

Vienna and Oakton CONNECTION

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

HomeLifeStyle

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Confusion, Anger, Agenda Difficulties

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Preparing 755 Power Packs of Food for Others

NEWS, PAGE 8

APRIL 11-17, 2018

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

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

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

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

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

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

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving Vienna's heritage. Historicviennainc.org

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

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

THROUGH APRIL 19

Vienna Idol 2018 Auditions. At Whole Foods, Thursday, April 12, 7-8:30 p.m.; Whole Foods, Wednesday, April 18, 7-8:30 p.m.; and Caffé Amouri, Thursday, April 19, 7-8:30 p.m. First Place is \$700 plus eight hours of recording time at CUE Studios. Second Place - \$500; Third Place - \$250. Visit www.viennaidol.org for more.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Vienna Theatre Company presents "Blithe Spirit."

'Blithe Spirit'

Vienna Theatre Company presents Noel Coward's famous 1941 comedy "Blithe Spirit" from April 20-May 6 at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Tickets \$14. Visit www.viennatheatrecompany.org.

THURSDAY, APRIL 12

Fashion Show and Luncheon.

Social hour at 11 a.m.; luncheon at noon at the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Road, Fairfax. Sponsored by the Oakton Women's Club. A fundraiser for the Fairfax County Public Schools' Food and Nutrition Services to donate money towards the purchase of a food kiosk so that Luther Jackson Middle School can implement a Second Chance Breakfast, as part of the No Kid Hungry program. Buy tickets at www.oaktonwomensclub.com/fashion-show/ or call Allyson McGill at 703-582-6179.

Reception: "Bon Appetit." 7:30-9:30 p.m. at 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. The public is invited to enjoy light refreshments and meet the artists at a reception celebrating the Bon Appetit exhibition. Watercolor artist Cathy Williams demonstration during the reception. Through May 6. Visit www.ViennaArtsSociety.org or call 703-319-3971.

Astronomy for Family Fun: Stars.

8-9 p.m. at Turner Farm Park's Observatory, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Look through telescopes at this event to focus on stars. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. The cost is \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm/family-fun-stars.

APRIL 12-14

Used Book Sale. At Oakton Community Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Spring Book Sale will be Thursday, April 12, 1-8 p.m.; Friday, April 13, 10-6 p.m.; and Saturday, April 14, 10-3 p.m. A Friends of Oakton

Library Members' Only Pre Sale will be held Wednesday, April 11, 2-5:30 p.m. Come and browse thousands of gently used books for adults and children. Email janesharnoff@aol.com or call 703-758-9623.

THURSDAY/APRIL 12-MAY 6

"Fly By Night." At 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. It's 1965 in New York City and the lights are about to go out. But not before a melancholy sandwich maker becomes enchanted with two sisters. \$38 general admission, \$35 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Visit www.1ststage.org or call 703-854-1856.

FRIDAY/APRIL 13

Screening of "Walk With Me." 7:30 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. The film is narrated by actor Benedict Cumberbatch and stars Zen Buddhist master and Nobel Peace Prize nominee Thich Nhất Hạnh in a cinematic journey into the world of mindfulness. Admission is \$10; however, no one will be turned away. Advance ticket purchase done via texting to 703-935-4525, then follow prompts; show receipt at door. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org.

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

SATURDAY/APRIL 14

Library Comic Con. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Second annual celebration of comic books, science fiction, fantasy, TV, movies and more. Special visitors are expected including Stormtroopers and Ghost Busters. Family-friendly costumes encouraged. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/library-comic-con.

Bluebell Festival. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. See a blanket of bluebells at their peak at Riverbend's Bluebell Festival. Food, crafts and face painting for kids, live animals, moon bounce and music. \$7 per person until April 13; \$9 at the gate. Children under 2 free. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

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

SUNDAY/APRIL 15

Half Off Bingo. Doors open 4 p.m.; sales begin 5 p.m.; early birds begin 7 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., S, Vienna. Visit vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Sweet Yonder. 4 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., E, Vienna. Sweet Yonder is a fired-up, all-women, bluegrass band. Get tickets at www.JamminJava.com.

