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Great Falls CONNECTION

'Three Amigos' of Great Falls

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 8

Inside
PET CONNECTION

Mary Ann Redmond of Great Falls has titled this photo 'Three Amigos by the fire.' More photos of Great Falls pets on pages 8-9.

County Budget:
New Kids in Town

NEWS, PAGE 3

'Harvey' Comes
To Great Falls

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 11

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
OPINION, PAGE 6 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

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New Kids in Town

County executive proposes budget that fully funds schools and compensation for employees.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

The Board of Supervisors has until March 6 to determine if it will advertise the 2.5-cents real estate tax increase proposed by new County Executive Bryan Hill last Tuesday, Feb. 20.

"When we advertise the tax rate that will become the ceiling for what the tax rate can be. It can be lower, it can be the same, but it can not be higher than what we advertise on March 6," said Chairman Sharon Bulova, following Hill's presentation at the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The board will officially adopt the FY2019 budget on May 1, after a series of community meetings and public hearings on the \$4.29-billion budget. More than 40 community meetings have already been scheduled in the next month throughout the county.

"This will be an intense process as we work with the community," said Bulova.

Bulova called Hill's proposed tax increase "a significant amount."



County Executive Bryan Hill answered questions along with FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand. The FCPS budget is fully funded in Hill's proposal.

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust said, "the size of the increase, obviously a concern." "Every budget has two sides; you have

the receiving end and the paying end, and if you're on the receiving end of county services people will be very happy," said

Braddock Supervisor John Cook. "When you walk up to your office, Mr. Hill, at the end of the day, people in the hallways will be very happy. Every county priority is fully funded, schools are fully funded, and that's not a bad thing, that sounds good, but we have to remember the other side."

The other side starts with what Bulova said would be an average tax increase of \$268 to every homeowner in Fairfax County.

Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry calculates that increase to be five percent, adding to a total the last five years of more than 26 percent, Herry said.

"While the tax bills continue to grow in Fairfax, wages have not, especially for our growing population of seniors and our dwindling population of millennials," said Herry.

And various parts of the county will be hit harder than others. Cook suggested that some in his neighborhood each month "will pay \$450 to \$700-plus more with this budget."

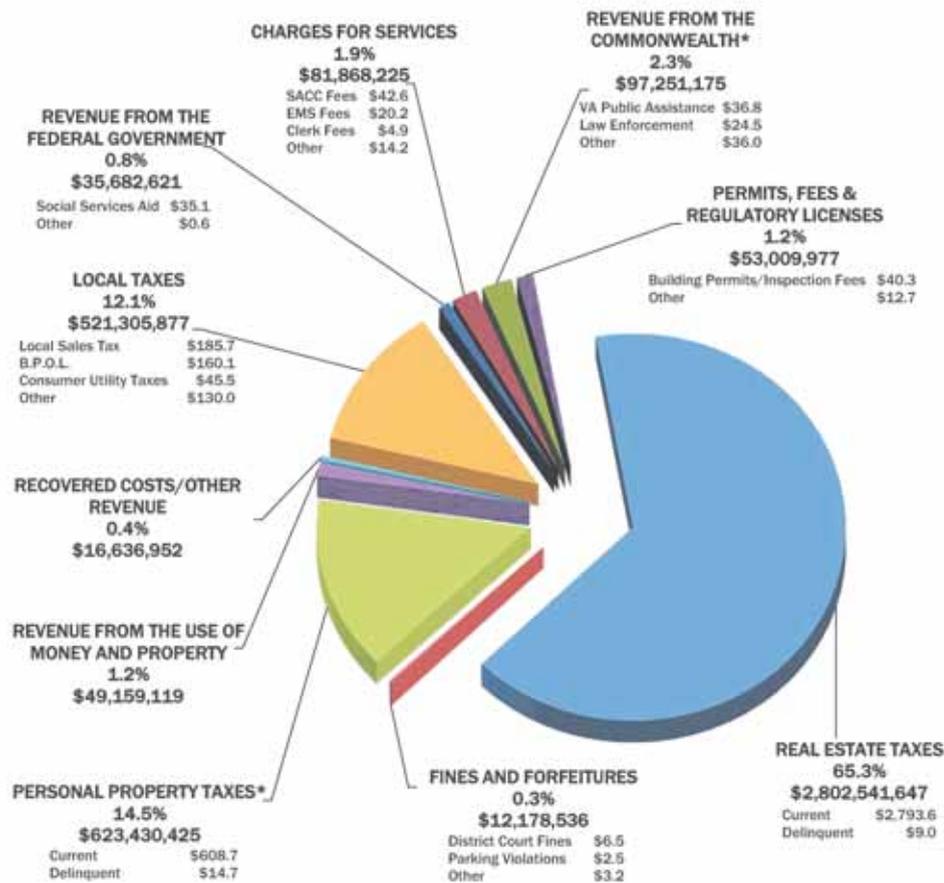
"While there are many things in this budget that I strongly advocated for and fully

