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and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

Sheila Dunheimer, Chair of the NoKid Hungry Committee for the Oakton Women's Club, models clothing from Details of Occoquan during the Fashion Show and Luncheon held April 12, 2018 at the Country Club of Fairfax.

A+
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Oakton Women's Club Holds Fashion Show

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Two Sides to Two
And a Half Cents
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Cirque du Soleil's
Dazzling 'Luzia'
ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION
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Managing Money

April is Financial Literacy Month.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

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

“How a parent treats cash is the way their kids will treat cash; lead by example,” said Andrea Foster, professor and department chair of Business, Economics, Accounting, Computer Applications and Paralegal Studies (BEACAPS) at Montgomery College. “If your kid sees you cutting coupons and budgeting, when they grow up they will do the same. They will see the benefits and the value of your thriftiness.”

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

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

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

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

when they start earning money as well.”

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

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

Foster also suggests encouraging children to keep a spending diary and limiting the amount of money they can spend or the number of items they can purchase when shopping for themselves. “Show them that stuff costs money,” she said. “Have them keep track of all the money that mom and dad spend on them in one month, from food to clothing and other things. They will realize how much it costs to maintain them and how much all the stuff that they want costs.”

Involve children in a family’s charitable donations, advises Henry. “Ask your children to think about what kinds of charitable efforts the family should support,” she said. “Have them research and pick a charity and

then make a small contribution to that organization on their behalf.”

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

teacher and learning when the stakes are low is invaluable.”

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



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

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Two Sides to Two and a Half Cents

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

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters



Louise Epstein, McLean, Citizens Association



Dale Stein, McLean, Citizens Association



Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging



Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board



James Parmelee, Centreville



Kimberly Adams, Clifton



Arthur Purves, Vienna



Phil Niedzielski-Eichner, Oakton



Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

Their Own Words, A Glimpse

Kofi Annan, Fairfax County NAACP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Helen Kelly, Herndon, League of Women Voters

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

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

Dale Stein, president, McLean Citizens Association

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

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

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

Kay Larmer, McLean, Commission on Aging

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

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

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

Leann Alberts, Springfield, Disability Services Board

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

Enrique Carrero, Fairfax County employee

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEE VOTE, PAGE 11

Send in Mother's Day Photos

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

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

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

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

Soon after we publish our Mother's Day

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Virginia Press Association Winners

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Time to Give Volunteers the Credit They Deserve

To the Editor:

This week, April 15-21, is National Volunteer Week, an opportunity for organizations across the country to pause and recognize the importance and impact of the millions of selfless individuals who volunteer in our communities. Governor Northam recently honored some of Virginia's most remarkable individuals and organizations that have committed to service across the Commonwealth at the 2018 Virginia Governor's Volunteerism and Community Service Awards. Their stories of service were touching, uplifting, and an inspiration for all of us to do more for others. I encourage you to read more about these remarkable volunteers at VirginiaService.virginia.gov.

And yet, this amazing group of volunteers are just a fraction of the more than 2 million who serve annually in Virginia. Each day, individuals give their time and talents to make our communities safer, healthier and stronger. Whether it is the parents and grandparents volunteering in our

schools, community members collecting and donating food to our food banks, or busy professionals utilizing their skills to help individuals and organizations in times of need — volunteers are the force behind addressing our greatest challenges.

On behalf of the Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism, I would like to thank these fantastic volunteers. Thank you for caring. Thank you for committing. Thank you for understanding the power of service. We want you to know that we see you and we hear stories of how you are changing communities for the better. You provide hope to so many and inspire others to follow your lead to serve.

Jessica Bowser

Governor's Advisory Board on Service and Volunteerism

Long Backups at Park Entrance

To the Editor:

With spring upon us, the weekend traffic problem at the intersection of Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive (entrance to Great Falls Park) is causing long backups from both directions on Georgetown Pike and also north

on Old Dominion Drive. The lack of turn lanes increases the congestion.

In the absence of physical changes to the intersection, there should be police presence during busy mid-day hours on weekends to direct traffic and not allow long backups when the Park's parking is full.

As Great Falls Park is a National Park, one would assume that the responsibility for traffic management would belong to the US Park Police. No private venue would be allowed to avoid responsibility if their venue created this kind of problem. The alternative to the Park Police is the Fairfax County

Police Department. In any event, mitigation of this problem belongs to one or more of our governmental entities.

The Park is a treasure and a wonderful part of our community. We have visitors from all around the area who very much appreciate and enjoy the

Park. Reasonable traffic management would make their experience a better one and improve the quality of life for those of us who use Georgetown Pike and Old Dominion Drive for our normal weekend travels.

