

Vienna and Oakton Vienna CONNECTION

WELLBEING
PAGE 7

Supervisor Walter Alcorn
(D-Hunter Mill) holds his first
Vienna Town Hall Meeting,
'with many more to come.'

Supervisor Presents Vienna, Hunter Mill Priorities

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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 Police Department from Feb. 21 – Feb. 27, 2020.

INCIDENTS

Suspicious Event — 600 Block Tazewell Road, NW Feb. 18, 4 p.m. A resident reported an encounter with a neighbor that made her feel uncomfortable. The neighbor was advised by the police that the resident requested he has no further contact with her.

Police Service — 200 Block Park Terrace Court, SE Feb. 21, 3:23 a.m. Officers responded, at the request of the resident, to assist in removing his friend, a woman, from the apartment. The woman was very cooperative and left the apartment with the officers. The resident, who showed signs of impairment, then began yelling at the officers. The officers remained in the parking lot with the woman until an Uber arrived for her.

Stolen Vehicle — 600 Block John Marshall Drive, NW Between Feb.

20 at 9 p.m. and Feb. 21 at 6 a.m. A resident reported that her unlocked vehicle was stolen from her driveway.

Fraud — 900 Block Plum Street, SW Between Feb. 13 at 12 p.m. and Feb. 20 at 2 p.m. A resident reported that a few months ago, an unknown person unsuccessfully attempted to use his wife's personal information to obtain money from their bank account. Recently, an unknown person has used his personal information to obtain money from the account.

Fraud — 300 Block Johnson Street, SW Feb. 20, 12 p.m. A resident reported that he received an email stating he had won a large sum of money from Reader's Digest. The resident was instructed to send a certified check to ensure the collection of his winnings. After the resident sent the check, he determined the email was fraudulent.

Vandalism — Vienna Elementary School 128 Center Street, South Between Feb. 21 at 5:30 p.m. and Feb. 24 at 6:20 a.m. An unknown person vandalized two school buses in the parking lot.

Domestic Dispute — Glyndon Lane, SE Feb. 21, 8:04 p.m. A resident reported a verbal dispute between him and his wife.

Arrest – Driving While Intoxicated — Maple Avenue near Follin Lane, NE Feb. 22, 2:59 a.m. Sgt. Ruddy observed a vehicle being driven with a flat tire and initiated a traffic stop. Upon the officer's interaction with the driver, she detected signs of impairment. The issue with the tire appeared to be the result of an accident. The driver reported that she had been involved in an accident in Fairfax County. After the driver failed to complete a series of field sobriety tests, Sgt. Ruddy arrested the 22-year-old woman from Leehigh Drive in Fairfax. She was transported to the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center, where a sample of her blood was drawn for analysis and she was charged with Driving While Intoxicated. Fairfax County Police were advised of the arrest for their accident investigation.

Open Door — 600 Block Tazewell Road, NW Feb. 22, 8:20 p.m. Officers responded to the report of a suspicious woman in the driveway of a vacant house that is under construction. The woman was gone when officers arrived. The officers checked the house and found the front door was unsecured. The officers checked the interior of the home and found that nothing appeared to have been disturbed.

Suspicious Event — 1000 Block Mountfort Court, SW Feb. 22, 8:50 p.m. A resident believed someone was in her home after she heard a door open and the sound of footsteps inside the residence. Officers searched the home but found no sign of an intruder.

Domestic Dispute — Hillcrest Drive, SW Feb. 23, 10:13 a.m. Officers responded to a 911 hang up. The resident reported that her juvenile daughter called 911 after becoming upset with her when she took her cell phone. The juvenile was counseled on the proper use of the 911 system.



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Family, friends and loved ones pack the community center at the 2020 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.



Student Peace Awards Presented

Senior and junior high school students honored.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

The 2020 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held Sunday, March 1, recognized high school junior and senior students at 24 public and two private high schools in the county who made a positive contribution to their school or wider community by promoting mutual understanding and respect for all people. Held at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, sponsors, family and friends celebrated the accomplishments of the recipients at a public reception.

Last fall, organizers asked the schools' principals to nominate one outstanding student or student group for the award, proactively seeking a likely nominee. This year's recipients worked as peacemakers in a variety of settings according to emcee, Margaret Fisher, who during her remarks at Sunday's reception gave a brief overview of each student's accomplishment.

According to Fisher, in **Vienna at Cedar Lane High School**, Senior Sage Quick and Junior Will LaWalt volunteered to serve as peers in a Personal

Development class that taught social skills, decision-making, and coping strategies for difficult or confusing situations. "Peers model communication skills as they listen to students talk about their interests and concerns. They then help the students in the class remain calm and focused," Fisher said.

Sarah Gu is a Senior at McLean High School. When she visited her family in China there the last five summers, she offered the children free lessons in English and current affairs. According to Fisher, Gu eventually grew her program into an organization called "The Windows," which served over 600 children.

At Oakton High School, Fisher said that **Roudah Chaker** put in hundreds of volunteer hours packing meals, participating in back-to-school drives for orphanages, distributing needed items to the homeless, and raising \$3000 for Syrian refugees. "She is also active politically, working to correct policies that directly harm those who want to come to the U.S. for its promise of peace," said Fisher.

