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and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Allyson McGill of Vienna shares this photo of Tiki in his Hawaiian shirt – a friend brought this back for him when she went there on vacation.



Grateful for Tiki

PET CONNECTION, PAGE 7

County Budget:
New Kids in Town
NEWS, PAGE 3

Oakton Boys Win
Concorde District Final
SPORTS, PAGE 9

Inside
PET CONNECTION

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NEWS

New Kids in Town

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

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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



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

Dranesville Supervisor John Foust said, "the size of the increase, obviously a concern."

"Every budget has two sides; you have

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

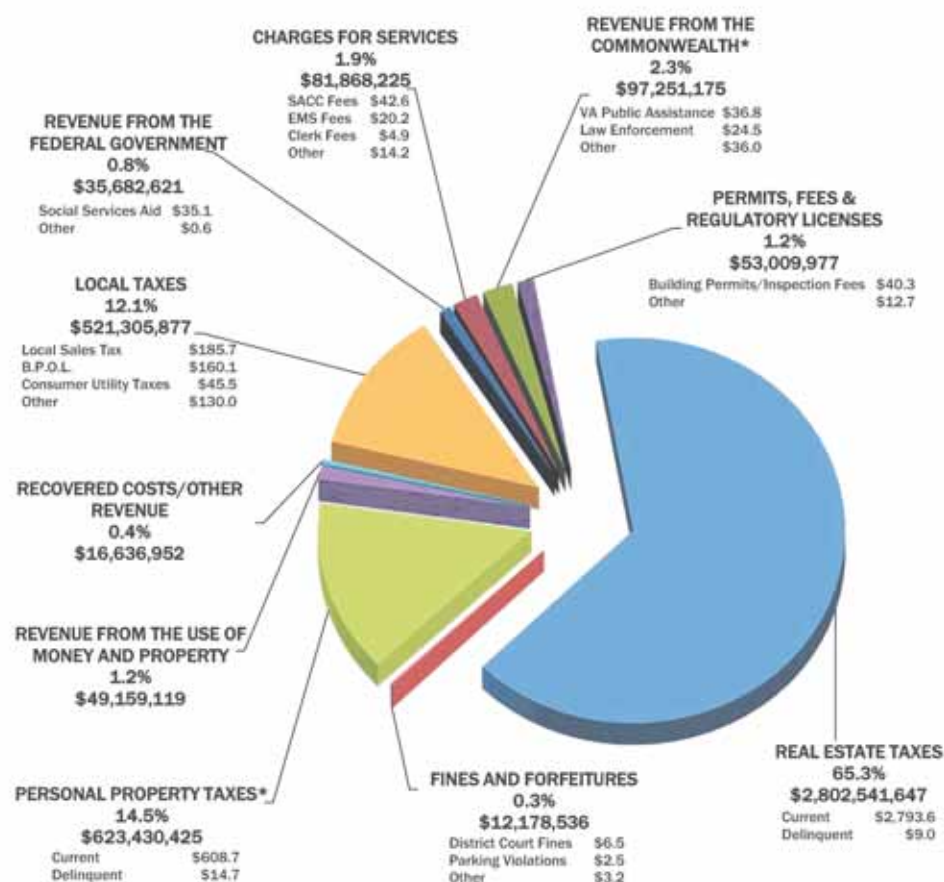
SEE COUNTY, PAGE 12

FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND RECEIPTS

"WHERE IT COMES FROM"

(Subcategories in millions)