Peter Garahan
Great Falls

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Needed

Volunteer Solutions provides meaningful volunteer opportunities to improve the lives of older adults and adults with disabilities in Fairfax County. We update our Urgent Needs list regularly. If you don't see what you are looking for, consider another opportunity or call 703-324-5406, TTY 711. Apply online at volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov

Countywide Opportunities

❖ Mealtime Companion: Join a new and exciting endeavor to help ensure that Meals on Wheels recipients (who have memory loss) are appropriately heating and consuming their delivered meals. Volunteers are needed during lunchtime hours, 2-3 days per week, to assist participants with heating their food and to provide mealtime companionship. Guidance on working with older adults with dementia is offered.

❖ One-Time Opportunity in May - The Helping Hands Program provides an opportunity for individuals and groups looking for a time-limited community service project. Volunteers assist older adults with house and yard work including: deep

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 10

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Marshall High to Present 'Thoroughly Modern Millie'

Speakeasy and prepare to laugh as Marshall High School celebrates the frivolity and excess of the 1920s with its production of "Thoroughly Modern Millie" opening Thursday, April 26. Based on the Academy Award winning 1967 film and the Tony Award Winning Broadway musical, "Thoroughly Modern Millie," has it all: a beautiful ingénue determined to make her way in the big city, fun-loving flappers always looking for a party, dashing leading men ready to sweep everyone off their feet, and a human-trafficking ring in a New York City hotel for girls.

When small-town girl Millie Dillmount arrives in New York City, she is determined to be a "modern" 1920s woman who will marry for money rather than love. She throws herself into the flapper lifestyle, finds a job and a rich boss to marry, and feels she's on her way to make her dreams come true. What Millie doesn't realize is that others, including the charming young salesman, Jimmy Smith, and her colorful landlady, Mrs. Meers, have other plans for her.

"This show hopes to challenge people's ideas of first impressions," said Director Jason Tamborini. "Sometimes we are the last ones to know what we really want or need—which Millie and her friends soon find out."

Show dates and location: George C. Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church; Show Times: April 26 - 28 & May 4 - 5 at 7:30 p.m. plus April 28 & May 5 at 2 p.m.: Tickets are \$10 students / teachers / seniors and \$15 adults.

Note: Due to some content, this show is considered similar to a PG-13 film.

Visit <http://statesmentheatre.org> for more information or to purchase tickets.



Jimmy and Millie take on New York in the roaring 20s in Marshall High's production of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie,' opening April 26.

Holly Waters (Millie) and Francisco Morandi (Jimmy) in Marshall High's production of 'Thoroughly Modern Millie,' opening April 26.

What About Controversial Depictions of Asian Characters?

The Statesmen Theatre Department invites you to participate in an important presentation and discussion on April 17, 2018 at 7 p.m. In seeking answers to questions surrounding the sometimes-controversial depictions of Asian characters in the musical "Thoroughly Modern Millie" and other celebrated theatre productions involving stereotypes, a larger challenge arose.

How do we come to grips with oversimplified characteristic traits and wrongly-held perceptions of the past that are still present in society, and when portrayed in the arts, are hurtful to some but are meant to be "funny" and "harmless entertainment"?

With this in mind, the school and local community is invited to join the discussion on Race and Stereotypes in Theatre: A Community Forum on Tuesday, April 1 at 7 p.m. in the cafeteria.

Panelists include: Marshall HS Principal Jeffrey Litz; Marshall HS Alumnus Jon Jon Johnson (Class of 2004), professional actor and writer; Priya Doshi, professorial lecturer, Strategic Communication, The American University; and current theatre students.

VIENNA POLICE HIGHLIGHTS

The following summary contains various incidents of general interest as well as vehicular crashes handled by the Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department from April 6 - 12, 2018.

INCIDENTS

Grand Larceny — 1100 Block of Westbriar Drive NE Between March 24, 7 a.m. and April 8, 12:20 p.m. A citizen reported that someone stole some large tools from his unlocked screened in patio.

Fraud — 300 Block of West Street NW March 31 between 12 a.m. and 11:59 p.m. A resident reported that someone was able to open a credit account using her personal information without her consent.

Fraud — Park Street April 1, 1 p.m. An employee of a medical facility reported that a virus had been loaded into their computers that impedes access to their records.

Animal Case — 300 Ainstreet Court NE April 2, 12 p.m. A resident was bitten by her own dog. The dog was placed in timeout which included a 10-day quarantine.

Property Found — Vienna Community Center 120 Cherry Street SE April 5, between 12:01 a.m. and 7:48 a.m. A citizen turned in some found property.

Assault — Cedar Lane School 101 Cedar Lane SW April 6, 8 a.m. An employee requested police assistance with a disorderly student. The student had already calmed down by the time police arrived at the school.

Domestic Assault — Church Street April 6, 3:10 p.m. A resident requested police assistance with an assault that had just taken place. Officers responded to the scene and spoke to all parties involved. After the investigation was completed a woman was placed into custody.

