the National Wildlife Federation, would like to see the whole community turn into a wildlife habitat. For a community surrounded by woods and streams, it's easier than you think.

SEE GREEN EXPO, PAGE 7

DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION



**Final Salute, Inc. Executive Director Gale Paige and her daughter Jackie attended the Vienna Woman's Club shop-at-home fundraiser for Final Salute.**

## Vienna Woman's Club Supports Female Veterans

### Club fundraises on behalf of Final Salute, Inc.

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there are more than 13,000 homeless female veterans living in the United States; half of them are single mothers. Only about half of the 500 transitional housing programs accept women. These homeless female veterans have fewer resources than male veterans do.

Final Salute, Inc., headquartered in Alexandria, was established, in 2010, by a woman veteran and cancer survivor who wanted to address the "unique" needs of homeless female veterans and their children. The full-volunteer non-profit supports homeless female veterans with housing support and interest-free loans for rent payments.

It's not surprising that the Vienna Woman's Club [VWC], whose community outreach extends to local students, shelter pets and psychologically-wounded warriors, would turn its attention to supporting – and fundraising on behalf of – Final Salute, Inc.

On April 18, at the home of VWC president Diane Abel, the club sponsored a fundraiser, an in-home shopping bazaar backed by several locally-owned small businesses. Silpada Jewelry, Kokoon clothing, Celebrating Home kitchenware, Gigi Hill bag designs and author Pat Britz donated 15 percent of sales proceeds to the Vienna Woman's Club on behalf of Final Salute, Inc. Skinfinity of Vienna donated three \$50 gift certificates for the raffle.

Final Salute, Inc. Executive Director Gale Paige and her daughter Jackie attended the

fundraiser. Paige herself is a veteran.

Operation Iraq Freedom/Operation Enduring Freedom veteran Jaspen "Jas" Boothe founded Final Salute Inc in November 2010 as part of her commitment to "Never Leave a Fallen Comrade." Her personal journey through illness and the lack of resources for female veterans inspired her to create a support network for struggling female veterans. The organization has assisted over 70 women veterans and their children to find housing and Final Salute now operates three transitional homes in Fairfax, Alexandria, and Columbus, Ohio.

Factors that contribute to woman-veteran homelessness include Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, unemployment, ineligibility or lack of veterans' benefits, disabilities, divorce, domestic violence and a lack of family or social support.

"Our women and men in the military are contributing so much for their country, and they deserve anything we can do to help them in their civilian lives," said Doris Cooper of the VWC. "Making sure our military knows how much we love them, taking care of the female veterans, is something we need to do."

"The number of homeless women veterans is on the increase," said woman's club member Cindy Stewart. "Final Salute is unique in providing transitional homes in our area exclusively for women veterans and their children. These women merit our highest respect and any help we can offer."

To learn more about Final Salute, Inc. and how to support homeless female veterans, go to <http://www.finalsaluteinc.org>. For information on the Vienna Woman's Club, go to <http://www.viennawomansclub.org/>.

—DONNA MANZ

# Autism Speaks Volumes for Student Volunteers

**Fairfax County Public Schools use latest techniques to teach autistic students.**

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n many ways, the three best friends—Anna Kate Martin, Devin Martin and Sarah Carmen—are typical sixth-grade girls.

They listen to Taylor Swift, play soccer, and enjoy sleepovers and shopping.

They can tell you what's cool (Dance Moms) and what's so over (Gangnam Style).

But when most of their classmates at Oakton Elementary School are outside during recess, the girls are inside doing something not so typical: volunteering with the school's 20-plus autistic students.

"I love the kids. I love interacting with them and all the special bonds that we've formed," said Anna Kate Martin, who began working with autistic students when she was in the fourth grade. Devin Martin (no relation to Anna Kate) began working with autism students this year, and they recruited Carmen, a new OES student who previously attended Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna.

"When I first started volunteering, I was worried they wouldn't like me. But I'm happy they gave me a chance," Anna Kate said. "Now, when they see us, they smile and get excited, and it makes your day."

On April 2, OES participated in "Light It Up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people who are affected by "Autism Spectrum Disorder" (ASD). According to Autism Speaks, one of the leading autism advocacy, awareness and research organizations, ASD is characterized by difficulties in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors.

Children on the autism spectrum are making the kind of progress previously thought impossible. "I think when people hear the word autism, they automatically think of the character from 'Rain Man,'" said Jonelle Shipley, the school's speech-language pathologist, who works closely with the school's autism teachers. "What's important to know is not all autistic children are the same. They have various strengths and weaknesses and sometimes they just need a chance to be good at something."

**THE YOUNG VOLUNTEERS** do a number of activities with the autistic students, who are in the school's enhanced autism classes with special education teachers Anna Siller and Mary Lou Marcantuono. Some days the girls help them read; other days they blow bubbles or play Bingo. The goal is to give the students a chance to engage with their peers, and make them feel



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/THE CONNECTION

**On April 2nd, Oakton Elementary School participated in "Light it up Blue Day," a national day of awareness and acceptance of people affected by autism. Sixth-grader volunteers Devin Martin, 12; Anna Kate Martin, 12, and Sarah Carmen, 11, have given up recess to volunteer with autistic students.**

## Did you know...

### AUTISM

- ❖ is a developmental disability that can significantly impact communication, social skills and behavior;
  - ❖ is four times more likely to occur in boys than in girls;
  - ❖ affects 1 in 50, children in the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control;
  - ❖ is considered an urgent public health concern by the Center for Disease Control (CDC).
- What works:
- ❖ Early identification and treatment can significantly improve long term outlook;
  - ❖ Intensive intervention using the scientific principles of applied behavior analysis (ABA) is effective in teaching adaptive and academic skills;
  - ❖ FCPS serves students with autism using ABA at the preschool, elementary and secondary levels.
- Information provided by Fairfax County Public Schools
- ❖ The FY 2013 budget for the ABA program is \$3,246,836, which includes funding school-based positions, professional development, support positions and allocation of instructional resources. A detailed description of budget allocations for this program can be found at <http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/approved/FY13/FY2013ProgramBudget.pdf>
- For more information about Fairfax County Public School's autism services, go to the following sites:  
<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/ABA/FAQs.shtml>  
<http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/newsletter/docs/AutismAwarenessResources.pdf>

comfortable in the social, school setting.

"The students really teach you not to judge a book by its cover," said Devin Martin. "I've learned you have to be a little more patient, and maybe go over things a few extra times, but it helps them stay focused."

"I think they show you that they may do things in a different way, but that's okay," said Sarah Carmen. "It's really cool to see the students do things people thought they couldn't do."

The girls agreed that interacting with someone with special needs has taught them to have more patience and respect for anyone who is "different."

"What's great about Oakton is that the kids here are very accepting," Anna Kate Martin said. "They will go up to kids with autism and say hi. It makes them feel welcome."

"Our students gain so much from being around these girls. They have more self-assurance, and they learn different ways of communicating," said Marcantuono.

Although the three girls volunteer every school day, a number of OES students participate in other related activities, such as PE buddies, where a student volunteers to pair up with an autistic student during gym



**Drama teachers Bernie DeLeo (Thoreau Middle School and West Springfield High School) and Stacey Jones (Luther Jackson Middle School) have produced plays and school news spots for Autism Awareness Month.**

class.

"We teach the children we receive, whether it's autism, shyness or whatever," said kindergarten teacher Julia Rastelli, who produces a popular annual kindergarten musical that includes autistic students.

"Our school has a culture of compassion and acceptance, and these girls really take that to heart," Shipley said. "We're lucky to be in Fairfax County, where we have programs that students can benefit from at a very early age. No child is hopeless, and that's reflected in the way we teach."

## April is Autism Awareness Month

As autism awareness has skyrocketed, the disability—which experts are now calling an "epidemic"—has become a national priority.

The latest report, co-authored by the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, found autism spectrum disorder affects one in 50 children, well above the one in 88 number that had been used by the CDC just last year, and three times the rate the CDC found a decade ago.

According to a recent survey by the Florida Institute of Technology, nearly two-thirds of young moms and dads are concerned their child will be diagnosed with ASD.

"Since the average school bus holds 50 to 55 children, that means, statistically speaking, on average there is one child with parent-reported ASD on every school bus in America," reported the National Institute of Mental Health.

The increase, experts say, is largely due to improved diagnosis of ASD by doctors or other health professional in recent years, especially when the symptoms were mild.

