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Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

From left, Dan Combs of Vienna and Eric Lacey of Oakton, are often trail partners as they cycle to work across the Potomac, usually three times per week. Lacey stops pedalling in Georgetown, while Combs pushes on a bit farther into the District.

Biking to Work on Rainy Friday

NEWS, PAGE 3

Uniting the World, One Song at a Time

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Vienna Police Highlights

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OPINION, PAGE 8 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 4 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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NEWS

The Mosaic Harmony Community Choir performs their uplifting and inspirational “music to unite us” at a recent concert.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DAVID YORK

Uniting the World, One Song at a Time

Mosaic Harmony Choir readying to present annual Spring Concert.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

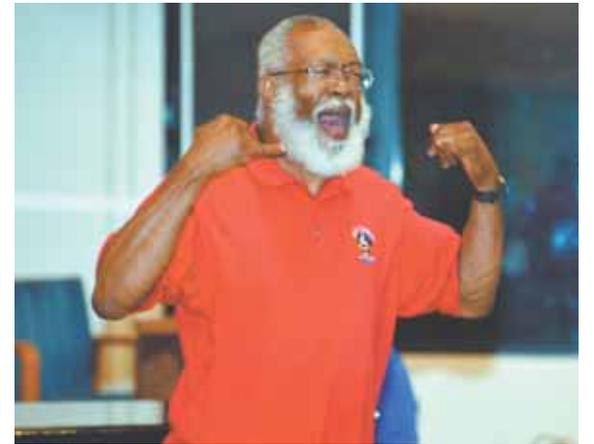


PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Rev. David K. North, director of the Mosaic Harmony Community Choir, directs by example as he leads rehearsal for the group’s June 3 Spring Concert at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax in Oakton. “Feel the music – and have fun!”

Mark your calendars. Sunday, June 3, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. is when the Mosaic Harmony Community Choir will perform their 24th annual Spring Concert at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) at 2709 Hunter Mill Road in Oakton ... and on the evening of Tuesday, May 15, choir director Reverend David K. North had his soulful squad practically raising the rafters in the UUCF sanctuary during their rehearsal for the upcoming event.

Originally formed at the UUCF in 1993, the 501(c)(3) Mosaic Harmony has been growing in numbers, in diversity, and in their efforts to “unite the world, one song at a time.”

Rev. North, an ordained Baptist minister, has been spearheading that mission for the last 22 years. In keeping with his energetic style of musical direction, North can barely sit still in his seat when he talks about the group, the music and their one over-riding goal – “bring people together, regardless of race, age, gender, religion, sexual orientation, whatever differences they think divide them. Music can unite them. And that starts with us. Everyone is welcomed here.”

OVER THE YEARS, North and the Mosaic Harmony board members continue to make good on that promise. The choir of some 60-plus members, now counts people from a multitude of faiths who come from all around the DMV to become part of a “welcoming community.”

North nearly glows with emotion when he tells a story that demonstrates that “welcoming and inclusive spirit.”

First he explains that choir members don’t have to audition to join. They don’t even have to read music. Willingness to participate and be part of “bridge-building through music” is all the entry credentials required. “If we start adding all these criteria,” said North, “then we’re not a community any more. Community means all kinds of people, with all kinds of

skills and levels of abilities.

“So, we had one new member who had all the spirit, but not all the voice.” North was moved when he saw the members of that range grouping gradually re-position themselves to place the newbie in their midst, where the realignment “gave a strength to the new voice. And they did that on their own. Just folded our new member right in.”

Mosaic Board president – and choir member – Nikki Barnett Harrell seconds North’s characterization of the choir.

Barnett Harrell now commutes from Arlington to the twice-monthly Tuesday rehearsals in Oakton, but when she first joined the group she was making the trek from the District.

How did she become a Mosaic member, going from a mostly African-American urban background to a predominantly Caucasian suburban assembly?

“Just a little outside my general circle,” she admits. Barnett Harrell is one of many brought into Mosaic by other members, former members, or just fans of the choir, “people who were excited to introduce us to an environment where we can sing, and connect with people of all different faiths and backgrounds.”

