HVI president, Anne Stuntz, with the newly-unveiled plaque naming the Freeman Store to the Commonwealth of Virginia Historic Register.

History Revisited In Vienna

Celebrating Taste of Vienna

Coming In From The Cold
Is Her Beautiful Smile Good Genes, Or Does She Have A Secret?

A smile so natural, only her dentist knows for sure.

Empowered
Eating her favorite foods, free to travel and live the life she wants. Not afraid to laugh or get close to the ones she loves. Many peers have missing or failing teeth, some even have dentures. How does she do it?

Odds Against Us
Virtually every adult will lose a tooth in their lifetime. For many, the suffering doesn’t stop there. As we age, factors ranging from poor oral health to heredity often bring about accelerated tooth loss — so much so that the average American will lose 4 or more teeth by the time they reach 50 years of age.

Traditional Remedies
Historically, alternatives to failing teeth often involved a lifetime of gluces, creams and adhesives and often were accompanied by discomfort and changes in appearance — meaning the options for treating missing or failing teeth could do little to alleviate the physical and emotional discomfort of tooth loss.

Dental Implants
Dental implants are now considered a “Standard of Care” when replacing missing teeth and are often a better treatment option than conventional dental crowns, bridges, partial and full dentures. Dental Implants have been proven to be a more successful long term option when compared to these more traditional approaches. The appeal of dental implants is very simple: implants look and perform like natural teeth and fit precisely without the need for adhesives. They are permanent and cared for just like natural teeth and restore one’s natural smile.

ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers
Before ClearChoice, getting implants could take over a year and involve endless visits to multiple providers. Our state-of-the-art facilities bring everything together under one roof. The doctors, technicians and cutting edge technology needed for a fast, convenient result can all be found in one place. That is how ClearChoice can deliver beautiful smiles in just one day.*

Consider this:

**MYTH:** Tooth loss affects a relatively small group of people.
**FACT:** By the age of 50, the average American is missing 4 or more teeth.

**MYTH:** Tooth loss is almost always a result of poor oral hygiene.
**FACT:** Oral hygiene is important, but genetics and age are significant drivers of tooth loss.

**MYTH:** Dental problems caused by gum disease and tooth loss resolve themselves quickly.
**FACT:** Most dental problems do not “self-resolve” and usually become worse with time.

**MYTH:** Dentures are the only option for those dealing with tooth loss.
**FACT:** Dental implants look and feel like your natural teeth and are a modern alternative to dentures.

Your Satisfaction Is Important To Us
ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers provide comprehensive implant treatment professionally and affordably. That’s why an independent survey of thousands of patients showed they would overwhelmingly recommend ClearChoice to others. At ClearChoice, we work to ensure that no one leaves until they are happy with their smile.

So Did She or Didn’t She?
Almost anyone that has lost multiple teeth or even a single tooth is a strong candidate for dental implants. So next time you see someone over 50 with a beautiful, radiant smile ask yourself... is she lucky or did she make the ClearChoice?

Discover the procedure that can make even the most troubled smile clear and beautiful – in just one day!*

**CALL TOLL FREE 1.855.829.1130 TODAY**

Schedule a no-obligation consultation with a ClearChoice doctor right now and receive a FREE 3-D CAT Scan ($700 value). Call today.

**TYSONS CORNER:** Stuart L. Graves, DDS, MS • Deborah Armellini, DDS, MS • Samantha Siranil, DMD, PhD

**ROCKVILLE:** Stuart L. Graves, DDS, MS • Ben Javid, DDS

ClearChoice Dental Implant Centers are locally owned and operated by licensed local dentists, and are part of a professional affiliation of implant practices operated by oral surgeons, prosthodontists and restorative dentists across the U.S. *Qualified patients can have their procedure in one day after initial workup without additional bone graft surgery. Results may vary in individual cases. Limited services available at satellite offices. Independent Dental Implant Survey March 2011. America’s #1 Choice determined by an independent Patient Survey 2011.

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www.clearchoice.com
History Revisited in Vienna

Freeman Store Historical Plaque unveiled.

By DONNA MANZ
The Connection

More than 100 members of the Vienna-area community and a cast of local dignitaries took part in the program at Freeman Store on April 21 at which the plaque commemorating Freeman Store’s historical designation in the Commonwealth was unveiled.

“Celebrating history is one of the most pleasurable parts of public service,” said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11), noting Vienna’s “important role in resisting secession.”

Mayor M. Jane Seeman gave opening remarks and introduced the ceremony’s speakers. Rev. Dr. Kenny Smith of the First Baptist Church of Vienna, retiring April 29, gave the invocation. Rep. Connolly, Del. Mark Keam (D-35), and state Sen. Chap Petersen (D-Providence) offered brief insights into the circumstances that pulled the country apart in 1861 and the role Virginia played in the conflict.

Mayo Stuntz for his research of the area, and, for his father in 1894. He was the first president of the building. Leon Lydecker Freeman took the reins from his father in 1894. He was the first president of the Vienna Volunteer fire department, and was elected Fairfax County’s first Republican Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly since the Civil War.

The Lydecker family and Freeman were joined in business through marriage soon after the Civil War ended and the Freeman family eventually took over the building. Leon Lydecker Freeman took the reins from his father in 1894. He was the first president of Vienna’s volunteer fire department, and was elected Fairfax County’s first Republican Delegate to the Virginia General Assembly since the Civil War.

The Vienna Community Band played a selection of patriotic music and the 17th Virginia Infantry Regiment, Company D, the Fairfax Rifles Living History Society and the combined American Legion Post 177 and 17th District Honor Guard presented the colors. The Fairfax Rifles closed the ceremony with a volley across Freeman Store grounds. On the lawn, HVI volunteers served refreshments, including a Freeman House replica cake.

The interior of the Freeman Store and Museum is owned by Historic Vienna, Inc., which operates the facility through a lease with the Town of Vienna. HVI volunteers have administered and run the Freeman Store and Museum since 1976.

To support Historic Vienna, Inc., see www.historicviennainc.org for details.