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

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

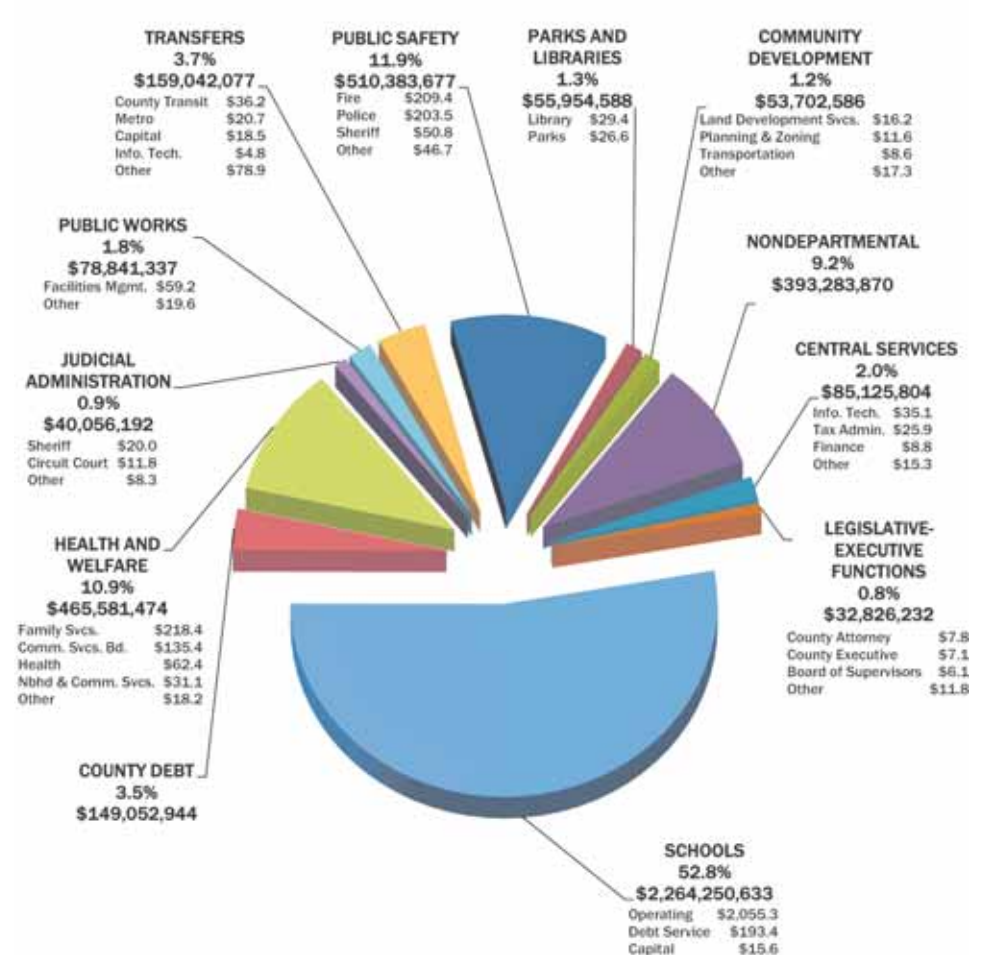
** Total County resources used to support the budget include the revenues shown here, as well as a beginning balance and transfers in from other funds.

FY 2019 ADVERTISED BUDGET PLAN

GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS

"WHERE IT GOES"

(Subcategories in millions)



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

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

Vienna Police Department Welcomes New Officer

On Feb. 19, Officer Brent A. Deloach joined the Town of Vienna Police Department. Prior to joining the department, Deloach served with the City of Chesapeake Police Department for approximately 3 1/2 years, where he worked in patrol, Vice Narcotics Task Force and he was part of the honor guard. Deloach was born in Memphis, Tenn., but grew up in Detroit, Mich. In 2009, he joined the Marines and served for six

years until he was honorably discharged and began his career in law enforcement with the City of Chesapeake Police Department. Deloach is anxiously awaiting the birth of his first child. An avid athlete, Deloach played college hockey at Becker College in Massachusetts. He was signed by the Norfolk Admirals and played on a semi-professional league. He enjoys the outdoors, spending time with friends and staying active.



Officer Brent A. Deloach with his badge presentation by Col. James Morris.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

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 Feb. 16-22, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Fraud – 1000 Block of Lynn Street SW, Oct. 29, 2017, 12 p.m. A resident reported he was defrauded by a contractor.

Fraud – Northwest Federal Credit Union, 231 Maple Ave. E, Between Feb. 5, 12 p.m. and Feb. 7, 12 p.m. A citizen reported that he received fraudulent payments on his bank account from sales he made online.

Suspicious Event – Northwest Federal Credit Union, 231 Maple Ave. E, Feb. 8, 12 a.m. A citizen reported that someone attempted to fraudulently withdraw money from his bank account.

Suspicious Event – BB&T, 260 Cedar Lane, SE, Feb. 9 between 8 a.m. and 12 p.m. A customer reported a suspicious event that took place at the business.

Fraud – Northwest Federal Credit Union, 231 Maple Ave. E, between Feb. 11, 7:45 p.m. and Feb. 15, 8:30 p.m. An employee reported that a suspect took money fraudulently out of the ATM.