Auditions. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Firehouse Teen Center, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Traveling Players holds auditions for Advanced Theatre Camps. The summer theatre camp, in residence at The Madeira School, trains teens and pre-teens in Shakespeare and takes them on tour to perform their shows throughout Virginia. Auditions are open to the public and require registration. The camp will hold an Open House at The Madeira School on April 21 from 1-4 p.m. Visit www.travelingplayers.org or call 703-987-1712.

MONDAY/APRIL 16

The Old Firehouse Teacher Workday Trip. 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Enter a chocolate utopia at Hershey's Chocolate World and create a Hershey Bar, enter the taste-test lab and try to solve the 4D Chocolate Mystery. Admission to all activities and transportation are included in the fee. \$70/\$60 MCC District residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 18

Vienna's Energy Future. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304

Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Sierra Club/Great Falls Group hosts a presentation about a growing movement in Virginia to stop two proposed pipelines posing a threat of damage to streams, rivers, and scenic views. Email s.weltz@yahoo.com or call 703-608-2471. Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. Visit the website virginia2.sierraclub.org/

FRIDAY/APRIL 20

The Unruly Theatre Project. 7 p.m. at The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Free admission. Teen improv troupe offers a hilarious night of comedy. Call 703-448-8336.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 20-22

Mid-Atlantic Super Strength Weekend. At Tysons Playground Expo Hall, 8500 Tyco Road, Tysons Corner. Includes Drug Free Bodybuilding, Powerlifting, Olympic Weightlifting, Strongman/Strongwoman, etc. Will feature bodybuilder Jeremy Collins, age 38, who has Down Syndrome and had heart surgery when he was 6. Visit massweekend.com or the World Physique Alliance worldphysiquealliance.com.

SATURDAY/APRIL 21

Family Fishing Rodeo. 9 to 11 a.m. at Wolftrap Creek in Wildwood Park, 700 block of Follin Lane, SE, Vienna. Pre-registration and \$5 tickets required. Limit of six tickets per household. Tickets may be purchased online at viennava.gov/webtrac or in person at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry Street SE. Participants over the age of 16 must possess a fishing license, available through the Virginia Department of Gaming and Inland Fisheries.

Open House at Ash Grove House.

10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Ash Grove House, 8881 Ashgrove House Lane, Vienna. Park Authority is accepting applications for the rehabilitation and long-term maintenance of Ash Grove House. The Resident Curator Program provides the opportunity for individuals, nonprofit and for-profit organizations to secure long-term lease agreements in public park settings such as Ash Grove Historic Site. Due to limited onsite parking, shuttle bus service will be provided from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Members of the public can access a Fastran bus from Westbriar Elementary School located at 1741 Pine Valley Drive in Vienna. The last return run to the school is at 3 p.m. For application forms, visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resident-curator-program. Contact Stephanie Langton, manager of the Resident Curator Program, at 703-324-8791.

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Confusion, Anger, Agenda Difficulties

Public safety committee meeting focuses on ICE, without ICE at the table.

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust asked a series of questions to try to elicit an answer from county law enforcement about whether Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers sometimes detain and arrest people on civil warrants when assisting county officers on criminal investigations.

"Fairfax County gang task force does not have a member of ICE participating on it, is that correct?" said Foust.

Chief of Fairfax County Police, Col. Edwin C. Chief Roessler, answered first. "We're part of the Northern Virginia gang task force and there is a criminal element of ICE associated with that task force," he said, "so to answer the question, we do associate with ICE in that task force for criminal investigations."

Foust continued: "My question is, what role does ICE play on the gang task force? If a crime is committed, you don't need ICE there to enforce the law, correct?"

