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and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

CAMPS & SCHOOLS

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Caroline Wolfson and Farrell Parker in "Fly By Night" at 1st Stage (Tysons).

Appealing Musical At 1st Stage

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Celebrating Earth Day in Tysons

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PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE
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CRIME

Vienna Police Highlights

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from April 13 – 19, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Vehicle Tampering — 800 Block Meadow Lane, SW Between April 12 at 2 p.m. and April 13 at 7:39 a.m. A resident advised an unknown person entered her unlocked vehicle and scattered the contents of her glove box and center console. It does not appear that

anything of value was taken. **Vehicle Tampering** — 600 Block Truman Circle, SW Between April 12 at 9:30 p.m. and April 13 at 9:09 a.m. A resident reported that an unknown person rummaged through his vehicle. He believes a pair of sunglasses may have been taken.

Suspicious Person — Peterson Lane Park 500 Block Malcolm Road, NW April 13, 9:57 a.m. A citizen reported a juvenile in the park possibly having some type of medical emergency. Officers located the juvenile. After determining she was not in any type of medical dis-

tress the officers transported the juvenile back to Madison High School where she was turned over to the school administrators.

Domestic Dispute — Old Courthouse Road, NE April 13, 1:03 p.m. Officers responded for a domestic dispute between a father and his teenage daughter. The daughter left the home prior to officer's arrival.

Fraud — Rite Aid 215 Maple Avenue, West Between April 13 at 6 p.m. and April 14 at 2:11 p.m. An unknown man purchased several gift cards at Rite Aid.

It was later determined the purchases were made on credit cards without authorization.

Animal Case — 1400 Block Patrick Circle, SW April 13, 7:21 p.m. An officer responded for a report of a resident's dogs acting aggressively. Investigation showed the dogs were simply greeting their neighbors by barking and never left their property. The resident was advised to keep the dogs leashed when they are outside of a fenced area.

Domestic Dispute — Moorefield Creek Road, SW April 14, 12:59 a.m.

Officers responded to a domestic dispute between a husband and wife. The wife was upset with her husband for keeping his bedroom window open and fan on and wanted him to choose one or the other. The officer advised the wife the husband had a right to use fans in his room.

Narcotics Violation — Niblick Drive and Maple Avenue, SE April 14, 7:05 a.m. MPO Lose initiated a traffic stop after observing a vehicle traveling above the posted speed limit. Upon his interaction with the driver the officer detected an odor of marijuana. No measurable amount of marijuana was located in the vehicle. The driver was released on summonses related only to traffic offenses.

Found Property — 1300 Block Desale Street, SW April 15, 9:13 a.m. A Town employee stopped an officer to turn in a purse he had found near the bleachers at Southside Park.

Narcotics Violation — 500 Block Creek Crossing Road, NE April 15, 12:51 a.m. Officer Williams observed a vehicle with defective equipment and initiated a traffic stop. Upon his interaction with the five juvenile occupants the officer detected an odor of marijuana. A measurable amount of marijuana and paraphernalia were located in the vehicle and were determined to belong to the driver. The four passengers were released to a parent. The driver was released to the custody of her mother with petitions pending for the marijuana possession.

Petit Larceny — The Fresh Market 150 Branch Road, SE April 14 between 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. A citizen advised her wallet was stolen from her purse while she was shopping in the store.

Found Property — 100 Block Tapawingo Road, SW April 15, 1:18 p.m. A resident found several opened packages around her house that appeared to be deliveries for her neighbors. Officers were unable to make contact with the neighbors at that time. The packages will be held at the police department until the neighbors can be notified.

Open Door — 100 Block Tapawingo Road, SE April 15, 2:27 p.m. While investigating another call Officer Deloach found an unsecured rear door at a residence. Officers searched the residence, finding that nothing appeared out of place.

Grand Larceny — 1000 Block Moorefield Creek Road, SW Between April 15, 6 p.m. and April 16, 9 a.m. A resident advised an unknown person entered his vehicle and stole his work uniform and toolbox.

Emotionally Disturbed Person — Fairway Drive, NE April 15, 8:20 p.m. A resident requested assistance in dealing with his juvenile son who was acting aggressively. After speaking with the officer, the juvenile was transported to an area medical facility for assistance at his own request. **Fraud** — 300 Block Church Street, NE Between April 16, 12 p.m. and April 17, 12 p.m. An unknown person used the resident's personal information. **Death - Unknown Cause** — 1100 Block Ware Street, SW April 16, 12:34 p.m. Officers responded to assist rescue with a 22-year-old man who was unresponsive in his home. The man was transported by rescue personnel to an area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. There was nothing found at the home that appeared suspicious or that would indicate a cause of the medical emergency. This case is being investigated.

INOVA Urgent Care 180 Maple Avenue, West, April 16, 5:43 p.m. Officers

SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

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Comstock Challengers Count on 'Blue Wave'

Six Democrats vying to unseat Barbara Comstock face off at Colvin Run Elementary

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

The six Democrats, four women and two men, competing for the chance to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Barbara Comstock (R-10) come November, took to the stage to face each other and more than 300 interested citizens from around the widespread boundaries of the 10th Congressional District. The district includes Loudoun, Frederick and Clarke counties, and parts of Fairfax and Prince William counties. The forum was hosted by the Dranesville District Democratic Committee at Colvin Run Elementary School in Vienna, and introduced by the organization's Chair, Jennifer Adeli.

There was much agreement among the candidates as they answered questions posed by moderator Glenn Kessler, the Washington Post Fact-Checker columnist. The crowd applauded enthusiastically as the contenders lambasted Comstock, President Trump, and the Republican Congress on issues that included the Trump Administration's attacks on the Affordable Care Act, the future of Social Security, climate change, sanctions against Iran and Russia, DACA and immigration reform, the recently passed Tax Reform bill, tariffs and the U.S.'s departure from the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

ALL OF THE DEBATERS expressed their support for the Affordable Care Act and their anger at how the program is being diluted, while offering differing solutions on the general topic of healthcare.

Lindsey Davis Stover, who served as a Chief of Staff on Capitol Hill, as well as a Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs under President Obama, declared that access to affordable and quality healthcare "shouldn't be something we have to keep marching for. It's a right, not a privilege."