Suspicious Event – Assal Market, 112 Glyndon St., NE, Feb. 15 between 11:30 a.m. and 11:36 a.m. A customer reported a suspicious event at the business.

Trespassing – 400 Block of Yeonas Drive, SW, between Feb. 15, 12 p.m. and Feb. 20, 12 p.m. A resident reported that someone had trespassed into their property.

Assist Fire/EMS – 1000 Block of Pickett Place, SW, Feb. 16, 11:18 a.m. A citizen requested an ambulance. The citizen was transported to a local hospital.

Suspicious Event – Park Street SE / Locust Street SE Feb. 17, 12:30 p.m. A driver reported an incident with another driver.

Arrest – Driving While Intoxicated - 338 Maple Ave., W, Feb. 17, 3:14 a.m. While on routine patrol Officer Reedy observed a vehicle with significant damage to the passenger side and sparks shooting out from the front passenger's side wheel because it was riding on the metal rim. Officer Reedy initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle. While talking with the driver Officer Reedy detected the odor of alcoholic beverage coming from his person and observed many signs of impairment. After failing all sobriety tests and the preliminary breath test, the subject was arrested for DWI. The 26-year-old man from Perry Trailer Park Road in Mount Jackson, Va. was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. A warrant for driving while intoxicated was issued and served. The man was remanded to the custody of the Fairfax County Deputies.

Trespassing – Michel Rene Building, 165 Maple Ave., E, Feb. 17, 3:53 p.m. A citizen requested assistance with a trespassing. A person was officially trespassed from the property.

Death Unknown Cause – 900 Block of Meadow Lane, SW, Feb. 19 between 9:30 a.m. and 12 p.m. Officers responded to a residence to assist paramedics with a non-responsive person. The person was given CPR on scene and transported to a hospital. The person was later pronounced dead at the hospital. This case is being investigated.

Suspicious Person – Southside Park, 1315 Ross Drive, SW, Feb. 19, 1:54 p.m. A citizen reported a suspicious event that occurred at the park.

Emotionally Disturbed Person – 200 Block of Locust Street, SE, between Feb. 19 10:22 p.m. and Feb. 20 10:22 p.m. Several citizens requested a welfare check on a homeless woman in the area.

SEE POLICE, PAGE 5

FREEMAN'S INVITATION TO CONSIGN



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Freeman's fine art specialists will be in the Washington D.C. area the week of March 5. We are currently seeking consignments of:

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Above:
Childe Hassam (American 1859-1935)
"The Norwegian Cottage" (detail)
Sold for \$242,500

Below:
Lynn Chadwick (British, 1914-2003)
"Maquette Jubilee II"
Sold for \$466,000

NEWS

Senior Volunteers Recognized

Under the auspices of Volunteer Fairfax, RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) matches people 55 or older with volunteer organizations and opportunities in their communities. And on Wednesday, March 7, from noon-2 p.m., a recognition picnic honoring senior volunteerism will be held at the Filene Center at Wolf

Trap National Park for the Performing Arts.

There'll be a free lunch and behind-the-scenes tours of the Filene Center. This event is open to all current RSVP volunteers and anyone 55 or older interested in becoming an RSVP volunteer. In case of inclement weather, the lunch will be held indoors at Wolf Trap. To register, call Carly Hubicki at 703-403-5360 or go to the sign-up link at www.rsvpnova.org.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

FROM PAGE 4

Officers checked on the woman, contacted her family and explained her current situation. Juvenile – Cedar Lane School, 101 Cedar Lane, SW, Feb. 20 between 8:10 a.m. and 8:24 a.m. An employee requested a police officer to officially document an incident that happened at the school.

Juvenile – Cedar Lane School, 101 Cedar Lane, SW, Feb. 21, 10:34 a.m. An employee requested a police officer to officially document an incident that happened at the school.

Trespassing – 400 Block of Yeonas Drive SW Feb. 21, 7 p.m. A resident trespassed a neighbor from their property.

Suspicious Event – Posh, 419 Maple Ave., E, between Feb. 19, 8 p.m. and Feb. 21, 9:30 a.m. The employee reported that someone vandalized the front of the business.

Suspicious Event – W&OD Trail, Feb.

21 9:26 a.m. A citizen reported some found property. Suspicious Person – Northwest Federal Credit Union, 231 Maple Ave. E, Feb. 21 between 8 and 8:10 p.m. A citizen reported a suspicious person.

