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Rachel Richie, 23, and her hound rescue Annie, pictured in front of Church Street Pizza.

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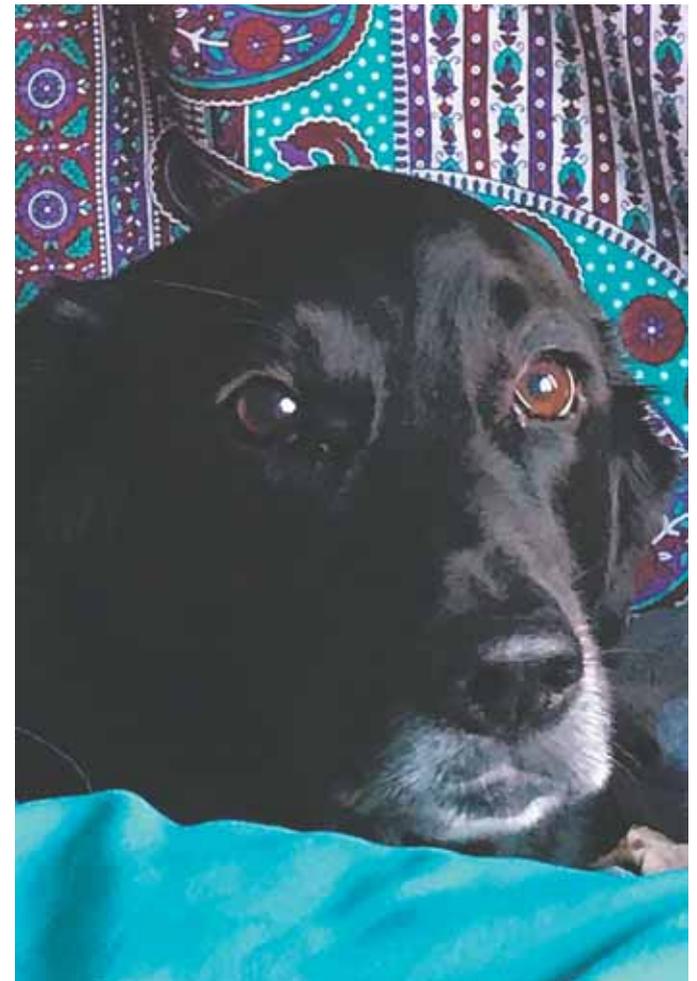
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PET CONNECTION



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Snowstorm Hits the Area

During the snowstorm last Wednesday, Feb. 20, the temperature in Vienna hovered around 30 degrees in the morning gradually rising throughout the day.

PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION



No Property Tax Rate Increase and Fully Funded Public Schools

County executive presents proposed FY 2020 budget.

ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

After several years of contentious budget wrangling, an increase in the tax rate, and negotiations forced to “kick-the-can” on many funding requests due to fiscal obstacles in a sluggish local economy, the proposed Fairfax County FY 2020 Budget still presents its challenges, but the county supervisors see progress and reason for optimism.

“There’s more good news than bad,” was Supervisor Jeff McKay’s (Lee District) reaction to County Executive Bryan Hill’s presentation to the Board on Tuesday, Feb. 19.

McKay is the chair of the Board of Supervisors’ budget committee, and while he and other supervisors still expressed some concerns, particularly over the additional monies required of the county to fund Metro, and the lack of funds to support much needed transportation and infrastructure improvements, the initial draft was generally met with a sense of “having something we can work with.”

McKay, board chair Sharon Bulova and others thanked Hill and county CFO Joe Mondoro for a proposed budget of \$4.4 billion that fully funds Fairfax County Public Schools, allows for raises that help align teachers’ salaries with neighboring jurisdictions and modest Market Rate Adjustments and longevity increases for county employees. The proposal also supports board priorities such as the Diversion First Program, Gang and Opioid Prevention efforts, Early Childhood and Environmental initiatives, and staffing and training for the South County Police Center and Animal Shelter that the county hopes to see operational by 2022.

Thanks to an increase in property values last year, more commercial properties added to the tax rolls, and economies and efficiencies instituted by Hill and the county, the proposed budget achieves these funding objectives without suggesting an increase to the residential real estate rate — the main source of the county’s revenue.

“This Advertised Budget assumes no change in the tax rate of \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed property value,” said Hill.

Helping things along financially was Virginia’s economic recovery from the recession and from sequestration.

“Our growth has finally picked up,” said Hill, noting a decline in office space vacancy rates, an increase in government contract spending, and employment gains in the Washington Metro region that rose above



County Executive Bryan Hill presents the proposed FY 2020 to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 19. A series of public hearings and district town halls are slated before the budget’s markup and adoption, with Hill urging citizens to learn all the facts on the county’s website and get involved. “Your voice matters.”

historical averages in 2018. The county is also expecting a positive impact from the selection of Northern Virginia as a second headquarters for Amazon.

On the other side of the scale, Hill reminded that “no one yet really knows the true effect of the recent partial government shutdown.” In addition, the failure of the current General Assembly session to restore transportation funds to the region has pushed a number of projects further from their anticipated start or completion dates.

Without those funds, work to improve safety and traffic flow on roads like the Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways will no doubt be negatively affected, according to Braddock District Supervisor John Cook, who added that “citizens need to know the facts, that even with 3 percent growth in the county, it’s still a struggle to meet our needs. We need their help.”

Several of the supervisors posed budget questions for Hill and Mondoro. The answers to their questions will be forthcoming at one of the Budget Committee meetings, and Hill also noted that the responses would be made available to the public on the county’s Management and Budget website.

