

Benjamin Cudmore, of Vienna, a flex actor, steps in to act as The Cynic for the audience in the Drive-Thru Drama by the Alden Theatre in McLean.



Drive-thru Drama Performed in McLean

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CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

PHOTO BY HEATHER CUDMORE

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

TOWN OF VIENNA SUMMERTIME EVENTS GO VIRTUAL

The Town of Vienna is hosting three series of virtual events over the next couple of months while also hosting a unique 130th birthday celebration in July.

Summer on the Green: Due to precautions taken in response to the coronavirus pandemic, the Town of Vienna's Summer on the Green concerts will be performed on Facebook Live July 10-August 14. Watch live at 6:30 p.m. Friday evenings to make song requests and dedications, enjoy trivia and virtual bingo, and win prizes! If you happen to miss the live shows, you can watch later on Facebook or on YouTube at @TownofViennaVA.

July 10 -- The Sarah Bennett Swanner Band;

July 17 -- Richard Walton Group;

July 24 -- Karl Stoll and the Danger Zone;

July 31 -- TBA;

August 7 -- Big Bad JuJu;

August 14 -- The Hot Lanes Trio with Bobby Jasinski.

Kids on the Green: Enjoy the Town of Vienna's third annual series of free, interactive kids programs, presented in partnership with the Rotary Club of Vienna and other sponsors. Due to the ongoing health crisis, all programs will be presented via Facebook Live this year. If you miss the live stream, watch the shows later on Facebook or YouTube. Performances will be held at 10 am Tuesdays July 7-August 18.

July 7 -- Wildlife Ambassadors - live animal show;

July 14 -- Marsha and the Positrons - kindie rock;

July 21 -- The Great Zucchini - magic (sponsored by Green Hedges School);

July 28 -- Groovy Nate - songs and stories;

August 4 -- Beech Tree Puppets;

August 11 -- Lorenzo the Great - magic;

August 18 -- Mr. Jon - music for kids and families.

Summer Stories & Sprinklers: Set a sprinkler out in your backyard and enjoy the Town's virtual Summer Stories and Songs, co-hosted with Historic Vienna, Inc. These events will be held via Facebook live at 1 pm every Wednesday, July 1-29. Right after the stories, cool off in your own backyard with sprinklers, share your photos on social media using #SummerStoriesandSongs.

July 8 -- Nancy Moats, Historic Vienna, Inc.;

July 15 -- Elizabeth Freese, Operation Paws for Homes;

July 22 -- Patrick Henry Library;

July 29 -- Patrick Henry Library.

Vienna Distance Matters 130K: The Town invites you to celebrate its birthday by participating in the Distance Matters 130K challenge! This challenge is motivating, fun, and, totally doable. Participants can walk, run, hike, bike, or treadmill a cumulative distance of 80.8 miles during the month of July. All participants receive a log to track progress and a medal at completion. The Town is accepting registrations via email at viennavirtualrace@viennava.gov or in person at the community center beginning July 6.

GOVERNOR PROHIBITS CONGREGATING IN BARS

Governor Ralph Northam announced that bar seating will remain prohibited in restaurants as the Commonwealth moves into Phase Three this week. While key health indicators in Virginia are improving, the Governor made clear that he is taking a cautious approach and is prepared to implement tighter restrictions if needed. To reduce the likelihood of patrons gathering in bar areas without observing social distancing guidelines, bar seating and congregating areas of restaurants will remain closed except for those passing through. Restaurants may use non-bar seating in the bar area, as long as a minimum of six feet between tables is provided.

SUNDAY/JULY 12

Blood Drive. 7:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's

always best to sign up online to reserve your spot. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/blood-drive/>

PHASE 3 REOPENING

Fairfax County, along with the rest of the state, entered the third phase of reopening on Wednesday, July 1. Beginning July 1, social gatherings of up to 250 people will be permitted. The new guidelines also end the cap on the number of customers allowed inside non-essential retail stores, restaurants and bars. Previously, these businesses were limited to 50% capacity under Phase Two. These establishments must continue to follow physical distancing requirements, such as keeping tables six feet apart, including bar seating. The third phase also eases restrictions on other facilities:

Personal Care: Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons and tattoo shops may reopen at their normal capacity — but customers still must make appointments to come in. Both customers and employees are required to wear face coverings.

