

Shoveling as Exercise

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Upbeat Outlook for Real Estate Market

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Saving Sea Turtle in Costa Rica

NEWS, PAGE 4

Taiga Walker and the Madison boys' basketball team have won 12 of their first 14 games. Walker shoveled with friends for a company for 13 hours on Sunday, which he considers as excruciating exercise.

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PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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Fairfax Water

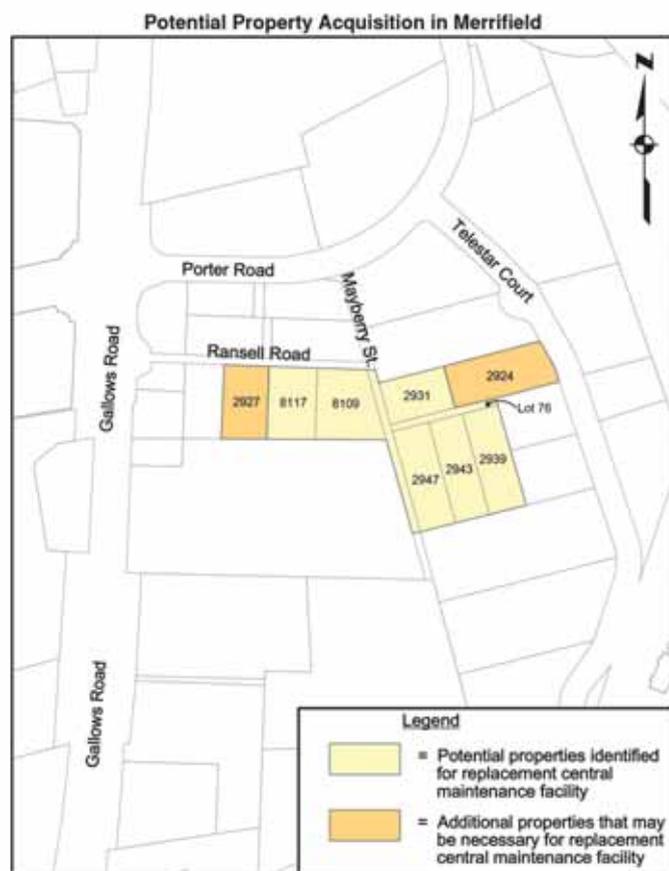
NOTICE OF PUBLIC INPUT SESSION

February 4, 2016 at 6:30 p.m.

The Fairfax County Water Authority ("Fairfax Water") will hold a public input session at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2016, to receive and consider public comments on the potential acquisition of properties.

These properties are located at 2931, 2939, 2943, 2947 and Lot 76, Mayberry Street and 8109 and 8117 Ransell Road, Falls Church, Virginia.

Fairfax Water is also considering acquisition of additional properties: 2924 Telestar Court and 2927 Gallows Road.



Fairfax Water may seek to acquire some or all of these properties for public use to serve as the site for a replacement central maintenance facility that Fairfax Water must construct and operate to meet the existing and future public water service requirements of its customers.

This location was suggested by the Greater Merrifield Business Association and others as a feasible site for such a facility. Information on this meeting can be found on Fairfax Water's website at this address: http://www.fairfaxwater.org/notices/pis_2016_02_04.pdf

The public input session will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA 22031. Those wishing to speak at this session should call Eva Catlin at (703) 289-6017.

Interested parties also may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Input Session Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, February 3, 2016** to be included in the record of the public input session.

CRIME

Vienna Crime Reports

Notable incidents from the Vienna Police Reports from Jan. 15-21.

Incidents

Fraud - 800 Block Ninovan Road, SE. Between September 30, 2015 at 12:00 p.m. and Jan. 15 at 9:32 a.m. A resident was alerted by Paypal Credit informing her that an account had been opened in her name without her knowledge.

Fraud - 1000 Block Tapawingo Road, SW. Between Dec. 31, 2015 at 1:54 p.m. and Jan. 20, 2016 at 1:54 p.m. A resident reported that in 2015 she was alerted by Lifelock that someone had attempted to open a Walmart credit card using her personal information. She recently received information from her bank that may be useful in identifying the person who was involved. This case is being investigated.

Suspicious Event - Desale Street at James Street, SW. Jan. 12, 4:15 p.m. A resident reported his daughter had been dropped off at a bus stop and was approached by a Mexican male, with dark hair and between 20-40 years of age. She stated the man drove up to her in a black sedan and motioned for her to get in. When the girl refused he left the area. The incident happened two days prior to the resident reporting this to the police. School officials have been made aware of this incident.

Arrest - Narcotics Violation - 100 Block Courthouse Road, SW. Jan. 14, 11:05 p.m. An officer conducted a traffic stop. Upon his approach to the vehicle he detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. After his interaction with the driver he located a measurable amount of marijuana. The officer issued summonses to the driver, a 22-year-old man from Formby Street in Bristow, Va. for Possession of Marijuana, Speeding and Driving on a Suspended License. He was released after signing the summonses.

Arrest - Concealed Weapon - 100 Block Courthouse Road, SW. Jan. 15, 12:46 a.m. As a result of the driver from the case above, having a suspended driver's license he was not permitted to drive from the scene. Therefore he telephoned a friend to request a ride home. The friend arrived and after his interaction with the officer a concealed handgun was located in the vehicle. The driver did not possess a permit to carry the weapon. The officer transported the 24-year-old man from Cordgrass Circle in Stone Ridge, Va. to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon and held on a \$1,000.00 bond.

Police Service - 400 Block Lawyers Road, NW. Jan. 15, 11:25 a.m. A resident responded to the Vienna Police Station to turn in an unused Insulin needle found in

the rear of her home. The needle will held at the police station until it can be destroyed.

Narcotics Violation - Lewis Street at Maple Avenue, NW. Jan. 15, 12:44 p.m. The officer was on patrol when he observed the driver of a vehicle commit a series of traffic offenses. As a result of those offenses he conducted a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the juvenile driver he located cigarettes, a measurable amount of marijuana, as well as Schedule II and IV narcotics. The juvenile was transported to the Vienna Police Station where her mother responded and took her home. This case is being investigated.

Suspicious Event - 500 Block Maple Avenue, West. Jan. 15, 2:53 p.m. A citizen reported she was returning to her vehicle when she observed a black male getting into her vehicle. When she confronted the man he stated it was an accident. He left the area prior to the arrival of the police officer.

Petit Larceny - Rite Aid, 215 Maple Ave., West. Jan. 15, 5:08 p.m. An employee reported an individual entered the store and after taking items from the shelf he attempted to return them for cash using an altered store receipt. When the individual was denied the exchange he absconded with the items. The individual was described as a black male, clean shaven, 35-40 years old, approximately 5'9", and wearing a black North Face jacket. This case is being investigated.

Runaway Juvenile - Hillcrest Drive, SW. Between Jan. 15 at 6 p.m. and Jan. 18 at 12:34 p.m. A resident reported her son had run away from home. She stated he went outside with a friend to wait for another friend to arrive and had not seen or heard from him since. This case is being investigated.

Arrest - Destruction of Property/Drunk in Public - 100 Block Patrick St., SE. Jan. 15, 8:18 p.m. A resident reported seeing an individual staggering through the parking lot and stopping at several vehicles to look inside.

The resident stated the individual walked to his vehicle and after looking inside he kicked it several times and broke the passenger side mirror. The individual left the area prior to the arrival of the police. The officer responded to the area a short time later and located the individual. The resident, who reported the initial incident, identified him as the one who damaged his vehicle. The officer transported the 39-year-old man, with no fixed address, to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Drunk in Public and Destruction of Property. He was held on a \$500.00 bond.

