

and Oakton
Vienna CONNECTION
 Vienna Sixth-grader
 In Chilean Quake

NEWS, PAGE 3

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.



Shadowing
 A Delegate

NEWS, PAGE 3

Church Youth Concert
 Benefits Haiti, Chile

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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber of

Commerce Brown Bag University. 12 p.m. at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Mark Cohen on 'The Importance of Coordinating Estate Planning with Financial Planning.' www.vtrcc.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

Marshall High School Boosters Club Mulch Sale, Saturday-Sunday, 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.

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—Malcolm Forbes

NEWS

Oakton High School 2009 graduate Matt Ellis, right, meets Del. Mark Keam (D-35) at Richmond.



PHOTO BY
VERONICA GARABELLI/
CAPITAL NEWS SERVICE

Shadowing a Delegate

University of Virginia freshman shadows freshman delegate.

BY VERONICA GARABELLI
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 expose other people to this great career path."

ELLIS' PARENTS said their son decided entirely on his own to apply for the internship and meet with Keam. They didn't know he had applied until after he was accepted.

"He has a lot of different interests, and he seemed fairly focused from an earlier age with what it is he wanted to do," said his father Sonny Ellis. "Although

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.

"While 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 bit 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."



PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ/THE CONNECTION

Stenwood student Robert Collie demonstrates how he steadied himself in the minutes after the Chilean earthquake.

Vienna Sixth-grader in Chilean Quake

Stenwood student was visiting his grandmother.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

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

SEE YOUNGSTER, PAGE 5



Vienna Pledges Support for National Guard, Reserve

Vienna Mayor Jane Seeman signs a 'Statement of Support' for the National Guard and Reserve, which was unanimously approved at the March 1 Town Council meeting. The statement reaffirms the Town's policy to recognize the National Guard and Reserve and pledges support for Town employees who participate in them. The statement was provided by the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, which was chartered over 28 years ago by the Department of Defense to gain and reinforce the support of America's employers for a strong National Guard and Reserve system.



Danielle Cameron, Stephanie Wright, Jill Flynn, Catherine Keightley, Del. David Bulova (D-37), Catherine Gergely, Kendra Morrison and Karyn Moran.

Girls on the Run Recognized in Richmond

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.

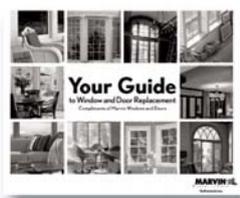


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WEEK IN VIENNA

Burglary in Vienna Area

A 66-year-old woman was startled by a burglar inside her home on Wednesday, March 10. Around 9:10 p.m., a woman in the 2700 block of Snowberry Court heard a noise inside her home after which she encountered an unknown man. When she verbally challenged him, the suspect fled. There were no injuries.

The suspect was described as around 6 feet tall, 160 pounds and wearing black clothing.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Spring Tennis League Begins March 27

The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department's Adult Spring Tennis League begins March 27, with men's singles games on Saturdays and women's singles games on Sundays at Glyndon and Meadow Lane Parks. Each participant will play a minimum of seven matches during the season.

The fee is \$15 for Town of Vienna residents and \$20 for out-of-town participants. For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-

6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

HSBC Bank Robbed

On March 13, at approximately 12:07 p.m., officers responded to a bank robbery at the newly opened HSBC Bank located at 214 Maple Ave., W. Upon their arrival, units determined that the perpetrator had exited the bank with an undetermined amount of cash.

The suspect is described as a black female, 25-30 years of age, 5-foot 5-inches and 180 pounds wearing a dark shirt, dark scarf on her head, blue jeans and sunglasses. The woman presented a note and demanded money from the teller. A weapon was implied but not displayed. The suspect description in this case closely resembles that of an individual that is believed to be responsible for several bank robberies in Fairfax County.

No one inside the bank was injured as a result of the robbery. The Fairfax County Police Department's K-9 unit was requested and responded to aid in the tracking of the individual. Agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation also responded to assist Vienna Police detectives in the investigation.

Anyone with information relating to this case is asked to call Detective Art Sylmar of the Vienna Police Department at 703-255-7834.

