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AD ON
PAGE 7

Senior Living

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V and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION



Wendy Gao, Conference Co-Chair and a student at Oakton High School, explains ESLI's mission is to create a network of young people who are passionate about environmental education.

Youth Mobilize To Save the Planet

NEWS, PAGE 3

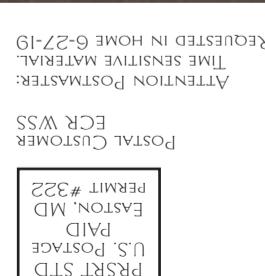
PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Four Students Awarded Vienna Youth Soccer Scholarships

NEWS, PAGE 3

Vienna Police Highlights

NEWS, PAGE 2



C'MON, BE HONEST. WHAT WOULD YOU RATHER BE DOING THIS SUMMER?



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The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna Police Department from June 14 – June 20, 2019.

INCIDENTS

Suspicious Event — 400 Block Old Courthouse Road, NE Between May 1 at 3 a.m. and June 13 at 6 a.m. A resident reported that someone has been leaving tracks under her vehicle tires continuously for the past few months.

Animal Case — 100 Block Melody Lane, SW May 28, 6:30 p.m. A resident reported that she was walking her dog when they came across another person who was walking his two dogs. The dogs initially approached each other normally. However, the two dogs began attacking the resident's dog. The resident's dog was injured and was taken to a vet for medical treatment. The incident was the first time the two dogs had ever acted aggressively. The owner is taking measures to ensure there are no further issues with their dogs' behavior.

Found Property — 200 Block Cedar Lane, SE June 3, 1:31 p.m. A citizen turned in a wallet that was found in the area.

Animal Case – Quarantine — 500 Block Creek Crossing Road, NE June 7, 12 p.m. An employee at a pet resort in Sterling, Virginia, was bitten by a dog that was in their care. The dog resides in Town. ACO Barker advised the dog's owner of the quarantine procedure.

Animal Case — 1000 Block Cottage Street, SW June 8, 1 p.m. A resident advised that her neighbor's dog is constantly barking. ACO Barker spoke to the neighbor who did not believe the dog was causing any issues but advised that she would bring the dog inside if it began barking.

Lost Property — Vienna Elementary School 128 Center Street, South June 11, 8 a.m. A citizen reported that she lost her passport in the area.

Vehicle Tampering — 200 Block Commons Drive, NW Between June 12 at 9 p.m. and June 13 at 7 a.m. A resident reported that someone entered his two unlocked vehicles and rummaged through them. Nothing appeared to have been missing.

Domestic Dispute — The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West June 13, 11:10 a.m. Officers responded to a domestic dispute between two women. The two women agreed to separate, and the hotel management advised the two that they would need to leave the hotel.

Police Service — 200 Block Audreys Court, SE June 13 between 12 p.m. and 3 p.m. A resident reported that her daughter was receiving harassing text messages and phone calls from friends after a dispute between them.

Fraud — 300 Block Old Courthouse Road, NE Between June 13 at 12 p.m. and June 14 at 12 p.m. A resident advertised furniture for sale on the online app, "Offer Up." A buyer agreed to send a check to cover the payment for the furniture and the shipping charges. The resident set up electronic payment for the movers before he realized that the check he received from the buyer was fraudulent.

Suspicious Event — Park Street, SE June 13, 1:16 p.m. A resident reported a suspicious incident involving his infant son's nanny. The resident observed the incident on his home security camera, and it made him concerned for his son's welfare. The mother of the child immediately responded to the home, and the nanny left without further incident. This case is being investigated.

Extortion — 300 Block Aponi Court,

SE June 13, 7:04 p.m. A resident reported that an unknown man made multiple phone calls to her threatening to charge her a significant amount if she did not renew her computer anti-virus software.

Arrest – Narcotics Violation — 400 Block Old Courthouse Road, NE June 13, 8:52 p.m. Sgt. Elias observed a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit and initiated a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver, the officer detected an odor of marijuana. Both the driver and the passenger were found to have marijuana and drug paraphernalia.

Sgt. Elias issued summonses to the 19-year-old man from Weller Avenue in McLean and the 19-year-old man from Leonard Road in Falls Church, charging Possession of Marijuana and released them on their signatures.

Fight — Jammin Java 227 Maple Avenue, East June 13, 11:05 p.m. An argument escalated into a physical altercation between two men in the parking lot. One of the men shoved the other, causing him to fall and strike his head. The man suffered a minor laceration to his head but refused medical treatment. Both men refused to prosecute.

Arrest – Warrant Service and Narcotics Violation — The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue, West June 14, 12:16 a.m. Ofc. Colligan observed a man walking in the area of the Wolftrap Hotel. Upon his interaction with the man, the officer found he was wanted by Manassas City Police Department on an outstanding capias. The man was also found to be in possession of marijuana.

Ofc. Colligan arrested the 28-year-old man from June Street in Springfield. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. The capias

SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

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NEWS

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC
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High school-aged attendees at the 5th Annual Fairfax County Environmental Education Conference take part in the Water Workshop led by Maria Harwood, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/ THE CONNECTION



Environmental Change Through Youth Games and Activities

Fifth Annual Fairfax County Environmental Education Conference held.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Environmental Student Leadership Initiative, formerly known as the Eco-School Leadership Initiative, presented its 5th Annual Fairfax County Environmental Conference. Held Saturday, June 22, inside and on the grounds of the Fairfax County Government Center, the free, day-long event helped high school and college students learn how they, as student-instructors could get involved with environmental education initiatives. By teaching elementary school students using hands-on and engaging interactive games and activities, in the process, the young students would become interested in fighting environmental problems and become future leaders in their communities.