Two-term Virginia senator Jennifer Wexton and Paul Pelletier, a former federal prosecutor, both support adjusting the financial threshold for the Affordable Care Act to allow more citizens to qualify for subsidies, with Pelletier adding that controlling fraud would help drive down costs.

Wexton lauded "Obamacare" as a good first step, saying that "we don't need to reinvent the wheel" and that a sliding scale based on ability to pay should be investigated. "Let's get creative."

Dr. Julia Biggins, an infectious disease scientist, took the healthcare issue a step further, saying she would vote for a thresh-



The Democratic candidates vying for the chance to challenge incumbent Rep. Barbara Comstock's Congressional District 10 seat. From left, Dan Helmer, Lindsey Davis Stover, Alison Friedman, moderator Glenn Kessler, Paul Pelletier, State Sen. Jennifer Wexton, and Dr. Julia Biggins.

PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION



The event was hosted by the Dranesville District Democratic Committee. Chair Jennifer Adeli welcomed the attendees and introduced the moderator and the candidates.



Susan Jacobs and candidate Dan Helmer. Jacobs, a McLean resident is supporting Helmer as the "best candidate" but says she will back whoever wins the primary. "They are all good, with great resumes."

old increase while working toward a "single-payer" healthcare system and a focus on preventative care. "Let's shoot for the moon," she urged, saying that to date, Congressional efforts in this area have been "Band-Aids" on the greater problem. "It's complex," she added, "but we've been talking for decades." Biggins also believes that healthcare should be a government responsibility, and not tied to employment.

West Point graduate, Rhodes Scholar, and veteran of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Dan Helmer envisions a system where Americans can opt into Medicare. Helmer's insistence that the Government's ability to use scale be "unleashed" to negotiate drug prices received a roar of approval from the attendees.

Questions concerning the Tax Reform Act also drew criticism from the candidates and approbation from the audience on their negative commentary.

"It's a horrible product for many reasons," was Alison Friedman's assessment. Friedman is a former senior official with the Obama Administration's State Department, authoring legislation to combat human trafficking and protect voting rights. In her estimation, the Tax Reform Act is anything but, benefiting corporations and the wealthy above working families, singles, and those in most need.

Helmer called the legislation "one of the most unpatriotic" bills ever passed, and thinks a complete re-write is needed, "starting from scratch" to get it right.

The Republicans' immigration bans and reforms and the proposed Border Wall also got a bashing from the candidates, with Davis Stover describing both as "heartless and bad economic decisions" and calling attention to the exemplary safety record of the city of El Paso, Texas "right there on that border. The 'wall' isn't about national security. It's a symbol of hate."

Friedman, who at one point during the two-hour debate called Donald Trump "the greatest threat to our national security," added that among the many reasons to run against Comstock, the comments she made during a debate when first running for Congress, likening the tracking of immigrants entering the country to tracking FedEx packages "are up there on my list."

"All my time in Iraq and Afghanistan, I never thought we were fighting to deport children," added Helmer.

If moderator Kessler was hoping to catch the candidates off guard with a direct question asking if they would support Nancy Pelosi in a Congressional leadership role if elected, first-to-the-mic Friedman wasn't phased. "Lucky me to get this one first!" she quipped, then fired back.

"This is not the conversation that we should be having now," she said, insisting that Democrats needed to avoid "being divided," and needed to pull together and stay on message.

While acknowledging Pelosi's contribu-

SEE CHALLENGERS, PAGE 11

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Public Hearings Funding the Right Transportation Projects

You are invited to share comments on transportation projects that have been recommended for funding in the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program (SYIP). Additionally, pursuant to §33.2-202, comments will be accepted for new projects valued in excess of \$25 million. The Commonwealth Transportation Board will take your comments into consideration as it develops the FY2019-2024 Six-Year Improvement Program. The program allocates public funds to highway, road, bridge, rail, bicycle, pedestrian and public transportation projects. All federally eligible projects in the SYIP will be included in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program to document how Virginia will obligate its federal funds.

Meeting materials will be available at <http://www.ctb.virginia.gov/planning/springmeetings/default.asp> beginning April 16, 2018.

Public meetings begin at 4:00 p.m. in each of the locations except as noted below:
A formal comment period will be held at these meetings.

<p>Monday, April 16, 2018 Hampton Roads - Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization, 723 Woodlake Drive Chesapeake, VA 23320</p>	<p>Thursday, April 19, 2018 Lynchburg - VDOT Lynchburg District Office Ramey Memorial Auditorium 4303 Campbell Avenue Lynchburg, VA 24501</p>	<p>Tuesday, April 24, 2018 Richmond - Hilton Garden Inn 800 Southpark Boulevard Colonial Heights, VA 23834</p>
<p>Monday, April 30, 2018* Northern Virginia - Northern Virginia District Office Potomac Conference Room 4975 Alliance Drive Fairfax, VA 22030</p> <p>*meeting begins at 5:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Thursday, May 3, 2018 Staunton - Holiday Inn and Conference Center 152 Fairway Lane Staunton, VA 24402</p>	<p>Monday, May 7, 2018 Culpeper - Culpeper District Auditorium 1601 Orange Road Culpeper, VA 22701</p>
<p>Tuesday May 8, 2018 Fredericksburg - Germanna Community College Workforce and Technology Center 10000 Germanna Point Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408</p>	<p>Thursday, May 10, 2018 Salem - Holiday Inn Valley View 3315 Ordway Drive NW Roanoke, VA 24017</p>	<p>Monday, May 14, 2018 Bristol - Southwest Virginia Higher Education Center One Partnership Circle Abingdon, VA 24210</p>

You can also submit your comments by email or mail by May 30, 2018:

For roads and highways: Six-YearProgram@VDOT.Virginia.gov, or Infrastructure Investment Director, Virginia Department of Transportation 1401 East Broad St., Richmond, VA 23219.

For rail and public transportation: DRPTPR@drpt.virginia.gov, Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation 600 East Main Street, Suite 2102, Richmond VA, 23219.

The Commonwealth is committed to ensuring that no person is excluded from participation in, or denied the benefits of its services on the basis of race, color or national origin, as protected by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need further information on these policies or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, please contact the Virginia Department of Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-2730 or the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Title VI Compliance Officer at 804-786-4440 (TTY users call 711).