Supervisor John Foust (D-Providence) confers with Supervisors Jeff McKay (D-Lee) and Linda Smyth (D-Dranesville) before the budget mark-up session on Friday, April 20.

Budget Session Provides Snapshot of 2013 Budget

Highlights include restored funding for human services, libraries, employee pay.

By VICTORIA ROSS
The Connection

Nearly 100 advocates packed a conference room at the Fairfax Government Center Friday, April 20, to get a preview of coming attractions for the next fiscal year.

After months of debate, it appears the final $6.7 billion fiscal year 2013 budget proposal by County Executive Tony Griffin will restore pay adjustments for county employees, add public safety personnel, restore library hours and increase funding for a variety of human services programs.

“This budget will maintain the same effective tax rate as included in the budget proposal advertised by County Executive Tony Griffin in February,” said Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-D-large) after Friday’s meeting. The board formally adopts the budget on Tuesday, May 1.

She said shifting a half cent from the storm water fee to the real estate tax rate ($1.075 per $100 value) will provide nearly $10 million in “fiscal flexibility” for next year’s budget. Other savings and adjustments—including more than $4 million in fiscal year 2013 revenue re-serve for state reductions—brings up the amount of available resources to nearly $25 million.

With that flexibility in place, and with savings identified within the advertised version, the final budget will improve public safety, restore library hours, maintain critical human services and establish a human services reserve, and restore pay adjustments for County employees,” Bulova said.

In the proposed budget package, county employees are poised to receive a 2.5 percent merit increase on top of the proposed 2.18 percent market rate adjustment at a cost of about $16.5 million.

“They deserve a raise,” said Supervisor John Foost (D-Dranesville), “their cooperation over the past couple of really tough years has enabled us to avoid draconian service cuts without increasing the tax burden.”

In addition to the increased pay for employees, the board proposed restoring cuts and providing additional funding for an array of human services programs.

“It does matter when people come to the public hearings,” Bulova said. “These (recommendations) are based on feedback in response to recommendations from the Human Service Council.”

In the past few years, Fairfax County’s award-winning libraries have “taken an inordinate hit,” Bulova said. The board recommended restoring nine hours each week at the county’s regional libraries, and three hours at the county’s community libraries. In addition, the board proposed funding 14 part-time positions to meet staffing needs at community libraries. Total cost: $674,359.

Foost said he believed the proposed budget reflects “a reasonable balance” of the concerns and priorities we heard from many segments of the community.

“I think we have found some creative ways to restore some of the public safety and human services cuts that had been advertised,” he said.

“When we adopt our budget, we are investing in our community’s priorities. The fiscal year 2013 budget for Fairfax County, once marked up on April 24 and adopted on May 1, will do just that,” Bulova said.
News

Coming In from the Cold

Fairfax County hosts hypothermia meeting to address shelters’ concerns.

By Victoria Ross
The Connection

Fairfax County officials met with about 75 representatives from churches and other houses of worship Sunday, April 22, to address rumors and concerns that the County’s Fire Marshal will shut down their hypothermia programs next winter - and shut out many homeless residents because of fire code violations.

Held at St. Stephen’s United Methodist Church in Burke, the information session was hosted by county staff, elected officials and nonprofit partners. Panelists included Amanda Andere, executive director of FACETS; Kerri Wilson, executive director of Reston Interfaith and Deputy County Executive Patricia Harrison.

“I think the bottom line is that the fire marshal’s office will work individually with houses of worship to make sure they are safe and up to code,” said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large), who called Sunday’s meeting.

“In some cases, it might be as simple as installing a smoke detector or carbon monoxide detector,” she said.

Currently, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless residents during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermia-related deaths reported during the season.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill), who has been a longtime advocate for the county’s homeless population, said she wants to see the county maintain a partnership with the faith community in a safe environment.

“But the more critical issue is how will we eliminate or reduce hypothermia without the needed housing? Our faith partners are looking to us to do the heavy lifting by providing the housing so they can support the county by serving the clients,” Hudgins said.

Sunday’s meeting was prompted by concerns from some church leaders that they would be forced to shut down their programs due to fire code violations.

On Monday, April 16, the Rev. Keary Kincannon of Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria sent out a press release stating the county will close 18 of 36 churches that host a hypothermia program.

“Nine churches will not be allowed to bring the homeless in during the cold under any circumstances. An additional nine require extensive work to correct code violations that may cost hundreds of thousands of dollars,” Kincannon said in the release.

Last week, Bulova said four houses of worship may be affected by their inability to comply with fire codes, not 18, and stressed Fairfax County’s longstanding support of the Hypothermia Prevention Program.

“I have been working with County staff to make sure safety concerns that arose during this program year are addressed before the 2012-2013 program begins,” Bulova said in an email announcing Sunday’s session.

“I am committed to finding solutions that do not put undue burden on houses of worship but still provide adequate safety for the vulnerable population that relies on the Hypothermia Program during the winter months,” she said.

Supervisor John Cook (R-Broadlands), who attended Sunday’s meeting and met with faith representatives last week, said part of the concern was that some churches heard they were on the list (for code violations), but didn’t know why.

“There was a real interest in churches to counter the rumor mill,” Cook said. “The meeting was a good step in that regard.”

Cook said other localities, such as Richmond and Virginia Beach, have encountered similar issues because the fire code is a state-wide set of regulations enacted by the General Assembly but enforced by local jurisdictions. Tensions arise because each jurisdiction has some discretion when interpreting the codes.

“Everyone has to take deep breath, and recognize that we have to work through a process,” Cook said. “But there’s a significant commitment and confidence on the county’s part that we can work through these issues.”

“Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety,” Bulova said.

Fast Facts about Fairfax County’s Hypothermia Prevention Program

• During the 2010-2011 winter season, approximately 1,025 residents sought shelter through Fairfax County’s Hypothermia Prevention Program, in partnership with other agencies.

• During the 2011-2012 winter season, partners opened their shelters to “no turn-away” status on Nov. 1, even if the weather was not freezing temperatures.

• FACETS’ Hypothermia Prevention Season is Nov. 21 through March 17. FACETS served more than 219 clients last season.