Exercise Facilities: Gyms, recreation centers and sports centers may open indoor areas at 75% of their lowest allowed occupancy. Customers must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before allowed inside, including whether they have a fever of 100.4 degrees or higher. Fitness equipment must be spaced 10 feet apart, and similarly, personal trainers or instructors and exercise class participants must stay 10 feet apart from each other.

Pools: Indoor and outdoor pools may reopen at 75% capacity, and pools are open for free swim, instruction and exercise classes. Swimmers must be screened for coronavirus symptoms before entering. Swimmers and divers must stay 10 feet apart.

Recreational Sports: Indoor and outdoor recreational sports are limited to 250 people or 50% capacity whichever is less. No more than 250 players and attendees are permitted per field at a time, and a 10-foot distance is required between players, spectators and sports officials where possible. Players, coaches and officials must be screened for COVID-19 symptoms before entering a facility.

Entertainment: Outdoor entertainment and amusement venues, such as zoos, gardens, drive-in movie theaters and museums, may reopen at 50% capacity with a maximum of 1,000 people at a time. Performers and audience members must stay 10 feet away from each other, and cars must be parked six feet from each other at drive-ins. Indoor entertainment and amusement businesses continue to remain closed, including museums, movie theaters, concert venues, bowling alleys, trampoline parks and arcades.

Religious Services: Churches, synagogues, mosques and other houses of worship may now reopen at their normal capacity, but worshipers must continue to be seated six feet apart except for families. Food or beverages must be served using disposable containers.

Childcare: They will be able to reopen.

PHOTO CONTEST TO CELEBRATE VIRGINIA WILDLIFE

Wildlife Rescue League (WRL) is hosting a photo contest, Wild Neighbors, to celebrate Northern Virginia's wildlife. Open to anyone, the contest asks shutterbugs to submit any number of photos that capture local wildlife (wild undomesticated animal species) taken in Northern Virginia and surrounding areas. Entries will be judged by the board members of WRL, and the winning photos will be featured in the organization's monthly newsletter, social media channels and website. Photo entries are accepted now through July 15, and the winner will be announced at the end of July. To enter the contest, post your photos on Facebook or Instagram. Tag Wildlife Rescue League (@wildliferescueleague on Facebook and @wildliferescueleague on Instagram) and include #wildneighbors. Afterwards, email your original photos to wrl@wildliferescueleague.org and include your name, the category you are entering (junior or adult), the type of animal in the photo and location (optional). For full details please visit <https://www.wildliferescueleague.org/wild-neighbors/>

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NEWS

Opioid Overdose Prevention System-OOPS

Local students earn top award at global competition.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The Challenge: In Fairfax County, opioids are the number one cause of unnatural death. According to the Virginia Department of Health Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, the proportion of all overdose deaths that include fentanyl and fentanyl analogs is higher in Fairfax than all of Virginia.

During the 2019-2020 school year, three juniors at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Umang Jain of Fairfax, Vyomika Gandhi of Aldie and Justin Choi of McLean took note of the complex opioid crisis in their backyard, Fairfax County. The problem did not have a clear answer. Curiosity turned to passion. Passion led to the Conrad Challenge and, with it, nine-months of intense work to produce a real product and business plan. According to the Conrad Challenge website, the annual multi-phase innovation and entrepreneurship competition encourages students ages 13-18 from across the globe to address some of the most pressing local and global challenges.

JAIN, GANDHI AND CHOI presented their original invention, the Opioid Overdose Prevention System, or OOPS for short, in the Cyber-Technology & Security category, one of seven categories in the competition. Jain said, "Hearing about the Conrad Challenge, we thought this would be a great opportunity to create something we were passionate about, (something we) wanted to develop and bring to the market... In parallel, in our AP class, we were reading about the opioid crisis." Jain said he and his two friends wondered what if anything was "out there to solve this issue now."

Jain said, "Opioid addiction has taken thousands of lives...Our product aims to prevent the onset of opioid addiction through our secure pill dispenser." According to Gandhi, the team's product had three main components: An app that stored all of the patient's data, a pill dispenser that locked and a health band worn on the patient's wrist that continually monitored the patient's respiratory rate and could detect changes in respiration that preceded opioid overdose. Early detection and rapid intervention could prevent death from an opioid overdose. "The health band has multiple microneedle patches to administer naloxone in 2-3-minute intervals as would be done with Narcan or a naloxone injection," said Gandhi.

