

Oakton Baseball Opens New Season

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Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond

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Oakton sophomore short-stop Joe Rizzo, left, and assistant coach Joey Kamide talk during a March 14 scrimmage at Oakton High School. Rizzo led the Cougars in hitting as a freshman.

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To have community events listed in the Connection, send to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 19

Vienna Photographic Society Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Oakton Elementary School, 3000 Chain Bridge Rd., Oakton. Karen Messick will judge the March 19 competition of the Vienna Photographic Society ("VPS"), which focuses on close-ups. The competition is open to anyone who is a paid member of VPS on the evening of the judging. www.vpsva.org

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

Great Falls Writer's Group. Noon to 1:30 pm. Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Writer's Group will host William Bird, curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, for a light luncheon and forum. The noted historian, curator and best-selling author will discuss his most recent book and explore the joys and intricacies of historical writing. Reservations are not necessary, but early arrival is recommended because seating will be first come-first serve. For more information, call the library at 703-757-8560.

Moms Demand Action for Sensible Gun Reform in America Informational Meeting. 7 - 9 p.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Meet other moms concerned about gun violence and learn how you can help pass common sense gun reform. Moms Demand Action is a grassroots organization

formed in the wake of the devastating mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary in Newtown, CT. Please RSVP aruffvirginia@gmail.com.

Vietnam Veterans of America Inc.

Meeting. 7:30 p.m. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Joseph Powell, Vietnam War veteran, will discuss his life of service to our Country from his army career including participating in President John F. Kennedy's funeral to his Capitol Hill police security detail to Congressman Thomas S. Foley. His Vietnam Tour of Duty involved the early days as a military The general public and all veterans are invited. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 24

McLean & Great Falls Celebrate Virginia will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The group will be discussing plans for their Aug. 24, 2014 event commemorating the bicentennial of the burning of the nation's Capitol during the War of 1812. If interested in taking part in the organization and its upcoming event please contact Carole Herrick at 703-356-8223.

THURSDAY/APRIL 17

Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter Meeting. Neighbor's Restaurant, 262D Cedar Lane, Cedar Lane Shopping Center, Vienna. Edward D. Connor, WW II Army Air Corps veteran, will discuss the Battle of the Bismarck Sea of March 2-4, 1943. Admission is free. For information, call Len Ignatowski at 703-255-0353 or visit www.vva227.org.

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Fire Ball Auction Takes Bids on Firefighters and EMTs

Vienna Volunteer Fire Department hosts live and silent auctions on March 21.

BY DONNA MANZ
THE CONNECTION

Here's an opportunity to win a group dinner "date" with a Vienna Volunteer Fire Department EMT or firefighter, as well as a diversity of prizes. On Friday, March 21, the VVFD holds a live auction featuring bids on the department's emergency responders and a silent auction for prizes donated by area businesses, from restaurants, spa treatments and vacation rentals to services and jewelry. Twelve firefighters and EMTs will be auctioned off and bids start at \$40. The auctions begin at 7 p.m.

There is no charge for admission and VVFD invites the public to participate in the fundraiser. Free appetizers and soft drinks are served and wine and beer are available for purchase. Dress is casual.

"... we fundraise to pay our current mortgage, fund major building renovations and the purchase of emergency vehicles for the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department," said VVFD outreach coordinator, Judi Medwedeff. "Our volunteer organization owns our building, the land and all the emergency vehicles. Fundraising allows us to carry out our mission, all the while saving taxpayers money."

THE GROUP "DATE" is on the following evening, March 22, and includes a VIP tour of the fire station and a sit-down dinner at Westwood Country Club. The gathering of highest-bidders and their emergency responder prizes begins at 6:30 p.m. at the fire station.

Emily Patrick, James Estep, Mike Spatter, Adam Searle, Lauren Kovacic, Stephen Baldassari, Hanna Mitchell, Jeff Snow, Sean Europe, Kasey Jamison, Lauren Colon and Nick Stern are the 12 firefighters and EMTs on the auction block.

Emily Patrick, a newly-certified EMT, joined the VVFD after graduation from George Mason University with a chemistry degree. She says the fire department is a social outlet. "Even when I'm there, I'm having fun," Patrick said. The 22-year-old trains for fitness and will be working as a rafting guide this summer in Montana for three months.