• Volunteers of America Chesapeake (VOA) Bailey’s Crossroads’ Hypothermia Program served more than 442 clients last season and an additional 84 clients in their other winter seasonal programs for a total of 526 clients.

• Reston Interfaith’s Emory Runner Community Shelter (ERCS) operates three separate winter programs.

• The ERCS Winter North County Program and winter seasonal programs served over 300 clients last season.

• The Homeless Healthcare Program (HHP) has four nurse practitioners from the Fairfax County Health Department providing free flu shots during Hypothermia Prevention season.

For more information on Fairfax County’s Hypothermia Prevention Program, go to http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/partnerupdate/partnership-hhpsfhs/hhpsfhs-hyposeason2011-12.htm

Supporting Clemyjontri

Concert in the Park moves indoors.

By Andrea Worker
The Connection

On Saturday, April 21, the Friends of Clemyjontri Park Foundation in McLean held their second annual Concert in the Park in the park — sort of. The theme of this year’s black-tie fundraising event was “Under the Big Top” and was scheduled to take place under the park’s newly installed 900 sq. ft. canopy, built to provide shade and available for rental for special occasions. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra was prepared to play an appropriate selection of circus-worthy selections under the banner of FSO Music Director, Christopher Zimmerman.

The event had been re-scheduled from last September, due to inclement weather. Sadly, the weather once more refused to cooperate: Instead of gathering under the Big Top, the 100 guests, including Virginia Governor Robert McDonnell and First Lady Maureen, huddled under umbrellas as they entered the new venue – the home of Dan and Juliann Clemente, just minutes away from the Park.

Julie Clemente is the founder and president of the Friends of Clemyjontri Park, and along with her husband and numerous family members, has been instrumental in seeing the park come to life from the drawing board and the dreams of Adele Lebowitz, the widow of Mortimer Lebowitz who founded Morton’s Department Stores in Washington, D.C. in 1933 and ran them for more than 60 years. In 2000, Adele Lebowitz donated the family’s 18.5 acre McLean property to the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA). The name, Clemyjontri, was derived from Lebowitz’s four children: Carolyn, Emily, John, and Petrina.

“She had just a few conditions to go with her very generous donation,” said Clemente. “The park had to be built within five years. It had to have a carousel, and that carousel and all the playground’s equipment had to be accessible to all, regardless of mobility. And that is how and why Dan and I got involved.”

Clemente explained how they were contacted by the FCPA in the fourth year following the bequest. “Building and maintaining an all-accessible playground costs a lot more than a regular play park,” she said. See Clemyjontri. Page 19

Members of the Fairfax Symphony Orchestra Allison Bailey, Tim Wade, Greg Rupert, and Andrew Hesse provided the entertainment for the event.
T
he Virginia Senate recently put $300 million into the Commonwealth budget, making a fiscal commitment to Dulles Rail, the Region’s most important infrastructure project, which is now “old news” as a state objective. During that time, Dulles Rail was the focus of criticism and controversy, particularly in the failure to fund the project in the Appropriations Bill. Seeking to change this dynamic, the Senate — after significant debate — added the additional $300 million in state money to Phase II of the project, which is more than $5 billion. Yet it’s critical, especially as local governments like Loudoun County must decide in the next few months to commit their own money to Phase II of the project, which will link the Rail Line to the Airport and into Loudoun. Is the project perfect? No. Is the Metro Washington Airports Authority, the operating authority, perfect? No. But no project ever is. (Read a history of the intercontinental railroad, the most important infrastructure project in U.S. history, which was riddled with corruption.) Good, Bad and Ugly in Virginia Budget

Some parts are bad, and some parts are ugly. One part is missing:

The Jewish Social Services (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. www.jssa.org/growth-learning.
The Connection Newspapers was awarded the Virginia Press Association Award for Journalistic Integ-}
ity and Community Service last Saturday, April 22, “for exhaustive coverage of home-}
lessness and poverty and for telling those stories effectively portrayed the plight of the}
poor living in tents and other makeshift shel-
ters. It reported on how poverty and home-
lessness affects children. It examined the}
causes of homelessness and explained why}
people don’t have a place to live even when}
some have a job. It reported on the role of gov-
ernment and groups that advocate for the poor.

WINNING ENTRIES, CONNECTION, CENTRE VIEW
See complete list of winners on page 14
❖ Virginia Press Association 2011 Award for Journalistic Integrity and Com-
   munity Service
❖ Michael O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amer-}
   ly Healy, 1st Place, Fairfax Connection, Multimedia Feature Report, An End to Homeless-
   ness, Judges comments: Wow. This is an amaz-
   ing feature. Judges and digital com-
   ponents complement each other nicely. Even though I would have liked to see some more ag-
   gressive promotion of digital from print. The video and photo gallery provide nice layers to the over-
   all story. The website featuring your original cov-
   erage will be an excellent home to keep follow-
   ing this important topic. Well-
   done.
❖ Alex McVeigh, 1st Place, Great Falls Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Report-
   ing
❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Educa-
   tion Writing, Judges Comments: What the judges really appreciate about Bonnie’s stories is that each one is a unique, interesting and very readable story that makes the sometimes dry sub-
   ject of education coverage appealing to readers. Much more than the “school board did this and the school board did that” type sto-
   ries that so many newspapers publish, not to say that this coverage is not important. Bonnie’s work really makes us want to read it. Good job, and congratu-
   lations.
❖ Bonnie Hobbs, 1st place, Centre View, Feature Writing Portfolio, Judges comments: These stories were fantastic. Great writing style really makes these unique stories shine. Nice job packed final product. Well done!
❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, Online Slideshow, Wounded Warrioners at Bat
❖ Deb Cobb, 1st place, Fairfax Connection, General News Photo, Warm Welcome, Judges comments: I love how every subject in this photo is engaged into a mo-
   tivational piece. This piece is a very good use of space and time.

OPINION

Connection Wins Public Service Award for Homeless Coverage
VPA Award for Journalistic Integrity and Community Service; plus 44 other awards.

It provided extensive lists of community orga-

nizations with missions to help the poor and home-
less, and told how individuals could vol-
unteer.