While none of the students said they personally knew anyone who had overdosed, each grew more and more passionate to help find a solution. Choi acknowledged the team encountered challenges during the prototype process. He said, "The idea that this was a real product, not just what we put down on paper, doing the research and following it through to an end goal was definitely the hardest part." Gandhi said the team collaborated. They reached out to teachers at the high school, such as one who had a doctorate in neuroscience and another who taught AP psychology as well as others outside of school, physicians and more. "We got their feedback. It was helpful when we were trying to find flaws with our idea," she said.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

(From left) Award winners from Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Umang Jain of Fairfax, Vyomika Gandhi of Aldie and Justin Choi of McLean: "Our product aims to prevent the onset of opioid addiction through our secure pill dispenser, but also injects Naloxone through micro-needle patches to save lives when an overdose is detected." (Photo taken students' junior year, 2019-2020 before COVID-19)



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

#CouldBeYou is funded by the Fairfax County Opioid Task Force and made possible through funding from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Call 703-502-7000 for help.

One of the first challenges the team encountered, according to Choi, was the design of the mechanism on the band for injecting the antidote Naloxone that can reverse opioid overdose but requires timely intervention. Choi said the team discarded a skin patch model, such as one used for migraines. Instead, Choi said he created the CAD designs for an injectable mechanism. Next, he sent it to a friend who had a 3D printer to manufacture. "We had all the parts in place but did not have access to a printer," Choi said. COVID-19 impacted their ability.

AFTER WINNING the Conrad Challenge, Jain said, "We plan to connect patient data collected by our product to physicians and doctors while taking lots of security measures, such as utilizing NASA Technology, to prevent any breaching of data. We plan to further our product by working with patent readers, researchers, health care professionals, as well as using machine learning to build a deep learning model that will enable us to predict overdoses well in advance to provide the patient help before it is too late."

According to the organization's website: "The Conrad Challenge honors the legacy of Apollo 12 astronaut, Charles 'Pete' Conrad, and his four-decade passion for innovation and entrepreneurship."



FAIRFAX COUNTY

Robert (Bob) Alden of McLean, civic activist and former Washington Post editor.

Honoring Bob Alden

A community leader who worked to establish the McLean Community Center, McLean Central Park and Dolley Madison Library, died on June 7, 2020.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Robert (Bob) Ames Alden, a community leader who worked to establish the McLean Community Center, McLean Central Park and Dolley Madison Library, passed away on June 7, 2020, at his McLean home at the age of 87. The community center opened in 1975. While Alden opposed having the center named after him, the Robert Ames Alden Theater carries his name. He remained a steadfast supporter of the Alden, "Small Stage. Big Talent," until his death.

The retired Washington Post news and layout editor worked part-time for the Cleveland Press from 1947- 1952 before joining the Post news staff in 1952. He moved to McLean a year later. Alden helped design the inside pages of the newspaper's first section covering wars, riots, natural disasters and more. As night news editor in 1963, Alden put together the extra edition on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy and, in 1974, the historic resignation of President Richard M. Nixon. While working at the Post, Alden attended George Washington University, where he received a bachelor's degree in 1965 and a master's degree in history in 1968. When he retired from the Post in 2000 after 48 years, he held the longest tenure of any editor in the newspaper's history.

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DID FOR OUR COMMUNITY, BOB.

YOU WILL BE MISSED.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

A heartfelt goodbye to Robert (Bob) Alden (1933-2020)

Upon learning of Alden's passing, Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust (D) told his fellow county officials that Alden was a "walking institution" in the District of Columbia and a "leading advocate" in the 1960s and 1970s in allowing women to join the then all men's Press Club. Gil Klein, National Press Club reported on June 15, 2020, that Alden said at the time: "The Club is the most important non-government news forum in Washington... Women are now an important segment of the national press. A court challenge under the 14th Amendment would be disastrous." In the final vote taken at the Club's annual meeting Jan. 15, 1971, the measure passed 227 to 56." Alden was elected president of the Club for 1976. He was the principal founder of the National Press Foundation, which supports educational programs for journalists serving four terms as the Foundation's first president.

Alden is survived by his widow, the former Diane Claire Heidkamp, whom he married in 1958; and their four children: William, Thomas, Jennifer and Martha Alden.

Drive-thru Drama Performed in McLean

The Alden Theatre is putting on a Drive-Thru Drama production of 'Small Change.'

BY JESSICA FENG
THE CONNECTION

After the end of live performances during quarantine, the Alden Theatre is championing a new form of theatre: the Drive-Thru Drama. Starting July 3, the theater is presenting "Small Change," a production centered around the journey of a \$1 bill. Instead of a traditional theater setting, the production is set up so cars can drive through the McLean Community Center parking lot and stop to hear actor monologues.