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 drawers 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 living in the 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 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 for two days and Robert was re-booked to leave on Tuesday. He arrived at the airport to find his flight was cancelled. "I was sad, I was crying," said Robert. "I wanted to get home to my family."

On Wednesday, LAN announced that his flight was, once again,

cancelled because of heavy airport traffic.

"Everything in the airport was damaged except for duty-free," said Robert.

As an unaccompanied minor, Robert was booked on a direct flight. Other itineraries did not work. The airline hoped to get as many passengers out as possible by stopping in Lima. "The people waiting complained so much, they said, 'OK, the flight is going,'" Robert said.

"We didn't know he made it until Grandma called and said he was on the plane and the plane left," said Robert Collie Sr.

Robert's parents drove to JFK airport in New York to pick him up upon his return. "I hugged him so hard, he said, 'you're squishing me,'" said Klockner.

ROBERT'S FATHER is an international development consultant, and Robert's mother is a bilingual school psychologist and reading 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 that country'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.

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OPINION

The Transportation Fix

No help on congestion just a small part of spreading pain from budget.

The Virginia General Assembly has adjourned.

If for some reason your attention lapsed between the campaign for Governor (Gov. Bob McDonnell took office just two months ago) and now, you might expect a transportation plan as one of the outcomes of this assembly session.

Here is the transportation relief proposed and passed and likely to be signed: the maximum speed limit on some roads will increase to 70 miles-per-hour.

This seems like it might violate equal protection standards, since there are very few hours of the day on any Northern Virginia's roads that getting above 55 is possible. Heck, most of us are really happy if traffic on the Beltway or 66 or 95 or Toll Road moves along at 30 mph without frequent stops.

So in other parts of the state not dominated by congestion, vehicles will be moving faster.

In Northern Virginia, there will be even less money for even fewer efforts at relieving congestion.

EDITORIAL

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.

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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,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Yellow Ribbons Street

BY DEVON MALONEY

After 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 his two week 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



TEEN PERSPECTIVE

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.



The Fraleys' Vienna street is now lined with yellow 'Support the Troops' ribbons on trees, mailboxes and basketball hoops.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ill-Advised Budget Decisions

To the Editor:

Virginia legislators are proposing very bad public policy towards all—adults and children—who are in danger of becoming homeless; and our elected officials are doing so during one of the most serious recessions in modern history,

This being my third year in Richmond to testify for Delegate Charniele Herring's much needed Rental Assistance Bill (HB 451), I found the budget process on the House side to be very distressing. Budgets are moral documents, as our friend Jim Wallis of Sojourners has reminded us, and right now our legislators are definitely not taking the moral high ground.

While waiting to testify, I discovered from the top staff testimony for the administration's Commerce Department that some interesting choices were made, choices clearly indicating that the needs of the most vulnerable in our state are a low priority. For example, \$1.5 million will be placed in the Virginia Wine Promotion Fund, and, at the same time, nearly the same amount, \$1.3 million, will be removed from the homeless grant programs. Additionally, \$2 million will be placed in the Motion Pic

SEE HOREJSI, PAGE 8

THE CONNECTION

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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.

During the same biweekly meeting March 9, the supervisors also voted to consider a new vehicle registration license fee of \$33.

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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BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday.

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

Beulah Road Al-Anon Group. 7:30 p.m. at the Antioch Christian Church, 1860 Beulah Road, Vienna. Practicing the Twelve Steps, welcoming and giving comfort to families of alcoholics, and giving understanding and encouragement to the alcoholic. revku@cox.net.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Vienna Tysons Regional Chamber

of Commerce Brown Bag University. 12 p.m. at Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, 8300 Boone Blvd., Suite 450, Vienna. Mark Cohen on 'The Importance of Coordinating Estate Planning with Financial Planning.' www.vtrcc.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

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.
Reston-Herndon AAUW Annual Luncheon and Business Meeting. 11:30 a.m. at Café Montmartre by Lake Anne. Kimberly Bohince, an AAUW Fellow currently studying at George Mason University, will speak of her Peace Corps experiences working with women leaders and HIV-positive women in sub-Saharan Africa. Open to the public. \$16. Reserve at 703-759-5543.

