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Incumbents Seek Re-election on Vienna Ballot

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News

Northern Virginia Family Service to Honor Frank Wolf, Karen Cleveland

Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) will host 19th annual Road to Independence Gala, celebrating NVFS as the leading resource for families in need in Northern Virginia. It also will acknowledge the individuals, civic groups and companies who are committed to the community and the work of NVFS, as well as honor the vision and dedication of community leaders through its Legend of Northern Virginia and Community Champion awards.

This year, NVFS will recognize Frank Wolf and Karen Cleveland for their extensive service and commitment to Northern Virginia. Formed U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf, the 2017 Legend of Northern Virginia, has been widely recognized as the “conscience of the Congress.” A staunch supporter of those who cannot defend or speak for themselves, Wolf founded and served as co-chairman of the Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission, a bipartisan organization made up of nearly 200 Members of Congress who work together to raise awareness about international human rights issues.

During his 17 terms in office, Wolf also authored legislation that fought against hunger in the United States, promoted prison reforms and aided Mothers Against Drunk Driving to lower the national blood alcohol limit to .08 BAC.

Now retired, Wolf focuses his work exclusively on human rights and religious freedom and has been awarded the Presidential Eleanor Roosevelt Award for Human Rights, the Jewish Legal Service’s William Bentley Ball Life Achievement Award, the Christian Legal Society’s William Bentley Ball Life Achievement Award, the American Human Rights Commission’s Human Rights Award and the American Jewish Committee’s Eleanor Roosevelt Award.

The Jewish Social Services Agency (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges.

HAVEN of Northern Virginia offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or www.havenofnova.org.

Faith Notes

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

Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE. Vienna offers a monthly Healing Eucharist with the Laying on of Hands and Anointing for Healing (first Sunday of the month, 5 p.m.) at St. Mary’s Chapel. The Healing Ministry is led by the Rev. Valerie Hayes and Alexandra MacCracken and includes a team of lay healers who have gone through intenational training and formation. Contact the Rev. Valerie Hayes at vhayes@holycomerforter.com.

Yoga Class with a Christian Focus is held Saturdays, 3-4 p.m., Morfill Hall or the Library at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. This group is suitable for those with beginner and/or intermediate yoga experience. Dress comfortably and bring a mat. Feel free to bring a towel, block(s) or strap if you have them. Contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521.

Mom’s Group meets second and fourth Thursday of the Month, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Church of the Holy Comforter, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. Join the group for coffee and fellowship. The group meets in the Lillian Cray Room, near the Church Office. Childcare will be available just across the hall in the Childcare Center. If you are interested in joining the group, contact the Church Office at 703-938-6521 so that we can plan appropriately for materials and childcare.

St. Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, has Sunday services at 7:45, 9 and 11:15 a.m. with nursery care provided. In the summer, they offer musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including an 8 a.m. worship service without music and a 10 a.m. worship service with nursery care. 703-759-2082.
Incumbents Seek Re-election on Vienna Ballot

Town Council elections to be held May 2.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
The Connection

A

ccording to the Fairfax County’s 2017 Election Calendar, the Town of Vienna will hold their General Election Tuesday, May 2, at which time three Town Council members will be elected. For many Vienna voters who go to the polls that day, the General Election may be a deja vu experience. That’s because the names on the 2017 ballot will be the same as those on the 2015 ballot. In May 2015, Howard J. Springsteen, Carey J. Sienicki, and Tara L. Voigt sought election, unopposed, each of the three trying for one of the three available Vienna Town Council member seats due to expire June 30 of that year. Springsteen and Sienicki were re-elected; Voigt elected. The Virginia Department of Elections reported the candidates received 383, 389 and 386 votes respectively with 10,483 voters registered in Vienna. Springsteen, Sienicki, and Voigt took their seats on the Town Council as official two-year term councilmembers on July 1, 2015. In March 2017, Fairfax County officials reported Springsteen, Sienicki, and Voigt were the only candidates who met certain qualifications and filed required documents to appear on the Town of Vienna May 2, 2017, ballot. Once again, each of the three is seeking one of the three Town Councilmember seats.

Candidate Information

Town of Vienna reports Springsteen has been a resident of Vienna since 1997 and elected to Council in 2009. He served on the Transportation Safety Commission for eight years and currently works for Fairfax County Department of Vehicle Services as logistics manager. Active in many community service roles, he has been a member of the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, served with the Boy Scouts and been involved at local schools. Springsteen served as a Peace Corps volunteer in Liberia, West Africa. He earned a master’s degree in public administration from New York University.

Sienicki has been a resident of Vienna since 2000. She was first elected to Town Council in May 2015. Voigt previously served on the Town of Vienna Planning Commission and as chair of the Transportation Safety Commission seeks her second two-year term as councilmember. As for her platform, Voigt wrote, “The Town of Vienna is a wonderful place to live and work in Northern Virginia. Maintaining the small town feel by improving traffic flow while encouraging visitors to stop and see what we have to offer keeps us as one of the best places to live in Virginia.”

Elected to the Vienna Town Council in 2009, Howard J. Springsteen seeks his fifth two-year term as councilmember. When asked for a platform statement, Springsteen wrote that if re-elected, “I plan on continuing my strong support in maintaining the integrity of Vienna’s residential neighborhoods in terms of encouraging traffic and pedestrian safety, adequate tree coverage when lots are re-developed and keeping a cautious eye out on developers. I want to continue to encourage when there is community support, realistic and common sense re-development when possible along the Maple Avenue corridor.”