SEE MOSAIC HARMONY, PAGE 6

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Biking to Work on Rainy Friday

Rain doesn't deter cyclists on 2018 Bike to Work Day.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

May is National Bike Month and Friday, May 18, was Bike to Work Day (BTWD). If you thought any of the 17 pit stops set up around the County (including five new ones for 2018) would be vacant because of the uncooperative weather, we can report that there were plenty of hardy souls who pulled off the Washington & Old Dominion Trail for a chat, some nourishment and the t-shirt and other swag that registered participants received from equally undaunted vendors and volunteers.

Jeff Palmer, manager of the Vienna Spokes Bicycle shop was the official host of the Vienna location. He has been participating in the event since 2010.

"We get about 330 cyclists stopping by, though the numbers might be a little less this year with all the rain," said Palmer, who says the event is as much about advocacy as fitness.

"We need our elected officials to see the interest there is in cycling, not just for recreation, but for transportation. We need their commitment to building and maintaining trails, and adding connection points so that we can cycle safely and effectively from here to there. And please say 'thanks' to Starbucks for the coffee and Giant for the bananas and water!" he added.

Whatever their route, dozens of cyclists who made the Vienna stop, just where Maple Avenue intersects the W&OD trail, were traveling significant distances to get to their destinations.

SOME OF THOSE RIDERS:

Dan Combs of Vienna, and Eric Lacey of Oakton often meet up on the trail to cycle together across the Potomac River via the Key Bridge. Lacey veers off in Georgetown, while Combs pedals a little farther into the District. Both try to do the "bike to work thing" at least three times per week.

"A little rain isn't so bad," said Lacey, but he admits that the winter weather sees him use alternate transportation in to work. "I am not that hardy," he laughed.

Andrea Saavandi has been riding to work between Vienna and Arlington for about 8 years. "I started on this rental bike, just to see. Not too long before I had my own bike," she said, as the owner of Bikes of Vienna and local event sponsor Tim Fricker did some quick maintenance on her ride, pumping up a tire and just checking things out.

Ron Racinez does a shorter route than some of his cycling compatriots, travelling between Reston and Vienna, but since start-



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

From left, Dan Combs of Vienna and Eric Lacey of Oakton, are often trail partners as they cycle to work across the Potomac, usually three times per week. Lacey stops pedalling in Georgetown, while Combs pushes on a bit farther into the District.



Andrea Saavandi started her cycling journey on a rental bike, but now does her trip from Vienna to Arlington on her own two wheels. At the Bike to Work Day pit stop in Vienna, Tim Fricker, owner of Bikes of Vienna, was on hand to help any cyclists in need, and gave Saavandi's ride a check over and a bit of air for the tires.



Mark Repak from Spokes bicycle shop in Vienna, was popular with all the day's participants, as he handed out t-shirts to commemorate the Bike to Work Day event to cyclists like Ron Racinez who makes the roundtrip from Reston to Vienna his normal route. Repak tries to ride the trail about 3 times per week himself.

ing on this pedal-powered mode of transport in 2001, he's racked up some serious miles. What does he think of the Bike to Work Day event? "Great, ... and a chance to stop and visit with some others that you wouldn't normally do."

Ryan McKinney, who zips along between home in Reston and work at the Langley

School in McLean where he has taught for 15 years, sees cycling for transport as not only a way to keep himself fit and feeling good, but "it's also important to show a good example to the students. Feeling healthy, staying healthy, it's more than just sports at school. It's something you can do everyday as part of your life."

Anne Pastorkovich of Fairfax has been a W&OD Trail user for years. She's also a volunteer Trail Patrol member, and encourages other users – cyclists, runners, walkers, even horse riders – to be one, too. "Check it out and sign up at www.wodfriends.org" she urged. "We are trained to handle a lot of situations, help with minor repairs, give directions, and assist in case of emergency or injury." Pastorkovich rides the Trail several times a week and is happy to give back to keep the Trail experience a good one.

In all, more than 17,000 Metropolitan Washington area residents were expected to leave their cars at home and use old-fashioned people power to get where they were going. The annual event is co-sponsored by Commuter Connections, a program of the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board at the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC), the Washington Area Bicyclists Association and local governments like Fairfax County.

In a statement released during the event, MWCOC cited encouraging statistics from the 2016 Bike to Work Day survey, which found that 14 percent of the participants that year were first-time cyclists, while 28 percent of the veteran cyclists reported increasing the number of times they ride per week after joining in the Bike to Work Day fun.