"We can investigate on our own," Roessler said, but "these gang members don't adhere to boundaries, so to conduct an investigation we have to cross boundaries. So, at times it's prudent to use the task force and a criminal investigator from ICE or the FBI or other federal agencies to hunt these criminals down and arrest them."

"If there is an ICE officer on your gang task force, and I understand criminal side, do you have a standing policy that says that they shall not make an arrest for a civil detainee while participating on your task force?" asked Foust.

Roessler said, "It's our goal and our general orders dictate what our police officers in Fairfax County can and can't do for the civil side of that. And it's not my goal as your chief to go out and enforce the civil portion of that."

"That's not the business that we're in," he said.

"That's what I'm trying to get at," said Foust. "Because what I perceive is you're out in the community with one or more ICE agents who are arresting people while participating on your task force for non-criminal conduct."

"And that's what we don't want," said Roessler.

THE BOARD'S PUBLIC SAFETY committee met Tuesday, April 3, to discuss these



Foust



Bulova



Cook



McKay



Kincaid



Herrity



Roessler



Keen

issues together.

"Our board was looking forward to a frank and open discussion with ICE about their enforcement activities in Fairfax County, which is what ICE had agreed to originally. It is unfortunate that this opportunity was derailed," said Chairman Sharon Bulova.

ICE didn't take a seat, although Adonnis T. Smith Sr., Washington Field Office Enforcement and Removal Operations, was listed on the agenda along with Barbara M. Gonzalez, assistant director, Stakeholder Engagement - Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE).

"There was a lot of disagreement about federal participation today," said Public Safety Committee chairman and Braddock District Supervisor John Cook.

ICE officers spoke from the audience to say that they were present and ready to speak at two points during the meeting.

"We appreciate you being here," said Bulova. "There were a lot of organizations that actually asked to have a seat at the table, including ICE and including VOICE. There were others [immigrant advocates] who believed that this was going to be a public forum or a public hearing which it is not. This is a committee meeting of the Board of Supervisors."

Bulova said later on Facebook: "ICE then asked that a representative from the Victims of Immigration Crime Engagement (VOICE) Office be at the table as well. Since VOICE's mission (giving voice to victims of crimes by illegal immigrants), while admirable, was not germane to the subject of this meeting, I asked they not be a part of the discussion. ICE then presented us with an ultimatum — hear from all of us or none of us. ICE representatives chose instead to sit in the audience," Bulova wrote.

"Prior to this meeting my office also heard from pro-immigrant rights groups who wished to have a seat at the table during the meeting. They were told 'sorry' for a similar reason — their issues were off topic and this was a Board Committee Meeting

and not a public forum."

Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity disagreed. "I think they are our law enforcement partners and I think they should be able to participate, but I'll respect the decision of the chairs," said Herrity.

Still, ICE and its partnership with local law enforcement continued as the topic of the meeting.

FOUST QUESTIONED Col. Douglas W. Keen, Chief of Police, City of Manassas, and chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Gang Task Force.

"Do you allow ICE agents participating on the task force with your officers to make arrests for non-criminal conduct?"

Keen answered: "There are no ICE agents assigned to the task force. It is a local and state task force. We will work with ICE, just as the captain said, as another tool just like the FBI, DEA, Secret Service or any others. There are times we may ask for ICE assistance and they will help us on that criminal investigation."

"I think we're all comfortable with the criminal side," said Foust. "What you seem to be evading is, do they take into custody while participating on your task force persons presumed or assumed to be in violation of non-criminal immigration rules?"

"I don't dictate what ICE does," answered Keen. "That would be their policy. When they are a member of the task force, they are there for criminal apprehension purposes."

"ICE, it would probably be best if they explained, if they had an opportunity, they have two different divisions, they have a criminal division and they have a civil division. The criminal division is working with us," said Keen.

Roessler said: "We don't want the community to be looking at us as if we're using a criminal as a proxy to get into a house and say, 'You, you and you, come with me.'"

