

Vienna Police Host Bike Rodeo

NEWS, PAGE 3

and Oakton
Vienna CONNECTION

Conner Elling, 7, and his brother Owen, 5, said they liked the obstacle course created by the Vienna Police Department for last Saturday's bike rodeo.

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NEWS

The Vienna Police Department set up a bike rodeo, complete with ramps and obstacle course, in the parking lot of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Bike Rodeo Tested Skills, Good Riding Habits

Police Department teaches safety with fun.

It was an ideal spring day for the Vienna Police Department's bike rodeo on May 3. The sky was sunny and clear and it was warm but not too hot to be riding around the pavement of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's parking lot. The event, held from 9 to noon, was not crowded, either, but the kids who steered through the obstacle course enjoyed themselves.

"We're here to teach them [her sons] bike safety and to have fun," said Vienna mom Lilibet Elling. "When they ride their bikes, it's important they know to look both ways, to look for everything. Not just traffic, but, walkers, too."

Parents appreciated the bike helmet and bike safety checks provided by Bikes@Vienna and Spokes as a free community service. Representatives checked tire pressure and if a tire needed air, air was pumped. Kids got medals for participating, too. The bounce



On your mark, get set ... go. Police officers from the Vienna Police Department guided young bike riders around the obstacle course.

house was popular until a child threw up in it and closed it down shortly before noon. Other than that, the bike rodeo went well.

— DONNA MANZ



Mason Muscatello, 9, was "excited" to come to Vienna's bike rodeo on May 3. Spokes and Bikes@Vienna provided free helmet and bike safety checks.



Even if a child rode a scooter rather than a bike, a representative from Spokes checked his helmet for fit.

End of an Era for Town Council

Mike Polychrones steps down, moves to North Carolina.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

For nearly two decades, Mike Polychrones has been a fixture on the Vienna Town Council. But Tuesday morning, after voting in the Town election, he and his wife Patti headed south to their new home in North Carolina.

His last Council meeting was April 28 and, at its outset, he was honored by Mayor Laurie Di Rocco and Del. Mark Keam (D-35). Di Rocco gave Polychrones a plaque "in recognition of dedicated service" from 1996-2003 and 2004-2014, and Keam read a resolution from the Virginia General Assembly thanking him for all he's done.

Keam noted that Polychrones once worked for the former 35th District delegate, the late Dick Fisher. And he said Polychrones's name is "almost synonymous with the Town of Vienna."

A lifelong Town resident, Polychrones was always happy to serve his community. He was a past president of the Virginia Municipal League and served on the Beltway Improvement Task Force for Fairfax County. He's also a past president and life member of the Vienna Jaycees, past president and member of GMU's Alumni Board, and a member of the Vienna Host Lions Club.

After the two presentations to him at last week's Council meeting, Polychrones stood and addressed the audience. Choking up, he said he'd been on the Town Council for 18 of his almost 21 years of marriage and thanked his wife for her continued support and understanding. He then gave some advice to the new candidates running for Council and told them a few things to consider, if they're elected.

"From the late Rodger Seeman [another longtime Vienna Town Councilman], through the late Dick Fisher, I learned that you need to treat every issue and every individual as if you lived on their street," said Polychrones. "You're voting against neighbors, sometimes, and that's tough – but you've



Councilman Mike Polychrones receives a plaque from Vienna Mayor Laurie Di Rocco, while Town Manager Mercury Payton applauds.

got to do what's best for everybody."

Acknowledging that, generally, revenue is declining while costs are going up, he told his successors to "always be mindful of the people's purse. It's the most important job you do on the Council – you're spending other people's money.

"I'm honored to have served here and I thank the citizens who elected me," continued Polychrones. "But it's time for a new direction." He and his wife are making Wrightsville Beach, N.C., their new home, and he'll be working for Bankers Life Insurance Co. in nearby Wilmington.

At last week's Council meeting, his colleagues each bid him a fond farewell. Town Manager Mercury Payton thanked Polychrones for his work over the years, and Councilwoman Edythe Kelleher said, "He taught me that no motion to adjourn is ever wasted."

"Mike and I served on the Planning Commission together and he always made the motions for us," said Councilwoman Laurie Cole. "We haven't always agreed on things, and that's OK, because we did it civilly. Mike, good luck, and I wish all the best to you and Patti."

Councilman Howard Springsteen told Polychrones, "It'll be tough to see you go; I'll miss you greatly. You have such good common sense and you're what makes Vienna great."

"Wrightsville Beach will be better for having you there," added Vice-Mayor Carey Sienicki. "Thank you for your service to the Town."

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

'I'm Just Grateful My Son Is Still Alive'

Useful information about substance-abuse dangers.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Part Two

If anyone knows about substance abuse, it's Sarah McDade who, admittedly, has been to hell and back with her son. And she shared his story during a recent, substance-abuse forum at Madison High.

Called "Protecting Against the Realities of Substance Abuse," it was put on by Parents Reaching Out To Educate Communities Together (P.R.O.T.E.C.T.), a task force of the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County.

"My son had his own set of horrors," said McDade. "I kept an eye on him and found out where he was going – and it didn't matter. My son was already a drug addict at 15; he started with alcohol and went to marijuana. He had his first arrest, with two other boys. But the county evaluated him and said he didn't have a substance-abuse problem."

Then when he was 16, he fell in the street. "He had a .27 blood-alcohol content, and .3 and above can kill you," said McDade. "But my son was bullied and wanted to fit in; he thought drinking and using marijuana made him cool. He could be charming and he also had ADHD, and he bamboozled the psychiatrist we got him into prescribing him more drugs. Looking back, he probably peddled half of them."

DURING HIS JUNIOR YEAR at Woodson High, he was on a ski trip in Canada, when he was caught drinking, kicked off the trip and told to leave the country. "That's when I realized he had a major problem," said McDade. "I believed him so many times when I shouldn't have."

By then, she said, her son was using marijuana, alcohol and taking nine ecstasy tab-



Sarah McDade shares her son's painful story.



Paula King makes some serious points.



Desiree Gordon offers parents valuable information.

lets at a time. He also used Klonopin, Oxycontin, mushrooms, crack cocaine, LSD and Percoset. Said McDade: "He did everything but crystal meth and heroin."

His parents sent him to treatment facilities in Pennsylvania and Washington state, but he relapsed a year later. "He told me he was depressed and the alcohol and marijuana made him more depressed," said his mom. "And he used large quantities."

