

# Vienna Celebrates the Fourth

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From left, Ava Sautters, 11, Hallie Kerrigan, 11, Ian Sautters, 8, of Vienna, explore the fire truck on display during the town of Vienna's Fourth of July festivities.

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From left, Adam Brock, Vicki Clary, Erin Corbin, Giovanni Vasquez, Jason Crawford and Ahmed Harris, of the Vienna Fire Station, take part in the activities during the town of Vienna's Fourth of July festivities.



PHOTOS BY ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO/THE CONNECTION  
From left, Nicholas, 6, Sophie, and Eloise Pang, 2, of Oakton, at the Town of Vienna's Independence Day celebration.

## Vienna Celebrates the Fourth

**Fireworks on the third, Family Fun on the fourth.**

ABIGAIL CONSTANTINO  
THE CONNECTION

Vienna celebrated the Fourth of July in the Town Green with family-friendly activities. Red, White and Blue on the Green was part of a two-day Independence Day celebration, which started Friday with Rocking Independence

Evening at Yeonas Park.

Difficult Run provided live musical performances to attendees who set up in front of the stage. The American Legion provided barbecue fares and beverages. Focus Family Martial Arts delighted children with balloon models.

Crowds cheered when Thomas Jung, of Vienna, beat Paul Im, of Vienna, and Teddy Tayozaki, of Hawaii, in a chili dog eating contest, tucking into an impressive 11 chili dogs in 15 minutes. Im came close with 10 and Tayozaki gave a good showing with eight.

Vienna residents enjoyed fireworks on July 3 instead of the fourth.



Paul Im, of Vienna, eats 10 chili dogs during a hot dog eating competition during the town of Vienna's Fourth of July festivities. He lost to Vienna resident Thomas Jung, who bested him by eating 11.



Abigail, 2, of Oakton, attends Red, White and Blue on the Green, with her mother Kortney Roth on July 4 in Vienna.



Crowds gather for the hot dog eating contest during the town of Vienna's Fourth of July celebrations in the Town Green.



Autun Giresi, 9, of Vienna, sports patriotic biking gear as she waits for a balloon sculpture provided by Focus Family Martial Arts on July 4 in Vienna.

# OPINION

## Yes to Nonpartisan Redistricting

### Politicians shouldn't be choosing voters.

Virginia's Congressional map is unconstitutional because African American voters are packed into District 3, according to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. The problem will have to be remedied by drawing new boundaries.

The issue could be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In statewide elections, Virginia voters have chosen Democrats in the last two presidential elections, for U.S. Senate, for Governor, Lieutenant Governor and Attorney General. Every single official elected statewide is a Democrat.

Democrats won by a comfortable margin in most cases, but elections were close. In one case the margin was razor thin. (Attorney General Mark Herring beat Republican Mark Obenshain by 165 votes out of more than 2.2 million cast, and that was an election that had serious and immediate consequences, if you ever need an argument for the importance of your vote.)

It's reasonable to assume that a state so clearly leaning blue, but close to evenly divided would be about evenly divided in political representation.

But in fact, the Virginia House of Delegates consists of 67 Republicans and 33 Democrats.

Virginia's delegation to the U.S. House of Representatives consists of eight Republicans and three Democrats.

Virginia's 11 Congressional districts should be split about evenly. You could understand a split five Dems and six Republicans; or five Republicans and six Democrats. A four and seven split would smack of some unusual cir-

cumstance. But three and eight?

The problem is gerrymandering.

The solution, which the Supreme Court just OK'd, is allowing the lines to be drawn by a non-partisan commission.

Both political parties have been guilty of this when in power, although new technology and better data have made the process more egregious, the effects more damaging.

Political parties should not control the drawing of political districts. Gerrymandering thwarts the will of the electorate. It is especially damaging in a Dillon rule state, like Virginia, where localities have only the power explicitly granted to them by the General Assembly. This is particularly unfair to localities like Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria, whose electorate

EDITORIAL

### Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 22, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 15.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a

and local officials have views that differ greatly from those of the majority of Virginia's General Assembly.

The reason Virginia's Congressional map has been ruled unconstitutional is about race; packing all the African American voters in one district and conceding that district to Democrats in order to reduce the power of African American voters in the adjacent districts. A similar challenge is in the works concerning districts in Virginia's House of Delegates.

It's long past time to take these decisions out of the hands of the officials who use the redistricting process to choose their own voters and effectively grant themselves lifetime appointments.

