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Vienna
CONNECTION

HomeLifeStyle

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Schools, Guns, Judges, Marijuana and the Safety Net

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Sharon Bulova was the first of nearly 100 speakers as area residents tell legislators of priorities ahead of the 60-day session of the General Assembly.



Welcoming New Minister

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* 2016 *

President's Award

Superintendent Karen Garza

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Sharon Bulova, with entire delegation visible.

PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION



More than 30 people had signed up to speak for Critical Thinking Revolution. Shaista Keating said: "The era to teach to the test must indeed come to the end."

Schools, Guns, Judges, Marijuana and the Safety Net

Residents tell legislators of priorities ahead of the 60-day session of the General Assembly.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Barbara Quesada, parent of a Franklin Sherman Elementary School student, reminded the General Assembly delegation from Fairfax that Nova Firearms opened its new store right next to the McLean elementary school.

During Quesada's three-minute testimony, Dranesville School Board member Janie Strauss, McLean resident Marilyn White and a dozen others stood in solidarity.

White held a sign that said, "Gun store free school zone."

"Please pass legislation so gun stores are not located within immediate proximity to schools," said Quesada, who testified before the county's delegation to the General Assembly Saturday, Jan. 10 at Fairfax County Government Center.

"This is not a second amendment issue, and it is so infuriating the amount of time it gets twisted," she said, requesting authorizing legislation to allow localities to regulate the proximity of a gun store to a school.

Nearly 100 speakers testified Saturday, Jan. 9, in a hearing that lasted more than 240 minutes.

Burke's Martina Leinz attended the CNN Town Hall meeting at George Mason University two nights before where President Barack Obama spoke about the need for gun reform.

Leinz, speaker number 88 on Saturday, said she was asked if she had been personally affected by gun violence. "I looked him in the eye and said, 'I am an American citizen. Of course I have been affected by gun violence — we all have,'" Leinz told the Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly.

Del. Mark Keam (D-35)



"A state that is in the top 10 in income should not be in the bottom 10 in state education funding."

— Sharon Bulova, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

The 2016 session of the Virginia General Assembly starts Wednesday, Jan. 13, and will last six weeks.

Leinz testified on behalf of the NOVA Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence and the Virginia Gun Violence Prevention Coalition.

"We cannot stop all gun deaths but certainly we should do everything we can to stop some. And surely we all can agree that there are some categories of people who should not have access to firearms — that is why we have prohibited purchaser categories; criminals, domestic violence abusers, the adjudicated mentally ill and terrorists should not have easy access to guns."

CHAIRMAN SHARON BULOVA was the first to testify Saturday.



Del. Mark Sickles leans over to talk to state Sen. Chap Petersen

"Fairfax County is often described as a wealthy community, but we also have many individuals and families struggling financially," she said. "More than 52,000 students in Fairfax County Public Schools qualify for free and reduced lunch. Only four school divisions in the state have more total children than we have children living in low-income households."

State cuts to K-12 education in recent years have cost localities \$1.7 billion per biennium, Bulova said, "and have been detrimental to our efforts to educate our children."

"A state that is in the top 10 in income should not be in the bottom 10 in state education funding," said Bulova.

Dozens spoke of the need for full funding for K-12 programming and education.

Steve Greenburg, president of the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, supports legislation for an increased county tax on cigarettes.

"If people are going to kill themselves and run up everyone's health care costs by smoking the stupid things, then we should certainly get some return for the costs they incur the rest of us," he said.

Advocating for the importance of the investment on education, Dean Howarth, a teacher from McLean, talked of the need for schools to emphasize critical thinking, not standardized test scores.

"We always say, 'Great minds think alike. No they don't, great minds think differently,'" said the physics and science teacher. "Students come back. You know what they remember? It's never ever their SOL score."

Del. Marcus Simon stopped the testimony to say Howarth was his physics teacher in high school.

Simon remembered Howarth getting students on rollerskates to learn about physics. But emphasis on standardized testing has robbed teachers of the freedom to teach in creative ways, Howarth said.

"Students have lost the joy of learning because their teachers are shackled," said Howarth. "I like being like Bill Nye, stoking fun in education."

Brad Ward, of Fairfax Station, also spoke for Critical Thinking Revolution and advocated for less rote teaching and emphasis on standardized testing. "In my professional

SEE RESIDENTS, PAGE 8

FAITH

Emmaus United Church of Christ Welcomes New Minister

Emmaus United Church of Christ (UCC) of Vienna welcomes the Reverend Kristen Curlee as its new minister this January after an 18-month nationwide search. She brings with her a strong commitment to social justice and a passion for creating an inclusive community that nourishes people of all ages in their faith.

"I look forward to dreaming big and taking some risks with [Emmaus], so our ministry engages, challenges, blesses, serves and reaches within and beyond the walls of the church," Rev. Curlee wrote in a letter to the congregation recently.

Over the past several years Rev. Curlee has been a force for good in the community, building relationships with key "helping hands" organizations to create ministries that included Community Spotlight (movie and panel conversation), a neighborhood food drive, and partnered with Offenders Aid and Restoration to host offenders doing community service. She grew a church school program from fewer than five children with sporadic attendance to 20.

"The strength of my ministry is my ability to foster a community of welcome where people are able to explore, share, and expand their understanding of God and their gifts for ministry," explains Rev. Curlee, and her record of engagements bears out this claim.

She was chosen in 2013 to join the Next Generation Leadership Initiative, a national UCC transformational program of ministerial leadership development with a 10-year commitment. Committed to supporting local and church communities, she has variously served as board president of Meekins Cooperative Preschool, chair of the Potomac Association Committee for Christian Education, Central Atlantic Conference delegate to the UCC's General Synod, and member of the Potomac Association Social Action and Mission committees. She has also organized and led UCC youth mission trips.

Rev. Kristen, as she prefers to be called, most recently pastored Bethel UCC in Arlington for five years prior to accepting the call to Emmaus. She previously served as



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Rev. Kristen Curlee

director of Christian Education at Christ Congregational Church in Silver Spring, Md., from 2008-2010.

Awarded the Richard and Helen Brown Scholarship for Pastoral Education, she obtained a master in Divinity from Lancaster Theological Seminary, Lancaster, Pa. in 2009. Rev. Curlee received a bachelor in Business Administration from American University, Washington, D.C. in 2004.

She lives in Vienna with her two children and her mother, Sandra Casmey.

Emmaus UCC is celebrating 50 years in Vienna. All are welcome to attend worship on Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and to join adult religious education classes on Sundays at 9:15 a.m.

Emmaus UCC is located at 900 Maple Avenue East in Vienna. More information at emmausucc.org and on Facebook.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Community Meeting on Old Courthouse Road

Supervisor Catherine M. Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host a community meeting on Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7-8:30 p.m. at Wolftrap Elementary School Cafeteria, 1903 Beulah Road, Vienna. Residents will be able to learn more about the project which seeks to improve the safety and stormwater conditions at the Old Courthouse Road and Besley Road intersection in Vienna. Staff will be at hand to answer questions during the meeting.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

- ❖ 7-7:30 p.m. — Open House to view display of proposed improvements;
- ❖ 7:30-7:45 p.m. — Short Presentation;
- ❖ 7:45-8:30 p.m. — Question and answer period.

In addition to the community meeting, a public website has been established to solicit comments from the community. If you are unable to attend, you can still submit your comments on the project website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/oldcourthouse_rd_realignment.htm. The public comment period will be closed on Jan. 29.

American Legion Post Offers a Breakfast Buffet

A Breakfast Buffet will be offered Sunday, Nov. 15, from 8 a.m. to noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Adults \$9, children 12 and under \$3. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, etc. For more information call 703-938-6580.

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PEOPLE

Vienna Teen Recognized for Saving Family's Lives

Charlotte Heffelmire was presented with a Citizen Lifesaving Award Thursday, Jan. 8, by Chief Richie Bowers and the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department. Heffelmire was recognized for her selfless act in saving her family's lives on Nov. 28, 2015. The dramatic incident involved her father who was trapped under a truck, and a resulting gasoline fire that caused the home to catch fire.

Eric Heffelmire, Charlotte's father, was working on his GMC truck when the truck fell, gasoline spilled, and a fire was ignited. Fortunately, Charlotte was home from school on Thanksgiving break. Charlotte entered the garage and found her father pinned under the truck and the truck was on fire. She was able to lift the truck twice to get her father free and pulled him to safety.