The 55-year-old woman from Center Street in Vienna was arrested and transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. A warrant for Assault & Battery on a Family Member was issued and served. The woman was remanded to the custody of the Fairfax County Deputies.

Suspicious Person — 500 Block of Beulah Road NE April 6, 3:54 p.m. A resident reported a suspicious man who followed his children home from school on several occasions. On April 12 Sgt. Sheeran identified the suspicious man and spoke to him regarding the incident. It was determined that no criminal activity had occurred.

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POWER



Members of the Oakton Women's Club who attended the Fashion Show and Luncheon on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Country Club of Fairfax.



Members of the Oakton Women's Club presented a \$5,000 check to the Fairfax County Public Schools' Food and Nutrition Services' Breakfast After the Bell Program.



Local Virginia Delegates Jennifer Boysko (D-86), Karrie Delaney (D-67), and Kathleen Murphy (D-34).



Members of the Oakton Women's Club who attended the Fashion Show and Luncheon on Thursday, April 12, 2018, at the Country Club of Fairfax.

Oakton Women's Club Holds Fashion Show

Fundraiser gives \$5,000 to NoKid Hungry Program for Food Kiosk at Luther Jackson Middle School.

By STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

More than 100 guests attended the Oakton Women's Club Fashion Show and Luncheon on Thursday, April 12, at the Country Club of Fairfax. The event raised \$5,000 for NoKid Hungry and Fairfax County Public Schools to install a food kiosk at Luther Jackson Middle School. After an invocation from Pastor Dawn-Marie Singleton of Oakton United Methodist, guests dined on cobb salad and key lime pie. Then nine models who are members of the club, showed off the latest clothing designs from Details of Occoquan, owned by Cathy Campbell.

"The Oakton Women's Club will be presenting a check to the School Nutrition Department to assist us in expanding the Universal Break-

fast Program at Luther Jackson Middle School," said Tracie Thomas, Fairfax County Public School System Food Service Operations Specialist. "Right now, the county has a little over 186,000 students and this breakfast card will allow more students the opportunity to receive breakfast once school has begun. Many children don't have the opportunity to eat first thing in the morning, so the Universal Breakfast or Second Chance Breakfast will increase participation and allow more students the opportunity to eat and be ready to learn."

THE SECOND CHANCE BREAKFAST is an alternative breakfast model where students eat breakfast during a break in the morning, usually right after first period. Currently, FCPS has no Second Chance Breakfast programs in any of the middle schools, which

represent 7,600 students qualifying for free and reduced fee meals. Luther Jackson Middle School has the third highest number of middle school students qualifying for free or reduced fee meals.

Rodney Taylor, Director of Food and Nutrition Services with Fairfax County Public Schools, added: "Twenty-eight percent of our kids come from at-risk families; what that means is they're at or below the poverty line and are food-insecure. We're trying to make sure that when a child comes to school, they're well prepared, well-fed and ready to learn, and the Breakfast After the Bell allows the students who don't make it to the traditional breakfast in the morning, to have an opportunity after homeroom to get a Grab-and-Go breakfast and take to their next class."

Linda Byrne, President of Oakton Women's Club, which has been

around since 1976, added: "We're really excited about the project with the schools' Second Chance Breakfast. It's important that kids know that they can get this breakfast; it doesn't matter whether you have an income or not, whether you can afford it or not. We want the prejudice against picking up one of those lunches gone. We want every kid to feel comfortable. Those kids who can afford to pay full price will do that and those kids who can't won't have to."

Alyson McGill, Secretary, Oakton Women's Club, added: "The kiosk will go to Luther Jackson Middle School, which means it's the first middle school in Fairfax County to get this kiosk. And all students will be able to buy food from it. The advantage is with kids who are called 'food insecure,' those kids right now, even if they're allowed a free breakfast, many don't go to the cafeteria because they feel it's a stigma, that everybody knows they can't afford to eat. But with these, all students can get a card, and the kids who are on free and

reduced lunches get the card free privately, and kids who are not can buy the card, and all students can purchase food for the kiosks."

TONY SALGADO, Assistant Principal at Luther Jackson Middle



Model Olivia Dunheimer shows off clothing from Details of Occoquan during the Oakton Women's Club Fashion Show and Luncheon held April 12, 2018 at the Country Club of Fairfax.



Sheila Dunheimer, Chair of the NoKid Hungry Committee for the Oakton Women's Club, models clothing from Details of Occoquan during the Fashion Show and Luncheon held April 12, 2018 at the Country Club of Fairfax.



Wildred Elcan, Barbara Levermann, Karen Johnston, and Mikki Carraway enjoy the fashion show and luncheon.