Along with increased awareness, the social landscape has changed dramatically for students diagnosed with autism.

Politically, autism is a hot-button issue that's on the agenda of many lawmakers, who advocate a range of services, from respite services to mandated health insurance coverage for various therapies like applied behavior analysis (ABA).

Delegate Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41), whose brother-in-law has autism, has been a long-standing advocate for expanded health insurance coverage for autism spectrum disorder, and co-patroned several bills that address the issue.

Politics aside, most parents want to know what education services are available for their autistic child.

"Because of the size of Fairfax County, we are able to offer programs that few schools districts in the nation can provide, which help guide both students and parents through the education process," said Fairfax County School Board member Ryan McElveen. "Fairfax County uses Applied Behavioral Analysis with Pre K-12 students. The primary objective of ABA is to prepare students with autism and related disorders to function as independently as possible," said McElveen.

**THE APPROACH** emphasizes the importance of looking at the ABC's (antecedents, behaviors, and consequences) of behaviors and teaching new skills and behaviors.

New skills are taught through techniques such as reinforcement, shaping, prompting, and data is analyzed to measure progress on the acquisition of new behaviors and new skills.

"When you hear the 'A' word dropped, you think the worst, that your child won't be able to communicate and will never live an independent life," said Bernie DeLeo, a former special education teacher and drama teacher at Thoreau Middle School, who now teaches drama at West Springfield High School.

He said he and his wife, who grew up in McLean, moved back to Fairfax County from New York City in 2002 because of the programs and services offered by Fairfax County Public Schools.

"It's important for parents to be advocates, and to keep their expectation levels high. My wife and I were very hands on with our son. We expected more out of him, and he's surprised us at every turn."

# New Superintendent Named

## Karen Garza selected as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools.

The Fairfax County School Board unanimously approved educator Karen Garza of Texas to be the next superintendent of the 181,000 student district at its April 18 school board meeting.

For the past four years, Garza has been the superintendent of the Lubbock Independent School District, which serves approximately 30,000 students in Lubbock, Texas. She will succeed retiring Superintendent Jack Dale on July 1, 2013. Her four-year contract runs through June 30, 2017, and she will earn \$265,000 in her first year.

"I'm thrilled that we have been able to finalize the appointment and contractual arrangement with Dr. Garza," said Ilryong Moon, Fairfax County School Board chairman. Moon said several school board members visited Lubbock early last week and "all of us came away extremely impressed with the community's observations regarding Dr. Garza's tenure as its superintendent."

"I could not be more pleased with the outcome of our extensive search process for a new superintendent," said school board member Ryan McElveen (at-large.) McElveen said one of the primary characteristics the community hoped to see in a new superintendent was the willingness to engage with the community.

"Although that can be extremely difficult in a county as large and congested as Fairfax County, we could not have found someone more ready and willing to do so than Dr. Garza. Our site visit last week to Lubbock, Texas, proved her ability to engage and positively transform an entire community," McElveen said.

Garza flew to Fairfax last Thursday to accept the appointment in person, and toured several schools on Friday, meeting with teachers, students and administrators.

"I am very humbled and excited to be selected by this board," she said. "It is truly an honor and a privilege to join such a renowned school system." Garza said she will be "responsive and accountable" to all FCPS stakeholders and will support efforts already underway to provide FCPS students a world-class education.

"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools," she said.

Prior to her role in Lubbock, Garza served as the chief academic officer of the Houston Independent School District, the seventh largest school district in the country. As chief academic officer, the district's second position to the superintendent, Garza was responsible for both instruction and fa-



Dr. Karen Garza

cilities for more than 200,000 students.

"She comes to Fairfax County with a deep commitment to openness and engagement and is eager to work collaboratively in the best interest of all students," Moon said. "As Dr. Garza knows, the bar is set high in Fairfax County. The board looks forward with great excitement to working with Dr. Garza as it builds upon past successes and moves forward in a new era for FCPS."

The school board will begin planning a series of transition activities and public meetings for Dr. Garza before she begins her tenure as FCPS superintendent on July 1.

—VICTORIA ROSS

**"As superintendent, I plan to be very visible. The best part of my day will be when I'm in schools to be with children and to better understand the needs of our schools."**

—Dr. Karen Garza

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Photo by Nancy J. Olds

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# OPINION

## Connection Guide to Parks Wins 'Best in Show'

Investigative reporting, in depth coverage, education writing, photography, art, design, sports, garner Virginia Press Association honors.

The Connection Newspapers won dozens of awards from the Virginia Press Association, with winners announced on Saturday, April 20, in Norfolk.

The Connection project, *Insiders Guide to the Parks of Fairfax County*, published in our *Newcomers and Community Guides*, won a top honor of Best in Show for Art. The project also won first place for informational graphics. Spearheaded and researched by Jean Card, who also designed the pages, with photography by Craig Sterbutzel and map design by Laurence Foong, *Insiders Guide to the Parks* led judges to say: "This is chock-full of information. It probably leaves readers with no unanswered questions. Colors and typography work well together. The down-page photo and text wrap features are nice touches."

A multi-part series on immigration spearheaded by Victoria Ross won first place for in-depth or investigative writing. The Connection devoted multiple pages in multiple editions for multiple weeks to exhaustive reporting on immigration. "This entry clearly stood out above the rest in this category," said judges of Ross's work. "The author portrayed an excellent mix of data and human stories in covering all of the facets of this topic. It was obvious she spent a great deal of time working on this in-depth series. This was extremely comprehensive, well rounded and objective. This was not just reports, numbers and data but a terrific compilation of human stories, personal experiences, challenges and a great deal of hope." See the entire immigration package at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/).

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three awards for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division, one circulation category above the Connection papers. Nicholas Horrock won first place, In-depth or investigative reporting, for a multi-part series on Potomac Yard. "Great reporting job and extremely thorough," said judges.

Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet, won second place also for In-depth or investigative reporting for *Guns From the South*. Michael Lee Pope, won third place in the same category, for *Looking Behind the Numbers*.

Kenneth Lourie won first place for Column Writing. Judge's comment: "An exceptionally friendly, down-home writing style. The best of the group without a doubt."

Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, first place, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics.

Nikki Cheshire, an intern for the Great Falls Connection, garnered a first place award for her dramatic breaking news photo, a helicopter rescue at Great Falls Park. See the award winning photo at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2012/jun/11/18271/).

Bonnie Hobbs won first place for public safety writing in the Centre View and sec-

ond place for public safety writing in the Fairfax Connection. Judges said: "Although the cases featured in these entries were sensational, which made them interesting in and of themselves, the writer maintained the readers' interest by her excellent storytelling ability. The stories not only conveyed facts but also emotion. The coverage was comprehensive and thorough with no questions left unanswered."

Alex McVeigh won first place for Education Writing, first published in the Oak Hill-Herndon Connection.

Photographer Deb Cobb won first place for an online slide show of coverage of daily patrols on the water in the Mount Vernon Gazette. See it at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/galleries) and search for Daily Marine Patrols. Cobb also won first place for general news photo for her photo of "Freezin' for a Reason," the polar bear plunge into Lake Anne.

Mike Pope won first place for breaking news for coverage of "New Leadership at Gunston Hall."

Pope also won third place for continuing coverage for "Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening" in the Mount Vernon Gazette, and third place for Mount Vernon Health, Science and Environmental Writing Portfolio.

The staff of Great Falls Connection won second place for overall excellence (general makeup). Judges said: "Although the tabloid format and general design has a 'features' feel, this is a beautiful paper. The text, use of color and section delineation makes it very easy to read and follow both news and features. All cover selections draw you in."

Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story for Memorial Day. Judge's comment: "A variety of great photos neatly presented helps tell the story of this important day."

Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo \* Santiago Valdez. Judge's comment: "Great Exposure."

Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing. Judge's comment: "Think you can't say much in two words? This entry disproves that. I particularly like 'Bovine Intervention' with the subhead 'Del Ray's Holy Cow, ACT partner for local charities."

Louise Krafft won second place for picture story or essay for her coverage of the Mount Vernon High School graduation.

Jean Card won second place for page design in the Mount Vernon Gazette.

The Mount Vernon Gazette won second place for special section for the August *Insiders Edition*, *Community and Newcomers Guide*; and third place for special edition for the *Children's Gazette*.

Mary Kimm, third place, editorial writing for a package of education-related editorials.

Find all of the award-winning coverage at [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com), under Awards.

