Vienna Six­th­grader
In Chilean Quake

Robert Collie is shown here with his mother Annabella Klockner, father Robert Collie Sr. and younger siblings, Richard and Alexandra. Robert used quick thinking during the Chilean earthquake.

Church Youth Concert
Benefits Haiti, Chile

Shadowing A Delegate
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One often reads about the art of conversation—how it’s dying or what’s needed to make it flourish, or how rare good ones are. But wouldn’t you agree that the infinitely more valuable rara avis is a good listener?

—Malcolm Forbes
Shadowing a Delegate

University of Virginia freshman shadows freshman delegate.

By Veronica Carabelli
Capital News Service

When Matt Ellis, a freshman at the University of Virginia, was applying for a congressional internship with U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), he didn’t think to ask for a letter of recommendation from state legislators until a teacher from his high school suggested it. Even then, Ellis said, he didn’t know what to expect.

“It seemed like a long shot from the beginning, considering I didn’t have contacts in the government to turn to,” Ellis said of his decision to apply for the internship and seek help from legislators. “I figured it was worth a try to reach out.”

Ellis, who graduated from Oakton High School in 2009, said he received a reply from half of the 26 state lawmakers he contacted, but most of them couldn’t help him because he wasn’t in their district. By the time Ellis received a reply from freshman Del. Mark Keam (D-35), he had already gotten the internship with Connolly, but still took Keam’s offer to shadow him for a day.

“Keam seemed very supportive,” Ellis said. “I thought it was a good opportunity and one I should take advantage of.”

Keam said he wanted to give Ellis the opportunity to see the state government in action.

“When I was about his age in college, I never had these opportunities,” said Keam, a Verizon Communications vice president who was elected to an open House seat last fall. “I want to do everything I can to help students and on behalf of the school.”

Matt Ellis developed an interest in finance when he took a personal finance class his freshman year at Oakton High School, taught the personal finance class and witnessed Matt Ellis’ work as the yearbook’s manager.

“Here is a kid who managed $150,000 that he knew he had to be held accountable for,” Rummell said. “I think he is one of those kids that understand that good enough isn’t good enough. He always wants to push himself a little farther.”

HIS FRIEND Matt Johnson, who also graduated from Oakton High School in 2009 and is a freshman at Wake Forest University, said that whatever Matt Ellis chooses to do, he’ll be successful.

“I see Matt in some sort of leadership position,” Johnson said. “Watching him over the years, he is never satisfied with sitting in the back of a group or letting things play out. He likes to have his hand involved whether it is in finance, politics, even in history. Whatever he pursues I know he’ll stand out in it.”

I wouldn’t be surprised if somewhere down the road he changed his mind.”

Matt Ellis said he was interested in politics because it’s an area in which a small group of people hold a lot of power.

“When there are a lot of flaws in the political system, I think our government does a very good job representing the interest of the people,” he said. “They are getting done what needs to be done most of the time.”

During his visit to the Virginia Capitol, Matt Ellis watched the House Chamber session, met with Del. James LeMunyon (R-67) and talked to Keam about politics and life in general.

When Keam learned that Matt Ellis had an interest in not only politics but finance, he told him the two areas aren’t mutually exclusive.

“I told him just because you’re interested in this doesn’t mean you couldn’t do that,” Keam said. “At some point, he may be able to contribute to local community: the town council, an advisory board or commission.”

Matt Ellis isn’t ready to be pigeonholed into one field either. Even though he hasn’t picked a major at the University of Virginia, he is in training to be on the University Judiciary Committee, which argues cases for students and on behalf of the school.

Matt Ellis developed an interest in finance when he took a personal finance class his freshman year at Oakton High School. Chad Rummell, who teaches journalism at Oakton High School, taught the personal finance class and witnessed Matt Ellis’ work as the yearbook’s manager.

“Here is a kid who managed $150,000 that he knew he had to be held accountable for,” Rummell said. “I think he is one of those kids that understand that good enough isn’t good enough. He always wants to push himself a little farther.”

Robert Collie said he would have slept through the Chilean earthquake had his grandmother not awoken him after a few minutes of the earth’s shaking and rumbling.