— MARY KIMM

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## An American Muslim's Prayer in Honor of Independence Day

To the Editor:

"Allah has made you brethren one to another, so be not divided. An Arab has no preference over a non-Arab, nor a non-Arab over an Arab; nor is a white one to be preferred to a dark one, nor a dark one to a white one." Over 1400 years ago, the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him), addressed early Muslims in his farewell address with teachings that are still very relevant today.

The Charleston Shooting and other such despicable incidents have highlighted a need for us to continue to work on these basic human relations.

We must treat one another as brethren, regardless of race, religion, or gender. It is imperative that we instill humility and the love of mankind in our hearts with

such purity and wholesomeness that it radiates with our every action and thought, to help fill this world with peace.

We are blessed to be citizens of the greatest country of the world. As someone who immigrated here with her parents at the tender age of one and a half, I was raised to be grateful for every freedom, for every resource, for every right and responsibility. I watched my parents struggle to ensure that we realize the many blessings being citizens of the United States of America allows us.

This year Independence Day falls in the month of Ramadhan, the most holy month in the Islamic calendar.

It is during this sacred month when Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset and use their humble and pious state to pray and do chari-

table works with even more zeal. So in honor of the 239<sup>th</sup> birthday of our beautiful home, I would like to use the most magnificent power I have as a believer, and raise my hands in prayer.

I pray that my home finds peace from all the hurt and torment it still struggles with from the past and heals from the pain. I pray that this continues to be a place where people come to find opportunities not found or attained elsewhere, and that their struggle is respected and met with compassion and patience – not contempt.

I pray that as citizens we understand that in service lies glory. It is our duty, both civically and in my case religiously, to protect and honor our land; to volunteer to beautify it, help improve its condition from before, and provide our services to those in need.

May my children serve this country in the most excellent and sincere manner; and may they use their knowledge and power to advance good works and God's love.

May we be safe from all forms of prejudice and discrimination. May the love, pride, and allegiance I feel for my country never be questioned by those who are looking for reasons to spread hate and intolerance among the land.

May God continue to bless America in countless ways and preserve its status as a beacon of peace and prosperity, justice and humanity, for the rest of the world to respect.

Amen.

Love for all, hatred for none.

Aisha Khan  
Herndon

Vienna & Oakton  
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:  
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic  
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414  
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla  
Editorial Assistant  
703-778-9410 ext.427  
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs  
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438  
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Donna Manz  
Contributing Writer  
dmanz@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman  
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013  
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com  
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:  
For advertising information  
sales@connectionnewspapers.com  
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Don Park  
Display Advertising  
703-778-9420  
donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith  
Classified Advertising  
703-778-9411  
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher  
Mary Kimm  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com  
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President  
Jerry Vernon  
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief  
Steven Mauren  
Managing Editor  
Kemal Kurspahic  
Photography:  
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
Art/Design:  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
Production Manager:  
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher  
Jeanne Theismann  
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com  
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426  
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



## NEWS

# Soldiers' Art On Display

Volunteer artists work with soldiers suffering from PTSD to express themselves visually

BY DONNA MANZ  
THE CONNECTION

Art, says Vienna Arts Society (VAS) artist Shari MacFarlane, is very healing. The process of creating art from experiences is healing. MacFarlane knows this from personal experience and her background is a strong motivator for her volunteer work with "soldiers on the mend" at Fort Belvoir Community Hospital. MacFarlane is one of a dozen VAS artists making visits to the hospital, coaxing the patients there suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder to translate their feelings into a visual expression on puzzle pieces. These individual pieces, all fitting together, unified, became the "Healing Wall" puzzle.

On Saturday, July 11, from 4 to 6 p.m. the Vienna Arts Society hosts a reception at the Vienna Art Center with the completed puzzle on display, honoring the soldiers who participated. The original puzzle, from 2014, will be exhibited, as well.

"Each piece makes a powerful statement [on its own], and yet, is part of a much larger collaborative work," said public relations liaison Dore' Skidmore.

MacFarlane's father, a World War II veteran suffered from PTSD although the condition was not identified as such in that era. It was only years later that MacFarlane interpreted her father's moodiness and outbursts to the traumatic stress he experienced after coming home from the war. He died at age 60.

"Sometimes, the soldiers came in with blank faces, blank eyes," said MacFarlane. "You coax them a little, and, after a while, you'd see this sparkle in their eyes."

MacFarlane said that one female soldier told her, "I had no idea I could do this."