NEWS

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER KAYE/THE CONNECTION



Some of the volunteers pictured before separating into smaller groups to pick up the trash along Jones Branch Road. From left: Pat Montanio, Tom Montanio, Patricia Leslie and Paul D'Onellas.

Celebrating Earth Day in Tysons

To celebrate Earth Day on Sunday, April 22 nine volunteers gathered to clean up Jones Branch Road in Tysons Corner. Hosted by the Sierra Club and Adopt-A-Highway, and organized by Sierra Club member Patricia Leslie, it was the fourth annual clean up day. Wearing safety vests and gloves, the volunteers covered the 1.4 mile stretch of road picking up all sorts of trash, such as hubcaps, plastic bottles, foil wrappers, cigarette butts and even multiple windshield wipers! After filling up numerous bags of trash, the volunteers celebrated Earth Day with cake and mimosas. The Sierra Club hosts a wide variety of events throughout the year across the United States. To find



The beautiful and delicious cake to celebrate Earth Day and a job well done.

events near your location you can visit their website <https://www.sierraclub.org>. To learn more about the Adopt-A-Highway program you can visit <http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-aah-default.asp>

— JENNIFER KAYE

Falls Church residents Paul D'Ornellas and Terry Halter picking up litter along Jones Branch Road in Tysons.





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Westbriar Elementary team at the Virginia state Odyssey of the Mind competition.

Westbriar Elementary Wins State Odyssey of the Mind Competition

A team of seven students from Westbriar Elementary School in Vienna are Regional and State Champions for Odyssey of the Mind and have qualified for the World Finals.

Odyssey of the Mind is an international creativity competition that helps students develop skills in problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, math, language arts, science, writing, engineering, and the performing arts (<http://www.odysseyofthemind.com>). Each year teams of 5-7 students choose from five different problems to solve. This year, the team from Westbriar chose the Animal House long-term problem. For this problem, the team was required to design and construct a balsa wood structure that had to hold as much weight as possible. The structure also had to have its appearance transformed into an animal, and the team had to perform an original skit around the transformation. They built a 15-ounce structure which held 552 pounds, wrote the script about ocean pollution, created all of their own props, scenery, and costumes, and learned a lot about engineering, science, teamwork and creativity along the way. They competed and won first place at the NoVa Regional Competition and then went on to win the State Tournament. More than 800 teams from 26

countries and the United States will compete in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Iowa State University in late May, and the Westbriar team has qualified to compete representing Virginia in the Elementary School Division.

What will it take for the team of seven students and two coaches to attend?

- ❖ \$1,150 per person (student and chaperone/parent for housing, travel and meals)

- ❖ \$500 to ship scenery, props, and costumes to Iowa

They are seeking business sponsors and individual donors to make donations to help offset the cost of attending the World Finals. All business sponsors will be featured on the back of their competition t-shirts, which will be worn throughout the competition. All donations are tax deductible. Their district tax-exempt ID number though the Westbriar PTA is GEN 3229, sequence 26006. You can make donations online gofundme.com/WestbriarOM and checks can be made out to: Westbriar PTA with Odyssey of the Mind in the memo line. You can mail your check to Westbriar Elementary School PTA, 1741 Pine Valley Dr, Vienna, VA 22182.

If you would like your business featured on team t-shirt, email artwork to Dessi Tennant (dessibij@yahoo.com).

Vienna Police Highlights

FROM PAGE 2
responded to assist rescue with a juvenile who was suffering a medical emergency after taking medication. The juvenile was transported to an area hospital for treatment and evaluation.

Suspicious Person — Taco Bell

362 Maple Avenue, East April 16, 10:28 p.m. Employees requested assistance with a man who had been in the lobby of their restaurant and was refusing to leave. Officers found the man to be intoxicated. Fairfax County Detox responded and transported the man to their facility for treatment.

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BEFORE

Readers Invited to Bards Alley Book Hunt April 28

Readers of all ages are invited to discover new books during the Vienna-wide Bards Alley Book Hunt at 9 a.m. on April 28. The event, which is free to the public, is provided by Bards Alley to celebrate National Independent Bookstore Day.

Participating is easy and free: Book Hunters should look for brown paper-wrapped books tied with string and sporting Bards Alley stickers. A clue to each book's genre will be written on front. Books can be found at and around a number of local businesses, and in public spaces throughout the Town of Vienna. The Book Hunt starts at 9 a.m. and lasts until the final book is found. Follow along using #BardsAlleyBookHunt2018.

"Independent bookstores connect readers with new books," said Jen Morrow, owner of Bards Alley. "Last year we hid 60 books, and they were found within the first hour! This year we plan to hide even more. Readers can find updates and hints on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram."

Independent Bookstore Day celebrations continue back at the store with authors appearing as Guest Booksellers.

❖ From 11 a.m. to noon, meet Hena Khan, author of picture books, Crescent Moons and Pointed Minarets: A Muslim Book of Shapes and Golden Domes and Silver Lanterns: A Muslim Book of Colors, as well as the middle grade novel Armina's Voice.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Book Hunters should look for brown paper-wrapped books tied with string and sporting Bards Alley stickers.

❖ From 1 to 2 p.m., meet Nicole Tong, author of the poetry collection, How to Prove a Theory, which won the Washington Writers' Publishing House's 2017 Jean Feldman Poetry Prize.

❖ From 3 to 4 p.m., meet Scott Berg, author of two books of narrative history — Grand Avenues: The Story of Pierre Charles L'Enfant, the French Visionary Who Designed Washington, D.C., and 38 Nooses: Lincoln, Little Crow, and the Beginning of the Frontier's End — and is now at work on a third, about the aftermath of the Great Chicago Fire.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Chief James Morris and Officer Ara Post.

Police Officer of the Year

On April 4, the American Legion Post 180 in Vienna held its annual ceremony and banquet dinner to honor their 2017 Town of Vienna "Police Officer of the Year." This year's recipient was Officer Ara Post. Officer Post joined the Vienna Police Department in January of 2015. Officer Post is an asset to the Vienna Police Department because of her positive attitude, upbeat disposition and dedication to the mission. Although Officer Post is a relatively new officer, she serves the department as a Breath Alcohol Technician, Peer Support Specialist and Bike Team Member. Officer Post is always willing to go the extra mile to serve the community. To that end, Officer Post was recently awarded the 2016 Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) award for being one of the officers leading the Vienna Police Department on drunk driving arrests. Officer Post's extraordinary efforts against drunk drivers make The Town of Vienna roads safer for everyone.