Robert, a 12-year-old Stenwood Elementary School student, was visiting his grandmother in Santiago after a four-week Asia/Australia tour. He was scheduled to fly home the day after the 8.8 earthquake rattled Chile.

They were sleeping on what Robert called the “lucky 13” floor when his grandmother woke him up. “I can’t take anymore,” she told Robert. “We have to go to a safe place.” Usually, his grandmother sleeps through the occasional quakes that Chile experiences. Not this time.

“I was scared in the beginning because I had no idea what was going on,” said Robert. “I felt the ground shaking. I suddenly looked in front of me, and the picture of our family fell down. “I knew then it was an earthquake.”

ROBERT INITIALLY THOUGHT the earthquake was no big deal. His mother, Annabella Klockner, had lived through three fairly big earthquakes while still living in Chile. With her experiences behind her, she taught Robert what he should do if he ever experienced one. A person should stand under a doorframe, Robert said, if they are in a house. But Robert and his grandmother were not in a house.

In an apartment building, the safest and strongest support is close to an elevator. That meant that Robert and his 71-year-old grandmother had to find their way, in the dark, to the room nearest the elevator, the bathroom.

What Robert remembers about making his way to the

STENWOOD student was visiting his grandmother.

Photo by Veronica Carabelli/Capital News Service
The Girls on the Run of NOVA team traveled to the Virginia State Capitol in Richmond on Feb. 20, to meet the entire Northern Virginia Delegation (37 members), and raise awareness of Girls on the Run. GOTR NOVA was recognized for its work serving girls in Northern Virginia on both the House and Senate floors, before 140 delegates, senators and staff.

Girls on the Run is a non-profit organization with the mission of educating and preparing girls ages 8-13 for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. The innovative, experiential program combines training for a 5k running event, with self-esteem enhancing lessons that encourage positive emotional, social, mental, spiritual, and physical development.

More than 3000 girls in over 200 Northern Virginia schools participate in the program, the largest chapter of Girls on the Run in the country. For more information: www.gotrnova.org.
Youngster Experiences Chile Quake

FROM PAGE 3

bathroom was the unsteady walk he took, trying to keep himself righted and his hands against the walls.

From the apartment, Robert and his grandmother could see only the lights of the city powered by emergency generators. Robert stayed holding on to the bathroom doorframe as his grandmother searched for a flashlight. When none was readily found, Robert came up with an idea of his own. “Then, I thought about my laptop. It has a light on the screen. ... It was fully charged, and it didn’t fall or break,” said Robert. After finding their way to the computer room, Robert was able to locate and turn on his computer.

“My mother was amazed he thought so well on his feet,” said Klockner, as the family sat around their Vienna living room just a few days after Robert’s return.

The dim light of the computer monitor showed the closet had opened with a knock on the door. Robert had knocked out. Other accessories in the room had fallen but were not broken. There, they found the flashlight. The two also discovered sights that surprised them. Of three hanging overhead lamps, the ones at either end had broken, but not the middle one. Some of the glassware and china in the curio cabinet had fallen over but none had broken. “That was pretty amazing,” said Robert.

When he and his grandmother decided to go out into the building’s hallway, they got another surprise. The door to the apartment was jammed and they could not open it. His grandmother tried unscrewing the bolt, but the door still would not budge. Robert and his grandmother were locked in until the next day when teens in living building came through knocking on doors checking on residents.

The teen boys kicked the door twice, nothing,” said Robert. “On the third try, the door opened.”

BACK IN VIENNA, the Collie-Klockner family waited for news from Santiago. “In the news, I saw the suffering and devastation,” said Klockner. “I wanted to have something to hand him in my arms. I was dreading how he was feeling. In the end, it was a positive thing because it was going to be an experience that would make him stronger.”

Shortly after the earthquake hit, Robert’s grandmother called a relative in north Chile by cell phone. “He, in turn, contacted Robert’s parents in Vienna, letting them know that Robert and his grandmother were all right. A day later, the Vienna family was able to watch them over the Internet using Skype.