While there is no assumption of a tax rate increase, other “non-general fund tax rate” service fees will see slight increases. Sewer Base Charges will rise from “\$30.38 per quarter, to \$32.91, the Sewer Availability

Charge (residential) will increase from \$8,100 to \$8,340 and the Sewer Service Charge will rise from \$7.00 to \$7.28 per 1,000 gallons.

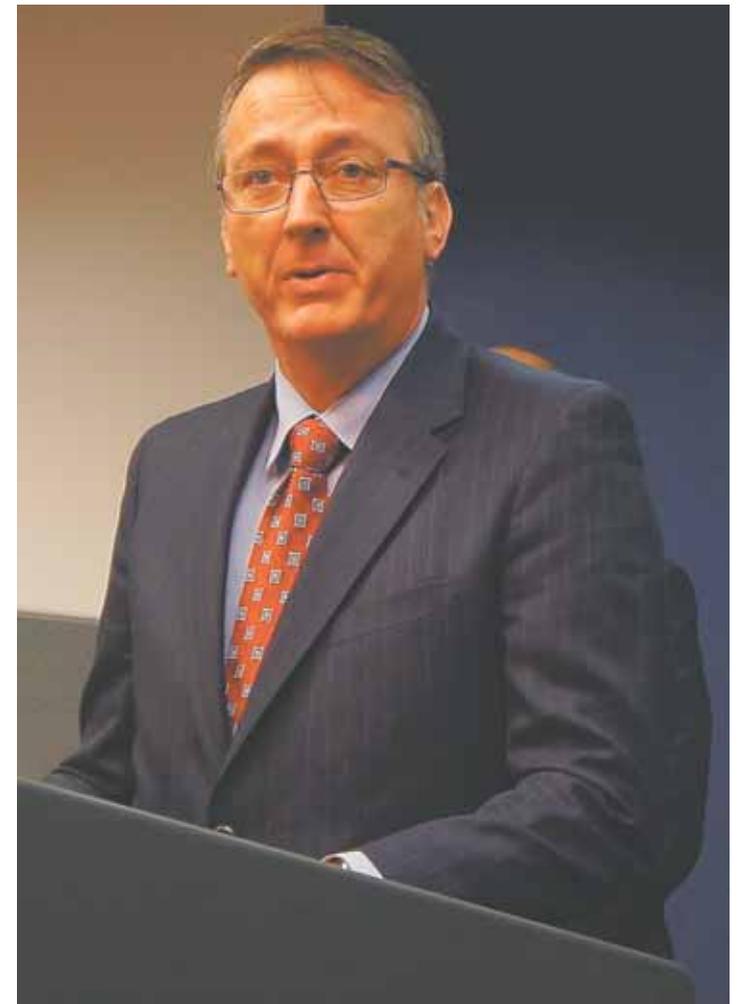
After the Budget presentation, Hill, CFO Mondoro, and Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Scott Brabrand held a joint Q&A with media representatives.

“This is a superintendent’s dream,” said Brabrand in his remarks, “to be able to work with a county executive and to have the kind of relationship we are creating between the School Board and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. This is the right way to do business.”

To Brabrand, this budget “puts the needs of students first, the needs of the school system first.” He expressed “delight” that the budget is “finishing the work to make our teachers market competitive. We want the best and brightest teachers and support staff” so that the system can continue to provide an outstanding educational experience for the benefit of the entire community.

Brabrand vowed to continue the FCPS’s focus on One Fairfax to strive for equity in all aspects of its operation, and to continue collaborating with the Fairfax County government.

Hill ended on a positive note, saying that while he was disappointed that not all funding requests could be met as “we manage within our means to meet our 5 percent



Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools Scott Brabrand said he was “delighted” about the level of collaboration being created between the School Board and the county Board of Supervisors, and pleased that the FY 2020 proposed budget “puts the needs of students first, the needs of the school system first.”

needs on 3 percent growth,” many unfunded priorities from past years were finally being addressed. He also urged citizens to “get involved. All of the information is readily available. Your voice matters.”

Each district will host at least one budget town hall — with either Hill or Mondoro or both in attendance — before the Board of Supervisors holds public hearings and before the budget goes to “mark-up” on April 30, with adoption slated for the board meeting on May 7.

Public hearings before the board will be held on April 9 at 4 p.m. and on April 10 and 11 at 1 p.m. All meetings will take place at the Fairfax County Government Center in the Board Auditorium. Persons who wish to speak at a public hearing need to sign up with the Clerk by calling 703-324-3151, or by form at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bosclerk/speakers-form. Written testimony for the record can also be emailed to the Clerk’s Office at clerktothebos@fairfaxcounty.gov.

A 37-page Summary of the Budget, a reader-friendly two-page highlights document, as well as complete information on the budget process, timeline, meetings and more are all available on the county’s website, search “budget.” Information on the town hall meetings can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2020-budget-town-hall-meetings>.

PET CONNECTION



Jane, Hannah, 23, and Bob Picardi sit with their family of pets: Cats Bernie, Nacho, and their dog Cooper.



Mike Pedersen and his son Sean, 24, sit with their pup, Chewie. PHOTOS BY LISA FAY/THE CONNECTION

Spreading Joy in Vienna

Town residents on why their pets are so special.

BY LISA FAY
THE CONNECTION

A surprise litter of kittens from a neighbor's formerly abandoned cat is how Tim Davis became a pet owner. "My cat's name is Harper and he was born the summer of

2012. Since 2012 was Bryce Harper's rookie year with the Washington Nationals, we named our cat after him. Our neighbor up the street took in a stray cat and they found out it was pregnant! Their cat had the litter underneath one of the kids beds! They asked all the neighbors if they wanted one of the kittens and we were the only family

to say yes. Our family loves him because he always likes to be around everyone and is fun to play with," said Davis.