Positive 2015 Real Estate Market Spurs Upbeat Outlook for the New Year

Experts predict continuing positive trend.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The final figures are in, and it looks like the 2015 local housing market was a modest winner. Coming off a banner 2013, the 2014 market left buyers, sellers, agents, brokers and lenders all feeling a bit edgy when the previous year's successes did not spill over into the next year. But despite a bit of a rollercoaster ride, 2015 closed with annual regional sales 9.4 percent higher than 2014 – their highest since 2006. Data for the region, that includes the general Metro area, as well as specifics for Fairfax and Arlington counties, the cities of Fairfax, Falls Church and Alexandria, and the towns of Herndon, Vienna and Clifton is supplied by RealEstate Business Intelligence, L.L.C. (RBI), an arm of the local MLS system.

In the first half of the year the normal buying pattern was disrupted by a number of factors, not the least being the long and difficult winter which pushed the start of the spring market from late January or February to mid-March.

"The hottest real estate season lost a solid month of sales," said Reston-based Keller Williams agent Andy Krumholz. "Then it ended earlier than normal, as well," he added.

"Normally lasting until late June before the summer slowdown, this past year the market went to sleep in May and stayed that way through Labor Day."

TO EVERYONE'S RELIEF, the second half of the year saw a real pick up in real estate action. Virgil Frizzell, the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) chairman of the board noted "a strong fall market and sometimes a flurry of bidding wars" that helped overcome the slow start, even with the jitters that came as the world waited for the anticipated increase in the Fed Funds Rate by the Federal Reserve, and the adjustments to be made as new closing laws went into effect.

According to the RBI data, Fairfax County had the most closed sales in 2015, increasing 9.6 percent over 2014. Alexandria came in with a 9.4 percent increase, Fairfax City with 7.9 percent, Arlington with 3.9 percent and Falls Church with 3.8 percent.

Among the jurisdictions, Fairfax County also saw the highest increase in new listings, up 14.6 percent over the previous year, a trend that Anita Lasansky, CRB, managing broker-vice president Long and Foster Realtors in North Reston can attest to. "We're a 60 percent/40 percent listing versus sales organization and it was a brisk year for us," she said, although at the moment "there's not a lot of inventory." Chairman



Andy Krumholz, Agent Keller Williams Reston: "The improving economic metrics have many pundits feeling optimistic about 2016. I expect

most areas to experience a 3-4 percent price improvement."

Frizzell agrees that "our region could always benefit from affordably priced new homes that will help our renter population make the move to home ownership."

In terms of sales pricing, Lasansky's opinion is that it was an almost neutral market year. "Buyers couldn't 'steal' a house, but sellers couldn't easily sell a property not in good condition.

There was quite a bit of negotiating during many of the transactions." Krumholz agreed with that assessment. "Even as inventory increased and some sellers were adjusting their sales price expectations, buyers were remaining selective. Homes that needed repairs or improvements languished on the market."

The RBI numbers show that both Lasansky and Krumholz were right in their thoughts about pricing and the average days on the market (DOM) of a given property. The region saw only a 1.1 percent increase in the median sales price. Behind D.C., Arlington County and Alexandria City led the way, with increases over 4 percent. In Fairfax County median sales prices were 3.2 percent higher in 2015 than in 2014. Only Falls Church saw a year-over-year decrease, dropping 1.4 percent, but keeping the "most



Anita Lasansky, CRB managing broker-vice president, Long and Foster North Reston: "The current stock market fluctuations could be a good

thing for the local real estate market. Housing is looking like a pretty good bet."

expensive location crown" among the Northern Virginia locales with a 2015 median sales price of \$690,000. At 22, days on the market increased slightly for all of the areas analyzed, but even those increases did not depress the overall sense of market health, since the two-day increase in the median DOM from 2014 is still an impressive 41 days less than the DOM high of 68 in 2008, and not far off the lowest DOM level recorded in the past decade of 15 days in 2013.

SO WHAT DO THE EXPERTS take from this plethora of information as they look to the 2016 market? NVAR CEO Ryan T. Conrad believes the positive trends will continue throughout the year. "Our region's sales pace last year reflected that there was homebuyer confidence," he stated in a recent NVAR press release, and "serious homebuyers will understand that their buying power will be strongest in the early part of the year" considering further expected rate hikes from the Federal Reserve.

Lasansky, with her 40 years of local experience, is looking at 2016 to be "as good, if not better, than 2015." Asked if she saw the current Wall Street woes as a challenge



Virgil Frizzell, Chairman of the Board Northern Virginia Association of Realtors: "The 2016 market is a dynamic situation, but I think all the indicators are

there for a positive year."

to the market, she replied the effect might just be the opposite. "With interest rates still so low, the volatility of the stock market might just steer people more toward real estate as the safer bet." Lasansky also feels that the recent easing of some of the regulations and requirements could make homebuying more of a possibility, especially for younger and first-time buyers.

Frizzell is equally positive about the 2016 outlook. "Millennials are starting to make the move," he stated. Several of his rental clients are now on the hunt for homes of their own.

Armed with the RBI data, his own expertise, and encouraging information provided from the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis, Frizzell thinks that continued employment growth and a more balanced economy in the region might make 2016 "one of the best years ever."

Links to data and analysis by locale can be found on the NVAR website, www.nvar.com. Readers interested in comprehensive data on the region including housing, job growth by sector and wages and more, can visit the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis website at www.cra.gmu.edu.

WEEK IN VIENNA

American Legion Post to Host Benefit for Veterans

American Legion Post 180, 330 Center Street, N., Vienna, will host the 4th annual Mardi Gras party Benefit for American Veterans on Saturday, Feb. 6, at 8 p.m. Music by DJ Richard Cunningham (Dr. Jazz). \$25 at the door, jambalaya and heavy hors d'oeuvres. Prize for best Costume. Costume is optional. Open to the public. 703-938-9535.

FCPS Award Nominations Deadline Sought

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Support Employee, Outstanding Hourly Employee, and Outstanding Leader awards. The nomi-

nation deadline is Feb. 3.

Administrators, colleagues, parents, and community members are encouraged to support outstanding employees who deserve to be acknowledged for the impact of their work.

All award nominees will be celebrated at the annual FCPS Honors gala held at the George Mason University Center for the Arts at the end of the school year. Winners receive a financial award and their school receives a celebration for the entire staff to recognize the role of collaborative teamwork in achieving excellence.

Nominations are also being accepted for the Outstanding First-Year Principal Award. This award recognizes a distinguished first-year principal who demonstrates extraordinary leadership qualities and exceptional administrative abilities. The nomination deadline is Feb. 17.

Find the award criteria and the online nomination forms at www.fcps.edu/hr/awards.

Questions, send an e-mail to EmployeeAwards@fcps.edu.

NEWS

Vienna Girl Scout Aids in Sea Turtle Conservation in Costa Rica

Meghan Parmer, a 15-year-old Girl Scout from Vienna and member of the Girl Scouts of the Nation's Capital Council, completed Outward Bound Costa Rica's Sea Turtle Retreat Destination. On this 10-day course, she volunteered in Costa Rica in conservation efforts to protect endangered sea turtles and pushed her limits with unique adventure activities in the outdoors.

"I enjoyed seeing baby sea turtles and the arribada the most," said Meghan. "Watching baby sea turtles going into the water after saving them from vultures [is my best memory]."

On the shores of Playa Ostional, a beach on Costa Rica's Pacific Coast in the Guanacaste Region, Meghan and her fellow Girl Scouts participated in a multi-day service project focused on protecting the sea turtle population.

Ostional is one of the world's most important nesting sites for Olive Ridley Sea Turtles. During their time in the area the group got the rare opportunity to witness an arribada, the mass nesting of hundreds of sea turtles as they lay their eggs.

Meghan and her group also gave back to the local community by painting a community center. The group learned about Costa



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Meghan Parmer

Rican culture first hand while practicing their Spanish and playing soccer with children and families in the region.

After returning to Outward Bound's rainforest base in Costa Rica, the group stepped out of their comfort zone on a rainforest hike and toured nearby volcano Irazu and historic sites in Cartago. To finish up their adventure, the group ziplined through jungle canopies and visited the vibrant artisan market of San Jose.