"I hope that's exactly accurate because that is not consistent with what I was led to believe, which was that these ICE agents

do indeed take people into custody while on raids with you for violations that are not criminal activities," said Foust.

ICE had been active in Route 1 area, said Roessler, and the FCPD asked ICE to alert them when and where they are conducting raids in the county so that police know if they get a call for example for a home invasion or robbery, they won't respond.

"Obviously, they are federal law enforcement officers and they have absolute right to go into that community, I as a chief cannot override that federal right and that's where the confusion is in the community. It's not your police department in Fairfax County that's conducting the civil raids, it's ICE, and that's their job."

SHERIFF STACEY A. KINCAID informed ICE in January that the Sheriff's Office would terminate its intergovernmental service agreement (IGSA) with ICE on May 23, following the required 120-day notice.

The "Sheriff's Office will no longer hold inmates past their release date unless an ICE administrative request to detain the inmate is accompanied by a criminal detainer issued by a court," according to Kincaid.

The City of Alexandria, on May 23, will be the only one of 123 jurisdictions in Virginia to maintain its intergovernmental service agreement with ICE, said Kincaid.

"Our compliance with Code of Virginia will not be compromised," she said. "Our conclusion to terminate this agreement was done after a thorough very intensive process."

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay asked if the decision would impact criminal investigations of the gang task force.

"Little to no impact on the gang task force," answered Keen.

"Little to no impact, make sure everybody heard that," said McKay, "because facts matter and facts really matter when you are dealing with people's emotions. And when you're trying to scare people in Fairfax County into believing things that are happening that are not happening."

THE MAJORITY of the board supported Kincaid's decision.

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

"It was the right decision to make," said McKay.

"I've got to tell you, from all the officers that I've talked to and from my years on this board the number one most powerful tool we have in Fairfax County is a community that can trust and will talk to law enforcement to solve our crimes," said McKay. "What's happening at the federal level and

SEE ICE, PAGE 7

OPINION

Expansion of Health Care in Virginia?

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

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

More than 10 percent of residents of Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax County do not have health insurance.

The benefits are huge. A celebratory press release goes out any time 10 or more jobs come to any place in Virginia. But estimates are that finally accepting the available federal money

to expand Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act would generate about 30,000 jobs.

It will make all of us who live and work in Virginia healthier by ensuring that our fellow residents have access to healthcare, to medications to treat contagious illnesses, to vaccinations, to preventive and acute care.

EDITORIAL

We don't want the people who ride with us on the Metro or wait in line at motor vehicles to be sick without a reasonable way to be treated. We want the people around us to be healthy. It makes everyone healthier.

Virginia has bypassed about \$10 billion by not having expanded Medicaid since it was possible.

Now is the time.

So many advocates have pressed for this for

so long, that it seems almost surreal as the possibility approaches. While I don't often pray for particular outcomes, I think a prayer for hundreds of thousands of people to receive life-affirming health care is in order.

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

Fingers crossed.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

New Neighbor

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

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

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

Piebalds have various amounts of white and brown patches similar to a pinto pony, and they have



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

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

By the time you are reading this column I will be back in Richmond for the serious work of the legislature of passing a budget for the next biennium. The outstanding issue to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid to nearly 400,000 Virginians who do not have health care even though taxes are being collected in Vir-



Piebald deer of Reston

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PHOTO MERRIFIELD GARDEN CENTER

The colors of Camellia blooms can be enjoyed now, says David Watkins of Merrifield Garden Center.



PHOTO AMERICAN PLANT

Preparing a spring garden includes pruning, mulching and fertilizing, says Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda.

Spring in Bloom

Preparing and planning a colorful warm-weather garden.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

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

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

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

Cutting away dead or overgrown branches to stimulate new growth comes next, says Watkins. "I would prune any branches on

shrubs and trees that are crisscrossing and rubbing against each other," he said. "Then edge, mulch and fertilize your plants. Remove old mulch first and put down two to three inches of new mulch, but make sure you don't put it too close to the trunk of the plant."

