



MUSIC: MARSHALL TUCKER BAND

Group best known for 'Can't You See,' 'Heard It In a Love Song' to play area B-1

FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES



DAILY UPDATES ONLINE www.fairfaxtimes.com

FRIDAY • SATURDAY • SUNDAY

Check mates

Vienna sister and brother start chess charity

BY KATE YANCHULIS
STAFF WRITER

Why shouldn't charity work be fun and games?

That's the philosophy taken by two siblings from Vienna. Gabby, 12, and Garrett Heller, 10, have created their own charity chess tournament, which will be held Oct. 19 at Our Lady of Good Counsel school in Vienna.

This month's event marks the third tournament held by the Heller siblings. The first event was held in March 2011, when Gabby was in third grade and Garrett in first grade.

Back then, the Heller family had no idea Chess 4 Charity would go beyond that first contest.

Gabby and Garrett wandered into the idea one night in a sleepy chat during a sibling sleepover. When the children took the concept to their parents, Brian and Stacey Heller were excited to encourage their philanthropic streak, but planned it as a one-time chess extravaganza.

"We didn't have grand ambitions,"

See CHESS, Page A-13



TIN NGUYEN/FAIRFAX COUNTY TIMES

Gabby Heller, 12, and her brother Garrett, 10, from Vienna, created the Chess 4 Charity chess tournament. The third annual tournament will be held Oct. 19.

Governor brings renewed clean energy focus to Va.

McAuliffe's plan ties new energy sources to more jobs, investment

BY KALI SCHUMITZ
STAFF WRITER

Gov. Terry McAuliffe (D) brought a new focus to renewable energy in Virginia Tuesday as he presented the state's 2014 energy plan to a group of business leaders and conservation groups.

While he is pushing for policies that will help grow the green energy sector, McAuliffe said he remains committed to an "all of the above" energy strategy.

"By working together, I am confident that four years from now we will live in a stronger Commonwealth that is less dependent on external forces and is fueled by cleaner, cheaper and more abundant Virginia energy," he said.

McAuliffe's top energy goals include growing the less developed areas of the state's energy sector, including wind, solar, biofuels and nuclear;

improving energy efficiency of buildings and vehicles; improving the energy delivery infrastructure; and working with state colleges and universities to train more people for jobs in the energy sector, preparing for anticipated retirements from the existing workforce.

Less than 1 percent of the energy generation in Virginia is currently from wind or solar energy. McAuliffe sees growing the energy sector as an opportunity to create jobs, as well as reducing

See ENERGY, Page A-13

ENERGY

Continued from Page A-1

carbon emissions.

"Virginia has fallen way behind its neighboring states and we need to catch up," said Francis Hodsoll, president of Virginia Advanced Energy Industries,

who attended the event. "I thought the governor's message was 100 percent on point. ... Clean tech can deliver jobs and investment."

Neighboring states have created 290,000 jobs in the clean energy sector in recent years, according to Michael Town, executive director of the Virginia

League of Conservation Voters, which co-sponsored the event where McAuliffe presented the energy plan.

"To me, the bottom line is that Virginia needs to have policies that make it competitive with other states in order to get the investment," Hodsoll said.

The energy plan provides

a starting point that advocates hope will lead state legislators to enact more renewable energy-friendly policies, according to Hodsoll and others.

"Virginia's vast and untapped renewable energy potential is well documented. We can catch up to our neighbors in clean energy, but only if we

finally put the policies in place to harness it," Dawone Robinson, Virginia policy director at the Chesapeake Climate Action Network said in a released statement.

However, Robinson was also critical of the governor's support for a new Dominion natural gas pipeline because it would help

transport natural gas generated by fracking and said the governor should instead focus on getting Dominion to move forward with its planned offshore wind energy project.

kschumitz@fairfaxtimes.com

MALL

Continued from Page A-1

of Commerce, said the opening of the new Town Center is a great step toward the revitalization of Springfield itself.

"It literally is the first step," she said. "It is phase one of a four-phase project."

According to current property owner Vornado Realty Trust, the area surrounding the mall eventually will include as many as 2,700 apartments, 450 hotel rooms and 1 million

square feet of office space to the 78-acre site, while expanding the retail component of the area to 2 million square feet of shopping and dining.

But it's an expensive prospect.