Charlotte's heroism did not stop



PHOTO BY CAPT. I RANDY BITTINGER

Charlotte Heffelmire receives a Citizen Lifesaving Award.

there. Once her dad was out, she climbed into the truck, still on fire, and drove it on three wheels from the garage. Once the truck was moved, Charlotte closed the garage doors to help contain the fire, then went into the house and got everybody out, including her sister's baby. Next Charlotte called

911, and then proceeded to the garage where flames continued to shoot out and used a garden hose to try to stop the fire from spreading further.

Charlotte's quick actions resulted in saving six lives and preventing further spread of the fire.

VIENNA CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Town of Vienna Police Department from Jan. 1-7.

Fraud - 100 Block Patrick Street, SE, Dec. 15, noon. A resident reported his credit card had been taken and used without his knowledge at a Giant Food Store. This case is being investigated.

Suspicious Event - Sport Clips, 134 Maple Avenue, East. Between Dec. 20 at 8 a.m. and Jan. 2 at 4:01 p.m. An employee reported she discovered text messages sent between two ex-employees which concerned her. She stated the messages expressed the ex-employees desire to make her business fail. She did not wish to pursue charges in the case.

Police Service - Navy Federal Credit Union, 820 Follin Lane, SE. Dec. 24, 8 a.m. An employee reported he had been walking into the building from the parking lot when a vehicle, traveling in the wrong direction and too fast, nearly struck him. The driver of the vehicle stopped to make sure he was

alright but no information was exchanged.

Petit Larceny - 1000 Block Park St., SE. Between Dec. 28 at 6:56 p.m. and Jan. 7 at 9:35 p.m. The owner of a residence reported someone had taken the "For Rent" sign he placed in the yard.

Telephone Case - 200 Block Yeonas Drive, SW. Between Dec. 31, at 7 a.m. and Jan. 4 at 6:12 p.m. A resident reported she had been receiving inappropriate text messages from a co-worker. This case is being investigated.

Domestic Assault - Holmes Drive, NW. Dec. 31, 1:30 p.m. A resident reported her son and his girlfriend had been involved in a heated argument that escalated when he struck her. MPO Lyons responded to the residence and

SEE CRIME REPORTS.
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OPINION

Budget Season Trainwreck?

County looks at “lines of business,” schools call for full funding.

Karen Garza didn't move to Fairfax County from Texas to preside over the decline of Fairfax County Public Schools. For this year's budget, the superintendent refused to cut to fit as the school system has the last two years, and called for a fully funded budget. It's true that Fairfax County schools have more students who are poor and/or are still learning English and those students cost more to educate. It's true that Fairfax County teachers make less than teachers in other bordering jurisdictions. It's true that Fairfax County spends less per student by a significant amount than other bordering jurisdictions, even accounting for size.

It's also true that Fairfax County, which provides most of the school funding, already transfers 52 percent and more of its annual budget to the schools. It's true that the county has limited revenue sources, with almost all revenue coming from property taxes. Residential property tax revenues are not growing much. Fairfax County's commercial tax base is flat or contracting with historically high vacancy rates. This is in part due to reduced spending by the federal government, but it's also about new and likely lasting trends in the way companies use office space.

The county is facing a shortfall, not just for education, but for other important things like transportation, social services, recreation and

the environment.

The Board of Supervisors and heads of county departments are about to engage in an intensive effort to review every area of county spending, with supervisors devoting two full days a week for the foreseeable future on “lines of business” review in the budget committee. What results from this process could set the stage for some reforms and some savings.

But none of those invested in Fairfax County, not the elected officials, not the teachers, not the county employees, especially not the residents, want to preside over the decline of quality of life in one of the wealthiest counties in the universe.

What's really needed is for the county to have access to a variety of revenue sources. It's excruciating to raise property taxes across the board, knowing that some people will be hard hit since there is no relation to ability to pay. But that is almost the only option the county has.

This brings us to tax reform and the General Assembly. It's pie in the sky, but localities in Virginia should have direct access to a portion of the income tax collected by the state. Northern Virginia pays the vast majority of the income taxes paid to the Commonwealth, but every penny set gets funnelled through a formula that by definition sends less money back.

Income is a measure of economic viability. There are other options, which we will detail in the future.

To find the names of your current representatives in the Virginia House and Senate, visit <http://whosmy.virginiageneralassembly.gov/> and enter your address.

— MARY KIMM

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EDITORIAL

COMMENTARY

Clearing an Obstacle to Gun Violence Prevention in Virginia

BY KENNETH R. “KEN” PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

Virginia has the dubious distinction of having had the biggest mass murder in history—Virginia Tech in 2007, and the first televised shooting—Smith Mountain Lake in 2015. Yet, the Commonwealth has never had a serious public debate on preventing gun violence. With the leadership shown by the President and the strong interest on the part of the public, the 2016 session of the General Assembly is time for that debate.

Every annual session of the General Assembly is the same: A few legislators bravely put in their commonsense, can't-we-do-a-little-something-about-gun-violence? bills. Now these bills even have the support of the Governor. In the House of Delegates the bills get referred to the Militia and Police Committee made up of mostly NRA sympathizers. The chairman



of that committee sends the bills to a subcommittee stacked with four legislators who have never seen a gun-related bill they like unless it eases regulations or restrictions and with one other legislator. That subcommittee hears the bills and summarily defeats them 4 to 1.

Their actions are totally predictable. Same thing happens every year. When Republicans gained a majority in the House of Delegates they changed the rules to allow the Speaker to refer bills of his choosing to the Rules Committee where they could be sent to the floor of the House of Delegates without recommendation. The official explanation for the change was that there could be bills of such public significance that they needed to be debated by the full legislative body

and not simply by a committee. Bills to enhance public safety and prevent gun violence seem to me to rise to the level of importance that they should be debated by the full body and not be defeated by just four of the 100 members of the House. The Speaker of the House who has absolute authority as to where bills are referred could simply refer gun-violence prevention bills to the Rules Committee where they would be sent to the floor of the House of Delegates without a recommendation. The ensuing debate and votes would clearly show whether the elected representatives in the House are standing up for the people who elected them, a majority of whom support commonsense gun violence prevention measures, or do these delegates represent the gun groups who feed money to their campaigns and who threaten them with primary opposition if they do not go along.

Pet Photos for the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on Feb. 24, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Feb. 17.

We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

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VIENNA CRIME REPORTS

FROM PAGE 5

spoke with all the individuals involved. The boyfriend had left prior to the arrival of the police. The girlfriend informed MPO Lyons she was not injured and there were no visible injuries. She was informed of the warrant process should she decide to pursue the case.

Vandalism - 400 Block Blair Road, NW. Between Dec. 31 at 4 p.m. and Jan. 1, 2016 at 10:43 a.m. The owner of legally parked vehicle reported the driver's side mirror on his vehicle had been smashed.

Natural Death - 700 Block Meadow Lane, SW. Dec. 31, 6:08 p.m. A resident reported his elderly wife had passed away after an extended illness. There were no signs of foul play. A detective will follow up with the case.

Arrest - Driving While Intoxicated/Refusal - 100 Block Maple Avenue, West. Jan. 1, 12:01 a.m. Sgt. Sylmar was on patrol when he observed the driver of a vehicle commit several traffic violations. As a result of those violations he conducted a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver he detected the signs of possible impairment. After failing to complete a series of field sobriety tests he arrested the 46 year old man from Devereaux Manor Lane in Fairfax Station, Virginia for Driving While Intoxicated. The driver was transported to the Vienna Police Station where he was given the opportunity to provide a sample of his breath for analysis, which he refused. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and Refusal to Submit to a Breath Test.

Vandalism - 400 Block Blair Road, NW. Jan. 1 between 1:30 a.m. and 10:43 a.m. The owner of a legally parked vehicle reported the driver's side mirror on his vehicle had been smashed.

Arrest - Narcotics Violation - 400 Block Maple Avenue, West. Jan. 1, 2:24 a.m. Officer Reedy was on patrol when he observed a vehicle with an equipment defect. As a result of that defect he conducted a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver he detected the odor of marijuana emanating from the vehicle. After further interaction with the driver he located a measurable amount of marijuana. The driver, a 22-year-old woman from Montclair Court in Vienna, was issued a summons for Possession of Marijuana and released.

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ALDEN SMALL STAGE. BIG TALENT. 

Residents List Priorities for General Assembly

FROM PAGE 3

life, I have never been given a multiple choice test," he said. "I never asked a potential employee to choose from a list of possible answers. ... Rote learning does not prepare students for the jobs of today.

Critical thinking is key to creative solutions, the engine of growth. Standardized testing yields standardized thinking."

THE DISPARITY between Virginia's rank as one of the 10 most wealthy states and spending on social services and education was invoked by many speakers.

