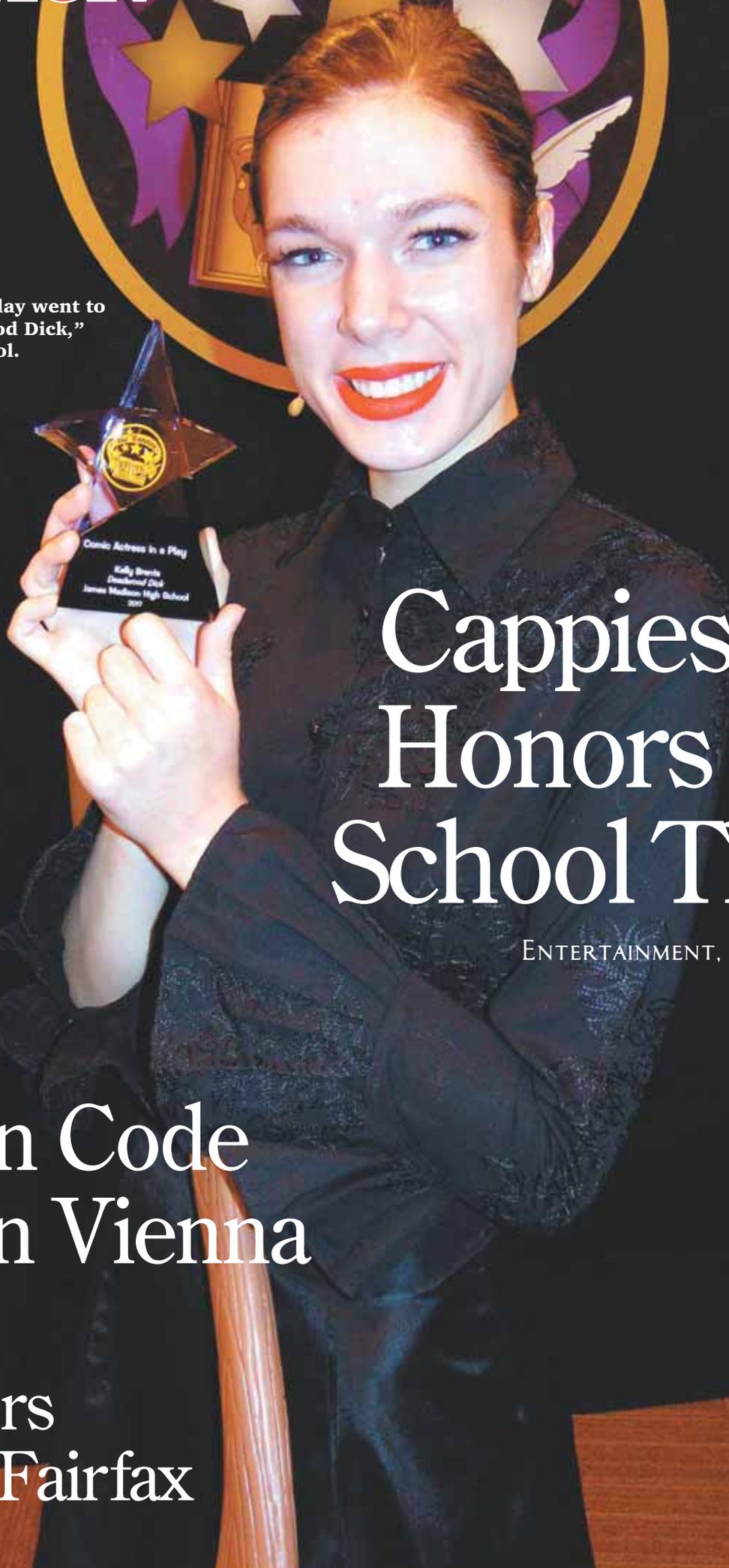


The award for Comic Actress in a Play went to Kelly Brents of Vienna, "Deadwood Dick," James Madison High School.



Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

Generation Code Opening in Vienna

NEWS, PAGE 5

County Honors Lord & Lady Fairfax

NEWS, PAGE 3

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

THEATRE

'Ma Rainey' Comes to Tysons

1st Stage present
'Ma Rainey's
Black Bottom.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With its exceptional, unflinching production of the legendary August Wilson's "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom," 1st Stage continues its trail-blazing for Northern Virginia theater audiences. Wilson's "Ma Rainey" was the first of his lauded 10-play cycle about the African-American experience in 20th century America. Wilson went on to become the rare playwright with Pulitzer, Tony and Academy Award recognition.

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is set in 1920's Chicago. The legendary blues singer Ma Rainey is set to cut a new record with four black musicians. Her white manager and the white recording studio executive are always nearby. What transpire is the blistering dramatization about trying to cope with racism and its aftermath. The production flares with interpersonal conflicts, intense accounts of pervasive racism and an inflamed conflict between the outspo-



From left: Clayton Pelham, Jr. and Thomascena Nelson in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1st Stage in Tysons

Where & When

1st Stage presents "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons. Performances through June 25, 2017. Thursdays 7:30 p.m., Fridays 8 p.m., Saturday 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adults \$30, Seniors (65+) \$27 Students and Military \$15. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1stStgeTysons.org Note: Contains strong language, racial slurs. For mature audiences.

ken Ma Rainey, a woman who knows what she wants based upon her own experiences, and a younger, disruptor of a trumpeter named Levee who pushes to disrupt the old ways for what he thinks are sharper jazzier



PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

From left: Clayton Pelham, Jr., William T. Newman, Michael Anthony Williams, and Jason B. McIntosh in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" at 1st Stage in Tysons.

ways of music and showier living.

In her directorial debut at 1st Stage, Deidra LaWan Starnes does not have the production either mince Wilson's original dialogue or shy away from its powerful messages that black lives matter.

With casting of uniformly strong actors, Starnes brings together a tight ensemble and sets in motion her solid vision for the production as a volatile mix of incendiary monologues, highly compostable interactions, sharp funny moments, expletive language including racial slurs. There are also

moments of poetic beauty. And one of a vigorously delivered, compelling anger at God for and why there is and continues to be crushing discrimination.