### AWARD WINNERS

#### SPECIAL AWARD: BEST IN SHOW, NON-DAILY ARTWORK

❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County.

#### FIRST PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Victoria Ross, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting, Immigration
- ❖ Nicholas Horrock, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Potomac Yard
- ❖ Jean Card, Laurence Foong and Craig Sterbutzel, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics, Parks in Fairfax County
- ❖ Nikki Cheshire, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo, Rescue at Great Falls
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow, Daily Patrols Take to the Water
- ❖ Deb Cobb, Reston Connection: General news photo, Freezin' for a Reason
- ❖ Laurence Foong and Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Kenneth Lourie, Arlington Connection: Column Writing
- ❖ Alex McVeigh, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing, The Human Element of Learning
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report, Secret Police
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing

#### SECOND PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Montie Martin, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting, Guns From the South
- ❖ Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design
- ❖ Bonnie Hobbs, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay, Mount Vernon Graduation 2012
- ❖ Louise Krafft and Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story, Memorial Day
- ❖ Craig Sterbutzel, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo, Santiago Valdez
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing
- ❖ Jeanne Theismann, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions: Insider's Guide.
- ❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll and Geovani Flores, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup.

#### THIRD PLACE WINNERS

- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting: Looking Behind the Numbers
- ❖ Laurence Foong, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design
- ❖ Laurence Foong, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics
- ❖ Mary Kimm, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing; five editorials about education
- ❖ Louise Krafft, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo. Louise Krafft, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay, Celebrating the Irish.
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report, Schools in Crisis
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story, Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening
- ❖ Michael Lee Pope, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing.
- ❖ Jon Roetman, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong and Stuart Moll, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup.
- ❖ Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong and Jean Card, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions, Children's Edition.

### MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, Md., competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2) and Staff were named as winners.

## Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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# Green Expo Returns to Vienna

FROM PAGE 3

The Community Enhancement Commission runs the native plant sale and sustainable house and garden tour in mid-September.

The Vienna Green Expo is, perhaps, the most well known of the commission's events. "Bringing all this information together in one location on one night is a great service that the town provides to our residents," Stillman said.

And about that Tesla: The owners wanted a car solely battery-operated, no hybrid. Surprisingly, there is lots of space in the car because the battery is beneath the seating area. With no engine, additional storage space opens up. And ... the family waited three to four years for delivery on their \$85,000 vehicle, which they actually purchased online. "It was worth the wait," the owner said.

**THE VIENNA GREEN EXPO** was sponsored by the Community Enhancement Commission and Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation.

Green Expo vendors included: four vehicles—the Chevy Volt, converted Prius provided by Jim Lemon, Nissan Leaf, and Tesla; local schools—Louise Archer, Vienna Elementary School Garden, Madison High School, Marshall High School, and Thoreau Middle School; non-profits/community groups—Community Enhancement Commission, Northeast Vienna Citizen Association [NEVCA], Master Naturalists, Ayr Hill Garden Club, Boy Scouts David Goodwin and Mark Logan, Vienna Farmers Market, Vienna Bicycle Advisory Committee, Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicy-



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

**David Godwin (left) and Mark Logan talk to visitors at their table about the Watt Watcher Initiative and the top "phantom" (or vampire) energy users.**

cling, LEAP, Coalition for Smart Growth and Sierra Club; businesses—Bikes@Vienna, Spokes, Home Energy Medics, Home Performance Solutions, John Nugent and Sons, Edge Energy, Peabody Architects, Peter Henry Architect, Prior Unity Garden, Forever Green Recycling, Inc., and Ecobeco; government partners—Vienna Parks and Recreation [landscape and arborist services], Fairfax County Public Works Department, Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project and Fairfax Connector Buses.

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5-K Walk to benefit children in foster care

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**Where:** Lake Accotink Park (rear entrance)  
5660 Heming Avenue, Springfield, VA.

**Cost:** \$30 registration fee • Picnic lunch provided

**Steps to Walk – or Support the 5-K Walk**

1. Log on to: [www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml](http://www.fairfaxyouth.org/events.xml) to register
  2. Create your own team or join our Fairfax Families4Kids team.
- For more information, visit the Web site at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ncs/fairfaxfamilies4kids.htm) or contact Beverly J. Howard, Fairfax Families4Kids Coordinator, 703-324-7518, TTY 711. Beverly.Howard@fairfaxcounty.gov



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## PEOPLE

# Spring Break With Orphans of China

## Vienna 16-year-old gives \$5000 to four orphanages while visiting the country.

A 16-year-old from Vienna, Charlotte Heffelmire, raised and donated \$5,000 to Chinese orphanages while in the country over spring break.

Charlotte visited several Chinese orphanages and made the donation across four of them, so as to lessen the odds of the money being wasted, wrote her father, Eric Heffelmire in an email to The Connection on Monday, April 8.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ERIC HEFFELMIRE

Charlotte Heffelmire (left), of Vienna, raised and donated money to four orphanages while in China during her spring break. Winds of Change was one of the organizations to receive part of the \$5000 total that Charlotte donated.



Vienna 16-year-old Charlotte Heffelmire (left) plays with orphans while in China over her spring break. During her visit to the country, Heffelmire raised and donated \$5000 to Chinese orphanages.

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## WEEK IN VIENNA

### Absentee Voting Before Vienna Election

The Fairfax Co. Office of Elections offers absentee voting before the May 7 election in Vienna for residents who meet the qualifications. These include disabled residents as well as those who will be commuting and working for 11 or more hours, between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m., on Election Day, May 7; such residents and others may qualify to vote by absentee ballot.

For further info on absentee voting, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/2013/vienna-election-may-7.htm> and <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/AbsenteeVoting.html>.

### Tree Planting Ceremony In Honor of Arbor Day

The Town of Vienna and the Community Enhancement Commission invite the public to attend the annual Arbor Day ceremony on Friday, April 26, at 10 a.m. The tree planting ceremony will be held next to the W&OD Caboose in the town's Centennial Park on Church St. N.E., adjacent to the W&OD Trail.

For more information or in case of inclement weather, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360.

### Vienna Police to Participate In Prescription Drug Take Back Initiative

In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforce-

ment Administration (D.E.A.) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On April 27, between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside Vienna Police Headquarters at 215 Center St., South Vienna, Virginia 22180. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing it and disposing of it directly in to the collection box. If an original container is used, the individual should consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original container to prevent leakage. Intra-venous solutions, injectibles, and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards.

### The Farmers' Market is Moving

Starting May 4, the Vienna Saturday Farmers' Market is moving a few blocks and relocating to the Faith Baptist Church parking lots, 301 Center St. S., located next to the Vienna Police Department and across from the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

The Farmers' Market will open on May 4, and will run continuously on Saturdays through Oct. 26, from 8 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Faith Baptist Church parking lots. The Optimist Club of Greater Vienna operates and sponsors the market and all market fees go towards supporting youth.

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# REAL ESTATE



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

**Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated a luxury condominium for a retired couple who wanted to downsize after selling their suburban home. Real estate experts say high-end condominium sales are on the rise.**



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE GOODHART GROUP OF McENEARNEY ASSOCIATES, INC.

**Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart says sales of high-end real estate in the City of Alexandria, such as this property, have increased over the past year.**

## What Housing Slump?

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hen a retired couple decided it was time to leave their sprawling suburban home, they wanted to downsize without giving up luxury. As a result, they purchased a high-end condominium and hired Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design to create a serene and sophisticated space.

“The couple are retired professionals, empty nesters who lead active lives and didn’t want the maintenance of a single family home,” said Proxmire. “[They] wanted to blend the furniture, accessories and mementoes they had each collected. ... They wanted a home that was elegant, comfortable, and that also allowed them to lock and leave on a moment’s notice.”

Proxmire’s clients are part of rebound in the high-end condominium market. The National Association of Realtors® reports that condominium purchases are on the rise, and says that sales are 13.9 percent higher than they were at the same time last year.

David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby’s International Realty says his company has seen an increase in luxury condominium sales in the Washington region in recent months. “In the past several months we have broken records for high-end condo prices, and we recently sold the most expensive condo ever sold in the Washington region, which was \$7.5 million,” he said. “We sold a number of condos at Turnberry Tower in Rosslyn [Arlington].”