Rachel Richie adopted her hound mix Annie from Homeward Trails Adoption Center. It is a private center that takes in dogs from kill shelters or from places that are overflowing or cannot take anymore dogs from surrounding states. "Annie is such a special dog because she sees the good in everyone despite having a hard first few years," said Richie. "She is always extremely kind and lovable to people of all ages and other animals she meets. I hope to get her certified as a therapy dog so she can accompany me during my work in the mental health field so she can continue to spread oodles of joy to people who need her help. She is also the perfect companion for me since grad school isn't easy. She enjoys downtime but is always excited about fun adventures. I could not ask for a better furry friend," said Richie.

and their three sons Sean, Mikey and Ian — are the proud owners of Chewbacca Latavius. Chewbacca being from Star Wars, one of their favorite movies, and Latavius Murray, a running back from the Minnesota Vikings who happened to make a great play during a game while the family was brainstorming names for their new dog. "He is a three year old labradoodle, we got him as a puppy. What I love about him is that he loves me more than my mom!," joked Sean. Mrs. Pedersen laughed but set the story straight. "We never had a dog while growing up. I was never a dog person, and the boys were allergic to dogs while growing up and we didn't feel like taking on that responsibility. One Christmas we just decided to get him, and it's so nice because I never thought we'd add more to our family. He became a family member and it made us as a family so much closer! These dogs are hypoallergenic which is great. I didn't expect to like him, but he's like the little

THE PEDERSEN FAMILY — Mike, Liz,

SEE STORIES, PAGE 5

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PHOTO COURTESY OF TIM DAVIS
Tim Davis, 24, holds his green-eyed cat Harper.



Suzanne Lawter with her two dogs, Cleo and Zoe, in front of their home.

PET CONNECTION

Stories on Vienna's Special Pets

FROM PAGE 4

brother to my sons," said Mrs. Pedersen. Mr. Pedersen chimed in saying that, "He is such a happy go lucky dog. Everyday, everything is great."

The Picardi family — Bob, Jane, Hannah, and Brock — are animal lovers. They own two cats and one dog, who have all been rescued. "I rescued Cooper, our lab pit mix, from Clemson, S. C. I named him Cooper because it's the name of the library where I attended school at Clemson University," said Hannah. "He is special to us because he gets us to go on family walks together. Our favorite thing to do is to walk into the town of Vienna to Caffe Amouri and get coffee while Cooper gets a human biscotti!" Hannah continued to say that Cooper is about four years old and was a stray in South Carolina and they rescued him for only \$17 on St Patrick's Day, shots and neutering included. "He gets along with our cats well," said Hannah. "Nacho is our clumsy orange colored guy, you could do just about anything to him. He is three years old and loves our fireplace, belly rubs, and his food. Bernie is older, but is more skilled in outdoorsmanship and catching animals. He brings us back gifts!" said Hannah. The family adopted their cat Nacho from the Lost Dog and Cat Foundation and adopted both cats while they were kittens.

SUZANNE LAWTER is the director of operations for Worthy Dog Rescue, an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping dogs in

distress, especially those living in chains, pens or in neglectful and abusive situations. "Cleo is how I got into rescue," said Lawter. "We adopted her back in late 2010 and she was my first dog as an adult. When we decided to get a dog we started researching different breeds and were drawn to the bully breed, both because they are gorgeous, awesome, active dogs that we felt would suit our lifestyle, but also because they seemed so misunderstood. We adopted Cleo through a Virginia based rescue who took her in after she was found at 9 weeks old - malnourished, abandoned, and left in a sealed box sitting in the middle of the road in Casanova, Va." Through her experience with Cleo, Lawter felt the pull to volunteer in the rescue world of dogs. Their second dog, Zoe, was what Lawter states as a "foster failure." "She was our foster dog who never left. She was actually adopted a few times and returned because she was a lot of energy to manage and needed a patient, active home," said Lawter. Lawter and her husband, Patrick Foster, had been fostering for about a year before Zoe came into their lives. "She was the sweetest dog we'd ever met, and excellent with other dogs," said Lawter. After volunteering at multiple different rescues, Lawter and Foster created Worthy Dog Rescue in August 2017. "I'm a founder, but it's really a team of people who came together to make it a reality. We rescue dogs of every breed, but are definitely partial to the pit pups," said Lawter. If you are interested in adopting or fostering a dog, contact Suzanne Lawter at suzanne@worthydogrescue.org.

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OPINION

Consider a Greyhound

BY JENNY HARROP

What would you say to having a greyhound as a pet? It needs too much space. I could never give it enough exercise. That's not the dog for me. That is what I thought too. Please reconsider. This past November, Florida voters voted to close all of the state's greyhound racing tracks by the year 2020. There are 11 tracks in Florida, each with hundreds of dogs, many of whom will need homes. So, if you are thinking of adding a dog to your family in the next year, please consider a greyhound.

Many of the commonly held assumptions about the breed are just not true, in fact, quite the opposite. The greyhounds have a nickname of the "40 MPH couch potato." While they can go 40 MPH on the track, once they retire they are very content to lounge around the house. My greyhound gets a short walk in the morning, a 30-minute mid-day walk, and a short walk in the evening.

People think greyhounds need a lot of space and fenced in yards. Would you believe they are on the American Kennel Club's list of best apartment dogs? We live in a townhouse and our greyhound does just fine. They do need to be kept on a lead when they are outside. They are sighthounds and can bolt after squirrels or birds.