Carey J. Sienicki, first elected to Town Council in 2011, and served as Vice Mayor in 2013-14, seeks her fourth two-year term as councilmember. Asked for a platform statement, Sienicki wrote, “Maintaining the delicate balance between preserving the small town community and fostering purposeful growth, so that the future needs of Vienna’s citizens and businesses are met, is my main priority. I hope to see you all at Tuesday’s upcoming election. It is a true honor to live in Vienna and represent you as a member of your Town Council since 2011.”

Vienna Drug Center Goes Green

Vienna Drug Center, an independent retail pharmacy owned by the Borgatti family since 1965, takes pride in being a small business dedicated to providing quality health care support. The staff provides immunizations to customers, delivers medication and supplies to local doctors’ offices and patients, and sells durable medical equipment (DME) supplies (walkers, canes, wheelchairs, ostomy supplies, compression stockings/sleeves, and more).

The pharmacy is taking care of the Earth as well: Vienna Drug Center has already taken the initiative to switch over to LED lights throughout the entire store to help conserve energy and waste less electricity. LED lights do not contain toxic chemicals like fluorescent light strips, provide better lighting, and last much longer resulting in less replacements over the years.

New 60-80 gallon recycling bins will be replacing large trash bins where the pharmacy will be able to recycle all of its scrap paper, shredded paper, manufacturer bottles, etc. Recycling bins will be added into the break room, office, and throughout the pharmacy. They will be converting 95 percent to percent trash. Finally, they will be changing liquid prescription bottles to more Earth friendly, biodegradable bottles. The new bottles will contain an organic additive that will help the bottle degrade 85 percent times faster than conventional liquid bottles.
Empowering young women is the theme of The Madeira School’s day-long, public event to celebrate 50 years of its transformational Co-Curriculum Program, an award-winning effort that blends academic excellence with real world experiences by taking students into the community for service, onto Capitol Hill for internships, and inside organizations for career placements.

The event, to be held April 28 from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. features an exceptional line up of speakers and panelists — many of whom are alumnae — to offer personal stories and discussions of successes, challenges, and discoveries.

Select sessions and speakers include:

❖ 10 a.m. — Keynote: Cokie Roberts, NPR’s Morning Edition host and ABC News political commentator, will discuss “Founding Mothers: The Women Who Raised Our Nation.”
❖ 11:30 a.m. — Design Thinking in Real Life: How to bring design, creativity, and innovation into your everyday life with Emi Kolawole, founder Dexign LLC.
❖ 11:30 a.m. — Earth in Crisis: Bold strategies to effect social change with Lucy Blake, president, Northern Sierra Partnership; Catharine Gilliam Burns, conservation consultant; and Meg Goldthwaite, CMO, NPR.
❖ 3 p.m. — Backstage! Professional actors share the good, bad, and ugly of a career in show business, with Fatima Quander, dancer; June Schreiner, actress; and Holly Twyford, actress.
❖ 3:30 p.m. — Necessity is the Mother of All Invention: Seizing opportunities in the modern marketplace with Samantha Meyer duPont, head designer and proprietor, Sam DuPont; Brandon Holley, CEO, Everywear; and Katherine Petty MacLane, Director at Pi Executive.
❖ 3:30 p.m. — Pandas Gone Wild: A photographic journey inside China’s efforts to save the giant panda from extinction with Sadie Quarrier, National Geographic Senior Photo Editor; and Ami Vitale, Nikon Ambassador and National Geographic magazine photographer.
❖ 3:30 p.m. — Running for Office: Navigating the course from volunteer to candidate with Oregon State Rep. Janelle Irick Bynum and Sylvia Larsen, former member of the New Hampshire Senate.
❖ 5 p.m. — Keynote: Julia Reed, contributing editor at Elle Décor and at Garden & Gun magazines, to discuss how internships and service shaped her career.

The conference will be held at Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The event costs $100 and is open to the public. To register, visit www.madeira.org.
I'm going to be political, because we have to be,” U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) began as keynote speaker and panel member at a luncheon forum hosted by the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition on April 18. Better known for starting off his speeches with a few humorous quips, on this occasion Connolly wasn’t joking.

A member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and the co-chair of the Congressional Caucuses on Korea, Georgia and Taiwan, he said, “The world counts on American leadership. To retreat is risky. Damage has already been done,” referencing recent Executive Orders by President Donald Trump, and statements by the President and other members of his administration. “Words have consequences. To retreat now is to open the door to grave situations.”

While acknowledging that criticism of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) was not without validity, the Connolly called the pull-out of the United States from the trade agreement as “an incredible gift to China. I bet they’re still drinking champagne in Beijing.” According to Connolly, at least the TPP imposed certain conditions and set standards that had to be met by all countries doing business with the partners. “That’s all been zeroed out now.”

With tensions running high in the Asian region, Connolly also worries that the U.S. has no regular diplomatic presence there now, with no ambassadors in Japan, China or Korea. Without these portals to the American president and to other high-ranking American diplomats, the stage is set for misunderstandings, and decision-making — by all parties — while operating in a vacuum.