SEE COUNTY, PAGE 12

FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS "WHERE IT COMES FROM"

(Subcategories in millions)

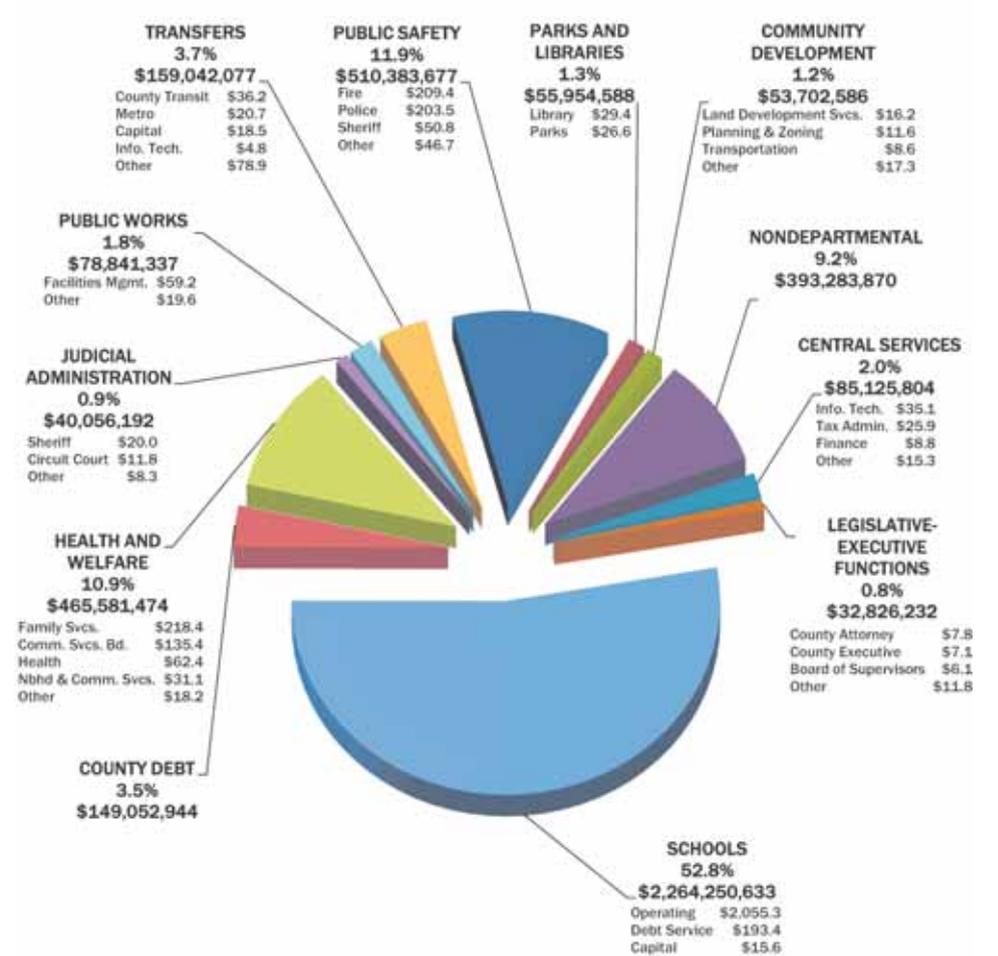


FY 2019 GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS = \$4,293,064,554**

FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS "WHERE IT GOES"

(Subcategories in millions)



FY 2019 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS = \$4,288,101,414

In addition to FY 2019 revenues, available balances and transfers in are also utilized to support disbursement requirements.