SEE PEACE AWARDS, PAGE 6

From left: Vice-Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Penny Gross (D-Mason District), Chair of the Fairfax County School Board Karen Corbett Sanders (Mount Vernon), U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), Fairfax County School Board Members Karen Keys-Gamarra (At-Large) and Melanie Meren (Hunter Mill District).



VIEWPOINTS

What Do Award Recipients Say?

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Samantha (Sage) Quick, Senior, Cedar Lane High School: I have the privilege of assisting in a personal development classroom, and they are the true peacemakers. The students I work with teach me the empathy and love I had unlearned through the traumas life bares. They repair my heart.
William (Will) LaWalt, Jr., Cedar Lane High School: The peace award means a lot to me; it shows me that my work at Cedar Lane was helpful and appreciated.



Daphne May, Senior, Madison High School: One of the most wonderful parts of advocacy and peace work is being part of a community of such dedicated, compassionate people that inspire and support each other.



Zamir Ticknor, Junior, George C. Marshall High School: When I was nominated, the word "peace" really stuck with me, because it emphasizes the values I hold: encompassing inclusion, environmental protection, human rights, tolerance, and intercultural understanding. All of these concepts are what I value in this peace award...I sincerely believe that by helping others, encouraging tolerance, and mutual understanding shape society into a more welcoming environment that accepts everyone of all backgrounds. These are some of the elements that encourage peace.



Sarah Gu, Senior, McLean High School



Roudah Chaka, Senior, Oakton High School

OPINION

Work Is Not Yet Done

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



The General Assembly is in the final week of its scheduled 60-day annual session—scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on March 7. The session has already made history with the actions that have been taken, and that history will be added to in its last week. Resolution of remaining issues will determine just how historic the session will be and how strong the forces of “we have always done it this way” are.

A majority of both the House and the Senate members agree that the minimum wage should be increased—actually should have been increased years ago. The current minimum of \$7.25 is an embarrassment. But discussions continue to be held on how much the increase should be. Should there be incremental increases over time? Should increases be statewide or regional? What jobs should the increase cover?

Almost every member ran for office with a

promise to clean up the environment. How should we get to a cleaner economy in the state? What should be the timeline on environmental legislation as experts advise us on the impending climate change crisis? Are consumers willing to pay more to get cleaner electricity?

How strict should background checks be for firearm transfers? A slim majority support my bill to require a background check on all firearm transfers. Others are vehement about having background checks for only firearm purchases. Should compromises be made on gun safety measures designed to reduce gun-related violence?

Should public employees be allowed to bargain with local governments on the conditions and compensation for employment? Or should they only be able to meet and discuss their wages and conditions with local governments with no power to bargain? Should all employees be required to pay dues to unions that are representing their interests?

How often should vehicles have a safety inspection? For many years the requirement was twice annually. Most recently it has been once

annually. Most states have dropped the requirement. Would every other year be adequate?

With gasoline tax revenues declining as automobiles get more mileage per gallon, should the gas tax be increased to make up for the loss? Or should cars be taxed on the distance they travel in a year? And what about electric vehicles that do not burn any gas? Should we be making a greater investment in our transportation infrastructure?

Should a constitutional amendment be approved setting up an independent redistricting commission or is there another way to try make sure districts can be drawn fairly without incumbents alone picking their voters?

I have made my views public on these and other issues over the years. In a legislative session all views must be considered: urban, suburban, rural; Democratic, Republican, Socialist (there is one); conservative, moderate, liberal; etc. In most instances a compromise can be reached in conference committees such as those that are now meeting. Other issues will be put off for another year. Regardless of what happens with remaining issues, the 2020 session will go down in history as truly a remarkable one with the many tough issues that have already been resolved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Coronavirus Update - Message from the Superintendent - March 2

Dear Parents and Staff,

FCPS is working closely with the Fairfax County Health Department to monitor the latest updates about the coronavirus (COVID-19). We are reinforcing the importance of ensuring students are following proper handwashing procedures before eating and after sneezing, coughing, or using the bathroom. We realize that time is a valuable commodity during the school day, and in today's environment, hand washing should be a priority, so we are encouraging staff to provide ample time for

students to wash their hands. We are reinforcing with our custodial teams the importance of following our standard cleaning protocols by using hospital-grade disinfectants on frequently-touched surfaces such as doorknobs, faucet handles, and handrails. Hand sanitizer is available in all schools and if a student is showing signs of a cold or the flu, they should stay home.

As indicated in my message to you last week, FCPS is in the process of reviewing and updating its existing pandemic influenza response plan. The plan addresses the specific activities necessary to

keep schools open and operating while providing a clean and safe environment during an outbreak and the essential functions that must be performed by FCPS if schools are closed. FCPS will continue to work closely with health officials to prepare for various scenarios that could develop.

Our overall goal would be to do all we can to maintain continuity of operations while minimizing student and staff exposure.

As of today, there are no confirmed COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County or the D.C. region. Updated information is being posted

to this webpage: FCPS coronavirus-update and additional information is available from the Fairfax County Health Department.

To date, FCPS has cancelled international field trips and short-term visitations to and from some countries, based on CDC guidelines.

We will continue to provide you regular updates as this situation continues to rapidly evolve.