"It's cathartic to them, helping them is cathartic to me," said MacFarlane

**TWENTY-FOUR SOLDIERS** created puzzle pieces, some creating more than one piece. Their pieces, and those of the volunteer artists, were assembled into a single larger work.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIENNA ARTS SOCIETY

Individual puzzle pieces, painted by soldiers suffering from PTSD, lay ready to be assembled by Vienna Arts Society volunteers into a giant collaborative work, on exhibit at the Vienna Arts Center. This is the second year VAS has produced the "Healing Wall" puzzle project.

"One soldier did something that looked like a cross," said volunteer artist Grace Rooney. "I asked, is that a cross? He said, it could be. I asked if he wanted to add things around it. No, he said, 'I want it to be so that you can visualize what is around it.'"

"Everyone has his own story but when you put the pieces together, it becomes 'whole,'" Rooney said.

More than a year ago, Vienna Art Center director Lu Cousins learned of the opportunity to partner with the Fort Belvoir Community Hospital, reaching out to soldiers on the mend. It was serendipitous that at that same time, VAS was planning on producing a large collaborative puzzle project made of 12-inch puzzle pieces for its upcoming July exhibit. The original three volunteers, Terry Svat (an Art Therapist), Shari MacFarlane and Dore' Skidmore, brought the puzzle pieces to the troops at the hospital, inviting anyone with PTSD to express themselves. VAS supplied, not only the artists, but all the materials necessary. The end result in 2014 was the first "Healing Wall" puzzle.

Throughout the year, VAS volunteer artists continued to bring puzzle pieces to the hospital, lending artistic guidance and emotional support. There is a plan in the works to make the puzzles part of a permanent collection at the hospital.

"Sometimes, you wonder what the painting means," said Rooney. "They are telling you a personal story."

**THE OPENING RECEPTION** for the "Healing Wall" is on Saturday, July 11, 4 to 6 p.m. Light refreshments are offered, and there is opportunity for social time with hospital staff and artist-volunteers.

To learn more about the Vienna Arts Society and its classes and community outreach programs, go to [www.viennaartsociety.org](http://www.viennaartsociety.org). The Vienna Art Center is located at 115 Pleasant Street NW, around the corner from Maple Avenue.



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**3** 11116 Stuart Mill Road, Oakton — \$1,625,000



**1** 2750 Marshall Lake Drive, Oakton — \$1,680,000



**15** 3183 Pond Mist Way, Oak Hill — \$1,045,000



**16** 12703 Autumn Crest Drive, Oak Hill — \$1,041,300



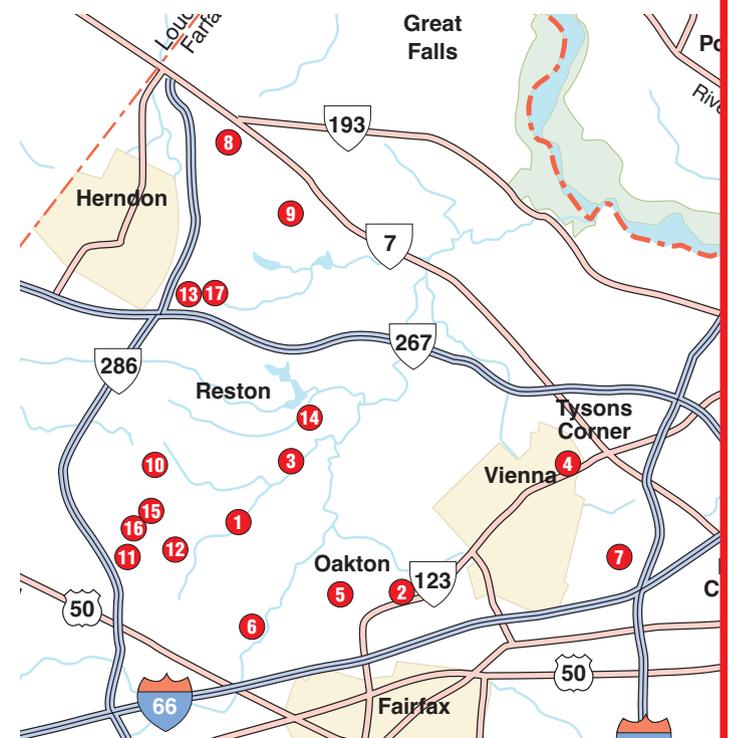
**11** 3402 Blakesley Hall Court, Oak Hill — \$1,160,000



