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Marshall Minute

April 2018

**Come hear what's happening
around Marshall!
MBRA Community Meeting
7:30 pm on Tuesday
April 10, 2017**

ALL ARE WELCOME!

*Free refreshments begin at 7:15 pm
and chance to win a door prize!*

Held at the
Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road
Marshall, VA

Our featured speakers:

**Mr. Jan Sickel, President
Marshall Ruritan Club**

Will speak to us about their club and
new building, re-opened and rebuilt
after the snow damage of 2016

**Mr. Bob Dale, Executive Director
Windy Hill Foundation**

Will speak about the new rental
townhomes called "Washburn Place"
located near the Ruritan building

**Want to advertise in the
Marshall Minute? Email:
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**www.MarshallVirginia.org
Email us to include your info!**

Have questions or suggestions for
speakers? Contact Mary Wilkerson,
MBRA President
(540) 364-3400

mbraeditor@gmail.com
Editor: Mary Wilkerson
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Free Springtime Jam with Dixie Rhythm

**Saturday, April 21st, 5 to 7 pm
Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road in Marshall**
Adults enjoy this Dixieland Jazz Band!
Arts & crafts for the kids, too!
Call (540) 422-8580

T'ai Chi For Rehab

A special T'ai Chi class structured around
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Cindy Nichols, the instructor, is certified
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Thursdays, 12:30-1 pm; Call Marshall
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Open House at #18 Schoolhouse

FREE! Saturday, April 28th, 1—3 pm
**The only surviving unmodified one-room
schoolhouse in the country!**
Volunteer docents Lee Dietrich and Vicky
Newell will answer questions. Period
artifacts and pictures will be on display as
you step back into history and relive what it
was like to be a student decades ago. Enjoy
a stroll along the planted flowerbeds created
and maintained on site by the
Fauquier Master Gardeners

Thanks to all of you who have emailed us your info for our website!

Please visit our site on 4.4.18:

www.MarshallVirginia.org

to see our updates and to make sure your
info is listed correctly. Improvements are
continuing. Suggestions? Email
mbraeditor@gmail.com

*If you have a community group, church, or
business you want listed in our online
directory, please email info to
mbraeditor@gmail.com*

Do you have business/office space in Marshall for rent or to sublease, full or part-time?

Business members may email info to the
address above, to be included on our website
as a service to the small business community

MBRA Business Membership

The MBRA wants to support the unique
needs of our local Marshall businesses,
and has events in 2018 designed just for
you! Your \$50 business membership
means that all 2018 Business-to-Business
events are FREE to you. Also, our ad
pages are reserved for business members
only, and are reasonably priced. If you
haven't yet joined, simply use the form at
the bottom of page 2. If you're a member
and would like your business to be
highlighted as one of our Showcase
Mixers, just let us know!

MBRA SHOWCASE MIXER

spotlighting

Big Dog Pots

8287 East Main Street
Marshall, VA 20115
www.bigdogpots.com

All Marshall Businesses are invited to
attend this Business-to-Business event,
rescheduled from March snow to
Thursday, April 19, 2018

Come by anytime from 5:30 to 7 pm

Lori B. Langford, Artist & Owner, will be
hosting our first Showcase Mixer and will
graciously be providing refreshments for us!
Come learn about all that Big Dog Pots has
to offer, see their newly renovated space,
and meet fellow businesses in your
community!

**MBRA Showcase Mixers are free to
all MBRA Business members and
\$5 for non-member
Marshall businesses**

You may also join or renew your MBRA
business membership at the event.

~MBRA Networking Group~

Monday, April 30, 2018, 5-6 pm

at the Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road in Marshall

Come enjoy refreshments and meet
other Marshall business people!
Please bring any flyers or info
you may have for your business.

For questions, or if you would like to be
put on the list to host one of our
Showcase Mixers, call: (540) 364-3400.

MBRA March 13th Meeting Notes

Mary Wilkerson, President, called the meeting to order at 7:31pm. Our first speaker of the evening was **Marshall District Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel**. She gave an update about the proposed 2019 budget. The County's first and only public hearing will be Thursday, March 15th at 7:00pm at Fauquier High School. Mary Leigh explained that a new Warrenton Library is also a hot topic; many people support construction of a new library but some do not. The PATH Foundation donated \$1 million, the Town of Warrenton donated \$1 million, and the community donated \$3 million for it so that the County could have \$10 million. Mary Leigh said the Board of Supervisors (BOS) was reluctant to commit the \$10 million.

As for the budget, Mary Leigh said that most of the increases are related to public safety and schools: fire, schools, utilities, and the Sheriff's Department, for example. She said there has been a lot of anxiety over the proposed increases, which would mean a 17% average increase on residential, 5% on commercial, and 4% or 5% on farmland. The County will reduce the tax rate.