There are two other aspects of the breed I'd like to highlight. First, they are incredibly sweet and docile. People think otherwise because



Dutch Julie: Retired racing greyhound.

they are often pictured in their muzzles at the track. They wear these because they have very fragile skin and the muzzles protect them from injuries. Second, in terms of grooming they are very low maintenance. A bath a couple times a year and some brushing does the trick. They do have fast growing nails that need regular trimming, and as mouth breathers, they require regular dental care. Because they are bred and raised at the tracks they are used to being handled by humans so vet visits are not an issue.

It is surprisingly easy to meet and adopt a greyhound. The local adoption groups – listed below – frequently have "meet and greets" where you can ask questions and see some greyhounds. Once you adopt your greyhound, the groups are very supportive. My early owner questions were answered within 24 hours,



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY

Jenny and Ken Harrop with Julie on her "gotcha day."

sometimes by multiple volunteers.

So please, if you might be getting a dog soon – be sure to meet a greyhound and research the breed a bit. They make wonderful pets and there are many who will need homes in the not too distant future.

Local Greyhound Adoption Groups:

Blue Ridge Greyhound Adoption – www.brga.org

Virginia greyhound Adoption – www.viriniagreyhounds.org

James River Greyhounds – www.jamesrivergreyhounds.org

Greyhound Pets of America – Northern Virginia www.gpa-nova.org



Luka needs a home.

Finding Home for Luka

Karen Alden, Volunteer with Operation Paws for Homes in Great Falls, trying to find a home for Luka who has been with the rescue for awhile. "Luka is one of the special dogs. Luka has been described as Handsome, 2 years young, 42 pounds; Shepherd mix with an awesome curling tail; Smart, knows lots of commands; Loves people and a good treat; Fit, athletic, energetic; Protective of his handler; Big fenced yard ideal. Needs a confident experienced handler. Text or call Drew 410-707-4966. Ophrescue.org



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Senior Living

Giving Up the Car Keys? Recognizing warning signs that it might be time to stop driving.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Tracy Palmer didn't see the accident, but she received a frantic call that every parent dreads: her 11-year-old son had been hit by a car.

"We were on vacation visiting my brother and I'd gone to get coffee and my phone rang," she said. "My brother told that an 82-year old woman hit my son while he and a few of his cousins were sitting just off the driveway drawing with chalk. She never saw the kids and when she hit my son she thought she'd hit a ball, so she kept going. Thank God one of the neighbors saw it and stopped her."

After eight days in the intensive care unit, Palmer's son is on the mend, but Palmer who works as an attorney in Arlington, however, is furious that the elderly driver was allowed behind the wheel of a car in the first place.

Monitoring one's driving abilities is an essential part of our overall healthcare, especially as one ages. "There's no cutoff age for when a person should stop driving. But as we age, our joints can become stiff, our reflexes slow down and our ability to make split-second judgement calls or stop on a dime can become impaired," said Dana Kilgore, MSPT. "Our bodies also become more frail as we age, so the impact of a car accident would probably do more harm to a 85-year old than a 25-year old."

It is important for seniors and their families to pay close attention to the warning signs that it's time to reduce one's driving or stop it all together, says psychologist Donna Goldstein, Psy.D. "If you notice an increased number scratches or dents on that mom or dad's car, especially if they've always been a good driver, that could be an indicator," she said. "Getting traffic tickets, getting lost frequently, running stop signs

or traffic lights, those are all signs that it might be time to leave the driving to someone else."

Accepting the fact that it's time to stop driving can be difficult. "A driver's license isn't just a plastic card with a bad picture that you keep in your wallet," said Lisa Dombo, LPC, Ed.D, a marriage and family therapist in McLean. "It means freedom and independence. It's hard for anyone to want to give that up. That's one of the reasons why it can be so hard for people to convince someone that they need to stop driving."

That is a lesson that Naomi O'Conner learned one weekend this winter when she made plans with friends to take in a designer sample sale that was happening about two-miles from her house. Her 86-year old mother had agreed to babysit her 7 and 9-year old children. But the weather took a frosty turn and threw her plans into a tailspin.

"My mom lives a mile away from me and has always been my most dependable back-up babysitter for weeknights, but when the snow started falling, I knew that I could not let her get on the road in that weather," said O'Conner who lives in Bethesda. "It was for her safety and everybody else who'd be on road. Unfortunately, she kept insisting that

she would be fine and even became a little peeved that I was suggesting that she was too old. Too keep her off the road, I had to concoct a story about one of my friends getting sick and canceling the plans."

The thought of suggesting to a loved one that it's time to give up their car keys can be daunting. Dombo says that there are steps that one can take to make such a conversation less intimidating. "This is a very sensitive issue for many people because it means dramatic change in lifestyle and having less control over ourselves," she said. "It's important to be respectful and not talk to them like they are a child. Give specific examples instead of making general statements and try not to have the conversation alone. It's usually more effective to have the conversation with a group of family members."

Demonstrating an understand of the what reduced driving means is also important, suggests Goldstein. "You must show empathy," she said. "This type of transition can lead to depression for some seniors. Offering alternatives like gift certificates for cab rides or Uber or Lyft can be good. Coming up with a plan to remain socially active and to run errands and get to doctor's appointments. But this type of life transition is not easy, but it is possible to live a rich, full life without a car."

"... a very sensitive issue for many people because it means dramatic change in lifestyle and having less control over ourselves."

— Lisa Dombo, LPC, Ed.D

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2021 Programs

Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 7:30 p.m.

The governing board and staff of the McLean Community Center seek **input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at a Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2021 (which runs July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021).

This is an opportunity for residents to suggest class offerings, community events, theater programs, art exhibits, tours, youth events and teen activities that are meaningful to the community.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You may also submit comments in writing to holly.novak@fairfaxcounty.gov.