DISCOVER

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CAMPS & SCHOOLS

Affording Summer Camp

For families with a limited budget, paying for camp can be a challenge.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

One of the great pleasures of summer is going to camp. From kayaking and rock climbing to horseback riding and sailing, camp is a place where lifelong memories are created. A recent study by the non-profit, global policy think tank RAND Corporation shows that voluntary summer programs like camp have a significant, positive impact on low-income students during a time when they fall behind their wealthier peers both academically and socially.

Katie Crump, a case manager at Interfaith Works, a non-profit organization dedicated to helping the poor and underserved, says that the luxury of summer camp often eludes those who need it most.

"The opportunity of attending a real summer camp is a big thing for them. Unfortunately, this experience can be unattainable due to the high cost and finding transportation among other things," said Crump. "Attending summer camp affords kids a special and important experience that's all their own. It allows kids to be kids, something that is particularly vital for low-income children who are often forced to deal with the burdens of adulthood at a young age."

Despite the cost of summer camp, keeping children engaged during the stretch of time between June and August when school is not in session is a critical part of their

More

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development, says Jerome Short, Ph.D., associate professor of psychology at George Mason University.

"Summer camps give opportunities for children to develop social, emotional, cognitive, and behavioral skills," he said. "Some research shows that higher [socioeconomic status] children increase academic and behavioral skills over the summer and lower [socioeconomic status] children lose skills over the summer. Research shows that lower [socioeconomic status] children benefit from learning social and behavioral skills in different settings with new peers and challenges to apply their skills."

Even with limited resources, summer camps can still be accessible, says Tom Rosenberg, president and CEO of the American Camp Association (ACA). "There is a camp for every budget," he said "[Most] ACA-accredited camps provide some form of scholarship assistance. Reach out to the camp directly to ask about specific financial aid and scholarship options."

The RAND study also showed that even though low-income students can lose up to two months of math and reading skills over

the summer, high-quality summer programs can bridge that gap. Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) camps are an example of programs that can be effective, but possibly unaffordable for some families.

Wolftrap and Colvin Run elementary schools in Fairfax County will be the site of a non-profit STEM camp called Camp Invention. Organized by the National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF), the hands-on program is designed for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. Through activities like building robots and designing gadgets, campers get a sense of what it's like to be a physicist or engineer.

"The program has sponsors that provide funding that's used to help underrepresented kids attend the camps," said Ken Torisky, spokesman for National Inventors Hall of Fame. "The money is distributed to students by the school district."

Options for financial assistance for summer camp run the gamut from discounts for dependents of those serving in the military to camp funding offered by churches, synagogues, and civic organizations. "I would suggest to parents that they look into their child being sponsored by a local business to attend a camp or look into payment plan options at a camp that they are interested in attending," advised Stacie Gottlieb, director, Bullis Summer and Extended Day

Programs in Potomac, Md.

While Bullis does not offer financial assistance for summer camp, Gottlieb says that there are discounts for early registration and registering for multiple weeks of camp.

Parents should check to see if a camp participates in U.S. government assistance programs, particularly those with income eligibility requirements, like Title XX, advises Rosenberg. While it might be too late for this summer, he encourages parents to explore Dependent Care Flexible Spending Accounts and a Child and Dependent Care tax credit through the FSA Feds website: <https://www.fsafeds.com/>.

"I generally think lower income children benefit when they have access to the same opportunities as upper-income children and also gain cultural skills and knowledge important to upward mobility when they have opportunity to interact with upper-income kids," said Amy L. Best, Ph.D., professor and chair, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at George Mason University. "I also think upper-income kids gain mightily when they have genuine interactions with kids from other class backgrounds. Because empathy, cross cultural understanding, and an ability to work in diverse groups are skills that this new century demands, having opportunities to hone those skills are of value for all involved."

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CALENDAR

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ONGOING

Art Exhibit. Through April 28 at The Frame Factory, 212 Dominion Road NE, Vienna. The Landscapes of Ten Artists features work by Sheila Blake, Marsha Gallo, Gary Goldberg, Linda Greigg, Barbara Johnson, Robert McBride, Be Sargent, Thomas Xenakis, Susan Yanero, and Ellen Zeland. Visit www.theframefactory1.com.

Art Exhibition: "Bon Appetit." Through May 6, during gallery hours at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

"Trees, Trees, and Beyond." Through May 31 at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society Exhibition. Free. Open 10-7 p.m. in April; 10-7:30 p.m. in May. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Vienna Art Society Exhibition. Through late June at North County Government Center, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston. Visit viennaartsociety.org.

Oakton Farmers Market. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Year-round weekly farmers market in Oakton. Local produce, meats/eggs, dairy, baked goods, and more. Admission is free. Visit community-foodworks.org.

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

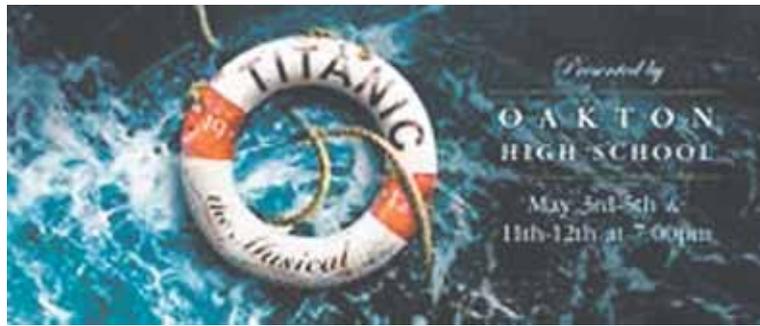
Wolf Trap History. 7-8 p.m. at Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Join Ken Bigley of the National Park Service for "Performing Arts, Partnerships, and Public Lands: The Story of Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts." This program will discuss the history of Wolf Trap and its visionary benefactor, Catherine Filene Shouse, and trace the path of Wolf trap's development as our country's only national park for the performing arts. Contact Ken Bigley at ken_bigley@nps.gov or call 703-255-1809.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Art Exhibition: Aware. 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at ServiceSource Headquarters, 10467 White Granite Drive, Oakton. In celebration of Autism Awareness Month, ServiceSource is hosting AWARE., an art exhibition featuring artists on the autism spectrum to raise awareness of disability advocacy efforts in the NoVA community. BBQ will be served. Free. Call 703-970-3653 or visit www.servicesource.org.