**COMMUNITIES LIKE** the Oronoco in Old Town Alexandria; Market Street at Town Center in Reston, and Quarry Springs in Bethesda attract those who want both luxury and convenience. “The appeal of these buildings is the fact that you’ve got these large apartments that are like homes except with a health club and concierge service,” said DeSantis. “The close-in suburbs are good places to live. There are good stores, good restaurants and you don’t have

the issue of a long commute to work.”

Realtors say that properties close to public transportation are in demand. “Reston is on fire. The condos are turning very quickly there because the Metro is coming,” said Great Falls-based realtor Dianne Van Volkenburg of Long & Foster Companies. “Reston is one of the places where inventory is extremely limited, so you’re getting multiples offers over list price.”

Alexandria-based realtor Allison Goodhart of The Goodhart Group of McEneaney Associates, Inc. said, “Sales and showings for properties have really picked up across the board in Alexandria City. The Oronoco is all high-end, one-level condos near the Old Town [Alexandria] waterfront and those are selling very well.”

Bob Wulff, Ph.D., director of the Center for Real Estate Entrepreneurship and the master’s in real estate development program at George Mason University in Fairfax, says there are two primary types of buyers who are drawn to condominiums. “There are first time homebuyers and move-down homebuyers who’ve sold their large suburban homes,” said Wulff. “Move-down buyers are looking for luxury in a walkable neighborhood that is near mass transit.”

DeSantis agrees. “A big portion of those clients are the empty-nester crowd,” he said. “Their kids have graduated from college and they are looking for a lifestyle change. These people were not pinched by the recession, but it also wasn’t a good time to sell their big house in suburbs.”

In addition to empty nesters, DeSantis says that high-income professional singles and couples often choose luxury condominiums. “Those two groups are leading to the up-tick in sales,” he said.

Walter Molony, economic issues media manager for the National Association of Realtors, says the boost in condominium sales is the result of a stronger economy. “It is part of the rising tide that is floating all boats,” he said. “After four years of a sluggish economy that impacted people’s confidence, affordability conditions have improved and people

**Real estate experts explain the rise in luxury condominium sales.**



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

**Bethesda, Md., based interior designer Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design decorated this luxury condominium for two empty nesters who lead active lives and didn’t want the maintenance of a single-family home.**

SEE LUXURY CONDOS, PAGE 11



Sales of condominiums built with luxurious materials, such as those used in the bathroom of this condominium at Turnberry Tower in the Rosslyn neighborhood of Arlington, are on the rise.



David DeSantis, a partner at TTR | Sotheby's International Realty, says his company has seen an increase in the sale of high-end condominiums such as this one at Reston Town Center.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TTR | SOOTHEBY'S INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Local realtors say that condominiums near public transportation, such as these at Reston Town Center, are in demand.

# Luxury Condos in Demand

FROM PAGE 10

have the wherewithal and the confidence to buy. There is less inventory in the low-end market, and there are more buyers than sellers, which is driving demand up."

DeSantis said, "For the most part, the Washington, D.C., area was not hit as hard, so we're coming

back faster. One of the things that we've seen in the real estate industry is that there's no shortage of people in this market who have the resources to buy high-end housing. They held off on buying while the direction of the economy ... was unclear, but people are now willing to spend the money that they've had all along."

## PHOTO GALLERY!

### "Me and My Mom"

To honor Mom on Mother's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Vienna/Oakton Connection, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314

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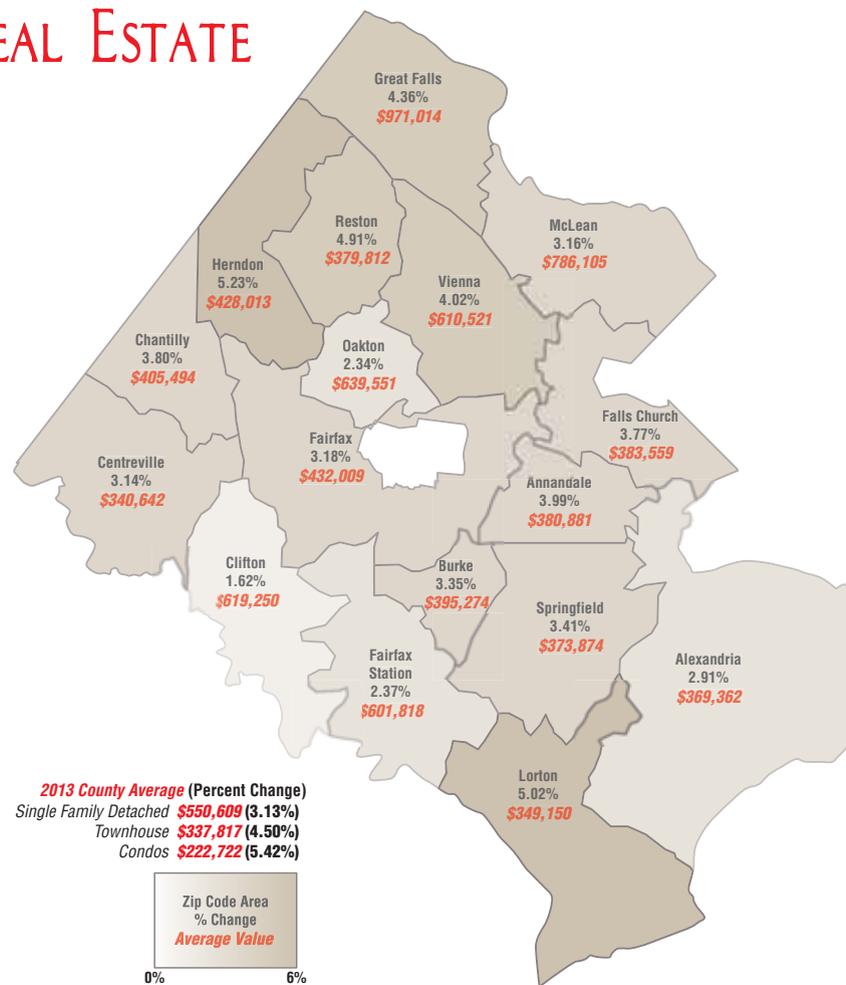
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## REAL ESTATE



# Housing Market: 'Sell and Buy'

**Sustained low interest rates and rising prices have energized the marketplace.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
 THE CONNECTION

The local real estate market is thriving, with realtors reporting multiple offers on homes in some areas and dwindling inventory of homes for sale. At least two things are contributing to this change in the market.

First, interest rates have been in the basement: Freddie Mac reported a 30-year fixed-rate of 3.57 percent for March this year, as opposed to 3.95 percent in March 2012 and 4.84 percent in 2011 (for reference, March 2005 was 5.93 percent).

Second, home prices are rising: RealEstate Business Intelligence reported a 10.23 percent increase in average sold price in Fairfax County between February 2012 and 2013. Even though inventory is shrinking across the county, distressed sales (foreclosures and short sales) are a smaller part of the market.

On the whole, everyone has warm fuzzies about the market.

"It's as healthy as it's ever been," said Dane Work, an associate broker with Re/Max Preferred Properties in Fairfax. "Everything is a hot potato. The whole market is red hot, white hot."

**BUT HOW LONG** until the extended honeymoon phase is over? And what will that market look like? According to George Mason University Professor of Finance Gerald Hanweck, a lot like it has before.

"The hype is, fundamentally, what you would expect from a market like this," said Hanweck. "For quite a while, this has been a terrific housing market in Fairfax County."

Hanweck came to GMU in 1985 after spending nearly two decades in the research division at the

Federal Reserve Board. Today in addition to teaching MBA finance courses, he is also associate dean for graduate programs.

The professor has seen real estate go through cycle after cycle over the decades. "It really just took time to allow housing prices to get on a path of rising, at a rate they had in the past," he said.

"When I first came here in 1968, the thought was housing prices should always go up ten percent a year. That was a rule. And in fact they did for some time," Hanweck said.

"Now we've hit a plateau," said Hanweck, "to where we probably should take off and start having price rises between 4 and 6 percent a year, on average, for residential properties. Once we hit that, and that's been happening now for several years, prices are high enough — after they had fallen in 2005 and 2006 — that people are willing to buy and sell. Enough time has passed."

**WHY THE DWINDLING SUPPLY?** There are several factors, according to Hanweck, which result in people hanging on to their properties. Among them is a gradual increase in the number of retirees in this area who choose to stay in their homes. Another is people simply waiting to see how high prices will rise. There are also more instances of business investors buying properties to rent.