Sincerely,

Scott Brabrand
Superintendent, Fairfax
County Public Schools

Making Virginia a Climate Leader

To the Editor:

We don't have time to waste in the face of the climate crisis. A recent climate report from the National Audubon Society revealed that two-thirds of North American bird species are vulnerable to extinction from climate change, including nearly 70 species found in Virginia.

From the coasts of the Chesapeake Bay to the forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains, birds like the Field Sparrow and Cerulean Warbler may lose nearly all of their seasonal habitat range. We need practical, ambitious climate solutions to protect our state's birds.

The Virginia Clean Economy Act

(HB 1526 / SB 851) can help by leading our state on a path to achieve a 100 percent carbon-free economy that will help our birds, our environment, and our communities thrive.

This bill is not the only step Virginia should take to address climate change—but it's a great first step. I urge Senator Barker and the

General Assembly to make cutting carbon emissions a top priority. We must act now to make Virginia a climate leader and prevent another year of inaction.

Nikka De Mesa
National Audubon Society
Springfield

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for length, libel, grammar, civility, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
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By email: editors@connectionnewspapers.com

Vienna & Oakton
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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
vienna@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Don Park
Display Advertising
703-778-9431
donpark@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

CIRCULATION
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com





PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Oakcrest's entire Science Olympiad team.

Oakcrest Advances to States in the Virginia Science Olympiad

Oakcrest School earned a spot in the Virginia Science Olympiad high school state tournament by finishing in fifth place at the regional competition held at the University of Mary Washington on Saturday, Feb. 8.

Oakcrest was the only all-girls school among the eleven in the high school competition, which included Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Fairfax High School and McLean High School. With two teams in the high school division, Oakcrest took first place among the eleven high schools in the Anatomy and Physiology competition, and fourth in the coding-intensive Detector Building category.

Oakcrest was also the only all-girls school among the thirteen middle schools that competed in the regional tournament. With one team in the middle school division, Oakcrest placed tenth out of twenty teams.

Notable high school student achievements included:

❖ Mackenzie M. ('20): First place, Anatomy & Physiology

❖ Rachel F. ('22) and Faven K. ('23): Second place, Gravity Vehicle

❖ Sofia J. ('21) and Hannah L. ('21): Fourth place, Detector Building

❖ Rachel F. ('22) and Grace C. ('22): Sixth place, Fossils

Notable middle school student achievements included:

❖ Vivian K. ('25) and Ashleigh Y. ('25): Fourth place, Heredity

❖ Megan B. ('25) and Maddie M. ('26): Sixth place, Density Lab

"It was a wonderful team effort across the board. The girls represented Oakcrest very well!" said Science Olympiad coach and Oakcrest science teacher Dr. Kat Hussmann.

This will be the second year in a row that Oakcrest sends students to the Virginia Science Olympiad State Tournament. In 2019, Oakcrest was the first ever all-girls team to compete in the state tournament and Dr. Hussmann received the Virginia Science Olympiad Coach of the Year award. States will take place on March 28 at the University of Virginia.

New at Blend 111

Several months ago, readers learned about the opening of a sparkling new restaurant in Vienna, Blend 111. With its new chef, Joshua Dixon, the classy eatery has tweaked its standard menu to add a few wintery offerings: for example, the seasonal arepas venezolanas (a Latino sandwich on cornmeal flatbread) is now tainted pink by sea-

sonal beets, making a charming treat; the once-special bouillabaisse is now on the standard menu and is an ideal seafood-centric offering; and the French omelette with its melted cheese filling is a perfect lunch/brunch dish for cold (or hot) weather.

Blend 111, 111 Church St., Vienna, 571-363-3613

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Peace Awards Presented

FROM PAGE 3

South Lakes High School in Reston is where **Lindsey Hirshfeld** goes to school and is a senior. “Hirshfeld feels empathy for classmates who are struggling to overcome a variety of issues that make them feel isolated. She helped raise money for children with brain tumors, organized cultural festivals to showcase diversity, and helped stage a school-wide silent protest against gun violence,” said Fisher.

At South County High School in Lorton, Siedeem Ahmed, Senior founded South County’s Interfaith Club to provide a safe space for student-led discussions. “She is also the President of Stallions with Refugees. Her goal is to spread the message that all students, including immigrants and refugees, are welcome and valued,” said Fisher.

One after another, Fisher read profiles of youth who made a difference, some locally like **Catherine Soto, Senior at Lee High School in Springfield.**

“Soto helped create the Best Buddies chapter at Lee High School. Soto and her fellow Best Buddies leaders were responsible for recruiting general education students who wished to build a relationship with the special needs students who might not otherwise have had the opportunity to engage with the student community,” said Fisher.

Others made differences to world neighbors, like **Betsabe Pardo, Senior at Mountain View High School in Centreville.** Pardo raised money to bring safe drinking water to communities around the world.

Dignitaries acknowledged the achievements of the recipients. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) said, “I congratulate this year’s recipients of the Student Peace Awards. Their leadership and commitment to being peacemakers and fostering mutual respect for our differences are bringing positive change and inclusivity to our community.”

Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason District) shared a letter from



Margaret Fisher emcees the 2020 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County held at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, Fairfax, on Sunday, March 1.



U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) offers his congratulations to the recipients of the 2020 Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County.

Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Jeffery McKay. She read: “I am always proud to see the level of commitment our students in Fairfax County put toward improving our community. It is this inspiring energy and action, combined with Fairfax County residents’ diverse experiences that allow us to consistently strive to-

ward creating a better community for all.”