According to Bob Byrne, senior vice president of development for Vornado, renovations to the Town Center alone cost more than \$250 million.

Now that the Town Center is open, Vornado soon will sell the property to Pennsylvania Real Estate Investment Trust for an agreed-upon price of \$465 mil-

lion. According to PREIT, it expects to realize first-year town center sales in excess of \$525 per square foot. Also according to PREIT, development rights of the surrounding properties are worth around \$80 million. "PREIT said that they were buying the Town Center in part because of its vested development rights," McKay said. "I expect that as soon as a week after the Town Center opening, they will be knocking on my door, wanting to proceed with phase 2. This is certainly an exciting time for Springfield and certainly a

'we're back' moment. The Town Center is way more than just a shopping center to Springfield residents. It is a source of civic pride."

Manney says she believes the Town Center's reopening will actually create momentum within the Springfield business community and act as a catalyst toward a greater revitalization of the surrounding area.

"Just by having more restaurant options, WiFi, coffee shops and meeting areas, the new Town Center brings more opportunities for business

meetings within Springfield," she said. "Especially for all the home-based businesses nearby that need areas like that to meet clients in."

In addition, Manney said she already sees momentum in revitalization efforts within shopping centers in close proximity to the new Town Center.

"It is already creating an increase in other nearby shopping centers to improve their own curb appeal," she said. "Not all retailers will be able to afford space in the new Town Center, but they may want to be near it,

so we are already seeing façade improvements in many of the nearby shopping centers, hoping to attract merchants there."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity (R) agrees.

"This Town Center is a major step in the revision of greater Springfield," he said. "I believe its opening will attract businesses to the area, and re-create Springfield as a thriving area of commerce."

gmacdonald@fairfaxtimes.com

CHESS

Continued from Page A-1

Brian Heller said.

The family set up the tournament in a little over a month, recruiting friends and classmates to attend, chess newbies and masters alike. They set an initial goal of raising \$1,000 for Ronald McDonald House Charities, but word of the event snowballed and they ended up earning dou-

ble that amount.

"We ended up doing way better than we expected," Gabby said. "It was really an eye-opening experience."

The Heller family had caught the charity bug, so when people started asking them when the next tournament would be, they decided to keep Chess 4 Charity going.

The Hellers held the second tournament in February 2013 — that time raising \$5,000 for the

American Red Cross.

Now, they're gearing up for their third tournament. This one benefits the Torch Relay for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. They set their most ambitious goal yet — \$10,000. With two weeks to go before the event, they had raised \$7,500.

Brian and Stacey Heller said organizing the tournaments has gotten easier as Gabby and Garrett have gotten older and have been able to take on more re-

sponsibilities.

Of the siblings, Garrett rules the chess board, while Gabby keeps an entrepreneurial eye on the charity. While Gabby knows how the chess pieces move, it was Garrett who latched onto the game when the family learned it together six years ago. Now, through the charity, chess has provided an even greater opportunity for family bonding.

"We might get into arguments about other things, but

we mostly agree on this," said Gabby, a seventh-grader at Kilmer Middle School.

"Kind of," interjects Garrett, a fifth-grader at Louise Archer Elementary.

Gabby concedes her brother's point: "Well, we might have different opinions, but we're working toward the same goal."

Registration on the Chess 4 Charity website, Chess4Charity.com, costs \$50. Participants can also register for \$50 at the door.

All skill levels are welcome, and the Hellers expect to see close to 200 participants.

"At the tournament, when you see how many people are coming in, you get really excited that all those people are coming to support you and your cause," Gabby said. "It's just a great feeling."

kyanchulis@fairfaxtimes.com

ELECTION

Continued from Page A-1

environmentally conscious choices, as well as making alter-

we better have a damn good reason."

Blais has a longer list of goals that runs the gamut from protecting the environment to completely ending the "war on

ducing the cost of student loans.

"I am fiscally responsible and socially inclusive," Beck said. "I talked to so many of my friends and they feel the same way. They're all about America

concerned about the economy, education, transportation and immigration reform, which are all his top priorities.

Climate change legislation "doesn't pay the bills, it doesn't

care costs started by the Affordable Care Act is the best path to a balanced budget.

"I have never believed that you can cut your way to prosperity," he said, adding that nation-

port a balanced budget amendment, which would prohibit deficit spending. Addressing the federal deficit is one of his major reasons for running for