"My partnership with the VVFD makes me feel more connected with the community that I live in," said Patrick. "Also, my association with the VVFD is great for me as a young person, because it instills a great personal responsibility for myself, and my actions, in respect to others."

James Estep volunteered in the emer-



Emily Patrick



James Estep



Mike Spatter



Adam Searle



Lauren Kovacic



Stephen Baldassari



Hanna Mitchell



Jeff Snow



Sean Europe



Kasey Jamison



Lauren Colon



Nick Stern

PHOTOS COURTESY OF VIENNA VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

gency room of Inova Fairfax Hospital in 2005, where he got his first exposure to emergency medicine. He joined the Vienna Volunteer Fire Department about seven years ago, because, "I wanted to get involved in the community," Estep said. When he's not saving lives or working as a professional commercial lender, Estep enjoys running, boating, relaxing at the beach and watching his Virginia Tech Hokies play football. He's 34 years old.

"I get a personal sense of pride and accomplishment when I volunteer," said EMT Mike Spatter, a soldier stationed at Ft. Belvoir and living in Reston. Spatter, in EMT

training at the County's fire academy presently, says he enjoys a sense of family and teamwork at the VVFD.

"Being in the military, I served my country for 14 years," he said. "Now, I feel I should serve my community."

Adam Searle is another VVFD EMT up for auction who is attending fire school. He volunteered as an emergency responder while in the UK and resumed his volunteer career in Vienna. Searle participated in the fireball auction last year to help the department raise money and put its name out in the community. Searle said he enjoys helping people and practicing as an EMT is a

"good change of pace from his other job," that of a financial adviser. Searle, too, feels that the VVFD is a bit of a social outlet. He also enjoys traveling and outdoor activities, such as hiking and golf. As to his commitment to the fire department, Searle said, "It's exciting. You never know what call will be coming through next."

Lauren Kovacic, an EMT with the VVFD for seven years, works as a neonatal ICU nurse at Inova Fairfax Hospital. She joined the VVFD as a 16-year-old. She said she loves being with friends, going to the pool and on vacation. Kovacic said she has gotten many opportunities through VVFD. She received scholarships from the Virginia Fire-EMS association and the Virginia State Firefighters' Auxiliary to go to nursing school. "I love what I do."

Firefighter/Emt Stephen Baldassari has volunteered with the VVFD for three and a half years now. He works full-time for a political affairs database company in Northern Virginia but plans on a graduate certificate in Emergency Management and Homeland Security at George Mason. He calls the VVFD his most important hobby. "I like helping people, being part of the community," said 26-year-old Baldassari.

Besides the fire department, Baldassari is passionate about travel, and he keeps a world map on his wall. "I love traveling," he said. "I put pins where I've been. I don't put a pin where I want to go because I want to go wherever there's not a pin."

Eighteen-year-old Hanna Mitchell, VVFD EMT for two years, thought up the idea of a firefighter auction fundraiser last year. Yes, she did become an EMT while a 16-year-old student at James Madison High School. She became interested in medicine when her grandfather was hospitalized.

"I like being able to help people and it's [VVFD] a really good community to be around," Mitchell said.

She was on the recruitment committee during the winter/spring school year and this is how she described volunteering as an EMT as a high school student.

"It's manageable if it's one of your top priorities," she said. "You need to have good time management skills and you need to go in with a good heart and a good purpose."

A week before the auction, the VVFD Fire Ball Auction had more than 40 items valued at \$75 to \$650 on the silent auction block. Items valued at less than \$75 will be raffled off. Raffle tickets are priced at \$5 each or vie for \$20. These prizes include restaurant gift cards and services.

LAST YEAR'S FIREBALL, the first ever, raised \$5,600 and netted \$3,600. "We enjoy and take pride in giving back to the community," Medwedeff said.

The auction is Friday, March 21, beginning at 7 p.m. at VVFD Flame Room 400 Center Street S. For more information, go to www.vvfd.org or visit Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/events/583973395025583/?ref=br_tf for updates.

Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond

In the fight for social justice with patience and persistence.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The SALT “gang” on one of many trips to Richmond. Bob Stewart of Chantilly, John Horejsi, David Balducci of Arlington, a national work sharing expert, and Maddie Lupu gather with Sen. George Barker (D-39) (second from right), who worked with Sen. Bill Stanley and various coalitions and agencies to push work sharing legislation through this year.