The damaged airport was closed except for duty-free,” stated Robert. “The teen boys kicked the door twice, nothing,” said Robert. “On the third try, the door opened.”

ROBERT’S FATHER is an international development consultant, and Robert’s mother is a bilingual specialist.

The family is no stranger to crises. Robert Collie Sr., born in the Dominican Republic, was evacuated by the U.S. Marines in 1964, when he was a baby, during the Dominican Republic’s civil strife. In 2004, he was posted to Haiti, and, three months after arrival, mother and children had to leave Haiti because of civil unrest there. The family was separated for 2 1/2 years.

A day after the earthquake, Robert found a silver lining. “At least, the shopping mall was open,” he said.
The Transportation Fix
No help on congestion just a small part of spreading pain from budget.

The governor’s commitment to fixing transportation, the center of his campaign that boosted him to an election victory even in Fairfax County (not Arlington or Alexandria) turned out to be far weaker than his commitment to eschew any new forms of revenue that might be needed to pay for such a fix. Seriously, the Governor made no major proposal to the General Assembly on transportation.

Many, many people will face hardships that the rest of us can barely imagine because of the greatly pared down budget just passed in the General Assembly, especially people with disabilities of all kinds, working poor families, people who need mental health care, people who are struggling with addictions, families who can’t afford health insurance whose incomes are just enough to keep them from getting assistance, etc.

Localities will press to raise property taxes so they can buffer some of the cuts to education, health care and the safety net passed along from the state.

Parents and students and teachers will feel the pain as school districts struggle to adjust priorities in ways that won’t sit well.

And everyone who needs to get anywhere will sit in traffic, wait longer for buses, pay more for rides on public transportation of all kinds. But don’t forget that if you are lucky enough to drive through some of rural Virginia on an interstate, you’ll probably get to go 70 miles per hour. That should compensate for some of the pain.

Find Us on Facebook
It’s a work in progress, but the Connection and sister papers Centre View, Alexandria Gazette Packet and Mount Vernon Gazette are now on Facebook. Please become a fan.

— MARY KIMM

Yellow Ribbons Street
BY DEVON MALONEY

A
fter the massive snow storms in February, the Fraley family could be found with several other families shoveling themselves out of their homes. Following the recent deployment of their father, David Fraley, the family has been getting support from other families in their neighborhood.

The Fraleys’ Vienna street is now lined with yellow “Support the Troops” ribbons on trees, mailboxes and basketball hoops. Organized by a group of neighborhood women the night before David Fraley’s deployment, they arranged for him to see the ribbons as his family drove him to the airport on Jan. 20.

David Fraley will be gone for a yearlong tour in Iraq, Afghanistan and Kuwait. “We get to see him in two weeks leave time this summer,” said Alexandra Fraley, David’s daughter and a Langley High School freshman. “He is given one two-week vacation time. In August, we’re going to spend it with him in Europe. We’re going to try to visit a lot of the countries out there.”

Alex also has a younger brother and sister, David and Jacqueline, who are both at Colvin Run Elementary School. While the possibility of deployment for their dad was still being verified, Alex and her parents told her younger siblings when they received formal notice, “I personally think that my brother and sister are living in the moment almost as if that they haven’t actually realized it yet.” Once they were told, “they acted as if it wasn’t going to happen,” Alex said.

A little after David (their dad) took off, Alex said: “At the moment, we are just in shock almost, but we are coping. We are trying to keep up with all of the things we did before [my dad] left: sports, schoolwork … everything.”

Devon Maloney is a 14-year-old Vienna ninth grader at Marshall High School. She has lived and traveled all over the world.
News

Supervisors Set Ceiling For Property Tax Rate, Consider Car Tax

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has set upper threshold of $1.12 per $100 of assessed property value for the 2010 property tax rate, which would lead to a tax increase of approximately $100 to the average county homeowner if adopted.

Eight of the county board members, all of the Democrats and Republican Michael Frey (Sully), supported the two actions. Supervisors Patrick Herrity (R-Springfield) and John Cook (R-Braddock) voted against advertising the higher property tax rate or the new vehicle registration fee.