Next came another arrest, followed by more treatment in Pennsylvania and Florida and, finally, he turned the corner. "He's now been clean and sober four-and-a-half years," said McDade. "When he was using, he was so smart that he'd go online to make sure certain combinations of drugs wouldn't kill him. But he wasn't so smart because he did them in the first place. I'm just grateful my son is still alive."

Also speaking was Paula King, intake officer, Fairfax County Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. "I'm like a magistrate in the juvenile system," she said. "We determine probable cause and determine how to handle each case."

She advised parents to "talk to your kids

about drugs regularly so you won't be doing it for the first time when there's a problem. Get to know the other parents where you live and follow through with whatever consequences you say you're going to give your kids."

King noted that, every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m., at the county's juvenile courthouse, she runs a parent support group for parents whose children are giving them a hard time. It's free and pre-registration isn't necessary.

"In 1996, we had 100 Juvenile Detention Center beds and then we expanded to 150," she said. "Now we only have 29 kids there because we, as a court system, are committed to change. We look at each child individually, see what they need and match them up with services. We're there to look out for your child's best interests. If they refuse treatment, we send them to court and try to get them treatment that way."

TO THE STUDENTS in the audience, King warned them that "juvenile felonies stay on your record forever – so think about that as you're making your choices. Misdemeanors

stay on there for five years past the conviction date. So think about which boxes you want to check when you're filling out your college applications; only you can write your story."

The last speaker was Desiree Gordon, clinical supervisor, Falls Church Youth & Family Services, Falls Church/Fairfax Community Services Board. "We're finding that kids have both mental-health and substance-abuse problems," she said. "So both services are now under one roof and both types of providers are trained to deal with both issues."

She said 80 percent of the youth they treat have been drinking and/or using marijuana. In a 2012 Fairfax County youth survey, said Gordon, 35 percent of seniors were imbibing alcohol, and 18.2 percent said they'd done binge

drinking – having five or more drinks in a row. Some 19.3 percent of the seniors admitted to using marijuana.

When asked why they used these substances, she said, "The kids reported bullying and cyberbullying." Some said they'd been racially or culturally harassed, some were sexually active and some were depressed.

Gordon warned parents to be alert for any changes in their children's behavior that might indicate they're using drugs and/or alcohol. She said teens may have sudden outbursts of anger, sleep more or less than before, have lots of money, lose interest in things they used to like, use coded language and become secretive. They may also start smelling better than usual to mask their alcohol use, start skipping school, have falling grades and begin cheating and breaking rules.

"Parents, get your kids active and involved in extracurricular activities," said Gordon. "Talk about their interests, provide structure and guidance, and know where they are. And if you think they have a problem, you can bring them in to see us."

WEEK IN VIENNA

Felony Hit-Run Is Charged

Vienna police have charged a 53-year-old Vienna man with felony hit and run and reckless driving. He is Danilo Amaya-Hernandez of Glengyle Drive. He was arrested in connection with an incident that happened April 27 at 9:56 a.m. on Maple Avenue near James Madison Drive W.

Police say Amaya-Hernandez, an employee of Flagship Car Wash, was trying to exit the wash tunnel in a customer's vehicle when, according to him, the vehicle accelerated unexpectedly. It traveled over the curb, entering Maple Avenue, ran over the median, entered the westbound lanes of Maple Avenue and collided with a second vehicle.

After striking the second vehicle, say police, the vehicle driven by Amaya-Hernandez continued across the westbound lanes of Maple Avenue, entered onto the James Madison Shell Station parking lot and collided with a third vehicle. The collision with the third vehicle occurred with such force that the vehicle completely took out a gas pump.

Meanwhile, the driver of the second vehicle became trapped in his vehicle and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department had to cut off the driver's side door to extricate him. The driver was then transported to a hospital for treatment of injuries suffered in the collision.

Police say Amaya-Hernandez allegedly fled the scene prior to their arrival. But he was found a short time later at the rear of the James Madison Shell Station. Follow-

ing his arrest, he was held in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on \$2,500 bond.

Community Center Contract Awarded

The Vienna Town Council last week awarded a contract to the Lukmire Partnership for the Community Center expansion and renovation project's architectural design and engineering services. It's not to exceed \$579,801, but has the possibility of \$76,746 in add-ons.

"We want to award the construction contract in March or April 2015," said Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Salgado. She also noted that the Town would examine the LEED options and "see what's the most

practical and beneficial for us in the long run."

Also during the April 28 meeting, Town Council approved a request for the mayor, council member and Town staff to enter into discussions with Vienna Youth Inc. They'll explore the possibility of VYI being able to use the Community Center's gym for its athletic activities.

Residents Turn in Medications

The Town of Vienna Police Department, in conjunction with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), participated in the National Drug Take-Back Initiative

SEE WEEK, PAGE 5

WEEK IN VIENNA

FROM PAGE 4

on April 26. As a result, the Police Department collected and safely disposed of 319 pounds of expired or no-longer-needed medications from area residents. The total collected statewide was approximately 22,855 pounds of medications.

Vienna Town Council Meeting

The next meeting of the Vienna Town Council is Monday, May 12, at 8 p.m., at the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. At that time, the Council is slated to adopt the FY 2015 budget.

Public Works Open House

In celebration of National Public Works Week, the Town of Vienna Department of Public Works will hold an open house at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill St. N.E., on Thursday, May 15, from 2-6 p.m. This facility houses all the Town's Public Works operations – vehicle and equipment maintenance, street maintenance, general maintenance, sanitation and water and sewer.

During the open house, Vienna residents, school and scout groups, and others interested will be able to tour the facility, get an up-close look at the heavy machinery, vehicles and equipment used by Public Works, and meet the employees who provide these essential services.

Light refreshments will be served, and there'll be "hard hats," games and other treats for the children. For more information, call 703-255-6380 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Seminar on What To Do When Someone Dies

On Monday, May 12, the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE, will host a free drop-in legal seminar from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. on how to manage the estate of a loved one who has died. The presentation will be given by Attorney David G. Hoffman, of Hoffman & Mathey, P.C., a firm specializing in wills, trusts and estates. Topics will include: what is an estate; becoming an executor, taxes and more taxes; living trusts do not die; liquidating assets; beneficiary disputes and more.

For additional information, view page 24 of the Summer Parks and Recreation brochure online at www.viennava.gov.