The McLean Community Center
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CALENDAR

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

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Foreign-Language Film. 1 p.m. At The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. Come enjoy foreign films selected by The Alden staff, then stay after for a discussion backstage in The Alden's green room. All movies are shown in the original language with English subtitles. Foreign-language films will be shown at 1 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month through May. These movies are chosen for adult audiences and may contain mature content, language and themes. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series. 6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Nicholas Quardokus, Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Parish in Washington, D.C., the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hor d'oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Movie Screening: "Angst." 7-8:30 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join the Safe Community Coalition and Langley High School PTSA for a showing of "Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety." Free. Recommended for 6th grade and up. Email gina@stationwagon.com for more.

Burke Historical Society Speaker. 7:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Mary Lipsey will share stories from her latest book, *Aviation: From Curiosity to Reality*. Learn about the early years of flight and some of the less-remembered pioneers. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 1-3

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

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Maple Syrup Fresh from the Trees. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See sap dripping into collection pails on the trees, and discover the surprising amount of sap it takes to make just a little syrup. Taste the combination of maple syrup over cornbread made from the mill's cornmeal, while supplies last. \$5 per person for visitors age 3-adult. No reservations are required. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Winter Concerts: Al Petteway & Amy White. 4 and 6 p.m. seatings at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 30th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission; \$12 children.



Live Music: Rebecca Loebe

Before signing her first record deal last year, Loebe had made her national television debut on the first season of *The Voice*. Catch Loebe in concert with her full band as she celebrates the release of her fifth studio album *Give Up Your Ghosts*. Sunday, March 3, 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.



House of Hamill: Brian Buchanan and Rose Baldino

Live Music: House of Hamill

Maggiano's Concert Series will present an early St. Patrick's Day performance with national touring artists, House of Hamill. Area audiences may recognize Brian Buchanan, a front man with the Toronto-based Celtic folk-rockers, Enter the Haggis. Buchanan's musical partner for this duo project is Rose Baldino, a fiddler, vocalist, and former bandleader of the Celtic folk band, Burning Bridget Cleary. Baldino and Buchanan launched House of Hamill in 2015. The couple was married in 2017 and they began touring nationally. Thursday, March 7 at Maggiano's Little Italy - Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Showtime is 7 p.m. with the option of a pre-concert early admission experience at 6. 18 and older. \$25-\$45. Call 703-893-5810 or reserve tickets at www.eventbrite.com (search House of Hamill).

Live Music: Rebecca Loebe. 7 p.m. at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Catch Loebe in concert with her full band as she celebrates the release of her fifth studio album *Give Up Your Ghosts*. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com for more.

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Mah Jongg Lessons. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Three-session Mah Jongg class for beginners taught by Iva Gresko. Plan to attend all three sessions (March 7, 14, 21). Enrollment is limited. \$85, includes nine hours of lessons and

includes the 2018 National Mah Jongg League Playing Card. To register, send a check made out to WoTRS to Iva Gresko, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Include your email address, home address, and home and cell phone numbers. Your check is your registration. Contact Iva Gresko 703-532-2217.

Live Music: House of Hamill. 7 p.m. at Maggiano's Little Italy - Tysons Corner, 2001 International Drive, McLean. Maggiano's Concert Series will present an early St. Patrick's Day performance with national touring artists, House of Hamill. Showtime is

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 9

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

7 p.m. with the option of a pre-concert early admission experience at 6. 18 and older. \$25-\$45. Call 703-893-5810 or reserve tickets at www.eventbrite.com (search House of Hamill).

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 7-9

Oleanna. 8-10 p.m. At the Italian Cafe. 7161 Lee Highway, Falls Church. "Oleanna" – The Providence Players, in partnership with the Italian Caf restaurant in Falls Church, perform a special theater engagement of David Mamet's *Oleanna*. Originally staged during the aftermath of the Anita Hill hearings, David Mamet's 1992 *Oleanna* electrified and enraged audiences and was described as "a buzz saw of gender, sex, and power". *Oleanna* takes on new life in the #metoo movement and the power of this production will be enhanced by the intimate setting of the Italian Caf restaurant itself. Cost is \$10. Visit the website: www.providenceplayers.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Be My Neighbor? 7:30-10:30 p.m. At Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Movie Night: *Won't You Be My Neighbor?* Join Unity of Fairfax on the second Friday of the month for mindful movies. "Won't You Be My Neighbor?" is a documentary about the lasting legacy of Mister Fred Rogers. Free. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mystical-movie-night-wont-you-be-my-neighbor-tickets-57048925873>

SUNDAY/MARCH 10

Washington Saxophone Quartet. 4 p.m. At Saint Francis Episcopal Church, 9220 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets are \$40 and may be purchased at the door or online at <http://www.amadeusconcerts.com>. Students 17 and under and active military are admitted free of charge. A pre-concert lecture by Music Director A. Scott Wood will begin at 3:15 p.m. A reception will follow the concert, at which attendees may meet and chat with the performers and fellow music lovers.

Winter Concerts: Beth Patterson. 4 and 6 p.m. seatings at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. The Old Brogue Irish Pub of Great Falls and Barnaby Productions, Inc. present the 30th season of family friendly, Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts performed in a listening room by the fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission; \$12 children. Visit www.oldbrogue.com or call the Old Brogue at 703-759-3309.

MONDAY/MARCH 11

Internet and Net Neutrality. 7-8:30 p.m. At Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Free. In 2017, the FCC decided to eliminate open Internet access, firing widespread speculation about whether this would result in an Internet lacking in rules and consumer protections. Hear about the debate, how the FCC's action will affect Internet users, and what happens next. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4708859>

SCOV Lunch n Life. At Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Cost: \$15/person payment due by March 4, 2019. RSVP to SCOV_office@scov.org – 703-281-0538.