"Outward Bound Costa Rica's programs, like the one Meghan participated in, create environments that allow for personal and

leadership development through challenges, group effort and cross-cultural understanding," said Jim Rowe, executive director of Outward Bound Costa Rica.

Since 2006, Outward Bound Costa Rica has been partnered with Girl Scouts of the USA to offer unique and exciting Girl Scouts Destinations trips in Costa Rica and Panama. These trips provide young girls the opportunity to see the world, meet fellow Girl Scouts from across the nation and challenge themselves through adventure in unfamiliar settings.

For more information, visit www.outwardboundcostarica.org.

New Eagle Scouts in Vienna and Oakton

Austin Allison, James Crowley, Cameron Farmer, of Oakton, and Tate Wilhelm (Vienna) received their Eagle Scout designation at a Troop 152 Court of Honor at the Vienna Presbyterian Church. Friends, family, community members and BSA leaders attended the celebration. All the boys have been a member of Boy Scouts of America's National Capital Area Council, Troop 152, since the fifth grade.

Austin Allison is a junior at Oakton High School and for his Eagle Project he constructed a wooden baseball dugout at Southside Park. The dugout is now used by Vienna Little League and the Golden Girls Senior Women's Softball Organization. Outside of scouting, Allison is also is the Scouting Lead for the Oakton High School Robotics team.

James Crowley is a junior at Oakton High School and for his Eagle Project he constructed a range officer observation platform at the Fairfax-Arlington Chapter of



PHOTO BY JOSEPH DE JESUS

From left, New Eagle Scouts Cameron Farmer, Austin Allison, James Crowley and Tate Wilhelm.

the Izaak Walton League of America. This was constructed in time to be used for the 2015 World Police and Fire Games hosted by Fairfax County. Outside of scouting, he is a captain of Oakton High School Cross Country and Track and Field teams.

Cameron Farmer is a junior at Oakton High School and for his Eagle Project he did some landscaping and helped raise awareness for the Alternative House in

Vienna. Outside of scouting, he is a coxswain on the Oakton High School Crew. Tate Wilhelm is a homeschooled junior and for his Eagle Project he installed a cobblestone border around the pool deck at the Vienna Aquatic Club. Outside of scouting, he is a member and coach for the Vienna Aquatic Club Gators Swim team.

Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program.

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Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

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2/10/2016.....Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

2/17/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

2/24/2016.....Pet Connection

MARCH

3/2/2016.....Wellbeing

3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools

3/23/2016....Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment

FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout

Easter Sunday is March 27

4/13/2016.....Real Estate Pullout – New Homes

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4/27/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools Pullout

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection

SCHOOL NOTES

Send school notes to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com by Friday.

Eight students from Fairfax County Public Schools — all attending Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) — have been named semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. The students, with their project names in italics, are:

- ❖ Jake Cui, *A Machine Learning Approach to Identifying Ordered Binding Regions on Order-disorder Protein Interfaces.*

- ❖ Tarun Kamath, *Marked Decreases in Pediatric and Young Adult Solid Organ Cancer Mortality in the United States Since 1940: Analysis and Hypotheses.*

- ❖ Ava Lakmazaheri, *Brain-actuated Robotics: A Logic-based Approach for Multimodal Programming and Operation of Assistive Humanoid Robots.*

- ❖ Austin Mills, *Demonstrating the Development of Heavy Metal Resistance in Non-tolerant Multi-generational Brassica rapa.*

- ❖ Kunal Shroff, *The Relationship Between Lethality and Genomic Instability in Euploid and Aneuploid Yeast Cells Expressing Pathological Huntingtin.*

- ❖ Matthew Sun, *Hyperacute Temporal Resolution with a Neural Population for Biologically Plausible Firing Rate Change Detection.*

- ❖ Jason Wei, *Improving Lateral Flow Immunoassay Sensitivity by a Palladium-catalyzed Dye Reaction.*

- ❖ Michael You, *Two-degree-of-freedom Bubble Oscillations in Elastic Vessels and its Application in Sonar-induced Marine Mammal Injuries.*

The 300 semifinalists were chosen from more than 1,750 entrants and will receive matching awards of \$1,000 along with their school.

This is the 75th year of the Science Talent Search, which Intel has sponsored since 1998, providing \$1.6 million in awards and scholarships to contestants.

Christine Maria Veiga of Vienna was named to the Dean's List at Virginia Polytechnic Institute for the Fall semester of 2015. She is majoring in Human Food, Nutrition, and Exercise in prepara-

tion for a degree in Nursing.

Christie Sweet of Vienna is on the Dean's List at Bridgewater College in Bridgewater, Va. for the fall 2015 semester. She is majoring in health and exercise science.

Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. announced Cadet Second Lieutenant **Chase Dixon** from Vienna as Officer of the Month for October. Dixon is a senior and the son of Mr. Michael Filan and Mrs. Elizabeth McElroy-Filan. Cadet Dixon is the Executive Officer of Alpha Company and is a member of the Key Club.

Masato Chang, of Vienna, an eighth-grader at Longfellow Middle School was awarded first prize at the Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) for the State of Virginia. He will travel to Florida in January 2016 to represent the State of Virginia for the next round.

Gabrielle Greco, of Vienna, daughter of Drs. Stephen and Judith Greco, was named to the Dean's List at the College of William and Mary for the Spring Semester.

Chun-Ming "Chris" Chen of Vienna and Maria Vera Alvarez of South Riding have been awarded **Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Undergraduate Transfer Scholarships**. Both students attend Northern Virginia Community College.

Kathryn Seymore Hahne of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy for the spring semester of 2015. The University of Virginia established the Batten School in 2007 as part of its strategic plan and as an expression of its Jeffersonian heritage.

Saba Chinian of Vienna, was named to the Dean's List at the Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy for the spring semester of 2015.

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'Disappointing, Not Surprising'

Bills to rein in predatory lending die in Senate committee.

EDITORIAL

Have you ever paid 36 percent interest on a loan or credit card? Not likely. It's an outrageous rate, especially given that the actual cost of money is close to zero right now.

But right now, some people in Northern Virginia are paying more than 200 percent on loans secured by their car title. These are people who are both financially desperate and financially unsophisticated, who likely assume that regulation would keep a lender from bleeding them dry with unrestricted interest rates.

Predatory lending is a local issue, with car title lenders congregating in lower income areas like along Route 1 in the Mount Vernon area, and also queuing up near the border with Prince George's County, Md., where car title lending is illegal.

Earlier this week, a Virginia Senate committee killed a bill that would have capped consumer loan interest rates at 36 percent. It's hard

to believe, but right now there are no limits to the interest rates that can be charged in Virginia. And car title lenders, which are not consumer loans, often have effective interest rates of more than 200 percent.

"Predatory lending is a major problem in the U.S. 1 Corridor," said Sen. Scott Surovell (D-36), who introduced the failed legislation to curb predatory lending. "Car title lenders have been abusing this loophole by charging rates over 200 percent. ... To rein in car title lender bait and switch tactics, I am proposing to limit interest rates on consumer finance loans at 36 percent." But that effort died in a Virginia Senate Committee this week.

Between 2010, when the Virginia General Assembly gave the green light to the car title lending industry, the total number of locations more than doubled from 184 to 395.

Some legislators claim this is a free market and personal responsibility issue, that people who have no other options should be able to turn to high interest lending as a last resort. But most people who turn to these loans would be better off without this last resort.

"It's a trap, and although it's presented as a loan it's really loan-sharking," said Jay Speech,

executive director of the Virginia Poverty Law Center. "People who get into this end up much worse off than when they started."

We all pay the price when an industry preys on the poor. People who lose their cars can lose their jobs, then relying on the frayed and inadequate safety net.

Michael Pope, who wrote about car title lending abuses when he worked for the Connection and Gazette Packet, recently completed a multi-part investigative series on predatory lending for WAMU, which you can listen to here: http://wamu.org/the_debt_trap

When his series concluded, the message of the damage of predatory lending seemed to resonate. Legislation to rein in the abuses of 200 percent interest seemed destined to make a difference.

This year, it will not.