The "Ma Rainey" ensemble includes Williams Aiken (Sturdyvant), Tracey Farrar (Dussie Mae), Jason B. McIntosh (Slow Drag), Thomascena Nelson (Ma Rainey), William T. Newman Jr. (Cutler), Tendo Nsubuga (Sylvester), Joe Palka (Irvin), Clayton Pelham, Jr (Levee), Michael Anthony Williams (Toledo) and Joshua Witt (police officer).

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Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) with Lord and Lady Fairfax from her district, Jerry Poje and Therese Martin.



Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) with Lord and Lady for her district, Phil Niedzielski-Eichner and Sue Kovach Shuman.

County Honors Lord & Lady Fairfax

Every year since 1984, two individuals from each of the nine Fairfax County magisterial districts, as well as two from the at-large “domain” of Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova are honored for their service to their communities or for particular acts of heroism. For their dedication, these community caretakers are named Lord and Lady Fairfax for the year.

The 2017 honorees were feted at a reception at the County Government Center on the morning of June 6. Following this gathering, the Lords and Ladies were escorted into the Board Auditorium where their accomplishments were publically acknowledged and each received a certificate declaring their status.

The Lords and Ladies will be making a few more appearances during their reigns, including at the signature celebration for Fairfax County’s 275th anniversary, which will take place in the area surrounding the Historic Fairfax Courthouse in central Fairfax, on June 17. Just to add another “jewel in the crown” of this event which promises fun and festivities for the whole family, the real Lord and Lady Fairfax will be joining celebration all the way from Great Britain.

Nicholas Fairfax, 14th Lord Fairfax of Cameron, and Lady Annabella will help celebrate the founding of our county from when the area was part of lands owned by his ancestor, the 6th Lord Fairfax of Cameron.

In announcing the visit by Lord and Lady Fairfax (the originals), Chairman Bulova laughed that the noble guests seemed a bit confused by the fact that there were more peers in Virginia whom they would be meeting. “Only here in Fairfax,” she told him. “We’re special.”

— ANDREA WORKER

PHOTOS BY
ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova with the At-Large Lady and Lord Fairfax, Jane Miscavage and John J. “Jeff” Lisanick.

Introducing 2017 Lord and Lady Fairfax

At-Large

Lord Fairfax: John J. “Jeff” Lisanick is a former client at New Hope Housing’s Eleanor U. Kennedy Shelter. Desiring to give back to the homeless community, he joined the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) as an original member in 2012. Since being elected Chair of the CAC in 2013, he has been a member of the Governing Board with a goal of preventing and ending homelessness. Jeff took his passion to end homelessness to a new level in July 2015 when he was hired by New Hope Housing as the Residential Coordinator of the same shelter in which he was once a client. He now serves as the Coordinator of Residential Services, overseeing seven different sites.

Lady Fairfax: Jane Miscavage has been an incredible asset to both Fairfax County Public Schools and our community at large. In 2007, Jane began serving as a founder and manager of the Food Allergy Support Group of Northern Virginia, where she helped over 400 families access up-to-date allergy research and health care professionals. Her commitment to children and families con-

tinued through her service to #IamFCPS, a grassroots organization that advocated for a fully funded 2017 FCPS budget, and later, as the Vote Yes Meals Tax Campaign Manager. Currently, Jane Miscavage continues to serve our schools as Vice President of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs.

Hunter Mill District

Lord Fairfax: Jerry Poje is the current Hunter Mill appointee to the Human Services Council. He was previously the president of the board FACETS, and he is a founding board member of the Communities of Faith United for Housing. As a volunteer, he applies his professional expertise to help people in need through improved accessibility, accountability, and coordination in Fairfax County human services delivery. He has been recognized with the 2008 Fairfax County Human Rights Commission Award for efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and the 2010 Fairfax County Martha Pennino Award for Community Service. His career in scientific discovery called for the social and political centers act on those discoveries to protect pub-

lic health.

Lady Fairfax: Therese Martin has committed years to public service and is an asset to Fairfax County. She has served Hunter Mill District for nine years as a Fairfax County Election Officer and represented the League of Women Voters on the Criminal Justice Advisory Board. Additionally, she has arranged and participated in multiple voter registration campaigns. Currently, she represents Supervisor Hudgins on the Barbara Varon Volunteer Award Selection Committee and the Hunter Mill Citizen Budget Advisory Committee. In addition to several Fairfax County bond referenda task forces, she was an alternate representative on the Fairfax Solid Waste Advisory Committee.

Providence District

Lady Fairfax: Since her retirement from newspaper work, Sue Kovach Shuman has applied her “can do” spirit, writing, and personal skills to volunteerism for the county. In addition to serving as the president of the Mantua Citizens’ Association, Shuman is currently working on Fairfax County’s Neighborhood History Community Project for the 275th anniversary, helping with “Providence Perspectives”, an oral history project, and is on the board of the Friends of Accotink Creek. She also serves as community ambassador for the Agency on Aging and created the “Neighborhood Network,” an aging-in-community initiative to support older residents.

Lord Fairfax: There are many reasons for Phil Niedzielski-Eichner’s selection as Providence’s Lord Fairfax. He was twice elected to the Fairfax County School Board and served one year as chairman. He was also a member of both the Park Authority Board and the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Phil also chaired the Use of Force Subcommittee under the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. He remains involved with the Commission through the “Implementation Committee.” Looking for another challenge, Phil volunteered to become Providence’s representative on the Fairfax County Planning Commission.

Design of Route 7 Widening Endorsed by Board

BY FALLON FORBUSH
THE CONNECTION

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors unanimously endorsed design plans for the widening of Route 7 during a hearing on Tuesday, June 6.

The project, estimated to cost \$233.9 million, will widen 6.9 miles of Route 7 from four to six lanes between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive. It will also make intersection improvements and add shared-use paths for pedestrians and bicyclists on both sides of the corridor.

The widening of this section of Route 7 is included in Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan, with funding allocated from the county's Third Four Year Transportation Program (fiscal years 2013-2016) and the fiscal years 2015-2020 Transportation Project Priorities program, according to the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. The project is also funded by state, local and federal funds from the Virginia Department of Transportation's Six-Year Improvement Program.