But none of this should dissuade anyone from jumping into the real estate market right now, Hanweck said. "Sell. Sell and buy."

"If you want to move, sell now, buy now. Buying six months ago would be even better, buying a year ago would've been even better. But buy. Over the next year, two years, it's going to be a good market. After that we're going to see federal government cuts actually start to impact."

"I'm incredibly optimistic," said Work. "I have been for about a year and a half. It makes me look like a saint. The writing was on the wall for some of this."

"It's such a great opportunity for the end user, for occupants," he continued. "Everybody's got to live somewhere. Now is the time to lock in on something and secure it."

# HOME SALES

In March 2013, 69 homes sold between \$1,498,850-\$194,900 in the Vienna and Oakton area. This week's list represents those homes sold in the \$1,498,850-\$530,000 range. For the complete list, visit [www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
201 NIBLICK DR SE	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,498,850	Detached	0.50	22180	WESTBRIAR CC MANOR
9606 SYMPHONY MEADOW LN	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,440,000	Detached	1.25	22182	SYMPHONY MEADOWS
9118 LUCKY ESTATES DR	5	6	1	VIENNA	\$1,300,000	Detached	1.15	22182	LUCKY ESTATES
9902 TIMMARK CT	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,235,000	Detached	0.40	22181	VIENNA GLEN
3259 PONY RIDGE WAY	5	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,216,000	Detached	0.64	22124	DARTMOOR WOODS
11688 HEINZ CT	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,150,000	Detached	0.83	22124	WYNBERN
9805 LEESBURG PIKE	5	3	2	VIENNA	\$1,149,000	Detached	2.48	22182	COLVIN RUN GREAT FALLS AREA
2225 TERRA RIDGE DR	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,010,000	Detached	0.26	22181	VIENNA MEWS
10703 HUNTERS RUN CT	4	4	1	VIENNA	\$950,000	Detached	1.73	22181	HUNTERS CREST
2503 EASIE ST	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$930,000	Detached	0.51	22124	PERZEL MARIE PROP
720 MCKINLEY ST NE	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$862,500	Detached	0.38	22180	CONCORD GREEN
2513 MEREDITH DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$855,000	Detached	0.35	22181	LAKEVALE ESTATES
9855 FAUST DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$831,300	Detached	0.55	22182	WOLFTRAP MEADOWS
9119 CRICKLEWOOD CT	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$825,500	Detached	0.39	22182	WOLF TRAP WOODS
2610 LAKEVALE DR	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$820,000	Detached	0.60	22181	LAKEVALE ESTATES
9803 CLYDE CT	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$795,000	Detached	0.35	22181	LAWYERS NORTH
3418 LYRAC ST	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$782,500	Detached	0.68	22124	FOXVALE
1811 MIDLOTHIAN CT	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$775,000	Detached	0.25	22182	WAVERLY
10225 TAMARACK DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$770,000	Detached	0.46	22182	TAMARACK
2604 OAKLEDGE CT	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$755,000	Detached	0.29	22181	OAKTON GLEN
1331 STOKLEY WAY	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$740,000	Detached	0.25	22182	TOWLSTON MEADOW
8158 BOSS STREET	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$720,000	Townhouse	0.06	22182	TYSONS TERRACE
2231 RICHELIEU DR	2	3	0	VIENNA	\$706,000	Detached	0.25	22182	TYSONS WOODS
3115 MILLER HEIGHTS RD	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$679,900	Detached	0.69	22124	CINNAMON RIDGE
3061 COPELAND LN	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$675,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	OAK MANOR
11332 VALE RD	5	2	1	OAKTON	\$655,000	Detached	0.98	22124	VALE SPRING WOODS
2724 CLARKES LANDING DR	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$650,000	Detached	0.49	22124	CLARKES LANDING
11909 SAINT HELENA DR	3	2	1	OAKTON	\$649,900	Detached	0.56	22124	OAKTON VALE
1825 PRELUDE DR	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$625,000	Detached	0.39	22182	TIBURON
2009 GALLOW'S TREE CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$623,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	HAHN PROPERTY
926 MOOREFIELD CREEK RD SW	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$615,000	Townhouse	0.11	22180	TOWNES OF MOOREFIELD
2050 PIERIS CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$610,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	HAHN PROPERTY
2439 JACKSON PKWY	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$605,000	Detached	0.28	22180	STONEWALL MANOR
607 MEADOW LN SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$605,000	Detached	0.43	22180	VIENNA WOODS
12011 HAMDEN CT	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$602,000	Detached	0.46	22124	VALEWOOD MANOR
109 TAPAWINGO RD SE	4	2	0	VIENNA	\$596,000	Detached	0.26	22180	VIENNA WOODS
8008 TREVOR PL	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$596,000	Townhouse	0.06	22182	COURTHOUSE STATION
402 ORLEANS CIR SW	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$589,000	Detached	0.23	22180	VIENNA WOODS
3261 FOX MILL RD	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$580,000	Detached	1.03	22124	FOX HERITAGE
10204 WOODROW ST	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$580,000	Detached	0.56	22181	KEMPER PARK
9635 CINNAMON CREEK DR	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$575,000	Detached	0.38	22182	CINNAMON CREEK
3416 LYRAC ST	3	1	0	OAKTON	\$562,500	Detached	1.50	22124	FOXVALE
2414 BEEKAY CT	5	3	0	VIENNA	\$560,000	Detached	0.46	22181	KEMPER PARK
2027 MEADOW SPRINGS DR	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$555,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	MADRILLON SPRINGS
612 YEONAS DR SW	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$552,000	Detached	0.37	22180	VIENNA WOODS
363 COURTHOUSE RD SW	3	1	0	VIENNA	\$550,000	Detached	0.47	22180	MAPLE VIEW
2801 LOGWAY RD	5	3	0	VIENNA	\$535,000	Detached	0.26	22181	EDGELEA WOODS
11415 VALE RD	4	3	0	OAKTON	\$530,000	Detached	0.55	22124	FOX VALE ESTATES

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## VIEWPOINTS



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## Market Blossoms In Area

“This past February, the market bloomed well in advance of the cherry blossoms! Sellers are more than likely dancing on their roofs. With low inventory, prices have been climbing. Not only are most homes selling fast, lucky sellers may see multiple offers—some including escalation clauses as well. For the Reston market, the long-awaited opening of the Wiehle Avenue Metro stop later this year has not escaped notice. More buyers are looking here knowing they can avoid the Rt. 7 traffic or the toll road. Interest rates are still good, but there is competition. Buyers need to do their research and be ready to act when the right home becomes available.”

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Madison senior midfielder Melissa Kellan shoots during a game against McLean on April 18.



McLean senior Ava Mirzadegan scored three goals against Madison on April 18.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## Madison Girls' Lax Beats McLean

**Nine Warhawks score at least one goal.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**A**fter falling behind McLean during an April 18 matchup, Madison girls' lacrosse coach Amanda Counts had a message for the Warhawks during a timeout.

"[I told them] that they need to have pride in how they play," said Counts, whose Warhawks defeated 2012 state runner-up Langley six days prior. "Coming off a big win last week, where they were super excited, it seemed like they were resting on that and they need to recognize that we have a long season ahead of us and accomplishing our interim goals as we go does not mean we get to slack off at any point."

"We have to be prepared for what's coming down the line."

While Madison stumbled during the first eight minutes, the Warhawks proved prepared to dominate the remainder of the contest.

Madison outscored McLean 20-5 during a 36-minute stretch and defeated the Highlanders 21-11 at McLean High School. Madison trailed 4-1 early, but the Warhawks responded with four straight goals and 11 of the next 14 en route to a 12-7 halftime lead. Madison scored nine of the first 11 second-half goals and cruised to victory.

"I think we started working together as a team," Madison junior Alex Condon said in regard to the Warhawks overcoming their slow start. "I feel like the first few minutes, everyone was playing as an individual. I feel like after that, we came out, we got focused and we did what we needed to do to get it together."