Attorney General Mark Herring tweeted, "disappointing, not surprising" on Monday in response to the news that all four bills that sought to limit predatory lending were voted down in committee.

Disappointing, but not surprising. A sad commentary.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

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?

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Progress on Transportation

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

In the early years of the 20th-century travelers were advised not to come to Virginia because of the poor condition of the roads. Deep ruts, mud holes and lack of maintenance made travel precarious in the Old Dominion. In 1925 State Senator Harry F. Byrd who as a young man had worked part-time on a private toll road—the Valley Pike in the Shenandoah Valley—ran for governor on the campaign slogan "Get Virginia out of the mud." Byrd's campaign was successful, and in his single term as governor he established the Virginia Department of Highways. His centralized highway system led to the present-day highway system that is one of the largest in the country with 57,867 miles of highways and 20,991 bridges. Byrd also implemented a "pay as you go" financing system that keeps the pace of highway construction and improvement at the rate of current revenue without borrowing. Old timers in the state remember traveling on roads that went from two to four lanes and back to two every few miles as money was available in the highway construction fund to complete the widening.

Governor Gerald Baliles who served from 1986 to 1990 was able to get a significant highway funding program approved in 1986 that along with federal funding was able to make improvements to the highway system and to introduce funding for mass transit. That was the last time politicians in Richmond could agree on a financing plan for

transportation until 2013 when new monies were approved along with a new approach for identifying projects.

Secretary of Transportation Aubrey Layne last week briefed the House Transportation Committee on which I serve and outlined the three Rs in transportation planning that have come about because of legislation passed the last couple of years. As a result of bipartisan efforts, Virginia's transportation program has been renewed with new resources for all modes of transportation. The program has been reformed by requiring use of an outcome-based prioritization process with increased accountability and transparency. The transportation program has been refocused by replacing the decades-old allocation formula with a new formula that aligns funding with need. Gone is the approval of funding transportation by locality to a shift to regional consideration and statewide needs. Rather than the piecemeal approach to project funding there now will be full funding of projects. And the new system of funding that has been put in place is designed to shift prioritization from politics to factors of congestion mitigation, safety, accessibility, economic development, environmental concerns and land usage.

Governor Byrd's Department of Highways whose name was changed to the Department of Transportation years ago has begun functioning with a multi-modal approach that includes bus and rail as well as bicycles and pedestrians. While Northern Virginia continues to face significant challenges as one of the most congested parts of the country, additional funding that is now available along with the outcome-based prioritization process will accrue to the benefit of our region. Results will not be immediate, but I believe we are moving in the right direction.



LETTER

Honoring Those Who Serve

To the Editor:

The Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards (VSAs) are produced by Volunteer Fairfax. Every day our community is served by dedicated volunteers and each year we have the opportunity to honor them at this county-wide celebration. It was this event six years ago that inspired me to join the Board. Since, I've had the pleasure of being a member of the Board, to include service as its most recent Past President. It has been a rewarding experience. Saying thank you to those who serve is a value I know our community holds dear. That's why I am surprised to see how little awareness there is in our part of the County

for the organization and what it does to resource needs, promote corporate social responsibly, and advance emergency preparedness.

Nominations for the 2016 awards are open now through Feb. 4 at www.VolunteerFairfax.org. As you take the time to honor our outstanding volunteers by nominating them, please take a moment to learn more about Volunteer Fairfax so you, too, can see that the value to our community far exceeds what you might think. The awards ceremony will be held at the Waterford in Springfield the morning of April 8.

Craig Parisot
McLean

FAITH NOTES

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna, is holding Sunday evening worship service in a less formal atmosphere and more intimate setting to help you get ready for the week ahead. Sundays, 6 p.m. Communion offered. No childcare. 703-

938-2119 or www.elcvienna.org.

The Antioch Christian Church offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. www.antiochdoc.org

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703-281-4868

WINTER FUN AND ENTERTAINMENT



This year's American Legion Post 180 mardi gras party will be on Saturday, Feb. 6



Children roll their eggs along the Freeman House lawn in Vienna. This year's Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll will be on Saturday, March 19.

Winter Events and Activities to Keep You Warm

After the blizzard, dig yourself out and drive away that cabin fever. From foods to keep you warm to crisp and refreshing hikes, here is a sampling of winter activities that will tide you over till springtime. Spring begins Sunday, March 20.

Go

What's more inviting than a chocolate fountain? No golden tickets are needed to attend the **McLean Chocolate Festival** happening on Sunday, Jan. 31 at the McLean Community Center. Tickets are \$2 for all and free to children under six. The chocoholics' dream is from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The McLean Community Center is located at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean.

For information, visit www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

It's a **Mardi Gras Party** at the American Legion Post 180 on Saturday, Feb. 6. Music by DJ Richard Cunningham, also known as Dr. Jazz. Enjoy a feast of jambalaya and hors d'oeuvre. Come in costume for a chance at a prize. Cost is \$25 at the door. The party will be at 330 Center St., N, Vienna. For information, call 703-938-9535.

Celebrate the Year of the Fire Monkey at the **Ninth Annual Chinese New Year Festival** on

Saturday, Feb. 6. Monkeys are characterized by curiosity, mischievousness and cleverness. This year's event will promote wisdom. Legend has it a terrible monster called Nian would come once a year to eat crops, livestock and errant children. One day an old beggar man came and told the villagers that the monster is actually a scardy cat but no one believed him. The villagers fled or hid. But the next day, they found that everything was alright. The old man, who turned out to be deity, had chased Nian away and he left traces of how he had done it. The story varies but one thing remains the same, celebrating the triumph over the monster Nian. The Ninth Annual Chinese New Year festival will be held at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. Snow date is Feb. 13.

For information, go to www.chinesenewyearfestival.org.

The Vienna Woman's Club presents a **Daddy Daughter Dance** on Friday, Feb. 5. Fathers, grandfathers, big brothers, godfathers and family members are welcome to mingle with special fairytale guests. The cost is \$25 per couple. The event is for ages 3 years to those in sixth grade. The dance will be held at Marshall Road Elementary School, 730 Marshall Road, SW, Vienna. Get tickets at <https://www.daddydaughterdance.eventbrite.com>.

You know spring is almost here when Vienna holds its egg-hunt. The **Flashlight Egg Hunt** will be on Friday, March 18 at Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Enjoy a family evening searching for eggs and prizes in the dark. Please bring a flashlight so you can find the eggs. Jump like a bunny in the moon bounce and visit the Easter Bunny. The hunt starts at 7 p.m. Call 703-255-6360 for more information.

For something more traditional, there is also the **Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll** on Saturday, March 19 at the Freeman House, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, presented by Historic Vienna, Inc. The event is from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Call 703-938-5187 for more information.

Do

Take a Hike with a hiking group or club. Capital Hiking Club meets on Saturdays and has pick-up service at the Vienna Metro North Parking Lot, 9550 Saintsbury Drive, Fairfax. The club buses hikers to the hiking destination. Short and long hikes available for each hike. Snacks and beverages avail-

able after hike completion for a small fee. Hike fees are \$25 for member and \$28 for non-members. For more information, go to www.capitalhikingclub.org.

The Mid-Atlantic Hiking Group offers multiple hikes of varying degrees of difficulty every weekend. They have carpool options that meet at the Vienna Metro. Price for the hike is \$2 on average. For more information visit the group's Meetup page at <http://www.meetup.com/Mid-Atlantic-Hiking-Group/>.

Prefer the solitary tromp through the woods? Fairfax County has trails for hikers, walkers, bikers and horseback riders. Check out one near your at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trailsframe.htm>. If hiking alone, let someone know where you are going.

If learning a **musical instrument** is one of your New Year's resolutions, winter is the time to make it happen. Wolf Trap offers piano, guitar and voice lessons. Lessons are taught at the Center for Education, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna.

For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

Or perhaps, it's art that moves you. Then, **take an art class** at the McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Learn

a new skill or enhance that talent. Visit <http://www.mapaart.org/art-classes>, or call 703-790-1953.