In her Opening Remarks as Conference Co-Chair, Wendy Gao, a student at Oakton High School admitted to the 45 Northern Virginia high school and college-aged students seated before her, that when she joined ESLI two years ago, she didn't know how to solve climate change nor did she consider herself an "Earth enthusiast." Gao said she knew at the time that climate change was caused primarily because of fossil fuel corporations and "their political and economic lobbying power." Gao said she thought that creating policies to curb these corporations was the only way to solve the problem. She added that after joining ESLI, she understood that to reverse climate change, all aspects of society — political, economic, social and academic — must "move in the same direction."

THE MISSION of ESLI is to create a network of young people who are passionate about environmental education. "Climate education is not a require-



Approximately 45 students from Northern Virginia high schools listen to opening remarks at the 5th Annual Fairfax County Environmental Education Conference.

ment in public school systems, and many schools don't offer environmental science courses," said Gao. "There is a climate knowledge gap... and that's why ESLI and environmental education is fundamental to the environmental movement... We do what we do because young people have a lot more power than we're allowed to believe," she said.

During the conference, attendees visited two out of five workshops; each illustrated a lesson student-educators could teach elementary school students. The interactive experience used available ESLI curriculum, lesson plans and materials which would be made accessible to student-educators who chose to volunteer their services as a teacher through an ESLI chapter. And how to start an ESLI chapter at their school if one isn't already established.

"This is what I expected as I wanted to get exposure to learning different aspects of the environment and implement teaching these concepts at local schools," said Gitika Gorthi, 15, of Oak Hill.

SEE YOUTH, PAGE 12

VIEWPOINTS

What Brings You to the Conference?

—JULIA ZHOU

PHOTOS BY JULIA ZHOU/
THE CONNECTION

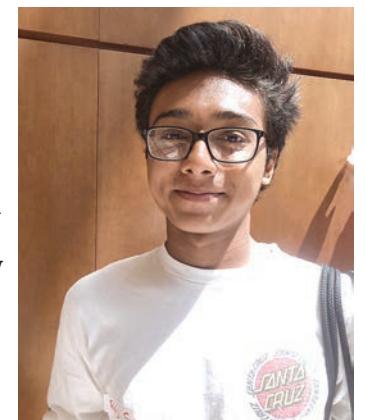
Christy Gao, 17, of McLean: "I'm the co-president of the ESLI club at Langley, therefore I'm here to learn about ways I can help to expand our club activities and help the kids in my community to start caring about the environment."



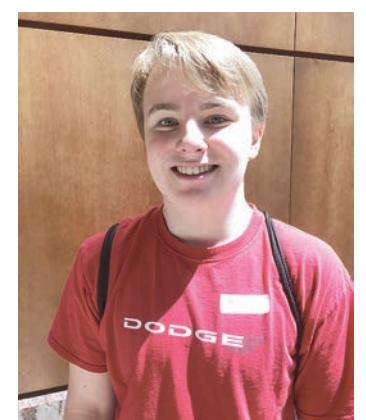
Bridget Lee, 17, of Great Falls: "Our actions are hurting our Earth's environment and therefore the health of plants, animals, and us. If we continue our harmful actions, the Earth will continue on this path. I want to join students like Greta Thurnberg in helping the environment for all our benefit."



Raj Solanki, 15 of Herndon: "[I came today] to learn about how we can help the environment by teaching others about how important it is."



Devin Cates, 16, of Herndon: "I hope to spread environmental awareness because there are a lot of people who don't know how fast climate change is coming."



Jasmine Evans, 15 of Chantilly: "I think as time goes on our environment is getting worse and worse. I would like to improve and make future generations know how to take care of it."



OPINION

Campaign Finance Reform? Yes

Surprise! “No limits” can stimulate large amounts of campaign cash for many kinds of candidates and from many kinds of donors.

EDITORIAL Virginia is one of 11 states (Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, North Dakota, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, and Virginia) that impose no contribution limits on individual donors, says the National Conference of State Legislatures. The other 39 states restrict the amount of money that any one individual can contribute to a state campaign.

But Virginia has no limits. No limits on what any individual can give to a candidate. No limits on what a state party can give to a candidate. No limits on what a PAC can give to a candidate. No limits on what a corporation can give to a candidate. No limits on what a union or employee organization can give to a candidate.

Only Utah, Oregon, Nebraska, and Alabama impose literally no limits as Virginia does.

Virginia's General Assembly, and established candidates, usually the primary beneficiary of this permissive environment for contributions, have chosen this stance deliberately. Supporters often cite disclosure requirements as somehow making unlimited campaign cash OK.

More money doesn't always lead to success for a candidate. The following information on contributions comes from Virginia Public Access Project.

Tim Chapman loaned \$845,094 to his own campaign seeking the Democratic nomination for chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Chapman also lost because even with all that money to get his message out, apparently his message did not resonate with voters. Jeff McKay, who won the Democratic nominee for chairman of the Board of Supervisors. McKay raised \$448,443.

Maggie Parker, running for the Democratic nomination for Hunter Mill supervisor, had

more than twice as much in contributions than the winning candidate. But more than half of her cash contributions, more than \$90,000, came from her employer, Comstock Partners, developer with multiple projects in Hunter Mill. Parker finished fourth out of five candidates.

Steve Descano ran on a platform of criminal justice reform. He loaned himself \$25,000 and received support from family. He also received more than \$450,000 from the Justice and Public Safety PAC; VPAP lists its business as “Democrat Advocacy.”

Descano won his challenge over Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Morrogh, who was facing his first challenge and had \$242,011 in contributions. Descano's message of progressive reform resonated with voters who turned out to vote.

Yes, let's have campaign finance reform and sensible limits on donations.

Making Suicide Prevention a Priority

BY MICHAEL BALLARD

COMMENTARY Every 28 seconds someone makes a suicide attempt.

My first experience with suicide was in 1963 when I was 17. A teacher pulled me aside: “Ballard, your mother called. Your uncle killed himself this morning.” He turned around and walked off. I wanted to scream. My

Uncle Ashby was my hero — a UVA boxer, decorated vet, successful dentist, proud father of three beautiful daughters, and great athlete.