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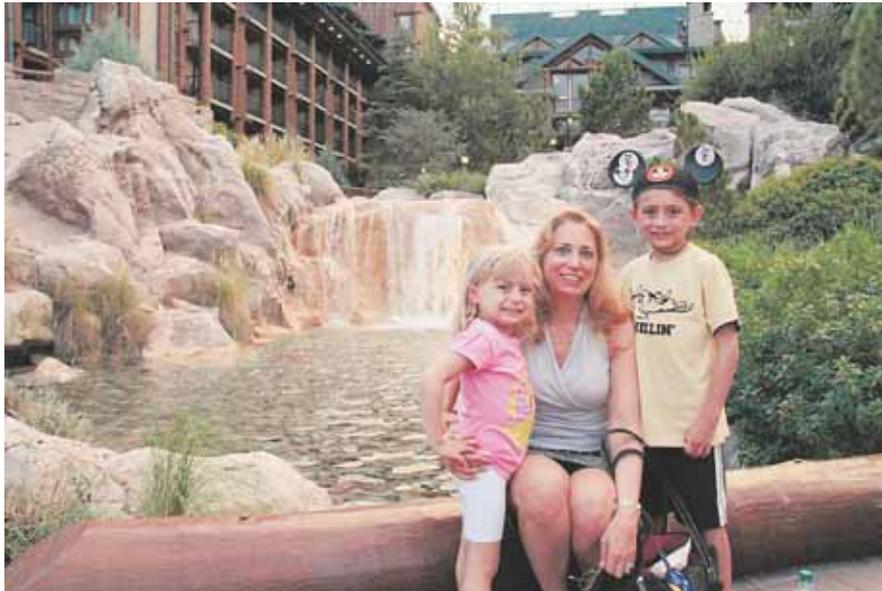


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MOTHER'S DAY PHOTO GALLERY

Vienna residents Tony and Carrie with mom, Andrea Mancuso, at the Disney Wilderness Lodge.



Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova: "Just minutes after giving birth to my daughter Karin in 1971. I was 24 and we are in Fairfax Hospital."



Nicki Costa and her son, Hunter Costa of Great Falls, share an ice cream together.



Kristin Clark Taylor, of Great Falls, enjoys the cherry blossoms with her daughter, 24, Mary Elizabeth Taylor.



Sharon Bulova's daughter Karin with her first child, Finnian ("Finn") in Seattle on June 23, 2011.

Dianne Van Volkenburg of Great Falls with her four children last fall.



Joey Gatt (9) of Great Falls and his mom, Krista Gatt, enjoy a cool and relaxing day at the pool in Antigua during Spring Break in March 2014.

NEWS

Storm Hits the Area

Pictures taken during the rain storm last Wednesday, April 30, at the intersection of Old Courthouse Road and Wolftrap Run.



PHOTOS BY BRENT EMORY



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OPINION

Yes to the Meals Tax Referendum

Voters could decide on the tax in November.

Economic diversification is worthy goal. All of your eggs shouldn't be in one basket. All of your revenue shouldn't come from one source.

In Fairfax County, adding a meals tax at the same level as Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and the City of Fairfax, 4 percent, could generate \$88 million a year. The county estimates that 25-30 percent of the meals taxes collected would be paid by non-county residents.

The inability to implement alternative revenue sources will mean continued dependence on one basket. The combined increase in the real estate property tax rate and home values

means that most homeowners will be paying hundreds of dollars more in property taxes regardless of their ability to pay.

In Virginia, localities have only the powers explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly. In Northern Virginia, the economic engine of the state, this has translated into heavy dependence on the real estate property tax to fund everything, because localities are allowed few revenue options.

EDITORIAL

Fairfax County has a task force studying the possibility of holding a required referendum to let voters decide on adding a meals tax. It would be applied to "ready-to-eat foods and beverages wherever they are sold," but not vending machines.

Former Board Chairman Kate Hanley and former Board Chairman and U.S. Rep. Tom Davis will chair the task force and report back to the Board of Supervisors in mid June. If su-

perisors approved the referendum, it could appear on the November ballot.

It's interesting that historically, Fairfax County voters overwhelmingly give the thumbs up to authorizing capital improvements to schools, parks and roads via bond sales, but in 1992, voters said no to the meals tax. It will be up to elected officials and advocates for schools, parks, libraries, public safety and human services to help make the case for the increase.

(Taxing income is a power the Commonwealth of Virginia retains for itself, and it is a mechanism that sends money from Northern Virginia to other parts of the state while forcing Northern Virginia localities to depend on property taxes.)

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

BOS Budget Falls Short for FCPS

BY ILRYONG MOON
FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
CHAIRMAN

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) continues to state that education is its top priority but its actions clearly do not match its words — not when county spending next year will increase by 3.6 percent while Fairfax County Public Schools' (FCPS) budget is projected to increase by just 1.6 percent over last year's adopted budget. Overall, FCPS will receive 52.4 percent of the county's budget, down from 52.7 percent this year. While this percentage change seems small, that equates to more than \$12 million that FCPS would have received.

In his April 22 newsletter to residents, Supervisor Pat Herrity makes several misleading assertions about the FCPS budget. He suggests that the School Board already has available funding to meet the school system's needs, beyond the amount that will be transferred from the county and state. We would like to correct these misperceptions.

Supervisor Herrity suggests increasing the salary "lapse rate" (a salary lapse occurs during a job vacancy). FCPS' budgeted lapse savings are based on historical trends. FCPS has taken several steps to adjust compensation accounts in the FY 2015 budget including using lower salaries to budget for vacant positions and for new positions due to enrollment growth. Whatever is remaining in the compensation accounts, combined with other savings generated throughout the year, go into the ending balance which we use to fund the following year's budget.

Supervisor Herrity suggests eliminating pay raises for administrators to save \$13 million. The cost of providing a step increase for all employees is \$41 million. Of that amount, the cost for the administrative positions in schools is \$1.7 million and central administrators account for \$300,000. To achieve his goal of \$13 million in savings, pay raises would need to be denied to employees who directly serve students including advanced academic resource teachers, work experience teach-

ers, instructional support teachers, school counselors, librarians, audiologists, physical and occupational therapists, English for speakers of languages teachers, professional technical project teachers, public health attendants, public health training assistants, school-based technologists, psychologists, social workers, school clerical, school custodial, and school administration.