* For presentation purposes, Personal Property Taxes of \$211,313,944 that are reimbursed by the Commonwealth as a result of the Personal Property Tax Relief Act of 1998 are included in the Personal Property Taxes category.

** Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.



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 **PET CONNECTION**



Janet Jameson of Great Falls submitted this photo of Dream Jameson, born on Cinco de Mayo 2003, who “remains our Dream Come True. Here she is walkin’ and rockin’ her fluffiness and bandana thanks to Great Dogs of Great Falls. Wag More and Stay Fluffy my Connection friends!”



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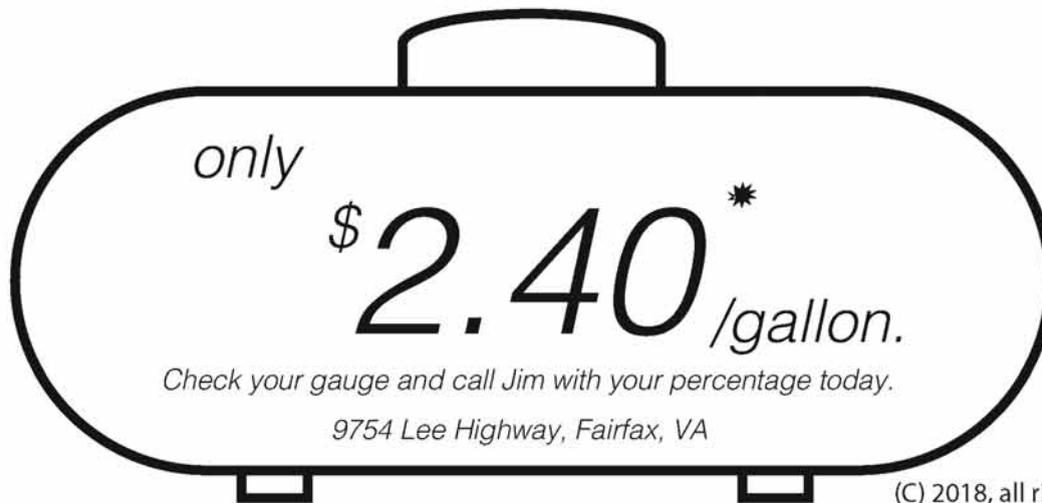
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OPINION

Hope for Expanding Health Care

Just say yes to \$400 million, thousands of jobs and health care for 300,000.

\$400 million. That's how much the Virginia Senate had to cut from its budget because it refused to include Medicaid expansion in the budget.

The House of Delegates version of the budget has \$400 million more to work with.

\$400 million is a lot of money. The change in the House of Delegates, a small miracle, comes with the change voters created last November. Republicans had a 66-34 in the House but lost 15 seats after the election.

EDITORIAL

The economic boost that comes with expanding Medicaid includes as many as 30,000 new jobs. It's ludicrous that Virginia has bypassed this money, this economic boost, this life-saving measure for poor Virginians. The Commonwealth has forfeited than \$10 billion because of ideological, partisan irrationality.

State Sen. Janet Howell may have captured the cause and effect the best in the floor debate: "We've cut education, both higher and public education. We've cut student aid, public safety, mental-health programs, programs for the disabled, programs to have a reliable election system. Why have we made these cuts? We've made them to deprive low-income people of healthcare."

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County have no health insurance.

A Harvard Medical School study determined that the decision by 25 states to reject the expansion of Medicaid coverage under the Affordable Care Act would result in between 7,115 and 17,104 more deaths than had all states opted in.

In Virginia, the number of deaths due to failure to expand Medicaid estimated between 266 and 987.

These are wrongful deaths, caused by the willful action of particular Virginia legislators.

Refusing to accept federal funds to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation or education. Imagine the celebration of the economic stimulus of adding \$400 million and tens of thousands of new jobs by any other means.

In Virginia, 102,000 uninsured people with a mental illness or substance use disorder could qualify for coverage if Medicaid were expanded under the Affordable Care Act.

As Virginia wrestles with heroin and opioid addiction, expanding Medicaid would allow for expanding treatment programs. One of the big obstacles to helping people who are fighting addiction is the availability of treatment when it is most needed. More people die of opioid overdoses in Virginia than in vehicle crashes.

It's time for a change, and there is hope for change. Look towards the budget conferences coming up shortly.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova in a visit to Animal Shelter.