Eat and Drink

One does not have to go to Canada or New England to enjoy a quintessential winter favorite—maple syrup. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls, is holding a **Maple Syrup Boil Down** on Sunday, Feb. 7, 21 and March 6 from noon to 2 p.m. The sap is rising and the maple trees are tapped. Now it's sugaring time. Bundle up, brave the weather, watch and learn as sap is boiled down into sweet syrup over an open fire. Sample the delicious combination of maple syrup over fresh baked cornbread. While supplies last. This is an outdoor program, so please dress appropriately. Cost is \$5 per person. No reservations required. 703-759-2771.

Feeling fancy? At **Wine at Wolf Trap**, guests will enjoy a five-course dinner with perfect wine pairings and live entertainment by The Olivera Quintet, previewing Filene Center summer performances. This intimate evening of extraordinary wines and cuisine will be on Saturday, March 19 at the Barns, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna, at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$500-\$10,000. Reserve by Feb. 19.

For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

For tickets and more information, email jenschwab84@yahoo.com or call 571-277-2191. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center Street.

For more information, visit www.viennaartsociety.org.



Visitors enjoy a chocolate fountain from Capitol Chocolate Fountains in a past McLean Chocolate Festival. This year's festival will be Sunday, Jan. 31 at McLean Community Center.

What to Do This Winter in Vienna

Fun to Fun Fundraisers coming up.

By DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

The thought of snow sends Northern Virginians into survival mode, discouraging the scheduling of mega-events. Yet, there are still fun activities, from ice skating at the Tysons Corner ice rink [charge] to the piano bar at Maplewood Grill in Vienna, and diverse events in between to keep adults and children entertained. There are service club meetings that feature speakers and lunch and library activities at Patrick Henry Library and Oakton Library for preschoolers.

The Barns of Wolf Trap presents performances by nationally-acclaimed and internationally-acclaimed artists. Throughout the year, the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department hosts Sunday night bingo to raise funds for equipment and public events. And for the ever-hopeful snow-lovers, there is sledding when the snow falls and the schools close.

Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Fundraiser
Win Vera Bradley handbags and totes while helping to raise money for the fight against breast cancer on Saturday, Jan. 30, 11:30 a.m. All funds raised will support the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer. Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Vienna Woman's Club, Daddy-Daughter Valentine Dance
on Friday, Feb. 5, at Marshall Road Elementary School from 6 to 8 p.m. Girls aged 3 to 12 can dance away the evening with their father, grandfathers, uncles, godfathers or brothers. Proceeds go toward Vienna Woman's Club donations — Vienna elementary school reading programs and college scholarships for area high school students. Tickets are \$20 a couple through Jan. 10. After that date, tickets are \$25. Buy tickets at www.daddydaughterdance.eventbrite.com.

Rotary Club of Vienna hosts Casino Night, Friday, Feb. 26, from 7 p.m. to midnight at Westwood Country Club. The evening's theme is "Taste of the World."

Tickets start at \$85 per person and include samples from the 15 participating restaurants, two drink tickets and gaming cash.

Westwood is located at 800 Maple Ave. E., Vienna.

To purchase tickets, visit viennacasinonight.com or call 703-981-4911 for more information.

Northern Virginia Senior Softball, a slow-pitch league for men 50 and older, and women 40 and older, offers free morning conditioning programs in February and March. Participants are placed on one of 26 teams in three leagues that are based on skill level.

Games are played in summer and fall. For more information, visit nvss.org.

For more information, visit www.viennaartsociety.org.

For more information, visit www.wolftrap.org.

FEB 6TH

Are You & Your Family Comfortable in Your Home?

THIS EVENT FILLS UP FAST!
If you are unable to make this date, please give us a call to get on the schedule for the next event!

We Hope You Will Join Us!
Saturday, Feb. 6th, 2015 - 10am-2pm

Where: Sun Design Corporate Office
5795 B Burke Centre Parkway, Burke, VA 22015
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Seminars run from 10am-12pm. Lunch to follow.
Please arrive at 9:45am for check-in.

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Admission \$5
Children 12 and younger free.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

AJ Smith "Brooklyn Nights" EP Release. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. DC-area native AJ Smith left for New York to study music six years ago where he found his voice and grew into an award-winning songwriter and recording artist. On Jan. 27, 2016 AJ Smith is set to release his upcoming EP "Brooklyn Nights" to his hometown at Jammin Java in Vienna. \$15-\$25. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Grant-Lee Phillips + Steve Poltz. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join the two singers as they take a stage together to share some of their songs. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Genealogy Program. 7:30-9 p.m. Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society monthly meeting and program. Speaker: Sharon Hodges on Expanding Research to Resources Not Available On Line. Free. 703-644-8185.

Penny University Event. 7-8 p.m. Caffe Amouri, 1107 Church St., NE, Vienna. New Year, New You- Healthy Habits to Start the New Year" with Joann Meginley of Grass Roots Fitness. Space is limited. To sign-up, email Nicki at nicki@caffeamouri.com.

FRIDAY/JAN. 29

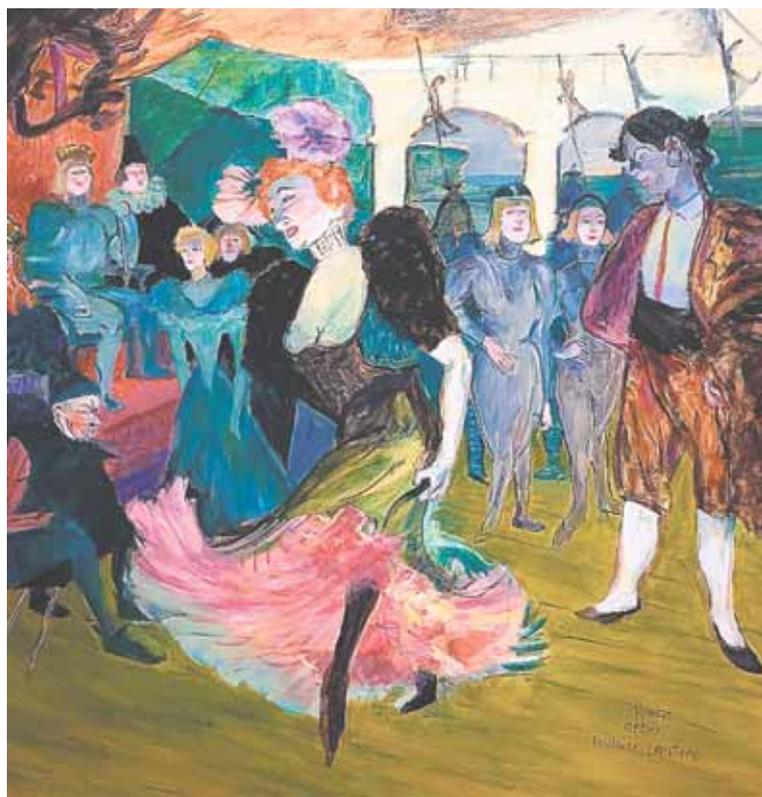
The Cave. 3:30-10 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. All you gamers out there... get ready. This dynamic trip will provide the ability to spend time gaming with other like-minded individuals in a friendly and social environment. This new facility is sure to please, so join us and enjoy gaming like never before! Dinner will be provided. Tickets: \$35/\$25 members. <http://www.mcleancenter.org>. 703-790-0123.