Keith Foxx spoke in favor of state Sen. Barbara Favola's bill to help young adults that age out of foster care without being united with family or being adopted.

"It's critical that you support and fund Senator Favola's bill 'Fostering Futures' for the more than 500 young adults who age out of foster care at age 18 in Virginia every year," said Foxx, of Springfield. "Helping these young adults grow successfully to independence will save the commonwealth hundreds of millions of dollars over their lifetimes."

With a waiting list statewide of more than 10,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities for access to services in the community (through Medicaid waivers), only 325 new slots are included in the Governor's proposed budget. This is the minimum number required by settlement agreement between the Justice Department and the Commonwealth, said Rikki Epstein, executive director of the ARC of Northern Virginia.

"We can't keep doing the minimum and hoping the time will come when the problem solves itself," Epstein said, calling for the addition of 800 waivers in this cycle. This would "give hope to those with most urgent need, hope to those who have been waiting the longest."

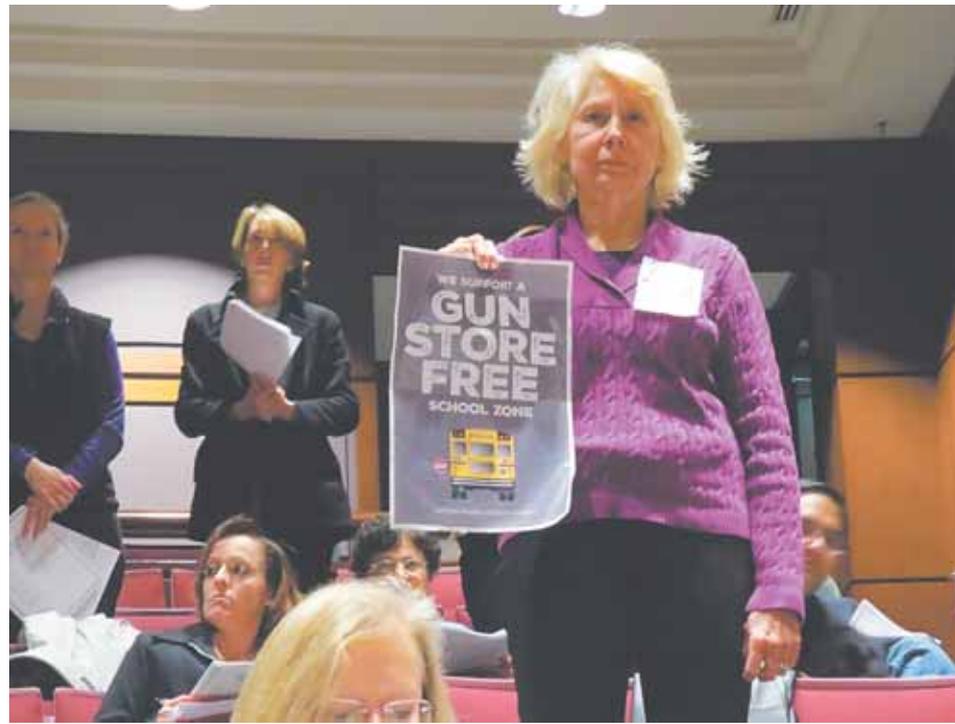
Molly Long of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board pointed out that people moving out of residential facilities like Northern Virginia Training Center are getting priority for services ahead of those who have been on the waiting list for a long time, and the waiting list continues to grow. Nearly 1,000 people locally qualify for services urgently, but their waivers are not funded at the state level, including people with intellectual disabilities whose elderly parents can no longer meet their needs at home, and youth aging out of special residential services who are in danger of becoming homeless.

Long also cited the intense local battle with heroin addiction, and lack of resources.

"Detoxification is often the important first step," she said, but clients seeking help must wait two-to-three weeks or longer for a detox bed.

"Waiting decreases the chance of successful intervention, and puts people's lives in danger. We must have more detox beds."

Richard Kennedy of Lorton testified in favor of sensible marijuana policy and cited the "insanity of arresting people for use of a drug that is an order of magnitude safer



PHOTOS BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

Gun-Store Free School Zone: Many from Franklin Sherman Elementary School in McLean, including Marilyn White, came to support legislation that would allow localities to regulate proximity of gun stores to schools. Sign says "Gun Store Free Zone."

Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan (in wheelchair) of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia. "We tell families we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families," said Annessa.



than alcohol or tobacco."

SEVERAL OTHERS spoke of the potential dangers of legalizing marijuana, even for medical purposes.

Sara Freund, of Great Falls, and a member of the Unified Prevention Council, said that states with medical marijuana laws have higher levels of youth use of mari-

juana. She also cited a recent survey showing that a higher percentage of Fairfax County 12th graders than national average have recently used marijuana.

Jerry Foltz of Centreville, a retired minister in United Church of Christ, was one of several speakers who requested increase of the minimum wage. "We need to support the people who are working hard," he said.

"Those on the bottom rung who get a little increase in income, they spend it. That stimulates the economy. This should be non-partisan issue to raise the minimum wage. It's a good year to do it. It doesn't cost much to do it, and it has all kinds of benefits."

And Medicaid expansion was discussed by many.

"Medicaid expansion is a life issue. Everyone has a right to health care coverage," said Bob Stewart, speaking for Social Action Linking Together, also citing good financial reasons for extending coverage to more people by expanding Medicaid.

Brooke Annessa of Fairfax, Maya Simbulan of Burke, Brian Rosen of Vienna, and Sarah Pickford of Springfield spoke in support of Brain Injury Services of Northern Virginia, and thanked members of the delegation for past support. "We tell families we will walk with them after the unthinkable has happened. ... We give a voice back to survivors of brain injury and their families," said Annessa.

"YOU NEED TO WRAP it up," said state Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35), moderator of the four-hour plus hearing, said when people ran over their allotted time.

Others talked of the need for reduced class sizes, exposure to foreign languages in elementary school, and giving teachers more freedom to teach.

Attorneys talked for the need for all 15 allotted circuit court judges and eight juvenile and domestic relations court judges to be filled, and several called for keeping Judge Jane Roush on the Virginia Supreme Court.

"Cases are taking forever," because of the vacancies, said Joseph Dailey, of McLean speaking for the Fairfax Bar Association. "This is about justice for your constituents." A case that begins this week, he said, won't be resolved until after the next World Series is over.

Chief Public Defender Todd Petit asked the delegates and senators to enact legislation to change criminal discovery so defense attorneys "have all the evidence beforehand," to be able to go forward with a fair trial. The issue was studied in 2014 by the Virginia Supreme Court.

Fairfax's Douglas Stewart and McLean's Marc Rosenberg, of the Virginia Sierra Club, Eric Goplerud, executive director of the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, and John Cartmill, of Herndon, were just some of the speakers who addressed the environment as issues including storm runoff, infill development, tree canopy, transportation choices, clean energy, solar and wind power and the health of the rivers and Chesapeake Bay.

Rosenberg of the Virginia Sierra Club called for more efforts to clean up Virginia's rivers by addressing sewage treatment plants that overflow in heavy rains, runoff from farms, toxic chemicals and heavy metals from mining operations and coal pits. Many people support removing plastic shopping bags from the environment. "At least stay out of the way and let localities act in this area," Rosenberg said.