While the project is fully funded at its estimated cost, the exact total will not be known until bids for the work are received, according to FCDOT.

The Fairfax County and Virginia Departments of Transportation's current schedule for the work has completion slated for November 2023:

- ❖ Design-Build Contract Request for Proposals Advertisement – August 2017
- ❖ Commonwealth Transportation Board Approval to Award Contract – February 2018
- ❖ Design-Build Contract Notice to Proceed – February/March 2018
- ❖ Begin Construction – November 2018
- ❖ Complete Construction – November 2023

THE MAIN CHALLENGE of the project will be maintaining traffic during the work.

"There's quite a bit of traffic that travels on Route 7 and we're going to be doing

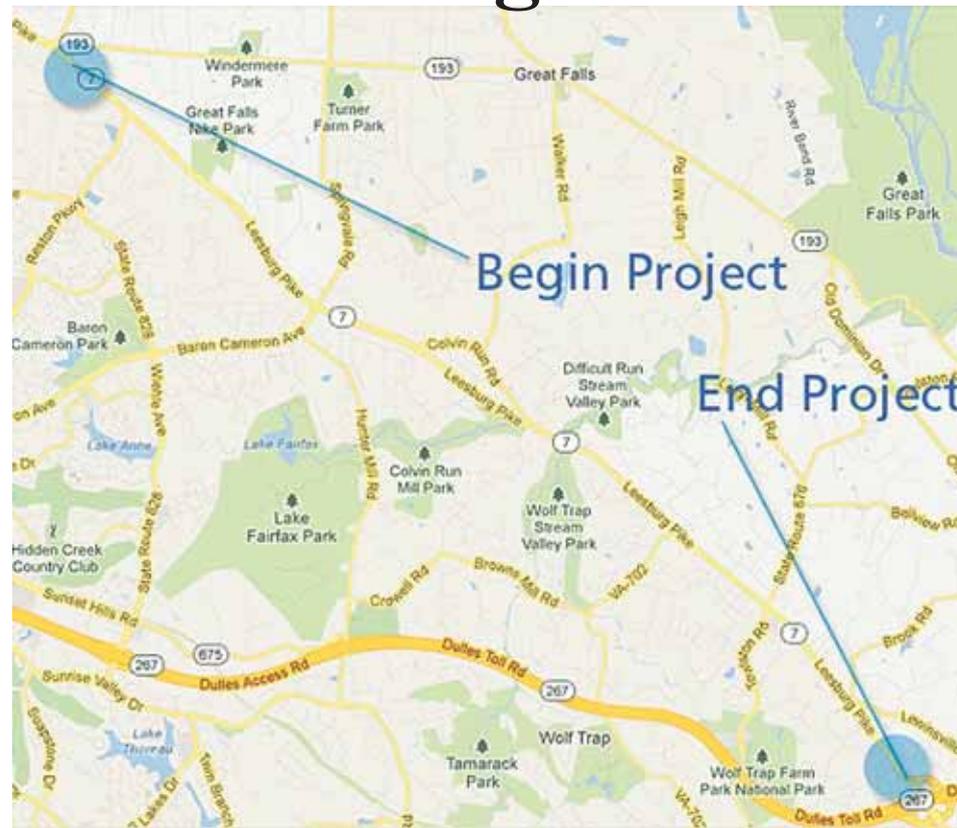


PHOTO COURTESY OF THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Almost seven miles of Route 7 between Reston Avenue and Jarrett Valley Drive in Fairfax County will be improved. The project would widen the road from four to six lanes, add facilities for bicyclists and pedestrians, and make substantial intersection and other improvements along the corridor.

extensive improvements, so that's going to be one of the main challenges that we have," Terry Yates, VDOT assistant land use manager, said in November.

Fortunately for drivers, VDOT will keep all lanes open during rush hours, according to Lee

Ann Hall, VDOT location and design engineer.

"Whenever we're doing a roadway project, we want to minimize impacts to the traveling public as much as possible," Hall said in November. "If we could reduce the number of lanes for a longer period of time, that would certainly help us finish a project sooner, but that's just not what happens in Northern Virginia."

A public hearing was held for the design of the project in November 2016 at Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna that drew more than 160 members of the public, according to the FCDOT. A total of 103 written, emailed or oral comments were also received.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), asked FCDOT Director Tom Biesiadny to clarify the design plans being presented to the board during the hearing last week.

"The letter says we approve the design as presented at a public hearing, but the board matter discusses two amendments that were made after the public hearing," Foust said.

After the designs were drafted, comments were received from residents of Towlston

Meadows in Vienna to improve Atwood Road, since the project will remove the left turn lane onto Stokley Way. This would eliminate an access point to their homes and require residents to use Atwood Road to access their homes.

After receiving this feedback, the project's design will now include improvements for Atwood Road from Route 7 to Robnel Place, according to Biesiadny.

Community members also requested a connection to shared-use paths along Route 7 to existing trails on Lewinsville Road near Woodhurst Boulevard in McLean. With this feedback, the county agreed to amend the design to include a sidewalk on the east side of Lewinsville Road.

While the designs before the board were not updated to include these amendments, Biesiadny assured the board that the amendments would be included.

"As of the moment, the design plans have not been updated ... we're just informing you that, 'Yes, those changes will be made,'" Biesiadny said during the hearing.

"Those are two [amendments] that were discussed with the community," he added. "They were comments that we received back. Both the county staff and VDOT are comfortable including those and recommending those to you [Board of Supervisors]."

The motion carried unanimously, another milestone in a long-awaited project.

Planning for the widening of the Route 7 corridor west of Tysons has been ongoing since 1999, according to FCDOT.

THE FIRST SECTION of this effort began construction west of the project limits in 2013 with widening between Rolling Holly Drive and Reston Avenue. Construction of this western section was completed in February 2016.

Bridge deck replacement and widening of Route 7 over the Dulles Airport Access Highway and Toll Road east of the project limits began construction in summer 2015 and is expected to be completed in spring 2018.