Supervisor Herrity also claims that many of our teachers are doing administration instead of teaching. He states that if we "take the total number of students in the school system and divide it by the number of full time equivalent teachers (emphasis added), we should get a class size of 12." As our class size is not as such, he alleges that our teachers must be doing administration. This canard has been raised before by Supervisor Herrity and it is irresponsible for him to continue to deliberately mislead the public by using deceitful teacher-student ratios in his comments. This doesn't result in purposeful conversation, but rather distracts the community

from the real issue of fully funding schools. To clarify once again, "full time equivalent teachers" are much more than classroom teachers. They also include special education teachers, English for Speakers of Other Languages teachers, instructional coaches, speech therapists, guidance counselors, librarians, music, physical education teachers, and more. Although these professionals do not have assigned classrooms, they are all teaching and working directly with students. It takes more than a single classroom teacher to provide a well-rounded and full education for FCPS students.

Moving forward, it's critical in budget discussions that disingenuous arguments are not used to refute or support one's position. This should not be seen as a School Board versus Board of Supervisors debate. We are partners. The School Board will continue to work closely with the Supervisors in an effort to develop long-term sustainable funding for FCPS and to meet the expectations of the community to maintain our world-class school system.

LETTERS

Timely Discussion On Drug Abuse

To the Editor:

Through columns on your newspaper website like "Avoidance Better Than Arrests, Prison, Death" my attention has been drawn to your spotlight on forums focused on drug prevention in high schools. With the increase in use of drugs for recreational use among youths, this is a timely and well-covered issue in your news-

paper.

The drug prevention forum covered by your paper called "Protecting Against the Realities of Substance Abuse," put on by Parents Reaching Out To Educate Communities Together (PROTECT), provides a new approach to talking about drug awareness and prevention that could help parents better understand and approach the

rise in drug culture in youths. By bringing in police officers, former drug users and dealers, and families affected by drugs, parents were able to hear their stories and learn ideas like how to recognize signs earlier that may indicate drug use in their children.

As a former student at the [Madison] high school where the forum was held and as an adult now who has had friends struggle

with drug addictions, I find it extremely important and well received that this topic is being highlighted in your publication. This is an issue in children today that needs to be addressed because prevention of drug use is always better than detection of drug use for all parties involved.

Rebecca Rosen
Vienna

Vienna & Oakton
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NEWS

22 Years in Prison for Child's Death

A Fair Lakes woman has been sentenced to more than 22 years in prison for murdering an 11-month-old boy in Vienna, nearly three years ago. She is Carol Nadine Lutsky, 22, of Summit Manor Court.

The tragedy occurred Oct. 5, 2011. Town of Vienna police officers were called to the 1100 block of Lakewood Drive S.W. regarding a baby who was reported to be unresponsive. But before

they arrived, the caretaker, Lutsky, then 20, transported the infant to his biological mother who was in Reston at the time.

The baby was then rushed to Reston Hospital, from where – because of his critical and deteriorating condition – he was Medevaced to Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. The boy, Nehemiah Williams, died the next day, on Oct. 6.

According to an official docu-

ment dated July 9, 2013 and filed in the Virginia Court of Appeals, Lutsky began dating the child's mother in October 2010.

The mother – who The Connection is only identifying by her last name, Williams, since she's a victim – gave birth to her son that same month.

A year later, on Oct. 5, 2011, "After Williams had gone to a club with another woman, Lutsky called Williams and told her that [her baby] had fallen and injured his head," the document states.



Lutsky

"[The boy] did not survive his injuries."

Since Nehemiah died in Washington, D.C., the District of Columbia Medical Examiner's office assumed the case and performed the autopsy on him. The autopsy results revealed that he died as a result of "blunt force trauma" to the upper body, and his death was ruled a homicide.

On July 16, 2012 Vienna police detectives presented the results of their investigation to a Fairfax County grand jury. As a result,

Lutsky was indicted and charged with child abuse/neglect and murder. She was arrested on those charges on July 23, 2012 and held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center.

On April 25 in Circuit Court, she was sentenced to 40 years behind bars. However, according to the terms of her plea agreement, she'll serve just 22.6 years of that sentence, followed by 20 years of active probation.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

FAITH NOTES

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

The Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna will host "Celebrate Mother's" on Sunday, May 11. Some of the morning activities will include a brunch for all mothers from 10 - 11 a.m. in the church fellowship hall. There is no charge. At the worship services at 9:30 and 11, Each mother in attendance will receive a gift. For more information go to <http://www.antiochdoc.org> or call 703+938-6753

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

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

McLean Bible Church Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org.

St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

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

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

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

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY/MAY 9- SATURDAY/MAY 10
"Perfect Wedding." Friday-Saturday at 8 p.m. Sundays at 2 p.m. The Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. An awkward morning-of-the-wedding situation and then spins out of control in the McLean Community Players production of this farce/romantic comedy. 703-790-9223. www.McLeanPlayers.org. \$16-\$14.

SATURDAY/MAY 10
Ayr Hill Garden Club Plant Sale. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vienna Town Green, 131 Church Street, NW, Vienna. The annual Ayr Hill Garden Club plant sale returns. These are plants that have grown well in Vienna supplied from the gardens of AHGC members. Selections for sun and/or shade, deer resistant plants, and drought tolerant plants will be offered.
Recycle Your Bike. 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. The Potomac School, 1301 Potomac Road, McLean. Each year since 2005, the Potomac School has held a used bike collection to benefit Bikes For The World, a locally-run 501(c)(3) charity that collects unused bicycles from the United States and sends them to its partners overseas, where the bikes become much-needed transportation for people who otherwise would have none.
Taste of Asia 2014. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Everest College, 8620 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna. Sample food, learn about Asian countries, try on clothes, get your name written in



Doreen Montis, Bubble Vision, on exhibit at the Great Falls Library, April-June.

different languages and more.
Fourth Silent Auction Benefit. 1-4 p.m. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is hosting its Silent Auction Art Benefit at the Frame Factory.

Enjoy light refreshments while chatting with local artists and viewing their donated art work. Free and open to the public.
Tai-Chi & Stretch. 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-

288-9505.
The Folsom Prisoners. 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.
Fourth Silent Auction Art Benefit Reception. 1-4 p.m. The Frame

Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna (SCOV) is hosting its Silent Auction Art Benefit. Enjoy light refreshments while chatting with local artists and viewing their donated artwork. Free and open to the public.