“It invited knowledgeable citizens to contrib-
ute guest essays that offered perspectives and fresh ideas for addressing the problems of homelessness.”

The online component of the home-
less project also won first place in the multimedia category. Edited by Michael O’Connell, the project included stories, video and photos by Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs and Amber Healy. The Connection Newspapers group, including the Alexandria Gazette Packet, Mount Vernon Gazette and Centre View and Potomac Almanac, won 45 awards in all. The Alexandria Gazette Packet won 17 awards.

The top award winner was Michael Lee Pope, who won 12 awards including first place for government writing; health, science and envi-
ronmental writing; in-depth or investigative

reporting; breaking news and public safety writing.

In addition to her work on the homeless project, photographer Deb Cobb won indi-

vidual first place awards for photo illustration for a cover depicting a vampire; for an online slide show of “wounded warriors at bat,” and for general news photo.

Bonnie Hobbs won two first place awards, one for education writing and one for feature story writing.

The Children’s Connection won an award and judging it was a “simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.”

While it is gratifying and fun to win awards, it reflects our mission to tell the stories of the local community. We welcome your ideas and suggestions about what we should be covering now.

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
www.Twitter.com/marykimm

American Smokout, Getting into ‘Right Fit’ Private School, Judges comments: Too few strong entries.
❖ Mike O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amer-ly Healy 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Special Sections or Special Ed-
   itions, End to Homelessness, Judges comments: “End to Homelessness” tab. It
   is nice to see a newspaper commit to a project such as this in the form of a spe-
   cial tab.
❖ Julia O’Donoghue, 2nd place, Fairfax Connection, Education Writing W2W06 31912, Judges comments: Very nice variety in these stories, again, like the first place winner, going much more into the multitude of possibilities available in coverage of edu-
   cation and schools.
❖ Jenny Lourie, longtime columnist and Connection advertising representa-
   tive, won two 1st place awards from the Maryland Delaware Press Association, one for local column and one for sports column. Lourie has been writing about his od-
   dyssey with Stage IV lung cancer, and the judges noted: “Writer chooses tough subject, his own mortality, and handles it quite well. He gives us a honest look at a very personal issue.”
❖ Kemal Kurspahic, Laurence Foong, Anna Rehmatullah, 3rd place, Reston Connection, Special Sections or Special Editions W2W08 30669, Children’s Con-
   nection, Judges comments: Simple and elegant idea showcasing children’s artwork, a great way to attract young readers.
❖ Victoria Ross, 3rd place, Fairfax Connection, In-Depth Or Investigative Report-
   ing
❖ Anna Rehmatullah

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
www.Twitter.com/marykimm
To honor Mom on Mother’s Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your Mom and The Connection will publish them in our Mother’s Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what’s going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to: vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Or to mail photo prints, send to: The Vienna/Oakton Connection, “Me and My Mom Photo Gallery,” 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, self-addressed envelope, but please don’t send us anything irreplaceable.

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Dr. Leonard Sax, psychologist and author of Why Gender Matters, Boys Adrift, and Girls on the Edge, talks about the role of technology in the lives of teenagers — social media, video games, and the effects of growing up in virtual worlds. Dr. Sax will answer questions that parents have today — Should I be my child’s Facebook friend? Which video games are OK? How much time spent playing video games is too much?

APRIL 16
7pm-9pm
Facebook
Ate My Daughter

APRIL 30
7pm-9pm
Race To Nowhere

A documentary film examining the pressures faced by young people, teachers, and parents in our high-stakes education system and pressure-cooker culture. Generate dialogue and examine assumptions about how to best prepare the youth of America to be healthy, bright leaders. The movie will be followed by a panel of educational experts including:

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Mary Ellen Weissman, Ph.D. – Clinical Psychologist

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**FLINT HILL SCHOOL TO HOST TWO-DAY iPAD SUMMIT**

Teachers, administrators, and technology and curriculum directors from East Coast schools and from as far away as Oregon and California will be attending Flint Hill School’s two-day iPad Summit: “Transforming Our Community of Learners,” on Friday and Saturday, May 4-5 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., on the School’s Lower and Middle School campus. The first day of this free event will bring in some 45 participants for active classroom visits to see how the iPad and MacBook Air are transforming the educational experience; get information on financing a 1:1 initiative; speak with students as they share recent projects they have completed; attend breakout sessions with FHS teachers and technology integration specialists; and hear a Middle and Upper School panel of students and teachers discussing current FHS technology use.

Up to 150 participants may join the second day of the summit, where a keynote speech will be given by Fraser Speirs, an Apple Distinguished Educator and Head of Computing and IT at Cedars School of Excellence in Greenock, Scotland—the world’s first 1:1 iPad School. Speirs will be speaking about next-generation educational technology, teaching practice, and curriculum. The remainder of the day will be filled with interactive and engaging workshops and discussion groups focusing on 21st Century curriculum, creativity, assessment, and cultural changes in a 1:1 environment. Flint Hill administrators, technology integration specialists, and classroom teachers will lead these workshops.

Flint Hill is now one of the few schools in the country where every student, ages four and up, has immediate access to an iPad or MacBook Air. The 1:1 initiative was introduced in the fall of 2010 for students in Grades 5-12; this year, the program was further expanded to provide iPads for all students in Grades JK-4. Apple has designated Flint Hill School as the “Apple Site Visit School” for the State of Virginia.

Day 1 of this summit is filled to capacity; however there are still openings for Day 2, and registration information is available on Apple’s Education Seminars & Events website: https://edseminars.apple.com/event/XuAX4-L99P1

Flint Hill School’s Lower and Middle School Campus is located at 10409 Academic Drive, Oakton, VA 22124.
How To Welcome Diverse Parents to Your PTA, 6:30 p.m. Garthhouse Administrative Center Cafe, 8115 Garthhouse Road, Falls Church. Light supper 6:30 p.m., program 7 p.m. Panel discussion and question and answer session. Sponsored by FCPS Office of Family and Schools Partnerships and Fairfax County Council of PTAs. 703-455-9653 or president@fcpta.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 26
Oakton High School Dance Team Tryouts, 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. alphajane@aol.com.