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

NAACP Fairfax County Youth Council Meeting. 4 p.m. at the

George Mason University Johnson Center, Robeson Room, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Meetings are open to youth ages 10-20. restonbell7@gmail.com.
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.

MONDAY/MARCH 22

Vienna Town Council. 8 p.m. in the Council Chamber, Vienna

Town Hall, 127 Center St., S., Vienna. Special work session to discuss the possible creation of a mixed-use zone on Maple Ave. Work sessions are open to the public. 703-255-6341 or dpz@viennava.gov.

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia. 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The organization is currently planning the McLean Centennial Celebration for June 26, and is seeking photographs, toys, clothing and other memorabilia circa 1910 for display purposes. To lend items, contact Page Shelp at 703-450-3918. Carole Herrick, 703-356-8223.

Save Your Library!



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>

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 hntmill@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 provdist@fairfaxcounty.gov
- **Springfield** — Pat Herrity 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

Horejsi

FROM PAGE 6

ture Fund to provide incentives for film production in Virginia, and \$2 million will be removed from domestic violence services. Finally, \$1.5 million will be spent to establish Virginia satellite offices overseas, but \$1.9 million will be cut from the Comprehensive Health Investment Project of Virginia (CHIP).

With respect to children and their education, there is much that is ill advised in the House budget. Aside from the obvious absurd cuts to free and reduced lunch programs and eliminating the breakfast program, which for many children are the only meals they get a day, there are other detrimental cuts. These cuts will bring more harm to those already on the brink of total ruin because of their destitution.

For example, homeless shelter programs are proposed to be cut by 41% in 2012. The Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) is successfully keeping families in their own homes and out of shelters. All this is done at about one third the cost of emergency shelter, and being eliminated is the opening up shelter space for some of the estimated 51,315 Virginians turned away last year. The private sector cannot make up for these cuts of such magnitude. This is why these cuts must not be allowed to happen, unless callousness, definitely not a family value, has now become acceptable as the modus operandi in our state!

We hope a better budget will emerge when the Senate and House go into conference. All of us will agree that this is an extremely difficult economic year. However, while spending cuts are necessary, our legislators must refuse to balance it on the backs of our most vulnerable citizens—the poor.

John Horejsi
SALT Coordinator
Vienna

NEWS

COOK PHOTOGRAPHY/VIENNA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Ken Plumb



'Mac' Elliott



T.R. Cook



John Wooden

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's neighbor, former town councilwoman Martha Pruett, told 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.

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 volunteer program the town was inaugurating. "I think you would be good at

SEE VOLUNTEERS, PAGE 13



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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2012 Programs

Wednesday, March 24, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is seeking input from residents of Dranesville Small District One at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2012, which runs July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: mail@mcleancenter.org.



The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711
www.mcleancenter.org

CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

THURSDAY/MARCH 18

Astronomy, Mathematics and Timekeeping in Medieval Islam. 7 p.m. at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. This lecture is sponsored by the Analemma Society and features C. Lennart Berggren, Professor Emeritus at Simon Fraser University. 703-757-8560.

Book Buddy Reading Reinforcement Program. 4:30 p.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Sign up to read to a Big Buddy for 30 minutes. Age 6-8. 703-242-4020.

V.I.P. Vienna. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Support group for visually impaired persons. Adults. 703-938-0405.

The Ataris, Set Phasers To Stun, The Automatics, Wings Of Apollo, Cerca Trova and John Wayne Hero. 6:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10 in advance. \$15 at the door. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 19

Dear Sara Jane. 7:30 p.m. At The Soundry, 316 Dominion Road, Vienna. www.soundry.net

English Conversation. 10 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Group for adult non-native English speakers of all levels. 703-938-0405.

Pokemon League. 3 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East,



Mark Eaton, shown in the hat, is a Madison High School graduate and member of the Capitol Steps troupe.

Vienna. Learn and play. Age 5-18. 703-938-0405.