In her remarks, Guest Speaker Kendyl Crawford, Director of Virginia Interfaith Power & Light addressed the effect of climate change on peace. Crawford said she was amazed at the students’ efforts to care not only for their neigh-

bors but to repair relationships with Mother Earth.

The awardees received \$250, plus another \$100 to be given to any nonprofit organization of their choice that operated in the spirit of the Peace Awards. The students also received the book, *Sweet Fruit from a Bitter Tree* by Mark Andreas.

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Inflicting Pain to Gain Relief

Self Injury Awareness Month is a time to learn about the condition and erase the stigma.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

March is self-injury prevention month, a time when mental health professionals work to raise awareness of the condition, recognize the signs and work to remove the stigma. Known by clinicians as non-suicidal self-injury, the behavior is described as intentionally harming oneself without intending to end one's life. The population most likely to engage in self-harm behaviors range from middle school through college, according to the American Psychological Association.

"When teens begin engaging in cutting behavior it is typically because they are feeling overwhelmed by intense feelings or emotions and don't have the coping skills to manage or respond to how they feel, said therapist Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW.

"Adolescents might self-injure to distract themselves from intense negative emotions of sadness or anger, or emotional numbness, added Jerome Short, Ph.D., Associate Profes-

"Self-injury may be a sign of depression, anxiety, substance use, or post-traumatic stress disorders."

— **Jerome Short, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University**

sor of Psychology at George Mason University. "They may also want to punish themselves or express a need for help."

Cuts and burns on the wrists or thighs are among the most common signs of self-injury. "Parents may notice their children have unexplained cuts, burns, or bruises," said Short. "Adolescents may wear clothing or bracelets to cover themselves even in very warm settings. Parents may find knives or razors in their children's rooms or notice they are missing from the home."

"Other signs that your child may be cutting include marks on the skin from scratching, using a paper clip or skin picking, advises Barnaby. "Multiple similar marks on the skin in close proximity for which your child has no explanation," said Barnaby.

While cutting and burning oneself causes pain initially, that pain can evolve into relief. "Sometimes cutting can be habit-forming or become compulsive, said Barnaby. "This in simple terms, means that the more the person cuts the more they feel the need to do it and their brain associates cutting with relief."

Teens might turn to self-injury as a way of regulating their emotions. "For teens who are feeling a lot of strong and intense emotions,



Stacie Isenberg



Jerome Short

self-harming releases the body's natural opiates and endorphins that help them manage their feelings," said Joanne Bagshaw, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Montgomery College. "On the flip side, a teen who is shut down or who feels numb might self-harm to feel their feelings. Alternatively, self-harm may be for the teen to communicate that they need help."

Several factors might trigger self-inflicted injuries. "Childhood abuse and conflicted parental relationships may trigger self-injury," said Short. "Self-injury may be a sign of depression, anxiety, substance use, or post-traumatic stress disorders."

Parents who suspect that their child might be engaging in intentional self-injury should avoid criticism and seek mental health treatment. "Parents should not ignore the problem," said Short. "If children engage in life threatening behavior, they should take them to a hospital."

Noticing those marks, however, could require careful attention. "Teens who self-injure often hide the marks that self-injury might cause," said Child Psychologist Stacie Isenberg, Psy. D. "For example, they may wear a long-sleeved shirt in hot weather if there are marks on their arms or multiple bracelets if there are marks on their wrists."

"If parents feel that their teen is engaging in self-harm behaviors they should show compassion for their child and get help, added Barnaby. "Self-harm behavior is very treatable with early intervention."

"Self-harm behavior is very treatable with early intervention."

— **Carol Barnaby, LCSW**

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Hogwart's Vacation Bible School

Registration. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. The camp dates are June 22–26, 2020 for morning or afternoon sessions. Children 5 through 11 years old are invited to participate in this popular and unique summer camp experience which explores the Christian themes and lessons in the Harry Potter stories. Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Vienna is magically converted into Hogwarts School where children attend “classes” taught by favorite professors including Professors McGonagall, Snape, Hooch, and Binns. Teenage prefects lead age level groups to their activities and all students share a closing snack in the Great Hall. This year's theme will be based on book 2, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Registration forms will be in the Church Office and online. More information: http://www.holycomforter.com/Children/Vacation_Bible_School/

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. They play on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna. For more information, visit the web site www.goldengirls.org

ReelAbilities Film Festival. Now thru March 1. The 8th Annual ReelAbilities Film Festival: Northern Virginia, powered by the Pozez Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, will present a lineup of 17 films in select venues across Northern Virginia, Maryland, and the District from Feb. 20–March 1. The festival is comprised of contemporary international films and post-film programs as well as a fine arts exhibit, all selected to be engaging, empowering, and championing the lives, stories, and artistic expressions of people with different abilities. Visit the website <https://www.thej.org/reel-abilities/reelabilities-film-festival-northern-virginia/>

FEB. 26 TO APRIL 12

21st Lenten Devotional. At The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. The church is publishing its 21st annual Devotions for Lent. The publication will be available on the church's website at www.GoodShepherdVA.com, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 26, through Easter on April 12. The church also will post each day's devotion on its Facebook page at www.Facebook.com/goodshepherdvienna. Printed copies will be mailed to neighborhoods surrounding the church, and a limited number of copies will be available at the church. Additionally, the church plans to hold weekly gatherings in members' homes to discuss the devotionals. Free. Visit the website: www.GoodShepherdVA.com