Visit www.commuterconnections.org/bicycling/ for more information, and stop by your local bike shop for personal assistance and to experience the friendly, and growing, area cycling community.

CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

"Trees, Trees, and Beyond."

Through May 31 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society Exhibition. Free. Open 10-7 p.m. in April; 10-7:30 p.m. in May. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.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. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

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



THE PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Fat Chance played to a hardy group seated on a wet lawn at Viva! Vienna! 2017.

Viva! Vienna!

Vienna celebrates its annual three-day festival Saturday, May 26-Monday, May 28 in the heart of historic Vienna along Church Street. The festival, hosted for 33 years by the Rotary Club of Vienna, features carnival rides, food, live entertainment across three stages, and more than 300 arts and craft and other vendors. Free admission. Rides require a specific number of tickets, which varies from ride to ride; tickets are \$1 each or \$20 for a sheet of 24, or \$35 for an all-day wristband. Parking in the historic area is very limited. Visit vivavienna.org.

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.

Fishing Rod Rentals. Riverbend Park, 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/.

THURSDAY/MAY 24

Fundraising Benefit. 6-9 p.m. at the Tower Club, 8000 Towers Crescent Drive, Suite 1700, Vienna. The Women 2 Women Committee of the Tower Club is hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association. The evening will feature a presentation by journalists/authors Cokie Roberts and her daughter, Rebecca Boggs Roberts. All tickets (\$95, +fees) entitle participants to a reception featuring heavy hors d'oeuvres and two drink tickets. Visit www.suffragistmemorial.org.

SATURDAY/MAY 26

Vegetable Plant Clinics. 10 a.m.-noon. At Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Learn about growing nightshade plants (tomatoes, etc.). Fairfax County Master Gardeners will add a focus on vegetable gardening to their Plant Clinic program. Sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. Contact the

VCE Fairfax County Master Gardener Help Desk at 703-324-8556.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 26-28

Viva! Vienna! Vienna celebrates its annual three-day festival in the heart of historic Vienna along Church Street. The festival, hosted for 33 years by the Rotary Club of Vienna, features carnival rides, food, live entertainment across three stages, and more than 300 arts and craft and other vendors. Free admission. Rides require a specific number of tickets, which varies from ride to ride; tickets are \$1 each or \$20 for a sheet of 24, or \$35 for an all-day wristband. Parking in the historic area is very limited. Visit vivavienna.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 27

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

MONDAY/MAY 28

Memorial Day Brunch and Cookie Class for Children. 10 a.m.-noon

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 5

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Let us know about an upcoming event

www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 4

at Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. A special Memorial Day brunch where guests will enjoy a breakfast buffet, cookie decorating class and face painting. \$20.00 per adult/child plus tax (gratuity not included). To make a reservation, call 703-442-9110.

Memorial Day Ceremony. 11 a.m. at Great Falls Freedom Memorial, behind the Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The annual Memorial Day ceremony will honor those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" in service of freedom. Longtime Vienna resident and World War II "civilian veteran" Rita C. Stead will give the keynote address on the meaning of Memorial Day. The ceremony is open to all. Limited seating and shelter provided; attendees may bring portable chairs. Visit www.gffreedom.org for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band – Country Current. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, but please leave Fido and any other pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: Mat Kearney. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests and has proven to be a popular event for families, couples and teenagers. The Plaza is located off of The Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. Guests are encouraged to arrive early. Visit www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 1-3

Tyson's-Pimmit Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday 1-4 p.m. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price/\$10 per bag sale on Sunday. Call 703-790-4031 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-tysons-pimmit-regional for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 2

Used Book Collection. 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at SunTrust Bank, 515 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Used books, CDs, DVDs, software, children's books, records, and recent books will be accepted. No encyclopedias, VHS or audiotapes. The Book Sale will be held on Aug. 31-Sept. 2 at the Spring Hill Recreation Center. The sale proceeds benefit scholarships for women. Questions: aauwbookfair@gmail.com or 703-527-4206.



Bluebird by Cindy Dibbs.

'Nature's Palette'

Cindy Dibbs takes every opportunity to enjoy and photograph nature whether hiking in Great Falls National Park, Glacier National Park or strolling along the beach. Her photos reflect the beauty of nature and she hopes the images will inspire others to protect and treasure the valuable gift of nature. June 1-30 at Katie's Coffee House, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Visit www.cindydibbs.com.