Oakton Women's Club members Susan Leigh, Virginia Bertram, and Donna Glaus.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

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

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News

**Performing
with the
'Swing Team'
at Cirque du
Soleil's
'Luzia.'**

PHOTOS BY MATT BEARD
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COURTESY CIRQUE DU
SOLEIL



Cirque du Soleil's Dazzling 'Luzia'

**Performances to June 17, 2018
under the Big Top at Tysons II.**

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Where and When

An amazing world awaits patrons as Cirque du Soleil's newest touring tent show, "Luzia," is under the famous blue-and-yellow Big Top at Tysons II until June 17, 2018. "Luzia" promises to be a wonderful journey meant to open the imagination as a waking dream of Mexico.

"Luzia" aims to bring audiences to a fantastic imaginary world where light and water are blended together," said Cirque's Francis Jalbert. Patrons will travel to an imagined Mexico; a place of traditions and modernity by way of breath-taking acrobatic performances. Some acts are performed high up, perhaps 30 feet or more, while others are at eye level on the stage. The production includes music with a Latin flavor.

The production includes more than 50 performers, more than a dozen bold acts, and a story that connects them. "Performers will be in spectacular costumes with make-up that can take up to 90 minutes to apply before a show," added Jalbert.

"One of the newest features for the 'Luzia' show are indoor waterfalls, pouring showers and pools inside the Big Top," said Jalbert. The water features are used during a number of the acts; often drenching the performers.

During a recent backstage tour, several acts were at various stages of rehearsal. Cyr Wheel artists were warming up; spinning hoops around their bodies with smooth ease. Chinese Pole performers were rehearsing in costume high-up on flexible poles with show lights adding flair to the atmosphere.

Cirque du Soleil presents "Luzia" at Tysons II, 8025 Galleria Drive, Tysons. Performances to June 17, 2018. Tuesday at 8 p.m. (no performances, Tuesday, May 8 or June 12), Wednesday and Thursday at 8 p.m., Friday, 4:30 & 8 p.m. (except June 1 & 8, 8 p.m. only), Saturday 4:30 & 8 p.m., Sunday, 1:30 p.m. & 5 p.m. No performances on Mondays. Tickets start at \$38. Special tickets packages such as VIP Experience, Behind The Scenes, Producer seats and Family Pack are available. For groups of 12 or more there are also special offers. For detailed ticket information visit www.cirquedusoleil.com/usa/washington/luzia or call 1-877-924-7783. Note: There is paid parking available with discounts if reservations are made in advance. No event parking will be available at The Galleria. More information at: <https://www.cirquedusoleil.com/en/offers/shows/luzia/washington-dc/directions-luzia-washington-dc.aspx>

Then it was time to meet with one of the fearless "butterflies" featured in the finale. The butterfly was Shelli Epstein, who at 24, is a veteran with Cirque. She began her career as a gymnast living in London. Now a performer with the heart-stopping Swing Team routine, the fearless Epstein "loves the hustle and bustle" of the Cirque world.

Epstein spoke of the meaning of audience reactions to a performer. There is the absolute hush when she is propelled 30 feet into the air from one swing to land on another moving swing. The hush becomes cheers and applause for the Swing Team teamwork when she lands. The entire Swing Team is full of joy and pride that the audiences is thrilled and happy.

Why is Epstein in a butterfly costume? She is representing monarch butterflies that travel from Canada to Mexico each winter. She concluded our interview this way, "This is a dream job. Who won't want to perform in a circus?"



**Performance of
'Cyr Wheels' at
Cirque du
Soleil's 'Luzia.'**

Can't Vote at McLean Day for the 2018-2019 MCC Governing Board?

Vote by Absentee Ballot Now – May 16 at either:

McLean Community Center (MCC)

Administration Office:
6631 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711

Class Programs/Registration Office:

6645 Old Dominion Drive
McLean, VA 22101
703-744-9365

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 11 p.m.
Saturday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed on Sunday**

Old Firehouse Center (OFC)

1440 Chain Bridge Road
McLean, VA 22101
703-448-8336/TTY 711

**Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(closed on weekends)**

OR

**Absentee voting affidavits
and ballots must be returned
to one of these locations by
5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.**

Requesting Absentee Ballots:

You can pick up absentee ballot packages and vote at both MCC offices or OFC. You can also request absentee ballot packages by email at elections@mcleancenter.org or by telephone at 703-790-0123/TTY: 711.

Returning Completed Applications and Ballots:

You can return your absentee voting affidavits and ballots to the front desk at either MCC location or OFC. You may also mail them using the pre-addressed envelope enclosed in the absentee ballot package. Mailed affidavits and ballots must be received by the due date.

Absent voting ends promptly at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 16.

Hand delivered absentee voting affidavits and ballots must be received at either MCC location or OFC by that time.

If you have questions:

Contact 703-790-0123, TTY: 711 or email elections@mcleancenter.org



The McLean Community Center
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

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.

"Fly By Night." Through May 6 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 in this bittersweet romantic tale about finding hope in a world beset by darkness. \$38 general admission, \$35 seniors (65+), \$15 students and military. Visit www.1ststage.org or call 703-854-1856.

