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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10
PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Burke CONNECTION



Janet Bocaner of Great Harvest Bread Company of Burke pictured on the opening day of the Burke Farmers Market on Saturday, April 14. The market hours are Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, and the new extended season runs April 14-Dec. 22, 2018.

Burke Farmers Market Opens for the Season

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Two Sides to Two
And a Half Cents

NEWS, PAGE 3

Teaching Lessons
In Money Management

A+, PAGE 8

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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

Supervisors to vote on proposed budget, possible real estate tax increase on May 1.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

James Parmelee was the seventh speaker before the Board of Supervisors on the proposed budget. Following school personnel, county employees and a speaker from the PTA, Parmelee was the first to oppose the proposed real estate tax increase.

"I figured somebody in the room should try to speak for the average taxpayer," said Parmelee, a perennial opponent of taxes, when he gave his opinion of the proposed budget on the first of three days of public comment.

More than 150 speakers testified, 158 signed up to speak, during the three days the Board of Supervisors allotted to hear from the public on the FY 2019 budget and proposed tax rate. The public comments lasted more than 11 hours and 20 minutes.

Advocates voiced passion on topics ranging from the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers, and more.

But the issue for the board to decide on May 1 is whether to support County Executive Bryan Hill's proposed budget including a two and a half cent real estate tax increase. The board can accept the real estate tax increase or vote for a smaller amount but can not raise Hill's suggested increase.

"When the voters in Fairfax County have had an opportunity to vote on tax increases, you saw what happened last time," said Parmelee. "The voters of Fairfax County, on the very same day that they overwhelmingly voted for Hillary Clinton, they also overwhelmingly voted against the tax hike."

If the Board of Supervisors were to adopt the full two and a half cent tax rate increase, it would amount to an additional \$268 on the average homeowner's annual tax bill.

Only four speakers, and approximately 21 minutes, divided Parmelee from speaker No. 12, Kimberly Adams, of Clifton.

"As a mother, taxpayer and employee here in Fairfax County, my life and livelihood are impacted by every budget that this country adopts," said Adams.

"We have to remember that we are preparing the future for more than 185,000 students each year. I would encourage the



Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters



Louise Epstein, McLean Citizens Association



Dale Stein, McLean Citizens Association



Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging



Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board



James Parmelee, Centreville



Kimberly Adams, Clifton



Arthur Purves, Vienna



Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton



Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

"Fairfax County's demographics are rapidly changing as you know. It is becoming increasingly diverse, and with these changes often come a unique set of challenges.

"The county's revenue outlook is the most promising it's been in years. However the rate of revenue increase is not reflected in the rate of investment in the poor and working class communities. The low income Fairfax residents, a disproportionate amount of whom are minorities, will not automatically benefit from the improved economy. Thousands will remain reliant on low-wage service sector jobs and many will not receive pay increases. Many of them will not be able to provide for their kids with pre-K education or have access to affordable housing. Therefore, we request that the county direct greater attention and resources to serving the needs of the less fortunate among us."

Annan expressed concern that the county is underfunding Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years.

"Expand access to affordable housing. Many low income residents will not be able to afford to live in Fairfax County. Many of these families will spend up to half or more of their annual budget" on housing.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

"We support the new property tax rate because we believe it gives you more flexibility in meeting unexpected challenges and we applaud your increased contributions to the reserve funds to satisfy the bond rating agencies. As taxpayers we appreciate your efforts to the county's triple A rating."

Kelly supported Diversion First, gang prevention, the opioid task force, the South County police station and the Office of Elections.

Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

"MCA is concerned about the context of the increases in spending and the apparent lack of cost savings. MCA feels that each budget should include new efficiency, in operations particularly in budgets of \$4.3 billion. ... "

Louise Epstein, chair, McLean Citizens Association's budget and taxation committee

"We really support teacher raises" while also expressing concern about allotting millions for raises for administrators in the school system.

Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

"We applaud your commitment to making Fairfax a livable community for people of all ages.

"Currently in Fairfax County, about one in seven residents are older than 65. By 2020, the proportion will nearly be one in five.

"We will need more affordable and accessible housing, improved and more creative transportation services, increased home based and community based services, new communications technology, programs that promote ethnic and cultural diversity."

Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

"Working age people with disabilities make up nearly 15 percent of the Virginia's population and are far more likely to be unemployed and to live in poverty than people without disabilities. Supports for people with disabilities are vital to the fabric of our community. They are every bit as essential to Fairfax County as our roads, emergency first responders, schools and environmental services. They are value added services that empower people with disabilities to live and prosper in the community."

Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

"I am proud to be the first one in my family to graduate from college, and I feel it's important to give back to the community through my job as a public employee. I help families in need get heating in the winter and air conditioning in the summer. I've heard some people say millennial workers don't care about retirement. So, let me clear that up. As a 23-year-old millennial, I care deeply about my future and believe that we all deserve to live comfortably when we're too old to work."

school system to go under a similar lines of business review that the county has gone through," said Adams, who suggested that savings from collaboration between schools and the county could be identified.

"If at the end of that exercise, savings are not identified, then we must move forward in a responsible manner that may mean raising taxes once more or looking for possible alternatives to property taxes that we have found to be so elusive here in the county," said Adams.

THE PROPOSED \$4.29-BILLION budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund FCPS's budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Adams spoke for many others when she addressed quality of life.

"Like so many here, I am happy to have amazing schools, fire and rescue professionals, human services, parks and libraries within my reach. It is why my family lives here," she said, in the three minutes given to each individual speaker.

"All residents deserve an equitable opportunity to succeed if they work hard, but families that cannot afford homes in this area are a growing group. Many families are working hard but there are not enough good-paying jobs, not enough affordable care options, and certainly not enough affordable homes in this area. ... I appreciate it when you spend my tax dollars to support many who live in need alongside those of us who are doing well. We are Fairfax County and the people who live here want an inclusive and welcoming community for all."

BECAUSE OF VIRGINIA LAW, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

"For nearly 20 years, this board has been raising real estate taxes two or three times faster than household income," said Arthur Purves, of Vienna.

"This goes on year after year," said Charles McAndrew, of Oak Hill.

Phil Niedzielski-Eichner is the Providence District Planning Commissioner and former school board member. But last week, Niedzielski-Eichner spoke as an individual from Oakton and was the 23rd speaker.

"The key, of course, is attracting and retaining high-quality personnel to both [schools and county]. This budget begins to recover our competitiveness in relation to compensation offered by other governmental jurisdictions. I also support the \$25 million annual increase in FCPS bonding authority to expedite its school renovation and support new construction that will alleviate severe overcrowding in some of the

SEE VOTE, PAGE 11



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

Alexandria
Gazette Packet

Mount Vernon Gazette

Potomac Community & Life Style
ALMANAC CENTRE VIEW

You can read any of this week's
15 papers digital editions here:
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com/PDFs

NEWS



Sandy Lombardi cuts apples at Kuhn Orchards of Cashtown, Pa., on Saturday, April 14, at the Burke Farmers Market.



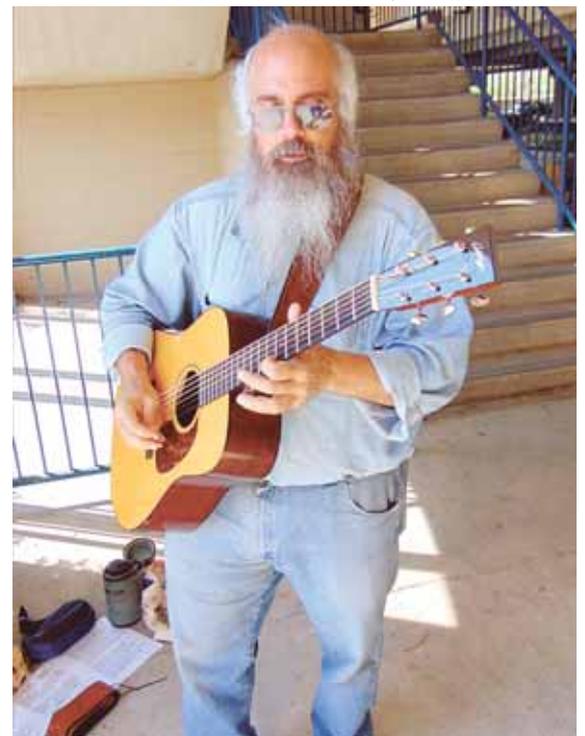
Oliver Knorr, 9, of Cherry Run in Burke with tomato plants at Laurel Grove Farms of Westmoreland County, Va., on Saturday, April 14, 2018, at the Burke Farmers Market.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Burke Farmers Market Opens for the Season