"Colors of Change" Film. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Filmmaker Jenny Nichols, who grew up in Great Falls, explores Greenland through the eyes of an artist, a NASA scientist, and an Inuit elder. Presented by Great Falls Studios. Contact James Diedrich at james.jemail@gmail.com.

Nobody's Girl. 7:30-9 p.m. at Jammin



Oakton High Presents 'Titanic the Musical'

"Titanic the Musical" at Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. This is the factual story of that ship — of her officers, crew and passengers. Titanic is a musical with music and lyrics by Maury Yeston and a book by Peter Stone that opened on Broadway in 1997. Tickets are \$15. Show times are 7 p.m. May 3-5, and 11-12. Information about the performance is at titanic.oaktondrama.org or visit the website at www.oaktondrama.org.

Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Featuring BettySoo, Grace Pettis, Rebecca Loebe. The all-female group offers delicate and complex harmonies and innovative songwriting. \$20. Visit www.jamminjava.com or call 877-987-6487.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27

Arbor Day Ceremony. 5 p.m. at the W&OD trailhead on Park Street across from the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Join Mayor Laurie DiRocco, Town staff, and Cub Scout Pack 1116 for a ceremonial red bud tree planting to commemorate Arbor Day 2018.

Artist Reception. 7 to 9 p.m. Free. For the ValeArts Show. At Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton, VA. "Spring into Color" features 150 original works in various media. Visit info@valearts.com or www.valearts.com. Call 703-860-1888.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 27-28

"Blithe Spirit" Play Production. 8 p.m. at Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Noel Coward's famous 1941 comedy. Presented by Vienna Theatre Company and Vienna Department of Recreation. Tickets \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 27-29

ValeArts Show. At Vale Schoolhouse, 3124 Fox Mill Road, Oakton. "Spring into Color" features 150 original works in various media. Free. Artists include Jenna Klimchak, Lorrie Herman, Laura Barringer, Meredith Hannon, Linda Lovell, Traci Oberle, and Mary Beth Gaiarin who will be joined by guest artists Kathleen Best Gillmann and Kim Richards. Hours are 10-9 p.m. Friday; 10-6 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Visit info@valearts.com or www.valearts.com. Call 703-860-1888.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28

Fairfax Run for the Children. 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Courthouse Complex, 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. 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. Visit www.fairfaxrunforthechildren.com/.

Spring Garden Mini Fair. 9 a.m.-noon at Vienna Elementary School playground, 128 Center Street, S, Vienna. Nature lovers can stop by Vienna's Learning and Display Garden, located adjacent to the playground to spend an informative

morning with other gardeners. Participate in a plant swap and give-away. At 10 a.m. enjoy a talk and demo about Thomas Jefferson's garden. At 11 a.m., learn how to build fences and other structures for critter and winter protection.

Bards Alley Book Hunt. 9 a.m. at Bards Alley, 110 Church St., NW, Vienna. Readers of all ages are invited to discover new books during the Vienna-wide Bards Alley Book Hunt. Book Hunters should look for brown paper-wrapped books tied with string and sporting Bards Alley stickers. Books can be found at and around local businesses, and in public spaces throughout the Town of Vienna. Independent Bookstore Day celebrations continue back at the store. Call 571-459-2653.

Rededication of Vienna Blue Star Memorial. 10 a.m. at Centennial Park, 130 Church St., NE, Vienna. Noreen Linnemann has chosen to renovate and rededicate the Blue Star Memorial, which honors men and women who have served in the U.S. Armed Services. Sponsored by the Five Hills Garden Club.

Visitors from Outer Space. 11 a.m.-noon at Turner Farm's Observatory Park, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Learn about meteorites and where they come from. \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

Taste of Vienna. 11 a.m.-8 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Station, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. Proceeds benefit the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. Visit www.tasteofvienna.com or contact Joanie at joanie@vvfd.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 28-29

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Sunday at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Featuring thousands of top quality used books. Fill a big shopping bag with books, movies, CDs, DVDs, etc. for \$5. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ph or call 703-568-0104.

SUNDAY/APRIL 29

Walk on the Hill & Green Expo. 2-5 p.m. at Windover Heights Historic District, Vienna. Approximately 50 homes in the town's northwest historic district will be open to visitors, which also will feature the second annual green expo. Vienna Art Society members will be painting in the gardens. Free and open to public. Visit www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=1244.

Flower Show "Bringing Nature to Your Home." 2-5 p.m. at 307 Windover Ave., NW, Vienna. Hosted by Ayr Hill Garden Club during Vienna's Annual Walk on the Hill in the Windover Heights Historic District home of AHGC member Louise Davidson. Free and open to the public. Parking is available at Green Hedges School. Visit Facebook at www.facebook.com/AYRHILLGARDENCLUB/.



PHOTO BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY 1ST STAGE

Sasha Olinick, Tiziano D'Affuso, Ryan Manning, Caroline Wolfson, Aaron Bliden, Farrell Parker and Jamie Smithson in "Fly By Night" at 1st Stage (Tysons).

Appealing Musical 'Fly By Night'

Area premiere at 1st Stage in Tysons.

Where and When

1st Stage presents "Fly By Night" at 1524 Spring Hill Rd, McLean. Performances through May 6, 2018. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets: Adult general admission \$33, Seniors \$30, Students/Military \$15. Call: 703-854-1856 or visit www.1ststage.org. Note: Wheelchair accessible. Free parking is available. 1st Stage is about 2 blocks after leaving the Silver Line's Spring Hill stop.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

With plenty of upbeat energy, buoyant voices, a clever musical, "Fly By Night" is making its area premiere at 1st Stage in Tysons. It is the rock music tale of a small band of people who journey far-and-wide; from a small town in South Dakota to New York City and then into a myriad of personal intersec-

tions. The year in question is the period just before and during the famous northeast United States electric Black Out in November 1965.

Directed with a warm-hearted, nimble touch by Kathryn Chase Bryer, her skilled cast of seven hit their marks with great precision and care for the characters they portray. Bryer has a fine feel for what begins as a romantic-comedy, then veers to become more somber in its second act.