"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.

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

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

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

THROUGH APRIL 19

Vienna Idol 2018 Auditions. At 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.



Nobody's Girl

Featuring BettySoo, Grace Pettis, Rebecca Loebe. The all-female group offers delicate and complex harmonies and innovative songwriting. \$20. Thursday, April 26, 7:30-9 p.m. at Jammin Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Visit www.jamminjava.com or call 877-987-6487.

Second Place - \$500; Third Place - \$250. Visit www.viennaidol.org for more.

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.

Pipelines in Virginia. 7-8:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Free. Learn how to make an impact to stop pipelines that will damage streams and rivers and ruin scenic views. Sponsored by Sierra Club/Great Falls Group, 350 Fairfax, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. Visit the website virginia2.sierraclub.org/

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, Sports Modeling, Kid/Teen Fitness Challenges and other strength events. 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

Native Plant Sale. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Vienna Community Center's parking lot, 120 Cherry St., SE, Vienna. Hosted by the Town of Vienna Community Enhancement Commission. All plants are raised and

sold by the Hill House Garden Nursery, which specializes in high-quality native plants. Plants include flowering perennials, native shrubs, and small trees. Cash, checks, and credit cards will be accepted.

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. Remaining time slots are 9, 9:30, 10, 10:30 and 11 a.m. 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. The Fairfax County 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. 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.

Traveling Players Open House. 1-4 p.m. at The Madeira School, 8328 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Traveling

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10



Here's What's Happening at MCC

The Old Firehouse Family Events The Unruly Theatre Project



Friday, April 20, 7 p.m.

The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
Free admission

The area's hottest professional teen improv troupe brings you a hilarious night of comedy.

MCC Governing Board Meeting

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m.

MCC Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.

All Governing Board meetings are open to the public.



The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trips Night Out at the National Harbor



Friday, April 27, 3:30-11:30 p.m.

The Old Firehouse
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$55/\$45 MCC district residents

For 5th-9th Graders
View Washington D.C. from the Capital Wheel and explore a range of culinary options.

The Old Firehouse 5th & 6th Grader Party "May the 4th Be with You"



Friday, May 4, 7-9 p.m.

1440 Chain Bridge Rd.

\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

This Star Wars-themed party includes music, an open dance floor and free catered food and beverages.

Sponsored by Friends of MCC

Meet the Candidates Reception

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

The Old Firehouse, 1440 Chain Bridge Rd.

Free and open to the public

Meet the nine Dranesville District 1A residents who are running for seats on MCC's Governing Board.

The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
Administrative Offices
6631 Old Dominion Dr.
McLean, VA 22101
703-790-0123, TTY: 711



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Legals

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is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT
OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL
(ABC) for a Mixed Beverage on Premises,
Beer & Wine on Premises license to sell or
manufacture alcoholic beverages. Alexan-
der Payne/Agent. NOTE: Objections to the
issuance of this license must be submitted
to ABC no later than 30 days from the
publishing date of the first of two required
newspaper legal notices. Objections
should be registered at www.abc.virginia.
gov or 800-552-3200.

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CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Players will hold an Open House 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. Visit
www.travelingplayers.org or call
703-987-1712.

SUNDAY/APRIL 22

VES 5K Race. 8:35 a.m. start time at
Vienna Elementary School, 128
Center St., South, Vienna. The VES
PTA is hosting its annual 5K and Fun
Run. Cost is \$15 for children under
14. Early registration \$25 before 4/
1/2018, and \$30 after and on race
day. Email Peggy Morrison at
ves5krun@gmail.com or visit
www.ves5krun.racewire.com.

TUESDAY/APRIL 24

Home & Garden Tour. 10 a.m.-4
p.m. Tour four homes and gardens in
Great Falls, Vienna and McLean –
from a “quilt garden” at a 1750 home
to a garden and cottage designed for
retirement. Advance tickets are \$40
by April 17; tickets on day of tour are
\$50 at Meadowlark Gardens. Tickets
sold at tour homes and the Great
Falls Library. Contact Garden Club of
Fairfax at fairfax@vagardenweek.org.
Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

**Social Security – Know Your
Options to Maximize Your
Benefits.** 12:30-2 p.m. at 1234
Ingleside Ave., McLean. Learn
strategies that you can use to
potentially maximize your benefit.
Presented by Sarah Graham. One
lesson for 1 hour, 30 minutes. Cost is
\$7/\$5 MCC district residents.