HOME SALES

In November 2015, 75 homes sold between \$1,650,000-\$189,900 in the Vienna and Oakton area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
LOT25 WAPLES GLEN CT	4	5	1	OAKTON	\$1,650,000	Detached	0.96	22124	THE RESERVE AT WAPLES MILL
10909 WILLOW CREEK LN	5	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,624,900	Detached	0.85	22124	WINDSONG CREEK ESTATES
1900 PRELUDE DR	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,442,285	Detached	0.34	22182	TIBURON
509 DELANO DR SE	6	6	2	VIENNA	\$1,375,000	Detached	0.30	22180	EAST VIENNA WOODS
3108 WINDSONG DR	5	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,325,000	Detached	0.83	22124	WINDSONG WEST
2320 SAWDUST RD	4	4	2	VIENNA	\$1,325,000	Detached	0.97	22181	HUNTERS VALLEY NORTH WES
2641 SLEDDING HILL RD	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$1,255,000	Detached	0.84	22124	OAKTON RETREAT
1520 NIGHT SHADE CT	6	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,130,000	Detached	0.63	22182	WOLFTRAP MEADOWS
404 PARK ST SE	5	5	0	VIENNA	\$1,060,000	Detached	0.21	22180	MURRAYLAND
8416 BLACK STALLION PL	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$995,000	Detached	0.34	22182	ASHGROVE PLANTATION
2303 SAWDUST RD	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$990,000	Detached	0.92	22181	HUNTERS VALLEY NORTH WES
10110 OAKTON DR	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$985,000	Detached	0.35	22124	MANOR STATION
10005 MCDUFF CT	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$979,000	Detached	0.63	22181	GLENCANNON
11429 GREEN MOOR LN	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$960,000	Detached	0.46	22124	HUNT VALLEY ESTATES
201 PLEASANT ST SW	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$950,000	Detached	1.23	22180	ANDREW MINOR ESTATE
1514 NIGHT SHADE CT	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$921,375	Detached	0.70	22182	WOLFTRAP MEADOWS
2007 ANNIES WAY	6	4	1	VIENNA	\$910,000	Detached	0.25	22182	WOLFTRAP RIDGE
1901 CLARKS GLEN PL	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$907,500	Detached	0.42	22182	HOMESTEADE
1635 HICKS DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$875,000	Detached	0.59	22182	CHAPEL HILL
9900 ROSEWOOD HILL CIR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$875,000	Detached	0.90	22182	HARVEST RIDGE
9611 SAVANNAH CROSSING CT	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$853,000	Detached	0.35	22182	STARKS CROSSING
10102 LAWYERS RD	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$850,000	Detached	1.09	22181	ANGELICA WOODS
10701 SAMAGA DR	4	2	1	OAKTON	\$845,000	Detached	0.78	22124	OAKTON MILL ESTATES
9634 CINNAMON CREEK DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$845,000	Detached	1.08	22182	CINNAMON CREEK
3110 COBB HILL LN	5	3	1	OAKTON	\$835,000	Detached	0.55	22124	OAKTON VALE
1760 NEVAR CT	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$829,000	Detached	0.55	22182	SUN VALLEY
1817 ABBOTSFORD DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$814,000	Detached	0.25	22182	WAVERLY
406 HOLLOWAY CT NE	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$805,000	Detached	0.27	22180	GLYNHILL
8651 POPLAR GLEN CT	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$805,000	Detached	0.34	22182	WESTWOOD FOREST
3202 CINCH RING CT	5	3	1	OAKTON	\$790,000	Detached	0.49	22124	VALE PARK WEST
1770 PROFFIT RD	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$790,000	Detached	1.61	22182	SPRING LAKE
603 BRUTON PL NW	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$762,500	Detached	0.36	22180	TANGLEWOOD
2100 POST RD	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$735,000	Detached	0.96	22181	CARRIAGE HILL
8519 TYSONS CT	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$735,000	Detached	0.38	22182	TYSONS VALLEY
10600 VALE RD	5	3	0	OAKTON	\$709,000	Detached	1.98	22124	ANGELICA WOODS
10302 SADDLEVIEW CT	5	3	0	VIENNA	\$707,822	Detached	0.46	22182	TAMARACK
2780 THAXTON LN	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$696,000	Townhouse	0.05	22124	WYANT PROPERTY
1814 MIDLOTHIAN CT	6	3	1	VIENNA	\$690,000	Detached	0.27	22182	WAVERLY
9721 CINNAMON CREEK DR	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$685,000	Detached	0.53	22182	CINNAMON CREEK
2614 LEMONTREE LN	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$679,000	Detached	0.31	22181	VIENNA OAKS
2943 MILLER HEIGHTS RD	3	2	1	OAKTON	\$670,000	Detached	0.65	22124	CINNAMON RIDGE
10526 MILLER RD	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$655,000	Detached	2.07	22124	OAKTON
2024 GALLOWAYS TREE CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$652,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	HAHN PROPERTY
308 BRANCH RD SE	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$630,000	Detached	0.39	22180	EAST VIENNA WOODS
2036 PIERIS CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$630,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	HAHN PROPERTY
202 BRANCH RD SE	4	2	0	VIENNA	\$629,990	Detached	0.40	22180	EAST VIENNA WOODS
2006 PIERIS CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$620,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	HAHN PROPERTY
2008 PIERIS CT	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$616,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	TYSONS STATION
3001 OAKTON MEADOWS CT	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$605,000	Townhouse	0.09	22124	OAKTON MAINS
703 TAPAWINGO RD SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$605,000	Detached	0.24	22180	VIENNA WOODS
103 MOORE AVE SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$601,500	Detached	0.23	22180	KINGCREST
12014 WAYLAND ST	3	2	1	OAKTON	\$585,000	Detached	0.56	22124	VALEWOOD MANOR
9647 MASTERWORKS DR	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$575,000	Townhouse	0.04	22181	COUNTRY CREEK
2885 SUTTON OAKS LN	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$570,000	Townhouse	0.04	22181	COUNTRY CREEK
10220 BALTIUSROL CT	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$565,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	TREEBROOKE
212 ROSS DR SW	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$565,000	Detached	0.31	22180	VIENNA WOODS
9851 SNOWBOUND CT	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$530,000	Detached	0.22	22181	EDGELEA WOODS
110 MELODY LN SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$524,000	Detached	0.30	22180	VIENNA WOODS
8126 LARKIN LN	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$510,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	TYSONS MANOR
2421 HUNTER MILL RD	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$506,000	Detached	0.51	22181	KEMPER PARK
616 TAZEWEILL RD NW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$490,000	Detached	0.23	22180	VIENNA HILLS
2805 LAFORA CT	4	2	2	VIENNA	\$478,000	Townhouse	0.04	22180	MERRIFIELD VIEW
2665 MANHATTAN PL #311	2	2	1	VIENNA	\$465,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22180	WESTBRIAR PLAZA
8573 DELLIWAY LN	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$450,000	Townhouse	0.03	22180	DUNN LORING VILLAGE
2651 PARK TOWER DR #103	2	2	1	VIENNA	\$440,000	Townhouse	0.03	22180	WESTBRIAR PLAZA
1573 NORTHERN NECK DR #202	2	2	1	VIENNA	\$427,500	Townhouse	0.03	22182	WESTWOOD VILLAGE
9490 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD #125	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$395,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STATION
306A LOCUST ST SE #12	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$341,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22180	TIFFANY PLACE
2726 GALLOWAYS RD #914	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$335,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors	0.03	22180	WILTON HOUSE
2740 ALLEGY DR #1	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.03	22181	MOSBYS LANDING
9480 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD #402	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$310,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22181	ACADIA
3178 SUMMIT SQUARE DR #3-C10	2	2	0	OAKTON	\$265,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	0.03	22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
216 LOCUST ST SE #138	2	1	0	VIENNA	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22180	PARK TERRACE
3176 SUMMIT SQUARE DR #4-C4	1	1	0	OAKTON	\$210,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors	0.03	22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON
10300 APPALACHIAN CIR #206	1	1	0	OAKTON	\$189,900	Garden 1-4 Floors	0.03	22124	FOUR WINDS AT OAKTON

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Weichert, Realtors Recognizes Lex Lianos of Vienna Office

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced that Lex Lianos of the Vienna office was recognized for exceptional industry success during the month of December.

A top producer, Lianos led the region, which comprises locations throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Dela-



Lex Lianos

ware counties, for resales.

Invite this top neighborhood specialist in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. Lianos can be reached in Weichert's Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue, or call 703-938-6070 for more information.

Weichert, Realtors' McLean Dolley Madison Office, Top Associates Recognized

Bruce Green, regional vice president of Weichert, Realtors, announced that the McLean/Dolley Madison office was recognized for exceptional performance during the month of December. The office led the entire company for new home dollar volume, new home sales and resale dollar volume. It also was the top office in its sales region, which comprises locations throughout

Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for new home dollar volume, resales, resale revenue units and resale dollar volume.

In addition, sales associates J.D. Callander, Jenifer Justice and Ashton Vessali of the McLean/Dolley Madison office were individually recognized for their industry success in December. Callander led the region for resale dollar volume, while Justice led both the

region and the entire company for new home dollar volume and Vessali led the company for new home sales.

Invite these top neighborhood specialists in to learn about the real estate services that Weichert, Realtors has to offer. They can be reached in Weichert's McLean/Dolley Madison office located at 1313 Dolley Madison Blvd., or call 703-760-8880 for more information.

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		\$10/\$5 (MCC district residents)	Walk-ins will not be accepted.	Registration is required for all participants.

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Oakton senior Bridgette McRoberts placed 10th on floor with a score of 8.45 during Saturday's home meet.