Solicitor – Skorpis Maggio's, 421 Maple Ave., E, Feb. 22, 10:03 a.m. A citizen reported that a person was selling makeup without a permit. Officers located the subject, advised the person of the violation and to leave the property.

CRASHES

Hit and Run – 408 Druid Hill Road, Feb. 12, 10:30 a.m. Vehicle #1 was legally parked in front of 408 Druid Hill Road. Sometime between 10 and 10:30, a vehicle sideswiped vehicle #1 and fled in an unknown direction. There was red paint transfer on Vehicle #1. The town has assigned Vehicle #1 with their identification number of truck #71.

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OPINION

Hope for Expanding Health Care

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

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

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

\$400 million is a lot of money.

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

EDITORIAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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



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

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Bulova: Fantasy — To Adopt Office Pet

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

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

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

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

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

and well-tended animals.

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

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

Vienna & Oakton CONNECTION

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PET CONNECTION



Bilingual Friend

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"He's special because he's my best friend!" Bruce's owner and McLean resident, Livia, said when asked about her dog. Bruce also is bilingual and understands Italian and English.



Tiki in his Hawaiian shirt – a friend brought this back for him when she went there on vacation.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Tiki in his new plaid coat.

Grateful for Tiki

I am passionate about animals. Growing up, we weren't allowed to have dogs (we were apartment dwellers), but we had many cats, whom we adored.

When I got married in 1990, I married the love of my life. One problem: He was allergic to everything (ok, I had a hermit crab, and our daughter had fish and a chameleon when she was young).

The only thing that kept me sane was that my sister lives nearby and has four cats – including one sweetheart whom we adopted in July 2009 from Best Friends Animal Sanctuary in Kenab, Utah.

But the pet I am sending you today is our dog. About five years ago, my husband went gluten free and began noticing an improvement in his seasonal

allergies. Two years ago last August, he visited friends who have Bichons, and he stayed over – and no reaction!

Bless his heart, he came home and told me – and so, we now have our wonderful, sweet, adorable, smart pup! Tiki brings us such joy! We are both retired and working new careers out of the home, so we are home most of the time and have built a strong bond with our little guy. I am grateful every day for Tiki, no exaggeration.

Thank you for letting me tell you our story.

And, oh, we're all pretty excited that this year's Best Dog in Show at Westminster is a Bichon!

– ALLYSON MCGILL AND TIKI, VIENNA



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



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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

“Jazz It Up!” Through March 3, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Art exhibit. Free and open to the public. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

“The Farnsworth Invention.” Through March 11, Thursdays-Sundays, various times at 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. In 1929, two ambitious visionaries race against each other to invent a device called “television.” \$33 general admission, \$30 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Purchase at www.1ststage.org or 703-854-1856.

Art Exhibit. Through April 7 at Village Green Shopping Center, 513 Maple Ave. NW, Vienna. Vienna Arts Society presents First 100 Weeks, paintings by Deborah Schneider. Free and open to the public. 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.

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

Free Tai Chi. Every Saturday, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners’ Practice, meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave. in McLean Central Park, McLean. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

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

MCC Summer Camps. Plan now to register children for MCC’s enriching summer camp programs for children ages 3 through 18. Summer Camp Registration begins Monday, Feb. 5, for MCC district residents and Monday, Feb. 12, for all others. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 2-3

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 2

Intro to Djembe Drumming. 7-8:30 p.m. at the Old Firehouse Teen Center 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Join The Alden and master artist Kofi Dennis for an introductory to djembe drumming skills and improvisation. Play as a group in a community drum circle. This class is designed for children age 8 and older and it is recommended that families participate together. \$15/\$10 for MCC tax district residents. \$7 each additional person/\$5 MCC district residents. Fee includes admission and



Nora Jane Struthers

On stage at Jammin’ Java on Saturday, March 3, Nora Jane Struthers supports her new album *Champion*. The 13-song collection is the follow-up to 2015’s *Wake*, which earned Struthers acclaim from major outlets like NPR Music, Rolling Stone Country, and “Fresh Air.” Struthers wrote and recorded the album with her longtime road band the Party Line. 7 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave., Vienna. Call 877-987-6487 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

drum rental for the event. 3053.318. Visit www.mcleancenter.org/classes-n-trips/classes.

transparent layers and builds the depth of textures shown in her work. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 3

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

SUNDAY/MARCH 4

Doktor Kaboom. 2 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Doktor Kaboom is an over-the-top German physicist with a passion for science that knows no bounds. Sporting chrome goggles, orange lab coat, motorcycle boots and wicked cool hair, Doktor Kaboom travels the world, thrilling adults and children alike with his explosive comedic style of science experiments. For ages 7 and older. \$15/\$10 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org or call 571-296-8385.