“In 2000, our average [property] tax bill was $2,407 and we had a great county then. By 2007, our tax bills had more than doubled,” said Herrity.

“We were a great county in 2000 and we need to give our citizens some relief,” he said.

FAIRFAX SUPERVISORS are hardly bound to vote for a property tax rate of $1.12 or a $33 vehicle fee simply by supporting their public advertisement.

The action only set “the ceiling” for the local property tax rate and vehicle fee. In other words, the supervisors are unable to raise the property tax rate higher than $1.12 when they adopt the 2011 budget April 27.

Fairfax County Executive Anthony Griffin has actually suggested that the supervisors only raise the property tax rate from $1.04 per $100 of assess value to $1.09 per $100 of assessed value. If the supervisors take Griffin’s suggestion, the average county property tax bill will actually decline by $48.55.

Even though he recommended a tax break, Griffin also suggested the supervisors advertise the tax rate at $1.12, leaving the county board flexibility to fund most of the Fairfax County Public Schools budget proposal if it desired.

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Proposed Cuts to Fairfax County Public Library will:

- Close all the libraries two mornings and two evenings a week
- Eliminate weekend telephone and reference service and library programs
- Slash information assistance and computer/Wi-Fi access for students, job seekers, ESL patrons and others
- Eliminate outreach services for the disabled, homebound and senior center residents
- Reduce services for children and teens
- Cut the library budget by nearly 1/3 over two years
- Make per resident library spending for Fairfax County the lowest in the DC Metro area

Help Save Library Services
Sign our petition at [http://tiny.cc/fcpl](http://tiny.cc/fcpl)

Contact the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

- Chairman, At-Large — Sharon Bulova 703-324-2321 chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Braddock — John C. Cook 703-425-9300 braddock@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Dranesville — John W. Foust 703-356-0551 dranesville@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Hunter Mill — Catherine M. Hudgins 703-478-0283 htrmill@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Lee — Jeff C. McKay 703-971-6262 leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Mason — Penelope A. Gross, Vice Chairman 703-256-7717 mason@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Mount Vernon — Gerald W. Hyland 703-780-7518 mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Providence — Linda Q. Smyth 703-560-6946 providist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Springfield — Pat Herring 703-451-8873 springfield@fairfaxcounty.gov
- Sully — Michael R. Frey 703-814-7100 sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

Residents of Fairfax City contact the Mayor and City Council mayor&council@fairfaxva.gov

Friends of Fairfax County Public Libraries
Men in Blue
Vienna Police Auxiliary
volunteer time, talents.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

Four men of the Vienna Police Department (VPD) share a particular distinction. Although they have different career backgrounds, what bonds them is that they are all unpaid auxiliary police officers.

T.R. Cook, Kenneth Plumb, Walter “Mac” Elliott and John Wooden patrol the streets by cruiser and on foot, perform security checks for local businesses, direct traffic, assist the police department’s paid officers during special events, and conduct discreet monitoring in an unmarked vehicle at intersections and particular areas of concern. Auxiliary officers assist in general court at the Vienna Town Hall and they issue parking summons. They also help out at civic runs, egg hunts and town celebrations.

Beyond those tasks, the officers of the Vienna Police Auxiliary meet the Vienna public and business in a face-to-face accommodating outreach, a four-man public relations team.

“The Auxiliary officers are a huge hit in town,” said Master Police Officer Bill Murray, the man to whom the Auxiliary officers report. “People are very familiar with them. People know them by name. Shop owners are always asking about them.”

The officers, almost all of whom are retired from their life-long careers, volunteer many hours in their roles as reserves.

“They assist with anything we ask them to do,” said Murray.

In the late 1980s, Cook, a former military police commander, was talking to the then chief of police of Vienna about a reserve of volunteer officers. The idea picked up steam, and the first Auxiliary officers, a team of five, were sworn in in March 1990. Elliott, said Murray, has the gift of gab. He likes to interact with folks around town, talking to them, building relationships. He patrols in a 2000 Crown Victoria purchased by the Moose Lodge for the VPD on his scheduled volunteer day. As one of two original Auxiliary volunteers remaining on the force, he always volunteers for work at special events. “He knows more about special events than some paid officers do,” said Murray.