SUNDAYS: 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29, 4/5

Discover Who You Are with LifeKeys. 12:30-2:30 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Road, NE, Vienna. LifeKeys is a program designed to assist you in exploring the gifts God has given you—life gifts, spiritual gifts, personality, values, and passions. Different tools illuminate the ways in which you are unique and wonderfully made, encouraging you to go deeper as you seek to discover what God may be calling you to do. All can benefit from this journey of exploration. Register by February 23. The materials fee is \$30. Light snacks provided. Bring a bag lunch. For more information and to register, email wellspirit@hollycomforter.com. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.

MONDAY'S 3/2, 3/9, 3/16, 3/23, 3/30, 4/6

Centering Prayer with the Rev. Jon Strand. 1:30-2:30 p.m. At Holy Comforter Episcopal Church, 543 Beulah Rd, NE, Vienna in the new Contemplative Prayer room on the third floor. Contemplative prayer is a form of prayer in which one may experience God's presence within us, closer than breathing, closer than thinking, closer than consciousness itself. This method of prayer is both a personal relationship and a discipline to deeper foster one's relationship with God. Visit www.HolyComforter.com.



Reston Chorale

Reston Chorale presents Mendelssohn's “Elijah” on Sunday, March 8 at St. Luke Catholic Church in McLean.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Reston Chorale. 4-6 p.m. At St. Luke Catholic Church, 7001 Georgetown Pike, McLean. The Reston Chorale presents Mendelssohn's “Elijah” featuring Baritone James Martin and Organ Virtuoso Adam Brakel. Cost: \$0-\$30. Tickets/information at restonchorale.org.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3, 10, 17 AND 31

Toddler Tales. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 18 months-3 years with an adult.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3, 10, 17 AND 31

Canasta Group. 12:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Enjoy socializing while you play Canasta. Beginners welcome. Adults.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4, 11 AND 18

Preschool Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have fun with your child and build early literacy foundations for reading success. Age 3-5 with adult.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Chair Yoga. 3 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn relaxation and exercise techniques through Chair Yoga. Adults.

Best Spring Brunch. 7-10 p.m. At McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Enjoy timeless brunch classics, including eggs, sausage, home fries, fruit salad and coffee cake. Instructor: Chef John Bauhs. Cost is 1 lesson @ 3 hrs, \$80/\$65 MCC district residents.

THURSDAY/MARCH 5

Teen Advisory Board (TAB). 6 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Gain leadership experience and discuss what the library can do for you. Grades 7-12.

FRIDAY/MARCH 6

Free Bird-Watching Class. 8-10 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Birding is a hobby that can last a lifetime, and Riverbend Park is a great place to get some of the basics down as you start your adventure. The park is offering a free class that covers information a beginning birder should know. Pick up tips on how to use binoculars for bird watching. Learn the importance of having a field guide and discover other ways to identify different types of birds. The class is designed for participants age 14 to adult. Be an early bird and head to the park. The program runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Call 703-759-9018 or visit Riverbend Park.

Bilingual Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bilingual Storytime in English and Hindi. Enjoy stories, songs and activities. Birth-5 with adult.

Singer Gina Chavez. 7 p.m. At Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Visit GinaChavez.com.

MARCH 6-8

Tyson's Library Book Sale. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. At Tyson's Palmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Hours are Friday, March 6,

2020, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Saturday, March 7, 2020, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.; Sunday, March 8, 2020, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Half Price / \$10 per Bag Sale. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Email: tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com, or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Family Storytime. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Stories and songs for the whole family. All ages.

Norooz. 1 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Celebrate the Persian New Year and day of the vernal equinox, marking the beginning of spring, symbolizing rebirth and renewal. Please join us to enjoy music, crafts and delicious sweets! Local author Arsia Rozegar will be reading an excerpt of his children's book series, “Shahnameh for Kids”. For all the family.

Explore the Night Sky. 6-8 p.m. At Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. Observatory Park at Turner Farm will be hosting an “Astronomy Festival.” Enjoy activities such as guided star gazing, looking through a telescope, and listening to ancient stories about the constellations as you warm up around a campfire. There will be activities and games throughout the evening. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. The cost is \$10 per person, and the event is designed for participants age 3 to adult. This festival will be canceled in the event of rain or snow. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

SUNDAY/MARCH 8

Women's Choral Festival. 4-6 p.m. At Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Join in an afternoon celebrating International Women's Day featuring the voices of Capital Harmonia and Freedom High School Bella Voce. Premiering local composer Lee Larson's “A Winter Dawn. Free. Visit the website Capitalharmonia.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 9

Legos in the Library. 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Build anything with Duplos and Legos! Age 2-12.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10 AND 17

Code Club. 6:30 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn Scratch programming with our team of experts! Ages 9-11.

TUESDAY/MARCH 10

Money Matters Financial Book Discussion. 7 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Monthly group discussion focuses on personal finance and investing. The March

selection is “Bogleheads' Guide to the Three-Fund Portfolio: How a simple portfolio of three total market index funds outperforms most investors with less risk” by Larimore Taylor. Adults.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

Mystery Book Club. 1 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Join in the monthly unraveling of a whodunit or thriller. The March selection is The Janus Stone by Elly Griffiths. Adults.