**12** 12210 Kyler Lane, Herndon — \$1,100,000

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| 2 2776 CHAIN BRIDGE RD    | 5  | 5  | 1  | VIENNA      | \$1,670,000 | Detached          | 0.82   | 22181       | OAKTON GLEN                | 05/04/15  |
| 3 11116 STUART MILL RD    | 5  | 4  | 1  | OAKTON      | \$1,625,000 | Detached          | 2.66   | 22124       | OAKMONT WEST               | 05/27/15  |
| 4 350 CHURCH ST NE        | 5  | 5  | 1  | VIENNA      | \$1,605,019 | Detached          | 0.42   | 22180       | 350 CHURCH ST NE           | 05/05/15  |
| 5 2907 HUNTING HILLS CT   | 7  | 4  | 2  | OAKTON      | \$1,510,000 | Detached          | 1.16   | 22124       | HUNTING HILLS              | 05/04/15  |
| 6 3428 WAPLES GLEN CT     | 4  | 4  | 1  | OAKTON      | \$1,500,000 | Detached          | 0.96   | 22124       | THE RESERVE AT WAPLES MILL | 05/08/15  |
| 7 8213 WESTCHESTER DR     | 6  | 5  | 1  | VIENNA      | \$1,500,000 | Detached          | 0.69   | 22182       | NEW HOME                   | 05/29/15  |
| 8 11720 SHAKER KNOLLS CT  | 5  | 5  | 1  | HERNDON     | \$1,315,000 | Detached          | 0.83   | 20170       | SHAKER KNOLLS              | 05/08/15  |
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| 10 12622 WINTER WREN CT   | 5  | 4  | 1  | OAK HILL    | \$1,200,000 | Detached          | 0.21   | 20171       | RESERVE AT STONE HILL      | 05/19/15  |
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| 15 3183 POND MIST WAY     | 5  | 4  | 1  | OAK HILL    | \$1,045,000 | Detached          | 0.42   | 20171       | OAKTON RIDGE               | 05/05/15  |
| 16 12703 AUTUMN CREST DR  | 5  | 4  | 1  | OAK HILL    | \$1,041,300 | Detached          | 0.24   | 20171       | OAKTON RIDGE               | 05/08/15  |
| 17 11990 MARKET ST #1914  | 2  | 2  | 1  | RESTON      | \$1,000,000 | Hi-Rise 9+ Floors |        | 20190       | MIDTOWN AT RESTON TOWN     | 05/01/15  |

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# HomeLifeStyle

## A House by the Sea

Design ideas for beach homes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

As the sweaty days of summer slog on, many are dreaming about a home by the sea, a wistful retreat where cares flow as freely as an ocean breeze. A few local designers share seaside secrets for an idyllic hideaway.

When a Bethesda, Md., family decided to update and expand their vacation home on the shores of the Chesapeake Bay, functionality and style were top priorities.

Doug Roberts and Jessica Parker Wachtel of GTM Architects in Bethesda added more than 1,400 square feet, but kept many of the existing features of the 3,792-square-foot beach house, which was built in 1985.

"What was unique about this project is that the family's father had originally designed this home himself," said Roberts. "It's modern with lots of glass and cathedral ceilings. The family didn't want to change that. They just wanted to expand it."

The home now has an open floor plan, including a kitchen that flows into the family room, an exercise and recreation room, glass garage doors, an outdoor shower and

a wet bar. The windowsills are lower, allowing in more light and expanded water views. The home's bathrooms and five bedrooms were updated, adding a balcony with views of the bay to a rear bedroom.

"The work was all consistently done, so you really can't tell that there was an addition," said Roberts. "We replaced all of the materials — flooring, tile, trim — and put down new materials throughout."

**AN ALEXANDRIA COUPLE** wanted their second home on the Eastern Shore to exude a calm serenity. They achieved that feel with white walls and furniture at the recommendation of interior designer Grace Nelson of Nelson Design Lab in Arlington.

"White exudes peace and quiet," said Nelson. "They wanted their beach house to be the opposite of the chaos of Washington, but they didn't want it to be too far removed modernity. They still wanted their luxuries."

Among those amenities are a kitchen equipped with a Bosch dishwasher and a built-in Subzero refrigerator. The kitchen's white cabinetry is accented with natural pine knobs and pulls that match the pine



PHOTO COURTESY OF GTM ARCHITECTS

This Chesapeake Bay vacation home with renovations by Doug Roberts and Jessica Parker Wachtel of GTM Architects has an abundance of windows that allow in sunlight and offer views of the water.

flooring.

A bay window in the living room allows for majestic ocean views. That seascape can also be enjoyed from the clawfoot soaking tub in the master bathroom.

**WHEN THE OWNER** of a Rehoboth Beach, Del., condominium decided to rent her property to beach goers, she wanted to marry casual elegance and durability.