Avoiding Divorce Court II – Provisions of Settlement Agreements. 6:30 p.m. The Women’s Center, 127 Park St. N.E., Vienna. A more thorough discussion of Separation, Custody and Property Settlement Agreements. $30-$70. 703-281-4928.

FRIDAY/APRIL 27
Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards Breakfast, 8 a.m. Waterford, 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. Honor volunteers who are dedicated to improving life in Fairfax County and finding new ways to serve. www.volunteerfairfax.org or 703-246-3816.

McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Armand Cabrera, landscape artist in oil and acrylics. 703-790-0122.

SATURDAY/APRIL 28
Federal Resume Development Workshop, 10 a.m. Places United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. $25-$35. Resume essentials, appropriate resume format and Provisions of Settlement Agreements in government positions and more. 703-281-4928 ext. 276.

TO HAVE COMMUNITY EVENTS LISTED IN THE CONNECTION, SEND TO vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is 12 p.m. on the Wednesday before publication.

How To Welcome Diverse Parents to Your PTA, 6:30 p.m. Garthhouse Administrative Center Cafe, 8115 Garthhouse Road, Falls Church. Light supper 6:30 p.m., program 7 p.m. Panel discussion and question and answer session. Sponsored by FCPS Office of Family and Schools Partnerships and Fairfax County Council of PTAs. 703-455-9653 or president@fcpta.org.

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McLean Art Society Meeting. 10 a.m. McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. With Armand Cabrera, landscape artist in oil and acrylics. 703-790-0122.

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

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25
Oakton High School Dance Team Tryouts, 4 p.m. Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. alphajane@aol.com.

Lifetime Leadership Program, 12 p.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. With Pat Williams, founder of Reston’s GraceFul Care. Bring a brown-bag lunch. 703-281-3987 or www.GoodShepherdVA.com.


School, 2900 Sutton Road, Vienna. alphajane@aol.com.


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A Taste of Vienna Celebrated
April 28 food festival benefits Vienna Volunteer Fire Department.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

It's called the Food Festival Downstairs. The one that has been called the 'Night of the 100 Dishes.' The one that has been called 'Taste of Vienna.'

The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department's annual Taste of Vienna fundraiser is coming April 28. Thirty of the Vienna area's most popular restaurants will set up tasting tables at the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. South, Vienna, from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday. Tickets are $50 in advance or $60 at the door. Funds raised benefit VVFD's parking lot and its potential.

With 30 restaurants participating, admission to Taste of Vienna's food festival will come with plenty of small dishes, shrimp and grits, eggplant rollatini, fried chicken, pepperoni, or any number of other options.

The event starts at 6 p.m. with a VIP reception, which features a silent auction, wine and champagne, and appetizers. The tents open to the general public at 6:30 p.m.

For more information, visit www.tasteofvienna.org. You can follow and "like" Taste of Vienna at https://www.facebook.com/tasteofvienna/.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, APRIL 27
• "No Crime Like the Present." 7 p.m. Fairfax Church High School, 7921 Fairfax Church Rd., Fairfax. Thriller. "No Crime Like the Present" is a murder mystery, written by a local playwright. Proceeds will go to Vienna Volunteer Fire Department. $14. 703-358-7900.

SATURDAY, APRIL 28
• "Sleeping Beauty." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Vale United Methodist Church, 6202 Old Dominion Drive, McLean. Russian and Eastern European folk music on Saturday, April 28. 703-246-9257.
• "Masquerade." 7 p.m. Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens, 10200 N. Garden Rd., Richmond. "Masquerade" is a play presented by the American Shakespeare Center. 804-781-3221.
• "Deathtrap." 8 p.m. McLean Community College Community Center Theatre, 4427 Industrial Rd., McLean. Thriller comedy. "Deathtrap," by Ira Levin, is a farcical murder mystery which is set in an empty New York apartment in the 1940s. $25-$28, group rates available. 703-548-2612.
• "Friday Afternoon Chess Group." 12:30 p.m. Alexandria-Daviess County Public Library, 5401 Ox Run Rd., Fairfax. Open to all skill levels of chess players. Free. 703-207-6198.
• "The Great Gatsby," 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Vienna Community College, 4022 Virginia Mason Dr. S.E., Vienna. Dances, teas and refreshments. $25. www.bridgepointconnections.org/.
Baby Boomers and Beyond Health Fair Debuts in Vienna
Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna and the Town of Vienna partner to host wellness exhibitions.

Baby Boomers and Beyond” were introduced to the broad diversity of health and wellness services offered in the Vienna area at the health fair sponsored by the Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna [SCOV] and the Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation. From health care navigation to dancing to Latin music, the four-hour exhibition on April 21 at the Vienna Community Center focused on the wellness needs of the area’s senior population.

“What we hope people take away is the knowledge and information to take charge of their own health and to navigate the health care system,” said Casey Tarr, health advocate volunteer at SCOV. “We want them to have a better quality of life as they age.”

Michelle Scott, Director of SCOV, thought of the idea of a senior health fair and talked it out with Cheryl Harlan, mature adult programs coordinator with Vienna Parks and Recreation. Tarr chaired the committee to produce the fair.

Exhibitors included a Fairfax County agency on aging, Patient Navigator Elisabeth Russell, specialist at Patient Navigator, the Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna [SCOV], Alzheimer’s Family Day, Capital Caring palliative care, the Alexandria Hospital Center and INOVA health system outreach, the Virginia Community Center. Featured were screenings, information dissemination and exercise classes.

The fair was held on April 21 at the Vienna Community Center. Featured were screenings, information dissemination and exercise classes. The fair was sponsored by the Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna and the Town of Vienna Department of Parks and Recreation.

To learn more about the services of the Shepherd’s Center of Oakton-Vienna, go to www.sco.org. For information on classes and programs offered by the Department of Parks and Recreation of the Town of Vienna, see http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?nid=75.
NARFE Hosts Town Council Members

NARFE Chapter 1116 Meeting hosted a forum on April 10 for three members of the Vienna Town Council who are seeking re-election. Also attending was Mayor Jane Seeman who is also seeking re-election. Left to right NARFE Chapter 1116 President - Shirley Keyes, Town Council Members - Mike Polychrones, Edythe Frankel Kelleher, Laurie Genevro Cole, and Mayor Jane Seeman.