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

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

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

"Forsythia bushes are blooming now. They're one of the first to bloom," added Watkins. "Shortly Camellias and Azaleas will start to bloom."

Options for plants that can tolerate cooler temperatures are plentiful, advises Watkins. "All of your trees and shrubs can be planted now and it's great to get your garden started early so there's less maintenance in the summer," he said. "All of our ornamental trees like Cherry, Redbud, Crabapple and Dogwood can be planted now."

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



PHOTO AMERICAN PLANT

Pansies and Violas can be planted now to offer bright colors to a spring garden, says Haynes Davis of American Plant in Bethesda.

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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 March 30 – April 6, 2018.

INCIDENTS

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

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

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

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

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

Telephone Case — Ware Street SW April 1, 12:04 p.m. A citizen reported that she was receiving unwanted phone calls.

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

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

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

Robbery 1 — Shell 252 Maple Avenue West April 2 6:14 a.m. An employee reported that he was robbed at gunpoint. An undisclosed amount of money and property was taken. The employee was unharmed. A search for the suspect is underway.

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

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

Police Service — The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue West, April 3, 2:06 p.m. An employee requested police assistance with a person refusing to leave. While speaking with a police officer the person requested an ambulance. An ambulance responded to the scene and transported the person to a local hospital.

Natural Death — 800 Block of Cottage Street SW April 3, 6:39 p.m. Police responded to reports of an unresponsive person inside a vehicle. Medics were performing CPR prior to police arrival. The person was transported to a hospital. The person died at the hospital due to apparent natural causes.

Emotionally Disturbed Person — Park Terrace Court SE April 4, 9:27 a.m. A resident stated that she needed immediate police assistance. Officers responded to the residence and after speaking with the emotionally disturbed person they determined that she was fine.



PHOTO COURTESY OF VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT

On April 2, 2018 at 6 a.m. the pictured individual robbed the Shell Gas Station located at 252 Maple Avenue, West in Vienna. The Vienna Police Department is seeking information about the identity of this individual. Anyone with information is encouraged to contact Det. S. R. Leroux, Vienna Police Department, 703-255-6332.

Open Door/Window — 300 Block of Ainstree Court NE April 4, 12:46 p.m. Officers responded to an alarm coming from the residence. Officers found the front door open. Officers entered and searched the residence with negative results.

Suspicious Event — The Wolftrap Hotel 430 Maple Avenue West, April 5, 9:49 a.m. Officers were dispatched to a possible fight in progress. Officers spoke with an employee and all the involved parties in reference to the incident. Officers determined that no violation of law had taken place. **Animal Case** — 300 Block of Jean Place NE April 5, 11 a.m. Animal Control Officer J. Barker was dispatched to a dog at large. The footloose dog was located and transported to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter where it will spend some time reflecting on the events that led to its incarceration. **Animal Case** — Hope Advance Veterinary Center 140 Park Street SE April 5, 1:31 p.m. A citizen dropped off a stray dog that had been found at large. Animal Control Officer J. Barker picked up the dog and transported it to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter.

Abandoned Vehicle — 200 Block of Pleasant Street SW April 5 9:31 a.m. A citizen reported an abandoned van. A traffic officer responded to the area and located the van. A ten-day tow notice was placed on the van and the tires were marked.

Death Unknown Cause — Tapawingo Road SW, April 5, 11:45 p.m. A citizen called an ambulance when he discovered a person nonresponsive. Medics and police were dispatched. The person was pronounced dead at the scene. Nothing unusual or suspicious observed at the scene. This case is active pending results of the investigation from the medical examiner's office.

CRASHES

Hit and Run — Whole Foods Market 143 Maple Avenue East, March 30, 3:21 p.m. Vehicle #1 was legally parked in the Whole Foods parking lot. While parked it was struck by an unknown vehicle.