**Cezanne Portraits: Trip to
National Gallery of Art.** Cost is
\$40 due by April 12 (includes
transportation and admission).
Hosted by SCOV. The show brings
together some 60 examples of
drawings from collections around
the world. Visit [www.scov.org/files/](http://www.scov.org/files/2018_04_national_gallery_flyer.pdf)
2018_04_national_gallery_flyer.pdf.
Family Fun Night at the Telescope.
8-9 p.m. at Turner Farm Park, 925
Springvale Road, Great Falls. Visit
Observatory Park at Turner Farm and
take a guided tour of the heavens.
See the color of stars, open and
globular clusters, nebulae, and
galaxies. The cost is \$6 per person.
Call 703-324-8618 or visit
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm/family-fun-night-telescope-3)
turner-farm/family-fun-night-
telescope-3.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

Restaurant Fundraiser. 11 a.m.-9
p.m. at Mookie's BBQ, 1141 Walker
Road, Great Falls. Mookie's BBQ will
donate 10 percent of all sales all day
to paws4vets, a nonprofit that places
service dogs with veterans. Join your
friends and neighbors at Mookie's or
enjoy take-out at home. Check out
the online silent auction to benefit
paws4vets running from April 12-26.
Visit [www.biddingowl.com/](http://www.biddingowl.com/paws4people)
paws4people to bid on gift
certificates for local restaurants,
jewelry, event tickets and more.
Contact Susan Kurtz at
skurtzie@verizon.net or call 703-
472-8079.

Wolf Trap History. 7-8 p.m. at
Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library,
7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church.
Join Ken Bigley of the National Park
Service for “Performing Arts,
Partnerships, and Public Lands: The

Story of Wolf Trap National Park for
the Performing Arts.” This program
will discuss the history of Wolf Trap
and its visionary benefactor,
Catherine Filene Shouse, and trace
the path of Wolf Trap's development
as our country's only national park
for the performing arts. Contact Ken
Bigley at ken_bigley@nps.gov or call
703-255-1809.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26

Art Exhibition: Aware. 11:30 a.m.-
1:30 p.m. at ServiceSource
Headquarters, 10467 White Granite
Drive, Oakton. In celebration of
Autism Awareness Month,
ServiceSource is hosting AWARE., an
art exhibition featuring artists on the
autism spectrum to raise awareness
of disability advocacy efforts in the
NoVA community. BBQ will be
served. Free. Call 703-970-3653 or
visit www.servicesource.org.
Nobody's Girl. 7:30-9 p.m. at Jammin
Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna.
Featuring BettySoo, Grace Pettis,
Rebecca Loebe. The all-female group
offers delicate and complex
harmonies and innovative
songwriting. \$20. Visit
www.jamminjava.com or call 877-
987-6487.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 26-29

“9 to 5, The Musical.” April 26, 27,
and 28 at 7 p.m.; with matinees April
28 and 29, 2 p.m. at McLean High
School's Burke Auditorium, 1633
Davidson Road, McLean. Get up and
work as McLean High School's
“TheatreMcLean” presents Dolly
Parton's hit musical comedy, “9 to 5.”
Tickets are \$12/online; \$15/door. To
order tickets, visit theatremclean.org.

VOLUNTEERS

FROM PAGE 4

cleaning, organizing and decluttering. Contact Emily Tho-
mas at Emily.Thomas@fairfaxcounty.gov.

❖ Older adults are missing important medical appoint-
ments due to lack of transportation. Drive older adults
Monday through Friday, generally between 8 a.m.-5 p.m.
Opportunities available throughout Fairfax County.

❖ Senior Centers – Technology Educators to provide
support to participants in groups and one-on-one. Basic
knowledge of MS Word, Phone Apps, Facebook, Digital
books, etc. Schedule and location will vary based on cen-
ter location and volunteer availability. Centers are looking
for support between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Ap-
ply online

❖ Respite Care volunteers give family caregivers of a
frail older adult a well-deserved break so they can go shop-
ping, attend a doctor's appointment or just have coffee
with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of
the older adult for a few hours each month. Support and
training are provided. Contact ElderLink at 703-324-5374,
TTY 711. Apply online

❖ The Chronic Disease Self-Management Program
needs volunteer leaders to co-facilitate 2-hour workshops
that help people with chronic illnesses. The 6-week pro-
gram meets in Fairfax County. A 4-day training is
provided. The next training to be held in the Spring 2018.
Contact ElderLink at 703-324-5374, TTY 711. Apply
online

Falls Church/McLean

❖ Falls Church Meals on Wheels Driver Coordinators
needed to schedule drivers and manage the monthly meal
delivery calendar. Apply online

❖ The Lewinsville Adult Day Health Care Center in
McLean is looking for musicians for one hour a week at
3:30 p.m., Bingo Helpers and a Kikuyu-Speaking Social
Visitor. Flexible schedule, anytime between 10 a.m. and
4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. Apply online

❖ The Bailey's Senior Center in Falls Church is looking
for Front Desk Assistance and a Jewelry-Making Instruc-
tor to teach a class once a week. Apply online.