Danielle Van Hook, Director of Youth Theatre Programs, came up with the idea of the Drive-Thru Drama after attending many Zoom rehearsals. She thought the in-person aspect was missing and drew from the idea of a pageant wagon in which actors moved on wagons through crowds.

"I just thought of what would happen if we sort of flipped that

model. So the actor stays in place but the audience drives through the story and that was sort of the beginning of where this idea came from."

Instead of adapting a previously written piece, Director Andrew Scott Zimmer wrote "Small Change" specifically for the format of the production. He recounts creating the piece to conform with the specifications brought to him by Van Hook.

"When Danielle pitched the idea of staging a play this way, the play didn't exist yet, I went wrote it around the constraints that we had in place. So it's just one of those 'Necessity is the mother of invention' type things where Danielle kind of mapped out how the experience was going to go and I built a piece of theater around that."

COMMUNITY MEMBERS enjoyed the production so much that tickets for both weekends sold out. Audience member Heather Cudmore



Rebecca Blacksten uses hand motions to emphasize her character, The Performer, in the Drive-Thru Drama produced by the Alden Theatre.



PHOTOS BY KYLE CORWIN

In the role of The Student, Abigail Cannon performs a short solo to cars stopping at her station in "Small Change."

watched "Small Change" three times over the weekend and enjoyed the live performance aspect.

"The connection that these face-shield clad characters make with the audience even while watching from our cars is significant. It is great to get out into the real world to experience talented, live actors tell a story that makes you laugh and cry. Yes - I was surprised when a few scenes actually made me teary-eyed in a parking lot, but for those who get a chance to see

the play, I am sure they will agree."

Audience members weren't the only group to have a different experience, cast members also adapted to fit the occasion. Rebecca Blacksten, an actress playing the Performer in "Small Change," compares the experience working in the Drive-Thru Drama with conventional shows.

"Normally the full cast rehearses together and works with one another to create a cohesive piece but for Drive-Thru, we all practiced

separately and we didn't get to see each other's work. It's wild to try new things at every car and to see personal reactions because it's easy to have a huge crowd of reactions, but it's freaky and kind of fun to have one or two people staring at you while you do a 3-minute piece for them."

EVEN AFTER SOCIAL DISTANCING restrictions end, Van Hook hopes for the Drive-Thru model to continue. She suggests it as a way

SEE DRIVE-THRU, PAGE 6

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Pathway Homes Presents Summer of the Arts Exhibit

Original works available for sale at Vienna Arts Society gallery.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Purple Piece, Organ, Lion Pride, City Lights, Violent Behavior. These are names of some of the 30 works of art presented in Pathway Homes' Summer of the Arts 2020 on display at Vienna Arts Society gallery located at 513 Maple Avenue West # 1. The Society donated use of its gallery space to Pathway Homes, a nonprofit based in Fairfax that serves residents from across the County. The display showcases the raw beauty and creative powers of the artists who are the consumers that Pathway Homes serve.

According to the Pathway Homes website, the nonprofit organization provides: "services to adults with severe mental illnesses and/or co-occurring disorders, including substance abuse or intellectual disabilities, in two ways: We situate individuals with a history of homelessness in supported housing, and we provide supportive services to others, allowing them to retain their own housing."



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Anna Smith Director of Development at Pathway Homes prepares to install the Linoleum Block Printing, David's Resting Head by Sue. (Last name withheld by request)

"We are exhibiting...works by 14 artists," said Liz Susla nonprofit consultant. Most works are for sale with all proceeds going to the artists. The exhibit honors Karen Free, a Pathway Homes resident and artist who passed away in 2011.


SEE PATHWAY, PAGE 6

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-Werner Heisenberg

Announcements

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

NEWS



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Anna Smith Director of Development at Pathway Homes looks for a place to exhibit **Angry Bird**, by Brittany. (Last name withheld by request)

Pathway Homes Exhibit

FROM PAGE 5

This year's selections represent a broad range of types and styles created by the artists. For many, creative expression through drawing, painting, block printing, fabric art, and more provided a therapeutic outlet for expressing and understanding their mental state.

"Through art, I find hope and strength," said Artist Brittany. "My art is based on joy," said Artist Robert. "(Art) helps me get out of myself. Being able to transcend fear and sadness to create a work of art has given me a lot of hope," said Artist Sue.