SUNDAY/MAY 11
Mothers for Mental Health. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. A positive day raising money for suicide prevention, bereavement camps for kids, and to bring light onto the epidemic of young people taking their lives in our community. Activities include family fun rides and activities, including moon bounces, climbing wall, pony rides, games and face painting, silent auction, 5K run/walk, 5K ride in Turner Farmer Park, and more. www.beckylovefoundation.org.
Mother's Day Lakota Mission Benefit Lunch and Music. 11:30 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Rd., Vienna. Feast on a variety of buffalo-based plates (alternatives available) and hear music by Brooklyn, NY-based singer-songwriter Natalie York in special fundraiser for 21st Lakota summer mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation., VA. Lunch immediately follows church's 10:15 a.m. worship service. Advance reservations requested at www.GoodShepherdVA.com.
Mother's Day Brunch Celebration. 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Sheraton Premiere at Tysons Corner, 8661 Leesburg Pike, Tysons Corner. The Brunch is \$45 per person for adults and just \$15 for children ages 4-11. Children under the age of four are free. For reservations: 703-448-1234.

The Brunch will include pastries, seasonal fruits, and a delicious seafood display, as well as expansive waffle, omelet and carving stations. In addition, the Chef has added a few surprises like grilled flank steak, fettuccine nests with roasted chicken and chipotle pork barbecue ribs with a creamy polenta.
Mother's Day at Wildfire. 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. Spit Roasted Leg of Lamb with garlic, spinach and au gratin potatoes. Or, choose to celebrate with Wildfire's signature Roasted Prime Rib of Beef or Oven Roasted Lump Crab Cakes. For reservations, call 703-442-9110.



Enjoy some prime rib with mom on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 11 at Wildfire Restaurant in Tysons Corner.

SATURDAY/MAY 17
Tai-Chi & Stretch. 8-9 a.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.
Emy Tseng. 5-7 p.m. The Palladium Civic Place Green, 1445 Laughlin Avenue, McLean. Free. 703-288-9505.
McLean Day 2014: Celebrating our Hometown. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A spring carnival for family and friends to enjoy. www.mcleancenter.org/special-events.
Kilmer Center Run, Walk & Roll. 7:30 a.m. Kilmer Center, 8102 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. For children and young adults with significant intellectual, developmental and physical disabilities. Activities include a 5K Run, 1 mile Walk and Roll (multi-terrain wheelchair accessible race course), and Wellness Expo/Community Resource Fair. Entry fee of \$20 per participant includes a t-shirt. To register, visit www.fcps.edu/kilmercenter/. To

volunteer, contact Sarah DiGioia at sedigioia@fcps.edu. 938-1379.

SUNDAY/MAY 18
Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. Vienna's American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, N, Vienna. Adults \$8, children \$3: omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. Open to the public, proceeds benefit Girls State. For more info, call 703-

ONGOING
Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

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Here's What's Happening at MCC

Jammin' Juniors Roger Day
 Wednesday, May 7, 12:30 p.m.
 McLean Central Park Gazebo
 Free admission

Studio Rep "Code 20: Proceed to Improv"
 Thursday, May 8, 7-9 p.m.
 Old Firehouse Teen Center
 Free admission

OFTC RISING 7TH GRADE DANCE!

Old Firehouse Teen Center Open House for Rising 7th Graders
 Thursday, May 8, 6-7:30 p.m.

5th-6th Grader Party Cinco de Mayo
 Friday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.
 \$30/\$20 MCC district residents

Jazz Masters with John Eaton
 Saturday, May 10, 1 p.m.
 Free admission

Jammin' Juniors Farmer Jason
 Wednesday, May 14, 12:30 p.m.
 McLean Central Park Gazebo
 Free admission

UnRuly TheatRe
 Friday, May 9, 7-9 p.m.
 Old Firehouse Teen Center
 Free Admission

McLean Day 2014
 Saturday, May 17, 11 a.m. -5 p.m.
 Lewinsville Park
 Free admission

The McLean Community Center
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COMMUNITY

The Big Jam Comes to Vienna

If you have seen a red X-man flying high over Maple Avenue these past weeks and wondered what he means, Vienna Jammers music director David Reynolds, Jr. invites the community to James Madison High School on May 11, 7 p.m. to meet him. Reynolds said you'll be in for something "special."

The 8-to-13-year old Vienna Jammers perform a diversity of original tunes, cover songs, and traditional pieces from around the world. The enthusiasm of the young musicians is "contagious", Reynolds said.

The 53 Vienna Jammers play an assortment of percussion instruments ranging from home-built marimbas to trash cans. Creating music in an ensemble means listening and respecting each other, taking turns, and collaborating, and the children apply these important life skills under Dave Reynolds, Jr.'s tutelage. It means working together as a team to improve their skills. Teamwork is a positive message that the Vienna Jammers hope to spread beyond the studio and the stage, into the community and the world itself.

To support this vision and experience the Big Jam yourself, and to treat Mom to a unique musical experience, buy tickets in advance for \$10 each online or for \$15 per ticket at the door. Go to www.viennajammers.org to pre-purchase tickets.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Jammers will perform in concert at Madison High School on Sunday, May 11, 7 p.m.



Vote on McLean Day

**McLean Community Center
Governing Board Election**
Saturday, May 17, from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Your Vote is Your Voice!

All qualified residents of Small District 1A
Dranesville are encouraged to vote for members
of the 2014-2015 MCC Governing Board.

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- Proof of residence, such as a driver's license, is required

Absentee Ballot

Vote now by absentee ballot and avoid the crowds!
View the candidate statements on the Center's Web site.
Call the Center or send an E-mail message to "elections@mcleancenter.org" to request a ballot package be sent to your home. Or, stop by the Center at 1234 Ingleside Avenue and pick one up. Completed ballots must be received by 5 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 14** to be counted.



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Session 2: July 7-July 18

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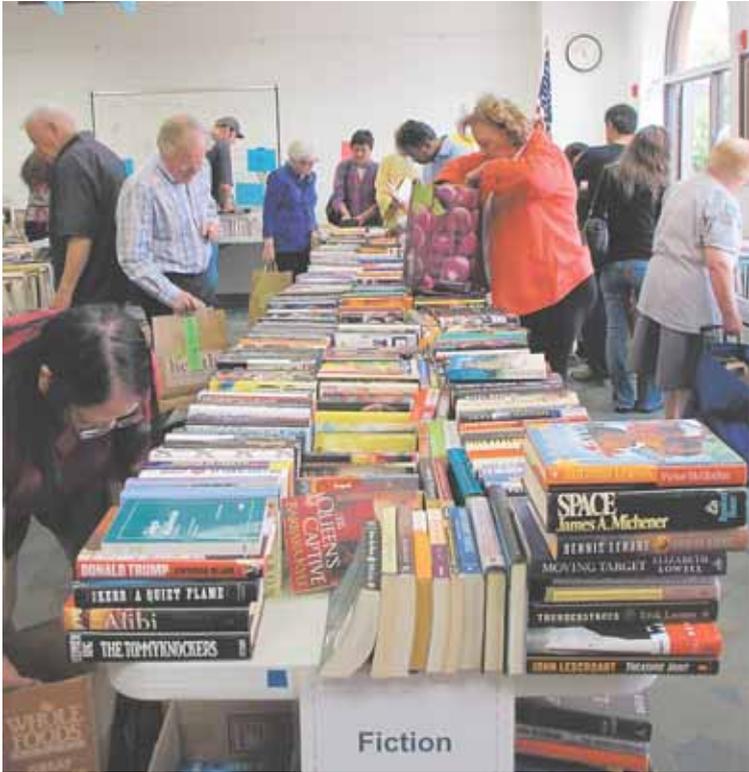
Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



NEWS



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Shoppers had more than 4,000 books, encompassing every genre of literature, to choose from at the semi-annual book sale sponsored by Friends of Patrick Henry Library on May 3 and 4.