Why would he kill himself?

Since Ashby's death, I've asked the question too often. A college classmate died of suicide. A neighbor I babysat had a hunting “accident” alone in the woods. A former girlfriend died of suicide. Two former employees, wonderful, sensitive, creative individuals, took their own lives.

Two siblings have attempted. Several times. I worry about them every day.

I wish I could end here, but two years ago when I was in California for the national Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk for Suicide Prevention, my daughter called. My grandson, 12 at the time, was having a mental health crisis and had just entered a psychiatric hospital. We learned he'd been wrestling with demons for over a year. They were telling him he was worthless—didn't deserve to live.

My daughter and son-in-law are two of the finest, most loving and supportive parents I have ever seen. My grandson is a boy's boy – soccer, basketball, baseball, now Lacrosse, wrestling, and trumpet – and a good student, loved by everyone. Yet he didn't feel life was worth living. Today, he has a good counselor and support group, and has learned survival skills. But we keep a watchful eye and listen carefully.

These are the reasons why, on June 9th, I will be on Capitol Hill meeting with Rep. Wexton and Senators Kaine and Warner to urge them to make suicide prevention a top legislative priority.

I will be asking them to support:

1. Increased funding for suicide prevention research within The National Institute of Mental Health to a level commensurate with the suicide crisis in our country;
2. Strengthened reporting requirements for mental health parity;
3. Full funding of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;
4. Maintaining Service member and Veteran suicide prevention as a national priority.

In my meetings, I will be a voice for suicide prevention. I will be joined by passionate community leaders of the ever-growing movement of people who care about preventing suicide because they too have been

affected by suicide. You can join us by calling your member of Congress and asking them to make suicide prevention the priority it deserves to be.

The writer is a resident of Great Falls, Former Chair, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA and Board Member, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Virginia Needs Congress to Fight Alzheimer's

To the Editor:

I lost my Dad and my Grandmother (his mother) to Alzheimer's. Both were diagnosed in their 50s. My Dad was 68 when he died. This disease is always fatal. We must find a cure or a way to prevent this horrible disease.

Nearly 5.8 Million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease nationwide and 16 million serve as unpaid Alzheimer's caregivers,

according to the 2019 Alzheimer's Association special report. Among them are the 150,000 living here in Virginia and their 465,000 caregivers.

Today, I am urging U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly to cosponsor the Improving HOPE for Alzheimer's Act (S 880/HR 1873). This piece of bi-partisan legislation will educate clinicians on care planning services available under Medicare and on the care planning billing

code that was originally established under the original Hope for Alzheimer's Act.

The state of Virginia needs your help, Congressman Connolly. Please support this crucial bill and bring us one step closer to a world without Alzheimer's disease.

Michelle Alonso
Alzheimer's Association
Ambassador
Vienna

Write The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 2

charging Failure to Obey a Court Order on Disorderly Conduct was served and he was charged with Possession of Marijuana.

Civil Dispute — Silva's Patisserie 167 Glyndon Street, SE June 14, 9:35 a.m. The property manager for the shopping center reported that the owners of Silva's Patisserie moved out of their rented space, breaking their lease. In the process, the owners took several items that the manager advised belonged to the shopping center. The property manager advised they would pursue civil action in the matter.

Suspicious Person — 100 Block Tapawingo Road, SE June 14, 7:45 p.m. A resident was checking on her new home that is under construction when she found a woman walking around inside the house. The resident advised the woman was very confrontational with her when she asked her to leave. The resident did not wish to pursue charges at this time. Officers advised the woman to leave the property and that she may be charged with trespass if she returns.

Arrest - Driving While Intoxicated — 500 Block Maple Avenue, West June 15, 2:15 a.m. MPO Borja observed a driver commit a traffic violation and initiated a traffic stop. Upon the officer's interaction with the driver, she detected signs of impairment. The driver failed to complete a series of sobriety tests and was placed under arrest. The driver was transported to the Vienna Police Station, where he provided a sample of his breath for analysis.

MPO Borja transported the 35-year-old man from Remington Road in Oakton to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged

with Driving While Intoxicated.

Lost Property — 300 Block Moore Avenue, SE June 15 between 6:30 a.m. and 8 p.m. A resident reported a lost license plate from his vehicle.

Fraud — 1000 Block Moorefield Hill Place, SW June 15, 12 p.m. A resident reported that an unknown person was using her personal identity to open accounts and a business.

Found Property — Courthouse Road and Nutley Street, SW June 15, 7:30 p.m. A resident turned in a set of keys that he found in the area.

Vandalism — 100 Block Carter Court, SW Between June 16 at 5 p.m. and June 17 at 8 a.m. A resident reported vandalism to his vehicle when he found a broken window. Nothing appeared to be missing from the vehicle.

Suspicious Person — 600 Block Valley Drive, SE June 16, 10:10 p.m. Officers responded to the report of 4 people entering the park after dark. The officers located the men on the bike trail and advised them of the park hours. The men agreed to leave the area.

Arrest – Trespassing — 400 Block Pine Street, SE June 17, 11 a.m. An employee reported a man in her office who had previously been trespassed. The man advised he was a civil process server who was attempting to serve the employee. He further advised he was aware that he was trespassed from the property.

Ofc. Sterling issued a summons to the 49-year-old man from Chantilly, charging Trespassing. The man was released on his signature.

Found Property — Patrick Street and Desale Street, SE June 18, 2:38 a.m. An officer picked up a bicycle that he found abandoned on the sidewalk.