Every year, dozens of high-priced lobbyists descend on Virginia’s state capitol.

Some tantalize with promises of business investment and jobs; others represent important campaign contributors, while some say they can deliver votes from key constituencies.

They are often joined by Vienna resident John Horejsi, 71, who offers legislators, a simple, singular opportunity: to do the right thing for the socially disadvantaged.

Part Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, part Don Quixote tilting at windmills, Horejsi is regarded by many lawmakers as a man of conviction and persistence.

Those traits often give him the credibility other lobbyists lack, when his idealistic — and sometimes naïve — pleas for social justice collide with more powerful and persuasive agendas.

And like Jefferson Smith — the character played by Jimmy Stewart in Frank Capra’s timeless parable of Good vs. Evil — Horejsi believes that lawmakers have a moral imperative to care about the powerless and voiceless, the “least among us.”

“There are times when he’s a little bit like Robin Hood,” said state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), a potent ally who has helped Horejsi advance legislation that helps the poor, the homeless, prisoners and children. “The difference is that John doesn’t have a bow and arrow to convince the rich to help the poor.”

“I guess that’s true. I don’t have a bow and arrow, and there are times I feel like Mr. Smith in Richmond,” Horejsi said, smiling. Like Jefferson Smith, Horejsi said he wouldn’t give “two cents for all the fancy rules if, behind them, they didn’t have a little bit of plain, ordinary, everyday kindness, and a little looking out for the other fella too.”

After speaking to a group about homelessness and hunger during a Catholic Charities conference in 1981, Horejsi found others willing to fight for “the other fella” in Richmond. He and a “ragtag band” of eight formed Social Action Linking Together, commonly known as “SALT.”

What began with a few social justice pioneers is now one of the most active and influential nonpartisan advocacy groups from Northern Virginia with 1,200-plus active members.

SALT’s mission is simple: keep social justice issues front and center with Virginia lawmakers. But the group’s legislative initiatives touch a staggeringly wide range of public welfare issues. Since the early 1980s, SALT has introduced bills benefitting the homeless, children, families, employees who face discrimination and other low-income Virginians who lack a secure safety net.

According to Robert Stewart, a founding member of SALT, members bring “the social, economic and justice teachings of their faith to bear on public policy and legislation.”

Whether lawmakers support SALT’s message or not, many respect the messenger, who has a knack for being pushy without being rude and insolent.

“He is a very nice man with a big heart. He states the way we all wish the world would be,” said Del. David Albo (R-42), the most senior Republican from Northern Virginia in Richmond. “But the world is not always like the way we want it to be.”

“(His) work with the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) and SALT alone has done more good for more people than most citizens are capable of imagining,” said Del. Ken Plum (D-36), who has served in the Virginia legislature since 1982.

As an elected official, Plum said he hears regularly from constituents who sometimes lack the basic necessities in life.

“I know what John’s activism over the years has meant to Northern Virginians,” Plum said.

A TRANSFORMING MOMENT

Like most movements that have a profound and lasting impact, SALT was years in the making.

For Horejsi, the seeds of compassion were planted early.

He was born and raised in the tiny farming town of Bechyn, Minn. — which listed its population as 30 in the 1920 U.S. Census. Shortly after World War II, Horejsi’s mother died and his father was unable to care for him.

He was taken in by impoverished relatives, who treated him, he said, with kindness.

“When my mother died everything changed. Since my father was unable to care for me, I was placed into the state social services Kinship Care system,” Horejsi said.

“Who knows what would have happened to me or where I would be today without their help and the support of social services. Being aware of my personal situation sensitized me and always made me feel like I should do something,” he said.

Horejsi said another powerful event in his life was meeting a 16-year-old homeless teen in Alexandria in 1985. When the girl’s mother was laid off from her job, they became homeless, living out of their car for a short time before moving to a homeless shelter for six months.

“After meeting her, I felt strongly that we should help the homeless. That’s when we started our successful advocacy for the Homeless Intervention Program (HIP) to prevent homelessness,” Horejsi said.