The Burke Farmers Market has officially opened for the season last Saturday, April 14, 2018. The market, which features 28 vendors coming from a 125-mile radius of Fairfax County, is located in the VRE Parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway in Burke. The market hours are Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, and the new extended season runs April 14-Dec. 22, 2018.

The Fairfax County Farmers Markets operate 11 farmers markets across Fairfax County, under the Fairfax County Park Authority. The markets are strictly producer-only, meaning that all of the farmers and producers may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch. Vendors come from West Virginia, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Maryland. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.



Steve Smith, a guitarist and songwriter, performs outside the VRE Garage.

— STEVE HIBBARD



Brad Smith of Smith Family Farm in Gainesville sells fresh eggs.

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** The introductory 1.25% interest rate is guaranteed for six months from the date of account opening. After the introductory period (six months), you will receive our standard Interest Rate/Annual Percentage Yields (APYs), which are based on account balances as follows (accurate as of 4/3/18): Up to \$24,999.99, interest rate after intro is 0.10% and APY is 0.68%; \$25,000-\$99,999.99, interest rate after intro is 0.15% and APY is 0.70%; \$100,000-\$249,999.99, interest rate after intro is 0.40% and APY is 0.83%; \$250,000-\$499,999.99, interest rate after intro is 0.60% and APY is 0.93%; \$500,000-\$999,999.99, interest rate after intro is 0.80% and APY is 1.03%; \$1,000,000 and over, interest rate after intro is 0.90% and APY is 1.08%. These APYs are blended APYs calculated using the Introductory Interest Rate and the interest rate after the introductory period. This is a variable rate account subject to change without notice. \$1,000 minimum deposit to open. \$10 monthly fee if average daily balance is less than \$25,000. Six transactions per monthly statement cycle; \$2 fee per transaction thereafter. Fees could reduce earnings.

NEWS

Burke Farmers Market Managers Hala Elbarmil and Lisa Kershes.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/ THE CONNECTION



Zach Schmitz and James Branch of Honeycomb Heroes of Stafford.



Katie Brownell and Mike Herbst of Red Hawk Rise Organics of Harpers Ferry, W.Va.



Logan Clower of Spring Valley Farm and Orchard of Romney, W.Va.



Andrew Baker of Blue Ridge Dairy Company of Sterling.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The 2018 Fairfax County Spelling Bee awarded first place to Eric Kim of Wakefield Forest Elementary School in Fairfax. Pictured from left: Joni Pepin (Judge), Matthew Shinkman (Judge), Sarah Lundquist (Judge), Bee winner Eric Kim, Barry Giddens (Pronouncer).

Rotary Club of Fairfax Donates Dictionaries to Spelling Bee Competitors

To see a live Spelling Bee “is a real treat,” according to Fairfax Rotary past president Ron Hubbard. He attended the twelfth annual Fairfax County Spelling Bee held at Lake Braddock Secondary School in March. Hubbard represented The Rotary Club of Fairfax, which donated Webster dictionaries to each student who participated in the “Bee.” Competitors included seventy one students, from private and public schools in the Northern Virginia area. The Fairfax County Council of PTAs organizes the annual event. The Bee winner was Eric Kim, a sixth grader at Wakefield Forest Elementary School in Fairfax.

For more information about the Rotary Club of Fairfax, visit the club’s website at www.fairfaxrotary.org. or email the Rotary Club of Fairfax’s Executive Director, Irby N. Hollans Jr., at ihollans@earthlink.net.



The Rotary Club of Fairfax was a sponsor of the Fairfax County Spelling Bee. The club donated Webster Dictionaries to each contestant. In this photo, Past President Ron Hubbard of Fairfax Rotary, speaks to the audience. Eliza Morss, FCCPTA Coordinator, is to the right.