Spring Fair. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pleasant Grove historic site and museum, at 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Free community fair will feature "attic treasures" quality yard sale and antiques, a homemade bake sale, lunch, an artisan-made quilt raffle, and a Tom Sawyer clean-up day. All proceeds are donated to Pleasant Grove. Stop by Friday to drop off donated "attic treasures." Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SUNDAY/JUNE 3

Alden Summer Concerts: Tim Kubart and the Space Cadets. 5 p.m. in McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd. Free parking at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. The Alden's 2018 Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park expand this year to include a "welcome, summer" concert on Sunday, June 3, and then seven concerts from July 1 through Aug. 12. Visit www.aldentheatre.org for more.

TUESDAY/JUNE 5

The C&O Canal. 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn about the C&O Canal, its history, its beauty and its uses. Presented by Carole Herrick. One lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is \$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

THURSDAY/JUNE 7

Benefit of Chocolate. 6-8:30 p.m. at Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave., Vienna. The Stroke Comeback Center is hosting the Benefit of Chocolate cocktail reception to support its programs for survivors of stroke and brain trauma. \$100. Visit strokecomebackcenter.org for more.
Author Event: Joseph Esposito. 7:30-9 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library,

101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Meet Joseph A. Esposito, the author of "Dinner in Camelot." Books available for sale and signing. Free admission. Call 703-938-0405 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3931227 for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 8

Summer on the Green: Vienna Idol Finale. 6:30 p.m. area residents can catch a new and diverse musical act at the Town Green or at Chillin' on Church. Bring blankets and chairs, leave pets at home. The concerts are free and open to the public. Rain date is June 9. Visit www.viennava.gov for more.

Tyson's Concert Series: The Legwarmers. 6:30-8 p.m. on the Plaza at Tysons Corner Center. Tysons Corner Center's 5th annual free Summer Concert Series offers a variety of musical guests, popular for families, couples and teens. Tysons Corner Metro Station of the Silver Line. www.tysonscornercenter.com/events/SummerConcertSeries2018 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 8-9

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Pre-sale open to members of the Friends of the Library Thursday, June 7, 6-8 p.m. Membership purchased at the door for the pre-sale-night-only, \$15. Thousands of lightly-used donated books, CDs, DVDs in every category. Many like new. Great for care packages, beach house, building home library, literacy programs, traveling companions. Free admission. Email friendsofthegreatfallslibrary@gmail.com or call 703-757-8560.



McLean Community Center
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Here's What's Happening at MCC

All are welcome!
MCC Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, May 23, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices



The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips
Dinner and a Movie
Friday, May 25, 3:30-10 p.m.
\$40/\$30 MCC district residents



Closing Notice
Monday, May 28
MCC and the Old Firehouse Teen Center will be closed in observance of Memorial Day.

The Old Firehouse After 7 Dance Party
Friday, June 1, 7-10 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$5 admission



Open to All MCC Governing Board Meeting
Wednesday, June 6, 7:30 p.m.
MCC Administrative Offices



Presented by The Alden Audience Choice Quote-Along Movie
Sunday, June 10, 2 p.m.
The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$3 per person/\$5 per couple. Popcorn is free. Prop bags are \$5 each.



Get in the Game! MCC Summer Camp Programs
Camp McLean
The Old Firehouse
Summer Camp Trips
Dance, Fitness
Outdoor Adventure and Science Fun Weeks



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
Administrative Offices
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McLean, VA 22101
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Legals

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or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeff
Hancock, Member. NOTE: Objections
to the issuance of this license must be
submitted to ABC no later than 30 days
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.

An expert is someone who knows
some of the worst mistakes that can
be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

Announcements

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from May 11 - May 17, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Fraud — 900 Block Lynnhill Court, NE May 4 12 a.m. A resident reported an unauthorized charge made to one of her credit accounts.

Fraud — CVS 337 Maple Avenue, East Between May 8 at 8:45 p.m. and May 14 at 8:45 p.m. The pharmacist reported a possible prescription fraud. This case is being investigated.

Lost Property — 200 Block Maple Avenue, East May 10, 6 p.m. A citizen reported losing her wallet in the area of the shopping center.