Garland Jeffreys & The Coney Island Playboys. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Brooklyn Native Garland Jeffreys' rock hits include "R.O.C.K." and "Wild In The Streets" plus his smash covers of "What Does It Take (To Win Your Love)" and "96 Tears." He released a dozen albums that featured an amazing list of guest artists like Lou Reed, Dr. John, Sly & Robbie, David Johansen, Phoebe Snow, Luther Vandross and Duncan Sheik. \$25. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

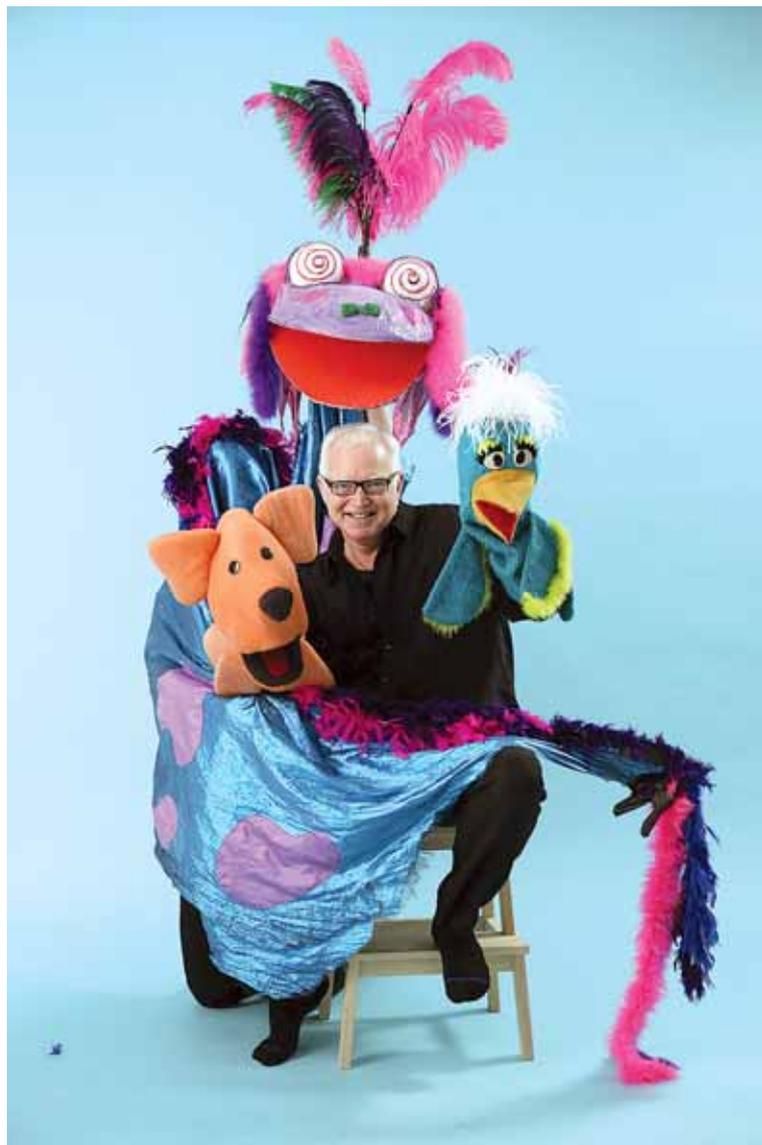
The Later Late Show: Main Stage Comedy Showcase. 10:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The greatest and funniest comedy show of all time. \$5-\$8. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Ted Alexandro. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Come enjoy the comedy show. Ted Alexandro has been making audiences laugh for more than 20 years. As a New York native, he has performed multiple times on the late night shows of David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, Jimmy Kimmel, and on two half-hour Comedy Central specials. \$22. <http://www.wolftrap.org/> or 703-255-1900.

Art Making and Craft Beer. 7:30-9:30 p.m. McLean Project for the Arts, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Led by artist, Arthur Kwon Lee, we will dive into an evening of abstract painting with a dynamic



Copy of Marcelle Lender Dancing the Bolero by Toulouse Lautrec from the National Gallery of Art, 35 x 36" oil by Richard Neff will be in the "Poetry in Motion" exhibit by the Vienna Arts Society from Feb. 2-27.



Puppeteer Jim West performs at the McLean Community Center on Saturday, Feb. 20.

theme on human movement. Through a Jackson Pollock inspired style, we will explore mark-making with ink, paint, and alternative objects as we practice the many ways to capture movement, and manifest

it, through painting. \$25/\$45. www.mpaart.org/events-2/. 703-790-1953.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Ongoing

Pigments of My Imagination.

Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Lions Club invites elementary and high school vocalist and instrumentalists to present a song or piece for cash prizes. For information and application, contact Susan Stiles at sandcs89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga,

one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

"Poetry in Motion" Exhibit. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. From Feb. 2-27. Exhibition of VAS members paintings with the theme "Poetry in Motion. Free.

Tail and Ales with Caboose Brewing and Grass Roots Fitness. Mondays through Jan. 31. Caboose Brewing Company, 520 Mill Street, NE Vienna. Come Run with us every Monday night. \$1 Off All Pints! All paces welcome. We will run between 3-5 miles with options to go shorter or longer. You can walk or run. Dog and stroller friendly. Contact Joann Meginley at joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org.

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

LEGO Skyline and Architecture Studio.

2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851-L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Adults and teenagers (ages 14 and up) are invited to Barnes & Noble to help build our new LEGO Skyline in-store display and enjoy a LEGO Architecture build with Architecture Studio bricks. 703-506-6756.

Au Pair feat. Gary Louris (The Jayhawks) and Django Haskins.

7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Au Pair strikes a balance between classic songcraft and cheeky experimentation on their debut album, One-Armed Candy Bear. The core of the album consists of the duo singing and playing into a single microphone like a Memphis Sun session. But then they take some strange turns: body percussion, feedback loops, avant guitar, Kraut rock touches, anything goes in the world of Au Pair. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Back to the 90s. 10:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Good Time Boys and Maryjo Mattea collaborate and perform punk music. \$10-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Rock Creek Singers / Potomac Fever.

The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Come join Gay Men's Chorus of Washington, D.C. as they celebrate their 35th season. With more than 250 singers, Gay Men's Chorus of Washington has performed for President and First Lady Obama, six consecutive years at Vice President and Dr. Biden's residence, at the historic Carnegie Library in honor of longtime gay rights activist Dr. Frank Kameny, at the first LGBT Pride Month at the White House, and as part of the concert We Are One. \$45. <http://www.wolftrap.org> or 703-255-1900.

Genealogy Education Workshop.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society educational workshop featuring Sharon Hodges, "There's More to The Census Than What's On Line." Free. 703-644-8184.

Improvisational Quilting with Cindy Grisdela.

9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The Arts of GF School on the Village Green, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Quilting workshop. Basic sewing skills and a machine in good, working order required. \$150. Register at <http://>

www.greatfallsart.org/quilting/.

Mardi Gras Celebration. 5:30-10 p.m. St. John the Beloved Roman Catholic Church, 6420 Linway Terrace, McLean. Krewes Chef Brian Holoubek's Gumbo, Red Beans and Rice, King cake, music, masks and beads. Bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert. <http://www.stjohnscatholicmclean.org/events/mardi-gras-celebration/>. 703-356-7916.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Relay-Palooza. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Relay-Palooza is a variety show created to highlight the local talent of Northern Virginia and raise for the Beltway Relay For Life. Showcase of a variety of family-friendly genres, ranging from acoustic to comedy are available. A local cancer survivor as our keynote speaker on behalf of the American Cancer Society is featured. \$13-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com>. 703-255-1566.

McLean Chocolate Festival. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Rotary Club of McLean is hosting its 5th annual Chocolate Festival. \$2. Children under 6 free. www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

Friends of Music Benefit Concert. 3-4 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Performance will include excerpts from Mozart's "The Magic Flute," "The Stars and Stripes Forever," Uzun Hava, the Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major. www.stjohnsmclean.org. 703-356-4902.

TUESDAY/FEB. 2

Arsenal Duo. 7:30-9 p.m. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Dr. Ed Moore and Nathan Carterette play classical and contemporary works in this unique artistic collaboration. www.Lewinsville.org. 703-356-7200.