❖ The James Lee Senior Center in Falls Church is look-
ing for one or two Line Dance Instructors to teach a class,
open to all levels, between the hours of 10 a.m.-12 p.m.
on Wednesdays. Apply online.

❖ The Pimmit Hills Senior Center in Falls Church is
looking for General Administrative Volunteers, and a Ce-
ramics Assistant. Apply online.

❖ Vietnamese Meals on Wheels urgently needs drivers
in Falls Church-Annandale to deliver meals midday dur-

ing weekdays. Non-Vietnamese-speaking volunteers are
welcome. Apply online.

❖ The Lewinsville Senior Center in McLean needs In-
structors for the following classes: Spanish, Italian,
Ballroom Dance and Basic Guitar. Apply online.

**Reston/Herndon Area
Opportunities**

❖ The Herndon Senior Center is looking for Knitting
Instructors. Apply online.

❖ The Herndon Adult Day Health Care Center is look-
ing for Lunch Assistants, Monday-Friday, and a Spanish
Instructor to teach basic Spanish words to a small group
of seniors, Monday, Wednesday or Friday, 10-11 a.m. once
a month. Apply online.

More Volunteer Opportunities

❖ Adult Day Health Care and Senior Centers – Visit cen-
ters to assist with fitness activities, arts and crafts, meal
time, entertainment and much more.

❖ Caregiver Respite – Respite volunteers give family
caregivers of older adults, who cannot be left alone, a well-
earned break. Volunteers are matched with families in or
near their own neighborhoods. Volunteers receive training
and support. Apply online.

❖ Grocery Shopping – Shop for an older adult or accom-
pany them to the grocery store. Commitment: two hours
every other week. Apply online.

❖ Household Services – Unpack boxes, change light
bulbs, paint small areas, straighten cupboards or closets,
organize paperwork, write letters. Commitment: varies.
Apply online.

❖ Meals on Wheels – Transport meals to older adults or
adults with disabilities Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
midday. Program also needs driver coordinators and group
coordinators. Commitment: two hours/month and longer.
Volunteer opportunities are available near where you work
or live. Employee groups are welcome to share a delivery
commitment. Check us out on YouTube now!

❖ Senior Centers – provide assistance to program man-
agers or offer activity programming.

❖ Social Visits – Visit older adults who need company.
Commitment: once a week visits for one hour at a time. A
one-year commitment is requested. Apply online.

❖ Transportation – Drive older adults to and from medi-
cal appointments, pharmacy, bank, library, grocery
shopping etc. Apply online.

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.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

STEM Professionals Needed. Help assist K-12 STEM teachers as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2018-19 school year. In the 2017-18 school year, there are 85 volunteers in 6 Northern Virginia school districts. Contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488, or donaldrea@aol.com.

Vote on Budget on May 1

FROM PAGE 3

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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If Only It Were That Simple



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Vienna Theatre Company Presents "Blithe Spirit"

Noel Coward's 1941 comedy involves madcap fun with a séance and a spiritualist.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

Vienna Theatre Company is presenting Noel Coward's 1941 comedy "Blithe Spirit" from April 20 to May 6, 2018. The play directed by Rosemary Hartman and produced by Jessie Roberts centers around socialite and novelist Charles Condomine, who invites Madame Arcati, the local spiritualist and medium, to his house to conduct a séance, hoping to gather material for his next book. The scheme backfires when he becomes haunted by the ghost of outspoken first wife, Elvira. Elvira makes continual attempts to disrupt Charles's marriage to his second wife, Ruth, who cannot see or hear the ghost. Worldly and unworldly personalities clash in a battle to see which "blithe spirit" wins.

"It's about a writer who's looking to write a new book and he asks a medium to come to his house to conduct a seance. He doesn't believe that this is real stuff but he wants to get a sense of what it's all about. They call it the tricks of the trade," said Hartman of Annandale who lived in Vienna for 25 years. "There is some kind of spirit floating around, that's why it's called 'Blithe Spirit.' We have a special effects person who is going to be doing a lot of special effects in that regard."

AS FAR AS AUDIENCE takeaways, she said she hopes they laugh and appreciate how hard this theater group works to entertain them. Having directed more than 50 plays, some of her current ones include "Boys in the Band" for Dominion Stage and "Master Class" for the Reston Players. Her last play for Vienna was "Other Desert Cities."

Katherine Metres Akbar of Alexandria plays the role of Ruth Condomine, the wife of the main character who finds herself in the awkward position of being in a marriage that becomes haunted by the ghost of the first wife.

"The biggest challenge was that basically I'm angry throughout the play. I have to try to find ways to make myself likeable. When you play a part, you are almost a lawyer for your character. My job is to make the case that my character's point of view is entirely justified," she said.

She added: "I think it's a portrait of a dysfunctional marriage, so obviously if you and your spouse have a challenging situation, you need to try to understand where that person's coming from and sympathizing with them instead of spinning off into paranoia and escalating."