ARLINGTON festival of the Arts

North Highland Street and Washington Boulevard
in the Clarendon district of Arlington, VA

April 21st – 22nd
Sat./Sun. 10am – 5pm

Artfestival.com
A Howard Alan Event
(703) 812-8881
or (561) 746-6615

Free Admission

Send in Mother's Day Photos

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 13 this year, and as every year at this time, This newspaper calls for submissions to our Mother's Day photo gallery.

Send photos of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, with children or without children in the photos. Please name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information.

You can upload photos and information directly to www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/ or email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com.

Mother's Day is just one of many occasions throughout the year that we would love to receive photos from our readers. Send us photos and notes when anything of note is happening in your family, neighborhood, school, club ... Be sure to include basic information: Name everyone in the photo, the approximate date taken, describe what is happening in the photo and include your name, address, email address and phone number. We will not print your full address or contact information. Send to editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

photo galleries, we will begin to ask for submissions for our Father's Day galleries. Father's Day is June 17 this year.

Each year we seem to receive many more photos for Father's Day. We're curious whether that is because it is the second of the set so readers are more aware or because mothers are more likely to send in images of the Dads.

Twice a year we ask you to send photos and tell us stories about your pets and how they have come into, touched and left your lives, publishing the last week in July and the last week in February.

In late summer, we invite readers to share what they know about their community for neighbors and newcomers alike.

And wrapping up the year, we gather writing and art from local students to fill our holiday edition. Each year, through an enormous effort by area teachers and school staff we receive an amazing display of student talent.

Regular contributions to our entertainment calendars, community bulletin boards, school notes, and business notes help us to share news in your community. We also always welcome photos and captions from community organizations (Scouts, sports teams, faith groups, school activities, etc.) and local businesses.

Please start by sending in photos for Mother's Day, preferably by May 4. www.connectionnewspapers.com/mothersday/.

Virginia Press Association Winners

Connection writers and photographers garnered awards at the Virginia Press Association annual award banquet. Here is the list of our winners, with more details to come in the future:

- First Place, Michael Lee Pope, Business and Financial Writing, Great Falls Connection
- First Place, Bonnie Hobbs, Public Safety Writing, Chantilly Connection
- First Place, Mark Mogle, Pictorial Photo, Great Falls Connection
- First Place, Mark Mogle, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
- First Place, Eden Brown, Public Safety Writing, Arlington Connection
- Second Place, Dan Brendel, Government Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Second Place, Vernon Miles, Feature Series or Continuing Story, Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Second Place, Fallon Forbush, Breaking News Writing, McLean Connection
- Second Place, Fallon Forbush, General News Writing, Reston Connection
- Second Place, Bonnie Hobbs, General News Writing, Fairfax Connection
- Second Place, Marilyn Campbell, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- Third Place, Shirley Ruhe, Personality or Portrait Photo, Arlington Connection
- Third Place, Fallon Forbush, Education Writing, Great Falls Connection
- Third Place, Mary Kimm, Editorial Writing, Great Falls Connection

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's

Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities

safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to

thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

Jessica Bowser

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

BULLETIN BOARD

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed.

Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in six Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaledrea@aol.com.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed.

Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriendA-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Volunteer Victims Needed.

Virginia Task Force 1 (VA-TF1) is holding a full scale exercise and needs volunteers to act as victims in need of rescue. The exercise will take place from the evening of Monday, April 23 through afternoon of Thursday, April 26. A minimum shift of six hours is expected, overnight volunteers are especially needed. "Victims" will need to be able to crawl in and out of rubble piles, capable of sitting or lying in place for extended periods of time, and not mind getting dirty. Contact Christopher Yorty at christopher.yorty@fairfaxcounty.gov.