Elliott has lived in Vienna since 1958. He retired in 1988 after 35 years with the telephone company and lived an idle retirement briefly. Over a fence, Pruett talked to Elliott about the new program and encouraged him to come out for it. Elliott graduated with Cook.

VPD issues its Auxiliary officers with uniforms and equipment. While the Auxiliary officers do have arrest authority, they typically notify dispatch to send over a paid officer if a crime is suspected of occurring.

The Vienna Police Department is a member of the police academy of Fairfax County, which runs the volunteer auxiliary academy. Currently, the academy is not running Auxiliary training programs.

Plumb and Elliott consider themselves retired, and volunteer on a regular weekly basis with the Auxiliary unit. Cook continues to run Cook Photography out of the 19th century house he owns at Park and Church streets and responds to the police department on an on-call basis. Wooden, retired from the Town of Vienna parks and recreation department, operates a lawn care service with his son, but continues to volunteer for special events.

Each of the Auxiliary officers contributes something to the Town of Vienna.

Some remodelers give out free pens. We give out something more valuable. Free knowledge.

See Volunteers, Page 13
Vienna Connection
March 17-23, 2010

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

10 a.m. Patrick Henry English Conversation. 703-250-8705. Register prior to the dance. 8 p.m. at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. $10. 703-356-1060. 7 p.m. at Gesher Jewish Day School, 4700 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Passover fun and nature activities and games. 703-962-9612 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net. 2 p.m. at Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Open to the public. $5. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Dear Sara Jane. 4:30 p.m. at The Polish and Parkinson's Awareness Society. 703-778-9426 (or -9427). Call for more information. www.circulation@connectionnewspapers.com or e-mail stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20


SUNDAY/MARCH 21

Dear Sara Jane. 4:30 p.m. at The Polish and Parkinson's Awareness Society. 703-778-9426 (or -9427). Call for more information. www.circulation@connectionnewspapers.com or e-mail stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

Here’s What’s Happening at MCC

McLean Small District One of Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Send announcements to the Vienna Connection. Deadline is Thursday for the following week’s paper. Photo-submitted messages For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

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Send announcements to the Vienna Connection. Deadline is Thursday for the following week’s paper. Photo-submitted messages For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com
Dear Sara Jane,

2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Soundry, 316 Dominion Road, Vienna. www.soundry.net

Marshall High School Boosters
Club Mulch Sale. At 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. To pre-order or for free home-delivery, fill out the order form at www.gcmhsboosters.org, or stop by and purchase mulch at $4.50 a bag. Contact Sandy MacDonnell at www.gcmhsboosters.org.

Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble
Tao: The Martial Art of Drumming. 4 p.m. at the George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. A pre-performance discussion, free to ticket holders, begins at 7:15 p.m. on the Center's Grand Tier III. $22-$44. Youths through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.


Amadeus Harmonie. 4 p.m. at Saint Francis Episcopal Church, Great Falls. A woodwind ensemble performing Mozart's Serenade in E-flat and Dvorak’s Serenade for Winds. $25, age 17 and under free. Meet the musicians at a reception following the concert. Tickets available at the event or online at www.amadeusconcerts.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 23

Bee Healthy Puppet Show. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

English Conversation Group. 10 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. English practice for adult non-native speakers. 703-242-4020.


Fashion Show at Saks to benefit Alternative House. 10 a.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Tysons. Proceeds benefit Alternative House, a refuge for abused and homeless children. $10. 703-536-9191 or Gina_Cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org.
this,” she said. He figured he wasn’t doing anything, anyway, so he looked into the new auxiliary police training.

“It’s been interesting. I really enjoy doing this,” Elliott said. “I especially like interfacing with the new businesses that come to town. I welcome them, and then tell them, ‘let’s talk about what we can do as a police department to help, how to reach us.’”

After working with the police department for 20 years, Elliott knows what to look for when he’s assessing security at a business. He looks for women’s handbags left out in the open and unattended front doors. He also makes suggestions to improve security there when he sees lapses.