Designer Sallie Kjos of Grey Hunt Interiors in Chantilly helped the homeowner, whose primary residence is in Great Falls, choose furnishings that created a relaxed, modern look.

"When you're designing a beach property that is also used as a rental, you want to find something that is durable and can be cleaned easy and can stand up to the sand," said Kjos. "You don't over accessorize a beach property, especially if it's a rental."

They created an office space "because a lot of people have to work even when they're on vacation," said Kjos.

A chandelier made of natural capiz shells, with an easy-to-clean lacquered finish, hangs over the wooden dining room table. The result is a beach feel, but with a modern twist, says Kjos.

"We tried to get away from the stereotypical beach décor with motifs like seagulls and driftwood," she said. "We wanted to use water-like colors because it makes for a relaxing environment, but we mixed the city with the ocean and created a flow throughout the house so that it connected visually."

**IT'S THAT CONNECTION**, to the sand, the surf, and surroundings that makes a vacation house feel like a home. When Potomac, Md., architect James Rill went looking for a Vero Beach, Fla., vacation home, he was inspired by his favorite sport: baseball. "It's very close to the Nationals spring training center," he said. The home also accommodates Rill's parents. "We took the master suite and we made it into a nicer, handicapped accessible space."



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**CALENDAR**

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

**ONGOING**

**Vienna's Summer on the Green Concert Series.** Fridays-Sundays, through Sept. 27. 6:30 p.m. at Vienna Town Green, 144 Maple Avenue E, Vienna. Come out on the weekend and listen to some good music. Visit <http://www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/2640>

**Great Falls Concerts on the Green.** Sundays, through Sept. 6. 6-8 p.m. at Great Falls Village Centre Green. Come out on Sundays and listen to some live music. Visit <http://www.celebrategreatfalls.org/concerts-on-the-green/>.

**Tyson's Concerts on the Plaza.** Fridays, through Aug. 7. 6-8 p.m. at Tyson's Corner Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tyson's Corner. Sit back and enjoy live music with a special line up each week. Tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis beginning at 10 a.m. each Friday morning in the mall concourse on level 2 next to ZARA.

**Summer Reading Program.** Friday-Sunday, through Sept. 5. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike Great Falls. Attend summer events and check out books. All ages. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/gf/>.

**Restful Pause.** Wednesday-Saturday, through Aug. 1. Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Robert Gilbert brings his nine, framed still-life paintings to exhibit. The subjects are wine bottles, wine glasses, ceramic pots, fruits and vegetables. The paintings are realistic in some areas and impressionistic in others.

**What's in Your Garden?** Tuesdays - Saturdays, through Aug. 1. Vienna Arts Society "Gallery in the Village Green," 513 Maple Ave. W, Vienna. Featured artist Loy McGaughy of Reston exhibits a collection of watercolors inspired by her personal photographs. The exhibition includes more than a dozen other artists.

**THURSDAY/JULY 9**

**Artist Demonstration.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Renowned contemporary impressionist Trisha Adams demonstrates her exuberant techniques for capturing light in acrylic paintings. [www.ViennaArtsSociety.org](http://www.ViennaArtsSociety.org).

**Unlocking the Truth.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road. Teen Brooklyn-based trio Unlocking the Truth will be performing their rock music with a positive message. Tickets: \$8. [www.wolftrap.org](http://www.wolftrap.org).

**Starlight Storytime.** 7-7:45 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Wear your favorite pajamas and join us for stories and songs. All ages. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

**FRIDAY/JULY 10**

**Pokemon League.** 3- 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. More information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Story Pirates.** 10:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Transforms children's short stories into a sketch comedy musical. Ages four and up. \$10. <http://www.wolftrap.org>

**SATURDAY/JULY 11**

**Puzzled Again.** 4-6 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. The Vienna Arts Society once again presents walls of giant puzzles created by assembling 12" puzzle pieces. Each piece is an original artwork featuring a drawing,



**Renowned contemporary impressionist Trisha Adams demonstrates her techniques for capturing light in acrylic paintings on July 9 at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna.**

painting or collage. Dozens of artists have works available to purchase through a silent auction to benefit the arts in Vienna.

**Beethoven's Symphony No. 5.** 8:15 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. National Symphony Orchestra conducted by Shiyoon Sung. \$20-58. <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

**SUNDAY/JULY 12**

**The Ghost of Versailles.** 3 p.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Wolf Trap Road, Vienna. The Ghosts of Versailles encompasses comedy, romance, intrigue, revenge and malice. \$32-88. <http://www.wolftrap.org>.

