

and Oakton
Vienna
CONNECTION

Margaret Radcliffe of Vienna with
three chocolate labs: Twix, Coco
and Hershey.

Inside
PET CONNECTION

On the Way
to Forever
Homes

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 4

People and
Pets of
Vienna:
Feeling the
Love

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

Hope on Ice at
Tysons Ice Rink

NEWS, PAGE 7

OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 12 ♦ SPORTS, PAGE 10 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

PEOPLE

Flint Hill Student Wins Grand Prize in Coding Competition

Victor (Vale) Tolpegin, 16, won the grand prize in the international computer programming competition, Google Code-In. Tolpegin is a sophomore at Flint Hill School in Oakton. He spent several hundred hours programming for the open-source organization, Haiku, to be selected among the grand prize winners. "The contest was a great deal of work, but I learned a lot and am honored to have been chosen as a Grand Prize Winner. I hope my work for Haiku made a small difference, and I can already see the exponential impact to my coding capability for school and other projects. While it was tough to work six to 10 hours a day on GCI during exams, over winter break and through my school commitments, it was worth it," said Tolpegin. Google Code-in (GCI) is a contest introducing pre-university students from around the world to open source development. GCI gives teens the opportunity to gain real world experience working with these organizations and to become a part of these communities. There were 980 students from 65 countries who completed 4,776 tasks. Twenty-eight students were chosen for their exceptional work as grand prize winners earning them a trip to Google's Mountain View, Calif. campus for four days in June. The grand prize winners will meet with Google en-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Victor (Vale) Tolpegin, 16, a sophomore at Flint Hill School in Oakton wins Google International Coding Competition.

gineers, have a tour of Google and learn more about some of the intriguing projects at Google.

VIENNA CRIME REPORTS

Notable incidents from the Town of Vienna Police Report from Feb. 12-18.

Incidents

Petit Larceny/Fraud - Giant Food Store, 359 Maple Ave., East. Jan. 21, 10:43 p.m. An employee reported another employee took his paycheck and cashed it.

Found Property - Desale Street at Tapawingo Road, SW. Feb. 9, 1:30 p.m. A resident responded to the Vienna Police Station to turn in an undisclosed amount of cash she found in the roadway. The money will be held at the Vienna Police Station in the event the owner is able to claim it.

Found Property - First Baptist Church, 450 Orchard Street, NW. Feb. 11, 8 a.m. A resident responded to the Vienna Police Station to turn in an iPhone she had found in the parking lot at the Vienna Baptist Church. The iPhone will be held at the Vienna Police Station in the event the owner can be located.

Telephone Case - Navy Federal Credit Union, 820 Follin Lane, SE. Between Feb. 11 at 3:59 p.m. and Feb. 12 at 2:26 p.m. An employee reported she received numerous, unwanted calls from

an individual who stated his name was "David". She stated he asked for her identifying information, which she declined to give him. An officer informed her to not answer anymore of his telephone calls.

Arrest - Warrant Service - 200 Block Maple Ave., East. Feb. 11, 10 p.m. An officer was on patrol when he observed the driver of a vehicle with an equipment violation. As a result of that violation he conducted a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the driver he discovered he was wanted on two warrants issued by the Fairfax County Police Department for the Violation of Protective Orders. The officer arrested the 40-year-old man from Patrick Street, SE in Vienna for the Violation of the Protective Orders. He was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where he was held without bond.

Arrest - Driving While Intoxicated - 500 Block Kingsley Road, SW. Feb. 12, 12:29 a.m. An officer responded to the area for the report of a two vehicle crash. Upon arriving on the scene

SEE CRIME, PAGE 5

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About \$300 More per Household

County Executive: Revenue growth is insufficient to fund all priorities. Schools still \$68 million short.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

County Executive Ed Long recommended a four-cent increase to the real estate tax rate.

But to meet the full request of Fairfax County Public Schools, he said, would require a three-cent increase on top of the budget he built.

Long presented the FY 2017 Advertised Budget Plan to the Board of Supervisors Tuesday morning, Feb. 16.

"The budget is a discussion with the community," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

"This is the first step," said Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay, head of the board's budget committee.

"We have to see what the reactions are," said Long.

Bulova is scheduled to advertise the FY 2017 tax rate on March 1. At that point, the board can lower but not increase from the tax rate advertised.

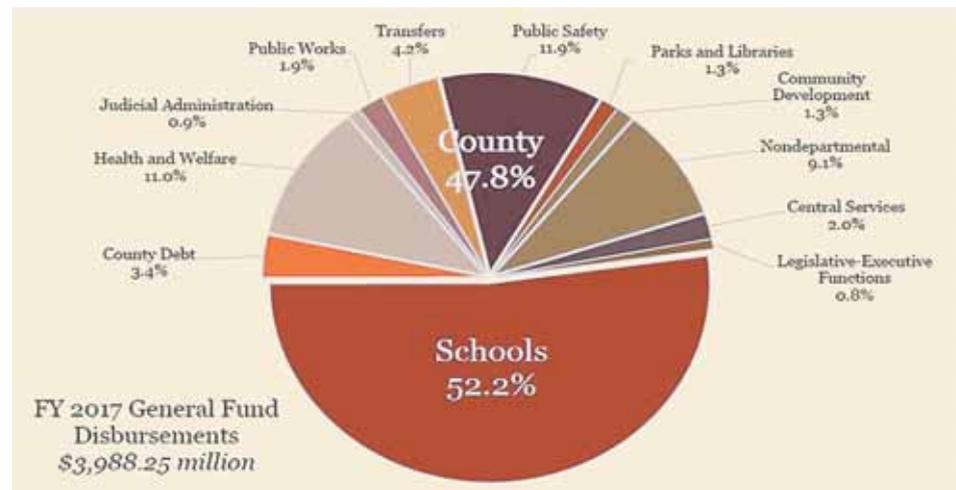
The projected value of each penny is \$23.3 million to the county, Long said.

"At the current real estate tax rate, revenue growth is insufficient to fund all of our priorities," Long told the Board of Supervisors.

But even with the increase, he warned, there are "many unmet needs and investment requirements that remain unfunded."

Each member of the Board of Supervisors will hold local community dialogues in their respective districts; then the board will hold public hearings on the budget from April 5-7.

The board will adopt the final budget on April 26.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

More than 50 percent of Fairfax County's \$3.988 billion budget will be transferred to Fairfax County Public Schools, \$68 million less than FCPS requested.

THE FEUD resumed between the School Board and the Board of Supervisors before Long's speech even concluded, with his proposed budget falling \$68 million short of what FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza

says is needed.

"We are dismayed that Fairfax County Executive Ed Long has ignored the pleas of

SEE COUNTY BUDGET. PAGE 16



Hundreds of parents and community supporters turned out to spread the message "Invest in Kids" after an advertised Fairfax County budget announced Feb. 16 leaves the public schools system around \$68 million short of its requested transfer.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

Parents and children held up homemade signs urging support for full funding of Fairfax County Public Schools' FY 2017 budget as adopted by the School Board.

Parents, Community Supporters Rally to 'Invest in Kids'

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Emotional independent outbursts and communal chants of "Fund our schools" and "Invest in kids" echoed through the grand amphitheater just beyond the entrance to the Fairfax County Government Center.

The same day Fairfax County Executive Ed Long announced his proposal for

a nearly \$4 billion county budget at the Board of Supervisors morning meeting, school advocacy groups including IamFCPS, the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Fairfax Education Association, Fairfax FLAGS and Fairfax Arts Coalition for Education, organized a rally in the evening calling for the supervisors to fully fund the FY 2017 budget adopted by the School Board.

That budget, a \$121.4 million increase over the previous year, represents not only

a 6.7 percent increase in transfer from the county, but also enables Superintendent Dr. Karen Garza to steer the school system forward with no additional cuts to programs or services.

Though Garza won't formally present her budget to the supervisors until early April, Long's \$3.988 billion proposed budget falls short of the current requested transfer to the school system by nearly \$68 million.

"This is not good enough," said Fairfax

Education Association president Kimberly Adams. "Our children are worth more, our community is worth more, and Fairfax is willing to invest a few cents more to make sure our next generation has a bright future."

Adams was one of several speakers scheduled to speak who also included Debbie Kilpatrick, president of the Fairfax

SEE COMMUNITY. PAGE 11

PET CONNECTION

On the Way to Forever Homes

The Korffs of Vienna foster dogs who wait for a family to love them.

DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

For many families, watching the family pup frolic and play around is fun. For the Korffs of Vienna, watching three pups frolic and play is three times the fun. Rescuing and fostering is a four-person family activity and Emily Korff, fosterer-in-charge, leads the passion.

“One of the best things about fostering is that you get to see these dogs in your home and how they get along with your family and other pets,” said Emily Korff. “In some cases, you find you and the dogs are not a good fit.”