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Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, General News Photo, Fairfax Connection
Deb Cobb, FIRST PLACE, Online Slide Show, Fairfax Connection
Bonnie Hobbs, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, Centre View North
Bonnie Hobbs, FIRST PLACE, Feature Writing Portfolio, Centre View North
Michael O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, FIRST PLACE, Multimedia Feature Report, Fairfax Connection
Alex McVeigh, FIRST PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Great Falls Connection
Victoria Ross, FIRST PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Kenny Lourie, FIRST PLACE, Sports Column, Potomac Almanac
Ken Moore, Mary Kimm, Robbie Hammer, FIRST PLACE, Continuing News Coverage, Potomac Almanac

Mary Kimm
Montie Martin
Deb Cobb
Bonnie Hobbs
Alex McVeigh
Kenny Lourie
Victoria Ross

Michael Lee Pope, SECOND PLACE, General Makeup, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Staff, SECOND PLACE, Lifestyle or Entertainment Pages, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Jeanne Theismann, SECOND PLACE, Headline Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Jeanne Theismann, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, SECOND PLACE, Health, Science & Environmental Writing, Arlington Connection
Michael Lee Pope, SECOND PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, Mount Vernon Gazette
Lashawn Avery-Simon, SECOND PLACE, General News Photo, Arlington Connection
Mike O’Connell, Victoria Ross, Deb Cobb, Robbie Hammer, Bonnie Hobbs, Amber Healy, SECOND PLACE, Special Sections or Special Editions, Fairfax Connection
Julia O’Donoghue, SECOND PLACE, Education Writing, Fairfax Connection
Marilyn Campbell, SECOND PLACE, Personal Service Writing, Great Falls Connection
Victoria Ross, SECOND PLACE, In-Depth or Investigative Reporting, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
Jon Roetman, SECOND PLACE, Sports Writing Portfolio, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

Louise Krafft, SECOND PLACE, Picture Story Writing, Mount Vernon Gazette
Ken Moore, Laurence Foong, SECOND PLACE, Infographics, Potomac Almanac
Carole Dell, SECOND PLACE, Local Column, Potomac Almanac
Susan Belford, SECOND PLACE, Feature Story, Profile, Potomac Almanac
Louise Krafft, THIRD PLACE, Pictorial Photo, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, Breaking News Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
Michael Lee Pope, THIRD PLACE, Business & Financial Writing, Alexandria Gazette Packet
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Monday Noon
Really?

By KENNETH H. LOURIE

Having recently upgraded my cell phone, I have finally, due to its larger keys, and simplified data-entry process, learned how to enter “contacts” and their phone numbers as well as select some of these key contacts for speed-dialing. This relatively basic function, which had eluded me for years, has opened up a slew of possibilities, that even I can see will lessen the burden on my brain to remain engaged. Now I won’t have to think nearly so much about what I’ve spent 40-plus years doing: dialing a phone number from memory and/or referring to a phone/address book for that number. Thanks to my new phone, I have finally turned the corner of technology. I have passed “Go.” Next we’ll see where I land: “Boardwalk” or “Baltic” and see if there is a monopoly of my time as a result.

One week into my new communication life, I have entered 16 contacts, some with only one phone number, others with mobile, home and work. In addition, I have entered/selected two speed-dial numbers. Obviously, I have ample space remaining for future contacts and certainly more space for speed-dials. Going through the list of prospective “speed-dialers” and “contacts-to-be,” I have now reached a point where I’m kind of looking for people/numbers to add. I suppose you could say I’ve reached the second tier. I’ve already entered/allocated from the top tier most called, most familiar, most logical: friends, family and business. Yet spots remain, so I’ve begun a mental search of who/what numbers might be cell phone-worthy (meaning whose phone numbers might I want to include in my cell phone) either as a “contact” or as a “speed dial” since the process of doing so is now clearly within my rather limited abilities. Two numbers that I’ve thought about adding—and which relate directly to this column’s title—are my car’s auto-repair shop and my oncologist. I have most definitely entered them as contacts. However, given the semi-precocious nature of driving a car with 137,000 miles on the odometer, perhaps it would be prudent to assign a speed dial number to my mechanic. Not that I want to be calling him that often or have the circumstances be so time-sensitive that speed—in our ability to connect with one another over the phone—is of the essence but, hoping and praying, don’t necessarily make it so. And let’s be honest, my car is not getting any newer. I have similar feelings toward my oncologist. I don’t want to have to need to call him that quickly, but again, let’s be realistic: I’m probably not getting any healthier. As such, if I did call him, presumably it wouldn’t be to inquire about the weather, more likely it would be to inquire whether a new symptom or a deterioration of some kind relating to my being a stage IV lung cancer survivor (who has now outlived his original “13-month-to-two-year prognosis” by years) is significant. But if I’m being honest about my life/health circumstances, who better to call—and be able to call quickly and efficiently, than the doctor who is primarily responsible for my well-being/treatment? I don’t want to feel this way, but if there’s anything that seems increasingly more relevant (as I continue to live beyond my original prognosis), it would be to plan for circumstances that are beyond my control (although I’m not saying/admitting to their inevitability), especially if there are other people close to me who might need some assistance attempting to control those circumstances, should they occur.

Admitting to their age—and need however, and in turn acting/planning on their behalf, so to speak, are tough pills to swallow. Never do I want to give credence to my original diagnosis and accept my fate, sort of. Nevertheless, organizing my phone to prepare for the worst, while still hoping for the best, might be the best way—for me, to take care of myself and those closest to me as well. But thinking that technology, specifically my phone, would play a major role in that task, is a really big surprise, all things considered.

The Washington area kept its eyes to the sky on Tuesday morning April 17, for a special over-flight by the Space Shuttle Discovery docked to its 747 carrier aircraft. The Discovery is moving to its new home at the Smithsonian’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly. The Discovery has flown 39 missions, spent 365 days in space, and was the longest-serving orbiter in NASA’s shuttle program.