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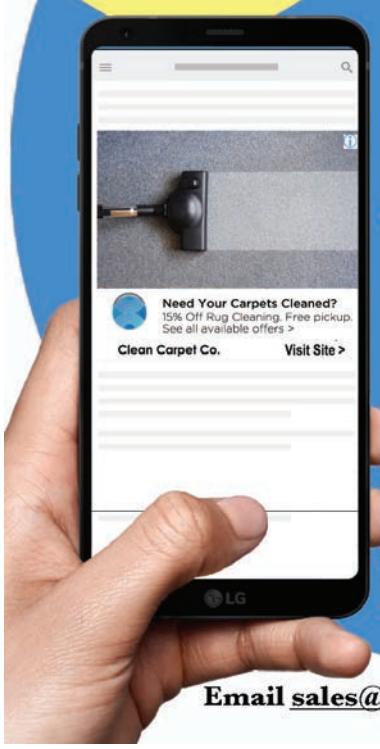


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Senior Living

A Difficult Conversation

Talking to loved ones about Alzheimer's Disease

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

After witnessing the slow decline of family members with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, Ana Nelson knows the importance of early recognition of signs of the disease and enacting a plan as early as possible. During the month of June, Alzheimer's & Brain Awareness Month, Nelson who is Vice President of Programs and Services with the Alzheimer's Association National Capital Area Chapter, is working to encourage family members who notice signs of cognitive decline in a loved one, to have open dialogue, no matter how difficult.

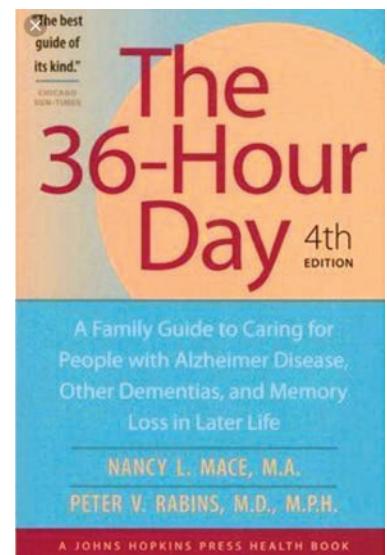
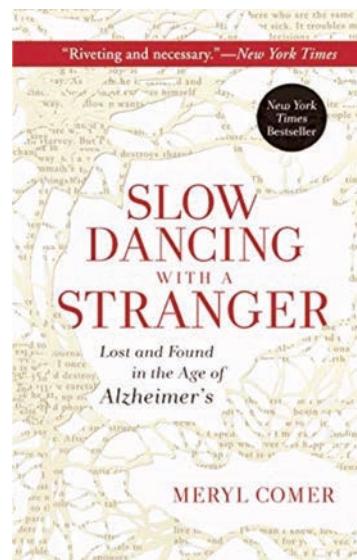
"You're always thinking that your parents or loved ones are going to be around for a long time, but we're talking about a disease where there's no way to stop it or cure it," said Nelson. "Alzheimer's is a progressive and incurable disease. You need to have the conversation as soon as you notice symptoms so that you can plan for it. Families sometimes wait too."

A new survey released by the Alzheimer's Association reveals that nearly 9 in 10 Americans say that if there were experiencing signs of cognitive decline they would want their loved ones to share their concerns. However, nearly three out of four Americans say talking to a close family member about such a decline would be challenging for them.

To offer ideas for closing that communication gap, Nelson points to a recently launched national campaign and partnership between the Alzheimer's Association and the Ad Council. The project, called "Our Stories" uses stories from real people who've noticed cognitive changes in a family member and initiated a conversation.

An early diagnosis allows families to plan both financially and legally for the future. Recognizing the signs of mental decline allows for a timely diagnosis. "The most common early symptom of Alzheimer's is difficulty in remembering recent events," said Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "Later symptoms are getting lost, problems with language, mood swings, lack of self-care, impulsivity, or lack of motivation."

Before initiating a conversation, plan the way in which it might begin. "You can share what you have observed," said therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C. "For example, 'It seems you are having trouble with remembering some things' and give examples. You can ask, 'Is this frustrating for you? Have you noticed or



Among the resources recommended for those dealing with Alzheimer's are books entitled, "The 36 Hour Day" and "Slow Dancing with a Stranger."

For Assistance:

The Alzheimer's Association offers help to families as they navigate challenges of the disease. They offer face-to-face conversations with local experts and a free 24/7 Helpline 800.272.3900. Additional resources can be found at alz.org.

spoken to your doctor?"

"I recommend being direct, yet warm and caring," added Joanne Bagshaw, PhD, Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College.

Offering comfort and support can make the conversation less daunting, "You might say, 'I'm beginning to feel concerned about your health because I've noticed that you are having some trouble with your memory lately'" said Bagshaw. "Have you noticed that as well? How can I support you?"

Even with advanced preparation the conversation might not go as planned, says Nelson. "This is a delicate issue that might require multiple conversations," she said.

Encourage the family member to seek medical advice for an accurate diagnosis, suggests Barnaby. "Some mental confusion can be caused by certain medications, so it isn't always dementia," she said.

Be flexible realizing the conversation might not go as planned and raise concerns subtly. "Ask them if they have any concerns," said Barnaby. "You might say, 'I have been wondering how you are doing.'

You haven't seemed your usual self. I am wondering if you have noticed anything."

The Alzheimer's Association offers resources and assistance to those living with Alzheimer's and their families, says Nelson. "We are just a phone call away," said Nelson. "We offer help 24 hours a day, seven days in week and in more than 200 languages. It doesn't have to be a crisis situation. You can call even if you just need help."

PEOPLE

Excelling at School, Community, Athletics

In May 2019, the 17th Artillery Regiment Association awarded college scholarships to four students, including three granddaughters and a daughter of an active duty soldier. The four scholarships totaled \$5,500. Each scholarship winner received a monetary award, a Congratulations Letter, and a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Certificate of Achievement. Each year the 17th Artillery Regiment Association awards scholarship grants to children and grandchildren of veterans and current active duty soldiers who have served with this regiment. Applicants must meet the association's eligibility requirements and are evaluated on academic achievement, community service, extra-curricular activities at school, an essay on a different annual topic, and a faculty member's letter of recommendation.

The 2019 runner-up winner was Kayla Krieger of Vienna, a 2019 graduate of Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria. She graduated with a 4.145 GPA.