Suspicious Event — Giant Food 359 Maple Avenue, East May 12, 7 p.m. A citizen reported that he and his friend, an employee at Giant, were being threatened by a man who was the employee's ex-boyfriend. Prior to the officer's arrival they advised the man had blocked the employee's vehicle. The citizen and the employee felt the ex-boyfriend was stalking them. There was a friend of the ex-boyfriend who continued to drive around the parking lot while the officers conducted their investigation. The two reporting parties were advised how to obtain a protective order against the ex-boyfriend. The ex-boyfriend apologized to the employee and her friend and agreed to have no further communication with them.

Assault — Whole Foods Market 143 Maple Avenue, East May 12, 8:29 p.m. A customer advised he was assaulted by another customer when the man rammed him with a shopping cart. The customer was advised of the warrant process should he wish to pursue charges.

Suspicious Person — Shell Gas Station 252 Maple Avenue, West May 12, 10:40 p.m. An employee at the Shell station reported a naked man who was acting aggressive, trying to get into the store. Officers located the man at the station wearing only athletic shorts and socks. The man explained he was traveling from out of state with a friend. The two had been arguing and the friend just left the man at the gas station. The man attempted to get into the store to use their phone and did not intend to scare the employee. A few hours later, officers were able to persuade the friend to come to the police station to pick up the man.

Suspicious Person — Maple Avenue and Mashie Drive, SE May 13, 12:34 p.m. A citizen reported a man lying in the roadway. Officers located the man who stated he was waiting for a bus to take him home. The man's relatives were notified and sent a cab to transport him home.

Grand Larceny — Whole Foods Market 143 Maple Avenue, East May 13 between 5 and 5:33 p.m. A customer left his bicycle at the bike rack unlocked while he went into the store. When he returned, the bike was missing along with other personal property including a credit card. The credit card was used a few hours later to make a purchase in D.C. This case is being investigated.

Trespassing — Patrick Henry Library 101 Maple Avenue, East May 15, 5:19 p.m. An employee reported a man in the library who had been trespassed from another branch. An additional Notice of Trespassing had been issued to ban the man from all Fairfax County Public Libraries, however it had not yet been served. The man was escorted out of the library where he was served with the Notice and advised he would be charged with trespass if he returned.

Domestic Assault — Park Street, NE

May 15, 8:08 p.m. A resident advised that she and her juvenile daughter were having an argument. The daughter became agitated and, in an attempt to leave the room, became physical with her mother. Rescue personnel responded to assess, but both mother and daughter refused medical treatment. Juvenile services will be consulted regarding charges in this case.

Police Service — Total Health Concepts 115 Beulah Road, NE May 16, 1 p.m. An officer assisted a therapist in getting their patient to an area hospital for evaluation.

Arrest - Assault on Police Officer — 600 Block Longview Court, NE May 17, 12:58 a.m. A resident reported their adult son was making suicidal statements. Officers arrived at the home and found the son yelling and struggling with other family members. The son then became combative with officers while still fighting with family. The man continued to be combative and assault the officers. One officer used a Taser and they were able to take him into custody. The 21-year-old man from Longview Court, NE, Vienna was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he continued to be disorderly. He was charged with two counts of Felonious Assault on a Police Officer and will be held for a mental health evaluation. Assist EMS — 300 Block Moorefield Road, SW May 17, 2:52 a.m. Officers assisted with a possible overdose. Rescue personnel transported the resident to an area hospital for observation.

Animal Case - Quarantine — 500 Block Highland Street, NW May 17, 6:35 p.m. A resident reported that his wife was injured after being attacked by their dog. The resident was advised of the 10-day quarantine. ACO Barker will follow up on this case.

Mosaic Harmony Choir to Present Spring Concert

FROM PAGE 2

Within the Mosaic Harmony "family" she found a place where "it's first and foremost about people, where differences are celebrated, and everyone has the opportunity to find our common bonds as human beings.

"It's infectious. It's soul-freeing," Barnett Harrell described the atmosphere that has kept her engaged since 2009.

The choir performs throughout the region. In February, they performed at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints D.C. Visitors' Center for the UN World Interfaith Harmony Week, and in April they joined forces with the Washington International Chorus and the World Children's Choir for the program "Music Uniting the World." They've even brought their high-energy act overseas, performing in Rome last year.