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

Parent Support Partners, a service

of the Healthy Minds Fairfax initiative, are all parents who have received training and are qualified to offer education, support and assistance at no cost to families or caregivers. They provide reliable information that families can use in decision-making and are familiar with services and resources that can help families in distress. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/healthymindsfairfax or www.nam-northernvirginia.org/parent-peer-support.html.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming

kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Fairfax Station Railroad

Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 11



CALENDAR



Virginia Ballet dancer

PHOTO BY DALE HUBBARD

Coppelia

Virginia Ballet Company And School will present the classic ballet Coppelia, professionally staged and fully costumed. Saturday, April 28, 2 and 7 p.m. in the Ernst Community Cultural Center Theater, Northern Virginia Community College Annandale Campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. \$30 for adults and \$20 for children, students and seniors, plus a \$3 fee per each ticket at www.vaballet.org. A limited number of general admission tickets (\$12) is available for the Working Stage Rehearsal on Friday, April 27 at 6:30 p.m. Must be purchased in advance online.

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

ONGOING

“The Front Page.” Through April 21, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Set in a Chicago press room in the 1920s, reporter Hildy Johnson wants to break away from journalism and get married. All that changes when an escaped convict, Earl Williams, breaks out of jail and suddenly ... Visit www.providenceplayers.org for tickets.

Art Exhibit: Pulp Fiction. Through April 29, gallery hours in Arches Gallery, Building W-9 of the Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Pulp Fiction showcases work by artist Anne Hollis, exploring mixed media art while focusing on moments in time from mythological stories to real life. Visit www.workhousearts.org/.

English Conversation Groups weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

FACETS’ Opening Doors Breakfast. 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free breakfast to educate the public and local businesses about FACETS’ work to help families and individuals who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS’ clients will be sharing their stories about homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Contact Shawn Flaherty at 703-554-3609.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 19-22

Library Book Sale. Thursday, 3-9 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-5 p.m. at George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Find thousands of high-quality books, CDs, DVDs, and video games at the George Mason Friends Spring Book Sale. GeorgeMasonFriends.blogspot.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 20-21

Volunteer: Healthy Strides 2018. At Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Support those who are trying to make healthier strides in their lives by volunteering at the Healthy Strides 2018 Community 5K, 10K and Fun Run. Volunteers are needed Friday, April 20, 2:30-8 p.m. to distribute race packages. On race day, Saturday, April 21, volunteers needed 5:30 a.m.-noon to assist with registration and bag check, staff the hospitality and refreshment tables, serve as course attendants, help with water stops and set up. Find an available shift at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/healthy-strides/community-10k5k-run.

Short Play Festival. Mixer at 7 p.m.; show starts at 8 p.m. both nights at Epicure Café, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. An interfering mother attempts to “out” her gay son... A scientist creates the ‘perfect’ woman, who thinks she’s too good for him ... Infinity Stage presents its 2018 10 x 10 x Infinity Short Comedy Play festival — ten 10-minute comedies selected from over 350 submissions. Seating is limited. Tickets are \$20 at www.infinitystage.com.

APRIL 20-MAY 11

Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts

Festival. The 33rd Annual Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival kicks off with a glittering Gala evening Friday, April 20 at Old Town Hall celebrating three decades of arts in the City of Fairfax. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax in cooperation with

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

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

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Teaching Money Management

April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

In an era when consumers can purchase merchandise and deposit money into a bank account using a smartphone, teaching money smarts to children can be fraught with complications. April is Financial Literacy Month and local financial advisors say teaching children how to manage their money responsibly is a necessary part of becoming a financially responsible adult.

“How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example,” said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery Col-

lege. “If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness.”

One of the most important financial lessons that a parent can teach is how to save, advises Foster. “Teach them how to budget so that they can learn how to save for what they want,” she said.

Children pay attention to and learn from the ways in which their parents manage money and it’s critical that they learn financial literacy at home, suggests Victoria G. Henry, assistant vice president at West Financial Services, Inc. in McLean.

“Explaining the concept of savings early to children is key,” added “It is natural to want to spend everything right away, so it may be hard to understand why it is important to set a little aside for future expenses. Perhaps it could be explained by saying the savings will come in handy if a favorite toy

SEE OBSERVING, PAGE 9

TJ Lacks Poor and Black Students

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has offered admission to 485 students for the Class of 2022 at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST).

A total of 3,160 students applied for admission.

- White students made up 870, or 27.5 percent of the applicants, and 111, or 22.9 percent of accepted students.

- Black students made up 220, or 7.0 percent of applicants, but only 10 black students were admitted, making up 2.1 percent of the incoming class.