Gazebo on the Green, by Robert Gilbert

'Near and Far' Exhibit to Open at TD Bank

Robert Gilbert, a local artist, will have a small solo exhibit of his watercolors at the TD Bank in Great Falls (9901 Georgetown Pike). The title of the exhibit is "Near and Far." The paintings are hanging in

the quiet, professional looking lobby out of the traffic flow from the front entry. The paintings are watercolors of two local scenes and two of New York. They are framed and priced at \$350 each. The exhibit runs from March 6 to April 5.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 13

Movie Series: New Disney Classics. 12:30 p.m. at The Alden Community Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is kicking off a new film

series with "new Disney Classics" – those that were loved during the 1990s. The films will be shown at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month through June. Free admission. Visit mcleancenter.org/performing-arts for more.

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The McLean Traveler



2019 Philadelphia Flower Show
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\$138/\$133 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip

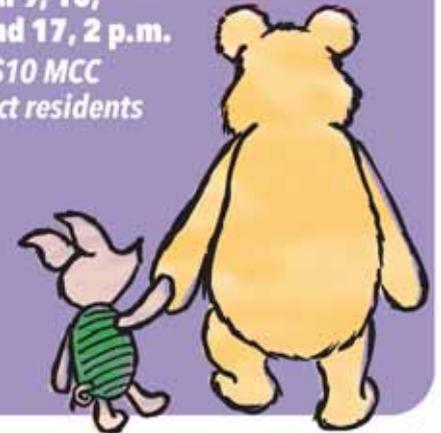


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\$45/\$35 OFC Members

Alden Spring Production



"Winnie the Pooh"
Saturdays and Sundays
March 9, 10, 16 and 17, 2 p.m.
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Presented by The Alden



"Brush Up Your Shakespeare"
Wednesday, March 13, 7 p.m.
\$7/\$5 MCC district residents



GLOW PARTY

The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party
Friday, March 15, 7-9 p.m.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents
Preregistration is highly recommended.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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Announcements

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Government contractor seek individual to assist in the processing of accounts payable vouchers with data entry, copying and filing. Part-time position, 10-20 hours a week, M-F between the hours 8am to 2pm. Requirements are bookkeeping experience, very detail oriented, able to handle staff and customer emails, ability to work independently, as team member and interact professionally. Familiar with accounting system or ability to learn accounting system. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Outlook, and internet. Fairfax, VA location near Merrifield Post Office. Email resume and contact information to Sandra King at sking@mcking.com.

Announcements

NEWS

New Girls on the Block

Scouts BSA opens up new opportunity to girls.

BY JOHN FOONG,
TROOP 159, POWHATAN DISTRICT, BSA

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Assistant Scoutmaster Karen Downs helps Scouts sort through the troop's cooking supplies.

This was anything but your typical Scout meeting. A group gathered around a table, and an unmistakable excitement in the air. Chatter filled the room about uniforms, supplies, upcoming outings and more, with an optimism and energy that seemed hard to find today. This is Troop 7, a Scouts BSA all-girls troop and one of the first in the Powhatan district. The official program with Scouts BSA girls' troops started on Feb.1, although the troop's members were moving long before that. The BSA has been a boys-only Troops and Packs option for the longest time- although Venture Crews and Explorer Posts have allowed girls for decades. That begs the question; what's the difference between a Scouts BSA boys' troop and Scouts BSA girls' troop? And what does this accomplish?

Troop 7 Scoutmaster Steve Conner has served in BSA Scouting for 14 years. He believes that the move to allow girls to participate in Scouts BSA Troops was nothing but positive. "I wanted to be a part of forging this path forward and give... the same opportunities that were afforded to my son and the millions of boys who have had the privilege of being part of BSA." Conner said. He initially thought a Scouts BSA girls' troop would struggle to gain acceptance in the community, but Troop 7 has had a

positive response from other Scouts and the community at large.

These newfound opportunities for girls are making waves in the area, and Troop 7 is already 16 Scouts strong. According to Sarah E.- a student from Navy Elementary School and one of these new recruits - observing what her brother had learned in Scouts "intrigued her... it was an opportunity to learn wilderness and life skills." Another Scout, Melissa,

SEE SCOUTS BSA, PAGE 11

Employment

QUANTITATIVE ANALYTICS AND MODEL DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc. seeks a Quantitative Analytics and Model Development Consultant in Tysons Corner, VA to participate in all aspects of model validation activities. Specific duties include: (i) work with Model Owners and Specialists and independently perform validations of high impact models in compliance with OCC 2011-12 and PNC's Model Validation Policy and Guidelines; (ii) as member of the Model Risk Management Group (MRMG), provide oversight and execution to the model validation activities; (iii) collect data and assumptions used in models, including model output, in preparation for model validation; (iv) conduct robust and comprehensive model validation testing and analysis in accordance with PNC's Model Validation Policy and Guidelines; (v) document and present model validation results to the head of the MRMG; and (vi) provide support/analysis on anti-money laundering models.

Master's degree in Quantitative Finance, Statistics, Statistical Practice, Economics, Business or Mathematics plus 4 years of experience in a position requiring quantitative financial modeling or validation is required. Experience must include: (i) credit risk analysis, loss/revenue forecasting, and/or capital calculation; (ii) working with a financial services firm/organization focusing on analytic and modeling applications; (iii) SAS, R, VBA and Matlab for statistical modeling, simulation and large data set manipulation (data sets involving large numbers of records (>10MM) or variables (>100)); (iv) developing testing methodologies and creating working papers; (v) evaluating and tuning AML transaction monitoring systems; (vi) model development/validation for stress testing (CCAR/DFAST, etc) purposes; and (vii) experience applying FRB SR 11-7 (OCC 2011-12). Must have knowledge of modeling methodologies and designs and the impact of models on business decision-making.