Connolly recently returned from a trip to South Korea where he visited the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) separating the country from North Korea, an hour’s drive from Seoul. The capital city and its environs are home to more than half of the country’s population of 50 million people. “The South Koreans [and the Japanese] are apoplectic” being about 30 minutes from potential annihilation by North Korean nuclear missiles.

In the view of Connolly and the members of the USGLC, a large part of tackling today’s diplomatic issues and the increasing threat of terrorism is to maintain and enhance the U.S. role on the world stage, and to keep funding intact for the International Affairs Budget. It’s also critical to the economic health of the nation, and to the Commonwealth of Virginia, he said. Most people don’t know what is included in the International Affairs funding. “Everyone just automatically thinks handouts to foreign countries,” said USGLC Executive Director Jason Gross, but the budget, which has been placed in the reduction crosshairs in recent days, funds U.S. embassies, the Peace Corps, global health threat watches and research, and assistance for start-up companies in emerging markets. The presence of NGO’s (non-governmental organizations) and official organizations promotes democracy and a “rule of law” environment that helps develop new trade partners and economic opportunities for workers here at home, he said.

The speakers provided data showing that 8,000 companies in Virginia do business around the globe. The state exports more than $18 billion in goods to foreign markets each year and trade supports more than 1 million local jobs. “It’s a win-win. It’s the right thing to do as human beings, and it helps make our own economy stronger,” said Ambassador Barbara Stephenson, president of the American Foreign Service Association and a speaker at the event.

“Ninety-five percent of the world’s customers are outside the U.S.,” said Stephenson. “Using only 1 percent of the federal budget, these programs and grants help grow more customers and create jobs. It’s a great return on the investment.”

Stephenson also warned that if the U.S. didn’t take advantage of these opportunities, other countries certainly will.

Connolly pointed to China’s growing presence in Africa. “They’re building everything in sight, getting contracts and spreading their influence.” He said that the Chinese know how to play “the long-term game” and that they are slowly winning over the emerging market in the world’s economy.

Other countries may also step in militarily “if the U.S. fails to lead,” cautioned Vice Admiral William Sullivan, U.S. Navy (Ret.), president of the American Foreign Service Association.

By Andrea Worker

Leading Globally Matters Locally

Connolly addresses
Global Leadership Forum.

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See Connolly, Page 7
t’s summer. The rigorous of homework, youth clubs and team-scheduled Saturdays are over. No more carpools. Now it’s your turn to make empowering choices to impact your child’s life and eventually the lives of their children.

While our kids are young, the challenge is how to find summer-perfect opportunities that are fun, yet meaningful, and how to get the kids away from their electronic devices. When choosing summer activities, this is your golden opportunity to focus on health and specific family values. While swimming lessons, camp-outs, and sports are important, wouldn’t it be wonderful to incorporate activities that help your children focus beyond themselves and to the world beyond Northern Virginia?

We educators emphasize that the earlier your child engages in volunteer activities you find important, the more likely children will grow up respecting your family’s values. In the D.C. Metro Area, there is a plethora of humanitarian programs for the under-18 age group that will get them into the habit of helping others.

Infant Screening Saves Lives

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Several weeks ago at the invitation of their leader I spoke to a group of Boy Scouts about government and the responsibilities of citizenship. Talking with me helped the Scouts meet one of their requirements for a merit badge. One of the Scouts asked me about the most important legislation I had ever gotten passed. I told him about multiple issues on which I had worked, but I focused on one that I thought he might know little about but would show the range of issues with which legislators deal. I told him about my work to expand infant screening in the Commonwealth.

Prior to my election to office I served on the Fairfax Falls Church Community Services Board. A member of that Board whose adult son was a resident at the Northern Virginia Training Center told me of the great hope there was in detecting health issues in infants at the time of their birth with blood screening. At the time Virginia had only three tests, one of blood screening. As scientists developed them.

At the time of their birth with screening tests that are done in Virginia on the infant’s heel can lead to early and sometimes simple treatments that can lead to a healthy child and adult. Without treatment numerous medical conditions can develop including severe developmental delays and chronic illnesses. Metabolic disorders affect the chemical processes in your body that must work together correctly for you to stay healthy.

I was honored to work on legislation that added most of the 30 tests that are done in Virginia on that same spot of blood from an infant to detect these disorders. Last week I was reminded of the experience that I had working with Dr. Barry Wolf of the then Medical College of Virginia who had discovered that the disorder in which the body is unable to recycle the vitamin biotin can lead to development delays in children, hearing and vision loss, breathing problems, and problems with balance and movement. When discovered early such as through a screening test, the disorder can be treated with nutritional supplements that can result in a normal life for the person.

With Dr. Wolf’s research and my legislative proposal in 1994 Virginia became the first state in this country to begin infant screening for biotinidase deficiency. Since that time every state and many foreign countries have started the screening. The March of Dimes recognized us for that accomplishment. The reminder of this story came from a local doctor in Reston who was a medical student at MCV at the time and knew of Dr. Wolf’s research and my bill. She wrote to us both telling us of a teenage patient she had just met who at birth had been found to have the deficiency but with treatment was living a normal life. She wrote to both of us that “because of researchers like you and advocates like you…our world is made a little better for all, and lives are saved for some precious few. That’s something to be proud of.”