**MONDAY/JULY 13**

**Legos in the Library.** 4 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun and make new friends. Hundreds of Legos await you and your creativity. Age 5-12. Information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

**TUESDAY/JULY 14**

**National Ballet of China.** 8:30 a.m. Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Fusing western ballet with traditional Chinese dance, the story tells of star-crossed lovers. \$20-65. <http://www.wolftrap.org>

**WEDNESDAY/JULY 15**

**Rock-A-Bye Baby.** 11:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join us for an early literacy enhanced storytime, featuring rhymes, stories and songs. Birth-12 months with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Short stories for you and your child. Age 13-23 months with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ok/>.

**THURSDAY/ JULY 16**

**Classics Books Discussion Group.** 1 - 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Join writer/scholar Amanda Holmes Duffy for a discussion of "The Loved One" by Evelyn Waugh. Adults and teens. More information <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**FRIDAY/JULY 17**

**Pokemon League.** 3- 6 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. Open play. More information at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**SATURDAY/JULY 18**

**Model Trains and Thomas at Open House.** 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna

Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free. [www.nvmr.org](http://www.nvmr.org).

**Electric Bicycle Event.** 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. 224 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn more about the benefits, ease of use and fun that an electric bicycle can offer everyone. Come test ride a bike, and have a burger and drink on us.

**FRIDAY/JULY 19**

**2015 Tour de Tysons Bicycle Races.** 7 a.m.-5 p.m. Jones Branch Drive, Tysons Corner. Ten bicycle races, food trucks and vendors. The Tour de Tysons is a fun experience for the whole family — compete or simply enjoy. Visit [www.tysonspartnership.com](http://www.tysonspartnership.com) for more.

**Scott Miller.** 7:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Singer, songwriter and farmer Scott Miller will perform an acoustic show. <http://www.jamminjava.com/event/871765>

**MONDAY/JULY 20**

**Game On!** 2 - 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Learn how to play Krosmaster, a new strategy game with playful characters!. Additional games will be available to play. Teens. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**TUESDAY/JULY 21**

**Around the World Musical Adventure.** 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Music and movement with Miss Susan. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Patrick Henry Library and the George Mason Regional Library. Age 3-7 with adult. Sign up each child and adult separately at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**WEDNESDAY/JULY 22**

**Woof, And Paws- Read to a Dog.** 2:30, 2:45, 3, 3:15 and 4 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. Need a little reading help? Sign up to read with a reading therapy dog. Age 6-12. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph/>.

**Pokemon League.** 4:30 - 5:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Drop-in and play Pokemon with your friends.

**Toddler Tales.** 10:30 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and activities for you and your toddler. Age 2-3 with adult. Register at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>

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**OBITUARY**  
**Joseph E. Ellinger, 89**, died June 19, 2015 in Greenwood, Indiana. He was born March 15, 1926 in Pittsburgh, PA. He was a long time resident of McLean, Virginia. He retired from the U.S. Department of Labor. He will be buried in Indianapolis, IN. Funeral Arrangements were provided by Little and Sons Funeral Home, Beech Grove, Indiana. www.LittleAndSonsBeechGrove.com

I Never think of the future.  
It comes soon enough.  
-Albert Einstein

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## My Manifesto, Sort Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Being diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer (no, they're not all "terminal") is "a heck of a thing," to extrapolate a bit from Jim Valvano's memorable 1993 ESPY Awards speech given a few months before he succumbed to his cancer. It's not as if there's anything you can do in life, beforehand, to prepare for a cancer diagnosis; and there's even less you can do to prepare for a "terminal" diagnosis, as in my case, when my oncologist - whom I had met 10 minutes earlier - first told me that he "could treat me but he couldn't cure me," followed by a "13-month to two-year prognosis." Surreal is the word I used to describe then what I heard/what I felt, and is also a word I've often heard other cancer patients use in recounting the details of the moment when their lives changed forever: when the diagnosis of cancer is confirmed by the oncologist sitting directly across from them. Perhaps you think (hope) that age, experience, education, etc. will carry you through that appointment and the many other cancer-related appointments to follow; the reality is, at least it was for me, you'll never know how you're going to react until after you've reacted.