Thanks to programs and services available to the homeless, the young woman went on to study with the Virginia Ballet School and Company and earned a law degree from Catholic University in 1993.

Horejsi said he will never forget her. “In fact, many people might know her name today, because they voted her into office,” Horejsi said.

Q&A with John Horejsi

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: “I was born and grew up in a small Czech community called Bechyn, Minnesota — named after Bechyne located south of Prague in the Czech Republic, and the place where my family immigrated from to settle in Minnesota. Bechyn is located about 40 miles from the South Dakota border in southwest Minnesota.”



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

John Horejsi, a Vienna resident and founder of SALT, with his wife Mariann.

Q: Who is your hero?

A: “Hubert Horatio Humphrey — vice president from 1965-69 under President Lyndon B. Johnson. He best exemplified ‘selfless and devoted service in the cause of human dignity for the poor.’ He knew that a government that cares about the unfortunate is a government that deserves our respect. He understood that compassion is not weakness and that concern for the unfortunate is not socialism.”

Q: What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

A: Enjoy Vienna restaurants, visiting family and friends in Minnesota during Bechyn CzechFest celebration of Czech heritage/culture during the summer, and spending time with granddaughter in Virginia Beach. Also, love visiting friends in the Czech Republic. I also love to attend weekly free “Concerts on the Green” in Vienna during the summer Concert series.

Q: What’s the best advice anyone ever gave you?

A: A workplace Motivational Speaker advised that if your impact on this world is limited because you’re not allowed to practice your social work training and skills, on your job, then you should use your skills to volunteer on your own time to make a difference. When I contacted then Supervisor Jim Scott, he immediately appointed me to the Fairfax County Social Services Advisory Board, and the Bishop of Arlington appointed me to the Catholic Charities Board of Arlington Diocese. From there, the founding of SALT (Social Action Linking Together) and many advocacy successes followed.

Q: What is the best advice you’ve given your children?

A: Make a difference with your life by working with people - to serve; not to be served.

The homeless teen Horejsi met was Charneille Herring, who has served as a Democrat in the Virginia House of Delegates, representing the 46th district, since 2009. In December 2012, she became the first African-American elected chair of the Democratic Party of Richmond.

“These kinds of life events cause you to think, ‘What are you doing for others?’”

A MAJOR VICTORY; A STUNNING DEFEAT

The political culture in Richmond is frequently compared to a Greek tragedy — most of the plot twists and turns happen off stage. Those who don’t know how the system works, or who don’t know how to work the system, soon get frustrated and give up.

“Richmond is not constituent-friendly,” Horejsi said. “It is very frustrating and disappointing that many of our bills pass the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support and then die in some sub-com-

mittee.”

The political winds are constantly shifting, and Horejsi said he and other SALT advocates must constantly monitor bills during session, so they have an opportunity to educate legislators and influence their votes.

“This year started off as an amazing surprise,” Horejsi said. “During our first visit we met with 11 legislators — not just their aides. This was a record.”

“There seemed to be a new era of good feeling and cooperation. Almost all our bills began to pass quickly through assigned subcommittees and then full committees unanimously with lightning speed,” Horejsi said.

But during “crossover” — when bills pass from the Senate to the House — several SALT-backed bills stalled, getting caught in the larger political crossfire that goes hand-in-hand with crossover.

Take Medicaid expansion, for ex-

SEE SOCIAL JUSTICE, PAGE 7

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Vienna Town Manager Unveils Budget Plan

Proposal keeps real-estate tax rate the same.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Vienna Town Manager Mercury Payton has unveiled his proposed budget for FY 2014-15. What happens to it next is up to the Town Council and the residents.

In his plan, the budgets of the Town's four operating funds total \$32,467,880 – an increase of \$747,052, or 2.4 percent higher than the current fiscal year. The proposal keeps the real-estate tax rate at its existing level of 22.88 cents per \$100 assessed valuation, provided that all departments decrease their spending by 1 percent.

The four operating funds and their proposed budget amounts are as follows: General Fund, \$22,398,700; Debt Service Fund, \$2,702,640; Water and Sewer Fund, \$7,121,000; and Stormwater Fund, \$245,540.

"The proposed budget is based, in part, on recommendations from the Budget Committee and [is] approved by the Town Manager for submission to the Town Council," said Payton in his budget message.