I hope the Boy Scouts understood why I consider the work on infant screening to be among the most important I have done.
Connolly addresses Leadership Forum
From Page 5

“and we may not like who steps in to fill the void.” Sullivan advocates for “thoughtful diplomacy” to complement a prepared military force. “I strongly believe in preventing violence rather than resorting to violence,” and he agrees with the USGLC membership and his fellow speakers that continuing to support an adequately funded international affairs program is the way forward to success.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP: on the military and the diplomatic fronts is key to combatting terrorism in action today, and fighting the root causes that keep the problem growing, he said. Failure to act and stay engaged, especially in “failed or failing states” just “fertilizes the breeding grounds of terrorism,” in the opinion of Sullivan.

According to the speakers, there are still more reasons to stand against cuts to the International Affairs and USAID budgets. Connolly brought up another threat to international affairs program is the way forward to success.

Despite the toll taken by the Ebola outbreak that began in 2014, the congressman noted that in the United States, “we still kind of dodged a bullet.” Cutting aid to some of the programs cuts a first line of defense against many deadly viruses, “that are only a plane-ride away. These are cuts to worldwide mechanisms that we all rely on” for citizens’ very lives.

Sullivan agreed, saying that so much of the military’s work is humanitarian, and that the military provides security to help researchers, medical personnel and others get to difficult and often dangerous places.

The session ended with USGLC Northeast Regional Field Manager Colleen Bowman urging the attendees to stay informed and get engaged.

“We really don’t have a choice,” said Connolly. “It’s our responsibility to speak up. It’s in our best interest,” and with one more parting shot, he added to the citizenry at large, “you voted to make America great again. Live up to that.”

The USGLC is a network of 500 businesses, NGOs, national security and foreign affairs experts, military, academics, faith leaders, and more. For more information, see www.usglc.org.

Vienna Police Department to Join Drug Take Back Initiative

On Saturday, April 29, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

The Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police Department located at 215 Center Street, South, Vienna.

Historic Vienna: Upcoming Events

Historic Vienna has announced the following upcoming events:

❖ Vienna’s biggest event in May is Viva Vienna, with carnival rides beginning on Saturday, May 28, and all of Church Street full of vendors on Sunday and Monday, May 29 and 30.

❖ The Freeman Store and Museum at 131 Church Street, NE in Vienna is open Wednesday through Sunday from 12-4 p.m., and on all special event days in Vienna, offering a selection of gifts, games, books and old-fashioned candies.

❖ There are two continuing exhibits, first on the American Suffrage Movement, and second Vienna’s History Through Time. The Used Book Cellar is open whenever the Store is open. Enjoy browsing through books, DVDs, Books on CD and vintage prints covering many topics. All profits support Historic Vienna, Inc. events and museum exhibits. Used book donations are welcome; bags or boxes can be placed on the Freeman Store porch or brought into the store. Textbooks, encyclopedias, magazines, dictionaries and romance novels are not accepted.

❖ In June Vienna’s Little Library will be open Sunday, June 4. On Friday, June 16, Vienna will recognize Fairfax County’s 275th Anniversary and will hold the summer’s first Chillin’ on Church Street from 6:30-9:30 p.m. Saturday, June 17, will be History Day in Fairfax City, and, on Wednesday, June 28, the first of the summer’s Stories and Sprinklers will be held on the lawn behind Vienna’s Little Library at 1:30 p.m. Children will listen to a children’s story then, with parent permission, run through the sprinklers on the Vienna Town Green.
Volunteer Fairfax marked an historic 25th annual Service Awards ceremony April 21 with 193 individual and group nominations. Nominees and award-winners were recognized at a morning event held at the Waterford at Springfield for their hundreds of hours volunteering.

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said the trick of putting people who want to help into action is harnessing them in a given direction. “That is the work of Volunteer Fairfax,” Bulova said.

Bulova read a proclamation from the supervisors declaring April 21, 2017 an official day to recognize all volunteers around Fairfax County.

“Each one of our 2017 nominees has strengthened the community with their selfless service and we honor them today,” Volunteer Fairfax CEO Elise Neil Bengtson said in a statement. “May their service inspire others to join the network of strong community roots.”

Senior, family youth and group volunteers were recognized, as well as Community Champions selected by each magisterial district supervisor.

Volunteers from the Friends Groups of Huntley — Friends of Huntley Meadows Park and the Friends of Historic Huntley — won a handful of awards at the event. Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee) called the park “the crown jewel in the county,” and that the care and vitality of the park couldn’t happen without the volunteers. “It’s great to see them recognized and awarded,” McKay said. “The natural environment is great for people — it’s serene, peaceful.”

Springfield resident Marie Monsen won the Volunteer Fairfax Lifetime Achievement award.

Monsen co-founded the Interfaith Communities for Dialogue after September 11, 2001 and for years has volunteered with the Annandale Christian Community for Action. Along with Rebuilding Together, they help low-income homeowners in the Annandale, Lincolnia, Bailey’s Crossroads and Culmore areas of Fairfax County.

Monsen said giving back was just something she learned from the good values of her Scandinavian immigrant parents, being a child of the 1960s, as well as her faith. She said she was attracted to the diversity in Fairfax County, and appreciates its tradition of government agencies working together with people. “We have an opportunity to model,” Monsen said. Monsen added it was exhilarating to “see so many people doing so many things.”