- Latino students made up 276, or 8.7 percent of applicants; 23 Latino students were 4.7 percent of the incoming class.

- Poor students made up 336, 10.6 percent of applicants, with seven students who receive subsidized meals admitted, for 1.4 percent of the incoming class. About 28 percent of Fairfax County Public School students, or more than 51,000 students qualify for Free or Reduced Meals, a measure of significant poverty.

- Asian students made up 1,633, or 51.7 percent of the applicants and 316, or more than 65 percent of the incoming class.

Approximately 71.9 percent of the students offered admission reside in Fairfax County and 28.1 percent

are from Arlington, Loudoun, and Prince William counties and the City of Falls Church.

Approximately 94.8 percent of students offered admission are currently attending public schools.

Established in 1985, TJHSST is a governor’s school offering a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology, and is often cited in rankings as the top high school in the country.

Specialized technical laboratories, including a technological computational center, enhance the academic curriculum and provide students with experience in state-of-the-art technology, opportunities for independent research and experimentation, and interaction with professionals from the scientific, technological, engineering, and industrial communities.

The selection process for admittance to TJHSST involves a holistic review of each candidate’s semifinalist essay, teacher recommendations, and student-authored information sheet, as well as consideration of grades and test scores on the admissions examination. A summer round of admissions for eighth graders newly moved to a participating district after Sept. 30 of the previous year will add to the 485 offers at the end of June.

For more information, contact the TJHSST Admissions Office at 571-423-3770.

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Observing Financial Literacy Month

FROM PAGE 8

breaks or is lost.”

An ideal time to offer a lesson in saving is when a child receives money as a present for a birthday or other occasion, says Henry. “It is a good practice to have them save even 10 or 20 percent of the gift, and let them have the rest to spend how they want,” she said. “If they decide to spend their fun money on something and then quickly return asking for money for something else, it is a good to remind them that maybe they should think more carefully about how they want to spend their money in the future. This will help them get into the practice of making wise choices with spending and saving down the road when they start earning money as well.”

Foster also suggests helping children develop savings goals. “[Whether] by piggy bank, envelope, can, or jar, a vessel is an important tool for teaching kids how to save for major milestones,” said Foster. “Identify a goal for the saving and have them save towards that goal.”

Transparency builds enthusiasm, adds Foster. “Using a clear jar for saving creates enthusiasm and motivation as the kids see it fill up with the coins,” she said. “[Saving] also teaches then self-reliance and not counting on their parents to help them for everything. By giving a reward, kids can learn the value of money and how to spend money.”

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. “Show them

that stuff costs money,” she said. “Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will realize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs.”

Involve children in a family’s charitable donations, advises Henry. “Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,” she said. “Have them research and pick a charity and then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf.”

“Have children earn their allowance and let children experience the pain of not having enough money if they don’t budget correctly,” said Dr. Brian Hollar assistant professor of Accounting, Economics & Finance at Marymount University. “Experience is a good teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable.”

Hollar underscores the importance of teaching solid math skills. “It’s hard to develop strong financial literacy without understanding exponential growth,” he said.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Teaching young children about the concept of saving money is a critical part of financial literacy.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 7

George Mason University and the arts community of Fairfax, Spotlight on the Arts continues its commitment to support and encourage the awareness of cultural opportunities in the greater Fairfax community. Some events are free and some require a fee. Visit www.fairfaxspotlight.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Model Classic 2018. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. An Educational/ Art & Craft/ Exhibit by the Northern Virginia Modelers Chapter, International Plastic Modelers Society. \$8. Visit www.novaipms.org for more.

Pet Adoption Event. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet.

Walk to End Sexual Violence. 9:45 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. 4th Annual Fairfax County Walk to End Sexual Violence and resource fair. Activities will include DJ, Zumba, raffles, and food trucks (11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.). First 100 people to register will receive a free t-shirt. Family-friendly event, children and pets are welcome. Free. Contact Angela Acosta at Angela.Acosta@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-9484. Visit bit.ly/2uZOi1i for more.