She dedicated herself to achieving outstanding grades in all her courses; and she also excelled in community service, music, and athletics. She played on her school's soccer team, was selected as the Team captain; and earned a Varsity Letter. She was the Secretary of the Key Club and was selected to the National Honor Society. She also displayed initiative as the Founder of



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Former 17th Artillery Battalion Commander, LTC Mark Krieger, presents Kayla Krieger, his daughter, with a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship.

the Eco-Schools Leadership Initiative and a String Ensemble.

Her school counselor describes Kayla as "a high achiever ... has a strong internal drive, an innate source of intensity, energy, and power that enables her to push hard to get things done ... She is guided by core values like honesty and loyalty."

For her accomplishments, Kayla Krieger was honored at her high school's awards ceremony and received a 17th Artillery Regiment Association Scholarship award of \$1,500. Her connection to the 17th Artillery is through her father, Mark Krieger, who was the Battalion Commander, of the 1st Battalion, 17th Artillery in Korea, in 2011 to 2013.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Drop-in Mah Jongg. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules and should bring their current American MJ League card. For McLean District residents. Email emvarner@verizon.net for more.

Oak Marr Farmers' Market. 8 a.m.-noon at Oak Marr RECenter, 3200 Jermantown Road, Oakton. Every Wednesday through Nov. 13, rain or shine. Vendors include produce, meats, eggs, cheeses, pies, cured and smoked meats, popsicles, sorbet, bread, croissants, falafel sandwiches, humus, and pesto. Call 703-281-6501 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/oak-marr for more.

McLean Farmers Market. Fridays, through Nov. 15, 8 a.m.-noon at Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Sixteen local farmers and producers will sell fresh produce and fruits; meats; breads and pastries; jams; dairy products and eggs; herbs; flowers; coffee, and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/mclean.

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.

Oakton Farmers Market. Saturdays, 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.

THURSDAY/JUNE 27

Nottoway Nights: City of Fairfax Band 'Alte Kameraden' (Music of Germany). 7:30 p.m. at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Thursday evenings, June 20-Aug. 22 (except July 4). Bring a picnic and a blanket or chair. For last minute weather cancellations call 703-324-7469 one hour prior to the program start time.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Ants Ants Ants. 10:30 a.m. at Wolf Trap Children's Theatre-in-the-Woods, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. With their optimistic lyrics and innovative instrumentation, Ants Ants Ants offers an invitation into that golden childhood we always dreamed of having and creating for the ones we love. Ages 2 and older. \$10. Visit www.wolftrap.org.

Summer on the Green: Sarah Bennet

Swanner. 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. The Summer on the Green concert series returns to Vienna's Town Green Friday nights through Aug. 23. Please see the text below or the attached release for details. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. In the event of rain, check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

July 4th in June. All day at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Get the nation's birthday party started early. The park opens at dawn and the fun continues until the last fireworks disappear from the sky after dark. The water park is open 10 a.m.-8 p.m. There will be live music with Modern Vintage and the U.S. Navy Band Commodores from 3:30-9 p.m. Food vendors will be on hand throughout the day. Fireworks begin at 9:15 p.m.. The park generally closes to new arrivals around 8:45 p.m. Walk or bike to the park and admission is free. There is a parking fee of \$10 per vehicle. The rain date Sunday, June 30. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

Intro Canoeing Tour. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills S., Great Falls. Come and experience the upper Potomac's beautiful scenery and wildlife from the water. Start with an introduction to canoeing basics and then head out onto the river with an instructor. This is not a whitewater tour and is good for canoeing beginners. There will be three people per canoe and paddling and safety gear is provided. \$41 per person. For participants age



The Celebrate Great Falls Foundation had their own float topped with a white gazebo at the 2018 Home.

4th Of July Hometown Celebration and Parade

Great Falls celebrates the 4th of July. Thursday, July 4, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre. 6 p.m. at Turner Farm Park. Free admission. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/4th-of-july-hometown-celebration/ for more.



Seussical The Musical

The McLean Community Players return to the Alden Theatre with the musical "Seussical," which opens July 12, 2019, and runs weekends through July 28. "Seussical" brings together many beloved Dr. Seuss characters. Running weekends: July 12-14, July 19-21 and July 26-28; Friday-Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. \$15-\$28. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org for more.

16 to adult and will be canceled in the event of inclement weather or hazardous river conditions. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

www.celebrategreatfalls.org

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Get Prepped for Paddling. 8:30-9:30 a.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Pick up the skills needed to paddle the Potomac and other waterways this summer by enrolling in "Intro to River Kayaking" at Riverbend Park. The hour-long session will cover river hazards, water safety and paddling basics. \$32 per person. The fee includes equipment and a half-day kayak rental on the day of class for more practice. For participants age 14 to adult. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Summer Concerts: Sonia de Los Santos. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 or visit [www.aldentheatre.org](http://aldentheatre.org).

Concerts on the Green: The Alan Scott Band. 6-8 p.m. on the Great Falls Village Centre Green. Bring picnic baskets, chairs and blankets for an evening of live music. Free. Visit

Kids on the Green: Reptiles Alive (live animals).

10 a.m. on the Vienna Town Green. The Kids on the Green series is a weekly collection of interactive animal shows, magicians, puppet performances, and more, running through Aug. 20. Free. Visit viennava.gov for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 3

Stories, Songs & Sprinklers. 1 p.m. on the Freeman Store lawn. Partnering with Historic Vienna, Inc., the Town of Vienna invites young children and families to an afternoon of storybook reading, short songs, and fun with water sprinklers. Free. Visit viennava.gov

THURSDAY/JULY 4

4th Of July Hometown Celebration and Parade. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Great Falls Village Centre. 6 p.m. at Turner Farm Park. Free admission. Visit celebrategreatfalls.org/event/4th-of-july-hometown-celebration/ for more.