With respect to "beating" the cancer; anticipating success, expressing confidence, taking control, hoping and praying, laughing and crying; how it all plays out is somewhere between anybody's guess and why not? Unbridled optimism may be a great start, but accepting your new reality and reacting/planning accordingly is often a road far less traveled. Having to travel that road because of an unexpected cancer diagnosis (I was a lifelong non-smoker, basically asymptomatic with no family history of cancer) is a trip fraught with danger and unimaginable hurdles: mentally, physically, emotionally and spiritually. You really don't know what's around the next corner, and what's worse, you really won't know until you get there - and then it might be too late. Let me summarize it this way: it won't be a walk in the park unless you derive pleasure from doing so, and if you do, walk a lot. Finding calm ("serenity now") in the midst of a cancer diagnosis, and likewise attempting to eliminate stress and anxiety is much easier said and written about than actually done. Managing that stress (and anxiety) is the challenge. And if one can somehow traverse, navigate, manipulate even, this path of least resistance; at least on paper, potentially, there might be some light at the end of your tunnel that's not an oncoming train. That being said, once a malignancy is confirmed, there are no more guarantees. Actually, there is one: you'll be changed forever in ways you can't imagine.

Surviving a cancer diagnosis/"terminal" prognosis is a work in progress, literally; except, you might not make any progress, and statistically speaking, you might not survive. Nevertheless, thinking you have no future is the quickest way to not having one. Whether it's delusions or illusions or just plain confusion, moving forward with a smile on your face and a bounce in your step will help create the kind of positive energy necessary to survive this ordeal. It's not exactly a recipe for success, but it might be a way to avoid disaster - for a while, anyway.

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

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# A Journey of Faith

The Boone family of Oakton honors daughter by giving others a chance at football victory.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
THE CONNECTION

**Y**outh football in Vienna and Oakton is an all-encompassing family affair, with players' parents and grandparents running the concession stand and the chain gangs while cheerleading sisters wave pom-poms and younger brothers hustle during half-time to get the players water.

After most home games at Waters Field, families show their football pride by orchestrating elaborate cook-outs for players and fans.

Some families become football legacies, and for nearly two decades, the Boone Family of Oakton has been a well-known and well-liked fixture on the local football scene.

Many local football fans remember the days, nearly a decade ago, when the Boone family dominated local football – both on and off the field.

"They were an inspirational family," said longtime Vienna resident JoAnn Marcus. "Part of the fun of going to the games was seeing their youngest children, Faith and Mark, waving and cheering on their big brothers."

In 2003, Jimmy and Andy Boone were clear fan favorites, the ones to watch as they scored touchdown after touchdown, and intercepted numerous passes.

But the real "football" stars of the Boone family were the ones too young to play the game.

**VYI FANS REMEMBER** how Faith, Jimmy and Andy's little sister - a spirited, energetic towheaded 2-year-old born with Down syndrome - inspired a special kind of team spirit in the crowd as she flashed her vivacious smile at everyone who passed by.

Her older brother Mark, just a year older than Faith, was always at his sister's side at games, proud and protective, holding her hand as they walked among the crowds.

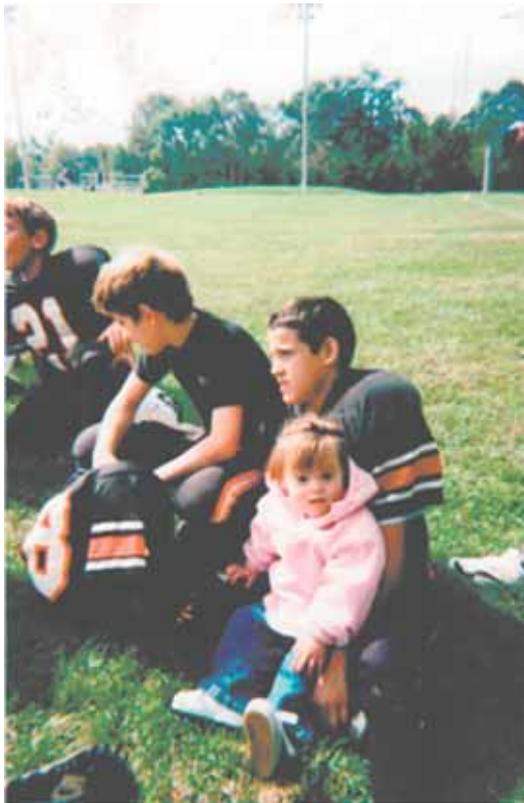
"Faith's life was an uphill battle," said father Jim Boone. "However, when she looked at you with her sparkling blue eyes and her beautiful big smile, your heart filled with joy and it was Faith's way of telling you, 'I'm doing great! Never give up...'"

It was a small miracle that Faith was born at all.

In the early spring of 2001, Susann Boone learned she was pregnant with her fourth child. The family was ecstatic when they learned that Susann was carrying a girl after giving birth to three boys.