The Korffs have three family dogs, all rescues, and bring in dogs to foster from the Homeless Animals Rescue Team [HART] as the need arises.

Nico, the youngest and most rambunctious of the Korff canine family, was born to a litter in a transport van operated by HART, in the spring of 2015. During the three-hour drive from a high-kill shelter in rural West Virginia to Fairfax County, Nico’s mom delivered seven puppies and gave birth to one more after mom and her litter arrived at the Korff home. While mom and her other babies were adopted out to local families, Nico never left the Korff home.

Nico is sibling to Leia and Lucy, and Korff likes to say that Lucy and Leia helped “mama” raise the pups, corraling them and keeping them in-line.

“I know where all the babies are,” said Korff. “When you give them up, you’re always a little sad but it makes you happy to see them in their new homes.”

WHEN PETS AND HUMANS are a good “fit,” the new family can adopt the pet. HART requires the adoptive to go to two weekly adoption events to see the dogs, along with a HART/adopter interview. HART will take back a dog that does not work out but their goal is to place the animal in a forever-home. HART looks into past pet-



PHOTOS BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Vera and Alanna Korff help mom Emily to foster puppies and adult dogs from HART. Some rescues never leave, and make their forever home with the Korffs.

guardianship. “They want to make sure you’ve been a responsible pet owner in the past.”

Like many rescue groups in the metro D.C. area, HART makes regular runs to pick up animals close to euthanasia in their shelters or homes. The dogs come from the local community or to rural shelters, bringing surrenders or strays born elsewhere to HART’s home area of Fairfax County.

Korff began fostering HART pets 13 years ago before she and her husband Yanek had children. At the time, she just wanted more companions in their home. Her first adoptee was a cat, adopted through HART, in 1999. Through the years, the Korffs have fostered dogs, cats, birds and fish. Penny, a Border Collie “foster-fail,” lived with the Korffs for 12 years until her death at age 16.

A professional photographer, Korff chronicles the “cuteness” through a camera lens, occasionally offering her expertise to HART as a means of adoption promotion. Korff created a “family” album of the transport-pups posing with American Girl dolls; she brings out the personalities of the pets.

“When we first started, I wanted a dog in the house, a furry creature,” Korff said. Korff and her husband both wanted a dog. Now that the Korff children are older, Emily and Yanek are getting them involved in rescue volunteerism.

“It teaches them to care about someone other than themselves,” Yanek Korff said. The kids, Emily Korff said, know that rescue groups need money to sustain their mission so the girls help raise money to this end. In December of 2014 and 2015, Vera, 10, and Alanna, 12, sold their old toys to donate money to HART.

“I like helping dogs because they’re my favorite animals,” said Alanna. “I want to open a rescue group for dogs and horses when I grow up.”

Alanna and Vera are learning all about having pets in the family, including the challenges of pet ownership. Most rescues come from bad situations, Korff said. “Our kids are learning about the needs of all the homeless pets in the world, and, they are doing their part to help them.”

“That’s a quality you want your kids to learn.”



Ten-year-old Vera Korff holds Lucy and mom Emily cuddles Nico, the family’s year-old addition. Leia was camera-shy when photo was taken.



Nico, one of a litter born in HART’s transport van, joins two older but smaller “siblings” in the Korff household.

WHEN YOU ADOPT from a rescue group, you know that the pets have been checked by a vet, spayed or neutered, and are up to date with vaccines, Korff said. All different types of dogs and breeds are out there, waiting for a family to

love them. There are breed-specific rescue groups around the country.

“When you adopt from a rescue, you have an opportunity to adopt a pet that is just for you,” said Korff. “You can’t do that when you buy a pet.”

CRIME

FROM PAGE 2

he determined the driver of the striking vehicle may have been impaired. After refusing to take a series of field sobriety tests he arrested the 33-year-old woman from Manhattan Place in Vienna for Driving While Intoxicated. She was transported to the Vienna Police Station where she was given the opportunity to provide a sample of her breath for analysis. After the analysis she was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center where she was charged with Driving While Intoxicated and held on a \$1,000 bond.

Assist Fire/EMS - 400 Block Walker Street, SW. Feb. 12, 1:27 a.m. An officer responded to a residence after receiving a report of CPR in progress. Upon arrival Fairfax County Rescue personnel were on the scene and were actively performing CPR. Rescue personnel were able to regain a pulse on the resident and transported him to an area hospital.

Suspicious Event - 380 Maple Ave., West. Feb. 12, 11:17 a.m. An employee reported a former employee had been at the business and became agitated over an issue with his W-2. The employee stated she informed the former employee she would call the Vienna Police Department if he did not leave. He left prior to the arrival of the police. The officer informed her of the Trespass procedure should he return.

Petit Larceny - Liberty Tax Service, 266 Cedar Lane, SE. Feb. 12, 4:29 p.m. An employee reported another employee had taken her husband's Stud Finder. The employee did not wish to pursue charges.

Noise Complaint - The Bey Lounge, 303 Mill St., NE. Feb. 13, 12:21 a.m. An officer responded to the Bey Lounge after receiving

a report of loud music emanating from the business. Upon arrival he spoke with the manager who agreed to turn the music down.

Domestic Dispute - Park Street, NE. Feb. 13, 10:52 a.m. A citizen reported a man and woman were having a verbal argument and the man assaulted the woman. An officer responded and spoke with the man and woman who were husband and wife. They both stated no physical assault had occurred.

Lost Property - 348 Ayr Hill Ave., NE. Feb. 13 between 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. A resident reported he lost his Virginia Driver's License. He believes he may have lost it at the Tysons Sport and Health Club.

Assist Fire/EMS - 100 Block Melody Lane, SE. Feb. 14, 1:48 p.m. An officer responded to a residence after receiving a report that Fairfax County Rescue personnel were attempting to evaluate the health of the elderly resident who became uncooperative. Upon arriving on the scene he spoke with the elderly resident's daughter who stated she was concerned for her father's health. Rescue personnel evaluated the resident and

found his vital signs to be acceptable. The resident refused to be transported to a hospital. The daughter was provided with information on county services that may be able to help with her father's situation.

Open Door - 100 Block Maple Avenue, West. Feb. 14, 5:20 p.m. An officer was on patrol when he noticed the door to a construction site had been left open. He approached the site and found a workman inside who had been cutting concrete for the plumbing and electrical installation. The officer informed him of the Town of Vienna Noise Ordinance prohibiting construction work on Sundays. He agreed to stop.

Civil Dispute - Merchant Tire and Auto, 141 Maple Ave., West. Feb. 17, 4:18 p.m. A customer reported he had taken his vehicle into the service center to have repairs made on the front wheel and suspension. The customer stated he misunderstood the amount that was quoted for the repairs and would not have approved them had he known the actual cost. The man was provided an opportunity to speak with the manager and informed this was a civil [matter].

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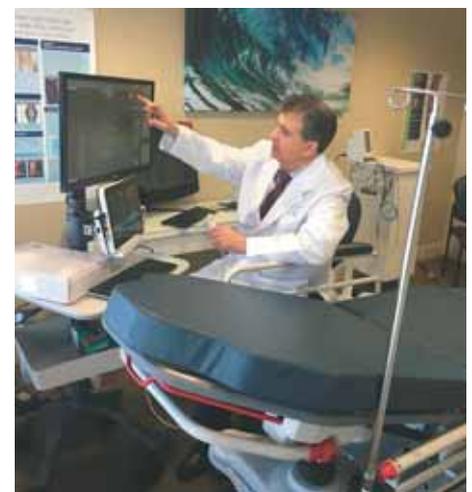
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Bad Bills

From pressing for use of a barbaric form of execution, the electric chair, to codifying discrimination, to stripping localities of the major tool for ensuring infrastructure is in place for new development, to hiding more and more critical public information from the public, the Virginia General Assembly is poised to do harm to the Commonwealth. (We'll look at good bills in a future editorial.)

Here are bills that have passed either the House or Senate by crossover, and important bills that were killed, in no particular order. This is by no means a complete list.

HB815, Electric Chair, passed the House 62-33, brings back the electric chair, providing that if lethal injection is not available as a method of execution, electrocution shall be used instead and vice versa.

SB552 creates secret police departments, and moves in exactly the wrong direction. Provides that the names and training records of law-enforcement officers and fire marshals shall be considered personnel records and excluded from mandatory disclosure under the Virginia Freedom of Information Act. Passed 25-15.

SB549/HB770 on Proffers, uses a megaton bomb to tie localities' use of proffers to help pay for infrastructure needs with new development when what was needed was a study of flyswatters to address specific limited abuses.

HB773/SB41 - Codifies discrimination, prevents the state government from taking any action against a person or organization that discriminates based on a sincerely held religious belief that marriage is or should be recognized as the union of one man and one woman.

Sanctuary bills: SB705 Makes "sanctuary cities" liable for "full amount of any personal injury or property damage caused by an illegal alien within such locality." SB270 The General Assembly shall reduce state funding to the extent permitted by state and federal law to any locality found to be a "sanctuary city."