❖ 8 a.m. — **5K Walk/Run** at the Great Falls Freedom Memorial. Visit runsignup.com/Race/VA/GreatFalls/July45K to register.

❖ 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. — **INOVA Blood Drive** with

the Great Falls Volunteer Fire Department. Photo ID required. Allow 1 hour for donor visit. See you there!

- ❖ 9 a.m. — **Little Patriot Parade** on the Village Centre Green (at the Gazebo). Babies and Toddlers up to age 5 are welcome to parade their finest patriotic display around the Green.
- ❖ 10 a.m. — **Main Parade** around the Great Falls Village Centre. See the floats, horses, antique cars and pets making a loop in the Main Parade.
- ❖ 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. — **Festivities, Food & Fun.** After the parade, enjoy burgers, dogs and snow-cones along with music, field games and festivities on the Village Centre Green.
- ❖ 6 p.m. — **Fireworks & Fun** at Turner Farm Park. Gates open at 6. Pack up the family and come tailgate with neighbors. Live music, games, contests and food trucks will entertain until the Big Show gets underway just after dusk.

Vienna Sprinklers and Sparklers. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Features three water slides and a bevy of other water activities for children as well as five food trucks and snow cones. Kids (and adults who may encounter collateral water damage) should be prepared to get really wet and to have a really good time. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6361.

McLean 4th Of July Fireworks Celebration. 6:30 p.m. at Langley High School, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Enjoy a DJ, food trucks, and fireworks. Free onsite parking (limited). Free satellite parking and shuttle buses (handicapped equipped) from McLean Community Center and St. John's Episcopal Church. The following are prohibited on school grounds: smoking, alcohol, vaping, glass containers, personal fireworks, weapons and pets. Free admission. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 703-790-0123.

Vienna Big Bang Fireworks. 7:15 p.m. at Yeonas Park, 1319 Ross Drive SW, Vienna. Vienna will host its annual big bang show. Josh Christina Band. The Vienna Little League concession stand and food trucks will serve up food and non-alcoholic beverages. The fireworks show, courtesy of Navy Federal Credit Union, starts around 9:30. Visit viennava.gov or call 703-255-6361.

FRIDAY/JULY 5

Get Hooked on Fishing. 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Riverbend is offering "River Fishing by Boat." In this class, participants age 5- adult will learn to fish for smallmouth bass and sunfish from a canoe or jon boat. Previous experience rowing or paddling is not required, and boats, PFDs, fishing rods and bait are provided. There will be a maximum of three participants per boat, one of whom must be 16 or older. Each participant must register. \$16 per person. If the weather's bad or river conditions are hazardous, the program will be canceled. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Summer on the Green: U.S. Navy Band: Commodores (big band jazz). 6:30 p.m. on Vienna's Town Green. The Summer on the Green concert series returns to Vienna's Town Green Friday nights through Aug. 23. Please see the text below or the attached release for details. Bring chairs and/or blankets. No alcoholic beverages are permitted. Consider leaving pets at home. Check the weather line at 703-255-7842. Learn more at www.viennava.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3997.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Get Hooked on Fishing. 9:30 a.m. at Lake Fairfax Park, 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston. Lake Fairfax Park is offering the "Fishing Fun" series for children age 7-11 on Saturdays from July 6-27. Participants will learn fishing basics. The class helps participants improve fishing skills with spinning- and closed-faced reels while teaching safety, catch-and-release fishing and protecting the environment. All equipment is provided. \$66 per child for four sessions, plus a supply fee of \$20 payable at the first class. Call 703-471-5414 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax.

SUNDAY/JULY 7

Summer Concerts: DuPont Brass. 5 p.m. in the gazebo of McLean Central Park, 1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. The Alden at the McLean Community Center is again sponsoring free summer concerts in the gazebo of McLean Central Park featuring a mix of musical genres. Call 703-790-0123 [www.aldentheatre.org](http://aldentheatre.org).

www.CONNECTIONNewspapers.com

BULLETIN

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

STEM Professionals Needed. Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaldrea@aol.com.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 28-30

Women's Summit. Tysons McLean Hilton, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Speakers and workshops cover women in politics, education, equality, diversity, environment, healthcare, racial and social justice, reproductive freedom, public safety, rural economy, voting rights, and family friendly economy. \$139. Visit networknova.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Forum on Disability Inclusion. 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and The Arc of Northern Virginia will host a Disability Inclusion Conference, which will include over 25 display tables, a panel discussion, and community breakout sessions on

topics such as employment, housing, public safety, social opportunities, and business-to-business tips for creating inclusive retail spaces. Coffee and a light breakfast will be provided. Free to attend. All members of the community are welcome. More information and registration is available at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman/disabilityinclusionconference2019.

MONDAY/JULY 1

Application Deadline. Each year, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia provides a grant opportunity to help public schools encourage healthy lifestyles through increased exercise and better nutrition. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded in a competitive grant process. Public elementary, middle and high schools located in Northern Virginia are all eligible to apply. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants for more.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is After Hospitalization: What's Next? Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



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Legals

ABC LICENSE

A Mayan LLC trading as Mi Senorita, 10443 White Granite Dr., Oakton, VA 22124-2778. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer on Premise and Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Ajay Prakash, 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

Legals

ABC LICENSE

DKMC LLC, trading as CHI MC, 126 BRANCH RD. STE B VIENNA VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a BEER AND WINE/MIX BEVERAGE ON PREMISES license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. DONG KO/MEMBER OF DKMC LLC.. 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.

Announcements

Summer Warehouse Sale

Vintage, rustic decor for home, garden & events!
June 28, 10AM - 4PM
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318 Dominion Rd NE, Vienna VA 22180
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NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Local and State officials and partners at groundbreaking.

Breaking Ground for Leesburg Pike Improvements

Officials broke ground Thursday, June 13, on almost seven miles of transportation improvements coming to Leesburg Pike (Route 7) designed to increase capacity, improve safety and traffic flow, and provide better mobility for cyclists and pedestrians.