For more information, visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.
ON GOING

Ed Behrens’ Photographs. Various times through April 30 at Keita’s Coffee House, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. The showing will celebrate Ed’s ten years as a member of Great Falls Studios, his very active 80th birthday. Call 703-759-0927 for more.

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7-7:30 a.m. Introduction and Beginners’ Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean.

The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna’s heritage through the documentation, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. History Vienna.org


Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S. Vienna. 703.691.6565 bingo.html

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays. 6:30-7:30 p.m. Emmanuel United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2701 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, seniors discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Rav Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. $35 per session. Visit edimprovement.org. 703.213.3192.

Fishing Rod Rentals 6700 Potomac Hills, Colvin Run Road. Rentals available during visitor center hours. Fishing tackle and live bait are available for purchase. Reservations required for group rentals. $6/rental (2 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 of age or older. The park does not sell fishing licenses. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/

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

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

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

Evening Painting. Tuesdays 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. at The Arts of Great Falls, 756 Walker Road, Great Falls. Students will learn to paint with acrylics. Visit www.greatartsfest.org for more.

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

APRIL 22-23 Art Fest www.greatartsfest.org

Great Falls Studios ArtFest April 29-30

Spring is an exciting time to be an artist in Great Falls. Not only does it give local artists the opportunity to get out and about with cameras, brushes and paints to work “plein air,” but their April ArtFest, the start of the Great Falls Studios show season, enables them to share their artistic creations from the winter months and early spring. Many of the works on display will be brand new.

The Great Falls artists have been inspired to paint and photograph both locally and internationally: some fortunate to paint on their travels while Walt Lawrence has been observing and photographing the fascinating lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles, nesting on an island off Riverbend Park. Others have been painting the bluebells and other blooms, recently an inspiration to paint and photograph lives of a pair of Bald Eagles

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Great Falls Studios ArtFest will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit greatartsfestus.org.

Oil painters have portrayed graceful ballet dancers, lush green landscapes, intricate still lifes, realism and abstraction. Irrum Merill has designed exquisitely pearl jewelry, Vad Moskovitz presents her one of a kind woven purses, and potter displays decorative and tableware pieces.

Visit and talk with member artists on the expanded Spring ArtFest, in four locations in town: the Grange and Old Forestville Schoolhouse, next to the library, and a three group studios at the Village Center. The Artists’ Attic, the Loft and Artists on the Green.

Several of Great Falls artists teach and there will be a display of the winning art of students at The Arts of Great Falls, in The Grange during the weekend.

Great Falls Studios ArtFest will be held Saturday and Sunday, April 29-30, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit greatartsfestus.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 27

BLOOD Drive. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Long and Foster, 1355 Beverly Road, McLean. Long and Foster is partnering with Children’s National for a blood drive, the blood mobile will be located in the front of the building. Call 703-790-1990 or visit www.cnmcblooddonor.com.

Tree Celebration. 4:30 p.m. at Meadow Lane Park, 400 Courthouse Road SW. In celebration of Arbor Day, Mayor Laurene Dilrocco will be joined by Cub Scout Pack 1116 to plant an oak tree. Visit www.viennavirginia.gov for more.

Dinner and Whisky. 7 p.m. at Ruth’s Chris Steak House in Tyson’s Corner, 8521 Leesburg Pike. Introducing a new menu, the restaurant will feature a variety of whiskies. For more information, visit www.ruthschrists.com.
Entertainment

‘Roar: True Tales of Women Warriors’

Better Said Than Done to perform at Jammin’ Java.

By David Siegel
The Connection

With first-hand story-telling of obstacles, survival, and empowerment, the Fairfax County-based Better Said Than Done, a community of professional storytellers, presents “Roar: True Tales of Women Warriors.” The event will center upon 10 women sharing their personal stories about everyday challenges that are uniquely female.

“The stories women will be sharing in ‘Roar’ cover topics such as domestic violence, workplace discrimination, heart break, rape, and illness,” said Jessica Robinson of Fairfax, founder of Better Said Than Done. The stories will be true and real.

“When I read or hear a story that I can relate to, I feel like I’m connected to another person through that experience,” said Robinson. “Sometimes, that connection is based on laughter, and sometimes on tears.”

Area storytellers appearing live at the “Roar” event will include Stacy Crickmer, Jessica Robinson, Sandra Hull, Felicia Reed, Jessica Robinson, Ellouise Schoettler, Kathy Sterschic, Allison Stevens, Anne B. Thomas, and Brandy Walker. The “Roar” event will be held at Vienna’s Jammin’ Java.

Few, of Springfield, said, “No matter how sad a situation is, we must find laughter within the walls of our lives.”

“Storytelling is powerful. By hearing a personal story, we learn from that person’s experience, empathize with that person, and, often, change our own thoughts after sharing in their experience,’ said Robinson. “It’s my hope that by sharing, in some cases, very difficult stories about challenges women face, we can promote understanding and enact change.”

Can’t Vote at McLean Day for the 2017–2018 MCC Governing Board?

Vote by Absentee Ballot now through May 17 at either:

McLean Community Center (MCC)
Administration Office: 6631 Old Dominion Dr. McLean, WA 22101
703-790-0123

Class Programs/Registration Office: 6645 Old Dominion Dr. McLean, WA 22101
703-744-9348

Old Firehouse Teen Center (OFTC)
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101
703-448-8336/TTY 711

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (closed on weekends)

OR

Absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be returned to one of these locations by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

Requesting Absentee Ballots:
You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFTC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-744-9348.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:
You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFTC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package.

Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received at the administrative offices by due date.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 17.

Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFTC by that time.

If you have questions:
Please call 703-744-9348 or email elections@mcleancenter.org.
Making Science and Technology Fun for Students

STEMtree focuses on one-to-one customized STEM programs in Vienna center.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

he term “stem” is, seemingly, everywhere, from school lobbies to op-ed columns in the media. An acronym for “science, technology, engineering and math,” STEM programs aim to ignite a passion for invention and scientific advancement. Some STEM programs are school-based; some offer summer camps. Some are centers equipped with sophisticated scientific equipment.

The STEM center voted the “best” in the region by Washington Family magazine readers – Stemtree Education Center – has made its home in Vienna since 2014. It is unique in the industry, as founder Dr. Abdelghani Bellaachia says, because the center assesses each student’s level of knowledge and competency to accurately tailor a program to each student’s level of mastery. “We customize a learning plan based on each student’s level; every student is different, at different places of skill, and, our programs are self-paced.”

Located in a small shopping center in the heart of Vienna, Stemtree focuses on bringing science and technology to life in a manner that engages the young child’s instinct to have fun while learning, as well as stimulating the higher critical thinking skills of teens. Bellaachia himself has a lifetime of scientific achievement in his resume. He earned a BA and MS in electrical engineering, an MS in computer science, and a Ph.d. in software systems. He taught college for more than 25 years before turning his attention to nurturing science and technology to the youngest students. Bellaachia created Stemtree in 2010 as an academic resource; in October 2014, he and his staff introduced the existing model, a center-based program. “We work closely with schools,” said Bellaachia. “We never say ‘no’ to anyone who comes in for donations (for school fundraisers).”

**STEMTREE** partners with Westbriar Elementary School. This summer, the Westbriar-sponsored STEM summer camp will be moved to Freedom Hill Elementary as Westbriar continues its new construction. Stemtree designed the camps to offer a day’s-full of activities but with flexible hours; campers can sign up for a full day, a half-day, single days or weekly participation.

Suneeta Rana’s daughter Renuka, a Westbriar third-grader, has been a part of Stemtree for more than a year and a half. Coming from a family of information scientists, Rana wants her daughter to have the confidence that “she can do anything and not be intimidated” by the technological environment typically seen as a boys’ realm.

Stemtree’s after-school science, technology, and engineering programs are coordinate through the PTA/PTO of local elementary schools. In these school-sponsored programs, children learn key scientific concepts in an atmosphere that Stemtree and participants call fun. “Robotics and science are my favorites,” said Renuka Rana, who just turned 9 years old and comes to the Stemtree center every week to “have fun.” There are lots of girls and boys at the Stemtree center and Renuka does not think about who is a boy and who is a girl.

“I do a lot of robotics there, building with Legos and telling it what to do,” Renuka said. “It’s inspiring to build something I like.”

**TELLING THE ROBOT** what to do, writing commands, is programming. Suneeta Rana said, “They don’t realize that they are programming but they are; they just know they are having fun.”

At Stemtree, there is an open setting and participants profit from one-on-one instruction. The center’s activities and experiments are hands-on and the children apply basic scientific processes to their activities.

Bellaachia and his staff go a step further than simply providing a center for learning; Stemtree also offers homework and SOL support, and tutoring services in chemistry, biology, physics, and computer programming.

Stemtree’s summer camps do not run on a session schedule; it is open participation. Campers engage in technology, science, and engineering activities from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Extended hours, up to 6 p.m., are available.

To learn more about Stemtree’s programs and camps, call 703-281-7836 or visit www.stemtree.com/
FRIDAY/APRIL 28
Community Service and Scholarship Awards Gala 7 p.m. Hilton McLean Tysons Corner, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. Urban League honoring champions in the community for local and national community service and awarding student scholarships. Call 703-836-2858 or visit www.fxgs.org/events.

Fairfax Genealogical Society 7:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Vounteers Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Sarah R. Fleming presentation “From the Ashes—A Burned County Case Study,” efforts to preserve and restore Burnt house history. Dues $25, free to new members. Call 703-358-4838 or visit www.fgsx.org.

APRIL 28-30
Spring Art Show. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday at AOG Wealth Management, 2858 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Vale “Fresh Paint,” Spring Art Show features guest artists Mary Beth Gairain and Andrea Cybyk among others. Visit www.valarts.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 29
Rummage Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Church of the Good Shepherd, 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. Donate gently used items in the Fellowship Hall April 24-28 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-353-1987 or visit www.GoodShepherdVa.com.

Fairfax County Anniversary. 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Virginia Room, Cary of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. “A Place Called Home.” Fairfax County. A 275th Anniversary Event is a day-long exploration of the history of Fairfax County. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library or 703-297-6227, ext. 6.

Green Expo. 2-5 p.m. at the Windover Hights Historic District, 277 Windover Ave., Vienna. The yards and gardens of approximately 50 homes in the Town’s northwest historic district will be open to visitors as part of the annual Walk on the Hill. Open artist, jazz ensemble, Hickory Grove performances and historic tour. Visit www.viennavva.gov for more.