THURSDAY/MARCH 12

Dungeons and Dragons. 5 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Play the Dungeons and Dragons game. Beginners welcome! Age: 12-17.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Craft Show. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Park View High School, 400 W. Laurel Ave., Sterling. The show includes 75 vendors in the school's gym with a variety of jewelry, accessories, soaps, candles, wreaths, pet treats, and more. There is something for everyone. Proceeds from vendor fees benefit Park View's Project Graduation. Free. Email: ParkViewCraftandVendorShows@gmail.com. Visit the website: <https://www.facebook.com/ParkViewCraftShow/>

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Read to the Dog. 10:30 a.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Gain reading confidence by reading to one of our therapy dogs. Age 5-11.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

The ABC's of CBD and Medical Marijuana. 2 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn from a medical expert about the benefits of medical marijuana, how to obtain it legally and whether it can help you or someone you know. Adults. No registration required.

MONDAY/MARCH 16

Handcraft Club Open House. 7 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Drop-in anytime and bring your favorite project or start a new one. Beginners welcome. Learn from other handcrafters about skills like crochet, knitting, weaving, and jewelry making. Teens-adults.

TUESDAY/MARCH 17

Job Club. 4 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Have questions about finding or excelling in a job? Receive one-on-one help from a specialist. Presented by Service Source. Age 16-Adult.

THURSDAY/MARCH 19

Oakton Book Discussion Group. 7 p.m. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. The March selection is “The Overstory”, a novel by Richard Powers. Everyone is welcome to join! Adults.

FRIDAY/MARCH 20

Free Bird-Watching Class. 8-10 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Birding is a hobby that can last a lifetime, and Riverbend Park is a great place to get some of the basics down as you start your adventure. The park is offering a free class that covers information a beginning birder should know. Pick up tips on how to use binoculars for bird watching. Learn the importance of having a field guide and discover other ways to identify different types of birds. The class is designed for participants age 14 to adult. Be an early bird and head to the park. The program runs from 8 to 10 a.m. Call 703-759-9018 or visit Riverbend Park.

MARCH 25-28

Oakton Friends Book Sale. At Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Members Pre-Book Sale—March 25 at 2-5:30 p.m.; Book Sale—March 26 at 1-8 p.m.; March 27 at 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; and March 28 at 10 a.m-3 p.m.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Free Black History Concert. 3 p.m. At Historic Pleasant Grove Church, 8641 Lewinsville Road, McLean. Featuring the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices in a free concert celebrating African American musical traditions. This event

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 10

SPORTS

The Marshall Statesmen are the 6D Northern Region Basketball Tournament Champions after defeating Madison 37-35.

PHOTOS BY
WILL PALENSCAR/
THE CONNECTION



Marshall Beats Madison, Wins Regional Championship

Both teams qualify for State Tournament.

The Madison Warhawks girls took their undefeated record on to take on the Marshall Statesmen on Feb. 28. The Warhawks defeated the Statesmen on Dec. 18, 64-43.

The 1st quarter started much of the way the first game went, with Madison taking an early 10-0 advantage before Marshall would score on a 3 pointer by Caroline Catterton in the closing seconds of the quarter. The quarter ended with Madison up 10-3.

In the 2nd quarter Marshall would slice the lead down to 3 points by quarter's end 18-15, Marshall was led by Zoe Soule who totalled 5 points in the quarter.

The 3rd quarter saw Madison's Tedi Makrigiorgos score 8 of her team's 11 points including two 3 point baskets points, increasing Madison's lead to 29-25 with a quarter to play.

In the 4th quarter Marshall would score 12 points including 5 points from the charity stripe. Soule's two free throws would give the Statesmen the lead for good 37-35 and a desperation shot by Amalia Makrigiorgos was off and the Statesmen were Regional 6D Champions. Soule would finish the game with a game high 17 points.

Marshall was led by Soule with 17 points, and Christina Trivisonno's 6 points. Madison was led by Tedi Makrigiorgos with 12 points. and Grace Arnolie's 11. Both teams will compete in the VHSL State Tournament. Madison will take on West Springfield on Friday, March 6, at 6 p.m. at Robinson HS. Edison will take on Marshall at 6 p.m. at Westfield.

—WILL PALENSCAR



Grace Arnolie #21 totaled 11 points for Madison.



Zoe Soule #3 led Marshall and all scorers with 17 points.



Kiera Kohler #25 of Madison blocks the shot of Marshall's Christina Trivisonno #21.

Here's What's Happening at MCC!

Presented by The Alden



Chamber Music at the Alden
Tysons McLean Orchestra
String Quintet
Saturday, March 7, 2 p.m.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden



Movies for Children and Families
Wednesday, March 11, 12:30 p.m.
In the Community Hall
Free admission

Making Memories



Father-Daughter Enchanted
Evening Dance
Friday, March 13, 7-8:30 p.m.
\$25 per participant

The Old Firehouse



5th & 6th Grader Parties
Glow Party
Friday, March 13, 7-9 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$35/\$25 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Danú "Saint Patrick's Celebration"
Sunday, March 15, 3 p.m.
\$50/\$45 senior
\$35 MCC district residents

Presented by The Alden



Macdonald Scholarship
Final Competition
Wednesday, March 18, 8 p.m.
Free admission



The McLean
Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org

Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

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WEST VIRGINIA

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 8

will take place in a quaint 1895 church setting, now an historic site. For information, see www.HistoricPleasantGrove.org.