Awards Banquet. 2:30 p.m. at the McLean Hilton Hotel, 7920 Jones Branch Drive, McLean. The Executive Board of the Northern Virginia Football Hall of Fame will celebrate their 28th Annual Awards Banquet. Festivities at 2:30 with dinner at 3:30, immediately following. For tickets, call 571-238-3565 or email maryesmail64@gmail.com.

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

MARCH 6-MAY 6

Art Exhibition: “Bon Appetit.” During gallery hours at the Vienna Arts Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Call 703-319-3971 or visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 8

Vienna Arts Society Membership Meeting and Demo. 10:30 a.m. at Vienna Arts Society, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Ruth Ensley will discuss and show how she builds the intensity of watercolor using

MARCH 9-24

“Harvey.” Friday-Saturday, 8-10:30 p.m.; Sundays, 2 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The McLean Community Players will present Mary Chase’s Pulitzer Prize-winning comedy, “Harvey.” Matinees on Sundays, March 11 and 18. \$18-\$20. Email info@McLeanPlayers.org or visit McLeanPlayers.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 10

Spring Bazaar. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at 400 Center St., S., Vienna. Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary presents their spring bazaar, featuring crafts, clothing and home businesses, as well as home baked bake sale, and Fire Department cook books, tumblers and Vera’s Attic table – offering gently loved attic treasures. Email dancers1023@aol.com or call 703-309-3468.

Black History Concert. 3 p.m. at Historic Pleasant Grove, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Historic Pleasant Grove is hosting the acclaimed Washington Revels Jubilee Voices for a free concert celebrating African American musical traditions. This event will take place in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. Visit www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

Artist Reception. 5:30-8 p.m. 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.

SUNDAY/MARCH 11

Winter Traditional Celtic Concerts. 4 and 6 p.m. at The Old Brogue Irish Pub, 760-C Walker Road, Great Falls. Al Petteway and Amy White perform fireside. Tickets must be purchased in advance through the link at oldbrogue.com: \$18 general admission/\$12 children under 12. Season ticket: \$96/\$60 children. Call 703-759-3309.

SPORTS

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR



The Oakton Cougars defeated the Westfield Bulldogs 59-54 to win the Concorde District Championship.

Oakton Boys Wins Concorde District Final

The Oakton Cougars and Westfield Bulldogs met for the Concorde District Championship on Feb. 16 at Chantilly High School. The two teams split the previous two regular season games, with Westfield winning the first 54-47, and Oakton winners of the second game 71-53.

On this night Oakton took home the Concorde District and a 1st round bye in the regional tournament.

Oakton opened the 1st quarter with a slight advantage after the first quarter leading 12-10.

In the 2nd quarter, Westfield would respond scoring 13 points while holding Oakton to just 8 points, and giving the Bulldogs a three point lead at the halfway point of the game, 23-20.

The 3rd quarter saw Oakton cut the Westfield lead to just one point, outscoring the Bulldogs 18-16.

While the Bulldogs would score 15 points in the 4th, the Cougars would score 21 points and give the Cougars a 59-54 victory.

Oakton was led by Micah Johnson-Parrotte with 20 points, Braeden Johnson's 16 and Jake Digby's 13. Westfield was led by Conference player of the Year Jordan Hairston who tallied 24 points. Aaron



Oakton's Jake Digby #32 defends Westfield's Marshall Reed #11.

Opoku added 17.

Both teams will compete in the 6D Regional Tournament. Oakton will have a 1st round bye and host the winner of the Washington-Lee vs Battlefield game. Westfield will host Stonewall Jackson. The other 1st round games will match up Chantilly vs Marshall, McLean vs Osbourn and Herndon vs Madison.



The Concorde District All Conference Team (from left): Aaron Darab (Madison), Kendall McHugh (Chantilly), Braeden Johnson (Oakton), Bryce Douglas (Centreville), Jake Digby (Oakton), Marshall Reed (Westfield), DJ Gregory (Westfield), and Jordan Hairston (Westfield).