1) Public Safety: They are looking at hiring new rescue workers primarily because response times in rural areas are much slower. They want to supplement people in order to improve response times. Currently, Orlean and Marshall fire departments work together so that people in the middle of the two areas get covered.

2) Public Health: The County has decided to send to bid the sewer in Catlett. That will help the County get more economic development.

The proposed budget only gives Fauquier County schools half of what they are asking for. Mary Leigh explained that this is budget is a 2-year plan, and that the County also has a 5-year plan and a 10-year strategic plan. They will also do a budget next year because they are required by law to do one every year. Mary Leigh said that feedback is very important for the BOS to make a decision on the budget. The best way to comment on the budget issue is to either speak at the public hearing or email the BOS. She said the County wants to be responsible with what they have to fund, which is fire and rescue, etc. The Proposed Budget is up on the County Website. March 19th will be the BOS's mark up/mark down work session. On March 22nd, they will vote on and pass the budget.

Supervisor Mary Leigh McDaniel then introduced our final speaker of the night, **Fauquier County School Superintendent Dr. David Jeck**.

Superintendent Dr. Jeck asked that we all support the school's budget proposal and understand where they are coming from. He explained that they have not had a fully funded budget in the five years that he has been with Fauquier's school system. A mantra they started last year is that we want to be heroes; we can be heroes, villains, or victims, but villain and victim are both loser positions. Dr. Jeck wants public safety funded and does not want to pit the County's agencies against one another.

The number one thing students would want to have if money were no object is better food. They also would want to have more technology and to pay teachers more.

Dr. Jeck said this is the most he has ever proposed to the County in funding. He is required by law to provide a needs-based budget, and he feels that this proposal is needs-based. Included in the school's proposal is a 3% raise for all employees, which would cost over \$3 million. \$500,000 of whatever is awarded to the school system is lopped off the top for students with severe emotional disabilities/issues.

He asks that we do the math and figure out what stays and what goes. He believes that some must-haves are new buses, fuel, pay costs, and school maintenance costs. The school administration received ninety-two budget requests. He said they are basically at poverty, and recently had a \$150,000 cut due to loss of federal funding.

Dr. Jeck has been in Fauquier for 5 years and spent 19 years in Charlottesville prior to Fauquier. Fauquier County schools have a 96% graduation rate and some of the highest AP enrollments and SAT scores in the state.

He said there is a strong sense of community in this County, and when all other agencies/entities are funded, our kids benefit. At the last School Board budget hearing, there were no citizens who spoke, which was disappointing but he understands that people usually go to the Board of Supervisors Public Hearing to speak.

Because of the smaller class sizes in Fauquier County schools, Fauquier spends more financially per pupil than other areas spend. Our smaller class sizes are a calling card for us. Our typical class size is twenty-two students, whereas Prince William County's is thirty-one to thirty-two.

Student population has been stable the last few years. Three factors are examined in determining future student populations: 1) live births, 2) a Weldon Cooper population analysis system from UVA, and 3) the number of roofs going up in the County. For example, 500 homes would translate to 350 students. They are not projecting much growth in the next few years; many kids who grow up here and move away will not be replaced.

Five teaching positions are already grant-funded. He discussed the downside to hefty grant-funding.

Student Walkouts: He said that while we are a conservative community, it makes sense to him to give these kids 17 minutes to say, "hear us." He feels it is important for them to learn self-advocacy. He said it is not a political thing for these kids. He said it is political to the adults. For the kids, they are just asking what is the plan, what are you doing to protect us?

Dr. Jeck explained that we are about to see a complete overhaul in the education system in Virginia. For years, it has all been about teaching for standardized testing. Now, Virginia has learned that has not worked and it has been a disservice to our students. This overhaul means fewer tests, more dual-enrollment opportunities, and trade-CTE routes. There will be an emphasis on internships, mentoring, and authentic assessments - the opposite of multiple choice tests. Instead, more focus will be on projects and research papers. He said this will be a difficult shift because it is a cultural shift. The timing of this change will impact the incoming 9th grade class.

Jennifer Goldman of the Fauquier Enterprise Center on 8452 Renalds Avenue spoke about the small business center. They provide support, office space, and counseling to small businesses and start-ups. She also announced the Northern Fauquier Business Networking group that meets the second Tuesday of every month at 8am at the Fauquier Enterprise Center. Annual dues are \$40 and that covers their monthly networking meeting. The center is run by Fauquier Economic Development, and has just been branded. Also, they have three offices and a coworking space that they rent.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, MBRA Secretary

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