“I guess my favorite part of this is interfacing with people and circulating around Vienna,” Elliott said. “This is a good opportunity to give back to the town I’ve lived in for many years. There’s very good people in the Vienna police department, very nice, very dedicated. And there’s good business people in our town, too. They’re the best.”

PLUMB, a former government lawyer, assists with the monthly general court, which meets at the Vienna Town Hall, including helping out the bailiff. Plumb was a member of the police chiefs’ advisory committee in Fairfax County, and 15 years ago, about five years after his retirement, he joined the VPD Auxiliary.

“I feel very strongly about Vienna as a community,” Plumb said. “It’s a great place to live.”

When he is not volunteering, Plumb takes care of his two rescued German shepherds and plays the mountain dulcimer for his own amusement.

“I get a lot of satisfaction out of this,” said Plumb. “I really enjoy working with the people at the police department. They’re wonderful people. It makes me feel good as a resident of Vienna to know we have such a good police department.”

Volunteering with the police department is a way that Plumb serves the community and engages himself.

He performs all auxiliary tasks, and like Elliott, patrols in the unmarked cruiser and engages in face-to-face interaction with businesses. “Special assignments, like VViVi Naomi! Vienna! and Oktoberfest, are probably my favorite things to do,” said Plumb. “You see families having a good time.”

T.R. COOK, an original Auxiliary member, donates his photography expertise, as well as performing standard Auxiliary duties. After leaving the military police in the service and at the Department of Justice, he wanted to keep his skills up, and considered a police reserve in Vienna might serve a valuable purpose to the town. The chief of police told him they were considering such a thing. In 1989, the first class of Vienna Auxiliary recruits went off to the Fairfax County volunteer training academy.

“I appreciate the privilege of being in Vienna with all the friendly people and businesses,” said Cook.

“One of the most interesting things we do as the Auxiliary is the big health fair at the First Baptist Church of Vienna on Nutley. We do fingerprinting of the children and give them to the parents, just like we do at the police department. It works out well. Parents appreciate it and we enjoy doing it.”

Cook moved to Vienna in 1965 and is a fixture of several Vienna civic groups.

JOHN WOODEN is on-call for special events and other Auxiliary tasks, as needed. He ran the Vienna Community Center for many years and joined the Auxiliary in the mid 1990s. Murray said Wooden knows the inner workings of the Town of Vienna and its departments. He works on special events, primarily, doing traffic control and helping the public.

“One of the great things about the police in a small town is the personal relationship between the town’s people and business and the police department,” said Murray.
**ELANTRA VS COROLLA & CIVIC**

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Ashby Ponds, opened in October, 2008, as part of the Erickson Retirement Communities, and is a CCRC located in Ashburn, VA. Ashby Ponds has its own private duty home care agency to serve the residents of this new and beautiful retirement community. Residents enjoy home care without the challenges of travel, weather and safety concerns in a beautiful setting with physicians, social workers and other professionals on site. This is an excellent opportunity for the experienced home care professional to use their talent and skills to develop a home care agency in a unique environment while participating in the growth of our newest community.

Ashby Ponds is seeking a Home Support Clinical Manager to develop home care services and ensure that as our residents move in they can anticipate that these services will be readily available to them. The Clinical Manager will provide the clinical leadership, business development and administrative oversight, to meet the home care needs of our residents as our community grows and adds other health care services. The Clinical Manager must possess the caring and kindness that is fundamental to the Erickson Communities philosophy of retirement living.

The ideal candidate will be solutions oriented with a commitment to the highest quality of care and customer service.

In addition to the qualities described above, the successful candidate must have recent home care supervisory/management experience, knowledgeable in home care regulations and be a registered nurse in Virginia.

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It takes more than a couple of snow storms to keep down the musical youth ministry of Vienna Presbyterian Church (VPC). The group’s Presidents’ Weekend tour was snowed-out, but its enthusiasm and determination never wavered. On Saturday, March 20, the choir, orchestra, praise band and liturgical dancers perform a benefit concert on behalf of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. While starting out as Haitian relief, the Youth Worship Ministries concert evolved to include Chilean victims and other suffering people worldwide.