"The result is a proposed budget that reflects general consensus from a variety of operational perspectives."

By maintaining the residential real-estate tax rate at 22.88 cents, the average Vienna homeowner's tax bill is estimated to be \$1,477.51. Because the assessed values of people's homes have generally gone up this year – with an average jump of \$45,189 – this amount reflects a 7.3-percent increase over the previous year. The result would be an increase of nearly \$600,000 into the Town's General Fund.

According to Payton, some "38 percent of [Vienna's] residential properties are in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 level and would [see an] average \$53 annual increase." The 25 percent of Vienna homes valued at \$500,000 to \$600,000, he said, would have an average annual tax hike of \$62.

The Debt Service Fund is proposed to increase by \$405,982, or 17.7 percent. The Water and Sewer Fund is proposed to decrease by \$267,000, or 3.6 percent. And the Town's water and sewer rates are proposed to be adjusted this year.

The Stormwater Fund was es-

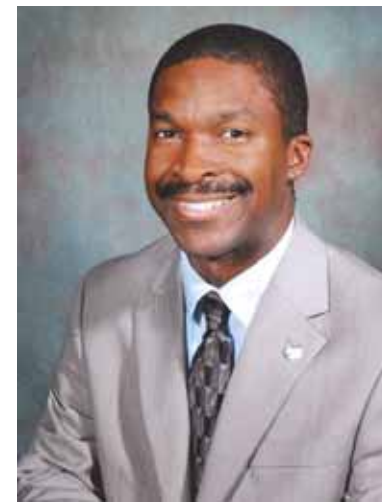
tablished last year and is comprised of money Fairfax County collects from the town residents. Currently, the county collects two cents from homeowners to comply with state stormwater requirements.

Vienna receives part of this money annually and partners with the county on stormwater projects

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 13

Vienna Budget Meetings Slated

Copies of the proposed Town of Vienna budget for fiscal year 2014-2015 are available online at www.viennava.gov, in the Finance Department at Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. and at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E. The Town Council is slated to discuss the proposed budget during two work sessions: Saturday, March 22, at 9 a.m., and Monday, March 24, at 8 p.m., in Town Hall Council Chambers. The public is invited to attend, but public comment is not permitted during work sessions. Later on, the Town Council will hold a budget public hearing, Monday, April 7, at 8 p.m. At that time, residents will be able to comment on the proposed budget and ask questions. If the Council deems it necessary, a final budget work session to discuss comments made at the public hearing will be held Monday, April 21, at 8 p.m. A public hearing on the proposed real-estate tax rate, plus water and sewer rates, will be held at the April 28 Council meeting. Budget adoption is scheduled for May 12.



Town Manager Mercury Payton

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Income Gap Alive and Well

Statistics make life in the area sound idyllic, but many families are left out in the land of plenty.

Northern Virginia is a place of wonder and plenty. So says the New York Times this past week in, "Income Gap Meet the Longevity Gap," (March 15, 2014).

Fairfax County is cited as place whose residents "are among the longest-lived in the country," and compared to McDowell County, W.Va., where residents have one of the shortest life expectancies. In Fairfax, "men have an average life expectancy of 82 years and women, 85, about the same as in Sweden. In McDowell, the averages are 64 and 73, about the same as in Iraq."

If you are reading this, chances are that the

Connection was delivered to your single family home in an affluent neighborhood. In fact, many of us do live in the Northern Virginia described in the New York Times. All it takes is money.

"In Fairfax, there are ample doctors, hospitals, recreation centers, shops, restaurants, grocery stores, nursing homes and day care centers, with public and private entities providing cradle-to-grave services to prosperous communities."

But here is where the crack in the wall appears: "The jobs tend to be good jobs, providing health insurance and pensions, even if there is a growing low-wage work force of health aides, janitors, fast-food workers and the like."

In Fairfax County Public Schools, more than 49,000 of the 185,000 students are poor enough to qualify for subsidized or free meals. In Fairfax County, more than 100,000 people lack health insurance, including 35,000 who could be covered now at no cost to themselves or the state if they lived in West Virginia because West Virginia has embraced the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act, so its poorest residents do have access to health

care. Not so in Virginia.