SATURDAY/APRIL 18

32nd Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hosted by the Alice Ferguson Foundation, 2001 Bryan Point Rd, Accokeek. The Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup has become a catalyst for progress that ignites people's interest and passion for the environment and community action. The largest regional event of its kind, the Cleanup provides a transforming experience that engages residents and community leaders and generates momentum for change. The Potomac River Watershed Cleanup has grown from a small shoreline cleanup at Piscataway National Park to a watershed wide network. What started as a few cleanup events along the Potomac River is now a regional event spanning Maryland, Virginia, the District of Columbia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. If you can't make this date or location check out PotomacCleanup.org to find another cleanup near you.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Order Spring Native Plants. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. At Riverbend Park, 8700 Potomac Hills Street, Great Falls. Do something good for yourself and the environment. Put your shopping list together for the annual Native Plant Sale sponsored by the Friends of Riverbend Park (FORB). Choose from native plants, ferns and shrubs that are suited for the climate in Fairfax

County and benefit local wildlife. Proceeds from the sale benefit Riverbend Park, too. You can pre-order online through March 21, 2020, and the plants will be available for pickup at the park's Outdoor Classroom on Friday, April 24, the day before the sale for the general public. Go to FORB's website (<http://www.forb.wildapricot.org/Native-Plant-Sale>) for all the details. The public sale takes place on Saturday, April 25 from 8 to 11 a.m. Call 703-759-9018.

ONGOING

Drop-in Mah Jongg. Wednesdays, 9:30 a.m.-noon at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Players should have a basic understanding of the rules and should bring their current American MJ League card. For McLean District residents. Email emvarner@verizon.net for more.

Camp Grow Registration Open. Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, in Vienna, invites children to explore nature through hands-on activities, gardening, discovery walks, crafts, music, storytelling, and animal programs. Camp Grow is designed to engage, challenge, educate and encourage a sense of community. Camp Grow values and encourages inclusion of all campers in every activity. Visit www.novaparks.com/things-to-do/camps/ for more.

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.

Free Tai Chi. Through Oct. 26, Saturdays, 7:55-9 a.m., meet on the outdoor basketball court located directly behind the Dolley Madison Public Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean Central Park, McLean. Introduction and beginners' practice. All are welcome. Moves indoors for fall and winter. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org for more.

Trivia Night. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. at Lost Dog Cafe - McLean, 1690 Anderson Road, McLean. Trivia featuring multiple winners and fun door prizes. Free to play. Visit www.facebook.com/EarthTriviaDc/ for more.

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.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. Ravi Kaur has 15 years experience teaching yoga. \$15 per session. Visit www.edimprovement.org or call 571-213-3192.

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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

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

BULLETIN

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

SATURDAY/MARCH 7

Recycling Day. 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Town of Vienna's first 2020 Quarterly Recycling Day takes place at the Northside Property Yard, 600 Mill Street NE, Vienna. Load up electronics, used motor oil, antifreeze, and discarded car batteries. Televisions and hazardous waste products, such as insecticides, paint, and other chemicals, are not accepted. As a reminder, to ensure that glass products get recycled, the best option is to dispose of clean jars and bottles in one of Fairfax County's new, large, purple glass recycling dumpsters; one is located in the Town of Vienna on Mill Street NE next to the Capitol Building Supply. Fairfax County picks up the glass weekly and recycles it for use as a substitute for stone in county projects.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL COMPLETE

A new traffic signal aimed at improving safety for drivers, bicyclists and pedestrians is complete at Westpark Drive and Westbranch Drive in Tysons, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. The project's other safety improvements include:

- ❖ Four Accessible Pedestrian Signal (APS) crossings (expected to be active in the coming weeks);
- ❖ Bicycle detection;
- ❖ Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramp upgrades;
- ❖ Pavement markings;
- ❖ Signage.

DEMENTIA CONSULTATIONS

Caring for a person with Alzheimer's disease or other dementia is a life-encompassing experience that spans generations. Everyone has a role: spouses, siblings, children of all ages, and friends each play a part on the care team. It requires thought, strategy and, most importantly, a plan. Care consultations with the Alzheimer's Association are a free Chapter service that offers in-depth, personalized care planning, education and support. A consultation is more than just a meeting with a dementia expert. Highly trained staff help to develop a road map to navigate through the thoughts, emotions and questions that family members, care partners and the diagnosed person may have, including:

- ❖ Assessment of the functional status of the person with dementia;
- ❖ Navigating difficult caregiving decisions and role changes in the family;
- ❖ Information and resources to assist with legal and financial matters;
- ❖ Available community resources;
- ❖ Partnering with the physician and/or health care provider;
- ❖ Safety concerns.

To schedule a consultation, call the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800-272-3900.