**NINE DIFFERENT WARHAWKS** scored at least one goal and seven scored at least two. Senior attack Carly Frederick led the way with four goals. Condon, junior Katie Kerrigan and senior Melissa Kellan each had three goals and sophomore Kierra Sweeney, junior Sam Babbitt and senior Erin Callahan

**"Coming off a big win last week, where they were super excited, it seemed like they were resting on that and they need to recognize that we have a long season ahead of us and accomplishing our interim goals as we go does not mean we get to slack off at any point."**

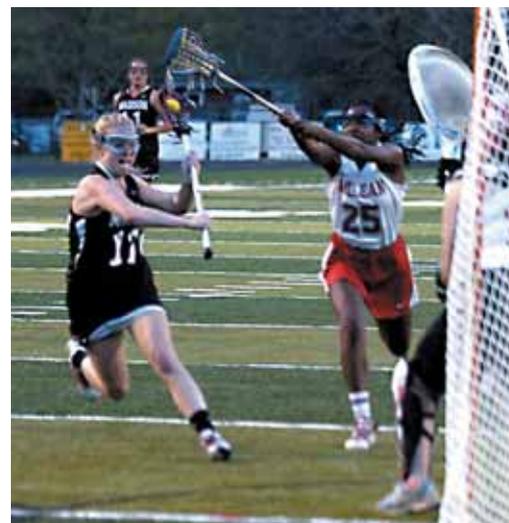
**— Madison girls' lacrosse coach Amanda Counts**

each had two. Juniors Maddie Renshaw and Rachel Brennan each added one.

On April 22, Madison beat South Lakes 17-6, improving the Warhawks' record to 7-1, including 4-0 in the Liberty District.

Many of Madison's juniors and seniors were members of the program's 2011 undefeated state championship team. The Warhawks have also won each of the last two Liberty District titles. This season, Madison has a greater dependence on its elder athletes to provide leadership and on-field production as the younger Warhawks don't possess as much experience as in previous years.

"This is a whole new team," said Frederick, who was a sophomore on the 2011 state title team. "We're not used to this kind of team at all. It's definitely a challenge, but one that we're all taking optimistically. There are times where it's very



Madison sophomore Kierra Sweeney finished with two goals during a win against McLean on April 18.

frustrating. I've never been on a team like this. Being a senior and being a captain, I really enjoy trying to help the other players and trying to get everyone on the same page. I don't think captains in previous years that I've played have ever had to have that much responsibility. It's a lot of pressure."

How have the Warhawks remained successful?

"We hold [younger players] accountable to the level that our coaches expect us to be playing at," Frederick said. "It's definitely tough. There have been a lot of emotions throughout the season, but everyone is starting to really come together and I don't think that anyone has really seen the best of Madison yet and I'm excited for that game to come."

Condon was a freshman on the 2011 team.

"When I was a freshman, we had great seniors that helped everyone," said Condon, now a junior. "They were always willing to stay after practice with you and help you out and spend extra time with you and I [looked] up to them and try to do that with

the young girls here."

Counts said the elder Warhawks need to have athletes of all ages playing well in order for the team to be successful.

"They have a lot to accomplish," she said. "There are girls who are experienced here and have been in the program and have been with us through successes, but we have a lot of new girls, so that's not something every single person has in their back pocket. They need to bring everybody up to the same level. We have to play together to get anything done."

After losing to Madison, McLean defeated Marshall 16-12 on Monday, improving the Highlanders' record to 4-5, including 2-3 in the Liberty District.

**AGAINST MADISON**, senior attack Ava Mirzadegan and freshman midfielder Alessandra Pelliccia each scored three goals. Junior midfielder Nikki Lind finished with two goals, and sophomore attack Grace Tiernan, senior attack Sibylle Miller and sophomore midfielder Elise Koehl each finished with one.

Mirzadegan and Lind scored the first two goals of the April 18 contest against the Warhawks. After Frederick put Madison on the board, Pelliccia and Lind scored, giving McLean a 4-1 lead. Pelliccia scored from free position with 9:27 remaining in the first half, giving the Highlanders their final lead of the night at 6-5.

"I think our girls played hard the entire time," McLean head coach Alexandra Whitworth said. "They were fired up the whole time for this game. This is always a big rivalry that we have against Madison. I think [the Warhawks] just kind of capitalized on their shots. Our shooting kind of went downhill as the game went on. Their goalie had some really good saves."

McLean will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, April 29.

Madison will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, April 26.

# Conflicted, Times Two



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

About what I'm feeling and whether I should even be writing about it. Obviously, the "it" ("confliction," one of my father's many made-up words), has to do with yours truly having stage IV lung cancer (duh!). Specifically, it has to do with the feedback I received today from my nephrologist (kidney specialist), an appointment I have scheduled every four to six months. The ongoing concern being, that the toxicity of my previous three years of infused chemotherapy has caused collateral damage (internally for sure, externally, not so much), especially since I have lived longer than the standard treatment protocols anticipated/have been studied. Over this time, lab work and patient observation has indicated that something not totally unexpected has happened (other than my still being alive that is): damage to internal organs not directly related to the underlying cancer diagnosis. And what has been happening is that my creatinine levels (likely a side effect of my previous 18-month-long Avastin infusion) and bilirubin (likely a side effect of the - at present, nine months-long and counting, daily dose of tarceva, a targeted treatment/pill I take daily, are reaching new highs. Elevated levels of which are hardly grist for the rumor mill. In fact, it's quite the opposite: cause for concern.

The problem is that neither chemotherapy nor targeted treatment have been - heretofore, considered long-term treatment options for stage IV lung cancer patients because long-term survivors are rare. As such, studies determining such multi-year protocols have been equally rare, given the minimal patient population. And since I now fall into this "rare" population, how to treat me is more feel than established fact. The book hasn't been written, so to speak, because I'm the "book."

That being said, what the nephrologist said to me was: "You look great. Are you in remission?" (Not that I have been told.) "No one could tell by looking at you that you're not healthy." All of which I was grateful to hear, but hesitant to embrace. Ergo, the first "confliction." All of a sudden (four-plus years, actually), I'm not terminal? Given that I'm now living year five post-diagnosis, the chance, statistically speaking, that I'll be alive in year six is only 14.8 percent (see previous column of the same name). So, am I closer to the end of my life or the end of the cancer? That's a fairly wide disparity between fact and fiction. Am I living longer or dying sooner?

"Confliction" number two: What's the benefit to me, in even writing about what the nephrologist said? It feels as if I'm putting the proverbial cart before the horse. I'm not cured. There is no cure (as my oncologist clearly advised Team Lourie back in February, '09: "I can treat you, but I can't cure you." Hard words to live by). To the point then, what advantage, what purpose does discussing being cured (in remission) serve? My "CT" scan next week will tell me what I should be feeling; that's when the diagnostic rubber really hits the road. It doesn't matter what I think or feel - or write about - now, the tale of the tape will be in the "computerized topography." Until the radiologist completes his analysis and my oncologist communicates those findings to me, embracing what the nephrologist said to me or even writing about my reaction to it seems counterproductive somehow. I can't believe in miracles. I have to believe in myself. However, believing in one without the other is perhaps the reason I'm so conflicted. Or, I just think too much.

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

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PHOTOS BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI/THE CONNECTION

Science teacher Susan Bates advised students Rand Hossain, Nora Elbackush, Leen Abushaikha, and Arodi Rodrigo as they baked cookies that would later be donated to the local firehouse.



A group of band students that participated in a service activity off-school grounds returns. Several groups of students participated in volunteer and service opportunities with organizations that were stationed off-school grounds in close proximity to the middle school.

## A Day of Service at Kilmer Middle

Students learn how to make a difference in their community and the world.

BY NGALULA TSHISHIMBI  
THE CONNECTION

On Wednesday, April 17, students, teachers, and administrators experienced the first official Day of Service at Kilmer Middle School. The program saw the day's usual lesson plans replaced with community service activities of all sorts. While the activities ranged in variety from packaging food, to writing letters of advocacy, to creating digital PSAs and so much more, the objective was the same for each—to teach youths about their ability to make a difference in their community and the world.

According to the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), becoming “catalysts for change” was the theme of the day and a primary objective. Students began the day by watching a documentary film called, “The Children’s March.” This film features former child activists in the civil rights’ marches in 1963 Birmingham, Ala. “Viewing the Children’s March on Washington is a great way [for the students] to see how people can make a difference no matter how old they are. Their voices, when united, can be really powerful,” said Debra David, assistant principal at Kilmer Middle School, and a primary coordinator for the program.



**Eighth grader Sophia Nichols displays her completed “Fear-Me-Not.”**

Students’ reactions to the video varied. Seventh grader Manya Bij said he viewed the treatment of activists in the marches as depressing, but was impressed by their ability to overcome their obstacles. Some other students said they immediately felt empowered. “I thought it was inspiring. The kids were more courageous than the adults,” remarked seventh grader Meghana Komarraju. “It kind of shows the power we have even though we may be smaller than others.”