Nancy Cahill of Prince William County, who has been acting for 50 years, plays the role of Madame Arcati, the medium that starts the whole mess and then finally resolves it. "She is a professional medium and she has since a child been able to communicate with the other side and hold seances and she's completely serious about her



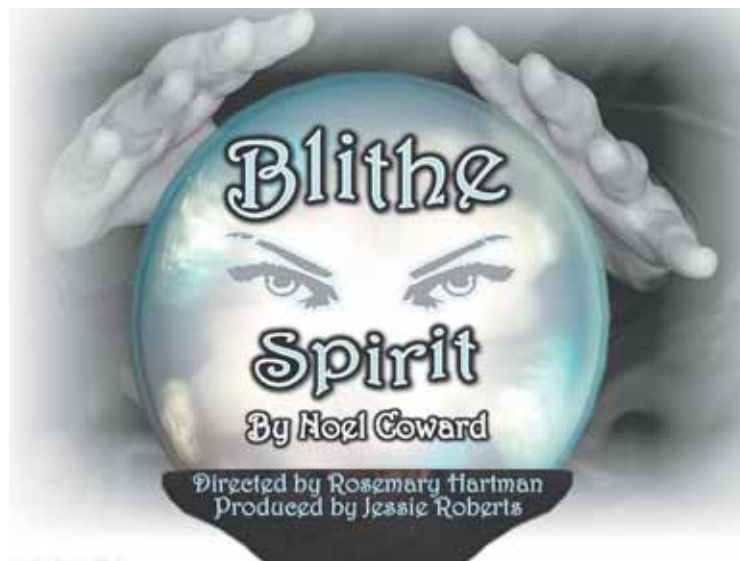
From left, actors Robey Manno as Violet Bradman, Katherine Metres Akbar as Ruth Condomine, Nancy Cahill portraying Madame Arcati, Allen McRae as Charles Condomine and Eric Storck portraying Dr. George Bradman rehearse a scene from "Blithe Spirit" when during a seance Madame Arcati makes contact with a little girl named Daphne who is her spirit "control."

PHOTOS BY LOCK & COMPANY



From left, actors Katherine Metres Akbar as Ruth Condomine, Nancy Cahill as medium Madame Arcati and Allen McRae as Charles Condomine rehearse a scene from VTC's upcoming spring production of "Blithe Spirit" by Noel Coward. Ruth and Charles try to revive Madame Arcati after she faints into a trance.

"Blithe Spirit" logo.



work. It's up to the audience to decide whether she's for real or pulling everybody's leg in some way or another," she said.

She said the role is very physical. "For example, every time she goes into a trance, she falls over. At one point I'm falling over the end of the sofa with my feet up in the air when I'm falling into a trance. I do that a couple of times," she said.

Eric Storck of Vienna, who has been involved in community theater for 30 years, plays the role of Dr. Bradman, a neighbor to the main characters in the show. "He's been invited to dinner with them to attend the seance; he's the town doctor," he said. "He comes in and he's sort of a skeptic. He doesn't believe in the medium so a lot of what he does is poking fun at that. He attends this seance and he attends to main character who gets injured."

He said the show is a classic Noel Coward play that's wildly popular around the world. "It's extremely funny. It's beautifully written and it's a feast for the ear in terms of language, and it's very clever on a lot of levels so the audience is going to come and enjoy themselves."

Allen McRae of Bealton, in Fauquier County, plays the role of Charles Condomine, a sort of upper class British of the Noel Coward type. "He's sort of enjoying the fact that he has two women fighting over him even though one is a ghost. He tends to let women get the best of him. He is doing research for a book that he's writing so he invites Madame Arcati over to do a seance. He wants to do research for his book. As a result of the seance, his first wife who has been dead shows up. Charles is the only one who can see or hear her. The rest of the play is the complications that come from that," he said.

He said the challenge was the Noel Coward's sophisticated lines. "The language isn't what we're used to here in America. The structure of the sentences is not the way we would say things so that was a little bit of a challenge," he said.

Mattie Cohan of Arlington plays the role of Edith the maid. "Edith is the only Cockney, working class character; she's new to the job eager to learn to do it right, but not the most skilled maid who's ever lived. She's actually pivotal to the resolution of the plot," she said.

She added: "I spent a lot of my youth watching Monty Python and I've done a British accent for another show before. Everybody's accents are high class. But this is a Cockney working class British accent. That was a fun challenge," she said.

VIENNA THEATRE COMPANY is presenting Noel Coward's 1941 comedy "Blithe Spirit" from April 20 to May 6, 2018. Show times are 8 p.m. on April 20, 21, 27, 28, May 4, 5; and 2 p.m. on April 29, May 6. Tickets are \$14. The venue is at 120 Cherry St. SE, Vienna. Visit the website at www.viennatheatrecompany.org or email vtcshows@yahoo.com.