Fifteen County Students Win Merit Scholarships

Fifteen Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) students have been named winners of Merit Scholarship awards by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). The students are part of a group of more than 3,200 National Merit finalists chosen to receive scholarships financed by higher education institutions.

Winners of the scholarships, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

- ❖ Elizabeth Ellinger of Langley High School (architecture), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.
- ❖ Emma Kohm of Langley High School (aerospace engineering), National Merit Embry-Riddle Scholarship.

James Morrissey of Langley High School (undecided), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.

- ❖ Zipporah Klain of Madison High School (undecided), National Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

- ❖ Noah Thompson of Madison High School (fine arts), National Merit Virginia Commonwealth University Scholarship.

- ❖ Melanie Pincus of McLean High School (writing), National Merit Tufts University Scholarship.

- ❖ Jason Katz of Robinson Secondary School (engineering), National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

- ❖ Emma Bachman of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) (environmental engineering),

National Merit University of Oklahoma Scholarship.

- ❖ Sofiya Boroday of TJHSST (linguistics), National Merit University of Chicago scholarship.

- ❖ Emma Cuddy of TJHSST (physics), National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship.

- ❖ Ishaan Gandhi of TJHSST (human rights), National Merit Harvey Mudd College Scholarship.

- ❖ Grey Golla of TJHSST (computer engineering), National Merit Purdue University Scholarship.

- ❖ Jillian Khoo of TJHSST (computer science), National Merit University of Southern California Scholarship.

- ❖ Alvin Shi of TJHSST (physics), National

Merit University of Chicago Scholarship.

- ❖ Mary Jane MacArthur of West Springfield High School (international development), National Merit Brigham Young University Scholarship.

scholarship winner was evaluated on his or her academic record; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; an essay describing activities, interests, and goals; SAT scores that confirmed outstanding test performance; and a recommendation and endorsement from a high school official. Each award provides between \$500 and \$2,000 annually for up to four years of undergraduate study at the institution financing the recipient's scholarship.

The final group of NMSC scholarship recipients from the class of 2017 will be named in July.

NEWS

Generation Code Opening in Vienna

Community celebrates the new coding and robotics lab.

BY ALEX PENA
THE CONNECTION

Nearly a hundred people attended the grand opening of Generation Code on Tuesday, a new coding and robotics lab in Vienna.

Vienna families, town officials, and Generation Code staff were all present to tour the new lab and celebrate its opening with a ribbon cutting ceremony.

Mayor of Vienna, Laurie DiRocco, offered a warm welcome to this new business.

"We're very grateful that you decided to plan your first school here in the town of Vienna," she said. "We wish you all the best success."

Generation Code has previously operated in New York City, although within the schools themselves. CEO of Generation Code, Terry McDonough, said they had great success and decided it was time to expand the business.

They looked around the New York area, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia for the perfect spot to open their first lab. McDonough said they kept coming back to Vienna because it had the right business support and interest in education and technology.

"Ever since we showed up to First Night Vienna way back in winter, to Viva! Vienna! just last weekend, where we had hundreds of people come by our booth and willingly give us their emails, which is really hard to do these days," he quipped, "we have been confirmed in that choice that Vienna was the right place for us to open this school."

The lab aims to educate children on a multitude of computer science skills, including app development, robotics, and animation. Families can sign their child up for different summer camps based on these topics.

"Generation Code is really focused on teaching kids the thinking concepts that go into coding," McDonough said. "We wanted to make it accessible to students who might not otherwise think of computer science or might be daunted by it."

The curriculum begins with teaching students dif-

ferent ways of thinking and builds from there. McDonough described it as being accessible, engaging, and project-based.

"It's really designed for people like me who are English majors but who really wanted to get into computers and make something for themselves with technology and not just consume the technology," he said.

McDonough also said he is eager to get the full schedule for camps out there, but that they have been pleased with the amount of interest Vienna has shown so far. Parents can visit www.generationcode.com for more information about the curriculum and the available camps.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERATION CODE
Generation Code staff gather around CEO Terry McDonough, Mayor Laurie DiRocco and Strayer Education CFO and Vienna local, Dan Jackson, to celebrate the opening the new Vienna coding lab.



PHOTO COURTESY OF GENERATION CODE
Vienna families and business owners gathered Tuesday to celebrate the opening of the new Generation Code lab on Church St.



Nearly a hundred people attended the grand opening of Generation Code on Tuesday, a new coding and robotics lab in Vienna.



Teaching assistants show children the programming stations.

PHOTOS BY ALEX PENA/THE CONNECTION



Friderike Butler, Andrea Backman, Dan Jackson, Mayor Laurie DiRocco and Generation Code CEO, Terry McDonough outside the new Vienna space.

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Fundamental Freedom to Choose to Marry

Virginia is historically slow in extending rights.

In 1967, Virginia was one of 16 states that banned interracial marriage and had criminal penalties for violators.

Mildred Jeter, an African-American woman, and Richard Loving, a white man, were married in 1958, were convicted and banished from living in Virginia for 25 years to avoid serving a one-year prison sentence. On June 12, 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *Loving v. Virginia*, overturned the convictions of Mildred and Richard Loving, declaring the ban on interracial marriage unconstitutional.

Chief Justice Earl Warren wrote the opinion: "Marriage is one of the 'basic civil rights of man,' fundamental to our very existence and survival. ... To deny this fundamental freedom on so unsupportable a basis as the racial classifications embodied in these statutes, classifications so directly subversive of the principle of equality at the heart of the Fourteenth Amendment, is surely to deprive all the State's citizens of liberty without due process of law. The Fourteenth Amendment requires that the freedom of choice to marry not be restricted by invidious racial discriminations. Under our Constitution, the freedom to marry, or not marry, a person of another race resides with the individual, and cannot be infringed by the State."

This week, Gov. Terry McAuliffe celebrated Loving Day, June 12, with a new state histori-

cal marker to commemorate the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in the landmark case. The dedication marked the 50th anniversary of the 1967 ruling that overturned all state laws restricting interracial marriage. The ceremony was held at the former site of the Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals, where the case was heard before it reached the U.S. Supreme Court. The Lovings' story is told in a movie of the same name.