In Northern Virginia, we have our own income gap, and likely our own longevity gap. In Northern Virginia, we have a health care crisis. In Northern Virginia, we do have an affordable housing crisis.

Tens of thousands of working poor people in Northern Virginia, families with at least one full time job, cannot afford to rent an apartment. Earnings of at least \$1,100 a week would be required to afford market rate rent in Fairfax County according to the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. But the county's 50,000 retail workers, for example, average about \$635 a week according to the Virginia Employment Commission. The county's 40,000-plus food service workers average \$415 a week. Even the county's 38,000 local government employees average \$950 weekly, a stretch in this area.

To read the story in the New York Times, go to www.NYTimes.com and search "income gap."

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Reasonable Decision on Oakcrest School

To the Editor:

Your article on the recent SEA approval for Oakcrest School ["Supervisors Clear the Way for Oakcrest School Relocation," Connection, March 5-11, 2014] regrettably repeats disinformation from Steve Hull and the Hunter Mill Defense League (HMDL). Contrary to their claim, I did not "agree" to the conditions imposed by the Board of Supervisors in their original approval. Supporting Oakcrest's right to build on their own property was certainly not tantamount to agreeing to any conditions that might be imposed on someone else's property. I was not a party to the negotiations resulting in the final conditions, dated the day of the hearing, nor were they even made available to me until a week after the approval.

The fact is, none of the four different owners at the intersection of Hunter Mill and Crowell roads ever supported conditioning Oakcrest's approval on the construction of a roundabout. Such a roundabout would have unnecessarily harmed the adjacent homeowners. It would have been unsafe for the elementary school students in the existing Fairfax Christian School building located next to that intersection. It would have necessitated the removal of all the trees along Hunter Mill Road in front of the elementary

school building and would have interfered with the area used by school buses to drop off and pick up children. And, because of the elevation difference, it would have required a retaining wall with a barrier on top directly in front of the building.

Neither the existing school nor the homeowners (including my mother) who actually live at this intersection were consulted by the former Supervisor prior to imposing the condition on Oakcrest requiring a roundabout that would take their property. The HMDL, which incessantly lobbied for the condition requiring a roundabout, can claim to represent the "community," but their clamor for the use of eminent domain against these homeowners shows a complete lack of regard for the community that actually lives at this intersection.

Oakcrest's property fronts on Crowell Road and the Dulles Toll Road, not on Hunter Mill. Given that Crowell Road is a minor arterial and a major commuter route between Reston and Tysons, it would have been unreasonable to deny Oakcrest's SEA request for a Crowell Road entrance, particularly given VDOT's opposition to full access movements at a Hunter Mill entrance.

The Hunter Mill interchange of the Dulles Toll Road is the eastern

gateway into Reston. As a Hunter Mill Road resident myself, I know first hand that every toll increase on the Dulles Toll Road increases the traffic level on Hunter Mill and Crowell as more commuters avoid the higher tolls. Originally 75 cents, Hunter Mill to the Beltway tolls are now \$3.50 to drive just over five miles. Hunter Mill to Crowell or Route 7 are the only alternative east west travel options between Reston and Tysons.

Despite far higher tolls, funds set aside to improve the Hunter Mill interchange were diverted for Dulles Rail studies, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority has failed to build the Hunter Mill interchange improve-

Not Cute at All

To the Editor:

There you go again, Mary, spotting that "free" federal money ["Voting against Virginia?" – Connection, March 12-18, 2014]. Don't you realize that many, if not most, of your readers see through your flowery attempts to sell an imaginary utopia? I mean, it used to be cute to read your "pie in the sky" collectivist fantasies when one could assume that your "intentions were good."

But that same old intellectually deficient, emotional appeal doesn't manage to pass the sniff

test anymore. It isn't cute at all, but rather sad; for those that unknowingly read your predictable, shortsighted and poorly vetted "opinion" with the hope that there is a feasible, sustainable solution to be found in there somewhere. But also rather insulting; that you do not realize that most of your readers are not so gullible. At least the Connection is "free;" even if federal money isn't.

John Thoburn
Vienna

test anymore.

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Brent Emory
Vienna

Fighting for Social Justice with Patience and Persistence

FROM PAGE 4

ample, which was SALT's number one priority this session.