Ethics Breakfast Seminar. 7-9 a.m. Maggiano's Little Italy Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Seminar entitled "Doing the Right Thing in Business and Government" presented by the Northern Virginia Chapter of Christians in Commerce. Speakers Mark Lytle and Bill Colegrove. \$35 or \$240 for a table of 8. Register at www.cicintl.org/

NEWS

From left, Terry Lewis, vice president, Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association; Catherine Tadlock, essay winner; Judy Spain, contest judge; Vic Spain, past president contest judge.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Kilmer Middle School Student Writes Prize Winning Essay

Catherine Tadlock, an eighth-grader at the Joyce Kilmer Middle School in Vienna, won first place in the Tidewater Oyster Gardeners Association (TOGA) Middle School Essay Contest. She received \$150, an oyster float, and a TOGA T-shirt and cap, awarded at the annual TOGA membership meeting held at the Virginia Institute of Marine Sciences in Gloucester Point on Jan. 9.

"This year we had an extremely competitive contest with essays submitted from across the state of Virginia," said Terry Lewis, vice president of TOGA and chairman of the contest. "Catherine should be very proud to receive this award, as should the area community," Lewis said. Catherine's

essay was based on her family's involvement with oysters from the early 1920s, when her great-great grandfather began the R.E. Doby's oyster business in Lancaster County. Her family continued to run the business through World War II, shipping oysters as far as New York City. As Catherine said in her essay, "there's oyster liquor in my blood - it's part of who I will be forever."

Tadlock's read her essay to more than 125 TOGA members assembled in the auditorium. She was accompanied by her father, teacher, and grandparents Anita and Norman Tadlock, who still grow oysters off their dock on the Corrotoman River in Lancaster County. TOGA is again sponsoring the contest, which is open to all Middle School students in Virginia.

Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington, Fairfax County Region

3rd Annual Casino Night

Saturday, March 12, 2016
7:00 - 11:00 pm
The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner*

Tickets

\$100 per person
\$180 per couple

Enjoy:

- Open bar
- Dinner buffet
- Dancing
- Casino games & funny money!

Use your funny money winnings to enter to win fabulous prizes. And new this year - special prizes for our top winners!

www.bgcgw.org/fairfax
For tickets and sponsorship information

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS



McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



Here's What's Happening at MCC

Old Firehouse Teen Center
Friday Field Trip
The Cave

Friday, Jan. 29, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$35/\$25 OFTC members

Old Firehouse Teen Center
Teacher Work Day Trips
The Zone

Friday, Feb. 5, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents



New! Better Than Bling

Jewelry and Fashion Accessories Show

Saturday, Feb. 6, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
Admission \$5

Children age 12 or younger free.



Puppet Festival

Saturday, Feb. 20, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Featuring performances by
Crabgrass Puppets and Jim West Puppets
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



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



Snowstorm Q&A: Madison's Walker Shoveled Snow for 13 Hours

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

Madison senior basketball player Taiga Walker shared his storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: Where do you live?

A: I live in Vienna, right next to Madison High School.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: I wasn't expecting this amount of snow whatsoever. At first I was excited about the snow,

but there was way too much of it.

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: We went to the grocery store and piled up on food as almost every family did in Vienna.

Q: What did you do to pass the time during the storm?

A: Hang out with friends/team-mates, watched lot of Netflix and game film.

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: I tried to go sledding with friends on Saturday, but the snow wasn't compacted enough.

Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: I shoveled with friends for a company for 13 hours on Sunday, which I would consider as excruciating exercise.

Q: The Madison boys' basketball

team is 12-2. Are you at all worried about the storm disrupting the team's success?

A: Previous years I would be worried about how our team would bounce back from the storm, but this year I am confident that we will come back with a hungry/focused mentality to stay on this great track we've been on this year.

— JON ROETMAN

Taiga Walker and the Madison boys' basketball team have won 12 of their first 14 games.

PHOTO BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL
THE CONNECTION



Snowstorm Q&A: Langley's Duenkel Watched Movies with Family

A snowstorm caused Fairfax County Public Schools to cancel classes and athletic events from Thursday, Jan. 21 through Tuesday, Jan. 26. Some areas received more than 20 inches of snow during the weekend, according to the National Weather Service, creating a break from competition for local high school athletes.

Langley senior lacrosse player and James Madison University signee Halle Duenkel shared her storm experience via email with The Connection.

Q: Where do you live?

A: Great Falls.

Q: How did the amount of snowfall in your neighborhood compare to what you thought would fall?

A: The news channels definitely gave me the perception of a lot of snow but I was still not completely sure we would be getting over two feet!

Q: What, if any, preparations did you and your family make for the storm?

A: My mom and I went to the grocery store to grab some of the essentials before the storm. Also, my brothers and I played outside all day on Friday because we were afraid it would be too much snow to play in later!

Q: What did you do to pass the time during the storm?



Langley senior Halle Duenkel, seated in the middle, is signed to play lacrosse at James Madison University.

A: Recently, I picked painting back up so I was able to paint a few canvases during the free time. My mom and I baked cake pops and made some new dishes together and then at night my family would pick a movie to watch together. The movie "Everest" did not go over so well with us!

Q: Did you play in the snow? If so, what did you do?

A: My family and I enjoyed the

snow together. My two younger brothers and I had a few snowball fights and we also helped shovel out our driveway. My dog was over her head in the snow, but she managed to jump through to get to us. My youngest brother, Ryan, was also challenged on my mom's Facebook page to a "snow jump challenge." He had to get into his underwear and jump in the snow. Then he could challenge someone

else. It was hilarious.

Q: You suffered a knee injury during your junior lacrosse season. Where are you in terms of rehab?

A: I tore my ACL, MCL, and meniscus of my right knee in the beginning of May. In June, Dr. Keith Lawhorn reconstructed my knee using a graft from my hamstring. I worked harder than I ever have to get myself back to playing again. I pre-habbed for a month

before surgery and then re-habbed for six months. I was able to use an AlterG machine that takes your body weight off of your legs. It's a bit like a baby "bouncy-seat!" I am now fully cleared to play and have been able to participate in team practices and conditioning sessions to get ready for the season.

Q: Do you play a winter sport at Langley or are you training for lacrosse?

A: I played basketball and then winter track in the past for Langley. I took this winter off from a winter sport to train for lacrosse. My coach, Maggie Kovacs, is getting our team ready for the season with green day practices, hard conditioning sessions, and team yoga. I also go to Perfect Performance, where Leonard Stephens (former Redskin) helps me regain my foot speed and quickness. I think I am faster now than I was prior to the injury, so in reality it's been a blessing! I will play my first game for Langley on Feb. 13 in the Valentine's Day shoot out tournament.

Q: Were you able to exercise/practice during the storm? If so, what did you do?

A: I worked out in our basement, but I especially think that shoveling two feet of snow is exercise!

— JON ROETMAN

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Sixty Oakton, James Madison and George C. Marshall high schools students will shadow professionals in various industries for one day in January or February.

Tysons Chamber Kicks Off 2016 Job Shadow Program

Maureen Loftus, executive director of LearningRx of Vienna and Reston is leading the fourth annual Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (TRCC) job shadow program for 60, 11th and 12th grade students of Oakton, James Madison and George C. Marshall high schools in Fairfax County, where students will shadow professionals in various industries for one day in January or February.

The program received a Blue Ribbon Award from Fairfax County Schools in 2014. Loftus is heading up the program as she is the chair of the TRCC's Youth and Education Committee. For more information, go to www.learningrx.com.

More than 30 local companies are hosting students. Oakton, Madison and Marshall high school students who are interested the TRCC Job Shadow Pro-

gram filled out an application to select their areas of career interests. Job shadow programs are available in the following professions: acting, accounting/finance, aerospace, architecture, business management, culinary, cyber security, education, engineering, fashion, government, graphic design, human resources, law enforcement, nonprofit management, network security/administration, photography, PC support/help desk, public relations, sales/marketing, software development, and web design/development. For more details, go to www.tysonschamber.org.

Loftus has been the TRCC's Youth and Education Committee chairperson for the past three years and a TRCC member for six years.

Visit www.learningrx.com, Facebook or Twitter. www.learningrx.com.