"We've sung at large venues, retirement homes, hospitals and for clients of the Mental Health Institute, and a number of fundraisers throughout the year," said Barnett Harrell, but the Spring Concert on June 3 is their signature event and conclusion of their 2017-2018 season. The nonprofit raises funds to cover their operating expenses and for the salaries of their musicians and director. The choir itself, the board members, "and everyone else who pitches in" are all volunteers.

The group is partially funded by the Arts Council of Fairfax County, with fundraisers, donations and ticket and cd sales making up the rest.

"We would love to offer even more performances, and more outreach events," North and Barnett Harrell both stated. "The more funds we raise, the more uplifting music we can share."

So, what's on the musical menu for the Spring Concert? Obviously songs and hymns that offer encouragement and demonstrate that "We're Going to Make It Together."

Sometimes a bit of audience participation is involved.

"No one can resist David when he asks you to clap along, or even sing along," says choir member Teresa McConnel of Fairfax. Listening to the up-tempo selections being rehearsed, it's doubtful North will have to do much coaxing to get the audience engaged.

MOSAIC HARMONY'S REPERTOIRE draws deeply from the heritage of African-American spiritual music, combined with traditional and contemporary gospel songs, including many composed by North himself, but the music is inspirational rather than religiously specific. "It's for everyone," he explains, mindful that both his singers and his audiences have their own diverse beliefs.

"You don't need to assimilate," says North. "We're trying to form a beautiful human picture from all of our individual pieces of the puzzle - together."

To purchase tickets for the concert and to learn more about Mosaic Harmony Community Choir visit their website at www.mosaic harmony.org.

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BULLETIN

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a volunteer nonprofit, invites community members to join the organization to participate in its Reading Express program. Volunteers provide one-on-one tutoring to first grade students during the school year. To learn more contact VP Membership Mary Gronlund at gronbiz@aol.com or Program Coordinator Lynn Barron at lynnieb517@verizon.net.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

THURSDAY/MAY 31

Meet with Virginia WMATA

Representatives. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Virginia's representatives to the board of directors of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority will meet the public in a forum sponsored by the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission. The event will include a presentation focused on funding, governance and safety, followed by a question-and-answer session. The facility is within walking distance of the Vienna Metro station. Visit www.novatransit.org.

THURSDAYS/MAY 31-JUNE 14

Adventures in Learning. Times vary, at Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Sample of classes include: 'ai chi, intermediate/advanced bridge, "Over the Air Television," world affairs, and Socrates cafe. Visit www.scov.org/files/ail/ail_schedule_2018_spring_040918.pdf details.

FRIDAY/JUNE 1

Help Children Navigate Adolescence in the Digital Age.

10 a.m.-noon at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. What else can parents do to keep their teenager safe on the internet? Join Richard Stegman, FCPS Educational Specialist, to learn the top internet dangers for teens and seven steps for good digital parenting. Free. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 6

Grow Your Business. 6-8 p.m. at American Prime, 1420 Spring Hill Road, McLean. Join Tysons McLean Orchestra to network with the tech, telecom, real estate and financial services execs and the professional business community at American Prime. Live music, raffles, discounted drinks tickets and a buffet. \$30 online; \$40 at the door. Visit www.eventbrite.com and search "Instrumental to Business" for tickets.

MONDAY/JUNE 11

Lunch N' Life: Estate Planning. Noon at Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Join the Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna's (SCOV) Lunch N' Life event with guest speaker Collins Law Firm's Phillip J. Kenny, JD, CFP, an experienced estate planner. Prepayment of \$15 per person required by Wednesday June 6. No refunds. To register, call 703-281-0538. www.scov.org/announcements.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 13

Public Safety Program. 7:30 p.m. at McLean Governmental Center Community Rooms, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The June McLean Citizens Association Public Safety Program will focus on the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor. The Auditor, Richard G. Schott, will provide a presentation to explain his responsibilities and to answer questions. Visit mcleancitizens.org.

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Oh Happy Daze



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As I sat on the couch Saturday morning with my wife, Dina, and pretended not to watch or listen – too attentively, anyway, to the “fairy tale” wedding of the former Meghan Markle and the current Prince Harry, in Windsor Castle on May 19, I was reminded of my own wedding, proposal, courtship and introduction to Dina, dating back to November 1976 when we first met. (I’ll try not to self-indulge too much; it’s boring I know.)