Patrick Henry Library Hosts Book Sale

Shoppers browsed among 4,000 donated books.

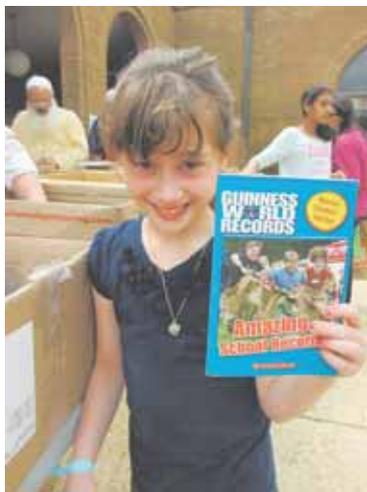
The semi-annual book sale sponsored by Friends of Patrick Henry Library took place on May 3 and 4 at the library, indoors and out. Hundreds of local residents turned out to browse through the more than 4,000 books organized by genre at the library. All books for sale were donated by the community.

For kids, it was an opportunity to choose inexpensive books from a vast array. From New York Times best-selling authors to esoteric geo-political topics, there was a genre for pretty-much everyone.

"I get to read books I've never owned before," said 8-year-old Sydney Guthrie. "It's really interesting for me to read a book I never picked up before."

The regular sale opened Saturday at 10 a.m. and ran to 4 p.m. A line waited on opening morning. Hardbacks sold for \$2, trade paperbacks \$1, and pocket paperbacks and kids' books for 50 cents. On Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Friends sold a bag of books for \$5 the bag. Children's book went quickly on Saturday.

All proceeds benefited Patrick Henry Library. Books not sold at



Sydney Guthrie, 8, said she liked choosing her own books, reading something she had "never picked up before."

Patrick Henry's book sale will be donated to Historic Vienna, Inc. for its June mega-sale.

"We're big readers," said Keira Guthrie, Sydney's mother, noting the family came both days. "This is a good way to get a lot of books."

"It's definitely worth the time and money."

The annual used book sale sponsored and organized by Historic Vienna, Inc. will be back in the Vienna Community Center of Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8, with a pre-opening sales night for HVI members only on Friday, June 6.

— DONNA MANZ



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NEWS

Madison High's Mimi Shang Wins Congressional District Art Competition

Five students from four Fairfax County public schools took top honors in Congressman Gerry Connolly's sixth annual Congressional Arts Competition. Connolly announced the winners Saturday.

Mimi Shang of James Madison High School in Vienna took first place honors with her artwork titled Bubble Talking. Her artwork will be hung in the U.S. Capitol for a year alongside the winners of congressional arts competitions from districts across the country.

More than 350 high school students, parents, and teachers gathered at the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center Saturday at a reception announcing the winners. Connolly said this year's competition was the largest ever with 184 students from high schools across Fairfax and Prince William submitting 238 works of art.

Lizzie Wright, a student at J.E.B. Stuart High School in the Falls Church area of the county, took second place for her Self-Portrait.

The third place winner was Madison Phillips of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in the Annandale area for a piece entitled Copenhagen Café.

Doi Kim, of James Madison High School in Vienna took fourth place with the work Snapshots of a City.

And the fifth place winner was Rachel Kim of South County High School in Lorton for her piece entitled, Endangered Animals.

A special Rising Star award, sponsored by the Workhouse Arts Center, was won by Nima Jeizan of George C. Marshall High School. Her work, Quit Bothering, will be displayed at the Lorton Workhouse for the next year.

"The record number of entries in this year's competition reflects the high level of interest in the fine arts among Northern Virginia students and the dedication of our arts teachers and patrons to encouraging artistic skills in our high schools," Connolly said. "I congratulate all of the students who participated in the competition. The quality of their work was impressive. I'm also grateful to the Workhouse Arts Center, its staff, and the judges for all of their efforts to make this annual event a success and help showcase the work of our students."

Judging was conducted by Emily Hawes of the Prince William Art Society, Signe Freidrichs of the Council for the Arts of Herndon, Holly McCullough of the Greater Reston Arts Center, John Mason of the Workhouse Arts Center, and Rachelle Etienne-Robinson of the Arts Council of Fairfax County.

Connolly's annual Congressional Art Competition is open to all high school students who reside in



Mimi Shang of James Madison High School receives her first place award in the Congressional Arts Competition from Congressman Gerry Connolly and judge Rachelle Etienne-Robinson of the Arts Council of Fairfax County.



Doi Kim of James Madison High School was awarded fourth place in the Congressional Arts Competition. Congressman Gerry Connolly and judge Signe Freidrichs of the Council for the Arts of Herndon presented the award.

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NEWS

Motorcycle and Car Show Held in Vienna

Motorcycle and car enthusiasts from all over Virginia and as far away as New Jersey came to Vienna on Saturday, April 26, for the 12th Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club of Northern Virginia picnic with a motorcycle and car show. Chapter President Kevin Harris said the annual event, as well as the club itself, promotes recognition of the contributions of the African-American soldiers of the U.S. Army's 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments from 1866 to 1944 nicknamed "Buffalo Soldiers" by Native Americans during the Indian Wars.

The event showcased modern "iron horses" and cars from the local area. Nearly one hundred sport bikes, cruisers, three-wheeled trikes, funny cars, classic cars, and even a fast "7 second" race car were on display.

As part of the club's mission toward community service, proceeds from the event go to fund donations to local food banks, scholarships, and other charitable work the chapter does in the Northern Virginia area.

Large and small business vendors took advantage of the mild spring temperatures to showcase their products and services. Healthcare screening, a bouncy castle for the children, and home cooked barbeque rounded out the family friendly event. In the words of Associate Member Jenny Thomas, "It's been a day of friends, family and fun."