Benefit Buffet Luncheon. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Outback Steakhouse, 6651 Backlick Road, Springfield. The Springfield Outback Steakhouse will be presenting a fundraiser to benefit the Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance. Cover charge is \$35 and includes an all you can eat buffet including sliced steak, sliced chicken, side dishes, non-alcoholic beverages and dessert. Live music. Visit www.curefa.org, or contact Donna Wilson at the Springfield Outback at obs4713@outback.com or 703-912-7531.

Gala: Community Champions of Children's Health. 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Celebrating community champions of children's health with Medical Care for Children Partnership Foundation. \$125. Visit mccpfoundation.org/.

Britepaths Artful Living: "Empowerment." 7-10 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. An evening of Art, Wine and Strengthening Our Community in association with the Fairfax Spotlight on the Arts Festival. For more information and to register, visit britepaths.org.

"Connections Through Time." 8 p.m. at GMU Center for the Arts Concert Hall. Simone Dinnerstein returns to perform the regional premiere of a new concerto written for her by renowned composer Philip Glass. Christopher Zimmerman, conductor. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org or call 888-945-2468.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 21-22

"The Best Doctor in Town." Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Pacers Pop-Up Theatre Space, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Set in Southwest Virginia, inspired by actual events, the play follows the story of the small town's most revered doctor, who may just be an identity thief and serial killer. But a local police officer with a tarnished reputation, a reporter who manipulated facts and the doctor's chief intern, who may be a thief, have pieces of the puzzle. www.shoestringtheatrecompany.com.



'The Front Page'

Set in a Chicago press room in the 1920s, reporter Hildy Johnson wants to break away from journalism and get married. All that changes when an escaped convict, Earl Williams, breaks out of jail and suddenly falls into the reporter's hands. Fast-paced and filled with crisp dialog and sharp humor, this classic comedy packs a wallop of nostalgic Americana. Through April 21; Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at The James Lee Community Center, 2855 Annandale Road, Falls Church. Visit www.providenceplayers.org for tickets.

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Superheroes Wanted

IMAGE COURTESY OF CASA

Join Fairfax Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) for the 8th Annual 8K and 3K races. The superhero-themed race attracts nearly 1,000 runners and walkers, 250 volunteers, and raises almost \$85,000 each year to support Fairfax CASA's advocacy work with abused and neglected children in the community. Participants can enjoy the after race celebration, including superhero meet and greets, a DJ, free food, face painting, kids' crafts, photo booth, and more. Saturday, April 28, 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

Washington Chamber Orchestra. 2 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra is a 1945 musical composition by Benjamin Britten with a subtitle Variations and Fugue on a Theme of Purcell. It was based on the second movement, "Rondeau," of the Abdelazer suite. The work is one of the best-known pieces by the composer. Visit www.thewco.org.

Main Street Community Band - Spotlight Concert. 4 p.m. at Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The Main Street Community Band presents a fun, upbeat concert reflecting the mood and excitement of spring. Visit www.fairfaxband.org.

Empty Bowls for ECHO. 5-8 p.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Fellowship Hall, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield. "Empty Bowls" allows participating artists and groups to create and donate bowls, then serve a simple meal. Guests who attend "Empty Bowls" choose a handmade bowl to keep as a reminder of all the empty bowls in the world. 13 and older: \$35; 12 & Under, food donation (5 cans): free. Visit www.popcl.org.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Social Media Feeds - Emotional Conversations. 7-8:30 p.m. at Kingstowne Library, 6500 Landsdowne Centre Drive, Alexandria. Part of the Hot Topics: News, Blues and How to Defuse. Workshop on media literacy and dialogue skills. Guided by GMU's School of Conflict Analysis and Resolution and FCPL librarians. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/3971589.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 6

Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-7483 for more information.

THURSDAY/APRIL 19

FACETS "Opening Doors" Breakfast. 7-9 a.m. at Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls Church. Free. To educate the public and local businesses about FACETS' work to help people who are struggling in the Fairfax community. Several FACETS' clients will be sharing their experiences with homelessness and efforts to overcome it. Register at www.FACETScares.org or contact 703-352-3268.

Opioid Crisis Conversation. 7 p.m. in the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. This community health emergency affects all ages, cultural backgrounds, income levels and neighborhoods. Join the city's conversation on the opioid crisis with an outreach panel discussion featuring first responders, educators, health-service providers, and public-safety officials. A question-and-answer period will follow. Call 703-385-7894.