On Valentine's Day, 2014, Judge Arenda Wright Allen, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional. In the opening of her order, Allen quotes Mildred Loving in a statement she made in 2007 on the 40th anniversary of *Loving v. Virginia*:

"We made a commitment to each other in our love and lives, and now had the legal commitment, called marriage, to match. Isn't that what marriage is? ... Today's young people realize that if someone loves someone they have a right to marry. Surrounded as I am now by wonderful children and grandchildren, not a day goes by that I don't think of Richard and our love, our right to marry, and how much it meant to me to have that freedom to marry the person precious to me, even if others thought he was the 'wrong kind of person' for me to marry. I believe all Americans, no matter their race, no matter their sex, no matter their sexual orientation, should have that same

freedom to marry. Government has no business imposing some people's religious beliefs over others. ... I support the freedom to marry for all. That's what Loving, and loving, are all about."

Judge Allen's written decision begins:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice. Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken. ...

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

Adapted from an editorial published by Connection Newspapers in February 2014.

A Letter to the Class of 2021

BY MAILLE-ROSE SMITH
JAMES MADISON HIGH

Dear Class of 2021,

"Life begins after high school." For most of my time at Madison, I subscribed to that adage without a second thought. I anxiously anticipated the end of high school, thinking that only then could my existence commence — only then could I blossom into myself. I was wrong, and I cheated myself by adopting such a closed, pessimistic mindset. So here is my message to you: Life has already begun, so be sponges! Saturate yourselves in new experiences, friendships, and passions, and most importantly, be courageous enough to learn about others, about yourself, and about this terrifying, mysterious, awe-inspiring world.

Firstly, do not discount or compartmentalize high school experiences because you feel embarrassed by them; those experiences, however awkward or unpleasant they may be in the moment, will teach you the most. When you answer a question incorrectly in class, do not shut down. Do not bow your head or grab your phone. Instead, listen! Not only will you discover the correct answer, but you will train yourself to disregard your ego in favor of self-improvement. An inflated ego will prove your arch-nemesis in your pursuit of growth, because it will grinningly deceive you into believing that your worth shatters if you so much as acknowledge an error on your part. Do not surrender to the false security of supposed superiority, however tempting. Allow yourself to

be wrong. Make mistakes and admit to them, and then ask, "What have I learned? How can I improve?" Life is never about perfection, but rather about development, and the only way to develop is through millions of mistakes. Ultimately, the extent of your progress in high school and in life rests on your own shoulders. Do not allow pride to stunt your growth.

However, that is in no way to endorse human doormat-hood! High school can be a stampede in which one can all-too-easily be trampled, because so many students feel insecure, confused, and desperate to assimilate regardless of the ramifications for others. Though undeniably easier said than done, always retain a sense of your inherent and indisputable worth. It will provide you the resilience to continue forward despite setbacks, be they thoughtless comments, pointed reproaches, rejections, or simply feeling unnoticed or underestimated. Value yourself beyond the confines of high school, beyond the scope of social approval or popularity. As David Pelzer wisely states, "When you please others in hopes of being accepted, you lose your self-worth in the process." Challenge yourself to seek those who appreciate you for yourself, flaws and all, even if this means liberating yourself from current friend groups. And let yourself eat lunch alone! Genuinely recognizing yourself and your implicit value trumps all external validation.

But isolating, not to mention accepting, your true identity can prove exceedingly difficult in the overwhelming upsurge of high school insecurities. As hopeless as it may seem now, you

will discover yourself, but more importantly, high school is not the end-all-be-all. At graduation, you will not suddenly experience an epiphany and realize exactly who you are and what you want to do with your life. No, self-discovery is a lifelong process, but high school can equip you with the self-knowledge to embark on this journey — if you embrace your vulnerability. Join clubs, talk to people you think are too cool for you, take a class you would never think of taking, smile at people in the halls. I promise that it won't all work out. That club might just not be for you. You might hate a class, or maybe you drop the class and it ends up being amazing. Those "too cool" students might reject you. For every person who smiles back, there might be six people who do not. And all of that is okay. Retain your receptivity to others, to the world around you, to changes in your own mindset. You will survive, and these experiences will mentally and emotionally empower you in the long term, as improbable as it may seem in the moment.

So as I leave you today, my final message is this: you can refuse to acknowledge that life has started in high school and just subtract those years off your "life." You can cloak yourself in pessimism and closed-mindedness; you can refuse to grow. No one will stop you. Or you can embrace high school, in all of its awkwardness and insecurity and all the general floundering it entails. High school is a strange, sinister ocean brimming with life lessons; we must summon the courage to plunge into the water and soak up its secrets. Thank you.



Home LifeStyle

Patio Ready for Summer? The latest trends for entertaining alfresco.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The warm days and nights of summer lend themselves to outdoor entertaining. From colorful pillows and cozy throws to textured fabrics and jewel-toned tableware, local designers offer ideas for creating a festive space for an alfresco soiree.

Consider the way an outdoor space will look when it's viewed from inside your home, says Madeline Fairbanks, product development director, Country Casual Teak.

"Choose fabrics that coordinate and accent the colors used indoors to create a seamless transition between the spaces," she said. "Add texture with fabrics, from gauzy sheers to the heaviest brocades, to bring the textures of indoor upholstery outdoors. An added plus is that they help hide dirt and stains."

The transition from a home's interior to its exterior should be fluid, advises Jim Rill of Rill Architects. "It shouldn't just be an outdoor patio, but an extension of the indoor spaces," he said.

Rill suggests using outdoor walls, fireplaces and trellises to create a sense of scale and comfort. "For instance, stone walls, hedges, pools and ponds help give an out-



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Alexandria advises using colorful table accessories to set the stage for a festive gathering.

door setting scale and coziness," he said. "Think of the outdoor space as a room and consider how it's organized with furniture and materials like you would an indoor room. Patterns in the patio materials also organize the area."



PHOTO COURTESY OF COUNTRY CASUAL TEAK

Outdoor furniture pieces like these by Country Casual Teak help define the outdoor atmosphere of this Potomac, Md., home.