— GIA CROMER



Nearly 100 motorcycles and cars as well as local businesses were on display at the Buffalo Soldiers Motorcycle Club annual picnic.

PHOTOS BY GIA CROMER/THE CONNECTION



6938: Mid-sized cruiser motorcycles were lined up to show off detailed paint schemes and chrome.

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SPORTS

Madison Girls' Lax Learns From Season's Toughest Challenge

Warhawks fall to national power St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

For the St. Stephen's & St. Agnes girls' lacrosse team, it was a chance to learn from a recent mistake. For the Madison Warhawks, it was a chance to learn from an elite form of competition.

Each team benefited from Monday's private/public matchup of defending state champions. The Saints, however, did so while pulling out a victory.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, a private school powerhouse in Alexandria, improved to 23-1 with a 13-8 victory on its home field. Madison, a public school program in Vienna, trailed by two after Kierra Sweeney's goal with 14:42 remaining in the second half cut the SSSA lead to 8-6, but the Saints responded with five consecutive goals and handed the Warhawks (10-1) their first loss of the season. SSSA scored six of the game's first seven goals, but Madison closed the first half with a 3-0 run, cutting the Saints' lead to 6-4 at halftime. During the break, the Saints made it clear they wanted to avoid a letdown similar to what they experienced against Roland Park Country School (Baltimore) on April 26, when they suffered their lone defeat of the season, 12-11.

"A few weeks ago, we played at Rowland Park and it was kind of the same situation," Saints junior Ellie Majure said. "We walked into halftime kind of with our faces drawn and we were kind of like, 'We're up by a few goals,' and it did not end well for us. [Today], we went into halftime, we were like, 'This cannot happen again, you need to get pumped up,' and everybody got their adrenaline going and got real excited."

St. Stephen's, the defending VISAA state champion, responded, scoring the first two goals of the second half before pulling away late. Majure led the way with four goals and added an assist. Olivia Mikkelsen, Darby Philbrick and Ellie Carson each scored two



Senior midfielder Alex Condon scored a goal for Madison during the Warhawks' May 5 contest against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

goals for the Saints, and Avery Donahoe, Abby Bailey and Sophie Davidson each had one. Donahoe and Philbrick each had two assists.

SSSA head coach Kathy Jenkins, who has amassed more than 600 victories in 39 years with the program, praised the Warhawks, who have won two of the last three VHSL state championships.

"I went to the state finals to watch last year and I was really impressed with their stick skills and how fast they move the ball," Jenkins said. "They're not [a] typical public school [program, where] one girl tries to run it. They move the ball down the field. As you could see, all those passes, kids were breaking. ... I think it's exciting to see the public schools are getting closer to the private. It was a great game. It's too bad more people didn't have an opportunity to see it."

Madison entered Monday's contest with



Senior Katie Kerrigan scored three goals against St. Stephen's & St. Agnes on May 5.

a 10-0 record, with nine wins coming by at least eight goals. The Warhawks' only test came on April 16, when Madison edged Westfield 16-15.

St. Stephen's & St. Agnes, ranked No. 2 in the nation by laxpower.com, provided Madison with its toughest test to date. The Warhawks stayed close early in the second half, but eventually fell short against their only private-school opponent of the season.

"I am very proud of my team," Madison head coach Amanda Counts said. "It was a good, hard-fought game. We appreciate the competition. It was fun."

Counts expressed her competitive nature, as well.

"I hate to lose," she said. "I would have really liked to have been the team to beat the Saints. Hopefully there will be other opportunities in the future."

Madison junior Kierra Sweeney finished

PHOTOS BY LOUSE KRAFFT/THE CONNECTION



Madison's Rachel Brennan, left, scored a goal against the Saints on Monday.

with three goals and three assists. Sweeney is committed to Dartmouth, where she would play with Davidson and Carson of St. Stephen's & St. Agnes.

"I think we were really excited to play because they are an extremely, extremely good team," Sweeney said. "I think we played really well and I think it was definitely a learning experience because they are such an elite team, where we can really learn from their motions and their stick skills and the way they play. I'm really proud of the way my team played. I thought we really rose to the challenge and did our best."

Katie Kerrigan, who will play for Ohio State next season, finished with three goals and an assist. Alex Condon and Rachel Brennan each had one goal for the Warhawks.

The Saints will host Holy Child at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, May 7. Madison will travel to face Thomas Jefferson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 9.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Madison Softball Beats W-L

The Madison softball team won its third game of the week, beating Washington-Lee 8-2 on May 3. The victory improved the Warhawks' record to 15-2.

Madison produced nine hits. Leading the offensive attack was senior shortstop Kat Olson, going 3 for 4 with a single, triple and a home run while knocking in three RBIs. Elizabeth Fallas and Julia Hoy also had multi-hit games on the evening. Dominating on the mound, Katie Vannicola continued her win streak and struck out 18 batters while allowing only two hits and one walk.

Vannicola had a perfect game going

until the bottom of the fifth inning, when W-L had a runner reach base via dropped third strike. The no-hitter lasted until the bottom of the seventh, when the W-L offense strung together a walk, a triple and a single to score two runs.

Madison jumped out to an early lead in the first inning with a leadoff triple by junior Jackie Yahner (1-2, 3 Runs, 2 SB). Kat Olson followed with a home run over the left-field fence to go up 2 - 0. Senior first baseman Fallas (2-4) followed with a double and scored on a double by sophomore catcher Julia Hoy (2-3, RBI). Leah Hammes courtesy ran for Hoy and scored on a fielder's choice by sophomore right fielder Ally Fogel (1-3, 3 RBIs), giving Madison a 4 - 0 lead in the first inning. Yahner led off the second inning with a walk, stole a base moved to third on an

error by the catcher and scored on a single by Olson.

The Warhawks tacked on three more runs in the top of the fifth inning. Yahner drew her second walk of the game, stole second and moved to third by a fielder's choice and scored on a passed ball. Fallas and Hoy had back to back singles and both scored on a single up the middle by Fogel.

Madison Tennis Falls to Langley

The Madison boys' tennis team lost its last regular season match on Senior Day to Langley, 8-1 at Madison on May 2.