Despite feeling a range of emotions, the lesson of using one’s passions and interests to make a difference was not lost on the pre-teens and young teenagers. Because of the variety of activities, students were able to choose to be involved in service activities that aligned with their personal interests. As a result most students appeared engaged, enthusiastic, and invested in their respective tasks.

In one classroom, students worked together to build birdhouses that would offer books for elementary students to increase children’s access to literature. This activity proved ideal for eighth grader Peter Paradis who found the activity to be a marrying of interests. Said Paradis, “I’ve done [community service work] with my church before, but this was the first time I’ve had a hands-on building project to do and I found it to be one of the more enjoyable [projects] I’ve done.”

Organizational efforts of David, as well as Laura Wells, service learning resource teacher for FCPS, members of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and leaders of service organizations throughout the Vienna region made the program a reality.




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### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 24

**Joe Sample.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The jazz piano legend known for his albums *Street Life*, *Rainbow Seeker* and *Carmel*, plays a gospel-soul-blues-classical fusion show. \$40. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### THURSDAY/APRIL 25

**Thornton Wilder's "Our Town."** 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032).

**John McCutcheon.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The singer/songwriter that Johnny Cash declared "the most impressive instrumentalist I've ever heard," known for his Appalachian sound, plays the folk songs that earned him seven GRAMMY nominations. \$22. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 26

**Hanna Emrich at McLean Art Society Meeting.** 10 a.m.-noon, at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation from GWU graduate and past student of the Corcoran School of Art and Design who has shown her work and received recognition at local juried shows; guests welcome. 703-790-0123.

**Thornton Wilder's "Our Town."** 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032).

**The Hallelujah Girls.** 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. [vtcshows@yahoo.com](mailto:vtcshows@yahoo.com) or [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

**Robbie Schaefer and Jake Armerding.** 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The American folk-rocker, singer, guitarist and Vienna local Schaefer, of Eddie From Ohio, explores spirituality and transition in his music; opener Jake Armerding is an energizing artist who has collaborated with Josh Ritter, Nickel Creek and David Wilcox. \$20. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Multi-family Autism Fund-raising Garage Sale.** 9 a.m.-1 p.m., at 1101 Drake St. S.W. Vienna. Proceeds of the sale benefit a local pre-school autism class. Multiple families offer up mountain bikes, educational toys, children's clothing and shoes, DVDs, art and the like for a bargain. 202-262-1483.

**Be Fit McLean Outdoor Adventure**



The cast of "The Hallelujah Girls," a comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a spa. The show runs Friday, April 19, through Sunday, May 5, at Vienna Community Center.

**Expo.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC), 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. The McLean Community Center's annual expo provides participants with a chance to explore outdoor recreation options in the area. Bluegrass band and Circa Blue will perform at the event. \$5. 703-448.8336 or [ryan.brookes@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:ryan.brookes@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**The Hidden Life of Bees and Plants.** 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the McLean Project for the Arts, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A presentation by Sam Droege, scientist, USGS Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, on the story of how native bees are deeply entwined with our lives. RSVP. 703-790-1953 or [www.mpaart.org](http://www.mpaart.org).

**Taste of Vienna.** 11 a.m.-8 p.m., 400 Center St. S., Vienna. The many excellent restaurants that the Vienna area has to offer will be showcased; proceeds benefit The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. <http://www.tasteofvienna.org>.

**Holy Trinity Di Gennaro Hart Pipe Organ Concert.** 4 p.m., at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 3022 Woodlawn Avenue, Falls Church. Eileen Guenther is a national and international organ recitalist and has performed in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. 703-532-6617, [www.htluther.org](http://www.htluther.org) or [facebook.com/HTLuther](https://www.facebook.com/HTLuther).

**Thornton Wilder's "Our Town."** 7 p.m., at McLean High School, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean. The Pulitzer-winning play set in the small town of Grover's Corners follows the Webb and Gibbs families as their children fall in love, marry, and eventually, in one of the most famous scenes in American theatre, die. \$12 for seniors/students; \$15. 703-714-5700 or [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/347032).

**The Hallelujah Girls.** 8 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. [vtcshows@yahoo.com](mailto:vtcshows@yahoo.com) or [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**Ninth annual Vienna Elementary PTA 5K & Fun Run.** 8 a.m., at Vienna Elementary School, 128 Center St. S., Vienna. The DC Road Runners Club brings back the

chronotrack time chip timing system for runners racing on the USATF certified 5K course, which drew 700-plus participants last year. There is also a 1-mile fun run featured. \$25 before April 23; \$30; \$15 for children under 14. [www.vienna5krun.org](http://www.vienna5krun.org).

**The Hallelujah Girls.** 2 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. A Jones Hope Wooten comedy about a group of women in Eden Falls, Ga., who turn an abandoned church into a day spa where they gather for fun on Friday afternoons. \$11 for seniors and students; \$13. [vtcshows@yahoo.com](mailto:vtcshows@yahoo.com) or [www.viennatheatrecompany.org](http://www.viennatheatrecompany.org).

**Fairfax Choral Society and Amadeus Orchestra.** 4 p.m., at St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The orchestra and chorus perform "Requiem" by Steve Dobrogosz. The orchestra performs Rossini's overture to "Il Signor Bruschino" and Stravinsky's "Pulcinella." \$30; free for students 17 and under. [www.amadeusconcerts.com](http://www.amadeusconcerts.com).

**Mosaic Harmony Fundraiser Spring Concert.** 4 p.m., at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. A musical event and silent auction; auction starts at 3:15 p.m. \$25. [www.mosaicarmony.org/tickets.php](http://www.mosaicarmony.org/tickets.php).

### WEDNESDAY/MAY 1

**McLean Woman's Club Kitchen and Garden Tour.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (rain date: Thursday, May 2), at 7110 Holyrood Drive, McLean. A tour of spacious kitchens and gardens; Chamber of Commerce President Marcia Twomey and Woman's Club officers hold a ribbon-cutting to officially begin the tour. Tickets are at Flowers and Plants, Etc., Karin's Florist, Great Dogs of Great Falls, Vinson Hall Retirement Community or at tour houses; proceeds benefit Wounded Warrior Transitional Housing Project. \$25 before May 1; \$30 day-of. 703-556-0197 or [www.mcleanwc.org](http://www.mcleanwc.org).

### THURSDAY/MAY 2

**Leadership Fairfax 25th Anniversary Celebration.** 6-10 p.m., at Sheraton Premiere Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Food stations, dancing, an open bar, raffles, and live music by DC Transit with Lindsay Diles of Leadership Fairfax; cocktail attire. \$125 for members; \$150. 703-752-7518.

## NEWS

# Hackathon to Promote Invention

24-hour computer science event to be held April 26-27.

BY ANAGHA SRIKANTH  
THE CONNECTION

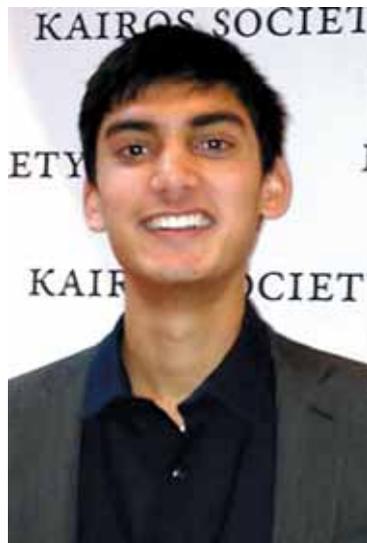
The first time Mayank Jain heard of a hackathon was as a freshman at the University of Illinois. Having graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) in June 2012, a tournament such as this, where students collaborated and created software projects within a short window of time, was what he was looking for from the field of computer sciences.

"What I think the coolest part about computer science is that if you have an idea it's so easy to sit in front of a computer and make it happen," Jain said. "You don't need any capital or resources, all you need is yourself and a computer in front of you."

Aspiring to make a career in the budding intersection of business and technology, Jain saw the lack of focus on innovation and creativity at the high school level as a market of opportunity. He contacted Alex Sands, who had succeeded him as president of TJHSST's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and was also co-president of the school's Invent team, and they turned the idea into a proposal for the school to consider. Once they had the administration's approval, they started looking for sponsors, with Palantir and Facebook being some of the first big-name companies to join in and commit to sending engineers to the event.