The cast represents people trying to find their way to fulfill a myriad of dreams from becoming a Broadway star to re-kindling unexciting lives too long behind a Brooklyn deli counter making sandwiches, and, a triangle of star-crossed lovers as well as a mature widower missing his just passed wife. And there is a natty narrator as a guide through it all.

With mostly rock-infused 18 musical numbers all powered by the driving wheel of music

director Walter "Bobby" McCoy, "Fly By Night" can be a very toe-tapping evening. There is one song that some will find themselves humming a few bars with its simple rock chords. It is one of those tunes that can be played slowly with an acoustic guitar and a plaintive voice or amped up into a full-throated anthem. Appropriately enough it is called, "Fly By Night."

Kudos to a jaunty Jamie Smithson, who as the narrator (and several quirky female characters), is exceptionally winning with his daunting responsibilities. 1st Stage veteran Aaron Bliden is very likeable portraying an introverted, confused young "deli" man seemingly in love with two different women. The two young women happen to be sisters. One sister is portrayed by Farrell Parker. She is out to find the more in life she seeks as a Broadway actor. Caroline Wolfson is a shy sister and waitress who can find the stars a place to get lost in. Sasha Olinick portrays a father and widower. He has the show's brightest moment with a song and dance routine (choreography from Robert Bowen Smith). It's a show stopper.

"Fly By Night" is an inviting musical evening to experience.

PEOPLE

Tuba Player Diego Stine of Vienna Wins Fairfax Young Artist Competition

Tuba player Diego Stine of Vienna, a George C. Marshall High School junior, has won the 2018 Young Artist Competition sponsored by the City of Fairfax Band. He is the first tuba player to win the instrumental music competition and will showcase his talent as soloist at the Band's May 19 concert, 7:30 pm, at the Fairfax High School Auditorium.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Conductor Robert Pouliot with guest artist Diego Stine, Tuba, George C. Marshall High School.

Though only a junior, Stine has already amassed impressive musical accomplishments. As a member of the National Symphony Orchestra's Youth Fellowship Program he has played on the Kennedy Center's Millennium Stage and in the Concert Hall. He also performs in the Washington area's American Youth Philharmonic and is part of the select Brass of Peace music coaching program preparing young musicians for success in very competitive field.

Diego also has won seats in his All-District Band, Virginia's All-State Band and Orchestra, the Senior Regional Orchestra, and the National Youth Orchestra II. At school he plays in the concert, jazz and marching bands. Additionally, he shares his talent with his church.

Why tuba? After studying piano, string bass and

euphonium, Diego settled on Tuba in 5th grade, because "I like the big, deep sound."

As he looks to the future, Diego wants to be a tuba performance major in college and would like a playing career in one of the military bands or a major symphony orchestra.

Stine's teachers include tubists David Fedderly, retired from the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, and Stephen Dumaine of the National Symphony. An earlier teacher was his father Daniel Stine, euphonium player and band director.

Since 1996, The City of Fairfax Band Association has sponsored its Young Artist Competition to

encourage the development of stand-out high school musicians who plan to pursue a musical career. More information about the competition is available at <https://www.fairfaxband.org/young-artist-competition/>.

At the Fairfax Band's May 19 concert Stine will perform the "Tuba Concerto, Mvt. 1" by Edward Gregson. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run, Fairfax. Tickets are available at the door or online at <https://www.fairfaxband.org/>.



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When:
Sunday, May 6, 2-4 p.m.

Who:
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Where:
The Old Firehouse Center
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
McLean, VA 22101

Format:
Informal Reception

Come and meet the four adults and five teens who are vying for votes to fill vacant seats on the MCC Governing Board. Three adult and two teen seats (one for the Langley High School boundary area; one for the McLean High School boundary area) will be filled. Only residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville are eligible to vote.

Refreshments will be served.
For planning purposes, please let us know if you will attend by emailing elections@mcleancenter.org.
See you there!



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STAYING SAFE TOGETHER

May is National Bike Month! Expect more people biking on roads and trails. Here are some safety tips from BikeFairfax.



SPEED LIMIT

35

Follow posted speed limits.



Come to a complete stop at red lights and stop signs, including when turning right. Always yield to people crossing the street.



Avoid distractions. Never text while operating a vehicle.

Join us for the National Bike Challenge - May
Bike to School Day - May 9 and
Bike to Work Day - May 18
fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/bike-walk








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NEWS

South Lakes Junior Elected to Student Member, School Board

Benjamin (Bennie) Tignor, a junior at South Lakes High School, has been elected by the countywide Student Advisory Council (SAC) to serve a one-year term as student representative to the Fairfax County School Board, beginning July 1.

Tignor will participate in School Board meetings as a nonvoting member, filling the position currently held by Niharika Vattikonda, a senior at TJHSST. He will be the 48th student representative to the School Board.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools newsletter — Tignor says he hopes to use his position to facilitate “a two-way flow of information, not only from student to Board, but from Board to student. This ensures that students understand that there are representatives who hear their voices, and although they may be limited by budget or policy restrictions, are working to improve the average student’s life.

“Maintaining the student voice and ensuring it is heard is crucial to fostering the high academic standards, healthy and ethical lives, and responsibility the School Board aims to inspire within the student body,” he adds. “I feel it is my duty, as a member of the Fairfax County student body, to project the voices of my peers to those who can interpret and take initiative on their behalf. At times, students feel that individually their voice does not have an impact ... I would be able to ensure these voices are heard.”

HE LISTS four main issues as priorities for the School Board, including: school safety in response to school shootings, school workload and pressure toward International Baccalaureate (IB) and Advanced Placement (AP) diplomas, the ability of students to present feedback on issues that directly impact the student body, and methods of teaching and personal learning within advanced courses.

Tignor says he wants to advocate for new methods of learning that will accommodate all of the ways students learn while allowing for “a broader expression of learning styles” in the classroom.

As an advocate for project-based learning, he has spoken in favor of a broader use of project-based learning both to FCPS instructional personnel and at a regional project-based learning conference, saying that it “allows the individual to express his or her method of learning in the best way that suits them, incentivizing innovation and the freedom to enjoy what you produce as a student.”