Artwork can be viewed and purchased at the Vienna Arts Society gallery and the virtual gallery at sota.pathwayhomes.org. The exhibit runs through July 30, with most works available for purchase. "Every year we've been very blessed to be donated space for our exhibits," said Anna Smith, Director of Development Pathways House.

"Purchasers must leave the works for the duration of the show...Aug. 1 is the pick-up. Pathways can ship works at cost to the purchasers," she said.

According to the Pathway Homes website, "Through our HOUSING FIRST model of care, Pathway Homes served 1,268 men and women in 2019 with 345 permanent supportive housing units. Our services are cost-effective for the community with a significant savings to Northern Virginia compared to the costs of incarceration or hospitalization. Most importantly, the services we provide help ensure that those in need to not "fall through the cracks....92 percent of Pathway residents remain out of psychiatric hospitals... 89 percent of Pathway residents remain out of medical hospital beds...93 percent of Pathway residents remain in permanent housing during the year...93 percent of Pathway residents are satisfied with the services they receive."

Drive-thru Drama

FROM PAGE 4

for the Alden to continue performances during theater maintenance periods and involve the audience.

"I think that this format can really grow and change based on the constraints that we have

which is really exciting. Putting it together has sort of reminded me a little bit of why I just really love producing and creating theater and working with theatre-makers because it's just been a really exciting way to think about what we do and then kind of flipping it a little bit."

CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Questions and "Canswers"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

"Very interesting," to quote Artie Johnson from "Rowan & Martin's Laugh-In," that "crazy-kooky" comedy show from the 70s. What's interesting is what my oncologist will say concerning the July 6th CT scan of my upper torso (lungs), the first such scan I will have had in almost six months. That interval being twice the usual and customary three-month schedule I've been on for years. The reason for this abnormally long interval? As you regular readers know, I was being treated for my second cancer: stage II, papillary thyroid cancer. Now that the treatment and all is complete, we can return to the scene of the original crime, if you know what I mean, and begin assessing/treating my underlying cancer: stage IV, non small cell lung cancer, which presumably has not disappeared in the last six months. To say my life depends on these findings is a bit obvious. Nevertheless, keeping one's eye on the ball is what is characterized-as-"terminal" patients have to do. (We're in constant touch with our mortality.)

Losing sight of the obvious is the ultimate presumption, not unlike one being innocent until proven guilty. In the cancer world in which I live exists the exact opposite: your cancer is never in remission (innocent). Ergo, you are always guilty (of having cancer). Now whether it moves or grows, the results of one's scan will confirm. It's challenging to not expect the worst, even after 11+ years of experience often receiving good news; the inevitability of the eventual bad news is occasionally overwhelming. I mean, one is not characterized as "terminal" because they're expected to live. The writing may not exactly be on the walls, but apparently it's in the handbook that oncologists use to determine the proper protocol to treat their patient's cancer.

Generally speaking, a serious/terminal diagnosis is rarely affected by the advances of modern medicine and/or a patient's disparate hopes and prayers. For us cancer patients, we're only as secure as the results of our most recent diagnostic scan says we are. So yes, July 6th is an important date for Team Lourie as will the follow-up telephone appointment with my oncologist on July 13th. That's when we'll learn if the road is hitting back at the rubber and whether or not I go forward in hope or backward in despair.

As much ado about something as I am making this situation to be, it's not as if I haven't been down this road before; many, many times since my original diagnosis in late February, 2009. This is just "another day in paradise" to quote Phil Collins. And though this road is the one most traveled, it still doesn't minimize the stakes. It just means that I've been incredibly and amazingly lucky not to have succumbed to this killer disease (lung cancer is by far the leading cause of cancer deaths) as so many hundreds of thousands already have. And though experience helps, it doesn't really change the stakes; it sort of maintains them. All I can do in the interim is try not to consider the negative and recommit to the positive. That positive mantra for me has been, "it's nothing until it's something." And if it is something, it will be bad enough to hear about it then so I don't need to hear about it (presume) it's bad now. For the moment, to quote Sergeant Schultz (John Banner) from Hogan's Heroes: "I know nothing!"

For some reason though, and I may be reading more into it than is appropriate, this July 6th scan seems to be carrying some additional weight. Not that there's anything different in and of itself with this scan compared to the previous one hundred or so that I've had - with or without symptoms, it just seems as if I'm spending more time trying to convince myself that it isn't.

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



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