Steve Forbert. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

The Chuck Shaffer Picture Show, Earth Note Syndicate, Dreaming of Eden and Those Passing By. 10 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$10. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 20

McLean Orchestra Concert: A Season for All. 8 p.m. at Oakcrest School, 850 Balls Hill Road, McLean. A 9-year-old prodigy Emma Resmini

performs the Vivaldi Flute Concerto. Also in the first half of the program McLean Orchestra Keyboardist Fabian Faccio performs Vivaldi's Harpsichord Concerto and David Langstaff performs the Vivaldi Alto Recorder Concerto. After intermission, the McLean Orchestra will present Vivaldi's most famous and treasured composition, the complete "Four Seasons", showcasing McLean Orchestra Concertmaster, Regino Madrid. A cake and champagne reception will follow the concert. To order concert tickets visit <http://www.mclean-orchestra.org/tickets.htm> or call 703-893-8646 to order tickets by phone.

Capitol Steps Perform at Madison High

Capitol Steps will perform at Madison High School on Sunday, March 21, at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25/\$30 at the door. Proceeds support the All Night Graduation (drug free/alcohol free) Celebration for the Class of 2010. For tickets, print off the ticket order form on the Madison Web site at: www.fcps.edu/MadisonHS or call Amy Feather at 703-938-4279. Tickets can be picked up at Will-Call.

Dear Sara Jane. 2 p.m. At The Soundry, 316 Dominion Road, Vienna. www.soundry.net

Japanese Taiko Drum Ensemble Tao: The Martial Art of Drumming. 8 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. Youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Colvin Run Schoolhouse Dance. At 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Traditional ballroom, latin and swing music to The Family, with a Tango lesson prior to the dance. 8 p.m. lesson \$5, dancing 9-11:30 p.m. \$12. 703-795-2003 or www.colvinrun.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 21

Lecture by local author Chuck Mauro, 'A Southern Spy in Northern Virginia: The Civil War Album of Laura Ratcliffe.' 6 p.m. at Panera Bread, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. Hosted by Frank Stringfellow Camp #822 Sons of Confederate Veterans. Open to the public. \$5. 703-250-8705 or stringfellowbuva@worldnet.att.net.

Community Family Fun Day. 1-4 p.m. at Geshel Jewish Day School, 4700 Mattie Moore Court Fairfax. Magic show and balloons by Mr. Twister, moonbounce, make your own matzah, face painting, used book sale, Passover fun and nature activities and crafts. 703-962-9612 or Dmendelson@geshel-jds.org.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 12

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Spring Break Trips

March 29 - April 2

for 5th-8th graders

Join the OFTC on these fun and exciting trips:

Spring Break: All Five Trips

Monday, March 29 - Friday April 2, 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Sign-up for one trip, or all five and receive a discount!

Shadowland Laser Tag
Monday, March 29 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Bowling @ Strike in Bethesda
Tuesday, March 30 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Hersey Park
Wednesday, March 31 8 a.m.-7 p.m.

National Zoo
Thursday, April 1 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mission 22 Challenge Course
Friday, April 2 9 a.m.-5 p.m.



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1440 Chain Bridge Rd., McLean VA 22101
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McLean Community Center
The Center of It All

Here's What's Happening at MCC

Grey Seal Puppets

A Show of Virtues

Sunday, March 21, 3 p.m.

\$14/\$10 McLean district residents

For ages 6+. Inspired by William J. Bennett's *The Children's Book of Virtues*. Make a puppet at the puppet workshop that follows at 4:30 p.m.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Public Hearing on Programs

Wednesday, March 24, 7:30 p.m.

Residents of Small District One of Dranesville are invited to come and share their suggestions on current and future programs.

Run for a Seat on the MCC Governing Board

You CAN Make a Difference in Your Community!

Nominating petitions are due on

Friday, March 26, at 5 p.m.

Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Saturday, March 27, 8 p.m.

\$38/\$33 McLean district residents

Swing into spring with Big Bad Voodoo Daddy's signature retro hep-cat cool.