Tignor believes his work in leadership positions at South Lakes and the initiative he has taken in these positions have prepared him to serve as the Student Representative to the School Board. He currently serves as president of the German Honor Society and, in his leadership class, helped increase participation in the school’s character education program (Scholarship, Ownership, Awareness, and Respect) by 220 percent in less than half a semester. He also helped design and execute the Terraset Workshop, which was recently recognized by the Virginia Student Councils Association.



Benjamin (Bennie) Tignor

PHOTO COURTESY OF FCPS

AT SOUTH LAKES, Tignor has taken honors courses in algebra, biology, English, world history and geography, U.S. and Virginia government; IB courses in chemistry, math, history of the Americas, English literature, biology, physics, and German; and classes in German, orchestra, leadership, and stem engineering. He has been on the All A Honor Roll from 2015-17, and is a varsity lacrosse player.

Tignor is also a member of the National Honor Society and the Interact (Rotary) Club. He took first place in the Biomedical Engineering category of the Regional Science Fair this year for his entry, The Effects of Concentrations of Immobilized Enzymes on the Rate of Enzymatic Activity, which also won a first place award from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Society. He has earned Gold Awards on the National German Examination for the past three years, and served internships at the BMW M division design studio and Brainlab Headquarters, both in Munich. Tignor mentors third and sixth grade students at Terraset Elementary every week, and formerly volunteered at Frying Pan Park.

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

Challengers

FROM PAGE 3

tions and service, Helmer suggested that it was time for a new generation to take the helm in Congress. "There is something wrong with our politics," he said, "that made so many willing to vote for Donald Trump."

Helmer was also the candidate to turn up the heat on one of his opponents when the issue of gun violence was raised. Helmer called out "someone on this stage" who he said accepted money from the National Rifle Association and other corporations during her political career, and who had voted for legislation approving reciprocity for permitted carriers of concealed weapons from other states.

SEVERAL OTHER QUESTIONS were asked of the candidates and answered, but Helmer smoothly looped back to the gun control issue and acceptance of corporate political contributions.

Sen. Wexton was ultimately identified as the target of Helmer's attack and Kessler gave her the opportunity to respond.

Pointing out that among the candidates she was the only one to ever hold elected office, Wexton said "this is what you do when you govern. You compromise." She further defended her vote saying that the bill was the result of a deal between the NRA, Republicans, and then-Gov. Terry McAuliffe and that its passage aided victims of domestic violence and allowed background checks at gun shows.

Wexton later acknowledged taking contributions from Dominion Energy in previous campaigns, but has already pledged not to take PAC money during this election.

Despite those few more heated exchanges, the candidates and their supporters seemed focused on the goal of continuing the "Blue Wave" that saw a dozen Democrats sweep into office in Richmond, and their mission to "replace and repeal Barbara Comstock" as Alison Friedman put it. Attendees like Susan Jacobs of McLean who backs Dan Helmer and thinks he's the best chance to beat Comstock, and Andrew Fierro of Great Falls who supports Dr. Biggins, both say they are rooting for their candidate, but will support whoever wins the June 12 primary.



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION
The inflatable "greeter" at the entrance to the debate. The candidates spent much of their time attacking the Republican Congress, incumbent Rep. Barbara Comstock, and President Trump.

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Find us on Facebook and become a fan! www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers THE CONNECTION Newspapers & Online The Connection to Your Community www.connectionnewspapers.com		An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg	

You Mean Tomorrow Tuesday?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that deadlines don't happen in the newspaper business; of course they do, every Tuesday for us weeklies. But when combined with my usual post-chemotherapy malaise, it is a bit more challenging. More so when the deadline is tightened up due to the nature of hitting and occasionally missing in-house communications, which is also not unreasonable given the multiple demands multi tasking imposes.

Compounding this task even more is that until I'm back to semi post-chemo normal, in the interim, I am not eating too much, not sleeping well, have low energy (related to the previous two deficiencies), my hands are shaky, my balance is off and I'm having some difficulty focusing. It's a good thing I'm sitting at a desk while attempting to write this column because operating any heavy machinery would definitely be out of the question. What I need to do is mind my own business.

Business which at the moment involves fending off my buff-colored male cat, Chino, as he angles to sit on my writing pad as I move him from left to right - and then right to left since he won't take "Chino, move!" for a directive. But if I know anything, other than what to expect post chemo, I also know what to expect from Chino - or any of the other cats we manage: independence, as any fellow cat owner knows. Unlike a "true and loyal dog," a cat, generally speaking, is not inclined to respond to your commands, well, too many of them, anyway. Nor are they likely to respond to any physical discipline and/or pushing/pulling/redirection. Invariably, if you push, they pull. If you pull, they push.

How Chino knows I'm not feeling well and on an unanticipated and abbreviated deadline, I'll never know. But rather than leave me to it, he'll interfere every way possible: nuzzling, nudging, leaning, rubbing, meowing, moving about and plopping down when all else fails. If you love cats as we do, this is their charm. If you don't love them and their antics, I can see how this kind of behavior can be very frustrating.

I mean, with all this activity, it's difficult to think about what I'm supposed to be doing when I'm so busy preventing things from getting done. I imagine Chino thinks he's doing me a favor, being so affectionate and so in the way. Maybe he thinks he's contributing to the creative process by sitting in the middle of my writing pad? In a way, maybe he is. He's forcing me to concentrate. Moreover, he's forcing me to focus on this most immediate task which, at the moment, has me fending him off with my left wrist while I'm scribbling prose with my right hand. Oddly enough, it might be working as I'm three-quarters finished with this column which 30 minutes ago was a weekend task until it became a today/Tuesday task.

Now if I didn't have a CT scan and lower abdomen MRI scheduled for Wednesday, I'd have a bit more time to sort out the details of writing this column. Unfortunately, post-chemo, mid-newspaper deadline and pre-scan is a triple threat which sometimes can impose its will. A 'will' which I take personally so I will persevere and complete this column with one final paragraph now that Chino has left my desk and likely ended up on some unoccupied couch to sleep; he's had a big day.

All kidding aside, if there's one behavior I need more than any other during these deadline triple threats, it's companionship. Because of Chino and our other four cats: Andrew, Sloane, Biscuit and Twinkle, I am never alone and always have someone to talk to who, occasionally talks back. Not that we understand one another, but it's giving and getting, and it's loving and affecting - me and my cancer; and everything in between.