Sharon Bulova (front row, middle) with Animal Shelter staff and volunteers. PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Bulova: Fantasy — To Adopt Office Pet

Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, sent the following submission to the Pet Connection issue:

"Our office fantasy is to adopt an office pet. In our imagination, we bring back a cat, or dog, maybe a bonded pair of guinea pigs. At our last visit to the Animal Shelter we

fell in love with a comical looking lion-headed rabbit. Apparently it is a distinct breed. And then there was a very cute little white mouse that someone had rescued from becoming a snake's meal at a local pet store. Maybe we could bring them all back.

"The 'we' is my wonderful chairman's team. We are all big

time animal lovers. In the end, however, we admit that the dream of populating our suite in the Government Center with critters is not really practical, much less permitted. Although we can't bring back all of the animals, it sure is fun to visit the Animal Shelter and spend some quality time there with such caring staff, dedicated volunteers,

and well-tended animals.

"Pets add so much dimension to our lives. While I have not adopted an office pet, I do have two wonderful rescue cats at home that make me very happy.

"To volunteer at the Shelter, please visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter for more information."

Great Falls
CONNECTION

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CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through March 31 at Great Falls Library (Small Conference Room), 830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. View an exhibit of watercolors by Artist Betty Ganley featuring her love of nautical scenes. Visit bettyganley.com.

Great Falls Farmers Market. Saturdays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., 778 Walker Road, Great Falls. Music, vendors, fresh produce, fresh prepared food, delightful bakery, spices from around the world, wild-caught fish, grass-fed, free-range meats, organic-fed poultry and eggs. Email kathleen@greatfallsfarmersmarket.org

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

The Arts of Great Falls School offers winter classes for adults and children of all skill levels. Visit www.greatfallsart.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 2-3

Library Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Sunday find books for half price or \$10 per bag sale. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Intro to Djembe Drumming. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Old Firehouse Teen Center 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Introductory to djembe drumming skills for families together with children age 8 and older. \$15/\$10 for MCC tax district residents. \$7 each additional person/\$5 MCC district residents. Fee includes admission and drum rental. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-trips/classes.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

Live Music. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Nora Jan Struthers and The Party Line perform. Tickets \$15-25. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

Doktor Kaboom. 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Doktor Kaboom is an over-the-top German physicist sporting chrome goggles, orange lab coat, motorcycle boots and wicked cool hair. Doktor Kaboom travels the world, thrilling adults and children alike with his explosive comedic style. For ages 7 and older. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 571-296-8385.

Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. IONA celebrates the release of their new album "Signature." Tickets must be purchased in advance 703-759-3309.

Family Game Day at Great Falls Library

Whether you have read any of the recent articles about the rise in the popularity of board games or not, you are welcome to learn what all the fuss is about at Family Game Day.

Family Game Day is a board gaming event at the Great Falls Library on Saturday, March 3 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. that will feature more than 20 different games to learn and play for families and children age 8 and up. Often times learning a new game is a barrier to entry, but there will be volunteers from NOVA Board Game Group on hand to teach any of the games and play alongside participants so they don't feel lost. NOVA Board Game Group, www.novaboardgamegroup.com, is a group of passionate local board game enthusiasts who like to help others learn about the joys of playing games.

According to ICv2, an online trade magazine that covers the industry, hobby board gaming was a \$305 million industry in 2016 and that number is increasing year over year. But why the surge in popularity? There are a number of reasons but there's a few that stick out when you ask board game enthusiasts like those from NOVA Board Game Group. Those include spending time with friends and family, taking a break from staring at screens and perhaps most importantly simply having fun.

Come to the Great Falls Library on Saturday to learn and play a huge variety of games that appeal to a wide range of audiences, from young to old and new to veteran gamer. Bring your family and bring your friends for a fun time. Ages 8 and older.



The HEART Of The Great Falls Community & Proud Location Of The Following Events:

- Easter Egg Hunt**
- 4th of July Parade**
- Concerts on the Green**
- Halloween Spooktacular**
- Celebration of Lights**
- Cars and Coffee**
- Farmers Market**



Photos by Walt Lawrence

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- Arts of Great Falls.....703-232-1575
- Capital Realty Services.....703-759-4900
- Dent Asset Management.....703-286-7555
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- Executive Suites at Great Falls.....703-865-2500
- Georgetown Learning Centers.....703-759-3624
- Great Falls Creamery.....703-272-7609
- Great Falls Cycle Studio.....703-585-5631
- Great Falls Family Dentistry.....703-759-4707
- Greenheart Juice Shop.....703-759-2126
- H2O Pools.....703-250-5585
- Jinny Beyer Studio.....703-759-0250
- John Nugent and Son
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- Katie's Coffee House.....703-759-2759
- Loebig Chiropractic.....703-757-5817
- New Paradigm Capital Mgmt.....703-757-4802
- Old Brogue Irish Pub.....703-759-3309
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SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

PET CONNECTION

Meet Best Friends of Great Falls



Sandy Selander of Great Falls shares these two pictures of her newest puppies, Visa (female) and Chief (male). "Visa" (above) has her eyes laser focused on a nugget of freeze dried liver, which she dearly wanted. She is a show dog in training. "Chief" (below) is Visa's half-brother. Same father from a different mother. They were born two days apart. He too, has his eyes laser focused on a liver nugget. He looks like he is saying "I am so cute, may I please have my liver treat now!"



Stephanie Gaibler of Great Falls dog Cali celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Jack O. Nutter writes: Mr. Giant is my beloved now 13-year-old adopted tabby cat. He is a devoted lap cat who loves to sleep by my side at night. If there is a sun patch through the window, Mr. Giant will find the spot. In this picture, he has found his way into a kitchen cabinet to stare out, thinking no one can see him. He had a vagabond life before ending up in the shelter and coming here. The shelter said he was 8 months old and, of course, I thought he was the largest cat ever for that age, hence his name. Turns out he was 18 months old and still weighs in at a comfortable 20 pounds. He is indeed a value member of the household and a spoiled beast.

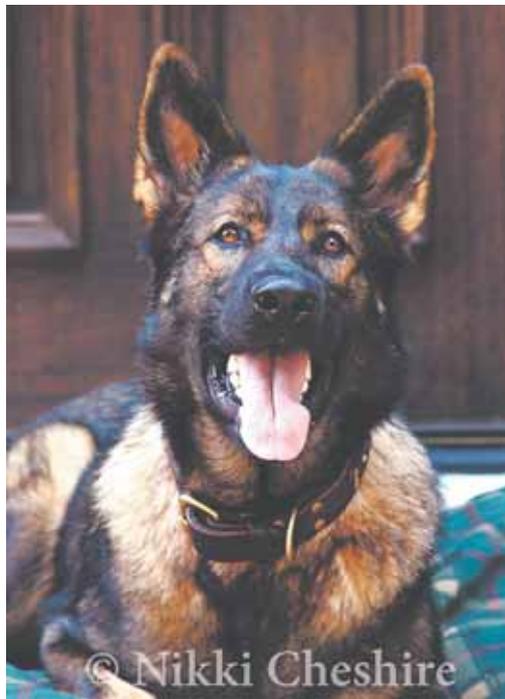


Mary Ann Redmond of Great Falls shares this photo of Moses and Indi on the poofy.



Moses and Indi – good friends of Great Falls.

PHOTO BY NIKKI CHESHIRE
This is 3-year-old Hunter, a DDR German Shepherd dog, owned by Jacqueline Cheshire of Great Falls.



Beth Kelly – Russo of Great Falls submitted this photo of her daughter Catie, who is a 15-year-old sophomore in high school, with her beloved Monroe. Monroe is a standard brown poodle born in Monroeville, Pa. – hence his name, Monroe. Catie got Monroe when she was visiting her relatives in Pennsylvania.



“Reggie the Hedgie” and his owner Bea of Great Falls. After collecting pictures and trinkets of hedgehogs for years, Bea decided she wanted a living, breathing hedgehog. They are hard to find, but she eventually got “Reggie the Hedgie” as a baby and watched him grow up and out. Hedgehogs are pudgy! Bea is the hit of her dorm in Lynchburg College when Reggie comes to visit.



Two cats rescued by Rebecca and Patrick Lacy: Mandy and Tabby are fascinated watching birds in the yard in Great Falls. They eat, play, and sleep like sisters.



CAREGIVER CONNECT

A Monthly Gathering for Caregivers at The Kensington

At The Kensington, we understand that caregiving for someone with dementia is a demanding responsibility. We also believe it is one you should not undertake alone. That’s why we strive to preserve your well-being by helping you stay positive, manage fatigue and make the most of moments as your loved one’s memory changes.

Join us on the first Wednesday of each month to share time connecting with other caregivers and discussing common challenges. Guest facilitators offer information, advice and support in a welcoming, private setting.

Dr. Aleksandra (Anya) Parpura, an expert in aging and dementia, leads our Caregiver Connect program and brings to us vast knowledge, helpful tips and a kind heart.

**The first Wednesday of each month from 6:30-8:00pm
 March 7 & April 4 • Light refreshments
 RSVP to (703) 992-9868**



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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2018 Assessments by Area

Also home values for members of
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**
2017 — \$674,430
2018 — \$722,600
7.14%



Dranesville Supervisor **John Foust (D)**
2017 — \$2,788,330
2018 — \$2,805,330
0.61%



Mason Supervisor **Penelope Gross (D)**
2017 — \$478,490
2018 — \$535,750
11.97%

Great Falls
1.35%
\$1,052,668

Reston
1.18%
\$432,136

McLean
1.78%
\$924,703

Herndon
2.11%
\$488,507

Vienna
1.50%
\$721,135

Chantilly
2.68%
\$479,051

Oakton
0.94%
\$692,088



Sully Supervisor **Kathy Smith (D)**
2017 — \$607,140
2018 — \$636,370
4.81%

Centreville
2.43%
\$401,327

Fairfax
2.46%
\$503,285

Falls Church
2.72%
\$473,562



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**
2017 — \$834,700
2018 — \$853,670
2.27%



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**
2017 — \$630,810
2018 — \$657,810
4.28%

Clifton
0.84%
\$674,195

Burke
3.22%
\$467,449

Springfield
3.41%
\$450,304

Alexandria
2.56%
\$445,859



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**
2017 — \$677,950
2018 — \$691,950
2.07%



Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herry (R)**
2017 — \$599,140
2018 — \$611,060
1.99%

0% Percent Change 4%

2018 Countywide average for all homes — \$547,219, up 2.17%
Single family-detached homes — \$656,071, up 2.11 percent
Townhouse/duplex properties — \$409,792, up 2.85 percent
Condominiums — \$264,974, up 1.68 percent



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**
2017 — \$665,090
2018 — \$665,090
0.00%



Mount Vernon Supervisor **Daniel Storck (D)**
2017 — \$620,590
2018 — \$645,810
4.06%

ZIP CODE AREA	2017 MEAN	2018 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria/Mount Vernon	434,746	445,859	2.56
Annandale	451,699	464,220	2.77
Burke	452,874	467,449	3.22
Centreville	391,787	401,327	2.43
Chantilly	466,566	479,051	2.68
Clifton	668,564	674,195	0.84
Fairfax	491,198	503,285	2.46
Fairfax Station	649,794	660,767	1.69
Falls Church	461,006	473,562	2.72
Great Falls	1,038,630	1,052,668	1.35
Herndon	478,405	488,507	2.11
Lorton	398,803	407,393	2.15
McLean	908,497	924,703	1.78
Oakton	685,639	692,088	0.94
Reston	427,099	432,136	1.18
Springfield	435,442	450,304	3.41
Vienna	710,459	721,135	1.50

for single family, townhouses and condominiums

The average assessed value of a
single family home in Fairfax County
for 2018 is \$656,071, up 2.11 percent

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

ENTERTAINMENT

'Harvey' Comes to Great Falls

McLean Community Players presents Pulitzer Prize winning comedy at Great Falls Grange.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where & When

McLean Community Players present "Harvey" at Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Performances: March 9-24, 2018. Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$18-\$20. Group rates available. General admission tickets through Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006 or visit www.McLeanPlayers.org.

A whimsical comedy, the timeless Pulitzer Prize winning "Harvey" is the tale of a middle-aged bachelor named Elwood P. Dowd; a man with a number of eccentricities. One of his idiosyncrasies is having a distinctive friend. That friend is a 6-foot-tall rabbit named Harvey; invisible to most everyone, but not Elwood.

Harvey the Rabbit and Elwood have lively conversations about all sorts of things, even as a daft group of relatives and friends scratch their heads wondering about Elwood's sanity.

For "Harvey" director Eleanore Tapscott the show is a joy, "I'm enthralled by one of the play's central themes; that our dreams or illusions are more important than we think they are."

The McLean Community Play-

ers' (MCP) production of "Harvey" will be performed at the Great Falls Grange as the McLean Community Center continues its renovations. "Harvey" was last produced on the Great Falls Grange stage in 1986. Now the MCP will be treating new generations of Great Falls theater-goers to the comical and serious question; is the talking rabbit seen by Dowd, a man who may drink a bit, real?

Kevin Dykstra, who plays Elwood P. Dowd, said "Elwood's innocence and likability will come through as he glides along while surrounded by hysteria, chaos and suspicion."

"Audiences will enjoy the over-

all zaniness of 'Harvey' and get a kick out of how various characters react and relate to Elwood and Harvey," said Anne Hilleary who portrays Elwood's sister. "The show demonstrates how patience, kindness, and tolerance toward other people are qualities that never go out of style."

Cast members Amanda Spellman, Louis Lehrman, Michael Himes and Caroline Peterson, each invited the audience to "Harvey" in their own way. For Spellman, "Harvey" is a sharply written show that is hilarious as it is heartwarming." Lehrman added; "the audience can expect a comedy of errors that asks the serious question; whether it's better to be smart or



IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY/COURTESY MCLEAN COMMUNITY PLAYERS

Rehearsal of "Harvey" by McLean Community Players
From left: Veta (Anne Hilleary) discusses the party she is hosting with her daughter Myrtle Mae (Caroline Peterson).

pleasant in life."

"Harvey" is a feel-good comedy where you'll leave with a smile on your face," said Himes. As for Peterson, "Audiences can expect to laugh. I laugh at the same jokes over and over because they are just that funny."

"Harvey" was made possible be-

cause of the support of Great Falls residents and "the cooperative posture of the Fairfax County Park Authority in making the Grange available," said Mike Scott, co-producer.

Be ready for quirky fun as "Harvey" visits the Great Falls Grange.

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NEWS

County Opens Budget Debate

FROM PAGE 3

support, and it's nice to see, we also have to go back to the people who pay. ... In this budget, it's hard to explain to the people paying the bill where the restraint was," Cook said.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay heads the budget committee for the board.

"When you're stuck with residential taxes as your main source of revenue and you can't control property values, you can't control the fact that the highest percentages are sometimes in the communities of this county whose residents can least afford that increase," he said.

HILL TOOK OVER as county executive on Jan. 2; former county executive Ed Long retired Sept. 15, 2017.

"Excellent job in a very short period of time," said Foust, after Hill's presentation.

"Fifty-three days, sir," said Hill, with humor.

Bulova called Hill's budget "outstanding."

"It essentially hits on all the notes that our board is concerned about, increasing funding for schools, fully funding compensation for our employees and also addressing Diversion First and increases in what we need to fund CSB [County Services Board] and police, etcetera, etcetera, etcetera," said Bulova.

"This is a budget that invests in people and I think that's the single most important thing we can do this year, to invest in our school employees and our county employees," said McKay.

Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins said she welcomed Hill's support "embracing initiatives" that will allow all families to enjoy what the county has to offer.

"Fairfax County is a really great place but unfortunately there are a lot of folks who are not in a great place in order to enjoy all of that," she said.

For example, "School readiness needs to be looked at with as broad a brush as you can find," she said.

URGENCY AND WARNING were themes of Hill's presentation, however.

This year's budget proposal addresses almost all priorities and initiatives, but the future will need to be different, Hill said.

"We're going to have to change how we do business here in Fairfax County," Hill said, predicting persistent budget shortfalls into the future. "It's 2020 where we really need to tie our shoes a little tighter," being "more creative and nimble."

He recommends returning promptly to an analysis of county lines of business, looking for efficiencies and savings in each department.

"You hit the nail on the head," said Foust. "We have to find a way to make county government more efficient if we are going to continue providing the awesome services that we provide at fair and reasonable costs."

Hill predicts restrained revenue growth for the foreseeable future, with uncertainties in federal spending, the impact of tax reform on property values, state budget contributions and meeting the needs of Metro.

One continuing issue is that Fairfax County sends far more tax money to state coffers than returns, getting just 23 cents back for every dollar, Hill said.

"No matter how many times I say it, people in our community don't understand it," said McKay. "They think we get significant help from the state, they

FAIRFAX COUNTY TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

- ❖ Monday, March 5, 7:30 p.m., McLean Budget Meeting, McLean High School Cafeteria, 1633 Davidson Road, McLean
- ❖ Wednesday, March 7, 7 p.m., Sully District Town Hall, Rocky Run Middle School Little Theater, 4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
- ❖ Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m., Hunter Mill Community Summit, South Lakes High School Lecture Hall, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston
- ❖ Monday, March 12, 7:30 p.m., Great Falls Budget Meeting, Great Falls Library Meeting Room, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m., Providence Community Budget Meeting, Providence Community Center, First Floor Multipurpose Room, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax
- ❖ Wednesday, March 14, 7:30pm, Braddock District Council Annual Budget Meeting, Location To Be Determined
- ❖ Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m., Mason District Budget Town Meeting, Mason District Governmental Center, Main Community Room, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale
- ❖ Wednesday, March 21, 7 p.m., Lee District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Franconia Governmental Center Community Room, 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria
- ❖ Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m., Springfield District Budget Town Hall Meeting, Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield
- ❖ April 10-12, Board of Supervisors Public Hearings on FY 2019 Budget and FY 2019-2023 Capital Improvement Plan. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form to sign up.

think the schools get significant help from the state, but really the schools are getting significant help from the homeowners in Fairfax County."

THE \$4.29-BILLION budget would transfer \$2.26 billion to the school system, 52 percent of the total.

Hill and new School Superintendent Scott Brabrand pledged to work collaboratively to reach joint priorities and efficiencies.

The two new executives stood side by side when answering questions about the proposed budget.

"The quality of the school system is directly tied with the quality of life in the county," said Brabrand, who began July 10, 2017. His contract runs through June 30, 2021.

"I think it is the first time in recent years that the county executive and the superintendent of schools have stood side by side to share our budgets and take questions. I think this change is emblematic of a new approach to meeting the needs of the residents of Fairfax County," he said. Hill's proposed budget would fully fund the FCPS request.

Hill's annual salary is \$250,000, Brabrand's is \$290,000.

MORE THAN 18.9 million square feet of office space remains vacant in the county.

"Maybe it's starting to think about different uses for that instead of the normal," said Hill. "Leaving it vacant is not a good thing for our tax base. The more people we have in our vacant office space ... reduces the burden on our county residents. So we have to be more creative, we have to be more nimble, and we have to be cutting edge."

Hill and numerous supervisors discussed the importance of economic development.

"Increasing commercial is a really good story that can not be overlooked," said Foust. "A 3.8 percent increase in the non-residential assessment is really good news."

Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck suggested overtime expenditure is an area to save money.

And Herrity made his annual appeal for the county to address pension benefits.

"Every year we put it off, it gets harder," Herrity said.

"I am extremely disappointed that we have reached yet another budget cycle and we have failed to address our pension issues," he said. "As I talk with constituents throughout the county, they are in disbelief that we continue to offer new employees a pension benefit more generous than surrounding jurisdictions on top of a county taxpayer paid social security benefit as early as age 55. Pension costs alone add 30 cents to every payroll dollar and compete for funding with critically needed county services and employee and teacher raises."

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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SCHOOLS

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Justin G. Speros, of Great Falls, graduated from Clemson University (S.C.) with a Bachelor of Science in parks, recreation and tourism management.

Madeleine Kee, of Great Falls, a marine science major, has made the president's list at Coastal Carolina University (Conway, S.C.) for the fall 2017 semester.

The following students from Great Falls were named to the dean's list at the College of William & Mary for the fall 2017 semester: **Matthew Buckley, Shani Cave, Courtney Check, Alex Cochran, Patrick Crowley, Nakul Dar, Madison DiLenge, Veronica Dolan, Matthew Dungan, Alexander Feng, William Furlong, Shivani Gupta, Jonathan Hwang, Abigail Jackson, Andrew Kett, John Kett, Keaton Lee, Erika Marr, Shakir Naji, Tyler Norris, Mary Pelson, John Riddell, John Simmons, Nickash Sivakumar, Hunter Voslow, and Christina York.**

Conor Maddy of Great Falls has been named to the dean's list for the fall semester at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, N.Y.). He was also inducted into Eta Kappa Nu (HKN), the international honor society for electrical and computer engineers.

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