40 hours/week, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Interested individuals apply online at www.pnc.com using keyword 308175BR. PNC provides equal employment opportunity to qualified persons regardless of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, veteran status, or other categories protected by law.

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BULLETIN BOARD

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

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:

- ❖ Take a short five-question online survey
- ❖ Join a community conversation in person: March 6 - Falls Church.
- ❖ Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

FRIDAY/MARCH 1

Technology Fridays in March. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, Entrance 1, Room 100. Join the Parent Resource Center for this series of technology workshops presented by FCPS Assistive Technology Services. Register for one or all of the workshops. Explore a variety of technology tools to support student success and independence with reading and writing in the digital classroom and at home. Register at www.fcps.edu/index.php/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center. Call 703-204-3941 or email prc@fcps.edu for more.

- ❖ March 1 - Technology to Support Reading and Writing: Encouraging Independence and Student Success
- ❖ March 8 - Exploring Early Childhood AT Home: Assistive Technology for Preschool
- ❖ March 15 - Technology Tools to Support Executive Functioning
- ❖ March 22 - Assistive Technology to Support Communication

Scouts BSA

FROM PAGE 10

was already a Venturer but was attracted to what the previously boys-only program could offer her, and the chance to interact with Scouts of different ages as peers. Despite being a South Lakes HS senior, she is aiming for the challenge of Eagle Scout. The requirements are the same for boys and girls, but there is a temporary transition rule available to newly joined youth over 16 years old that gives them a time extension to earn their Eagle.

Even with the overwhelming response, Scouts BSA Troop 7 is still open for new Scouts to join. For those interested, there is an opportunity to find out for themselves. The troop has a 30-minute welcoming event on Thursday, March 7 at 7 p.m. in Floris United Methodist Church, where you can meet the girls who make up Troop 7 and practice basic Scouting skills.

In the time it took you to read this article, the troop's girls had unpacked several crates' worth of cooking supplies. Gaby, a student at Franklin Middle School and the troop's Quartermaster, took the lead directing the others in sorting the piles of pots and utensils - a sign of what was in store for the Scouts, and the excitement fueling them. The journey they would undergo on the trail to Eagle would be long and arduous, but it was clear that they were going to make the most of their chance.

More information about Scouts BSA Troop 7 can be found at www.Troop7va.org. To join or find a troop in your neighborhood, please visit <https://BeAScout.org>.

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The Following is a Test



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Although you can adjust your television set, it's probably wise to have juiced the battery in your cellular phone. Better still, use your landline - if you have one - thereby preventing a dropped call right in the middle of your interminable hold. Because the call you're about to make - to a government office - is likely not going to be made to the correct number or the correct person or at the correct time or even to the correct department.

And should you be lucky enough to reach an actual person with your call, the explanation for your call/the problem you're attempting to resolve, will no doubt result in a transfer which most likely will not be to the correct number, the correct person, at the correct time or even to the correct department.

Unfortunately, after perusing the government's website, you're just not smart enough to figure out exactly what number you're supposed to call. (Is anyone that smart?) And therefore you are likely going to experience this loop-de-loop - without the upset stomach.

And what makes your attempt even worse? Hanging up, since your call might be "answered in the order in which it was received."

Now presuming/assuming that a less-than-immediate solution will not be at hand, there are a few steps one should take in preparation to not make a bad situation worse:

* Allow for plenty of time. Do not make this call when you're in a hurry, on break/at lunch or have a limited window of opportunity to complete your task. You will need to be in for the long haul, so to speak.

* Try to make this call when you're able to sit/stand comfortably - for long periods of time. Moreover, make sure you have the privacy you need so that anything you say will not be heard (or held against you in a court of law) and any movements your body makes will likewise not be seen.

There's something about being stuck on the phone for long periods of time waiting, waiting, waiting; talking, talking, talking; hoping (you'll note I didn't say expecting) to reach the right person and/or resolve the problem/get the answer which prompted the call in the first place, which rarely brings out the best in the person on hold. Quite frankly, it's been my personal experience that it brings out the worst.

In addition to having the time and the place, one must also have the patience. That patience comes from proper preparation. And by "proper preparation" I mean the creature comforts: food, water and access to a bathroom.

The order really should be reversed with bathroom access first and foremost. Being uncomfortable, shall we say, after finding the time and place, and then making the effort to navigate the government's website looking for the proper person, phone number, department and then in the midst of any success you might have accomplishing this Herculean feat, to have that very personal need interrupt the proceedings is the definition of poor planning.

Common sense has to prevail or the consequences may be dire; you might have to start your calling process all over again. I wouldn't wish that on any one.

There is no greater satisfaction than surviving making one of these calls, and having done so because you put all of your adult Boy Scout skills to work. There really should be badge of honor one can earn after completing this dreaded and arduous task.

In fact, there should be some kind of reward. Although I imagine reaching nirvana (not listening to Nirvana) is its own reward.

Nevertheless, having survived the ordeal and endured the suffering for as many minutes as I care not to remember, I can say with absolute certainty, it's a hell of a feeling. I wish you all well in your next pursuit of truth and justice despite the American Way.

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

A Hollywood Writer's Dream Comes True

Vienna's Nayna Agrawal wins spot in Disney-ABC Television 2019 Writing Program.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Nayna Agrawal, who grew up in Vienna and now lives in Los Angeles, was selected as one of eight scribes in the Disney-ABC Television 2019 Writing Program for comedy from a pool of several thousand writers who applied.