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

OPINION

Budget Hits All the Right Notes

BY SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN, FAIRFAX COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



During today's [April 24] Board of Supervisors Meeting, the Board marked up the FY2019 Advertised Budget by a vote of 8-2. Formal adoption of the budget will take place on May 1. I would like to share with you my remarks prior to our vote this morning:

The process for adopting the County Budget every year is all about community engagement. Fiscal Year 2019 is no exception, with Budget Forums and Town Hall Meetings hosted in each of our nine Districts, Budget Committee meetings (which included our partners on the School Board), and three days of public hearings on the Advertised Budget earlier this month. Since February, our offices have received hundreds, if not thousands, of letters, e-mail messages,

phone calls and personal visits from our constituents.

The Budget "mood" this year was harmonic, thanks to an Advertised Budget that I believe hit all of the right notes.

The Budget that we are about to "Mark-Up," or amend, is based on a tax rate of \$1.15. The package:

- ❖ Fully funds the School Board's request, bringing teachers' salaries

into competitive alignment with our sister jurisdictions in the region;

- ❖ Overall support for our school system is increased by \$91.49 million or 4.22 percent over Fiscal Year 2018, with 52.8 percent of our General Fund Budget going to schools;

- ❖ Fully funds compensation for our County employees with a 2.25 percent Market Rate Adjustment, Performance, Merit and Longevity increases;

- ❖ Includes funding for Fairfax First, Gang Prevention, the expansion of Diversion First

and Opportunity Neighborhoods, additional slots for Early Childhood programs, and funding to address the Opioid Crisis;

- ❖ Provides an increase in funding for Metro (pending a long-term solution), VRE and our Connector Bus System.

While this Mark-Up package includes a 2 cent increase in the real estate tax rate, an increase of \$241 on the average annual tax bill, I believe the additional revenue is an important investment needed to shore up the foundation on which our quality of life rests.

I want to thank Budget Committee Chairman Jeff McKay for his excellent work bringing this Mark-Up Package to the Board today, along with Budget Guidance that addresses issues discussed during budget deliberations with each of our colleagues. Adoption of a Budget every year requires the good faith collaboration of each member of our Board and I appreciate everyone's willingness to come together on a Budget process that moves Fairfax County forward.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Time to Rediscover Libraries

To the Editor:

As a current high school teacher in Fairfax County, and a future school librarian, I frequently hear the question, "Why do you want to be a librarian? Do kids even read anymore?" April is National School Library Month, and I'd like to take the opportunity to clarify the answers to these questions.

In my school, the library is not only already an essential part of the school, it is filled with untapped potential as well, because so many parents, students, and teachers are not aware of all of the opportunities that are available. Our school library provides our students with technology access, research stations, a place to work and research, but also has lunch programs to help students meet each other and make friends; on some days during lunch there is a

knitting group that meets. Students meet and teach each other to create new stitches and patterns, and you haven't seen a school united until you've seen a freshman girl patiently demonstrating a stitch for the third time to a senior football player. We have a book club that meets during our remediation period once a month. The kids pick the books, and have some of the most lively discussions I've heard.

Even more than this, our library is teaching our students how to be digital citizens and 21st century learners. They foster curiosity — not always an easy feat in high schoolers. They have a coding station where our students can learn to code, even if they aren't taking computer science classes, and a media lab where students produce, film, and present daily announcements for the school. They are trying to get a 3D printer in the library, as well as virtual reality technology to allow our students to explore places and ideas to which they might never other-

wise have access.

So yes, kids do still read. But these also aren't the same school libraries that we had; no longer is the library a silent, intimidating tomb of books. Go check out your local school library after school one day in April — you might just be surprised at what you find!

Meagan Major
Fairfax

Stopping Violence in Any Form

To the Editor:

In response to your last week's opinion piece calling a new state license plate with the words "Stop Gun Violence" a small victory, I offer the following:

I notice that the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor have passed a bill for a new license plate with the words "Stop Gun Violence" on it. There are

those of us who are opposed to violence in any form — knife violence, explosives violence, poison violence, vehicular violence, and the like. Everett Piper recently stated: "Take away guns and we'll use a knife. Take away knives and we'll use a club. Take away clubs, and we'll use a rock." The lead editorial in the 4-10-18 edition of The Washington Times observed that knifings across the British Isles are up 21 percent. Stabbings in London in 2017 are at their highest level in 6 years, up 23 percent over the previous year. Knives and acid are the two most common weapons used in London. Violence starts in the heart — not in the hand.

The Virginia General Assembly's myopic focus on guns is not the solution to stopping violence. I suggest the General Assembly and Governor would better serve Virginians by renaming the license plate "Stop Violence".

Paul McIlvaine
Alexandria

BULLETIN

Fairfax County is offering the following FREE "Caring for You, Caring for Me" programs; a blend of interactive support and education for caregivers of older adults.

Monday, May 7-June 11 (5 weeks every Monday), 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Adult Day Health Care Center, 4710 North Chambliss St., Alexandria. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Caring for You, Caring for Me Program or call 703-324-7577 or 703-324-7210, TTY 711.

Thursday, May 31-June 28 (5 weeks every Thursday), 7-8 p.m. at

Herndon Fortnightly Library, 768 Center St., Herndon. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Caring for You, Caring for Me Program or call 703-324-7577 or 703-324-7210, TTY 711.

Fairfax County's free **Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group** meets by phone on **Tuesday, May 8, 7-8 p.m.** This month's topic is "Using Humor as a Survival Tool". Register beforehand at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Caregiver Support/Respite. Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711.

Fairfax County is offering a free Medicare 101 program. Learn the facts about health insurance for older adults. **Monday, May 14, 10:30 a.m.- Noon.** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd., Fairfax. To register, call Mary Walker at 703-278-8375, TTY 711. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/OlderAdults and click on Medicare/Insurance Counseling.

The **Fairfax Commission on Aging** meets on **Wednesday, May 16, 1-3 p.m.** at the Sully District Governmental Center, Richard Frank Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd.,

Chantilly. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/coa.htm. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

NEW FAIRFAX COUNTY 50+ VIDEO & PODCASTS:

- ❖ 50+ Employment Expo and County Resources
- ❖ 50+ Courses at County's Adult and Community Education Program
- ❖ What Older Adults Should Know About Opioids

Vienna & Oakton
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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