Spring Break Camps and Trips

Monday, March 29-Friday, April 2

Looking for activities for your children ages 4 to 9? At MCC's **Spring Break Camp** children will enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, and more. Fifth- through eighth-graders can participate in the Old Firehouse Teen Center's **Spring Break Trips** to Hershey Park and Shadowland Laser Tag. Call OFTC at 703-448-8336, TTY: 711.

The McLean Community Center

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
703-790-0123/TTY: 711

www.mcleancenter.org

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 11

Dear Sara Jane. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. At The Sundry, 316 Dominion Road, Vienna. www.sundry.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. Youth through grade 12 half price when accompanied by an adult. Tickets available at 888-945-2468 or visit cfa.gmu.edu.

Bluegrass Brunch with Dead Men's Hollow and Lisa Kay Band. 1:30 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$8. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

An Evening with Al Petteway and Amy White. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$20. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Mill Run Dulcimer Band. 2 p.m. at the Colvin Run Mill Barn, 10017 Colvin Run Rd., Great Falls. Old time folk, gospel and string band music. Donations accepted. 703-759-2771.

Grey Seal Puppets: A Show of Virtues. 3 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Inspired by the Children's Book of Virtues. \$14, \$10 district residents. Followed by a workshop at 4:30 p.m. for age 6 and up. Puppeteer Drew

Allison will demonstrate hand, rod and shadow puppets. Make a puppet to take home. 703-790-9223.

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.

MONDAY/MARCH 22

Game On Afternoon Edition. 3:30 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Test your prowess at Wii Mario Kart or Super Smashbros. Age 6-16. 703-938-0405.

Open Mic Showcase hosted by Ron Goad. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$2 cover. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 23

Bee Healthy Puppet Show. 11 a.m. Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn how to stay healthy at this Fairfax County Health Dept. puppet show. Birth-5 with adult. 703-242-4020.

Great Decisions Seminar. 2 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Roundtable discussion of U.S. foreign policy. Adults. 703-938-0405.

Collective Change: Haiti Benefit Concert. 7 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$12. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

Fashion Show at Saks to benefit Alternative House. 10 a.m. at Saks Fifth Avenue, Tysons Galleria. Proceeds benefit Alternative House, a refuge for

abused and homeless children. \$10. 703-506-9191 or Gina_Cocomello@TheAlternativeHouse.org.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 24

Consciousness, Meaning and Your Calling in Life. 6:30-9 p.m. at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Presented by George Mason University's Center for Consciousness and Transformation. Light refreshments included. \$20. Register at <http://cct.gmu.edu>.

Joan Marie Giampa Opening Reception: Image Archaeology Doctoral Exhibition. 5 p.m. George Mason University Hall Atrium Gallery, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. 703-349-7178.

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

Lunch Bunnies. 11 a.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Bring a snack and enjoy stories and songs. Age 1-5 with adult. 703-938-0405.

Jim Weider's Project Percolator. 8 p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. \$15. 703-255-1566 or www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 25

Bicycle Safety Traffic Skills 101. 6-9 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E., Vienna. Safety checks, fixing a flat, on-bike skills, and crash avoidance techniques. Bring your bike and helmet to each class. \$100 for Town of Vienna residents, \$125 for out-of-town participants. 703-255-6360 or www.viennava.org.

Looking for activities for your child during Spring Break? MCC offers Spring Break Camps for ages 4 to 9.

McLean

Spring Break Camp

Children enjoy supervised games, arts and crafts, activities, music, and special events throughout the week. Children must bring a lunch and a drink each day and dress in comfortable clothes and tennis shoes. A morning snack is provided.

Camp will be held at a Fairfax County School in McLean.

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Volunteers Patrol, Assist in Special Events

FROM PAGE 9

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

cruising 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 res-

cued 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 ViVa! 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 working 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.