On Tuesday April 17, a Boeing 747 carrying the Space Shuttle Discovery makes its final approach to Dulles International Airport. The shuttle will become part of the Smithsonian Institution’s permanent collection at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

The Space Shuttle Discovery, atop its Boeing 747 carrier, prepares to end its last flight at Dulles International Airport on Tuesday April 17. The shuttle will become part of the Smithsonian Institution’s permanent collection at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

Area Welcomes Discovery

A famed pace Shuttle finds home in Chantilly.

As technology, specifically my phone, would play a major role in that task, is a really big surprise, all things considered.
Northern Region Well Represented at Capital Classic

Oakton’s Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad.

By Jon Roetman
The Connection

W est Springfield senior Logan Battle isn’t accustomed to beginning a basketball game on the bench. The 6-foot-1 Spartan standout earned a scholarship to Georgetown by making plays on the court from the opening tip. But during the first game of the 39th Annual Capital Classic, a public school matchup between the Virginia All-Stars and the Maryland All-Stars, she started with a seat on the sideline.

That didn’t stop Battle from having her usual game-changing impact. Battle came off the bench to score 12 points and earn MVP honors as Virginia cruised to a 74-49 victory on April 21 at T.C. Williams High School in Alexandria.

After a slow start by both squads, Virginia pulled away.

“Sitting on the bench starting out gives me a chance to see how the other team plays and get a feel for what I’m supposed to be doing,” Battle said. “…We’ve all seen each other play [and] played with each other during AAU or in other all-star games before. When we got on the court, we worked well together [because] none of us are selfish.”

Each team had limited practice time prior to the contest, which tipped off the four-game all-star event, but Robinson said the girls meshed well together on the floor. “Everyone has the same goal and dream,” she said. “We’re just playing basketball.”

FRED PRIESTER, who led Oakton to an undefeated season and the 2012 state championship, coached the Virginia All-Stars.

“There’s always a little edge there,” Priester said of the inter-state matchup. “We in the Virginia suburbs think we play pretty good ball, they think they play pretty good ball, so there’s a little bit of bragging rights there.”

Oakton’s Katherine and Caroline Coyer scored six and five points, respectively, for the Virginia squad, playing their final high school game before suiting up for Villanova.

“It was a little bittersweet,” Katherine Coyer said. “It was definitely great to get to represent Oakton High School one more time. Of course, it’s sad that this is the last time we’re going to be putting on these shorts and playing to represent Oakton, [but] even going forward, this isn’t something we’re going to forget.”

T.C. Williams senior Gaby Moss, who will play at Georgia State, scored nine points on her home court. Robinson scored six points. Edwards’ Sherrell (Hofstra) finished with five and McNaughton had three.

In the other girls’ game, the Prep-Private All-Stars defeated the Interhigh All-Stars 76-67. Bishop O’Connell’s Nicole Carty scored three points for the Prep-Public team.

Oakton Baseball Trying to Regain its Footing

Since 6-1 start, Cougars have struggled in Concorde District play.

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

A tough stretch of the season has hit the Oakton High baseball team since the start of play within the Concorde District schedule a few weeks ago. The Cougars, who were 6-1 at one point this spring, entered this week in the midst of a tough five-game losing streak.

Fear of the losses during the recent skid were against district opponents, putting Oakton (6-6 overall, 0-4 in the district) in dire need of a victory against a Concorde opponent. This week, the Cougars were scheduled to play district games at Westfield on Tuesday, April 24, before coming home this Friday, April 27 to host Herndon High. Friday night’s game with the Hornets is set to begin at 6:30.

“We have struggled in the win-loss column recently, but overall, our guys play hard every time they step on the field,” said Oakton head coach Justin Janis. “I’ve been pleased with their effort and preparation, we just need to make a couple of plays here and there and that will turn our momentum back in the right direction.”

Oakton’s first two district games were both one-run setbacks – road losses at Herndon, 4-3, on April 10, and Chantilly, 3-2, on April 13. A day following the loss to the Chargers, Oakton lost a non-Northern Region affair at Loudoun Valley (Cedar Run District), 9-1.

In its third and fourth district games, both at home on April 17 and 19, the Cougars lost to Robinson, 6-4, and also fell to Centreville, 10-6. That put Oakton at a disappointing 0-4 record in district games.

Oakton has received a particularly strong season thus far from junior starting pitcher Matt Gregor.

“Matt has been pitching very well,” said Janis. “Every time he has pitched he has given us a quality start.”

Mitchell Carroll, a junior, has played well at shortstop defensively and is batting .360. The Cougars’ leading hitter is junior Joey Bartosic, who is hitting .342.

OAKTON BEGAN the season with a flurry of victories in its first five games. The Cougars opened the season with a home game on March 15 versus Yorktown High of the National District and defeated the Patriots by an 8-3 score. Two days later in an early season tournament at McLean High School, Oakton won both ends of a doubleheader - defeating the host McLean Highlanders 8-7 before handling West Potomac High (Patriot District) by a 15-4 score later that afternoon/evening.

On March 23, Oakton traveled to Richmond for a Friday evening game at St. Anne’s-Belfield. In that outing versus the private school team, Oakton improved its record to 4-0 with a 9-2 win.

The next week, the Cougars hosted McLean on a Saturday afternoon on the final day of March and won, 7-4.

Over spring break week, Oakton, competing in a local tournament, played a pair of games. The Cougars, on Monday, April 2, lost at Lake Braddock Secondary (Patriot District), 2-0, for their first setback of the season. But they defeated visiting West Springfield, another Patriot District opponent, 3-1, the following day in a mid-afternoon game played at Oakton to improve their record to 6-1.