WEEK IN VIENNA

Vienna Police to Participate in Drug Take Back Initiative

In conjunction with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (D.E.A.) and state and local law enforcement agencies, the Vienna Police Department will again participate in a one-day initiative to remove potentially dangerous controlled substances from area homes.

On April 28, 2018 between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. the Vienna Police Department will have a collection site for old, expired, unused, or unwanted medications. Prescription medications, controlled or non-controlled substances, and over the counter drugs may be turned in anonymously at the collection point inside the Vienna Police De-

partment located at 215 Center Street, South, Vienna. Participants may dispose of medication in its original container or by removing it and disposing of it directly in to the collection box. If an original container is used the individual should consider removing any identifying information from the prescription label. Liquid products should remain sealed in their original container to prevent leakage. Intravenous solutions, injectables, and syringes will not be accepted due to associated hazards. Commercial businesses, pharmacies or other medical facilities may not use this as a means to discard expired medications or medical waste.

BULLETIN

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

PARENTS HELPING PARENTS

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

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:

- ❖ 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/>

Focus on ICE

FROM PAGE 3

the misinformation that's being put out ... about the decision the Sheriff made is making that a lot harder.

"We're one of the safest jurisdictions in the country because our people trust, believe, and speak to us and help us solve crimes," McKay said. "And if we scare people that's not going to happen."

Bulova commented that it is very confusing to the immigrant community and damaging to the trust in county police that ICE agents are conducting raids in the county wearing uniforms that say "POLICE" in large letters across the back.

"It confuses and scares people when they see a uniform that says police and it's not police at all. It's ICE," said Bulova. "It may say ICE somewhere on that uniform but people see police and think it's our Fairfax County police who are actually serving as members of ICE."

HERRITY SPOKE for the minority. He was not in support of Sheriff Kincaid's decision to terminate the agreement with ICE.

"I think we need to continue cooperating with ICE to the fullest extent possible," he said.

"This is about protecting our immigrant community," said Herrity. "It's human trafficking, it's drugs, it's murders, it's crime and we ought to be doing everything we can to get them off the street," he said.

"I'm very disappointed that we invited them here, we have them on the agenda, and they're not able to speak," said Herrity.

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

It's A Miracle (Not a Cancer Column) ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... that the green, cotton, chino-type casual-Friday pants I often wear on -in-the-office-Thursdays, lasted as long as they did. Given the number of years I've been stuffing myself into them (not every Thursday mind you, but very regularly), and the weight I've gained, especially since the ultra low point during heavy duty chemotherapy nine years ago, the miracle is that these pants hadn't split wide open on any number of previous occasions.

As it actually happened yesterday, the split was gradual, not along a seam and not offensive to anybody, least of all, me.

And though the tear was understandable, given the psi (pounds per square inch) of pressure they were under, the loss however expected was sad nonetheless. For someone who exults in a limited wardrobe as much as I do, the reduction in available garments I choose to wear – repeatedly, is impactful.

Hardly do I have too many other go-to-pants in the closet. Considering my lack of interest, lack of need and lack of properly fitting alternatives hanging in the balance, when a split occurs, such as the one I've described "heretofore," (Ben Affleck in "Good Will Hunting"), not only is the loss palpable, it is downright inconvenient. Now what? Not that my appearance is ever a priority, but I'd rather not dress for failure.

The problem is, when your clothing options can be characterized as "either or," you're in a bind which, given the pounds that have been added over the winter (let's be honest; more like the preceding fall, summer, spring, winter and fall), you're constantly challenged, especially when attempting to zip up your fly and/or button your pants. Talk about a pointless effort.

If there was a cash reward for such failure, I'd be basking somewhere warm, in semi retirement – with an elastic waistband to do my bidding.

"But alas, poor Yurick." No such reward exists, but thankfully, elastic waistbands do, and not just on underwear, bathing suits, shorts and sweatpants. The question becomes then: How committed do I want to become to such elasticity? Isn't it kind of a slippery slope to rubberize my waistline? My fear is, once I go elastic, I may never go back, and in never going back, I'm also afraid there may be no stopping me, if you know what I mean? And if I'm not to be stopped then am I prepared to live with myself, my ever-expanding self, that is?