**WITH NAMES** such as those on their ticket, Jain and Sands found the response from students to be better than they expected, with about 165 students signed up so far and more expected to register on the day of the hackathon.

"No high school in this area that I know of has ever held a hackathon before so I think a lot of students will really get something out of finding an event like this that is really for them," said TJHSST senior Hannah Rudin, of Vienna, vice president of the Invent team. "It's for the coders and the designers and the business people and the developers. I think they'll get a lot out of being able to show off their skills in 24 hours and working in a team with their friends and especially meeting new people. I think starting something like this and having it con-



**Mayank Jain, of Vienna (originally from Fairfax), an alumnus of TJHSST, now at the University of Illinois, initiated the TJ Hackathon and is one of the main organizers.**

tinue in the future will be very valuable."

Rudin, along with the other members of the FBLA and Invent teams, has been working to promote the event in the community, contacting TJHSST alumni to be mentors and advertising the competition to students through videos, Facebook and the school network.

"The response has been great," Sands said. "You hear students talk about it in the halls and it's exciting. I was walking down the hallway the other day and a student came up to me to ask about the hackathon, and it was a student I'd never met before."

With three weeks until the hackathon, scheduled to go from April 26 to 27, the students are working on finalizing everything from t-shirts and concessions to a round-table discussion with local school officials on how to encourage entrepreneurship and computer sciences amongst high school students.

Both Jain and Sands said the most difficult challenge so far has been working within the school's regulations and within the FCPS school system. Although they had initially wanted to involve students from all local high schools, they were unable to get the necessary permission, but hope to be able to open up the hackathon next year and into the future.

For right now, however, the students are busy planning workshops and encouraging students to take online coding lessons offered



**Alex Sands, of Herndon, the president of TJHSST's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter and co-president of the school's Invent team, will be attending the University of Pennsylvania next fall.**

by Code Academy, one of the sponsors, in preparation for the hackathon.

Sands said, "One of the neat things is that you can participate in the hackathon without any experience in coding because you can learn what you need to know before the hackathon. I think that's one of the common misconceptions we want to clear up."

**WITH A MAXIMUM** of five students to a team, Rudin added that only one student needs to know coding in order for the team to be successful. A participant herself, she spent time over her spring break taking the online Code Academy lessons and reading up on HTML.

The hackathon will begin at 5 p.m. on April 26 and run for 24 hours straight, but students can take a break from their projects to hear guest speakers, attend demonstrations put on by local D.C. startup companies and refuel with food and refreshments.

"I'm most excited for the atmosphere. We're trying to encourage business and computer sciences, but we also want to have fun doing that," Sands said. "That atmosphere of being there for 24 hours, working to create something and that feeling when they're done, being happy doing what they're doing. I'm excited to be seeing what students are capable of doing and I'm sure a lot of the adults of mentors are going to be very surprised when they see what high school students can do."



McLean  
Community  
Center  
*The Center of It All*



## Here's What's Happening at MCC



### Be Fit McLean Outdoor Expo

Saturday, April 27, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.  
\$5; free for kids up to age 12

### Sunday Soiree Dance "April in Paradise"

Sunday, April 28, 3-5 p.m.  
\$5 at the door

### Pushcart Players "Red Riding Hood and Other Stories"

Saturday, May 4, 2 p.m.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

### For 5th & 6th Graders Cinco de Mayo Dance

Friday, May 10, 7-9 p.m.  
\$30, \$20 MCC district residents



### Alden Professional Series Furia Flamenca

Saturday, May 11, 8 p.m.  
\$25/\$18 MCC district residents

### Grey Seal Puppets "Barker Bill's Wagtime Revue"

Sunday, May 12, 2 p.m.  
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center  
[www.mcleancenter.org](http://www.mcleancenter.org)  
Home of the Alden Theatre  
[www.aldentheatre.org](http://www.aldentheatre.org)



1234 Ingleside Ave.,  
McLean, VA 22101  
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



# Award-Winning Connection Newspapers

More Reasons the Connection Newspapers are the Best-Read Community Papers

## Winners of Awards in the 2012 Virginia Press Association and Maryland-Delaware-D.C. Press Association Editorial Contests

### Best in Show, Non-daily Artwork

The top prize when the first place winners of all the design categories for all Virginia Press Association-member, non-daily papers are judged against each other.



**Jean Card**

❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Craig Sterbutzel**, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics • Parks in Fairfax County



**Laurence Foong**

### Win, Place, Show for Alexandria Gazette Packet

Alexandria Gazette Packet reporters took all three top spots for In-depth or Investigative Reporting in their division.



**Craig Sterbutzel**

### First Place

❖ **Nicholas Horrock**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting



**Nicholas Horrock**

### Second Place

❖ **Montie Martin**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting • Guns From the South



**Montie Martin**

### Third Place

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: In-depth or investigative reporting • Looking Behind the Numbers



**Michael Lee Pope**

### First Place Winners

❖ **Jean Card, Laurence Foong, Craig Sterbutzel**, Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics • Parks in Fairfax County



**Nikki Cheshire**

❖ **Nikki Cheshire**, Great Falls Connection: Breaking News Photo • Rescue at Great Falls

❖ **Deb Cobb**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Online Slideshow • Daily Patrols Take to the Water

❖ **Deb Cobb**, Reston Connection: General news photo • Freezin' for a Reason

❖ **Laurence Foong, Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Informational Graphics



**Deb Cobb**

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, Centre View North: Public Safety Writing



**Bonnie Hobbs**

❖ **Kenneth Lourie**, Arlington Connection: Column Writing

❖ **Alex McVeigh**, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection: Education Writing

• The Human Element of Learning

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Arlington Connection: Multimedia News Report • Secret Police

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Business and Financial Writing

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Breaking News Writing



**Alex McVeigh**

❖ **Victoria Ross**, Springfield Connection: In-depth or Investigative Reporting • Immigration



**Kenneth Lourie**



**Victoria Ross**

### Second Place Winners

❖ **Jean Card**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Page Design

❖ **Bonnie Hobbs**, Fairfax Connection: Public Safety Writing



**Louise Krafft**

❖ **Louise Krafft**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Picture Story or Essay • Mount Vernon Graduation 2012

❖ **Louise Krafft, Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Combination Picture and Story • Memorial Day

❖ **Craig Sterbutzel**, Burke Connection: Sports News Photo • Santiago Valdez

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Headline Writing

❖ **Jeanne Theismann**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Column Writing

❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, Jean Card**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions

• Insider's Guide



**Steven Mauren**

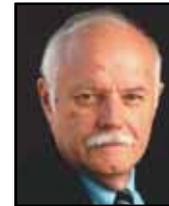


**Jeanne Theismann**



**Geovani Flores**

## LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION



**Kemal Kurspahic**

❖ **Kemal Kurspahic, Amna Rehmatulla, Chelsea Bryan, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll, Geovani Flores**, Great Falls Connection: General Makeup



**Stuart Moll**



**Amna Rehmatulla**

### Third Place Winners

❖ **Laurence Foong**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Page Design

❖ **Laurence Foong**, The Fairfax Connection: Informational Graphics

❖ **Mary Kimm**, Fairfax Connection: Editorial Writing

❖ **Louise Krafft**, Arlington Connection: Sports Feature Photo

❖ **Louise Krafft**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Picture Story or Essay • Celebrating the Irish

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: Multimedia News Report • Schools in Crisis



**Mary Kimm**

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Feature Series or Continuing Story • Horses and Graves Versus Road Widening

❖ **Michael Lee Pope**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Health, Science and Environmental Writing

❖ **Jon Roetman**, Arlington Connection: Sports Writing

❖ **Steven Mauren, Jean Card, Geovani Flores, Laurence Foong, Stuart Moll**, Alexandria Gazette Packet: General Makeup

❖ **Steven Mauren, Geovani Flores, Stuart Moll, Laurence Foong, Jean Card**, Mount Vernon Gazette: Special Sections or Special Editions • Children's Edition



**Chelsea Bryan**



**Jon Roetman**

### MDDC

The Potomac Almanac, a Connection Newspaper located in Potomac, MD, competes in the Maryland-Delaware-DC Press Association, and won at least six press association awards, which will be formally announced on May 17 at the MDDC Press awards luncheon. **Susan Belford, John Byrd, Laurence Foong, Ken Moore (2)** and Staff were named as winners.

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to your community

[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

## Winner of the 2012 Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service

Great People • Great Papers • Great Readers