Since the win over the Spartans, Oakton has struggled with the four straight district losses. Over the next several weeks leading up to the Concorde District Tournament (May 15-21), the Cougars will look to earn as many regular season district wins as possible in order to give themselves the best possible seeding for the district tournament. A year ago, Oakton entered districts as the top seed and went on to win the district tournament title with a finals win over Westfield. At the ensuing Northern Region playoffs, the Cougars advanced to the second round quarterfinals before seeing their season end with a barn-burner, 13-12 loss to Lake Braddock. Overall, Oakton finished 18-6 in 2011.
Concert for Clemyjontri

From Page 4

said. “I guess they figured with 9 kids, we would be unfair users of the facility,” she laughed. “so we got the call, we founded the 501(c) (3) Friends, and the money was raised. Now there is this wonderful park, the first in the Commonwealth, and one of just a handful anywhere, where everyone can play and enjoy themselves.

AN ADDED BENEFIT to the park not thought of when it was created is how it is now being used by military personnel injured in combat. Clemente and Heather Cox, Executive Vice President with sponsor Capitol One Bank, both spoke about the rising use of the park by this constituency. “What a way to give back to our community,” Cox said. “It is so heartwarming to see our service personnel who have already sacrificed so much, really able to play with their children, not just watch from the sidelines,” added Clemente.

The Foundation continues to raise funds to add additional equipment like the wheelchair-accessible Liberty Swing installed last year and to maintain the park’s facilities. “All the money raised goes directly to the park. No salaries and overhead,” added Clemente.

The distinguished supporters who enjoyed the delights provided by Susan George Catering and the strains of the Fairfax Symphony Quartet, included Kevin Fay, Dranesville District Representative on the Fairfax County Park Authority Board, and the evening’s Master of Ceremonies. Fay introduced Gov. and Mrs. McDonnell, Sharon Bulova, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, del- egate Barbara Comstock, the Clementes and other honored attendees. “Although everyone here is a distinguished guest,” noted Mr. Fay, “none of the this is possible without each and everyone of you.”

Goveror also addressed the gathering. “Next time Virginia has a distinguished guest,” noted Mr. Fay, “none of the this is possible without each and everyone of you.”

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Member Kevin Fay, Friends of Clemyjontri Board Member and hostess Julie Clemente, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova present an overview of the mission and successes of Clemyjontri Park.

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The Power of Art

"If I were a rich man, ya ha deedle deedle, bubba bubba deedle deedle dum."

― "I Was a Rich Man's Fiddler on the Roof"

A catchy show tune, a mesmerizing photograph, stunning computer graphics, a stirring orchestra rendition, an elegant pencil drawing, or the graceful movements of a modern dance performance—each has the power to move audiences and transport them to a moment in time. Whatever the talent or interest, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) provides students with a comprehensive arts education.

Students in grades K through 6 receive music and art instruction taught by certified art teachers. Middle school and high school students may choose to enroll in a variety of elective course offerings in all fine arts disciplines to include dance, music, theater, and visual art. Advanced Placement (AP) or International Baccalaureate (IB) art classes are offered for students in grades 11-12.

Art engages students in a process that helps them develop the self-esteem, self-discipline, cooperation, and self-motivation necessary for success in life. "Art making involves critical thinking and problem solving to create a product," said Aaron Statton, art education specialist at FCPS. "In this sense, art is an authentic approach to providing students with essential skills they will need in the 21st century to develop creative solutions to challenges. Creativity and problem solving are essential components of innovation which will feed the economy and industries of the future."

Art All Around Us

Students can explore many forms of art including art, music, photography, computer graphics, dance, orchestra, theatre, band, and more. Beginning in elementary school, students are introduced to concepts and processes that nurture creative thinking and problem solving through art and music classes.

"As they advance to the next grade level, students are exposed to recognized works of art and become actively involved in finding connections between images and ideas," said Statton. "Emphasis is placed on exploring themes and concepts related to family and a sense of place. By participating in real and meaningful art experiences, students increase their understanding of the value of the visual arts to themselves, their family, and to the world in which they live."

Music to Your Ears

More than 40,000 FCPS students are enrolled in the music elective programs of band, chorus, general music, orchestra, and guitar. The vocal and instrumental ensembles are seen and heard worldwide. Locally, the ensembles perform at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, George Mason Center for the Performing Arts, and the White House among others.

"Music, through its inherent ability to develop intellectual and emotional communication skills, encourages cultural awareness and enriches society," said Tamra Ferreira, fine arts coordinator at FCPS. "The FCPS music curriculum provides opportunities for students to attain the knowledge and skills necessary to become musically literate, well-rounded individuals."

Let the Shows Begin!

Springtime theatre productions bring performance spaces alive throughout Fairfax County Public Schools. The study of theatre provides students opportunities for personal and academic growth, ways to create bridges to other subject disciplines and other cultures, and the development of skills which provide lifelong enjoyment. In middle school, FCPS students discover and explore the basic elements of theatre, and augment that study with a variety of theatre presentations and special events. At the high school level students develop and expand their knowledge, skills, and resources to create a high level of accomplishment in the classroom and in performance.

Go see a show at a Fairfax County Public School. Many events are free or inexpensive. Find out more at www.fcps.edu and click on the blue Events tab.

Did You Know?

More than 31,000 secondary students enrolled in fine and performing arts courses during the 2011-2012 school year:

- Visual art: 12,405
- Music: 12,405
- Theatre: 3,600
- Dance: 300

Get to Know Us:

Herndon High School Theatre
Zoe Dillard

Zoe Dillard grew up around theatrical personalities, so it was an obvious choice when it came time to decide on a career. Theatre, of course.

Though she initially pursued acting roles, it was a request in 1982 from Falls Church High School to help them choreograph a musical that confirmed her love of working with young people in the theatre.

Today, she serves as the theatre director and teacher at Herndon High School.

Dillard believes theatre offers students a chance to discover themselves.

"High school is all about finding your niche. Some students come into the theatre to see what's here and what's going on. Once they are here, they realize there are many opportunities," Dillard said. "They can direct children's theatre or participate in improv. They can be part of the ensemble or put their technical skills to work building sets. They can work with 5th and 6th graders in the children's theatre. They can also use their computer graphic skills for publicity."

"I try to offer students many different kinds of opportunities in the theatre so they will grow," she said. "It's not just about acting. I love their energy," she continued. "By the time they are senior, they've changed and grown. I find that inspiring to watch."