I imagine my oncologist wouldn't approve. And I know my internal medicine doctor wouldn't approve (I've already received some electronic advisories to that effect); and I know with 100 percent certainty that my wife, Dina wouldn't approve. She might have married me "in sickness and health, and thick and thin," but she'd much rather I be thin than thick.

Granted, I may be mixing metaphors here, but I trust you get my point. She liked me the way I was, and sort of likes me the way I am, but I'm doubtful she would like me nearly as much if I were to morph into another being.

Ergo, the future is now. Do I continue to pack on the pounds and have less and less clothing that fits – and fewer and fewer excuses as to why that old thing seems to be that same old thing, again; buy new clothes that reflect and lock in my girth, or bite the bullet – not the Entenmann's Pop'ems, Hostess CupCakes, Oreo Mega Stuf cookies or M&M's plain/peanut butter candy and try to lose weight and save some face, literally?

I believe I know the answer. I'm just not sure of the start date. It better be soon because the underwear I bought myself for Christmas is beginning to lose its shape and I'm pretty sure I know the reason; and it's not a manufacturer's defect.

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

Team picture: Cougar Robotics STEM Club team members celebrate win at Southern Maryland Competition in Oxon Hill, Md.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Oakton High Robotics Team Takes World Stage

Cougar Robotics will compete against 400 teams from all over the world at the FIRST Championship in Detroit, Mich. April 25-28.

BY AMY YUSMAN
OAKTON COUGAR ROBOTICS PRESIDENT/
MENTOR

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

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

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



Captain Benjamin Yusman, Senior, getting interviewed by judges.

With all the heart-pounding thrills and team spirit of a professional sporting event, FIRST uses robotics as the backbone for the “only sport where every kid can go pro.” Guided by mentors and STEM professionals, and supported by FIRST Sponsors, FIRST teams inspire kids in grades K-12 to explore the innovation process and build STEM and digital-literacy skills.

Congratulations to the team Captain & Lead Builder Benjamin Yusman; drive team - Brian Donohue, Quintin Harter & Erin Lincoln; Programming Leads - Ronnie Mohapatra & Troy Neubauer; Alliance scouting leads - Aspen Harter & Irene Do; Safety Leads - Sam Walters & Sai Balusu, build team members - Alex Yusman, Bryan Peters, Devin Gardner, Divya Dasari, Hongze Chen, Justin Kim, Mrinaal Lorengo, Eashan Gupta, Nick Garrone, Rajiv Joshi, Sai Duduru; programming team members - Arthur Liao, Justin Guo, Matthew Nicoud, Zachary Wang; and Engineering Notebook leads - Majied Matthews & Tyler Paldao; Scouting team members - Anusha Prahlad, Alina Tilton, Rakyung Lee.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF OLGC

Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and School volunteers filled 755 “power packs” for needy children in Fairfax County.

Preparing 755 Power Packs of Food for Others

Thanks to the generosity of the community at Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church and School, volunteers filled 755 “power packs” for needy children in Fairfax County elementary schools through Food for Others. This was a very important food drive, as many children have little or no food at home and this “power pack program” helps get them through the weekend. It was noted that OLGC donated 2,723 pounds of food, double what they provided in December.

All of this would not have been possible without the support of not only the parishioners and the school families that donated before the event, but also the Santa Maria Council of the Knights of Columbus, who contributed \$200, and the Fish Fry patrons thru a 50/50 raffle, who collectively donated \$817 which went towards the purchasing of items needed for the “power packs.”

The OLGC youth group, seventh graders and staff carried and collected the items so that



The OLGC youth group, seventh graders and staff carried and collected the items, helping prepare Power Packs.

the packing could occur and a few moms delivered the bags to Food for Others.

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



Community members helping prepare Power Packs to go to students through Food for Others.