On Saturday, March 8, the General Assembly adjourned its 60-day session, yet lawmakers left Richmond without passing Democratic Gov. Terry McAuliffe's number one priority — a \$96 billion budget that included expanding Medicaid eligibility for roughly 400,000 Virginia residents.

Republicans in the GOP-controlled House opposed the expansion, saying the rapidly-growing program still needs reform, and the debate should be separated from the budget.

A key part of the new federal health care law, the issue deadlocked the GOP-controlled House and the Democratically-controlled Senate. In response, McAuliffe immediately called for a special session to begin in two weeks.

SALT members argue that turning down roughly \$5 million a day in federal funds associated with expanded Medicaid eligibility could have severe consequences, such as shutting down many hospitals in rural communities.

SALT also lost its battle to "Ban the Box." If passed, Virginia would have joined the growing number of states that give job applicants with a prior criminal conviction a "fair chance" at getting a job.

The legislation, filed by Del. Rob Krupicka (D-45), would have removed the box on applications for state jobs that asks people if they have been convicted of a felony.

"This is not about hiding an individual's past," Krupicka said in a letter to constituents, noting that employers can still ask about criminal history during the interview process.

"All this bill aims to do is help ex-offenders reach more job interviews that hopefully will lead to more jobs ... In Alexandria alone, 13 people are released from jail every day. In trying to re-integrate into society, finding employment can be one of the most useful factors in reducing recidivism rates," Krupicka said.

Horejsi called Ban the Box an "essential" component of any meaningful program designed to help former prisoners reenter society, and said he was extremely disheartened when it failed — at the 11th hour — in the House Courts of Jus-

tice Committee, chaired by Del. Dave Albo.

"I wish the world was like John (envisions it), but taxpayers are maxed out, and there are violent people among us that the only place safe is to have them in prison," Albo said in an interview Sunday. "We have limited money and there are bad guys out there that want to hurt people. John's positions are always what we could do with unlimited money and assume that all criminals could be rehabilitated."

In the plus column, SALT was successful in moving work share legislation through the General Assembly and on to the governor's desk for his signature.

State Senators George Barker (D-39) and Bill Stanley (R-20) were instrumental in getting the legislation passed this year, after it failed last year. Horejsi said both senators, and SALT advocates, worked closely with the Virginia Employment Commission to ensure that the bill works with current VEC programs.

The program lessens the impact of layoffs by allowing employers to reduce the hours of their existing work force instead of letting employees go. A kind of unemploy-

ment insurance in reverse, the program comes with free federal dollars to keep workers in their jobs instead of supporting them after they're laid off.

"Having been through the recession and recent slight increases in Virginia unemployment rates as federal sequestration takes effect, it is important that we give Virginia businesses all the tools we can to help them and their employees get through challenging times. This bill does that," Barker said in an interview at the beginning of this year's legislative session.

Horejsi admits there are times when he gets discouraged by "politics as usual."

"What keeps me going are notes like this, from a parishioner of St. Anne's," Horejsi said:

"John, I just want you to know I appreciate all of these emails you send. I was at St. Ann's community weekend today. I saw your sign-up sheet. I feel bad that with all that is going on with my life right now, that I haven't had time to help, but please keep the emails coming. I enjoy your posts. Every once in a while it is a helpful reminder that there are others who care."

"I truly believe there is always hope," Horejsi said, after the General Assembly session ended. "For example, Sen. Jill Vogel, the only Republican senator to vote for our Ban the Box bill during a lively debate, made a beautiful and inspiring speech about some of her most loyal employees being those with former convictions."

Horejsi is already gearing up for next year's session, studying legislation and organizing constituent education meetings.

Despite the sometimes overwhelming odds against social justice bills, Horejsi said he refuses to let social justice issues become submerged in the tide of legislation that benefits only wealthy corporations and constituents

"Legislators have told us that what they really respect about us is that we're not asking anything for ourselves," Horejsi said. "We're asking on behalf of those who are the most desperate and in the greatest need ... That's why SALT will remain intimately involved in the process."

For more information on SALT, and how to get involved, visit the SALT website at www.S-A-L-T.org.