The project includes adding a third lane to Route 7 in each direction from Reston Avenue to Jarrett Valley Drive in Tysons, building shared-use paths along both sides, replacing and raising the bridge

over Difficult Run, adding a pedestrian underpass for Colvin Run Mill Park access, as well as making other substantial intersection, bicycle and pedestrian improvements along the corridor.

One of the first milestones, a new triple-left turn from westbound Route 7 to southbound Baron Cameron Avenue, is expected to be complete by late August 2019. The entire project is scheduled for completion in summer 2024.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
Georgette Grossman



African Daisy

PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGETTE GROSSMAN

Local Photographic Gems on Display at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens

Photographer Georgette Grossman of Dunn Loring, received the honor of having her photograph "African Daisy" as the cover art for a recent issue of Washington Gardener Magazine. Grossman's "African Daisy" and more than a dozen other photography gems are on display at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna through July 30, 2019. All photos were taken in Northern Virginia and D.C. metro area gardens.

Grossman, a member of the Northern Virginia Photographic Society, describes herself as "an avid photographer."

"I have submitted images to the annual Washington Gardener Magazine Photo Contest since 2014," said Grossman in a recent interview. "I was

Where and When

Washington Gardener Photo Display at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Photographs on display until July 30. For information call 703-255-3631 or visit www.novaparks.com/parks/meadowlark-botanical-gardens

stunned when my 'African Daisy' was chosen for the February 2019 cover. This flower was the last one I photographed on a late April afternoon at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens. The colors and detail of the petals caught my eye and screamed 'photograph me!' I am happy I listened."

— DAVID SIEGEL

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BULLETIN

FROM PAGE 9

p.m. at McLean Governmental Center, Rooms A & B, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtar5@verizon.net.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Movie Screening: Proof of Heaven. 2-4 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Best-selling author of Proof of Heaven: A Neurosurgeon's Journey into the Afterlife, Dr. Eben Alexander will describe his personal near-death experience and the lessons he has learned. \$25. Register at proofofheavenunity.eventbrite.com.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Nomination Deadline. The nomination process for the 2019 annual Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards are underway. The Fairfax County Champions of Character Awards program honors youth, coaches and parents for extraordinary service in pursuing victory with honor in various athletics programs throughout Fairfax County. Anyone can nominate a player, coach or parent for consideration of a Champions of Character Award. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/athletics/champions-of-character for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 3

Low Cost Rabies Vaccine Clinic. 9-11 a.m. at Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic. Dogs must be on leashes; cats and ferrets must be in carriers. All pets will receive a 1-year rabies vaccination. To obtain a 3-year vaccine, bring pet's rabies certificate (not tag) showing the current rabies vaccination expiration date. 2019 county dog licenses will be sold for an additional \$10 per license. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/communityassistance/rabiesclinics for more.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Parent Support Partners, a service of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nami-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

Shepherd's Center of Oakton Vienna
Caregivers' Support Group takes place first and third Thursday of each month, 10-11:30 a.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (UUCF) - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtar5@verizon.net.

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

Virginia Chronic Pain Support Group Meets from 1:30-3 p.m. the 2nd Wednesday of each month at Kaplan Center for Integrative Medicine, 6829 Elm St., Suite 300, McLean. Group leader, Jodi Brayton, LCSW. 703-532-4892.

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That of Which I'm Most Proud



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not ending the title of this column with a preposition?

Not starting either of these sentences with a "so?"

Not beginning any of the first three sentences with an "especially" or an "and" (although I do begin many sentences with "And," just neither of these so far)?

No, of what I'm most proud, at least in the context of the nonsense I've presented so far, is my ability, going on a few months now, to ignore the illuminated warning lights on the dashboards of both of our cars: "Maint Req'd" on one and the low tire pressure icon on the other.

Typically, these kinds of non-stop reminders would have bothered me – like having an itch you can't scratch or a stone in your shoe.

Not anymore. These dashboard reminders barely register a blip on Kenny's radar.

I place the key in the ignition. I turn on the car. I see the various dashboard lights illuminate. And after the engine has begun idling, I see the remaining lights.

No problem. I just place my foot on the accelerator and go.

Though I might give these "idiot" lights a first thought and a second look, I will not be giving them too many more thoughts or looks as I drive around. Nor will they bother me in arrears when I arrive at my destination. Out of sight and out of mind, "totally," to quote my late mother.

As you may have discerned from reading the two preceding paragraphs, as it involves cars, I'm not exactly a hands-on person. More like, hands off.

Granted, this lack of interest and, dare I say, manliness, has no doubt cost me thousands of labor-rate dollars at the dealership/mechanic.

But it's just not me. It's never been me. I'm a sports and chocolate person. The only thing I want my hands on is the television remote or something sweet.

And tools? To quote your favorite Italian mobster: "Forget about it."

Definitely hands off, literally, especially if there's a car in the driveway. As far as I'm concerned, that's the danger zone. Nothing good will ever come from yours truly entering it.

In fact, I'm almost positive the repair will end up costing me more if I do it myself (which I couldn't do anyway). Throw in the frustration and perspiration involved and you have a match made nowhere near heaven.

Heaven will have to wait, I suppose.

Spending the repair dollars I have over the years doesn't thrill me either. But I have no choice. I can't do anything about my lack of abilities.

To quote the great philosopher, Popeye the Sailor Man: "I 'yam what I 'yam." And I have to pay what I have to pay. I remember always dreading the repair cost when a dashboard warning light would appear.

I knew that light (like the wedding invitation George received in a long-ago Seinfeld episode) was going to cost me hundreds of dollars. Hundreds of dollars which I did not have. That warning light, to invoke George from the same episode was "a bill." But as I've proved recently, that's a "bill" I've been able to ignore.

I know, ignoring a warning light seems stupid. Where's the future in that?