"The program is so prestigious; it's really regarded as the Holy Grail in Hollywood of getting your foot in the door and having your work recognized. It's the Jackpot of building your name, your portfolio and your sense of identity as a writer in Hollywood," she said. "When I first learned that I won the award, I was driving; I had to pull over my car and just scream for 20 seconds because it was a dream come true."

Created in 1990 with the Writers Guild of America West, the Disney-ABC program's goal is to help participants secure their first staffing assignments via a Disney-ABC Television series. While staff jobs are not guaranteed, program organizers say they have a nearly 100 percent hiring rate.

Nayna started the program two weeks ago and will be getting a \$50,000 salary through February 2020, during which time she'll be working on building her portfolio and network as well as honing her writing voice.

Other Hollywood studios have similar writing programs, including CBS, FOX, and NBC, with the promise that participants may be a staff writer on a TV show.

PAST PROGRAM ACTIVITIES have included: workshops led by veteran TV writers, producers and program alumni; improvisational workshops; and networking mixers with executives. The program also provides engagement with executives, producers and literary representatives, designed to build relationships that can prove invaluable in developing a TV writing career. Nayna is currently waiting to see what show she'll be writing for.

To enter, Nayna had to submit two scripts. The first was an original pilot that she created for a series called "American Pia." She said: "It was about my time living with a xenophobic family in Santa Clarita, Calif." She worked on it for six months and it went through about six revisions, as well as getting noticed at the New York Television Festival, which helped land her an agent, she said.

For the second part, she wrote a "spec" for a current show on the FX Network called "Better Things." She said: "So, a spec is when you show you can mimic the voice, the structure, and the spirit of the show so that someone who is hiring the writer can



"When I first learned that I won the award, I was driving; I had to pull over my car and just scream for 20 seconds because it was a dream come true."

—Nayna Agrawal

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

say this person gets how the show works." In addition, there were interviews; she did a pitch, she wrote a personal essay and had recommendations as well.

So, what inspires her with her writing? She said: "I would say what inspires me to write is giving agency to voices, to stories, to issues that are often overlooked. I think writing about mental health and the Asian immigrant communities is something that is very important to me," she said. In addition, what also inspires her is her "personal identity (she's Indian), fighting against the identities that are imposed on us by society, by our families, our culture and social standing," she said.

NAYNA grew up in Vienna, the daughter of B.P. and Vimal Agrawal who are Indian immigrants. She attended James Madison High School and the University of Virginia where she studied engineering and economics. She got her Master's degree in stage and screen writing at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. She moved to Los Angeles in May 2015 after having worked as an international aid director and investment analyst.

"In 2013, I decided to switch careers. It was really scary," she said. "It was really exciting and I'm so grateful that I bet on myself. It was incredibly hard but I'm the happiest I've ever been professionally."

WEEK IN VIENNA

Hunter Mill District to Hold Town Hall on the Budget

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins will be hosting the annual Hunter Mill District Town Hall on the Budget, Saturday, March 2 at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. County Executive Bryan Hill, County Staff and staff from Fairfax County Public Schools will be presenting the Fairfax County FY2020 Budget Proposal and Fairfax County Public Schools proposed budget.

Come early for coffee at 8:30 a.m. with presentations beginning at 9 a.m. Questions and answer session will follow the presentations.

Afterwards, stick around and take a tour of the farm and visit with this year's new baby animals. There's always something new on the farm!

Presentation on Women Winning the Right to Vote

The Vienna Area Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) will host a speaker event Saturday, March 9, at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:30. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The public is invited. Free. Co-sponsored by Patrick Henry Library.

Leigh Kitcher, board member of Historic Vienna Inc., discusses how women won the right to vote. Discussion and exhibits of the 1917 events when women picketing the White House were arrested, beaten, and force-fed.

AAUW is the nation's leading voice promoting equity and education for women and girls. Founded in 1881, AAUW members examine and take positions on the fundamental issues of the day—educational, social, economic, and political. For more information: <https://vienna-va.aauw.net/>

Colbert King to Talk About 1950s Civil Right Issues

Colbert King is coming to Vienna to talk about 1950s civil rights issues. A Pulitzer Prize winning Washington Post journalist will speak at the Historic Vienna Inc meeting on March 12 at 7:30 in the Town Council Chamber of Vienna's Town Hall, 127 Center Street, South, 22180. Mr. King's talk is in connection with HVI's new exhibit "Vienna in the 1950s". He will also reflect on current topics. Refreshments will be served. The meeting is free and open to the public.

Oakcrest to Present Research at Annual Spanish, Portuguese Teachers Conference

Oakcrest has announced that research conducted by its Advanced Placement Spanish class has been accepted for the annual conference of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (AATSP). Four of Oakcrest's AP Spanish students will attend the 2019 conference in San Diego from July 8-11.

Dr. Sheri Long, Executive Director of AATSP, states, "We are delighted that the Oakcrest students of Spanish will be with us in July at the AATSP annual conference. To the best of my knowledge, the four high school students from Oakcrest will be the first secondary students to co-present with their instructor at our conference in the AATSP's history."

The AP Spanish students' research delves into a subfield of linguistics called heritage language pedagogy and acquisition. After thoroughly reviewing college-level linguistic material, reading academic articles, attending a graduate-level seminar, and examining the language profiles of both Latin and Spanish students, Oakcrest students developed their own unique project.

"This will not only be an amazing opportunity for them to grow as individu-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Four Oakcrest AP Spanish students will attend this year's AATSP conference.

als in their professional careers, but it also opens a door to high schools everywhere to promote high-level academic research and to submit proposals to present at these distinguished conferences," says Dr. Celia Zamora, Oakcrest's Master Teacher of Foreign Languages.

Learn more at Oakcrest.org.