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BULLETIN

Celebrating the Persian New Year

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Following 3,000 years of customs and tradi-
tions, the colorful Nowruz Festival — the
Persian New Year celebration — will be held
Sunday, March 18, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6
p.m. at Tysons Corner Center. The free event attracts
20,000 visitors who come for the music, dance, dra-
matic performances, shopping at the Bazaar, and
costumed characters roaming the festival. The festi-
val was previously held at the Reston Town Center
and the John Carlyle Square Park in Alexandria.

Nowruz, which normally falls in early spring, is
when Persian-Americans will join locally to celebrate
the new year. There will be 75 vendors offering jew-
elry, books, artwork, crafts, and other traditional
Persian products. A main stage will be set up that
provides entertainment with 50 musicians, vocalists,
dancers, DJs, artists, costumed characters, and tra-
ditional players. The entertainment begins at 11 a.m.

"Every year more people join this festival," said
organizer Shohreh Asemi. "This year instead of res-
taurants, a variety of food trucks will be present." Asemi
said what's new this year will be Persian and non-Persian
food trucks parked outside. There will also be tents where
children can paint eggs and cards for free. She said last
year's Nowruz Festival was voted Best Cultural Festival for
D.C. by the Washington City Paper's readers.

Why should people attend? "Because it's a fun day
for free," she said. Visitors will be able to watch
"beautiful dances, singers and art on stage, go shop-
ping at the Bazaar, have lunch with family and learn
about a new culture."

THE NOWRUZ FESTIVAL is a family-friendly, fun
event that celebrates life, love and good will. Of all
the Persian national festivals, the New Year celebra-
tions are at once the most important and the most
colorful.

The venue provides a fun place for people to cel-
ebrate with family and friends, to taste Persian food
and enjoy traditional and modern Persian entertain-
ment. Among the traditions is a ceremonial table
called the cloth of seven dishes (each one beginning
with the Persian letter Sin). The symbolic dishes con-
sist of Sabzeh or sprouts, usually wheat or lentil, rep-
resenting rebirth. Another is Samanu or a sweet,
creamy pudding. Another is Seer, which is garlic in
Persian, which represents medicine.

In addition to attracting people from Virginia,
Maryland and the District, organizers hope to attract
international guests from other countries that cel-



**The 2018 Nowruz Festival will be held
Sunday, March 18, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6
p.m. at Tysons Corner Center.**

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY ALI KHALIGH



**The 2018 Nowruz Festival will be held
Sunday, March 18, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6
p.m. at Tysons Corner Center.**

celebrate Nowruz, including Turkey, Afghanistan, and
Tajikistan, among others.

THE GOAL is to share the Nowruz Festival with both
Persians and non-Persians. The event sends out posi-
tive messages, like celebrating earth, spring time, love
and peace to the community. Planners want to bring
different musicians and dancers from other countries
that celebrate Nowruz, as well as new musicians that
offer more variety. They also want to bring different
historical and costumed characters from Persia (like
Haji Firuz, a traditional herald of Nowruz dressed in
a red costume and tambourine) that interacts with
the crowd.

The 2018 Nowruz Festival will be held Sunday,
March 18, 2018, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Tysons
Corner Center, 8100 Tysons Corner Center, McLean.
For more information, visit the website at <http://nowruzfestival.org>. Or contact organizer Shohreh
Asemi at 202-369-1515 or email Shohreh directly at
shohreh@nowruzfestival.org.

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BULLETIN

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

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Child turning 5 years old by Sept.30? If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit www.fcps.edu/registration/kinder-garten-registration.

GOVERNING BOARD CANDIDATES

The McLean Community Center (MCC) is seeking candidates to run for seats on its 2018-2019 Governing Board. A candidate must reside in the Center's tax district (Small District 1A-Dranesville). To have their names placed on election ballots, candidates are required to obtain the signatures of 10 McLean tax district residents in their respective categories (either adult or youth). Three adult positions and two youth positions are open this year. Key Election Dates:

- Friday, March 16: Completed Petition Packets are due at MCC by 5 p.m.
- Monday, March 19: Candidates' Orientation, 7 p.m., The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
- Monday, April 9: Absentee Voting begins at the MCC Administrative Office, 6631 Old Dominion Dr., and The Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Sunday, May 6: Candidates Meet and Greet, 2-4 p.m. Sponsored by the Friends of MCC, at the Old Firehouse Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road.
- Wednesday, May 16: Absentee Voting ends at the MCC Administrative Office and the Old Firehouse Center at 5 p.m.
- Saturday, May 19: Elections at McLean Day from 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m.