MONDAY/MAY 1
Love Your Baby Day. 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at Beloved Yoga, 1137 Walker Road, Suite 2, Great Falls. Learn about the many aspects of the prenatal and postnatal journey and support available to have a healthy pregnancy, and raise a healthy and happy baby and family. Visit www.belovedyoga.com for more.

TUESDAY/MAY 2
Girls Night Out and Social. 5-8 p.m. at Kima Grill, 11724 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. Email rebecca@novahousewives.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 3
Great Falls Historical Society. 6 p.m. at L’Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Road, Great Falls. 40th Anniversary Celebration. Call 703-759-3800 for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 6
Oak Hill Fun Run. 6-10:30 a.m. Oak Hill Elementary School, 3210 Kinross Grade, Oak Hill. Support the school or earn service hours by running the annual Oak Hill 5K or 5K. Call 703-467-3535 or email oakHILS.Attendance@fps.edu.

Photo contributed
Ed Behrens photos will be on exhibit in April at the AOG Wealth Management, Village Centre, 760 Walker Road, Great Falls during the month of April.

Visit These Houses of Worship

To Highlight Your Faith Community, call Karen at 703-778-9422

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Music: grades 1 - 7
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6
Music: grades 4 to 6th grade
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
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The Rev. Laura Cochran
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www.fbcv.org

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM
CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-9:45AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

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Sunday Worship at 10:30 AM
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for youth, child, and other adult services
Antioch Christian Church
1860 Beulah Road
Vienna, VA 22182

Visit These
Houses of Worship
And So It Begins...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The onslaught of radio and television advertising for grass seed and riding mowers. I suppose if I was a responsible homeowner, given the time of the year—spring—April, I should have an interest in such timely offerings. However, since I’m not and since I’m still unable to manage the two acres that I own, affectionately referred to as “Belly Acres,” going on 25 years dating back to May ’92 when we initially took ownership, the best I can do is borrow my neighbor’s riding mower and spend a couple of hours every two weeks or so trying to keep the grass below my knees. Cancer issues not totally overwhelming. Actually, aside from having little interest, minimal experience and multiple home/tool maintenance issues/pre-existing conditions, I am the perfect target: a homeowner who can’t do anything on his own and needs help all the time for everything. Specifically as it involves my yard, I have grass, trees, bushes, shrubs, daffodils, flower beds, weeds, and more. I do not wish to suffer any more time and in my lack of initiative. Throw beautiful yard debris has been lost in the past, branches, limbs, sticks and stones have hit the property, many of which are quite funny and clever. The previous paragraph presumes however that I have a budget and even a passing notion to attempt to improve upon the randomness that characterizes “Belly Acres.” I can still remember a conversation I had with a local lawn and garden consultant when we first moved in. A gentlemen came by and together we walked around the property. After ending up back at the house, he asked me what I wanted to do. I said something like, “I don’t know, you tell me.” He responded with words I could semi understand but mostly were unintelligible — to me, so asked for a clarification.

After grabbing the obvious, finally, I asked: “Is this what you’re telling me that I could hire someone to do? From my perspective, I don’t mean to imply that I’m a closed book, quite the contrary. For years, tress have fallen down, as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was. Oh sure, tress have fallen down, all these years later, the property remains nearly as it was.

That’s when I fully understood the problem. I then thanked him for his time and he wasn’t resented the issue since. Talk about pointless. And so, this previous paragraph presumes however that I have a budget and even a passing notion to attempt to improve upon the randomness that characterizes “Belly Acres.” I can still remember a conversation I had with a local lawn and garden consultant when we first moved in. A gentleman came by and together we walked around the property. After ending up back at the house, he asked me what I wanted to do. I said something like, “I don’t know, you tell me.” He responded with words I could semi understand but mostly were unintelligible — to me, so asked for a clarification.

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Potomac School Student, Teacher Honored

Senior Peter Holmes, a student in The Potomac School’s Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program, was awarded third-place honors at the regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS), held at the University of Minnesota in March. He received a scholarship and the opportunity to present his research, which focuses on a new method for producing ethanol as a biofuel, at the national JSHS in San Diego in April.

“This is not the first time Peter has been recognized for this research. In January, he was named one of 300 Regeneron Scholars nationwide, as part of the Regeneron Science Talent Search, a prestigious pre-college competition that also awards scholarships.

Peter began working on his project as a junior. Having read about using algae to make ethanol, he said, “I tried to think outside the box about a new way that could be more productive and more efficient. That would be to have a single organism, or at least one system, that can both ferment and photosynthesize at the same time, making the whole process more effective.” Peter’s research advisor, Dr. Isabelle Cohen, said, “His scientific approach was one of the soundest I have witnessed in my many years of research and teaching.”

Cohen’s support prompted Peter to nomi- nate him for the regional JSHS’s 2017 Teacher Award, which she received at the presentation of research at the JSHS in San Diego in May.

In his nomination, Peter wrote, “I would characterize Dr. Cohen as the most intelligent, hard-working, and considerate person I know. Within her role as an advisor in the SERC program, Dr. Cohen oversees approximately 10 students a year in their independently crafted research projects.”

“Dr. Cohen does much more than merely monitor; she becomes a trusted confidant throughout the whole process. …Without Dr. Cohen constantly pushing me to my greatest potential, I would not be where I am scientifically, nor appreciate the field nearly as much.”