The repair is unlikely to fix itself and unless the bulb illuminating the warning light burns out, my negligence/ability to ignore it, is likely making a bad situation worse. Unfortunately – or not – however, I don't have a Pavlovian response to seeing that light. Seeing it doesn't make me instinctively react anymore.

It's not like banging one's knee with a "doctor's hammer." My wallet doesn't just open when the dashboard warns me. I just drive on.

Now if the light starts flashing, that's a different story, and one I haven't written yet, and I hope I never do. Because if that light does start flashing, I won't be able to ignore it, and likely, not be able to afford it, either.

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

NEWS

PHOTOS BY CARLYN KRANKING/THE CONNECTION



Elizabeth Dawes, Brennan Ebert, Isabella Moutinho and Joshua Dornfeld were presented with scholarships at this year's Vienna Youth Soccer annual meeting. Dawes and Dornfeld had family members pick up their certificates for them.

Four Students Awarded Vienna Youth Soccer Scholarships

League gives back to community in inaugural year of scholarship program.

BY CARLYN KRANKING
THE CONNECTION

Isabella Moutinho recalls her father coaching her Vienna Youth Soccer team when she was young. He took her and her friends to a Ronald McDonald soccer tournament, and between games, there was entertainment for her and her teammates.

"I remember my friends and I all got up on stage and we sang karaoke to this really obscure song," Moutinho said. "It was just one of those memories where it was like, 'These are all of my really great friends that I've made through Vienna soccer, but also through a sport that I love, while building a relationship with my dad.'"

Moutinho, 18, has played for Vienna Youth Soccer (VYS) since she was five years old. Over the years, it's given her friendships, an outlet for her love for soccer – and now, \$2,500 to put toward college expenses. Moutinho was one of four VYS scholarship winners this spring, in the inaugural year of the scholarship program.

THE WINNERS were Elizabeth (Lulu) Dawes, Brennan Ebert and Joshua Dornfeld of James Madison High School and Moutinho of George C. Marshall High School. These high school seniors were chosen for their interest in soccer, outstanding academic performance, extracurricular participation, an essay and recommendation. While VYS received 22 impressive applications, these four students really stood out.

"There were so many applicants that were so good, the fact that these four came through basically speaks to the fact that they had all of the different pieces," said John Denemark, vice president of marketing for VYS and member of the selection committee. "They had a love of soccer that they showed over the years, but also, they did other things than soccer."

Dawes was print editor-in-chief of her award-winning school newspaper, and she was president of a Holocaust transcription program at her school, tran-



The selection committee presents Isabella Moutinho, 18, with her certificate for earning a VYS scholarship.

scribing videos of Holocaust survivors for the D.C. Holocaust Museum. Moutinho has volunteered with many political campaigns and recently interned for a candidate running for Virginia governor, where she managed canvassing volunteers. She was also editor-in-chief of her school's award-winning yearbook.

This year, Dornfeld was captain of his school's varsity indoor track team and served as Northern Virginia Council President for the Jewish Youth Group BBYO, and he has held other positions in the past. Ebert held many leadership positions and organized service projects for his Boy Scout troop. For his Eagle Scout Project, he collected gently used soccer equipment that, through two beneficiary organizations, was distributed to communities in Haiti and Maryland.

EACH STUDENT additionally has a long list of other accomplishments. Many were captains of their VYS soccer teams or volunteered with TOPSoccer, a program for children with disabilities. And just as these students have contributed greatly to VYS, the program has also influenced their lives.

"[VYS] provided a way to make connections with people," Ebert said. "I developed both connections with adults and friendships."

Denemark said the scholarship program was intended to strengthen ties with the community and give back to VYS members. This was the first year they awarded scholarships, and Denemark said it won't be the last.

"We were frankly stunned at the talent that's out there in this area and among our members, and we were very encouraged," Denemark said. "We're looking forward to doing it again for many years to come."



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Samba Pathak, 17 of Fairfax, a student at Oakton High School and Conference Co-Chair, shares that ESLI is in partnership with Fairfax County Park Authority and recently changed its name to Environmental Student Leadership Initiative.

Youth Mobilize to Protect Environment

FROM PAGE 3

Agaurav Sethi, 16 and a student at South County High School in Lorton, was excited to network with other students his age. "I love to work with my peers, and this is the perfect opportunity for me because there are many people here with the same interest and passion," Sethi said.

At the Water Workshop Lesson, co-led by Celeste Phillips, Madison High School student and Maria Harwood, Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District, attendees used a 3D EnviroScape Watershed education model. Through hands-on, multi-sensory experiences, conference attendees learned, as their future young students would learn, what a watershed was, how stormwater runoff carried pollutants through the basin to a pond, lake, river, bay, or ocean, and best practices to prevent this type of pollution from occurring.

Tim Turner, 16 of Lorton, said, "My main goal was to be able to understand more about our environment so I could inform younger children at elementary schools. ... The change starts with them."

AFTER LUNCH, Pat Hynes, Fairfax County School Board, Hunter Mill District, recalled seven years ago when the board received a presentation from the founders of ESLI, "we were very impressed ... but we worried about whether it would last after the founding students graduated. ... Well, not only has ESLI survived, it has thrived," said Hynes.

"The school board's strategic plan is grounded in what we



Pat Hynes who represents the residents of Hunter Mill District on the Fairfax County School Board tells attendees and leaders at the 5th Annual Environmental Student Leadership Initiative (ESLI) that their challenge is to keep up with the members of ESLI and make sure the school system is taking full advantage of what they offer.

call the portrait of a graduate. Those important skills we want our FCPS students to build, collaboration, critical and creative problem-solving, and effective communication, are best taught through project-based learning, real-world problem-solving through student-centered projects. ... We teach best and learn best in community through relationships and meeting real-world challenges," Hynes said, "I don't worry about ESLI continuing any more. Our challenge, as a school system, is to keep up and make sure we are taking full advantage of what you, as students are offering," she said.

For information about those who supported ESLI and how to join an existing chapter or create a new one, visit www.eslileaders.org.