“The concert supports a worthy cause and organization,” said Sarah Polchow, a James Madison High School senior and VPC choir member. “We’re a long way from Haiti and Chile, but this is one way we can serve from home.”

“The concert is a fusion of traditional hymns and contemporary music. From “Amazing Grace” to “Seasons of Love” from the Broadway musical “Rent,” the music catered to different tastes in this interactive program. Guests and performers participate, complete with big-screen computerized graphics and lyrics. Graphic designer and parent-volunteer Kim Jackson of Vienna thought it would be a great idea to not just make money through donations but to raise awareness of suffering in the world. No admission fee is being charged, but donations are welcomed.

Church Youth Concert Benefits Haiti, Chile

VPC youth ministry performs traditional and contemporary music.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

THE MUSIC MINISTRY is led by Kerry Wilkerson, who also leads the men’s chorus at Fort Myer in Arlington. His men’s chorus performs for dignitaries and heads of state. But it’s the children in VPC’s program that makes him feel young. “They are a blast,” Wilkerson said. “Their energy and enthusiasm rubs off on you. It’s infectious. The kids give me energy, give me life.”

POLCHOW AND KATELYN CORRIDON, a senior at Oakton High School, met at VPC choir practice. They plan on rooming together in college next year. Whether it’s James Madison University or the University of Virginia, they’re going together.

“Good friends Sarah Polchow and Katelyn Corridon met at VPC choir practice. They plan on rooming together in college next year.

The Vienna Presbyterian Church Youth Worship Ministries bands and choir practice for the March 20 benefit concert on behalf of Haiti and Chile.

LEGAL NOTICE
Effective March 29th, cable channel Fox Reality will cease to operate and will become Nat Geo Wild. Like Fox Reality, Nat Geo Wild will be carried on the same channel (219) in the Digital Variety Pak. Nat Geo Wild is dedicated to bringing audiences extraordinary stories of the natural world and the amazing animals that inhabit it. Through unique, powerful experiences and unparalleled imagery, viewers will get closer to animals and nature than ever before.

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Alexandra Straton, on Feb. 4 at Oakton High School, signed a collegiate letter of intent to play women’s soccer for the Duke University’s Blue Devils. The signing was presided over by Oakton High Principal, Dr. John Banbury and special guest Ty Harris, Oakton’s assistant coach for sprints, jumps and hurdles.

Robbie Church, head coach of the Duke women’s soccer team, stated, “We’re excited to have Alexandra join our program with her outstanding speed, versatility and determination to excel. She fits Duke’s woman soccer profile perfectly with elite academic performance, outstanding athleticism starring in both soccer and track and leadership achievements, including co-editor of the Oakton High School Outlook newspaper.”

Straton, an outstanding student with a GPA over 4.3 GPA, belongs to the National Honor and Spanish Honor Societies and has authored an article for the Vienna Connection newspaper.

She has played for three Virginia Division I soccer teams, including the CYA Storm, coached by Tim Gorges; the Vista Fury, coached by Fernando Arias; and the Vista Shockwave, her current team, coached by Robert Childs.

Straton, a versatile player, has played at forward, midfield and defense positions. Most recently, she has concentrated on outside midfield and defense. While with the Vista Fury, Straton helped lead the team to two state championship finals (2006, 2008) and one state championship title (2007). Presently, she is part of a Vista Shockwave team that reached the state semifinals this year and, in 2009, captured a state championship before reaching the Northeast Region 1 finals.

In her high school soccer career, Straton has been an Oakton varsity starter each of the past three years. She led the Cougars in points as a sophomore. Last spring, as a junior, Straton was co-leader in points as a freshman and was co-captain of the Oakton Ladies. At states, Straton and her 4x200 relay partners finished eighth to earn all-state accolades. She was selected Team MVP of the 2009 indoor season and earned Scholar Athlete recognition as well. Straton, that winter, set the Oakton High women’s indoor record in the 300 dash. In last spring’s outdoor track season, she competed in both track and soccer for the Cougars. As a track standout, she finished second in the district long jump event and earned All-District status in both the 100 and 200 dash events.