TUESDAY/MARCH 31

GFES Kindergarten Orientation. 9:15 to 10:15 a.m. At Great Falls Elementary School, 701 Walker Road, Great Falls. Children who are five by September 30, 2020 are eligible to enter kindergarten for the 2020-2021 school year. To confirm Great Falls Elementary School serves your particular address, please visit the FCPS website, click on the boundary link, and type in your address. Parents and eligible children are invited to an overview of the Great Falls Elementary School kindergarten program. Rising kindergarten students will meet our kindergarten teachers in the classroom for a special welcome and activities. Parents will meet in the cafeteria to receive an overview of the kindergarten program, including curriculum and the daily schedule. This is an excellent opportunity for parents unsure of whether or not their child is ready for kindergarten to come, listen, and make an informed decision. Registration packets are available online www.fcps.edu

SUPPORT GROUPS

Haven of Northern Virginia Support Group. 703-941-7000, www.havenofnova.org or havenofnova@verizon.net.

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Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Kenny is currently out of the office. Please enjoy this previously written article from July 2019:

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc. Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal. In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, in this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand? There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home? What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers. I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket. Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process. Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there. Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer. Shakespeare notwithstanding

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode). I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error - or humor. "Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand. After all, money really isn't the issue.

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

Vienna and Hunter Mill Priorities Discussed

Supervisor Alcorn holds his first Vienna Town Hall meeting.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D) held his first Town Hall meeting in Vienna on Feb. 26. As the meeting was about to begin, residents shared topics of interest and concern. Beth Glicket of Vienna said, "I'm curious on what happens at Town Hall meetings," As for what she might ask Supervisor Alcorn, Glicket said, "What are your parameters; what do supervisors oversee. There's a lot." Michael Kowal of Reston said he wanted to hear Supervisor Alcorn's plans for roads, especially for the James Madison High School parking areas. "Inadequate," he said.

Supervisor Alcorn kicked off the meeting, discussing his priorities for Vienna and the Hunter Mill District. Alcorn said he presented his first board matter at the Jan. 14 Supervisors meeting, initiating a process to Review and Amend Reston's Comprehensive Plan. Alcorn said he would be putting together a balanced task force, engaging the public to participate in the process, one that would likely include several people in the room. "The task force, at my direction, will be run on an open process," he said. He estimated the Plan Review and community engagement would be every other week for about a year and cover topics he laid out in the motion on Jan. 14.

ONE THING TO REVIEW Alcorn said was how the County dealt with affordable housing. While there was some "good language" in the Comprehensive Plan for Reston, there wasn't much language that talked about the preservation of affordable housing, according to Alcorn. "If you don't get out in front of that, if you don't actually have some policy approaches, then (gentrification) becomes inevitable," he said.

Another area on the Plan that would benefit from additional study to ensure affordable housing was land use. "Not sure how much more we're going to be able to get in terms of new affordable housing from new development, but that is definitely something that's on the agenda," said Alcorn.

The next thing they'd look at, setting aside density and affordable housing, was how to get new development done. "The language in the Comprehensive Plan, needs to be reviewed and probably be addressed, but this is part of the community discussion," he said.

According to Alcorn, one of the first things in a Plan Review was to look at properties that have been "resolved" to the new Comprehensive Plan. That was important because there were two significant steps in the land development approval process. One was comprehensive - that's what they'd



Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) holds his first Vienna Town Hall Meeting, "with many more to come."



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION
Michael Kowal of Vienna shares concerns with Supervisor Alcorn.



Approximately 35-40 people attend the Town Hall Meeting.

be looking at again. The second was zoning. Alcorn said, "So typically, what happens is a developer will come in and attempt to rezone a property to the new Comprehensive Plan. That's how Reston got these 52 properties resolved during the last five years. And the important thing to know about rezoning, particularly in Virginia, is

that it is a one-way street. Once the property is resolved, undoing that zoning only happens if it is the property owner." It was a tremendous challenge to manage that growth, to make sure the infrastructure was in place to support it.

However, when the property landowners come back through the process to do some-

thing more than getting the density, that was the time to get them on the opportunity - parks, street, intersection with nearby neighborhoods, setbacks.

THE SECOND KEY PRIORITY

Alcorn addressed related to transportation on a personal basis - pedestrian and bicycle safety, including crosswalks that warn drivers pedestrians are coming into them. Education played a vital part for pedestrians, cyclists, and those who drive as well, however, the problem correlated with urban design. "We have to really stop designing, all of our transportation facilities for cars, particularly in our urbanized areas around their transit stations. Those have got to be as friendly for people and bicyclists, as they are for autos. That's a huge change for all of us, but it's also a huge change for regulators for the Virginia Department of Transportation," Alcorn said.

"Not sure how much more we're going to be able to get in terms of new affordable housing from new development, but that is definitely something that's on the agenda,"

—Supervisor Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill)

Alcorn proposed new ways to generate affordable housing saying that in Fairfax County, there were old underutilized offices, surrounded by parking lots with no nearby residential neighbors who would be upset about the change to the site. There were commercial shopping centers, long strips of highway no longer economically robust. "These are the types of properties that we can all agree, fantastic opportunities for real, affordable housing for mixed-income communities... Convert those properties to more productive uses.

Alcorn reviewed County-wide energy and climate action plans - solar panels on schools, energy efficiency and weatherization programs, moving bus fleets from diesel to electric.

Highlights of concerns from the public cited limited parking at James Madison High School, tree fall liability causing potential property and bodily injuries, especially to elderly and children, and inaccurate housing/school population numbers.