FCPS Award Nominations Deadline Sought

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) is accepting nominations for the Outstanding Support Employee, Outstanding Hourly Employee, and Outstanding Leader awards. The nomination deadline is Feb. 3.

Administrators, colleagues, parents, and community members are encouraged to support outstanding employees who deserve to be acknowledged for the impact of their work.

All award nominees will be celebrated at the annual FCPS Honors gala held at the George Mason University Center for the Arts at the end of the school year. Winners receive a financial award

and their school receives a celebration for the entire staff to recognize the role of collaborative teamwork in achieving excellence.

Nominations are also being accepted for the Outstanding First-Year Principal Award. This award recognizes a distinguished first-year principal who demonstrates extraordinary leadership qualities and exceptional administrative abilities. The nomination deadline is Feb. 17.

Find the award criteria and the online nomination forms at www.fcps.edu/hr/awards.

Questions, send an e-mail to EmployeeAwards@fcps.edu.



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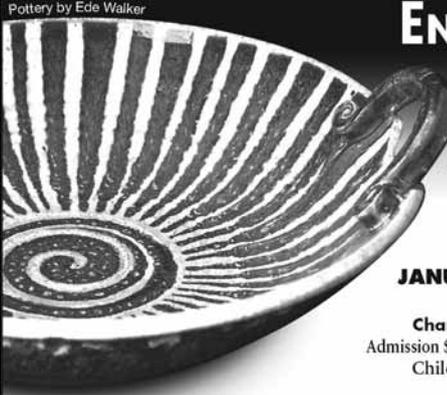
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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200

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"Your Blood Pressure is a Little High, Mr. Lourie"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"You think? I'm a little nervous right now. I'm waiting for scan results from last week." (I mean, it's not as if my life depends on them or anything.) As much as my blood pressure, heart rate and temperature are vitally important, the CT Scan of my chest matters more. Although, I'm not so naive to think that those other readings couldn't indicate trouble/potential trouble. Nevertheless, I still feel, with the limited knowledge I have, that – and I don't want to get political here – my CT Scan trumps your vital signs. "If you need to get a reading, why don't you come back in 15 minutes after I've met with the doctor?"

Thankfully, the scan results were/continue to be, amazingly encouraging. When my oncologist came into the examining room where I was sitting and waiting – and trying to remain calm, with my life/immediate future hanging in the balance, he said, rather nonchalantly, that my "scan was great" and that I was his "miracle patient": surviving nearly seven years now since my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) diagnosis in late February, 2009. He then sat at the computer and asked me the standard questions about pain, headaches, stroke-like symptoms, the neuropathy in my feet, need to reorder any prescriptions, new or worsening symptoms; all of which I answered in a non-complicating way: "No. No. No." He typed in my responses and then suggested, while smiling, that we were negotiating. Not completely understanding his reference, I asked what he meant. And what he meant was, given my "miracle" status, the possibility of extending, yet again, the interval between my chemotherapy infusions, from four weeks to five (see column dated 11/25/15 entitled "All Four It") and extending as well my every-three-month CT Scan to every four or even six months and likewise extending the interval for my PET Scan to yearly. All of which sounded wonderful, but we were still "negotiating."

My oncologist's concern/goal/intention in these discussions is, and always has been, the quality of my life (after all, I do have cancer). And when I've had a particularly difficult post-chemo week, as I experienced most recently, and told him as much, he feels as if it's a week of my life that he's sort of taken away and won't be able to ever give back. Extending the intervals is his way of trying to get me more good weeks and/or increasing the length of time between bad weeks.

However, there are no protocols, clinical studies or history even, for him to consult to determine how best to treat me: "me" being a stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer patient who's alive, reasonably well and still undergoing treatment SEVEN YEARS after originally being "prognosed" to die within "13 months to two years." At this point, he said, it's more common sense and patient preference that dictates how we proceed.

Ergo, these conversations are all about me. My doctor makes suggestions/considerations and listens to my concerns (make that anxieties) and DOES NOT direct/push/control the outcome/decisions that are ultimately made. Together, we attempt to sort through my objections/assumptions/presumptions/misunderstandings, etc., to figure out a way forward that balances the quality of my life with the effectiveness of my treatment.

Unfortunately, there's no patient handbook – that I know of – called "Cancer for Dummies." If there were, perhaps I wouldn't mind navigating this minefield of life-altering, death-defying – hopefully – choices, that constantly present themselves. Then again, at least I'm still alive to have choices – and normal blood pressure, most of the time.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/JAN. 28

Genealogy Program. 7:30-9 p.m. Kilmer Middle School, 8100 Wolftrap Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society monthly meeting and program. Speaker: Sharon Hodges on Expanding Research to Resources Not Available On Line. Free. 703-644-8185.

Great Falls Writer's Group. 11-12:30 p.m. Meeting Room, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Support group for writers. Adults. 703-757-8560.

Davinchi Drone and Coder's Meet-Ups. 6:30-8 p.m. Meeting Room, Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about building, maintaining, customizing, and coding drones. All levels welcome. All ages. 703-757-8560.

SATURDAY/JAN. 30

Genealogy Education Workshop. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Fairfax Genealogical Society educational workshop featuring Sharon Hodges, "There's More to The Census Than What's On Line." Free. 703-644-8184.

SUNDAY/JAN. 31

Homeseller Seminar. 1-4 p.m. 774-A Walker Road, Great Falls. Are you an overwhelmed owner? Become a savvy seller. Offered by Lyons McGuire Homes and Estates of Keller Williams Realty. Speakers include stager, organizer, home inspector and more. Learn insider secrets to getting the most money for your home. Free. RSVP Gina@LyonsMcGuire.com.

SATURDAY/FEB. 6

Fairfax County NAACP Open House. 10 a.m. Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Meet community leaders and members, discuss your pressing concerns, provide feedback, and enjoy food and music.

ONGOING

The Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/litombudsman/.

Fairfax County needs volunteers to drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Fairfax County needs a volunteer Senior Center Marketing Coordinator to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Square Dance, Basic Guitar, Art and Basic Spanish. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.

Food Drive for CHO. Places vary. Please help CHO to help others in our area. All food contributions greatly appreciated. CHO is making plans for the holidays. Please bring new unwrapped gifts for children and teens to Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., NE, Vienna, on Dec. 11 between 9 a.m. and noon. Questions? Contact at cho@cho-va.com.

The Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

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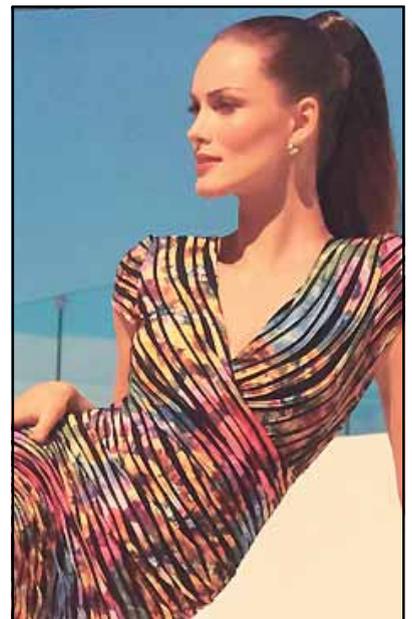
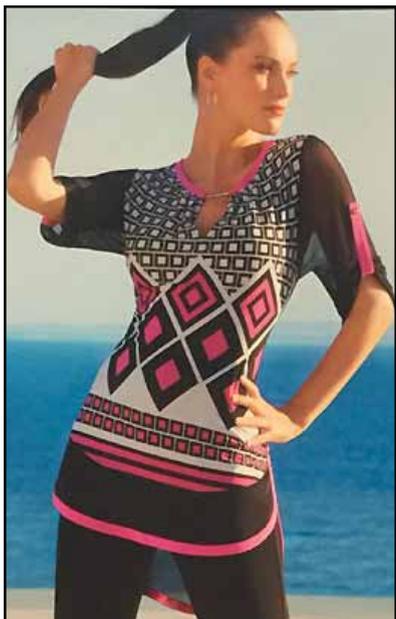
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