With its win, Langley finishes its season undefeated and finishes first in Conference 6. With its 5-2 record in Conference 6,

McLean finished in second place in the conference. Madison, South Lakes, and Yorktown all finished with 4-3 conference records and thus will engage in a three-way playoff this coming week (Madison defeated South Lakes, South Lakes defeated Yorktown, and Yorktown defeated Madison, with the rest of their records being identical.) By means of a draw, Madison won a bye in the first round of these third-place playoffs and will play the winner of the match between South Lakes and Yorktown to determine which team gets Conference 6's third slot in the upcoming team regional play. These playoff matches will take place during the upcoming week.

Madison's Luke Sablik defeated Langley's Will Pilkinton 11-10 (7-2) in the No. 6 singles match.

WELLBEING

Hearing Loss Doesn't Have to be Life-changing

“What?” May is Better Hearing and Speech Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIN WEINER

Speech-language pathologist Erin Weiner holds a therapy session with a young patient in a natural environment.

On any given workday, you might find Arlington resident Erin Weiner sitting in a family-friendly restaurant casually coloring or playing games with a young child. At first glance, she might be mistaken for any young mother entertaining her offspring while they wait for a meal. In actuality, Weiner, who is a speech-language pathologist, is employing what she describes as an innovative approach to therapy that involves working with a child in his or her natural environment.

“Real-time therapeutic sessions help children develop skills that they can effectively apply to day-to-day life,” said Weiner, of Erin’s Place for Therapy in North Potomac, Md.

Hearing loss affects more than 36 million Americans. During the month of May, Better Hearing & Speech Month, Weiner and other speech and hearing professionals are working to raise awareness about communication disorders and the treatments that are available.

“Most people don’t realize how the loss of hearing is interfering with their lives,” said Michael V. Massa, AuD., of Massa and Associates, Doctors of Audiology with two offices in Alexandria. “Hearing loss is usually gradual and a spouse or family member will notice it first.”

Massa says that while hearing loss is most common in people aged 50 and older, it can affect patients from newborns to the elderly. Recognizing the warning signs and finding the proper treatment can be life-altering. “People come back and say ‘if I had known how much this would have helped, I would have come to see you much earlier,’” said Massa.

EARLY DETECTION IS CRITICAL. “Hearing loss can affect one’s ability to communicate with and engage others in the community,” said Jeffrey Edge, rehabilitation services manager for the Fairfax County Health Department. “The earlier you detect a hearing loss, the sooner you can take steps to hopefully decrease the impact of the loss on communication. Early detection of hearing loss is most important with infants and children as hearing is critical to developing speech and language skills and learning.”

Edge points to research from the National Institute of Health, National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, which shows that speech and language development begins in the first six months of life and children who get treatment early develop better language skills than those who don’t.

There are certain signs that tell parents their children might be experiencing hearing loss. “Is the child responding to their name when the child isn’t looking at you?” asks Weiner. “Are they speaking as much as their peers? Are they saying ‘What?’ a lot? Do they seem to be reading your lips? If a fire truck with its sirens on goes by does the child look up? Are they having problems speaking at the right volume?”

Weiner, who provides oral, motor articulation, language therapy and auditory processing treatments, said problems with audio processing can often be difficult to diagnose. “You have to determine if the issue is auditory processing or hearing loss. This can be difficult to distinguish. With auditory processing, someone might keep saying ‘What?’ and they probably heard you, but the message is not getting to their brain.”

Hearing loss in newborns can be hereditary or congenital, said Massa, but it is often caught early because of state laws that require newborn hearing screenings. “At birth we can tell if a child’s hearing is normal or not and this is critical because they have to develop speech,” said Massa.

MASSA SAID THAT the number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled within the past 30 years. “Some of that is due to the fact that we have so many baby boomers,” he said. “Inner ear hearing loss is the most common type of loss.”

Sudden hearing loss is another common hearing disorder that usually occurs in one ear. “With sudden hearing loss, time is of the essence,” said Massa. “The person needs to be seen right away. Studies show that they have a better chance of recovering if treatment begins right away.”

When it comes to treatment, advancements in hearing devices now include the latest digital and Bluetooth technology, which can connect patients to their electronic devices, such as a television, a computer, a smart phone or cellular telephone phone, as well as induction loop systems found in theaters.

“Hearing devices have gotten really good with digital technology. How well a person is going to do with a hearing device is dependent on the type of hearing loss,” said Massa, who has been practicing for more than 30 years. “Fortunately most people can be helped by hearing devices. It is extremely important for those people to be seen by a doctor of audiology.”

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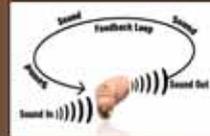
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A Tale of Two Seasons



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It is not the best of times, nor is it the worst of times; it is, simply put: the time between the end of winter and the beginning of summer. It is the season known as spring, but more to the point of this column, it is the time when, if the weather cooperates/accommodates, I won't need to turn the heat or the air conditioning on in my house. I will instead be able to ride the wave, so to speak, and not incur any post-winter/pre-summer utility bills. Possibly, I might even be able to pay off my oil-heating budget bill balance for the 2013/2014 season – before the 2014/2015 budget cycle begins, and hopefully not have to cool down the house at the same time – due to an early summer – so that on the day my oil-heating bill is due, it won't be competing for cash with my upstart electric/air conditioning bill for money not well spent and for money hardly in abundance.

As difficult and challenging as our most recent winter has been, and as hot and humid as our summers typically are, I (like many others I'm sure), would certainly appreciate a break/brake in my cash flowing out and instead enjoy its staying power – in my bank. Not that it earns any interest idling as it does there; nevertheless, its presence in my checking account without immediately being in demand would create a sense of solvency, false though it may be (and a temporary sensation at that), and likely make a positive contribution to my seasonal situation. I don't mind being thrown a bone once in a while.

Moreover, given the circumstances and reality of living in the never-enough-resources world, any discount, reduction or delay, real or imagined, in the ongoing and recurring utility bills, would be a most welcome improvement. If the heat and air conditioning indeed stayed off, and I didn't need to be warm any more than I needed to be cool, I'm sure I could make the adjustment. Paying less probably wouldn't be a hardship. I'm not too proud to admit it, though I'm not begging.

I'm not asking for a multi-month sojourn from my utility bill reality. I'm just asking for a month. One month where I could stop the bleeding and possibly pay forward to get ahead rather than pay backward to not be in arrears. I don't believe I'm asking for a lot. And neither do I think I'm being greedy. However, I agree it may be wishful thinking. Nevertheless, it's a request worth making. And as unpredictable – respectfully speaking, not criticizing – as the weather can be, a little help would go a long way; in dollars and in sense. Otherwise, I might have a dickens of a time paying for heat AND air conditioning in the same month. Then it would be the worst of times.

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

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