Oakton Gymnastics Places Second at Home Meet

Weaver takes fifth in all-around with 35.6.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Oakton gymnastics team produced its best score of the season during a home meet on Jan. 9. The Cougars placed second with a score of 135.6 at the four-team event. Yorktown, arguably one of the top teams in the region, won the meet with a score of 144.2. Hayfield finished third (134.4) and South County was fourth (112.4).

"This meet was our best one so far," Oakton assistant coach Farrah Khan wrote in an email. "We saw our highest team score of the season, something the girls are all very proud of. Our gymnasts have been steadily increasing their difficulty over the course of the season — adding extra or harder leaps on beam, performing one-handed front acrobatic skills on beam, focusing on connections, doing tumbling passes in a layout position instead of a tuck. We have been working each practice to clean up execution. The results of their dedication are coming through in their scores."

Natalie Weaver produced Oakton's top all-around performance, taking fifth with a score of 35.6. She finished fifth on floor (9), bars (8.9) and vault (8.7), and took sixth on beam (9).

"I think I'm on the [right] track for conferences," Weaver said. "I'm starting to get more consistent with what I'm doing so I'll just keep working on that. ... I did well on floor and beam went pretty well, too."

Oakton senior Amanda Gore also competed in the all-around, finishing 10th with a score of 32.45.

"Amanda Gore, a senior and team captain, led us with a reliable all-around performance," Khan wrote. "She's been the backbone of our team. I've been able to count on her performance meet after meet and she always delivers a strong showing, no matter the event. I think she still has opportunities to polish off her routine and we're going to work on that leading up to the conference meet."

On vault, Oakton's Gore and Bridgette McRoberts tied for eighth with a score of 8.55. Ashley Williams placed fifth on beam (9.1) and Stephanie Jones took sixth on floor (8.65).

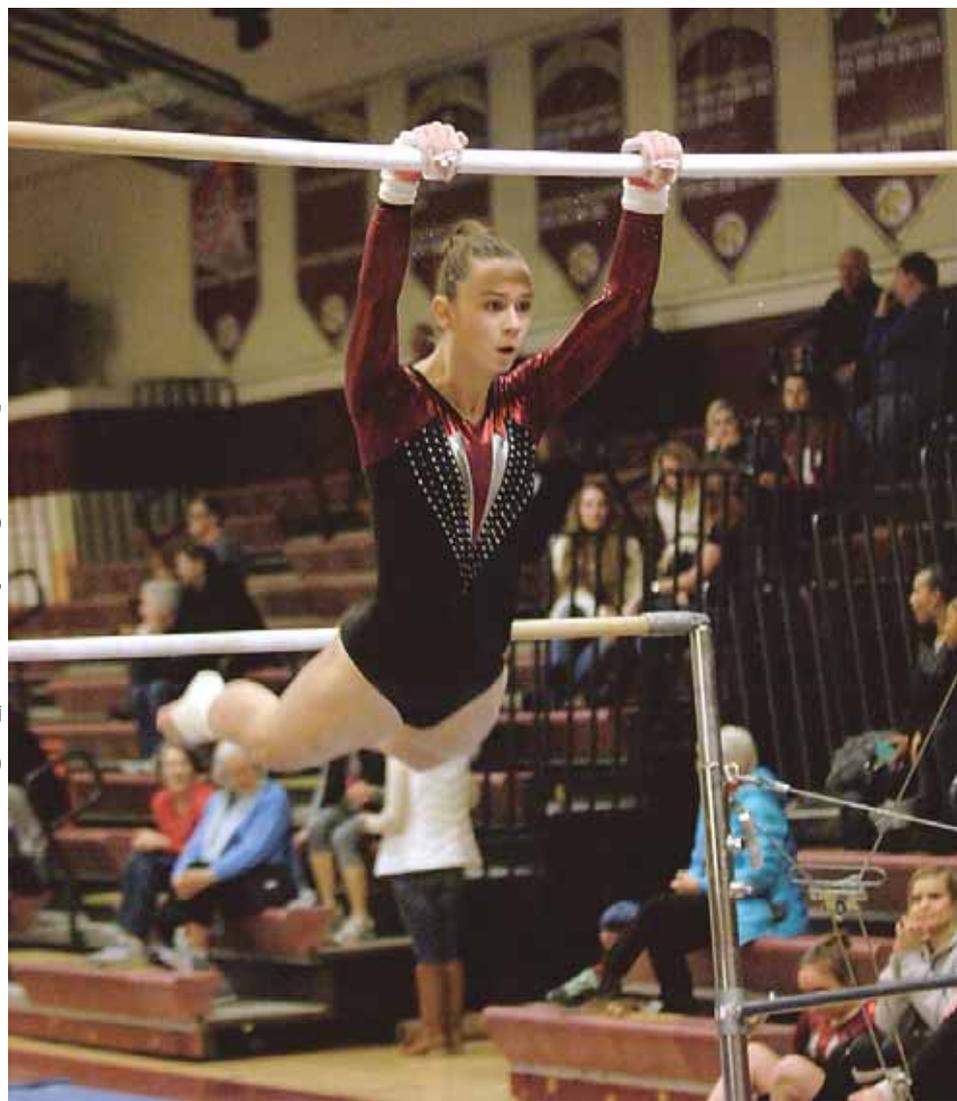
"I'm really excited about the rest of the season and I'm really proud of our whole team because we had a really good day," Weaver said. "I'm excited to see our whole team perform at conferences."

Yorktown's Julia Hays won the all-around with a score of 37.3, including first-place finishes on floor (9.5), beam (9.5) and vault (9.3).

Hayfield's Molly Overstreet finished first on bars (9.75).

Next up for Oakton is a meet at Tuscarora at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Jan. 13. The Conference 5 meet is scheduled for 6 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at Centreville High School.

"I know we're going to face some stiff competition with our conference," Khan wrote. "The other schools have some strong and talented gymnasts so placing first or second will be a fight, but it's one that the Oakton Cougars are ready for. We talked about our goals at the beginning of the season and going to regionals as a team was one of them. I remind the girls of their goals weekly, emphasizing this is their collective team goal and that each of them contributes to it."



Oakton senior Natalie Weaver placed fifth in the all-around and the Cougars took second in the team competition during Saturday's home meet.



Senior Amanda Gore is a captain for the Oakton gymnastics team.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Design Trends for 2016

Local style gurus predict the elements that will be popular this year.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

The start of the year offers an opportunity to ring in new trends, particularly when it comes to a home's interior. From sustainably sourced textiles to sparsely accessorized rooms, local tastemakers look into their crystal balls and offer predictions on design elements that will be popular this year.

Interior design is going high tech, allowing designers and clients an opportunity to work collaboratively during the design process. "Technology seems to be driving design firms," said Jean P. Freeman, professor of Interior Design at Marymount University in Arlington. "Since there are so many computer programs that assist designers in creating visual, 3-D drawings, clients are able to better understand the designs. Designers and clients both are able to visualize how spaces appear with colors, textures, volume, proportion and other aspects of design."

Freeman believes that consumer demand for energy efficient appliances and designs, as well as sustainably sourced materials, is a trend that will continue and even be elevated. "Now they are interested to find out the origins of various textiles, furniture [and] cabinets," said Freeman. "Clients are seeking healthy environments that are safe. The off gassing of toxic gases from some of the synthetic materials used in carpet, paint, upholstery, furniture is now considered harmful."



PHOTO BY GWIN HUNT

Designers will be tasked with creating elegant spaces on a small scale in 2016, predicts interior designer Sharon Kleinman.

Eschewing fussy and indulgent decor in favor of a clean and simple aesthetic is a trend that Kristine Winner, associate professor of Interior Design at Northern Virginia Community College expects to see this year. "... This indicates a trend toward more comfortably contemporary environments with minimal accessories," she said. "It also indicates that we should be designing interiors for people that will allow them to be surrounded by the things they love rather than a load of things selected for no real reason."

The trend toward de-cluttering and simplification will extend to home choices. "Go small or go home" is one theme that Sharon Kleinman of Transitions in Potomac, Md. believes will resonate with consumers this year.

"One trend I'm seeing among my clients is that they are either downsizing from large homes on more acreage or moving towards city living with little to no property and more compact living space," said Kleinman. "I'm also seeing clients gravitate towards transitional furnishings. There doesn't seem to be as great a divide between the more traditional versus the more modern."

Outdoor upholstery fabric will no longer be confined to alfresco furniture, forecasts Amanda Mertins, president of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. "One of the most popular design trends for this year is the use of outdoor fabric for indoor upholstery," she said. "It has been used for high traffic rooms especially where kids are involved but now, given a

"We should be designing interiors for people that will allow them to be surrounded by the things they love rather than a load of things selected for no real reason."