Vote on Budget on May 1

FROM PAGE 3

county's fast developing areas," said Niedzielski-Eichner.

"As one who was on the front lines advocating for passage of the Meals Tax, I find this reality ironic in light of the significant voices arguing against the meals tax due to its regressivity. Since each one percent of the property tax rate is projected to generate approximately \$25 million in revenue, the proposed 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate will generate about \$62.5 million. The meals tax was projected to generate a \$100 million per annum, with almost a third of this revenue, \$28 million, to be paid by tourists and visitors to Fairfax."

Kofi Annan, president of the Fairfax County NAACP expressed concern that the county is underfunding services to low income families, including housing and Pre-K education for needy families.

"This opportunity gap [of not having access to PreK education] eventually turns into an achievement gap, and that widens over time.

"Fairfax County NAACP calls on the county to commit the resources to enroll at least 300 additional kids into Pre-K in 2019 budget and devise a long-term plan to fund at least 2,000 over the next five years."

Annan asked the supervisors to fund an outside study of racial disparities in police use of force.

"For the past few years, 40 percent of police use of force has been directed toward African Americans, who only make up about 10 percent of the county," Annan said.

"And for the past few years, we have been asking the county to fund an outside organization to conduct a study to determine the causes of this disparity, so we can begin the process of reversing that trend."

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If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Though I immerse you regular readers in the excruciating details of my cancer-affected life, rarely do I bombard unsuspecting conversationalists who unknowingly yet sincerely wander into territory with which many of you are intimately detailed. Not that I don't have stories to tell, and/or perhaps even unsolicited advice to offer; generally speaking, if I can avoid it, I don't want to drag the conversation into a cancer-centric black hole.

It's not because I'm uncomfortable talking about cancer, or that I would feel it an inappropriate invasion of my privacy, or that I would feel the need to blather on non-stop. Hardly. But I would see it as the end of an innocent inquiry undone that then takes on a more empathetic, sympathetic and possibly even pathetic tone, some of which might make me uncomfortable.

The reason being: part of what feeds my self-preservation and sense of well-being is reading and reacting to the feedback I receive from others when the subject matter turns to cancer, however well-meaning their intentions may have been.

Sometimes the reactions I get aren't helpful ("Tell me Ken, how's it feel to know you're going to die?"). Sometimes, I find myself rationalizing, explaining and revisiting issues and experiences more helpful and of interest to the party that asked the question rather than to yours truly who's now having to answer the question. Not that I don't want to be helpful or have difficulty empathizing; nothing could be further from the truth.

It's more that I don't want to see their expressions/hear their apologies when their innocent question ("So what do you do?") elicits an extremely unexpected answer. "Not too much. I have stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer."

Then I have to decide how I involved I want to get them in my life. Since I'd just as soon not get them involved for all the reasons I've outlined, usually I deflect their questions and/or redirect them away from me and back to them. I don't exactly shut them down. It's more like a gentle closing. I'm not rude or the least bit off-putting. I'm more like a traffic cop re-routing emotions to avoid any accidents - for all parties engaged.

My experience has been that responding to an innocent question with a "I have terminal-cancer"-type bombshell tends to take the conversation in an entirely different direction than likely intended. The seriousness of my response/situation and the emotions - maybe even memories it stirs in the person who asked the question, can hijack an evening and cause at least for a few minutes anyway, a rather dreary dynamic. All of which I don't want to happen and more so, don't need to happen. As a cancer patient, I don't need dreary. I don't need pity. I don't need negativity. I need humor. I need encouragement and compliments. I need to be made to feel, as Tony the Tiger might say: "Not just good, but GREAT!"

When I assess my nine-plus years post-diagnosis; having lived now years beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I can't quite attribute my amazing good fortune to anything in particular. However, I will admit to this: trying not think about my diagnosis/prognosis too much, trying to remain positive, trying to be funny and self-effacing, and trying to avoid people and situations where I might feel bad, are all components. Are they working to keep me alive more than the medicine, my pills and my miscellaneous non-Western alternatives are?

Yet another question or two I'd rather not answer.

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



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