For more information on the MCC Governing Board Elections, call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, or visit the Center's website: <http://bit.ly/2ix7qcl>.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 28

1 Million Cups. 8:30 a.m. networking; 9-10 a.m. program at Make Offices at Tysons, 1751 Pinnacle Drive, Suite 600, McLean. Each week a different business owner gives a brief six-minute presentation about where they are in their business. They then offer up a challenge question about a new idea, product, expansion or something they are facing in their business. The group then masterminds solutions. Free and open to the public. Visit www.1millioncups.com/.

MCC Governing Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at MCC Administrative Offices, 6631 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. All meetings of the Governing Board are open to the public. Tax district residents (Dranesville District-1A) who wish to speak during the "Citizen Comment" portion of the meeting, should call the Center at 703-790-0123, TTY: 711, to be placed on the agenda. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

THURSDAY/MARCH 1

Caregivers Support Group. 10-11:30 a.m. at UUCF Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax - Program Building, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. For caregivers to adult family members with dementia. First and third Thursdays of every month. Hosted by Shepherd's Center of Oakton-Vienna, scov.org. Contact facilitator Jack Tarr at 703-821-6838 or jtarr5@verizon.net.

Focus and Self-Control. 10 a.m.-noon at the Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Mind in the Making - The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs. Child development researchers call these skills executive functions of the brain. At each workshop learn strategies for improving a skill, the importance of it in children's lives and activities to promote each skill. Attend any or all of the workshops in the series. Registration required. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center.

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I Can't Forget What I Don't Remember



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Four score and several years ago, in the course of human marital events, history which had been made/experienced between and husband and a wife was not recalled quite the same, which likely led to a disagreement. Without there being a video tape then – or now, or a Warner Wolf, insults and recriminations may have flown, and not just the coop. Practically speaking, how does one – or two, actually, solve this most unsolvable of problems?

This is not a declaration of independence or the announcement of a change of address from Burtonsville to Gettysburg, but it is a bit of a query as to how one manages times from one's relatively distant past. After a substantial while, and I would say 40 years qualifies, it's particularly challenging to remember the facts and the feelings that corroborate a memory: Who was there? What was said? How did it sound? Why was it even happening?

And after all these years, the recollections are not exactly black and white – for either party. One – or both – are either viewing them through the looking glass, a prism, a filter, a haze, or in my case as a cancer patient, through a now clinically-confirmed side effect of chemotherapy: "chemo brain." A consequence of treatment which erases/alters memories in some disputable way. A way in which what was once front and center is now back and to the rear, or not at all. And not only are these memories irretrievable, when spoken and heard, they are sometimes not believable either.

I know what I remember. I'm clear in my thinking. Time and place and context are all familiar but the assessment and interpretation of the facts and feelings are different. I realize that simply remembering where I was and what I was doing/saying (or not, to be fair), doesn't guarantee accuracy or agreement, but neither should it be discounted. I mean, being present and accounted for counts for something. The question is/remains: What am I missing?

I will admit though, knowing part of the underlying cause of some of these "recollection-disputes" does minimize the stress of it. Nevertheless, most of the recollections to which I'm referring (in the abstract) are not gone (in my opinion), it's more that they're rearranged, maybe even "misremembered," to invoke baseball great, Roger Clemens, in his sworn testimony before the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, given back in February 2008. The "Rocket's" situation/status wasn't resolved then any more than my situation has been resolved now. It's a work in progress – for all of us.

But I'm happy and fortunate to say: I can live with it. As a nearly nine-year stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer survivor; in fact, I am now my oncologist's longest living lung cancer patient, I can deal with most things cancer-affected and/or life-related. Because in having so obliterated the "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given back in late February 2009, I wouldn't say I'm living on borrowed time exactly, but I would say that I'm living on unexpected time.

So what's a few missing memories or a few historical references out of context? Not much when you consider the alternative. Besides, life's too short (don't I know it) to long for what I can't remember or worry about what I may have forgot.

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

County Opens Budget Debate

FROM PAGE 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bulova called Hill's budget "outstanding."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FAIRFAX COUNTY TOWN HALL BUDGET MEETINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Hill and numerous supervisors discussed the importance of economic development.

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

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

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

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

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

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