— Kristine Winner, Associate Professor, Interior Design, Northern Virginia Community College

broader selection and interesting patterns, customers are using it in traditional living areas and dining rooms."

Elegant and bold mirrors will make an appearance in bathrooms marrying style and function. "Bye-bye to medicine cabinets and hello to mirrors that make a statement," said Mertins. "Modern metallics, large wood-framed and vintage mirrors add interest and boost style to a utilitarian space which is used every day."

Furniture and accessories made of Lucite, a transparent plastic material, is one trend that Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors predicts for 2016. The designer also expects to see a transition

from cool grays to warmer grays, whites and cool beiges being used as neutral shades. "We are seeing a return to organic patterns as a change from the strong geometrics, which have populated the fabric field for the last few years," she said. "Colors and patterns are still quite popular and will be."

Trends that Gretchen Fuss, interior designer with Tchoupitoulas Furnishings in Alexandria, expects to see include "classic, elegant, fundamental pieces with clean lines as seen in midcentury modern, vignettes composed in thoughtful arrangements that include pops of color found in Abstract art," she said.

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McLean Community Center
2016-2017 Governing Board Election

Qualification:

Must be a resident of Small Tax District 1A-Dranesville.

Petition to Become Candidate:

- Candidate must pick up petition packet at the Center.
- Ten (10) signatures of tax district residents required on candidate's petition.

Voting will take place at:

McLean Day on Saturday, May 21 at Lewinsville Park in McLean.

Absentee Voting:

Will be available April 11 through May 18.

Key Petition Dates:

- January 25: Petition Packets are available.
- March 25: Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.



For more information, contact the Center at 703-790-0123.
TTY: 411, write elections@mcleancenter.org, or visit our website, www.mcleancenter.org.

CALENDAR

Send announcements to north@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

WEDNESDAYS/STARTING JAN. 13.

An Evening with The Gonzalo Bergara Quartet.

7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Gonzalo Bergara has emerged a virtuoso composer and lead guitarist. Mixing a cascade of arpeggios with the sounds of Paris and his native Argentina, he has forged his own style of progressive Gypsy Jazz. \$18-\$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Total Vocal with Pitches Be Crazy feat. Handsome Reward + Word Of Mouth. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join for energetic music performed by Pitches Be Crazy, Handsome Reward and Word of Mouth. \$15-\$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Vienna Arts Society Monthly Meeting.

10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Features watercolorist Jack Harding, who will demonstrate his technique of creating "distressed" rice paper for instant texture in watercolor paintings. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 15

The Fabulous Dialtones 20th Anniversary Party! 8 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. The Fabulous Dialtones horns blazing, crooning, booming and who-knows-what-they're-doing-next classic rock band. \$15-\$25. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Falu's Bollywood Orchestra. 8 p.m. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. Fronted by one of India's most influential musicians—who's collaborated with masterminds including Yo-Yo Ma and A.R. Rahman—this ethereal ensemble, led by singer Fulu, combines the timeless elegance of Bollywood's musical golden age with an inventive modern style. \$22-\$27. <http://www.wolftrap.org/> or 703-255-1900.

SATURDAY/JAN. 16

Projected Man Album Release Show + Pleasure Train. 5:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join for the two band groups - Projected Man and Pleasure Train - for some jam music. \$10-\$18. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

Daycare Swindlers. 10 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join the evening as three groups take the stage for some exciting music of different genres. \$10-\$15. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

"The Blues." 1-3 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Exhibition of VAS members paintings with the theme, "The Blues." Free. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

Model Trains and Thomas at Open House. 1-5 p.m. Historic Vienna Train Station, 231 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. See and hear model trolleys and steam and diesel trains plus Thomas and some of his friends. The layout reflects the mountainous terrain and towns of Western North Carolina with award winning structures. Free. Donations accepted. www.nvmr.org. 703-938-5157.

SUNDAY/JAN. 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration: Peggy Wallace Kennedy. 2 p.m. McLean

Community Center, 1234 Ingleside

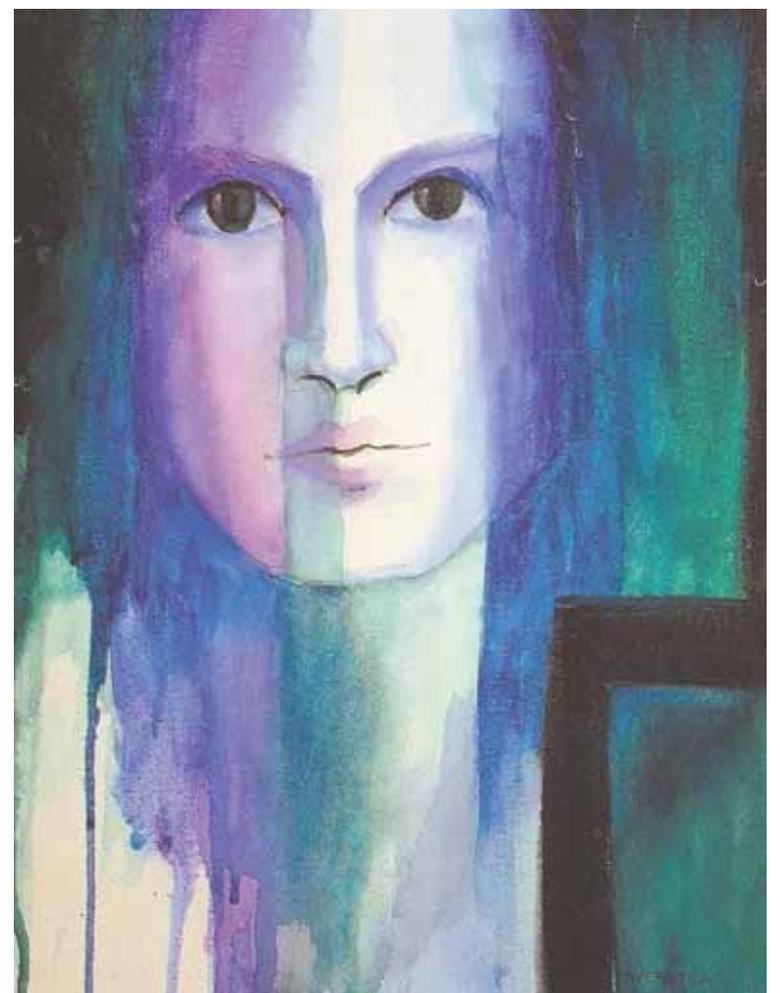


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"Lady Sings the Blues" by Susan Webster, watercolor, can be seen in "The Blues Exhibit" at the Vienna Art Center from Jan. 5-23.

Ongoing

Pigments of My Imagination. Jan. 4-March 31. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Long time Great Falls resident Donna Barnako, has created over a dozen colorful and whimsical small works. Her subjects are varied, from pigs to puppies and cowboy boots.

Weekly Storytime. Wednesday and Saturday. 11 a.m. Barnes & Noble, 7851 L Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Themes and Titles vary. Free admission.

"The Blues" Exhibition. Jan. 5-23. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Exhibition of VAS members paintings with the theme, "The Blues." Free. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

53rd Annual James A. Bland Contest. Through Monday, Feb. 15. Vienna Lions Club invites elementary and high school vocalist and instrumentalists to present a song or piece for cash prizes. For information and application, contact Susan Stiles at

sandcs89@yahoo.com or 703-938-1142.

Trail and Ales with Caboose Brewing and Grass Roots Fitness.

Mondays through Jan. 31. Caboose Brewing Company, 520 Mill Street, NE Vienna. Come Run with us every Monday night. \$1 Off All Pints! All paces welcome. We will run between 3-5 miles with options to go shorter or longer. You can walk or run. Dog and stroller friendly. Contact Joann Meginley at joannandfrancine@grassrootsfitness.org.

Tai Chi Beginners' Practice. Saturdays, 8-9 a.m. St. Luke's Catholic School Gymnasium, 7005 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Weekly Tai Chi practice. Group has met for over 20 years. Free. FreeTaiChi.org. 703-759-9141.

Ave. McLean. Peggy Wallace Kennedy now stands apart from her past as one of America's most important voices for peace and reconciliation. Come hear about Peggy's personal journey, who is a civil-rights activist. Fees: \$20/\$10 MCC tax district residents. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

The 32nd Mid-Atlantic Song Contest Awards Gala.