Cohen teaches science in Potomac’s Upper School; she has been a member of the school’s faculty since 1997.

**Bulletin Board**

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

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**Schools**

**Potomac School**

**Vienna/Oakton Connection**: April 26 - May 2, 2017  |  15
Reston-Herndon Little League Celebrates New Season

Hundreds of Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players gathered at Reston Town Center on Saturday morning to celebrate the start of the baseball season. Joined by their coaches, the players wore uniforms provided by the Washington Nationals and were entertained on the parade route down Market Street by two of the Nationals racing presidents — Teddy and Abe. At the end of the parade route, high school players from South Lakes, Herndon, and Madison high schools, many of whom were once RHLL players themselves, greeted the players with high-fives.


James Madison High School baseball team members came to support Reston-Herndon Little League (RHLL) players.

Madison High Head Coach Mark “Pudge” Gjormand honors his daughter and long-time RHLL player Samantha.

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Summer Camps Help Fight Brain Drain

Summer often evokes images of pool splashing and backyard barbecuing. For some educators though, warm weather months represent a potential loss of skills acquired during an academic year. Known as “brain drain,” this concept refers to research that shows that, on average, students lose one to three months of learning when they are not engaged in academic activities during summer months. Academic camps can address this loss of academic skills while allowing children to enjoy summer fun.

“...Students have the opportunity to explore a topic in depth, without juggling competing scholastic demands or intramural activities,” said Dr. Janine Dewitt, professor of sociology at Marymount University in Arlington.

For example, campers at Summersville Camp at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School in Alexandria will have an opportunity to choose from a variety of specialized camps ranging from physics and French to zoology and rocket and space science.

“Specialty camps are great ways to try new things, to expand horizons and to challenge yourself,” said Jim Supple, associate dean of students and director of summer programs at St. Stephen’s & St. Agnes School.

Campers at 3E (Explore, Enrich, Enjoy) Summer Camp at Marymount University will explore science through nature and electronic gadgets, mathematics through making boats and geodesic domes, language arts through writing stories, and fine arts through creating dramas and cartoons.

For parents concerned about balancing the need to maintain academic skills with the need for downtime, Dewitt says that, “Parents can prevent academic burnout by limiting the number of scheduled activities over the course of the summer, and selecting only those that foster their child’s natural curiosity. Summer courses that allow students the freedom to select different types of learning activities can be both energizing and fun.”
This summer a group of high school students with an interest in health care as a profession will get a chance to experience the real-world work of nurses when they attend a nursing camp at George Mason University.

“Our goal has been to introduce high school students to what nursing is, and what it is not,” said Carol Urban, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor and director, School of Nursing George Mason University. “We find that we have students come to Mason who declare nursing as their major, but have never had any experience with nurses outside of their health care provider’s office or the school nurse. We want to introduce them to nursing as a career, and the many opportunities that exist in nursing beyond working in a hospital.”

The camp will provide small group projects and hands-on simulation to introduce core concepts of nursing. Nursing faculty hope to expose students to the diverse career paths available to those with a degree in nursing.

Urban says that students will be taught healthcare skills, such as how to take a blood pressure and how to check a pulse. “We will provide … time in our nursing simulation laboratory where we have our human simulators,” she said. “[Campers] will have observational experiences in a hospital with nurses and will be given an opportunity to talk with nurses we have on our faculty who have been in unique career fields including a forensics nurse, and a researcher who works globally in sub-Saharan Africa.”

The camp will also expose students to new trends in healthcare. “Healthcare delivery is changing and… See Nursing, Page 4
the camp is exposing the students to the changing healthcare climate,” said Christine M. Coussens, Ph.D., associate dean of Community Engagement in the College of Health and Human Services at George Mason University. “In the newer healthcare models, nurses will have a significant role in how and when healthcare is delivered and they will continue to be leaders for ensuring the health of patients and communities.”

DURING A TYPICAL DAY at the camp, students will spend several hours in the nursing skills laboratory learning basic skills and techniques. “They may also spend some time in one of our Mason and Partners clinics, learning how nurses care for patients in a clinic setting and how valuable educating patients about their health is to improving their health,” said Urban.

Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with nurses to gain insights into real world experience. “They’ll have conversations with nurses about their careers and learning what education and experiences they needed for that kind of a job. For example, what does a forensics nurse do?” asked Urban.

Coussens hopes that students will leave the camp knowing the diversity of options that a degree in nursing can offer. “A degree in nursing opens possibilities for students to work in hospitals, healthcare management positions, policy positions … globally in clinics and with aid organizations, in forensic roles [and] research institutions,” said Coussens. “There are limitless opportunities. A degree in nursing can open doors because of the clinical license and analytical ability.”

Admission to the nursing camp is competitive because of the limited number of available spots. “We’ve run this camp before and it has been well-received,” said Urban. “Graduates of the camp have said that it really opened their eyes to everything a nurse does, and the great career potential that nurses have. They are amazed at the various opportunities a nurse can have. It also makes them aware that nursing is hard, but rewarding — it isn’t just what you see in the media, it’s real work. But more importantly, they see the passion that nurses have for that work, and the reward of seeing a patient and family member helped by the work that nurses do.”

The camp will run from July 10-14. The cost is $275. For more information, visit chhs.gmu.edu/nursing/camp/index.cfm.