After graduating undergraduate school in May 1976, I moved back home to Boston, and began looking for work. Upon receiving an offer from the now-defunct Prince Georges Post to write a weekly column, I returned back to Maryland in late summer and moved in with my brother, Richard. Unfortunately, after meeting with the Editor-in-Chief, I was informed that due to a revenue shortfall, the tabloid was shrinking its page count to 32 from 40, and with it my column and budget for it was shrunk as well. At that moment, my Art Buchwald-type dream was over.

Though living with Richard in his one bedroom apartment and sleeping on his living room couch was not costing me much money, it was hardly the ideal transition to post-college life I had anticipated. I needed to find a job and my own place to live. Soon after speaking with my college buddy, “Mot,” my housing and job status would change. I moved in with him into a group house in Potomac, where one of his roommates, Rick, was a lunch manager at the Sir Walter Raleigh Inn Restaurant in upper Georgetown.

Always looking for daytime staff, I was immediately hired and within days began my new job. On my first day, I drove in with Rick. After parking behind the restaurant, we walked in the back door, through the kitchen and into the dining room. Rick looked around at the various employees doing their pre-lunch set-up, saw Dina to his right and said: “Dina, train the new man.” After spending the morning together, she thought I was weird; I thought she was stuck-up. Amazing how little has changed. Six months later we were dating.

I remember the exact circumstance when I told Dina that I loved her. We were driving north on Connecticut Avenue past the Avalon Theatre heading into Chevy Chase Circle. While rounding the Circle, it just hit me so I said it: “Dina, I think I love you.” I don’t recall how Dina responded but my ill-timed delivery didn’t seem to be a problem.

A few months after that, another awkward progression toward our getting married. We were sitting in a sub/pizza place called C.J.’s located in the Cabin John Shopping Center having a casual lunch. While we were talking and eating, it struck me that I wanted to ask Dina to be my wife. Without too much thought or preparation – and with no ring – I grabbed my paper placemat and wrote a proposal on it – in the margins, if I recall, and then slid it around toward Dina for her to read. Again, I don’t remember too much about her reaction other than her answer was “Yes.”

A year or so later, we were married – twice. Due to our differences in religion, we agreed to be married by a judge, for whom Dina’s maternal grandmother had once worked. Five weeks after the invitations had been mailed and five days before the wedding, we went to visit the judge to discuss the service. After we made our in-person introductions and exchanged pleasantries, the judge says to us with a serious look as he could muster: “I can’t marry you on Sunday.”

A moment of silence/horror passed between us. “What!?” we murmured politely. Then he smiles reassuringly and says: “I’m a Pennsylvania judge. I can’t legally marry you in Delaware on Sunday. (Another collective gasp as we’re trying to process what we’re hearing.) He goes on: “Just come by my chambers on Friday and we’ll do it legally. Then on Sunday, I’ll do it for show.” The result: two wedding-anniversaries, Oct. 20 and 22, one year though: 1978.

Harry and Meghan may have their “fairy tale,” but we have our funny tale; still being told almost 40 years later.

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

OPINION

Keep Teens Safe for Summer

By JOHN C. COOK
BRADDOCK DISTRICT SUPERVISOR



COMMENTARY

Prom and graduation seasons are upon us, and these are the biggest landmarks in our teens' lives so far. While it is certainly a time for celebration, it is also a time for parents to ensure the safety of these young adults. I want to ask all parents to keep our community safe by not hosting parties with alcohol and speaking to your children about the dangers of drunk driving.

The way parents raise their own kids in the privacy of their homes is their business. However, when other children are involved and given alcohol, it becomes a community concern and threat to public safety. Through a motion I presented, the Board of Supervisors unanimously directed our Police Department

to arrest parents who host parties for minors where alcohol is served. If you are caught hosting one of these parties then you will be arrested and sent to jail.

There is no responsible way to host a teen party with alcohol. Not only are teens underage, but teen brains are more negatively impacted by alcohol than an adult's. The developing mind already has a tendency to take risks and not perceive consequences for their actions. When one introduces alcohol to this situation, the risky behavior goes into overdrive and puts our young people in a dangerous position. Teens are also more likely to binge drink, which creates an even greater risk to their health in the short and long term. At its worst, teen drinking can result in drunk driv-

ing, assault, drug use, teen pregnancy, injury, or even death. When parents provide youth with alcohol, they are jeopardizing these children's lives.