6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Join for a magical night, as the gala celebrates the power of great songs to touch our heart, and recognizes the songwriting talents of all the entrants. Enjoy exhilarating performances of many of the Gold and Silver award-winning songs, ranging from Folk to Jazz to Rock, Country to Hip Hop, Adult Contemporary to Children's Music! \$12-\$14. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Along The Way EP Release Show + The Starless + Wild Love + Dear Spring. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave E, Vienna. Enjoy music from Along the Way, The Starless, Wild Love and Dear Spring. \$10-\$18. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

"Brush Up Your Shakespeare." 7:30 p.m. McLean Community

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

TUESDAY/JAN. 19

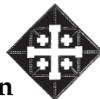
Aaron Carter. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java,

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THEATRE

From left — Aleca Piper as Gloucester, Ross Neal as King Henry, and Chris Bellinger as Exeter in “The Life of King Henry V.”



PHOTO BY MICHAEL BAILEY/COURTESY OF AMERICAN SHAKESPEARE CENTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF McLEAN COMMUNITY CENTER

Sarah N. Schallern, director, performing arts, McLean Community Center.

Shakespeare at Alden

Alden Theatre welcomes American Shakespeare Center and ‘Brush Up Your Shakespeare.’

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Back by popular demand the American Shakespeare Center (ASC) on Tour brings its unique hallmark to William Shakespeare performances at the Alden Theatre. The ASC on Tour presents not only accessible interpretations of the Bard, but performances are accomplished as in Shakespeare’s own times, with original staging conditions; on a simple stage, without elaborate sets, and with the audience sharing the same light as the actors.

“Apart from the fact that ASC does incredible work, Alden audiences have enthusiastically embraced the company. Tickets sell quickly, and patrons always rave about the ASC experience,” said Sarah Schallern, director, performing arts, McLean Community Center.

“The ASC productions are so engaging and accessible,” added Schallern. Any number of audience members at previous ASC productions have called the productions “simply awesome” and “almost heaven.” What is more, the cast performs live music and singing related to each play before each show.

Schallern received so many requests for the ASC, that the Alden will “grant our patrons’ wishes by bringing ASC on Tour to perform all three of their touring productions.” This year the productions will be two by William Shakespeare; the Ides of March tragedy

Where and When

American Shakespeare Center on Tour at the Alden Theatre, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave, McLean. Productions of “Julius Caesar” on Friday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m.; “The Importance of Being Earnest”, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2 p.m.; and “The Life of King Henry V” on Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m. Live music starts 30 minutes before each show. Tickets: \$35/\$20 MCC district residents. Tickets to all three plays for \$88/\$50 MCC district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org

“Brush Up Your Shakespeare; Insider Knowledge.” Thursday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets \$6/\$3 MCC district residents. Call 703-790-0123 or visit www.mcleancenter.org

of “Julius Caesar” and the history of English warrior King “Henry V” as well as the satirical “The Importance of Earnest” with its subtitle of “A Trivial Comedy for Serious People” by English author Oscar Wilde.

This year’s ASC on Tour is called the “Dangerous Dreams Tour.” It is a befitting title given the perilous or daring journeys of many characters in the theater productions. Characters learn too late to be careful what they may dream for there are serious unintended consequences, some deadly, and some startling.

“We scour the country for the right 10-12 actors to perform dozens of roles in these plays,” said ASC Artistic Director Jim Warren.

“Brush Up Your Shakespeare” is an exceptional special event that has become a regular feature at the McLean Community Center. Held an evening before the ASC performances, an expert panel aims to maximize patrons’ knowledge of The Bard in a user-friendly manner. The panel includes Hannah Hessel Ratner from D.C.’s renowned Shakespeare Theatre Company, Cass Morris with ASC’s education department, and Tory Virchow, an upper school English teacher at the Potomac School with training from ASC and the Folger Shakespeare Library.

Do make a date with The Bard and Oscar Wilde. It’s all right in the nearby neighborhood.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Experts from the Shakespeare Theatre, American Shakespeare Center and the Folger Shakespeare Library are back to give you a guided tour of the world of Shakespeare in preparation for American Shakespeare Center on Tour’s Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden. Tickets: \$6/\$3 MCC district residents; free with the three-play ASC weekend package. Single tickets available at the box office only. <http://www.mcleancenter.org/>. 703-790-0123.

Here, Now and Forever + Eric King & The Thin Line. 7:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave

E, Vienna. Formed in 2014, HNF brings a modern twist to original vocal and instrumental progressive rock composition; plus, arranging some of their personal favorites, from the artists they truly respect, giving audiences an exceptional approach to concert performance. \$20. <https://jamminjava.com/>. 703-255-1566.

FRIDAY/JAN. 22

American Shakespeare Center on Tour’s Shakespeare Weekend at The Alden: “Julius Caesar.” 8 p.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean. Shakespeare shows us a world on fire; a world where some of history’s most famous men commit horrific crimes in the name of patriotism and honor. “Julius Caesar” is a dazzling

thrill ride of betrayal, violence and perhaps most surprisingly, love. \$20-\$35 (three plays for \$50-\$88). <http://www.mcleancenter.org/> or 703-790-0123.

Robyn Hitchcock. 8 p.m. The Barnes, Wolf Trap, 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. One of England’s most enduring contemporary singer/songwriters, Robyn Hitchcock began his career performing folk rock in Cambridge. Come enjoy his performance with Emma Swift, who is an alt-country songstress and award-winning radio broadcaster. \$25-\$28. <http://www.wolftrap.org> or 703-255-1900.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m.-noon. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Beverly Ress, a graphic artist who does Botanical illustrations, will be the featured presenter. 703-790-0123.

McLean Community Center
The Center of It All



Here’s What’s Happening at MCC



Classic of the Silent Screen Series
Mary Pickford’s “Sparrows” (1926)
Wednesday, Jan. 13, 7:30 p.m.

5th and 6th Grader Party Winter Wonderland
Friday, Jan. 15, 7-9 p.m.

Family Fun Bingo
Friday, Jan. 15, 7-8:30 p.m.

Onstage @ The Alden
Barter Theatre: “A Wrinkle in Time”
Saturday, Jan. 16, 2 p.m.

Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
Peggy Wallace Kennedy: “A Walk to Redemption”
Sunday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m.

Onstage @ The Alden
American Shakespeare Center on Tour

“Julius Caesar”
Friday, Jan. 22, 8 p.m.

“The Importance of Being Earnest”
Saturday, Jan. 23, 2 p.m.

“Henry V”
Saturday, Jan. 23, 8 p.m.

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org



1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



"You're Old News"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

So said my wife, Dina, after hearing me describe my most recent visit to the Infusion Center. Visits which I've now made approximately 100 times since I received my cancer diagnosis in late February, 2009. For nearly seven years, save for 15 months or so when I was taking two pills a day at home instead of infusing once every three weeks, I have been an oncology patient getting treated for stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) – a treatable but not-curable form of cancer, as my oncologist explained to Team Lourie on February 27th, 2009. In short, I was "terminal," with my chance of surviving beyond two years calculated in the low single digits. The fact that I sit here, almost seven years later, alive and reasonably well, is a miracle of biblical proportions, and a reality for which I am extraordinarily grateful and fortunate, although "fortunate" doesn't really characterize how lucky I am, all things considered.

And seven years into my treatment, it's safe to say I know the drill at the Infusion Center. As such, I require very little attention, special or otherwise, when I am admitted into the treatment area. This past visit was a bit different, however. Due to a computer coding/data-entry error, one of my lab results was not posted. As a result, there was a delay of nearly an hour before the results were retrieved, which in turn prevented my chemotherapy drugs from even being ordered/mixed, a process which ordinarily takes 15 to 20 minutes. Because of this snafu, I was left to sit in my Barcalounger/pace in my cubicle for quadruple the normal wait. Eventually, the results were loaded, but in the interim, I was left to fend for myself.

It was during this delay that I noticed a fellow oncology patient across the room who seemed to be getting an inordinate amount of attention, although it didn't seem urgent; from the LPNs, the oncology nurses and even from my oncologist – who is generally not present/involved (nor does he need to be, according to my experience) at the Infusion Center. Yours truly, on the other hand, stood idly by/sat minding my own business/making numerous non-medically-related cell-phone calls and was basically but not totally ignored. (I'm not a shrinking violet; if I needed something, I would have asked.)

When I shared this story with my wife, she scoffed at my semi inconvenience and said: "You're old news." To which I laughed and agreed. I suppose, after seven years of treatment/miscellaneous interactions, and having far exceeded my original "13-month to two-year" prognosis, I am very old news. The kind of news which apparently is very rare; but having survived so long requiring so little, I guess I'm sort of ignorable. Not that there's anything wrong with that; I'd much rather not require any attention, especially the life-saving kind, and go about my regular infusions with amazingly minimal complications – which seems to be my norm.