The Marshall High School Boosters Club is selling mulch again this year on March 20 and 21 in its front parking lot. To pre-order for free home delivery, please fill out the order form on the boosters’ club website at www.gcmhsboosters.org. Those who do not pre-order can still stop by and purchase mulch at $4.50 per bag. For more information, contact Sandy MacDonnell at tadmacdonnell@gmail.com or 703-938-7113. Thanks for the community support.

Vienna’s Joe Moloney won a $2,500 scholarship through the Mid Atlantic Pro Golfers’ Association (MAPGA) Tony Marlowe Scholarship program on March 6 at the Bethesda Country Club. Moloney attends James Madison High School where he is a member of the National Honor Society as well as both the National Spanish and Math Honor Societies. This past fall, he led the Madison High golf team to a second place finish in the Northern Region championships. Moloney, when he is not golfing or involved in school activities, offers his time as a volunteer in organizations such as The First Tee of Washington D.C.; the Vienna Optimist Club; Hurricane Katrina Relief; and Miriam’s Kitchen.

Vienna’s Alisa Harrison is a member of the Rensselaer Poly-technic Institute (RPI) women’s ice hockey team. In 36 games, Harrison, a sophomore forward, is third on her team in scoring with 12 goals and 11 assists for 23 points. She also has three power play goals, two game-winning goals, and a shorthanded goal on the season. Rensselaer, a member of the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC), made NCAA history this season when it defeated Quinnipiac, 2-1, in the longest college hockey game ever played. That playoff victory advanced the Engineers (16-14-6) to the ECAC semifinals for the second consecutive season.

Northern Virginia Senior Softball (NVSS.org) is seeking players for both men’s (50-over) and women’s (40-over) leagues. Participants will enjoy the fun, fitness and fellowship that a part of slow pitch softball. Double-header games will be played on Tuesday and Thursday mornings on Fairfax County fields. The spring/summer season will run from April 13 through Aug. 12. NVSS fields 26 teams, organized into three skill-level conferences. Players are assigned to teams based on their skill assessment (not a try-out). NVSS runs an Indoor Conditioning Program through April 8. The Esprit de Corps Tournament is offered for members who served in the military. For more information on NVSS, contact Dave at 703-524-5576 or Paul at 703-323-7878.

A Mad 5K Run and One Mile Walk is scheduled Saturday, April 10, 9 a.m., at James Madison High School in Vienna. The race, which will benefit the award-winning James Madison High School track team, features a gentle rolling course starting and ending at the high school stadium. Awards will be presented to the top three male and female finishers, as well as top age-group finishers. T-shirts and refreshments will be available for all. Entry fee is $15 for students, $20 for adults. To register, contact Madison coach Craig Chasse at craig.chasse@fcps.edu.

The NOVA Youth Flag Football League is currently conducting online registration for its Sev-enth Annual NFL Youth Flag Football Summer camps. Camp sessions, open to children ages 6-12, will be June 28-July 2, and Aug. 9-13, from 9 a.m.-12 noon. Campers can choose to attend one or both sessions. For more detailed information or to register, visit novaglall.com.

The Northern Virginia Nereids Synchronized Swimming Club will conduct its fifth annual Introductory Clinic on Sat-urday, March 20 at Audrey Moore Recreation Center in Annandale. Nereids coaches and athletes will introduce girls ages 7 to 15 to the graceful, powerful Olympic sport of synchronized swimming. Receive a “synchro” noselip and embroidered patch keepsake. For details, visit nvnsynchro.com or e-mail tell_me_more@nvnsynchro.com.

Oakton High’s Alexandra Straton, seated, middle, recently signed a scholar-ship to play women’s soccer at Duke university in Durham, N.C. Here, she is seated between her parents, Lee and Mark Straton. In the back row, from left, are Ty Harris, and Dr. John Banbury.
Fairfax Symphony Gala Attracts Hundreds

More than 300 people turned out for the arts on Friday, March 5, at for the Fairfax Symphony Valentine Pops Gala. Pictured, from left, are Ann Brownell (Oakton), Rose Preblovics (Reston) and Victoria Stratman (Oakton).

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