Senate killed several bills on title loan oversight, even after investigative reporting showed interest charges exceeding 200 percent, bait and switch tactics and many poor Virginians losing their cars.

HB 2 - No "right to breathe." Requires the Department of Environmental Quality to receive approval from the General Assembly for a state implementation plan to regulate carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants prior to submitting the plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

HB 1090 - Defunds Planned Parenthood
 HB 143 allows high proof grain alcohol sales.
 HB 560 - Makes it more difficult to convict someone of brandishing a firearm by requiring proof that a person pointing, holding or brandishing a firearm or similar weap-

General Assembly has potential to do lots of damage in a short period.

ons had the intent to induce fear in the mind of another.

HB 766 - Allows any protective order to be used as a de facto concealed carry permit, without requiring the holder to receive any training in the safe handling of a firearm, or show any proficiency with a firearm. Advocates for victims of domestic violence say what is needed is to remove weapons from such situations.

Killed SB67, would have added discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity to the Virginia Fair Housing Law as an unlawful housing practice.

Killed SB12, would have prohibited discrimination in public employment on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Killed bills that would have required notification of oil spills.

Outlawed living wage requirements for contractors of local government.

HB 4 Anti-union, proposed constitutional amendment putting Right to Work in the constitution.

HB 3 - Charter Schools Constitutional Amendment - removes local control over local schools and spending, doesn't belong in the constitution.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Letter to Animal Lovers

Dear Animal Lovers,

Like most kids, I always wanted a puppy to hug, play with, and love. My parents promised me my first pet when I turned 10, old enough to help take care of our puppy. My parents kept their promise, and on my 10th birthday we adopted "Clue" from the Washington Animal Rescue League (WARL), in D.C. I wrote a book on him that you can check out for free through our Fairfax County Public Library - "Get a Clue: A True Story about a Boy's Best Birthday Present."

We also adopted Sparky, a Golden Retriever-Chow mix. We celebrated Sparky's fourth birthday on Feb. 5.

Rescue shelters like WARL do an amazing job helping and saving puppies and animals from hoarding facilities or puppy surrenders from owners who cannot take care of new litters.

A really wonderful rescue shelter we help is Homeward Trails Animal Rescue (HTAR) in Fairfax Station. We foster puppies, who cannot live at the shelter, because they are too young and need a family to love them until they are adopted.



Sachin Muralidhar, of Great Falls, with Sparky on Sparky's fourth birthday on Feb. 5.

We also volunteer at the shelter, to help clean the dogs' crates, mop the floors and fold laundry. Please consider volunteering at any of these shelters or maybe donate some of your allowance to help these adorable, helpless animals, so they can have a better life. You can volunteer an hour, a weekend, a couple of weeks, or a month, whatever fits your schedule and is convenient for you. Meet some of



From left, Sachin Muralidhar, his father and brother Sid with foster Border Collies and Sparky (front).

the most amazing volunteers. Helping these sweet animals will make you feel so good - I know I do.

Some shelters you can visit and volunteer at:

Washington Animal Rescue League, 71 Oglethorpe St NW, Washington, D.C., 202-726-2556, www.warl.org

Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, 11116 Fairfax Station Rd,

Fairfax Station, 703-249-5066, www.homewardtrails.org

Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Rd, Fairfax, 703-830-1100, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter/foster.htm
 Woof-woof!

Sachin Muralidhar

Great Fall

Eighth-grader at Cooper Middle School

EDITORIAL





PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

The American Cancer Society's Relay For Life team from Woodson High School.

Hope on Ice at Tysons Ice Rink

The first Hope on Ice took place last weekend at the Tysons Corner Ice Skating Rink. During the three-day public skating extravaganza, which was a benefit for the American Cancer Society, the first 50 cancer survivors could skate for free. Customers paid \$12 for tickets and \$4 was donated to the American Cancer Society. U.S. Rep. Gerry E. Connolly (D-11) was the event's opening day emcee and the event included music by DJ Civil, live performances by Ashburn Theatre on Ice, and an Illuminaria

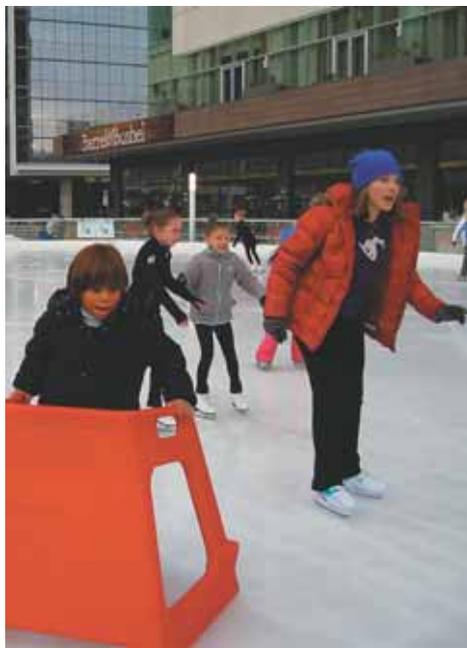
lighting ceremony on ice to honor those fighting or lost to cancer.

"We are so honored to be partnering with the American Cancer Society for today's Hope on Ice event that focuses on healthy, happy fun," said Marissa Marwell, regional manager of the Tysons Corner Ice Rink. She said her dad was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer in 2002 and won his battle and is now in remission. She also has two aunts who were affected by breast cancer.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Emcee U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).



Skaters take to the ice during Hope on Ice at the Tysons Corner Ice Rink last Friday.

- ATTENTION - Fairfax County Public School Employees

If you are a participant in the Fairfax County Public Schools 403(b) Plan, we would like to speak with you about our investigation of the fees charged on your Great-West Mutual Funds.

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PET CONNECTION

Vienna Pet-Pal Stories

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Every pet-family has a story, some happy, some poignant. Their stories are a reminder of the unconditional love and devotion that pets bring into a home.

Emily Korff, Vienna, and Nico.

"My youngest dog, Nico, is a rescue who has lived in our house since the day he was born. Nico's mom had given birth to seven puppies in the three-hour drive in the HART transport van from the shelter in rural Virginia, and gave birth to one more when they arrived at our house. We raised Nico and his littermates as fosters until they were old enough to leave their mom. As a photographer, I really enjoyed capturing sweet moments with the mother and her little puppies. We ended up adopting Nico, and, most of his litter-mates were adopted to other families we know in Vienna, and we have enjoyed continuing to see them grow up."



Rio and Katie, loved by Mary Kay Claus and Jim Sweeney, Vienna.

Rio, with the frosted face, and Katie adopted us in 2006 and 2011 from Lab Rescue of the LRCP Inc. Our lives have never been better.

Rio embraced the role of big sister and has taught Katie how to give Mom and Dad that 'special look' in order to be rewarded with butt-scratches, tummy rubs, ear rubs, and full-body massages. The girls enjoy taking Mom on a walk every morning and hanging out at the dog park a few times a week.

And, they are pretty sure their dad is the most special guy in the whole world. Mom isn't so bad because she feeds them and gives

them treats for dessert. Rio and Katie have several favorite places to hang out: leather sofas, comfy dog pillows and area rugs. But, their most favorite hang-out space is Mom and Dad's king-sized bed. They are eternally grateful for their much-needed early morning snuggle time. Rio, aka the 'love sponge,' makes sure the deer stay out of the yard and away from their outside toys. Katie's hidden talent is her ability to do a spot-on Chewbacca imitation when she is yawning ... or, when she just feels like it.

Together, we make one big happy family. www.lab-rescue.org.



Photo is of Katie DiFrancisco, surrounded by the six puppies - Scout, Bella, Patches, Chase, Grayson and Kierra. All have been adopted out. Elizabeth DiFrancisco, Vienna.

Why foster?

When I spy a photo of an innocent dog, I ask myself, how can I make a difference? My foster, NationalPyr.org, rescues Great Pyrenees from high-kill southern shelters and help finds foster and forever homes for the rescued pets.

Our family has opened our house to almost 30 Pyrenees and has found homes for every single one of them. The rescue crossposts with Petfinder.com and we network via social media to find homes. Though it tugs at the heart each time a pup leaves our home, we know that they are in good hands as each forever home is thoroughly vetted prior to placement. Our family loves to foster the babies. We have had three litters; the young-

est group was only five weeks old. Though housebreaking and chewing can be a challenge, our older dogs help out and make the process fun. We always have teenagers visit and come to socialize the babies with us. It is amazing to see the compassion these teens have when they hear the stories of each dog we foster. Our favorite was a group of six babies. The pups were about seven weeks old when they arrived, straight from a high-kill shelter via a transport shuttle. We were allowed to name them, which is always fun. If our home was larger, we would have kept all of them. Thankfully, all six found forever homes and are thriving.

Can't wait for the next group of babies to arrive.



Krause girls Maddie and Chloe with Luna as a puppy. Katrina Krause, Vienna.

"Little did we know when we adopted Luna in 2015 that she would completely change the pulse of our family. She has brought an energy and level of excitement into our home that we didn't even know we were missing. She loves to play ball and run after her Frisbee, but her most favorite pastime is [going to] the creek. She can't get enough playtime when it comes to the water. We love her to pieces and couldn't imagine our family without her."

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Cinnamon Dirth with Ava and Cal Dirth. Dara Dirth, Vienna.

One Saturday morning in September of 2013, we set out to a PetSmart store where the Lost Dog Rescue League was holding an adoption event. As we drove to the store, my husband and I made sure to tell the kids we were only looking and weren't adopting a dog that day. Once we walked into the store, we saw a litter of beagle/Jack Russell Terrier puppies and I began to realize I was going to have to go back on my word since we all immediately fell in love with this litter of adorable six-week-old dogs. After a short interview and some paperwork, we were taking Cinnamon home. She was named Pearl, at the time. She has tan spots, including one on her side that we all thought looked like the shape of a heart.

From the first day, Cinnamon was a sweet, energetic, and cuddly girl who is, without a doubt, a member of the Dirth family. The

entire family participates in caring for her, including walks to the bus stop and feeding her twice a day. She's also always featured on our annual holiday card and, on occasion, we even bring her to the Lost Dog Café (and sit outside) to thank the folks at the restaurant for our sweet puppy. The Lost Dog Café also runs the rescue league where we found her two-and-a-half years ago.

Now, Cinnamon is a two-and-a-half-year-old happy and healthy dog and I can't imagine our family without her - even with all her quirks, including occasionally barking at what seems like nothing in the backyard or trying to get leftovers off the kitchen table.

That's our Cinnamon, also known as Cinna-monster.

—DARA DIRTH,
VIENNA.

People and Pets of Vienna: Feeling the Love

Zachary Paikin, 12, and his dog Gretel, a 4-year-old Bernese mountain dog, of Vienna, getting ready for the last big snow storm.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Dean, Matt and Oreo Angles of Vienna.

PHOTOS BY
JOAN BRADY

People and Pets in Vienna

From dogs to cats to birds to gerbils, bunnies, crocodile skinks, fish and miniature horses, kids in our region love their pets.

Many brag about their pet's cuddliness and most love how nice it is to come home to a pet who is always excited to see them. We even have some young entrepreneurs, in our area, who are working with their pets to start their own businesses.

After years of begging, now 16-year-old Matt Angles says he had all but given up on ever getting a dog. But after seeing him "pitifully" caring for the virtual dog he had created in a video game, his parents finally relented and Oreo joined the family. Six years later, younger brother, 13-year-old Dean, tells of Oreo's biggest caper: A neighbor was dog-sitting when Oreo went missing. After a full-on neighborhood search, Oreo was discovered safely hanging out under the porch. Oreo clearly takes his hide-and-seek very seriously.

The youngest of three, Margaret Radcliffe, 13, loves that the family's three chocolate labs never tire of playing with her, especially in the snow. Coco and Hershey, senior dogs now, went on great adventures in their youth. One day the family got a call from a neighbor, "We have your dogs. They are currently enjoying a dip in our pool."



Twix, Coco, Hersey and Margaret Radcliffe of Vienna

Twelve-year-old twins Marco and Alessandro Da Santos, spent years begging for a dog. They picked Reggie from the litter because he reminded them of their favorite dog in the world and Reggie's namesake. One of the cool things about Reggie is that he is bilingual. The boys agree that Reggie responds best to commands delivered in Spanish and, ahem, by their mom.

—JOAN BRADY



Alessandro, Reggie and Marco Da Santos of Vienna

VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ♦ FEBRUARY 24 - MARCH 1, 2016 ♦ 9

SPORTS

Oakton Girls' Basketball Wins Conference 5 Championship

Cougars outscore Herndon 17-0 in opening quarter.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Fred Priester tried to exude a positive vibe prior to the Conference 5 tournament championship game against Herndon on Friday night, but an unusually quiet bus ride to Chantilly High School had the veteran Oakton girls' basketball coach unsure of what to expect from his undefeated team.

While Priester experienced pregame nerves, the Cougars quickly showed their level of play would be no cause for concern.

Oakton opened the game with a 17-0 run and cruised to a 67-45 victory on Feb. 19, capturing its third consecutive conference title and 11th in the last 12 seasons.

The Cougars knocked down five 3-pointers in the opening quarter, including two each by senior Alex Marquis and junior Maddie Royle. At the defensive end, Oakton, the tournament's top seed, held No. 2 Herndon scoreless for more than 10 minutes before a bucket by Hornet forward Sabrina Tolbert with 5:52 remaining in the second quarter cut the Cougar lead to 17-2.

"We came out really hot; I was not sure if we would," Priester said. "We were very, very quiet on the bus — this is not a quiet group. They were very quiet on the bus, so I didn't know. Actually, I was a little nervous myself, but I was trying to [be positive]."

What was the reason behind the Cougars' silent bus ride?

"I think we were all just trying to get in the zone," said Marquis, the Conference 5 Player of the Year. "We usually don't play early games, so we were all trying to rest a little bit since we didn't have that time we normally do after school."

Friday's Oakton/Herndon contest was part of a conference championship double-header and tipped off at 6 p.m. The early start didn't slow down the Cougars, who knocked down seven 3-pointers in the first half and 11 for the game.

"We came out ready to play," Royle said, "and we showed it."

Priester, the conference Coach of the Year, said there were times he wasn't pleased with Oakton's shot selection, but he relaxed his requirements during the Cougars' hot-handed first quarter.

"We have some kids that can shoot the 3, but the thing is, I'm constantly telling them, 'Look, you don't have to shoot it on the first touch,'" Priester said. "But they were so hot I backed off of that."

Royle, a 6-foot-1 forward and first-team all-conference selection, buried four 3-pointers and finished with 24 points and seven rebounds. Her final 3 of the evening gave Oakton a 40-22 lead with 4:28 remain-



The Oakton girls' basketball team won its third consecutive Conference 5 championship on Friday.

PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION



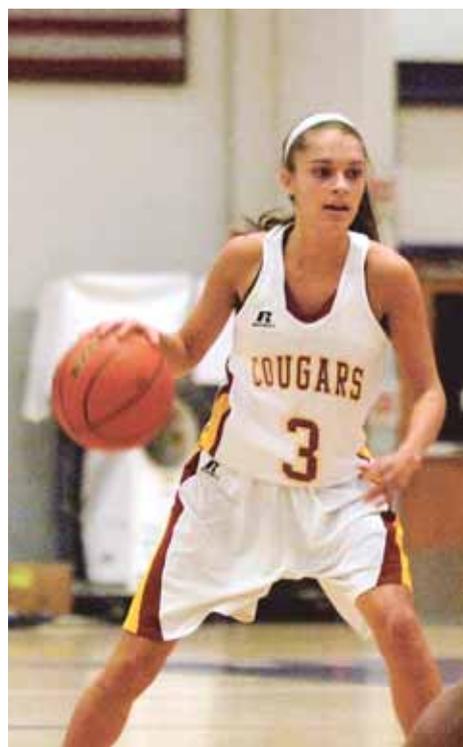
Oakton junior Maddie Royle cuts off a piece of the net after the Cougars won the Conference 5 championship on Friday.

VIDEO SCREENSHOT

ing in the third quarter.

"She's got so much talent," Priester said. "I was reluctant to even give her a rest tonight because she was doing so well."

Junior forward Delaney Connolly finished with a double-double, scoring 17 points and grabbing 14 rebounds. Connolly, a first-team all-conference selection, made a trio



Oakton senior Alex Marquis scored 15 points against Herndon on Friday.

CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

of 3-pointers.

Marquis scored 15 points and hit three from behind the arc.

Junior guard Kailyn Fee also knocked down a 3-pointer for Oakton.

Junior guard Indeya Sanders led Herndon with 14 points. Sophomore guard Devyne Newman finished with 11 points and junior guard Janiece Loney added eight.

Herndon's record fell to 17-5. The Hornets faced Madison in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. The

"We came out really hot; I was not sure if we would. We were very, very quiet on the bus — this is not a quiet group. They were very quiet on the bus, so I didn't know. Actually, I was a little nervous myself, but I was trying to [be positive]."

— Oakton girls' basketball coach
Fred Priester

winner will face the winner of Battlefield and Mount Vernon on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

The Cougars' record improved to 24-0. The last time Oakton was undefeated this late in the season, the team went on to finish 31-0 and win the 2012 AAA state championship.

Oakton faced McLean on Tuesday. The winner will face the winner of Osborn Park and West Potomac on Wednesday, Feb. 24.

"Now, we have other things that we'd like to accomplish, but if we don't, they can't take this away," Priester said. "They can't take an undefeated regular season away. Those are benchmarks that they can hang their hats on and say, 'I was part of that.'"

HOME SALES

In January 2016, 68 homes sold between \$1,556,775-\$182,000 in the Vienna and Oakton area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
1910 BATON DR	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,556,775	Detached	0.36	22182	TIBURON
307 JOHNSON ST SW	5	5	1	VIENNA	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.35	22180	WINDOVER HEIGHTS
9117 TETTERTON AVE	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,305,000	Detached	0.33	22182	SPRING LAKE
2991 WESTHURST LN	6	6	1	OAKTON	\$1,285,000	Detached	0.86	22124	WINDSONG
101 PATRICK ST SW	5	5	2	VIENNA	\$1,175,000	Detached	0.35	22180	VIENNA WOODS
10400 WILLOW CREST CT	6	4	1	VIENNA	\$1,095,000	Detached	0.66	22182	HUNTER MILL ESTATES
10410 OAKTON HILLS CT W	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$1,085,000	Detached	1.73	22124	OAKTON HILLS ESTATES
124 WILMAR PL NW	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$1,020,000	Detached	0.15	22180	WILMAR PLACE
9721 CHERITON CT	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$975,000	Detached	0.13	22181	FIVE OAKS
1321 CARPERS FARM WAY	5	4	1	VIENNA	\$970,000	Detached	0.54	22182	CARPERS FARM
2313 SAWDUST RD	4	4	1	VIENNA	\$925,000	Detached	0.94	22181	HUNTERS VALLEY NORTH WES
10906 BERRYLAND CT	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$914,000	Detached	0.93	22124	BERRYLAND FARM
2710 COLT RUN RD	4	2	2	OAKTON	\$910,000	Detached	5.00	22124	ROAN STALLION ESTATES
2708 COURTHOUSE OAKS RD	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$868,000	Detached	0.13	22181	COURTHOUSE OAKS
9913 ROSEWOOD HILL CIR	5	5	0	VIENNA	\$850,000	Detached	0.89	22182	HARVEST RIDGE
10112 WINDY KNOLL LN	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$844,000	Detached	2.85	22182	WINDSTONE
9504 SCARAB ST	6	3	1	VIENNA	\$812,000	Detached	0.24	22182	EUDORA
2026 WESTWOOD FOREST DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$790,000	Detached	0.21	22182	WESTWOOD FOREST
9510 LAGERSFIELD CIR	4	4	1	VIENNA	\$760,500	Townhouse	0.05	22181	COUNTRY CREEK
2427 JACKSON PKWY	5	2	2	VIENNA	\$740,000	Detached	0.28	22180	STONEWALL MANOR
11308 LAPHAM DR	5	3	1	OAKTON	\$735,000	Detached	1.00	22124	FOX HILLS
1637 LOZANO DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$729,000	Detached	0.46	22182	SUN VALLEY
3068 MCKINNON WAY	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.07	22124	OAK MANOR
3089 MCKINNON WAY	4	4	1	OAKTON	\$725,000	Townhouse	0.06	22124	OAK MANOR
327 LEWIS ST NW	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$699,900	Detached	0.32	22180	WINDOVER HEIGHTS
9516 NARRAGANSETT PL	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$695,000	Detached	0.25	22180	CONCORD GREEN
721 MCKINLEY ST NE	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$691,706	Detached	0.26	22180	CONCORD GREEN
9418 DELANCEY DR	5	2	1	VIENNA	\$690,000	Detached	0.28	22182	BEULAH TERRACE
2638 OAKTON GLEN DR	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$689,000	Detached	0.26	22181	OAKTON GLEN
9932 COURTHOUSE WOODS CT	5	3	1	VIENNA	\$686,000	Detached	0.19	22181	OLD COURTHOUSE WOODS
9906 BRIGHTLEA DR	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$685,000	Detached	0.20	22181	EDGELEA WOODS
106 ROSS DR SW	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$643,500	Detached	0.26	22180	VIENNA WOODS
9405 VAN ARSDALE DR	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$641,000	Townhouse	0.05	22181	VIRGINIA CENTER
8028 TREVOR PL	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$640,000	Townhouse	0.04	22182	COURTHOUSE STATION
2146 WOLFTRAP CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$635,000	Townhouse	0.05	22182	COURTHOUSE WOODS
8519 COTTAGE ST	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$630,000	Detached	0.25	22180	DUNN LORING WOODS
8433 HOLLY LN	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$630,000	Detached	0.13	22182	BAILWICK
2314 STRYKER AVE	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$628,000	Detached	0.50	22181	LITTLE VIENNA ESTATES
8118 MADRILLON SPRINGS LN	3	2	2	VIENNA	\$604,937	Townhouse	0.04	22182	MADRILLON SPRINGS
9315 TALISMAN DR	5	3	0	VIENNA	\$600,000	Detached	0.24	22182	TALISMAN COURT
3018 HUNT RD	4	3	0	OAKTON	\$597,930	Detached	0.47	22124	FOX VALE ESTATES
440 PARK ST NE	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$590,000	Detached	0.29	22180	AYR HILL
2616 BOWLING GREEN DR	3	3	0	VIENNA	\$580,000	Detached	0.25	22180	DUNN LORING WOODS
2812 YEONAS DR	4	3	0	VIENNA	\$580,000	Detached	0.50	22180	TOWN AND COUNTRY ESTATES
9662 MOTLEY LN	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$579,000	Townhouse	0.04	22181	COUNTRY CREEK
109 MOORE AVE SW	3	2	0	VIENNA	\$571,000	Detached	0.28	22180	KINGCREST
1108 WARE ST SW	4	2	0	VIENNA	\$562,000	Detached	0.30	22180	VIENNA WOODS
104 SANOY CIR SE	5	3	0	VIENNA	\$545,000	Detached	0.28	22180	VIENNA WOODS
8174 ELECTRIC AVE	4	3	1	VIENNA	\$527,717	Townhouse	0.04	22182	TYSONS MANOR
10145 VALENTINO DR	4	3	1	OAKTON	\$525,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	OAKTON VILLAGE
8718 OLD COURTHOUSE RD	4	2	1	VIENNA	\$507,000	Detached	0.24	22182	TYSONS GREEN
9932 LONGFORD CT	3	3	1	VIENNA	\$488,500	Townhouse	0.05	22181	WATERFORD
250 COMMONS DR NW	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$485,999	Townhouse	0.07	22180	VIENNA COMMONS
554 WINDOVER AVE NW	3	2	1	VIENNA	\$472,500	Townhouse	0.05	22180	VIENNA COMMONS
2726 GALLOWS RD #1208	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$467,500	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22180	WILTON HOUSE
1526 NORTHERN NECK DR #101	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$437,000	Townhouse		22182	WESTWOOD VILLAGE
2982 PADDOCK WOOD CT	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.03	22124	OAKTON COMMONS
3164 BORGE ST	3	2	2	OAKTON	\$420,000	Townhouse	0.04	22124	ARROWOOD
2924 JERMANTOWN RD #16	3	3	1	OAKTON	\$405,000	Townhouse		22124	TREEBROOKE
9490 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD #440	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$405,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STAIN
2726 GALLOWS RD #1009	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$330,000	Hi-Rise 9+ Floors		22180	WILTON HOUSE
2817 JERMANTOWN RD #510	3	2	0	OAKTON	\$325,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Floors		22124	TREEBROOKE
2628 GLENGYLE DR #105	3	1	1	VIENNA	\$308,000	Townhouse		22181	MOSBYS LANDING
2700 BELLFOREST CT #304	2	2	0	VIENNA	\$305,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22180	WESTBRIAR
10227 VALENTINO DR #7112	2	2	0	OAKTON	\$263,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	VISTAS OF VIENNA
9486 VIRGINIA CENTER BLVD #306	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$245,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STAIN
2791 CENTERBORO DR #273	1	1	0	VIENNA	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22181	MARQUIS AT VIENNA STAIN
10129 OAKTON TERRACE RD #10129	1	1	1	OAKTON	\$182,000	Garden 1-4 Floors		22124	THE OAKTON

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There are no shortcuts to any place worth going.

Community: 'Invest in Kids'

FROM PAGE 3

president of the Fairfax County NAACP; and Garza.

Several members of the Fairfax County School Board were in attendance, as well as Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) and Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

Bulova, whose introduction was met with lively cheering, attempted to reassure the audience that the budget process is just beginning, and requires public input and communication.

"We're hearing that communication here tonight," Bulova said. "Education is our number one priority, but we have to look at the budget holistically."

Bulova echoed the earlier remarks from Ginwright that "education from the top makes us sure to have an educated community" and added that this is just "the beginning of the budget process, we have to strike the right balance and make sure our children have what they need to succeed."

McLean High School senior Emily Robinson, who took credit for creating the viral hashtag

#SaveFCPS, agreed that "fully funding public schools shouldn't just be a requirement of governing bodies, it should be the foremost priority."

"I fear for the students who will be in Fairfax County after me," she said.

Sarah Mattingly was School Board member Sandy Evans' (Mason District) appointee to the superintendent's budget task force that met to run the numbers for possible cuts prior to the formation of the school system's next budget.

She explained to the audience that despite the fact she and her husband don't even have children in Fairfax County Public Schools, "nothing is more important for us to do as taxpayers, property owners, or residents, than help children."

"I'm not here for my property values," Mattingly continued, "they'll be just fine on their own. Today was disappointing, but it's not over."

For more information from Fairfax County Public Schools on its FY 2017 budget, visit www.fcps.edu/news/fy2017.shtml.

Top Producers Recognized at the Weichert Vienna Office

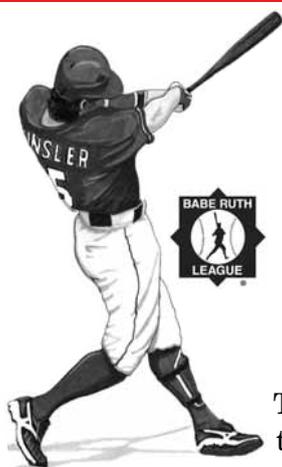
Lex Lianos and Patricia Stack of the Weichert Vienna office were recognized for exceptional industry success during the month of January.

Both top producers, Lianos led the region, which comprises locations throughout Fairfax, Loudoun, Fauquier and Delaware counties, for resales, resale revenue units

and resale dollar volume and Stack led for resale listings.

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 Vienna office at 156 East Maple Avenue, or call 703-938-6070 for more information.

Vienna/Falls Church Babe Ruth Registration:



Vienna/Falls Church Babe Ruth baseball registration is open.

There are 13, 14-15 and 16-19 year old leagues

Go to **GVBR.ORG** and click on the Register Now button.

The season, including playoffs, runs through June, then All Stars begin.

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CALENDAR

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



NEIGHBORHOOD CONCERNS CONFERENCE
Get Help with Neighborhood Problems

Come learn how Fairfax County and VDOT can help you with common neighborhood problems.

Saturday, March 5, 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Falls Church High School
7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church



For more information or ADA accommodations, call the Department of Code Compliance, 703-324-1300, TTY 711.

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Music: grades 3 - 7
10:25 a.m. Sunday School Grades 3 to 6
Music 4 years to 2nd grade
11:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite II
5:00 p.m. Come Just as You Are Contemporary Service
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CHURCH SCHOOL 9:30AM-10:30AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED. 7:00 PM

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

MARCH

3/9/2016.....HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout
3/16/2016.....A+ Camps & Schools
3/23/2016...Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment
FCPS Spring Break 3/21-3/25

APRIL

4/6/2016.....Wellbeing – Senior Living Pullout
Easter Sunday is March 27

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.



THE CONNECTION
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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/Advertising

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 24

1964 The Tribute. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Recreates the Fab Four's early '60s concerts—see their astonishing show live, complete with period instruments, clothing, hairstyles, and onstage banter. \$38-\$42. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/FEB. 25

Marty Stuart. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Grammy winner Marty Stuart's music reflects the rich legacy of his Mississippi roots and the intersection of gospel, drinking and cheating ballads, and rock. \$50-\$55. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/FEB. 26

Itamar Zorman, Kwan Yi. 7:30 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Violin and piano pieces by Mozart ("Sonata in B-flat Major K. 378"), Crumb ("Nocturnes"), Brahms ("Sonata in A Major"), Bartok ("Sonata no. 1 for Violin and Piano"). \$35. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 27

Scott Miller. 6:30 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Staunton, Va. native, singer songwriter and farmer. www.jamminjava.com.

John Eaton, The Swingin' '30s. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Join renowned pianist and vocalist John Eaton as he interprets the Great American Songbook. \$25-\$27. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/FEB. 28

Crys Matthews. 6 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Herndon resident Crys Matthews and two of the Mid-Atlantic's best singer-songwriters for a night of amazing music. \$15. jamminjava.com.

MONDAY/FEB. 29

An Evening with Neil Young. 8 p.m. Tyson's Corner 16, 7850 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Watch the concert as it is broadcast live on the big screen. <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/an-evening-with-neil-young-live>.

MONDAY-TUESDAY/ FEB. 29-MARCH 1

Herb Alpert and Lani Hall. 8 p.m. The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. Join Alpert and his Grammy-winning wife—the original voice of Sérgio Mendes' Brasil '66—as they take the stage with their dynamic band. \$55-\$65. www.wolftrap.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 1

David Cook. 7 p.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. American Idol winner. \$25/\$40. www.jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 2

Imagine Dragons in Concert: Smoke+Mirrors. 7:30 p.m. Tyson's Corner 16, 7850 Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Watch the concert as it is broadcast live on the big screen. <http://www.fathomevents.com/event/imagine-dragons-in-concert>.

SATURDAY/MARCH 5

"Wishes and Dreams" Reception. 4-6 p.m. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. viennaartsociety.org. 703-319-3971.
Author Reading and Signing. 1 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Local children's author Alison Grace Johansen will read and sign copies of her picture book "HumFree the Bee Has a Food Allergy." 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.
Author Reading and Signing. 4 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. David Priess will tell stories from 50 years of Presidential intelligence at the highest level and sign copies of his new release, "The President's Book of Secrets." 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

TUESDAY/MARCH 8

Protecting Neighborhood Trees. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The event will be forum co-sponsored by Supervisor John Foust, the Fairfax County Tree Commission, and the Great Falls Citizens Association. Speakers will focus on tree preservation during the real estate development process, and what citizens can do to help protect the existing tree canopy. prvickers@aol.com. 703-759-3280.

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Vienna Art Society Meeting. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Speaker will be Davi

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

FCPS Students Win Awards in 2016 Scholastic Writing Competition

Fairfax County Public Schools students at 22 schools won regional awards in the 2016 Scholastic Writing Awards Competition. FCPS students won 26 regional Gold Key awards, 51 Silver Key awards, and 66 Honorable Mentions.

Gold Key winners include:

Emma Choi of Marshall High School, two Gold Keys for poetry and two Gold Keys for short story. One of Choi's poems is an American Voices nominee.

Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for writing portfolio

Aline Dolinh of Oakton High School for writing portfolio and poetry

Mariya Schwarz of Oakton High School for critical essay and dramatic script

Silver Key winners include:

Megan Baranowsky of Kilmer Middle School for humor

Nicole Beymer of Marshall High School for poetry

Emma Choi of Marshall High School for flash fiction and two Silver Keys for poetry

Olivia Dabich of Marshall High School for short story

Emily Goff of Herndon High School for flash fiction and three Silver Keys for poetry

Matthew Harrington of Marshall High School

for dramatic script

Jungsoo Kim of McLean High for personal essay-memoir

Kathleen Kim of Marshall High School for personal essay-memoir

Helen Shi of Oakton High School for poetry

Jessica Smith of Langley High School for personal essay-memoir

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are presented by the Alliance for Young Artists & Writers. The Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose mission is to identify students with exceptional artistic and literary talent and present their remarkable work to the world through the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards.

FCPS Student Publication Finalists

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) student publications have been named finalists for the Pacemaker award, presented by the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA). Among them is "The Clan" from McLean High School, editors Sajanee Chithrahan, Habiba Feroze, Bianca Rossell, and Yande Thiaw; and Meghan Percival, adviser.

NSPA's Pacemaker competition has been considered by many to be student journalism's highest honor.

Entries are judged by teams of professionals based on coverage and content, quality of writing and reporting, leadership, design, photography, and graphics. Winners will be announced at the Journalism Education Association (JEA)-NSPA spring national high school journalism convention in April.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

D'Agostino who will discuss and demonstration her paintings in oils and acrylics and how she plans subject matter for her own works and also for the classes she teaches. Free. viennaartsociety.org. 703-319-3971.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

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.

Author and Illustrator Reading and Signing. 3 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. McLean native Scott McBride and co-author Rod Thompson will read and sign copies of their book "The Adventures of Connor the Courageous Cutter: Saving Sarah." Illustrator Brian Martin will join them. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

TUESDAY/MARCH 15

Perennial Personalities. 10 a.m. Vienna Presbyterian Church, 124 Park St., Vienna. Karen Rexrod, plant expert and former owner of Windy Hill nursery, will present her favorite perennial personalities. Karen's expertise and knowledge of perennial plants and their habits. Free. lmc323@aol.com.