Of course, I don't take any of this for granted, as you regular readers know. But there was a peculiar sort of indifference/lack of concern/being taken for granted that was oddly reassuring. If the staff is not paying attention to me, then I must not need any attention paid. And if I don't require any attention, I must not present any kind of problem. And if I don't present any kind of problem, then what am I worried about? So what if there's a delay? Apparently, there are patients with bigger problems and I don't seem to have any of them. Perhaps I should just recline in my Barcalounger and relax; I've earned it.

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

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 The Mount Vernon Gazette

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 Centre View South

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 The Vienna/Oakton Connection
 The McLean Connection
 The Great Falls Connection

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

-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
BVP Exxon, Inc. trading as BVP Exxon, 4746 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22207. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer off Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Arpit Sethi, President
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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21 Announcements

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

COMMUNITY

McLean Chocolate Festival Returns Jan. 31

The Rotary Club of McLean is hosting its fifth annual Chocolate Festival at the McLean Community Center on Sunday, Jan. 31, from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Each year the festival has grown in both the number and quality of vendors, and in the number of visitors attending.

This year's Festival vendors include C and D Sweets, Dave's Candy Kitchen, Fair Trade Winds, Fluffy Thoughts, Zinga! Yogurt and many more. Buy treats to eat on site or stock up for Valentine's Day. Plenty of free parking. Admission fee is \$2. Children six and under are free.

This family-friendly event features a

children's game room with chocolate-themed games; performances on the Festival Stage by Ukulele Phil and the Hula Kids at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m., and by accordion player Dave Lovins at 3:30 p.m. Participate in an interactive demonstration of colonial America chocolate-making by American Heritage, a Mars company. All proceeds go to fund local charitable organizations through the McLean Rotary Club Foundation.

For additional information about vendors and for directions to the McLean Community Center, visit the Festival website at www.mcleanchocolatefestival.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to north@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

THURSDAY/JAN. 14

Roadmap to Our Region's Economic Future. 7:15-11:30 a.m. The Ritz-Carlton Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Blvd., McLean. Stephen Fuller's presentation of the Roadmap, an industry-diverse panel of business leaders, and a keynote speaker. The discussion will center on how the Washington regional economy can be repositioned to remain competitive and grow in a national and global marketplace. \$100, \$120. Registration required. www.fairfaxchamber.org.

WEDNESDAY/JAN. 20

Fairfax Commission on Aging. Noon. Oakton Regional Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. 703-324-5403, TTY

711 for meeting access needs.

McLean Newcomers and Neighbors Monthly Luncheon. 11:30 a.m. Ristorante Bonaroti, 428 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Eileen O'Grady, a nurse practitioner and wellness coach, will speak about the Science of Flourishing. \$29. For further information on the club, visit www.McleanNewcomers.org. RSVP Ann Skelly at mfskelly@verizon.net by Jan. 13. Prospective members invited.

Dyslexia, An Overview for Parents. 7-8:30 p.m. Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1, Dunn Loring. Workshop presented by specialists from FCPS Office of Special Education. Register www.fcps.edu/dss/osp/prc or 703-204-3941.

THURSDAY/JAN. 21

Model Investment Club. 6-9 p.m. Meeting Room, Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave, McLean. Learn about investing following an investment club model. New visitors welcome. Adults. 703-356-0770.



Cooper Students Send Snack Packs to Groveton

For the month of December Cooper Middle School students collected enough food to send Groveton 113 snack bags for the students. **Snack packs included: Juice box/pouch, oatmeal, breakfast bars (i.e. Nutrigrain bars), tuna, soup, canned pasta (i.e. ravioli), fruit cups, pudding cups, crackers and cheese packs (non-perishable), Goldfish Easy Mac/Ramen noodles, fruit snacks, apple sauce, any non-perishable snack item. This program "mobilizes communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry." Each week some students at Groveton will receive these snack bags for the weekend.**

Above a Cut

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

For Fiscal Year 2015, Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza oversaw \$96.5 million in cuts made from the school system's annual operating budget. For FY 2016, it was \$55.4 million, she said.

Before a library full of news cameras, elected officials, students, teachers and principals at West Potomac High School, Garza presented her proposed FY 2017 budget for the first time on Jan. 7.

"The most important announcement for our students and teachers may be what the proposed budget does not do," she said, "it makes no further cuts."

The \$2.67 billion budget includes \$62.2 million for raising all employees' salaries, as well as another \$40 million specifically for teacher salaries.

Garza said the salary raises are the "first steps" in a multi-year plan to make Fairfax County more competitive in attracting and maintaining teachers. At the beginning of this school year, she said, there were 200 open positions in the school system. "This must not continue."

Garza cited the nearly half a billion dollars having to be cut from FCPS budgets going back to 2008, as well as a trend of underfunding from state and local government from the last nine years.

Another focus of the budget is decreasing class sizes, for which the superintendent proposed a \$10.8 million increase for hiring 165 new employees. The additional personnel would lower all elementary classes to fewer than 30 students, according to a release from Fairfax County Public Schools.

"This budget reflects only our very basic and most pressing needs," Garza said, "and, as a community, we must commit to investing in our teachers and students once again."

Garza's new budget tops FY 2016 by \$121.4 million, or 4.8 percent, and expecting little increase in funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia (roughly 15 percent of the school's budget), would require a 6.7 percent increase in the transfer from Fairfax County (the majority source of funding) to fully execute.

Kimberly Scott, Franklin Middle School teacher and FCPS 2015 Teacher of the Year, urged community members to support getting the budget fully funded.

Scott said she and her colleagues commit fully to teaching "not for multi-digit salaries but the call we feel to complete this work with excellence."

"As we give our best," Scott continued, "we ask our community now give its best. Please rally around us and for us so we can continue the work we love, and an education families can be proud they've chosen for their children."

Marshall High School senior Samee Ahmad thanked specific Fairfax County teachers who helped him develop a lifelong



Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza proposed a \$2.67 billion school system budget for FY 2017 that emphasizes increasing employee compensation and decreasing class sizes — all without making any further cuts.

love of reading and learning. "Schools are the underlying foundation in community-building," he said. "I'm excited to hear Dr. Garza's forward-looking budget in the interests of both students and teachers."

Annandale High School Parent Teacher Student Association president Robin Hylton said the challenge in making sure the proposed budget is fully funded is "not one for just Dr. Garza."

She urged parents, community members and businesses to take a more active role in finding funding solutions. "We as a community must choose to support," she said.

Pat Hynes, School Board chairman, was the final speaker at the Jan. 7 morning event. "After nine long years" of underfunding, she said, "we need some good news."

Hynes said the school system is already spending \$1,000 less per pupil now than in 2009. "Quality education is not a luxury, it's an absolute necessity," she said. "What should we cut? Those are not questions that should come before the school system."

Among other aspects, West Potomac High

FCPS Superintendent Garza calls for no additional cuts in \$2.67 billion FY 2017 budget



Marshall High School senior Samee Ahmad, a member of his school's executive board and Superintendent Karen Garza's student advisory council, said, "Schools are the underlying foundation in community-building."

School principal Alex Case said he was pleased to see in the fine print of the proposed budget a moderate increase in salaries for support employees such as custodial staff and food service workers that were below federal living wage standards.

"Obviously this is something the school system, Board of Supervisors and delegation to Richmond need to work collectively on," Case added, "to fully fund and protect this wonderful asset we call Fairfax County Public Schools."

Matt Haley was chairman of Garza's budget task force that convened to review community feedback and analyze all operating costs. "We dug into this for a long time," he said after the event. "It all came back to levels of service."

In advertising what potential cuts — from fourth grade strings to language immersion programs to varsity sports — might look like, the task force drew some public outrage.

"I believe our community finds any of the potential cuts untenable," Garza said in a statement. "We cannot continue to balance

budgets by cutting services, raising class sizes and freezing salaries, or by providing only nominal pay raises."

Included in the salary raise is a step increase and one percent market scale adjustment for all employees. Fairfax Education Association President Kimberly Adams said teachers "will feel more valued in this budget than we have in a long time."

Adams also encouraged more community members to become involved with the budget process and voice their support.

"They need to realize how important the school system is to job security, the local economy."

Garza formally presented her budget to the School Board at their business meeting in the evening on Jan. 7. Public hearings are scheduled for Monday Jan. 25 and the budget will be presented to the Board of Supervisors on April 5. The School Board should adopt the approved budget in May.

More information on the budget, including a video of the press conference and Garza's presentation, can be found online at www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml.