Oakton High School’s Cougar Robotics STEM Club team members at District Championship March 30.

Confusion, Anger, Agenda Difficulties

Preparing 755 Power Packs of Food for Others
Vienna Theatre Company presents “Blithe Spirit.”

“Blithe Spirit”


THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Fashion Show and Luncheon. Social hour at 11 a.m., luncheon at noon at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 On Rd, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Oakton Women’s Club. A fundraiser for the Fairfax County Public School’s Food and Nutrition Services to donate money towards the purchase of a food kiosk so that Luther Jackson Middle School can implement a Second Chance Breakfast, as part of the No Kid Hungry program. Buy tickets at www.oaktownwomenclub.com/fashion-show or call Allison McNeil at 703-582-6179.

Reception: “Bon Appetit.” 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 315 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. The public is invited to enjoy tight refreshments and meet the artists at a reception celebrating the Bon Appetit exhibition. Watercolor artist Cathy Williams demonstration during the reception. Through May 6. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Astronomy for Family Fun: Stars. 8-9 p.m. at Turner Farm Park’s Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. Visit www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

SUNDAY, APRIL 15

Half Off Bingo. Doors open 4 p.m.; early bird game begins 7 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 315 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Visit vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Screening of “Walk With Me.” 7:30 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. The film is narrated by actor Benedict Cumberbatch and stars Zen Buddhist master and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhat Hanh in a cinematic journey into the world of mindfulness. Admission is $10; however, no one will be turned away. Advance ticket purchase is done via www.turner-farm/family-fun-stars. Follow prompts; show receipt at door. Visit www.uniteforfairfax.org.

Christylez Bacon: The Human Beatbox. 8 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. GRAMMY-nominated Christylez Bacon is a dynamic member of the hip-hop movement, bringing innovation to an art form already known for mixing urban musical styles. Cost is $20-$14 MCC District residents. For Old Firehouse activities call 703-448-8336.

SATURDAY, APRIL 14

Library Comicon. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, 7713 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Second annual celebration of comic books, science fiction, fantasy, TV, movies and more. Special visitors are expected including Stormtroopers and Ghost Busters. Family-friendly costumes encouraged. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library-library-events.

Bluebell Festival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Riverside Park, 7670 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. See a blanket of bluebells at their peak at Riverbend’s Bluebell Festival. Food, crafts and face painting for kids, live animals, moon bounce and music. $7 per person until April 13; $9 at the gate. Children under 2 free. Visit 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. in the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE. Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12-25

“Fly By Night.” At 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Rd, Tysons Corner. It’s 1965 in New York City and the lights are about to go out. But not before a melodramatic sandwich maker becomes enchanted with two sisters; $38 general admission, $55 seniors (65+), $15 students and military. Visit www.linstage.org or call 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY, APRIL 13

Screening of “Walk With Me.” 7:30 p.m. at Gunty of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The film is narrated by actor Benedict Cumberbatch and stars Zen Buddhist master and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhat Hanh in a cinematic journey into the world of mindfulness. Admission is $10; however, no one will be turned away. Advance ticket purchase is done via www.turner-farm/family-fun-stars. Follow prompts; show receipt at door. Visit www.uniteforfairfax.org.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

VIENNA, VA 22180

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To View These Houses of Worship

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF VIENNA

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www.fbcw.org

Visit These Houses of Worship

SUNDAY WORSHIP: 7:45 AM & 10:00 AM
CHRISTIAN LEARNING ACADEMY (SUN.) 9:00AM-4:45AM
MIDWEEK SERVICES, WED: 7:00 PM

To View These Houses of Worship
WASHINGTON, D.C. — A series of questions were asked during a public safety committee meeting regarding the role of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency in Fairfax County. The meeting took place on April 3, and the questions focused on the agency’s involvement in enforcing non-criminal immigration rules.

The meeting began with a discussion about the Fairfax County gang task force and its relationship with ICE. The committee members wanted to understand how ICE could be involved in enforcing non-criminal immigration rules, and whether ICE had a role in the task force.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay asked if the decision would impact criminal investigations of the gang task force. "Little to no impact on the gang task force," answered Keen. "Little to no impact, make sure everybody heard that," said McKay, "because facts matter and facts really matter when you are dealing with people’s emotions. And when you’re trying to scare people in Fairfax County into believing things that are happening that are not happening."

THE MAJORITY of the board supported Kincaid’s decision. "When you terminated the ISA, it was undoubtedly predictable on your part that there would be those who would try to make a political issue out of this," would try to scare people. I appreciate the courage you showed, you did the right thing," said Foust.

"It was the right decision to make," said McKay. "I've got to tell you, from all the officers that I've talked to and from my years on this board the number one most powerful tool we have in Fairfax County is a community that can trust and will talk to law enforcement to solve our crimes," said McKay. "What's happening at the federal level and at the local level, it's not a black and white situation, and that's what's so frustrating."
**New Neighbor**

**By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum**

*State Delegate (D-36)*

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As a recent early morning walk from my home in the South Lakes area of Reston I met a new neighbor that I learned lately moved into the area weeks ago. I would not call the new neighbor friendly; he seemed to be more disinterested in me although his family acted a bit jittery with me being around. While he may not have been interested in me, hundreds have been interested in and curious about him. A photo I took of him that I posted on social media has elicited nearly 400 reactions. I continue to use the male pronoun, but truthfully I am not sure of the neighbor’s gender.

I introduced the new member of our community on social media as being an albino deer, but I was quickly corrected. The almost white deer did not have the pink eyes, pink nose, and pinkish hooves of an albino deer. One neighbor suggested that he was probably a piebald deer. Although I grew up in rural Virginia where there is a lot of wildlife, I had never heard of a piebald deer. That sent me to the internet where I learned that contrary to popular belief, a piebald deer is not a cross between a normal whitetail deer and an albino. The origin of the word “piebald” comes from “pie” meaning “mixed up” and “bald” meaning “having a white spot”.

Piebalds have various amounts of white and brown patches similar to a pinto pony, and they have normal brown eyes and nose with black hooves like a normal whitetail deer. Their coloration is due to a rare inherited genetic defect that fortunately affects less than one percent of the white-tailed deer population because it also may result in the deer having short legs, scoliosis of the spine, internal organ deformities and other health conditions.

At the risk of turning this story into another diatribe on my part about the importance of diversity in our community and the need to welcome all, I will end with an acknowledgement that some people do not want another someone in the community who may eat their flowers. It does make me appreciate our trails and natural areas where we can see our animal neighbors. When you see our piebald deer near Snakeden Branch Trail or wherever else in Reston, take a photo if you can and share it on my Facebook page, Kenneth R. Plum. We want him to feel welcome. You might want to call him by the name I understand Terraset Elementary students have given him: Blanca.

By the time you are reading this column I will be back in Richmond for the serious work of the legislature of passing a budget for the next biennium. The outstanding issue to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Virginia to pay for the program. I support the Governor in his insistence that we approve the expansion. Thanks to all the citizens who have been calling and writing supporting the program. I will be back with details on the budget issue as soon as it is resolved.

— Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

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**Expansion of Health Care in Virginia?**

After years of hoping, it’s possible Medicaid expansion will come on April 11; say a prayer.

The most important, impactful accomplishment of the Virginia General Assembly session for 2018 is set for Wednesday, April 11, after our newspapers’ presstime. In agreeing on a budget, assembly members are expected to approve expanding Medicaid which would provide health insurance some 200,000 to 400,000 Virginians who have been living without coverage, and consequently mostly without health care.

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County do not have health insurance. The benefits are huge. A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that most go out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Virginia to pay for the program.

Del. Ken Plum of Reston wrote in his weekly column: “By the time you are reading this column I will be back in Richmond for the serious work of the legislature of passing a budget for the next biennium. The outstanding issue to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Virginia to pay for the program. I support the Governor in his insistence that we approve the expansion. Thanks to all the citizens who have been calling and writing supporting the program. I will be back with details on the budget issue as soon as it is resolved.”

Fingers crossed.

— Mary Kimm

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
Preparing and planning a colorful warm-weather garden.

By Marilyn Campbell

One of the most anticipated rites of spring is the vibrancy of the first blooms on flowers and trees. However, this beauty can only be savored after the weeding, pruning and planting are finished. While preparing and planning a spring garden is not an effortless endeavor, local landscaping gurus say that an organized plan can make it more manageable.

“The first thing you need to do is cut back any ornamental grasses like Liriope two to four inches off the ground so the brown, tired-looking leaves are gone before the new leaves start to grow,” said David Watkins, general manager of Merrifield Garden Center. “If you wait too long it’s tough to separate old from new and you end up getting brown on the new leaves.”

Removing all of the leaves and other debris from the flowerbed is the next step, advises Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda. “Cut back any perennials or ornamental grasses that have not already been cut back and prune out any dead branches from existing shrubs,” he said. “I fertilize at this point with a slow-release, organic fertilizer that works for blooming and evergreen plants. Lastly I put down a fresh layer of mulch and then the beds are ready for spring.”

Preparing to have a perfectly manicured lawn for spring begins by raking removing all of the fallen leaves, adds Davis. “Having your PH tested would be a good idea because now would be the time to put down lime to get your soil to the correct acidity level which is 5.8 to 6.5,” he said. “This is also the time to put down pre-emergent [herbicides] to keep the weeds from coming up, but you have to remember, if you put down a pre-emergent you cannot over seed for six to 12 weeks, depending on the product you are using.”

Cutting away dead or overgrown branches to stimulate new growth comes next, says Watkins. “I would prune any branches on shrubs and trees that are crisscrossing and rubbing against each other,” he said. “Then edge, mulch and fertilize your plants. Remove old mulch first and put down two to three inches of new mulch, but make sure you don’t put it too close to the trunk of the plant.”

When whipping a garden into shape for spring, Alexandria-based landscape designer Ruth Tinsley believes in engaging the senses. “If you plant fragrant spring flowers like Honeysuckle, Phlox, Butterfly Bush and roses, they will give you a pleasant aroma when you are walking through your yard or garden,” she said. “Plant them in large swaths to get the biggest impact.”

Butterfly Bush and Stock are two flowering plants that do double-duty, advises Tinsley. “They not only have a nice fragrance, but they will add beautiful color to your yard or garden. Butterfly bush is relatively hearty and has vibrant pink and purple blooms, and Stock comes in a vivid, dark-red color.”

“If temperatures are warm on a consistent basis, Davis offers a caveat about planting flowers. “I would only plant Pansies and Violas for flowers outside,” he said. “They will give you good color all the way up to the time to plant summer annuals, which is when we have sustained night time temps around 55 degrees, usually around mid-April. For perennials about the only thing you can plant now would be hellebores.”

“These bushes are blooming now. They’re one of the first to bloom,” added Watkins. “Shortly Camellias and Azaleas will start to bloom. Options for plants that can tolerate cooler temperatures are plentiful, advises Watkins. “All of your trees and shrubs can be planted now and it’s great to get your garden started early so there’s less maintenance in the summer,” he said. “All of our ornamental trees like Cherry, Redbud, Crabapple and Dogwood can be planted now.”

“As for shrubs, you can plant anything right now as long as it has been acclimated and does not have new tender growth,” added Davis. “We have all of our plants that are tender either in our greenhouses or covered with frost blankets until the temperatures warm up.”
INCIDENTS

Vandalism — 300 Block of Mashie Drive SE Between March 27, 10 a.m. and April 5, 1:30 p.m. A resident reported that someone spray-painted a tire on his pickup truck.

Open Door/Window — 600 Block of Hillcrest Drive SW March 30, 2:10 p.m. Officers responded to an alarm coming from the residence. Upon their arrival Officers found that the front door was wide open. Open officers entered and searched the residence with negative results.

Suspicious Event — The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue West, March 31, 1:31 p.m. A citizen reported that he has been receiving unwanted text messages.

Property Found — Elmar Drive SW / Dale Street SW April 1, 7:09 a.m. A citizen turned in some property that was found near Elmar Dr and Dale Street SW.

Animal Case — 900 Block of West Street SW April 1 between 11:30 a.m. and 11:40 a.m. A resident reported that while she was getting ready for a run, a dog came charging at her. The dog jumped up on her with its front paws. The resident was unharmed and did not fall down.

Open Door/Window — West Street SW April 1, 12:04 p.m. A citizen reported that she was receiving unwanted phone calls.

False Alarm — Chippotice 213 Maple Avenue East, April 1, 5:09 p.m. A citizen reported that someone stole his cell phone from a table while he was using the restroom.

Narcotic Violation — Southside Park 1317 Ross Drive SW April 1, 7:57 p.m. While on patrol, Officer Reedy, observed a vehicle trespassing in a public park. During his interaction with the occupants Officer Reedy located illegal drugs.

Arrest - Driving While Intoxicated - Maple Avenue West / Nutley Street April 1, 8:57 p.m. A citizen reported a police assistance with a driver slumped over, at the wheel of a vehicle and apparently unconscious. The driver woke up prior to police arrival and then left the scene. Officers were able to locate the driver. The driver failed all sobriety tests and was arrested. The driver was transported to the Vienna Police Headquarters where he refused to submit to the official breath test. As a result of the investigation, a 60-year-old man from Center Street in Vienna, was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. Two warrants (Driving While Intoxicated third or subsequent and Refuse blood/breath test 2nd offense) were issued and served. The man was released to the custody of the Fairfax County Deputies.

Robbery 1— Shell 252 Maple Avenue West April 2 2:14 a.m. An employee reported that he was robbed at gunpoint. An undisclosed amount of money and property was taken. The employee was unharmed. A search for the suspect is under way.

Police Service — Navy Federal Credit Union, 820 Follin Lane SE, April 3 7:43 a.m. A citizen reported that she was being harassed.

Open Door/Window — 900 Block of Timber Lane SW April 3, 12:52 p.m. Open officers responded to an alarm coming from the residence. Officers found the rear door unsecured and decided to search the residence. Nothing unusual was found.

Consumer Assistance — 300 Block of Ainstree Court NE April 5, 11 a.m. Officers learned that no violation of law had taken place. Animal Case — Hope Advance Veterinary Center 140 Park Street SE April 5, 9:15 a.m. A ten-day control officer responded to the area and located the van. A street dog was located and transported to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter where it will spend some time reflect- ing on the events that led to its incarceration. Animal Case — 300 Block of Jean Place NE April 5, 11 a.m. Animal Control Officer J. Barker picked up the dog and transported it to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Abandoned Vehicle — 200 Block of Pleasant Street SW April 5 9:31 a.m. A citizen reported an abandoned van. A traffic officer responded to the area and located the van. A ten-day tow notice was placed on the van and the tires were marked.

Death Unknown Cause — Tapawingo Road SW, April 5, 11:45 a.m. A citizen reported that a pedestrian was struck by a vehicle in the roadway. Officers determined that no violation of law had taken place.

CRASHES

Hit and Run — Whole Foods Market 143 Maple Avenue East, March 30, 3:21 p.m. Vehicle #1 was legally parked in the Whole Foods parking lot. While parked it was struck by an unknown vehicle.
and they're not able to speak,” said Herrity. “If we have them here, we have them on the agenda,” he said.

With ICE to the fullest extent possible,” he said, “we’re one of the safest jurisdictions in the country because our people trust, believe, and speak to us and help us solve crimes,” McKay said. “And if we scare people, then: How committed do I want to become to retirement – with an elastic waistband to do my bidding.

“If there was a cash reward for such failure, I’d be looking somewhere else before I retired – and not just on underwear, bathing suits, shorts and sweatpants. The question becomes then: How committed do I want to become to such elasticity? Isn’t it kind of a sloppy slipper to rub wide open on any number of previous occasions.

“I believe I know the answer. I’m just not sure of the start date. It better be soon lose weight and save some face, literally?”

“M&M’s plain/peanut butter candy and try to bite the cloth that fits – and fewer and fewer clothing that reflects and lock in my girth, or bite the cloth I’m not to be stopped then am I prepared to go elastic, I may never go back, and in never going back, I’m also afraid there may be no need to rubberize my waistline? My fear is, once I’m basking somewhere warm, in semi-retirement – with an elastic waistband to do my bidding."

“Not a Cancer Column ...

By KENNETH R. LOURIE

that the green, cotton, chino-type casual-friday pants I often wear on -in-the-office-Thursdays, lasted as long as they did. Given the months which, given the pounds that have been added over the winter (let’s be honest; more like the preceding fall, summer, spring, winter and fall), you’re constantly chafed, langed, especially when attempting to zip up your fly and/or button your pants. Talk about a pointless effort.

Dina wouldn’t approve. She might have marred electronic advisories to that effect); and I wouldn’t approve (I’ve already received some artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center’s tax district (Small District IA-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.

Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center’s website: http://bit.ly/
Oakton High Robotics Team Takes World Stage

By Amy Yusman
Oakton Cougar Robotics President/Mentor

For 17 years, Oakton High School has been blessed with the Cougar Robotics STEM Club. The club competes in a worldwide competition called FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology). The club is made up of 29 students, ranging from freshman to seniors. Each January a new season begins with a new game challenge for the Club. The Cougar Robotics teams had six weeks to design, build and program a brand new robot to meet the 2018 FIRST PowerUp challenges. The students are interviewed by judges at each competition, giving them the opportunity to show off their robot, programming, and team skills.

The Cougars have battled it out in both Virginia and Maryland, winning the FIRST Chesapeake Southern Maryland Tournament. The programming team was rewarded for their hard work with the Innovation in Control award, which celebrates an innovative control system or application of control components – electrical, mechanical, or software – to provide unique machine functions for their “Cougar Operative Board.”

During Spring Break, the Cougars battled it out against 60 other teams from Virginia, Maryland and DC at the District Championship. Finishing among the top teams and winning the Quality Award for their robot Samus Lakitu, Oakton’s Cougar Robotics team secured their spot to compete against 400 teams from all over the world at the FIRST Championship in Detroit, Mich. April 25-28. Tens of thousands of students will compete on the world stage at the FIRST Championship presented by Qualcomm Inc.

Preparing 755 Power Packs of Food for Others

Thanks to the generosity of the community at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and School, volunteers filled 755 “power packs” for needy children in Fairfax County. This was a very important food drive, as many children have little or no food at home and this “power pack program” helps get them through the weekend. It was noted that OLGC donated 2,723 pounds of food, double what they provided in December. All of this would not have been possible without the support of not only the parishioners and the school families that donated before the event, but also the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus, who contributed $200, and the Fish Fry patrons thru a 50/50 raffle, who collectively donated $817 which went towards the purchasing of items needed for the “power packs.”

The OLGC youth group, seventh graders and staff carried and collected the items so that the packing could occur and a few moms delivered the bags to Food for Others.

For more information, visit https://www.olgcva.org/news-post/~post/power-packs-completed.