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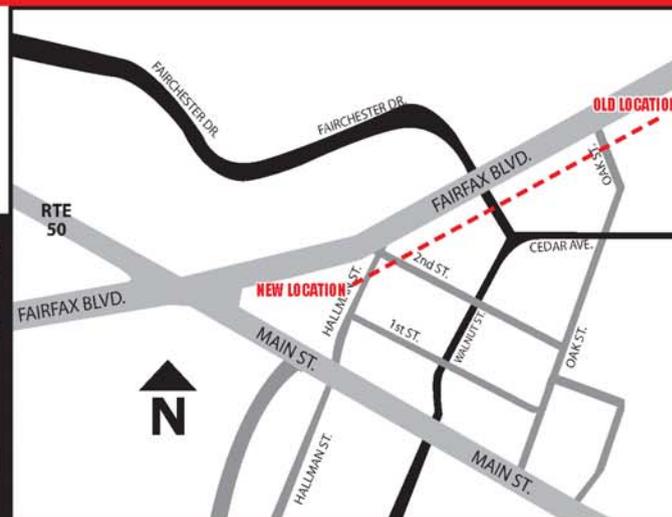
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Good friends Sarah Polchow and Katelyn Corridon met at VPC choir practice. They plan on rooming together in college next year.

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

Church Youth Concert Benefits Haiti, Chile

VPC youth ministry performs traditional and contemporary music.

By DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

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 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."

"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."

POLCHOW AND KATELYN CORRIDON, a senior at Oakton High School, met in choir and became good friends. So much so, that the two young women plan on rooming together next year in college. Whether it's James Madison University or the University of Virginia, they're going together.

The concert is a fusion of traditional hymns and contemporary praise 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.

"There's a sense of fellowship, a sense of family, doing this," said Polchow. She volunteers at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital and designs costumes for the theatre department at Madison.

Funding for the youth worship ministries come from the church's outreach missions program.

The young people of the praise band, made up of drums, guitars and keyboard, and the choir perform every Sunday at 8 a.m. The orchestra and liturgical dancers perform once a month.

No admission fee is being charged, but donations are welcomed.

"This wonderful group of kids work together, serve together," said Diane Schmidt, lead parent volunteer. "The ministry provides a moral compass. We encourage them to support each other in church and out of church."

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SPORTS

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 Gorgos; 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 freshman and was co-leader in points as a sophomore. Last spring, as a junior, Straton helped Oakton reach the state AAA semifinals. She has received the following honors: 2009 All-Met Second Team; Concorde All-District Second Team (2007, 2008 and 2009); and scholar athlete accolades the past three years.

Straton is also one of the Northern Region's top female track athletes. In 2009, she helped Oakton win the Concorde District championship, finishing first in both the 500-meters dash and long jump events; second in the 300, 55 and triple jump events; and third as part of the 4x200 relay team. At the region finals in 2009, she finished second in the 300 and was part of the third place 4x200 re-

lay. 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 Web site 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 Polytechnic 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.



Oakton High's Alexandra Straton, seated, middle, recently signed a scholarship 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.

PHOTO COURTESY/
OAKTON HIGH



Albert Schultz of the Madison High wrestling team stands atop the medals stand after capturing the Northern Region title in his 125-division weight class on Feb. 17 at Fairfax High School. Schultz, a junior, defeated Westfield's Dennon Carranza-Kee, 4-0, in the championship match.

COURTESY PHOTO

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's 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 gently 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 Seventh Annual NFL Youth Flag Foot-

ball 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 novafalg.com.

The Northern Virginia Nereids Synchronized Swimming Club will conduct its fifth annual Introductory Clinic on Saturday, 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" noseclip and embroidered patch keepsake. For details, visit nvnsynchro.com or e-mail amailtell_me_more@nvnsynchro.com.

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 Prebilovics (Reston) and Victoria Stratman (Oakton).



PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CONNECTION



Judy and Warren Marten (Clifton), Joey and Ramez Skaff (Vienna) talk with Steve Hass of SunTrust.

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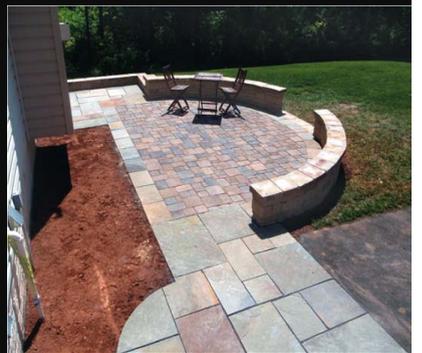
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