Cocktails and Conversation. 5-6:30 p.m. Capital Grille, 1861 International Drive, McLean. The Community Foundation for Northern Virginia invites you to a private event for substantial supporters and friends of the Community Foundation. Reserve at www.cfnova.org/cocktails or call Tara Nadel at 703-879-7637.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Spanish Storytime featuring CommuniKids. 11 a.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Give your child the love of language at a fun, engaging Storytime in Spanish. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

Game Night: Splendor. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

FRIDAY/MARCH 18

Flashlight Egg Hunt. 7 p.m. Glyndon Park, 300 Glyndon St., NE, Vienna. Enjoy a family evening searching for eggs and prizes in the dark! Please bring a flashlight so you can find the eggs. Jump like a bunny in the moon bounce and visit the Easter Bunny. 703-255-6360.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Old-Fashioned Egg Hunt and Roll. 10:30-11:30 a.m. Freeman House, 131 Church St., NE, Vienna. Children 12 and under and their parents are welcome to participate in an egg roll and visit with Easter Bunny, hosted by Historic Vienna, Inc. 703-938-5187.

Mr. Jon and Friends. 10:30 a.m. Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. This energetic family music is all about fun, movement, and laughter. Mr. Jon & Friends makes music for kids and their families that inspire fun, laughter, and dancing. \$25. Family pack available. <http://www.jamminjava.com/event/1032603>.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Northern Virginia Photographic Society will hold an exhibit at The Frame Factory in Vienna through Feb. 29.

Ongoing

Northern Virginia Photographic Society Art Show. Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Jan. 15-Feb. 29. The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road, NE, Vienna.

McMurry Artist Showcase. Feb. 1-24. Broadway Gallery Fine Art and Framing, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Local artist Richard McMurry's stylized landscape paintings will be on display. www.broadwaygallery.net. 703-450-8005.

"When the Rain Stops Falling." Feb. 4-28. 1st Stage Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Epic in scope and poetic in language, this beautiful, haunting play crosses continents and challenges the boundaries of time to tell the story of one family and the events that bring them together and drive them apart. \$15-\$30. www.1ststageTysons.org. 703-854-1856.

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.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E, Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase your flexibility, improve your breathing and health, reduce your stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. www.edimprovement.org. 571-213-3192.

"Poetry in Motion" Exhibit. Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. From Feb. 2-27. Exhibition of VAS members paintings with the theme "Poetry in Motion." Free.

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.

"Wishes and Dreams" Exhibit. March 1-April 2. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Free. viennaartsociety.org. 703-319-3971.

Goldstein Artist Showcase. March 1-23. Broadway Gallery, 1025-J Seneca Road, Great Falls. Great Falls Gallery will feature the pastels and mixed media paintings of local artist, Lynn Goldstein. www.broadwaygallery.net. 703-450-8005.

Author Reading and Signing. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. New York Times bestselling children's author Jonah Winter will read and sign copies of his new picture-book biography "Hillary." Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 24

Game Night: Codenames. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SATURDAY/MARCH 26

Meet Biscuit. 2 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Special Storytime with one of the most beloved children's book characters of all time

- Biscuit! A brief Meet and Greet with Biscuit will follow Storytime. Free. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 31

Game Night: Lanterns. 7 p.m. Barnes and Noble Tysons, 7851 L. Tysons Corner Center, McLean. Bring friends, grab a snack from the Cafe and get ready for some board game fun. Free. 703-506-6756. <http://stores.barnesandnoble.com/store/2238>.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 1, 2, 8, 9

"In Living Sound." 8 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. An evening of food, fun and theatre. Entertaining radio shows from the 1940s: "Adventures of the Thin Man: The Case of the Goofy Groom" and "The Big Story: Manhattan in Manhattan." \$25/\$30 includes dinner, drinks, dessert. www.viennatheatrecompany.org.



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St. Paddy's Day Party
Friday, Mar. 4, 7-9 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

An Alden Production
**"Sideways Stories from
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Sat. and Sun., March 5-6 and 12-13, 3 p.m.
\$15/\$10 MCC district residents



Take a Day Away!
2016 Philadelphia Flower Show
Monday, Mar. 7
\$135 per person/\$130 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse
Spring Break Trips
Monday-Friday, March 21-25
Prices and destinations vary

MCC Governing Board
**Public Hearing on
FY 2018 Programs**
Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.

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



1234 Ingleside Ave.
McLean, VA 22101
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A Further Explanation



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though last week's column, "One Hundred Pills," ostensibly was about the pill count of my most recent prescription and my interpretation of its meaning, the underlying point of the column which I might have failed to clearly mention was: cancer and the effect it has on your thinking; consciously, sub-consciously, and probably even unconsciously as well. If I had not been diagnosed with a "terminal" disease: stage IV, non-small, cell lung cancer (NSCLC), would I even have heard how many pills were in that bottle, or considered at all the numerical impact on my life, and that life's expectancy? Moreover, would I have been the least bit concerned with pharmacy/prescription procedures, medical or otherwise? And finally, would I have stumbled emotionally because of any of it? I'll be presumptuously self-assured and answer all of these previous questions: The answer would be a resounding "No."

And the cause of all these questions and the effect on the answers is cancer. To say cancer is a difference-maker is an insult to all difference-makers. Because cancer is insidious, and often, as evidenced in last week's column, a life-changer both physically and mentally, its effects rear their ugly head when you might not expect it. All I did was pick up a prescription but since cancer is in charge, I went off on a tangent of anxiety. But, and this is the point - perhaps lost in last week's column, which I am now focusing on in this week's column: you can't help yourself. Whether or not you admit to or acquiesce to cancer's control, it does take over. In effect, your brain is rewired, figuratively speaking. You simply don't think, consider, prioritize, react, etc., as you did prior to your diagnosis. It's almost as if you were struck by lightning; it's a jolt, emotionally, and you'll never be the same.

Sure, on the outside (to people looking at you), everything may appear normal (if you're amazingly lucky), but on the inside, especially in your head/brain, the world, your place in it and your behavior while being there has taken a turn. Not necessarily for the worse, but definitely for the different. Oddly enough, the changes are not so subtle that you don't notice them or won't acknowledge them or can't articulate them. In my experience, I notice/acknowledge and articulate them. However, I am hard-pressed to do much about them. It's not as if I've become an inconsiderate, selfish, intolerant, uncaring and self-indulgent a--hole (different than I'd like to think I was/mostly still am), but, and I'm not proud to admit this: I do have my moments. And when I do, I blame the cancer. As I asked my oncologist one day about my hair turning gray seemingly overnight, could I blame the cancer? He quickly responded: "You can blame the cancer for anything you want." And so I have, occasionally.

Not that I have taken his statement to heart or embraced it as a regular excuse, but cancer does seem to have its way. And though I am well aware of its tentacles and subliminal-almost ties that regularly bind, I am still cognizant of who I am and who I want to be. Nevertheless, author Siddhartha Mukherjee didn't title his book about cancer (and PBS didn't likewise title its miniseries): "Cancer, The Emperor of All Maladies" because cancer is kind and gentle and benign. Hardly. Cancer is none of these characterizations. And what's worse, it changes people; at least it's changed me, and not always for the better.

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

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LEGAL NOTICE

Edward Koch, M.D., a gynecologist, announces the closure of his clinical practice located at 6707 Old Dominion Drive in McLean Virginia as of April 30, 2016. Dr. Koch can be reached at 703-288-0794 or by email at egkmdpc@hotmail.com. Information about medication refills and medical records can be obtained using the telephone number or the email noted above. Dr. Koch will remain in McLean as a medical consultant.

ABC LICENSE

P&M Group, LLC trading as Red Galanga, 144 Church St, NW, Vienna, VA 22180. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises; Mixed Beverage Restaurant license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Perawat Pradawong, member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates 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

CONSOLIDATED PLAN PUBLIC NOTICE

On Friday, March 25, 2016, the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) will hold a public hearing on items relating to the Commonwealth of Virginia's administration of the Consolidated Action Plan 2016-2017 Action Plan.

The public hearing will be held at 10:00 AM until 11:00 AM in the 12th Floor North Conference Room of the Main Street Centre, 600 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219. DHCD will be taking comments on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan including goals and objectives for housing and community development; the projected use of funding; the method for distributing \$7,034,121 in HOME Investment Partnership funds; \$2,754,274 in Emergency Solution Grant (ESG) funds; \$745,593 in Housing for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA) funds, and \$16,881,481 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds.

Copies of the plan document may be requested by calling (804) 371-7100, (804) 371-7122, or (804) 371-7084 TDD. Persons requiring special accommodations should call (804) 371-7110. The Plan will appear on the agency's web site at <http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov> under "What's New."

The Department will receive written comments and testimony on the proposed 2016-2017 Action Plan through the close of business on April 15, 2016 at the following address:

Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Attention: Lyndsi Austin
Main Street Centre
600 East Main Street, Suite 300
Richmond, Virginia 23219

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JIGO, LLC trading as La Cote D'or Cafe, 6876 Lee Hwy, Arlington, VA 22213. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jacques Imperato, owner NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates 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

ABC LICENSE

The Shamrock Arlington, LLC trading as The Spirits of '76, 3211 Washington Blvd, Arlington, VA 22201. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On and Off Premises; Mixed Beverage license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Patrick Doody, Member NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 dates 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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WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY/FEB. 24-25
Christ Presbyterian Preschool Open House.
10-11 a.m. Christ Presbyterian Preschool, 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Open house tours for the current school year and 2016-17. www.christpresbyterianpreschool.com. 703-691-9120.

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MONDAY/FEB. 29
Dissecting Dyslexia Talk. 6:30-8 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Carol Dimas and Sara Platenberg of Educational Advocacy and Consulting will discuss today's issues regarding Dyslexia: Dyslexia and the school system, current legislation, parent/student rights, recommended interventions. Free. www.educationaladvocacyandconsulting.com.

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THE CONNECTION NEWSPAPERS

ONGOING
The **Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program** needs volunteer advocates for residents in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Contact Lisa Callahan at 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Also visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/lcombudsman/.
Fairfax County needs volunteers to **drive older adults to medical appointments and wellness programs**. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.
Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and training are provided. Contact 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.
Fairfax County needs a volunteer **Senior Center Marketing Coordinator** to assist the Friends of Fairfax County Senior Centers with marketing. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.
The **Lewinsville Senior Center** in McLean needs instructors for the following classes: Line Dance, Zumba Gold, Certified Arthritis Exercise, Square Dance, Basic Guitar, Art and Basic Spanish. For these and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions.
The **Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna** has an urgent need for volunteer drivers to take area seniors to medical appointments and other activities. Opportunities to volunteer for other services are also available. No long-term commitment and hours are flexible to fit your schedule. Visit www.scov.org or contact the Volunteer Coordinator at 703-281-5086 or email volunteer@scov.org.

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Vienna Toastmasters. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., at the Vienna Community Center on the 2nd floor room opposite the elevator, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. A friendly place to get comfortable with public speaking and impromptu speaking for new and experienced speakers. Open to the public.
Run With the Doctor. Every other Saturday at 7 a.m. 8230 Boone Blvd., Tysons Corner. The Center for Orthopedics and Sports Medicine offers its services in a convenient format to runners at this running event. Free. facebook.com/runwiththedoctor.
Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles. \$10. 703-667-9800.

County Budget Presented

FROM PAGE 3

parents, students, employees and community members to fully fund Fairfax County Public Schools' budget in FY 2017," said School Board president Pat Hynes in an emailed statement. "Despite calling for a tax increase, Mr. Long's budget signals no increase to the schools above last year's budget guidance of three percent while increasing the county's budget by a greater percentage. ... This news means that, unless the Board of Supervisors provides for a funding increase above Mr. Long's recommendation, Fairfax County Public Schools will once again have to make damaging budget cuts that will reduce educational opportunities for our children."

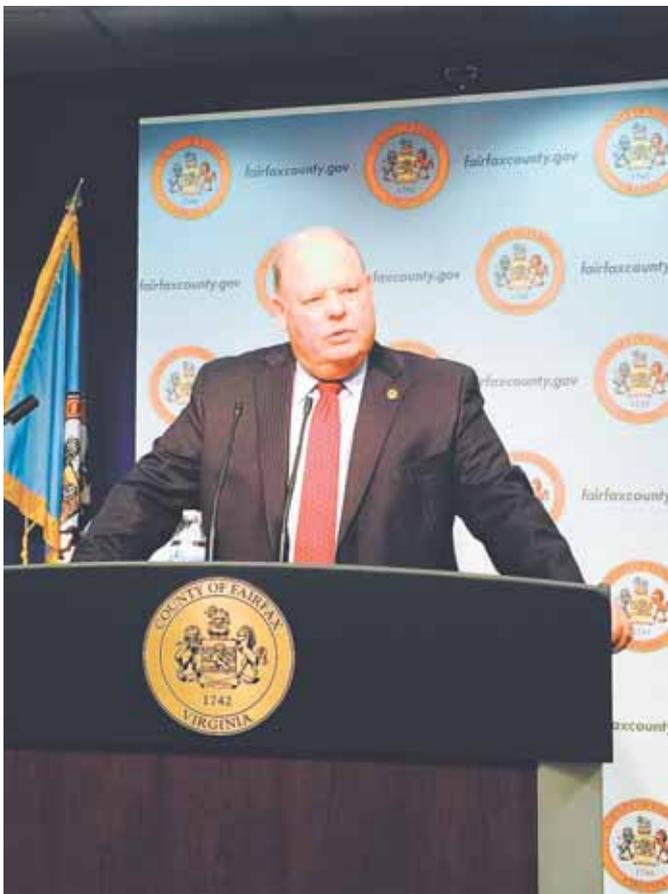


PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

County Executive Ed Long balanced this year's proposed budget with a three-cent increase on real estate, but recommends a four-cent increase.

McKay, head of the budget committee, immediately countered after the Board of Supervisors hearing. He had already read words from various school officials.

"Expressing to people somehow that the Board of Supervisors is cutting the school budget which was again expressed in writing today," said McKay, "is just technically not true."

"Let's talk about how we can better meet the school's needs but let's be truthful in presenting the facts to people about what is actually happening. While the county has dramatically increased education funding every year that I've been on board, the state has fallen further and further and further behind."

"There is a point in time in which we have to lobby the state to fix that problem," he said.

The board has increased the funding of schools by \$230 million since FY 2008, he said during the presentation. "Clearly this budget doesn't meet the transfer request of the schools and we need to do something to address that."

VIRGINIA RANKS in the top ten in both per capita and median household income but in the bottom 10 for state funding of public education, according to county documents.

"As the county has been saying for many years, the state is not meeting its share of funding for K-12 education in Fairfax County," Long said.

"That puts a tremendous strain on other parts of our budget when the state doesn't come through," Long said.

"That's an awful lot for our citizens to

bear," said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) of the proposed tax increase. "I'm hoping we can do something with our community to take the burden off the backs of our taxpayers."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) called it a "dark and dreary and ugly day."

"We are getting squeezed by national economic forces that are the worst in our lifetimes," he said. "This is where it comes to roost. Right here."

"We're going to have to get out a pencil and figure out where we can find some savings," said Cook. "Four pennies is nothing I can swallow."

"I'm not gloomy," said Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill). "Four cents sounds like an awful lot, but I can tell you I feel stronger in the way that we can support the schools, and the ways we can support the community."

The countywide average assessment for all homes is \$527,648, and the owner of a home valued that much would see \$304 increase in property taxes. The county average assessment for a single family house is \$632,507. Assessments vary by location. In Great Falls, the average is \$1,055,249. In Centreville, the average is \$385,089.

CRITICAL ITEMS included in the budget, according to Long: FCPS operating increase of three percent; FCPS infrastructure investment; improvements in county employee compensation; investments in public safety including increased staffing, beginning implementation of Ad Hoc Police Commission recommendations and Diversion First,



PHOTO BY KEN MOORE/THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors is scheduled to adopt the FY 2017 Budget on April 26. Chairman Sharon Bulova is scheduled to advertise the FY 2017 tax rate on March 1.

Budget Town Hall Meetings

Mount Vernon District Town Hall Meeting

Saturday, Feb. 27, 9:30 a.m.
Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

Sully District / Sully District Council Budget Meeting

Monday, March 7, 7 p.m.
Rocky Run Middle School - "Little Theatre" - 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly

Providence District Budget Council Budget Town Hall Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.
Providence Community Center - 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax - Multi-Purpose Room 2

Mason District Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 16, 7 p.m.
Mason District Government Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale - Main Community Room

Springfield District Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 23, 7 p.m.
West Springfield Government Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield - Community Room

Dranesville District Budget Meeting / McLean Citizens Association (MCA)

Wednesday, March 23, 7:30 p.m.
McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean

Braddock District Budget Meeting

Monday, March 28, 7:30 p.m.
Robinson Secondary School - "Recital Hall" - 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax

Lee District Association of Civic Organizations Community Budget Meeting

Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m.
Lee District Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria

Dranesville District / Great Falls Citizen's Association Budget Meeting

Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m.
The Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls

staffing for new police station in South County; spending on Human Services, including full funding for this year's intellectual disability graduates.

Several issues contribute to the revenue challenges, Long said.

❖ The local economy underperformed the national economy from 2011 - 2014.

❖ High office vacancy rate in the county - over 20 million square feet vacant out of 116.5 million square feet. As of mid-year 2015, direct office vacancy rate was 16.5 percent, highest since 1991, when it was 16.8 percent.

❖ Local real estate market is

underperforming the nation, so county's FY 2017 real estate tax growth lower than anticipated.

But "looking forward," Long said, "there's reasons for optimism. I'm optimistic about our local economy."

The board adopted the Economic Strategic Plan, he said.

"The Silver Line is going ahead full steam and we are going to see that opening up in 2019-2020. That gives reason for optimism," he said.

"And all the rezoning in Tysons and Reston, I'm extremely optimistic we are going to grow our commercial base."