Outdoor entertaining is often food-centric and for an upbeat outdoor table setting, Todd Martz of Home on Cameron in Old Town Alexandria suggests acrylic table accessories. "Incorporate colorful pitchers, glasses and plates to set the stage for a fes-

"It shouldn't just be an outdoor patio, but an extension of the indoor spaces."

— Jim Rill of Rill Architects

tive gathering," he said.

Have a few key pieces for hosting, whether you entertain weekly or just once a year, recommends Fairbanks. "Keep a bar cart near an entrance for wheeling refreshments to guests, or an outdoor sideboard near a dining area for easy buffet-style service," she said.

For chilly nights, drape throws on the outdoor seating for guests, advises Martz. "With the popularity of fire pits, add comfortable seating with indoor-outdoor cushions around them to enhance the experience," he said.

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The award for the Best Props Award is "Deadwood Dick," James Madison High School. From left are Max Jackson and Kelly Brents. Not pictured: William Kegley.

The award for Comic Actress in a Play is Kelly Brents of Vienna, "Deadwood Dick," James Madison High School.



The winner of the Critics' Team is McLean High School Team from McLean High School. Front row: Jess Scarano, Syona Ayyankeril, Emily Lachow. Back row: Julia Luigs, Emily Swett, Laras Kettner.

Cappies Gala Honors High School Theater

The 18th Annual Cappies Gala honoring high school theater was held Sunday, June 11 at The Kennedy Center in the District. Winning the top prizes for the Best Musical was West Potomac High School for "Billy Elliot," and winning Best Play was Duke Ellington School of the Arts for "The Bluest Eye." This year's Masters of Ceremony were Judy Bowns and Janie Strauss with Erich DiCenzo and Phil Reid as Lead Players.

The show included 59 public and private high schools in Fairfax County, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince William counties, and the Cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, and Washington, D.C. This year's awards were pretty much evenly distributed across all of those regions. The Cappies season extended from late October to early May.

Cappies shows were attended, on average, by 45 student critics who wrote 300-599 word reviews. More than 300 student-written reviews were published or broadcast in local newspapers, including The Connection, Patch, Falls Church News Press, Times Community Newspapers, Loudoun Now, Maryland Theatre Guide, and Fairfax County Public Schools and other media.

The Cappies program was launched in the summer of 1999 by Judy Bowns, the Theatre Arts resource teacher with FCPS, and the late Bill Strauss (director, Capitol Steps), in cooperation with area theater teachers, for the purpose of celebrating and bringing public acclaim to high school theater.

— STEVE HIBBARD

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/ THE CONNECTION



The winner of the Best Sets Award is "Into the Woods," The Madeira School. From left are Sasha Alexander, Millenah Nascimento, and Grace Ye. Not pictured: Briana Harrington.



The winner of the Male Dancer Award is Cuinn Casey of Great Falls for "Gypsy," Langley High School.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send entertainment announcements to connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. Deadline is Friday at noon for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Ken Frye Exhibit. Various times through June 30 at the Meadowlark Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Ken Frye is the Vienna Arts Center artist of the year. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

Art at the Library. Various Vienna artists work on display in June at the Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Reno Number Eleven Steam Locomotive is one of five pictures supplied by the Vienna Arts Center. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org for more.

"On the Bay" Photographs. Normal business hours through July 1 at Katie's Coffee House, Village Center, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Silvia Gonzalez Roman will exhibit her pictures taken around the Chesapeake Bay. Visit oldbrogue.com/katies-coffee-house/ or call 703-759-2759 for more.

"Slice of Life: Great Falls." Normal business hours through July 1 at in the TD Bank, 9901 Georgetown Pike. Jill Banks exhibits her oil paintings during bank opening hours seven days a week including "First Friday Art Walk" on June 2 until 7 p.m. Visit www.greatfallsstudios.com.

The Light of Day Paintings. Through July 15, various times Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Featuring landscape paintings by Michael Godfrey, Christine Lashley, Tricia Ratliff, and Rajendra



On the Green

Summer on the Green Concert featuring the Nitehawks Swing Band, Sunday, July 23, 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

KC. Call 703-450-8005 for more.
Julie Cochran Photography. Various times through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Gallery, 513 Maple Ave. W. Exhibit called "Lotus-Palooza." Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Sunny Days Art. Artists exhibition through July 29 at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Sunny Days exhibition. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison

Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

First Sunday Jazz Brunch 11-2 p.m. Recurring monthly on the 1st Sunday at Bazin's on Church 111 Church St N.W., Vienna. Enjoy brunch accompanied by the soft jazz sounds

of Virginia Music Adventure. Visit www.fxva.com/listing/bazins-on-church/1686/

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

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

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

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

Fishing Rod Rentals 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. \$6/rental (2 hour max). Valid driver's license required. Rod/reel combinations are perfect for beginners and children. A Virginia or Maryland freshwater fishing license is required for those

16 years or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

Colvin Run Mill open 11 - 4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

Fundamentals of Watercolors. Mondays 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Artist Lorrie Herman will help students get comfortable working with watercolors and understanding this medium. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Still Life Painting. Tuesdays 10:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Still life provides a great tool to hone skills. Recommended for students of all levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org.

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Jill Banks focuses on oil painting fundamentals with two sessions each of still life, landscapes, and portrait/clothed figure from a live model. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

Intro to Jewelry Design. Tuesdays 9 a.m.-noon at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. JJ Singh teaches a class for anyone interested in exploring the world of metal clay and its design possibilities. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

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Apparent Murder/Suicide Investigated in Vienna

On June 11, 2017 at 6:49 p.m. Vienna Police officers were called to a residence located at 113 Oak St. SW in Vienna for a 9-1-1 call related to an injured woman. Once at the scene, officers located an adult female with stab wounds to the upper body. The female was transported by ambulance to Fairfax Hospital where she was later pronounced dead. The female was identified as 47-year-old Sabrina Titus.

In what appears to be a related event, at 6:56 p.m. Vienna Police officers were called to a residence located at 102 Ross Drive SW for a "shots fired call." Upon arrival, officers located a deceased man in the backyard of the property with an apparent self-inflicted gunshot wound to the upper body. The male was identified as 53-year-old Ralph Titus.

At this time, the case appears to be a murder/suicide incident. The case is an active investigation pending a final report from the Office of the Medical Examiner. Ralph Titus and Sabrina Titus were divorced and had two children in common. The children were not physically harmed during the incident. The Vienna Police Department has coordinated with extended family to care for the children and also engaged Fairfax County Victim Services for additional support.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, visit connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline for submissions is noon on Friday.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm.
 ♦ **The Lewinsville Senior Center** in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Art, Self-Defense, Chair Exercise, Indoor Gardening, Basic Spanish, Basic French, Ballroom Dance and Basic Guitar.

Townsend Young. Visit mclean-orchestra.org/ or call 703-893-8646 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

Hispanic Connect Networking Event. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Main Conference Room, 4th Floor, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Free member event, guests receive first complimentary visit. Visit www.vahcc.com/events.html.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

Public Meeting. 7 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Fairfax County Park Authority has started an update of the Turner Farm Park master plan and would like to gather input on the plan from community residents. Information session and discussion is open to the public. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/turnerfarm.htm, call 703-324-8662 or email Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

ONGOING

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

JUNE 14-AUG. 15

“Summer in the City” Art Show. Normal business hours at Brightview, 10200 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Members of Great Falls Studios will exhibit their work in a show. Call 703-759-2513 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 16

Chillin’ on Church. 6:30 p.m. at Church St., Vienna. Water games and a band “Chump Change,” playing classic rock. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

Artists Reception. 7-9 p.m. at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW. Artist Davi D’Agostino will be on hand to talk about his work. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Casey Abrams Trio. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 17

White Ford Bronco Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson’s Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401.

Wesley Stace Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. He’s touring in support of Wesley Stace’s John Wesley Harding, recorded with The Jayhawks at Flowers Studio in Minneapolis. Visit www.jamminjava.com/ or call 703-255-1566 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 18

Father’s Day Golf Tournament. 8 a.m. at Oak Marr Golf Complex, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Compete in closest-to-the-pin-contests, and prizes will be awarded for the top three places in all three divisions. \$65 per team. Call 703-323-1641 for more.

American Legion Breakfast. 8 a.m.-noon at Post 180, 330 Center St., N., Vienna. Buffet includes omelets, blueberry pancakes, sausage, bacon and more. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Call 703-938-6580 for more.

Pickling Produce the Colonial Way. 1-4 p.m. at The Claude Moore Colonial Farm, 6310 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Help the farm wife pickle vegetables as she combines salt, water and homemade vinegar. Visit www.1771.org or call 703-231-3545 for more.

Rosi Golan Concert. 7:30 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Previewing new album “Collecting Bullets.” \$15-25. Visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 22

James Arthur Concert. 6:30-8 p.m. at the The Tysons Corner Metro Station Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. Part of the Tyson’s Concert Series. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com or call 703-893-9401 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 23

White Elephant and Bingo Ice Cream Social. noon-3 p.m. at American Legion, 330 N. Center St., Vienna. Call 703-281-0538 for more.

Summer on the Green Concert. 6:30 p.m. at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Featuring Hickory Grove. Free. Visit www.viennava.gov or call 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/JUNE 24

Freedom 5K. 8 a.m. at Tyson’s Corner Center Plaza, 1961 Chain Bridge Road. To support the National Human Trafficking Hotline. Call 202-316-3298 or email at ashley@nardimedia.com.

Historic Marker Dedication. 10 a.m. at Observatory Park at The Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. The marker honors the work of the U.S. Army Map Service and its contribution to the Global Positioning System, better known as GPS, that is now used worldwide for navigation. Call 703-324-8662 or visit Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JUNE 27

McLean Racquet and Health Club Nats Game. 7:05 p.m. at the Nationals Ballpark, 1500 South Capitol St. S.E., Washington, D.C. Call the club at 703-356-3300 for tickets.

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Spontaneous Confusion



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Since I have some alone-time; just me and the cats, I thought I'd try to write my next column a few weeks ahead and take a bit of the time-sensitive deadline pressure off. Not that meeting my weekly commitment has been too much of a problem over the years (nearly 20 in fact), still, I thought I'd put pen to paper, literally, and see what comes out.

So far what has come out is that I'm having creative difficulty writing something that's to be published two weeks hence. It seems/feels that writing in the present about something to be published in the future is awkward, sort of. It's somewhere between wishful thinking and a prediction. Neither of which is characteristic of who I am or how I think. I guess my writing nature is that I like to react to reality and then address it in print, rather than anticipate it and then respond to it. Typically I prefer to be current in my thinking and honest in my prose. Apparently, I have nothing else to share so trying to explain that void is the semi point of this column.

And I suppose, without being too self-indulgent, that if a stage IV cancer patient — yours truly, who shares everything with you regular readers; highs, lows and in-betweens, has nothing of particular interest to share, perhaps it's because I'm experiencing a comparatively easy fortnight between 24-hour urine collection, pre-chemotherapy lab work, every-five-week infusions, and quarterly scans followed by my quarterly face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, so I have minimal cancer-related business to preoccupy my life. It's almost as if I'm unencumbered by my underlying problem: non-small cell lung cancer. And I have to admit, it's a heck of a feeling to not have my conscious and unconscious minding my business and reminding me that I have an incurable form of cancer. Which of course I never need reminding of; as opposed to ending a sentence with a preposition which obviously I do need to be reminded of.

Getting back to the substance — if you can even call it that, of this column: my difficulty writing weeks ahead of publication. What's puzzling about this difficulty is how uncharacteristic of my personality it is. I am not spontaneous. I rarely do anything spur of the moment other than getting off the couch, changing the channel on the television, switching radio stations in the car, deciding what to wear, eating/drinking/going to the bathroom and/or miscellaneous other household-type duties and responsibilities. Yet the problem I'm experiencing now — related to my June 14 column, is that since I'm not being spontaneous, I'm unable to create?

How can that be a problem? That's who I am all the time. I do everything in advance — of consequence, that is. Maybe I'm making too much out of nothing? (Oh, really.) Maybe I'm simply stuck in my head and need to get out of my own way. Not that I make mountains out of mole hills but sometimes, and I've told by my oncologist that I can blame my having cancer for everything, I might not think so clearly and get bogged down emotionally. Ergo, I will lay the blame for this column and it's lack of substance, on having “terminal” cancer.

Cancer doesn't work in mysterious ways (well, perhaps it does to researchers), it works in destructive ways: physically, mentally and spiritually. Logical becomes illogical — and vice versa; rational becomes irrational — and vice versa; and manageable becomes unmanageable — and vice versa. For cancer patients/survivors, expecting that one's life will go merrily along is totally unrealistic. Expecting the unexpected is the path of least resistance.

This week's column/dilemma is simply another example/reminder of how cancer intrudes and deludes and affects those of us who naively thought we would be unaffected.

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

SPORTS

Cougars Boys' Lacrosse Reaches State Semifinals

BY THOMAS KENDZIORA
THE CONNECTION

One season ago, the Oakton boys' lacrosse team struggled to a 6-9 record. A year later, the Cougars went 16-5, coming home with the Virginia 6A North Region championship.

However, the 2017 season came to an end Wednesday night, as South County put away the Cougars down the stretch in the state semifinals. In a game that entered the fourth quarter tied 7-7, the Stallions scored the last four goals to advance to Saturday's state championship game with a 12-8 victory.

"It's tough to beat a team that athletic and that talented twice," said Jake Bullock, Oakton's second-year head coach. "They did a good job. There were a couple key points of the game, like faceoffs and transition, that didn't work very well with us, and they capitalized."

The teams met in the regional tournament roughly two weeks earlier, with the Cougars coming away with a 13-11 win. Oakton captured that tournament with four close wins — three by two goals and the other by one. After a 2016 season filled with close



PHOTO BY THOMAS KENDZIORA/THE CONNECTION

Oakton head coach Jake Bullock (center) addresses his team after losing in the state semifinal against South County on Wednesday, June 7.

losses, Oakton was able to turn the tide.

This game didn't quite play out that way. The Cougars jumped out to a 3-1 lead at home, but South County responded by scoring four of the five goals in the second quarter and took a 5-4 lead into halftime. Oakton went on a run late in the third quarter to

equalize the score again, and it was 8-8 in the middle of the fourth. But the Stallions pulled ahead with 7:52 remaining, then iced the game with three goals in the final 3:14.

After rolling out an extremely young team last season, Oakton had players who were ready for the moment this year. The attack

was led by junior Jake Cole, who scored more than 60 goals, and sophomore Kevin McDaid, who led the team in points. Sophomore Aidan Ricci held his own in goal, and senior John Daido earned all-region honors as the anchor of the defense.

South County ultimately fell to Woodson in Saturday's title game. The Stallions went on another fourth-quarter run with four straight goals, but this time they entered it trailing 10-4, and that was too much to overcome.

The state didn't exactly have a dominant team this season. Woodson and South County matched 18-6 records, while the Cougars went 16-5. Robinson posted a 15-3 mark, but bowed out early in the postseason.

With most of its core coming back, Oakton is in an enviable position for 2018 and beyond.

"This is a group of guys that really turned this program around and have done fabulous things this year," Bullock said. "The biggest thing is just that they understand that this is something to build on, now they understand what the atmosphere's like and what it feels like to get on this level, and I think they want to do more of it."

Fairfax County Retired Educators Award Scholarships

Aspiring educators from County high schools receive awards.

Fairfax County Retired Educators held their annual Scholarship Luncheon on June 8 to celebrate eight high school scholarship award recipients. Fairfax County Retired Educators (FCRE) annually award qualified high school students, who wish to pursue a career in education, with \$2,000 scholarships. This year, a record number of eight students received scholarships from the FCRE.

"In this day and age when educators struggle to do the job they love, we need these bright stars to go into our profession. If such qualified young people continue to go into our chosen profession, the future of education is in good hands," Director of Ford Scholarships Phyllis Rittman said according to the FCRE press release.

Genevieve Brent, a graduate of Hayfield High School, is the recipient of the Mary O. Amber Trust Scholarship and will be attending the University of Pittsburgh in the fall. Brent has maintained over a 4.0 grade point average in high school and has worked as an active leader in Capital Area Peer Tutoring Association (CAPTA), a non profit that works to develop peer driven writing and learning centers in the Washington, D.C., area.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

From left: Jenny Jang, Centreville High; Emily Ready, Centreville High; Jordan Perlsh, Herndon High; Dr. Steven Lockard, deputy superintendent; Anshu Sharma, TJHSST; Katyryn Tatum, Oakton High; Ashreil Dennis, Lake Braddock Secondary.

Ashreil (Ash) Dennis, a graduate of Lake Braddock Secondary School, has been accepted into the Maryland Institute College of Art and was awarded one of three W.

Harold Ford Scholarships. Anshu Sharma, a graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School (TJHSST), also received a W. Harold Ford Scholarship.

The final recipient of the W. Harold Ford Scholarship was Kathryn Tatum who graduated Oakton High School with over a 4.3 grade point average and will attend Villanova University. As a senior, Tatum was Editor-in-Chief of the Oakton High School newspaper and was a consistent advocate of peer tutoring.

The recipients of the Bobbi Vest Scholarship were Jenny Jang, graduate of Centreville High School, and Jordan Perlsh, graduate of Herndon High School. Jang has not decided where she will be attending in the fall, but she will be the first in her family to attend college. Perlsh will be attending James Madison University in the fall.

Emily Ready received the Fairfax County Retired Educators Scholarship and graduated Chantilly High School with over a 4.3 grade point average. She will attend the College of William and Mary in the fall. She was the captain of the Chantilly Dance Team and a National Honor Society officer.

Paul Naanou is a three-time winner of the Apple Federal Credit Union Herbert Grady Carpenter Scholarship. Naanou is a 2013 graduate of Thomas Jefferson (TJHSST), and is currently attending the College of William and Mary studying French and Advanced Math.

— ERIN MURPHY