Every year we hear stories about devastating accidents caused by teens driving under the influence after prom or graduation. It is not something that just happens in other neighborhoods. These accidents happen in our own backyards. Nationally, 10,497 people died in 2016 from drunk driving accidents. Fifteen percent of those accidents were caused by drivers under 21. A single accident like this is one too many.

That is why it is up to us as parents to set good examples to our children. We have to set clear rules and expectations for them to follow in this season of celebrations. Talk to your teens about the dangers of drinking. Make it clear that if they drink and drive or go to these underage drinking parties they are risking their future.

The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same

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



COMMENTARY

As the General Assembly heads back into Special Session on May 23 to continue work on the biennium budget impasse, I looked back at how long we've been fighting to expand Medicaid — the major sticking point in our current budget standoff. Here's what I wrote in September 2014 — nearly four years ago!

"Recently the New York Times editorial board wrote about the 'health care showdown in Virginia.' Their comments were not favorable. 'In Virginia, there are 400,000 low-income people who can't afford health care coverage but don't qualify for federal subsidies,' they wrote. 'If they lived across the state line in Maryland, West Virginia or Kentucky, which have expanded their Medicaid programs, they could get the coverage they need.' The reason they cannot; 'a group of recalcitrant Republicans in the House of Delegates' have blocked Medicaid expansion at every opportunity."

Highly regarded retired editorial writer for the *Virginian Pilot*, Margaret Edds, wrote about the current impasse in Virginia two weeks ago. Drawing on her extensive command of Virginia's history, Edds points out that Virginia was the last state to join Social Security in the 1930s. She argues that there is a moral imperative that "we cannot afford to take this risk" of not expanding Medicaid. She writes that "designing a health care system that embraces everyone is the right thing to do." Reston resident, Elliot Wicks, in a recent letter to the editor makes the same argument that closing the coverage gap morally is the right thing to do.

In an unprecedented move, the Virginia Chapter of the American Association of Retired People (AARP) called a press conference to announce that letters sent by the Speaker of the House and other Republican lawmakers to their constituents over age 60 contained "inaccurate information about changes in Medicare."

These letters from Speaker Howell and other lawmakers implied that expanding Medicaid in Virginia would hurt Medicare beneficiaries. "Expanding Medicaid to uninsured Virginians won't harm the Medicare program or its beneficiaries," the AARP spokesperson said.

Revenues for the Commonwealth are expected to fall short of projection for this year by as much as \$300 million. Ironically, Virginia is losing \$5 million a day amounting now to three-fourths of a billion dollars paid by Virginians that could be returned to the state through Medicaid expansion. The money could

not be used to balance the budget in the current year, but in future years more than \$200 million that Virginia pays for indigent care from its general tax revenue could be paid by Medicaid.

State and local chambers of commerce, medical and health care associations, and editorial boards of the major newspapers in the state have endorsed Medicaid expansion. A major compromise in the form of Marketplace Virginia, proposed by three Republican senators and endorsed by all Democratic legislators, has been introduced. The compromise proposed in Marketplace Virginia addresses the Republicans' stated concerns by including a provision to discontinue the program if the federal government reneges on its commitments. It is time for Republicans in the House of Delegates to agree to the compromise. Their insistence on separating Medicaid from the state budget is a costly stalling tactic that is hurting a large number of Virginians and threatens to hurt even more if the budget stalemate continues.

While the players have changed—it's now Senate Republicans resisting Medicaid expansion—the song remains the same.

Send Father's Day Photos

Father's Day is Sunday, June 17, and once again this newspaper will publish a gallery of Father's Day photos.

Every year at this time, we put out the call for photographs of fathers and their children, grandfathers and their children and grandchildren.

Send in photos with the following information: the town where you live, the names of everyone in the picture, the approximate date the picture was taken, the ages of the children and a sentence or two about what is happening and where the photograph was taken. Be sure to tell us your town name and neighborhood. Photos are due by June 12.

You can submit your photos online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/fathersday. You can also email photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

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