But after a series of routine medical exams, when Susann was four months pregnant, her obstetrician called the couple into his office with heart-wrenching news.

"He told us 'your daughter most likely has Down syndrome, and as a parent, I would



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Faith Boone and brother Jimmy Boone, who is now a football coach at Oakton High School, during a VYI football game in 2002.**

highly recommend you abort this child'," Jim Boone said, recalling that fateful day. "Susann and I looked at each other. We are Catholic, and there was no way we could not give this child a chance at life...When she was born, she was one of our greatest gifts."

On May 23, 2001, Faith Susann Boone was born, weighing in at just less than four pounds and fighting for her life.

"She was a fighter and full of hope," Jim said. "She was our guiding angel and we wanted to give her a name of value. She was our faith, our guiding angel. Faith Susann Boone fought and struggled each day she was alive."

Jim and Susann said watching their daughter struggle to do the things most parents take for granted was a testament of their faith.

It was eight months before Faith could hold her head up. Over a year before she could sit up. And three years before she took her first steps and could walk. Daunting? Not for Faith.

"She was anything but a quitter. She took the endless visits to the doctor, the physical therapists and the surgeries in stride, always giving us that beautiful smile," Jim said.

"As her parents, we assumed the role of a teacher. Her older brothers served as role models. However, it was Faith who taught all of us the definition of strength and determination. Faith reminded us daily to never give up and to cherish the little things in life. She opened my family's minds and



**Faith Boone at 18 months, smiling her angelic smile during the Christmas season in 2003.**

## 7on7 National Championship This Weekend at Oakton High

7on7 holds its national championship tournament this weekend, July 10-11, at Oakton High School. Teams from across the country will be there. Competitions will include the 7on7U National Passing Tournament, The 7on7U Linemen Team Competition, and The 7on7U Kickers Challenge. The event is open to the public.

hearts to embrace the differences in others."

**THE FAMILY'S FAITH** was severely tested soon after Faith's third birthday. In June of 2004, Faith was scheduled to undergo a fairly routine surgery to correct a heart-valve deficiency common in children with Down syndrome.

"We knew it would be an eight hour surgery, but we were told everything looked good," Jim said, his voice cracking. "I remember Faith smiling her beautiful smile when they wheeled her into the operating room. She was smiling, and we let her go...never thinking it would be the last time we saw our baby girl..."

As Jim and Susan waited anxiously in the waiting room, eight hours went by, then nine, ten, eleven...

Something was clearly wrong. After several hours of vague assurances from the doctors, Jim and Susan learned that the doctors discovered during the surgery that they did not have the proper size of replacement valve to repair Faith's heart. A longtime Vienna pediatrician and friend, Dr. Robert Schwartz, who founded Vienna Pediatrics, rushed to the hospital to advocate for Faith and The Boones. Surgeons scrambled to find another valve in time for Faith.

They didn't. Faith passed away on the operating table.

"I was annihilated," Jim said. "Totally annihilated."

"How do we go back and tell the boys that their sister died? The operation was

supposed to be routine, we hadn't told them she might not come home. It was a shock for everyone."

Jim and Susan said they almost lost their faith in God that day. Susann said she remembers the familiar words of the Catholic Catechism coming to her, when Abraham fulfills the definition of faith in Hebrews 11:1: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."

Searching for a way to pull out of his grief and honor Faith's memory, Jim was reminded of all those times at Waters Field with Faith cheering on her brothers, and inspiring the crowds.

**FOOTBALL WAS CENTRAL** to the Boone family, and Jim, devastated by the loss of Faith, would ultimately chose football to remember Faith and raise money for Jill's House, a respite care facility established by McLean Bible Church founders Lon and Brenda Solomon in remembrance of their daughter, Jill.

Jim went to work building 7on7 University, which runs tournaments and camps during the offseason to help football players stay sharp and further develop their skills, and have fun in a competitive environment. Every 7on7 event includes a remembrance of Faith and is a fundraiser for Jill's House and other local charities. Jim is CEO, and both of his sons – Jimmy and Andy – participate by running similar camps for youth.

Jim has now largely handed off running the 7on7 events to his sons Jimmy and Andy, who are enthusiastic to continue the effort as a family tradition.

Jimmy and Andy wore the number 3 during their careers at Oakton High School, and Mark, who starts at Oakton this fall, asks all of his coaches to let him wear the same number.

"Faith is my family's inspiration," said the younger Jimmy Boone, who is now a popular coach at Oakton High.

"There is purpose," Jim Boone said. "My boys would not be the boys and men they are today without having known Faith, and having to cope with her loss."