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CALENDAR

Send announcements to vienna@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

TUESDAY/MARCH 18 SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Great Escapes. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Tues.-Sat. Vienna Art Center, 115 Pleasant St., NW, Vienna. Dozens of original artworks by artists throughout the region inspired by travel at home and abroad. Free. 703-319-3971. www.ViennaArtsSociety.org

THURSDAY/MARCH 20

William Bird at the Great Falls Library. Noon to 1:30 p.m., Great Falls Public Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The Great Falls Writer's Group will host William Bird, curator of the Division of Political History at the National Museum of American History at the Smithsonian, for a light luncheon and forum. 703-757-8560.

Tom Principato Band. 8 p.m., The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Tom Principato Band features everything from harmonica-heavy rock to reggae and funk infused tracks, as well as a locally inspired instrumental song, "22042 Falls Church, Virginia." \$25. 1.877.WOLFTRAP or wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 22

Celebrate the Cherry Blossom Festival. 1-3 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Taste the many styles beyond what is used in the Japanese tea ceremony in this fascinating tasting. Shade grown, roasted, twig style, are just a few examples. Experience Japanese teas



Catch your favorite superhero in action at McLean's Alden Theatre on March 22, **Superman 2050**.

and tea treats beyond the traditional and take home tea samples including a Cherry Blossom Blend. Advance reservations and payment (\$30 each) required through the Mill at 703-759-2771.

Superman 2050. 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The story is set in a fictional 2050

metropolis (with a remarkable resemblance to Chicago). The show's imaginative, resourceful cast members, using only their bodies and voices, create every prop, scene, sound effect and character in a battle between Superman and Lex Luthor for the future of the Midwest's beloved high-speed rail network.

Purchase tickets at www.aldentheatre.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 23

Jump for Joy! 2-4 p.m. Providence Baptist Church, 8980 Brook Road, McLean. A community event for elementary age children. Pre-school children accompanied by parents are

also welcome. The event will involve giant inflatables, the Providence House of Bounce, inside their gym.

Music from Oberlin at Oakton. 7:30 p.m. 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Music from Oberlin at Oakton hosts current Oberlin Conservatory students three times a year to provide top-notch music to the local community. In its 14th season, this program will feature two pianists, a violinist, clarinetist, and a bassoonist. Free admission. 703-281-4230.

MONDAY/MARCH 24

It's a Jungle Out There. 1 p.m. Emmanuel Lutheran Church on 2589 Chain Bridge Road, Vienna. Free and open to the public. Ayr Hill Garden Club will feature "Boka Joe" on how to grow a tropical garden in a non-tropical climate. Joe Seamone, a management consultant and horticultural with McFall & Berry Landscape Management, will detail how to create, grow and over-winter your own piece of paradise. He will reveal which plants are best and most dramatic, and show pictures of some amazing gardens in the Washington, D.C. area. If interested, contact Cherie Lejeune at Latripp24@gmail.com so the Club can adjust refreshments and seating.

TUESDAY/MARCH 25

Annual Children's Printmaking Workshop. 4-5 p.m. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. A dozen members of the Vienna Arts Society will assist children ages 7 - 12 as they create original prints, to include printing a fish, making relief prints and mono-prints, etc. Free. Registration required by contacting the Children's Librarian at 703-938-

0405.

FRIDAY/MARCH 28-SUNDAY/APRIL 20

"The Cripple of Inishmaan" Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. 1st Stage in Tysons, 1524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner. Excitement ripples through the sleepy Irish community of Inishmaan abuzz with the news that a Hollywood filmmaker plans to shoot a movie on a neighboring island. When young Cripple Billy lands a screen test, the oddball citizens of Inishmaan mount a heartbreakingly hilarious campaign bursting with dark humor and touching devotion. General admission: \$27. Seniors \$22. Students and Military \$15. Purchase online at www.1ststage.com or 703-854-1856.

SATURDAY/MARCH 29

Great Falls the World Hub of Innovation & Invention. 1-3 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Students, hobbyists, and academics from around the world are competing and collaborating in development small robotic aircraft to help protect endangered species including rhinos, elephants, and snow leopards. Using computer aided design, 3D printing and simple arduino-based robotics kits, the teams are able to create unmanned aerial vehicles that are optimized for the mission, exceeding the performance of aircraft that cost thousands of times more.

SUNDAY/MARCH 30

"Capitol Steps" at James Madison High School. 4 p.m., James

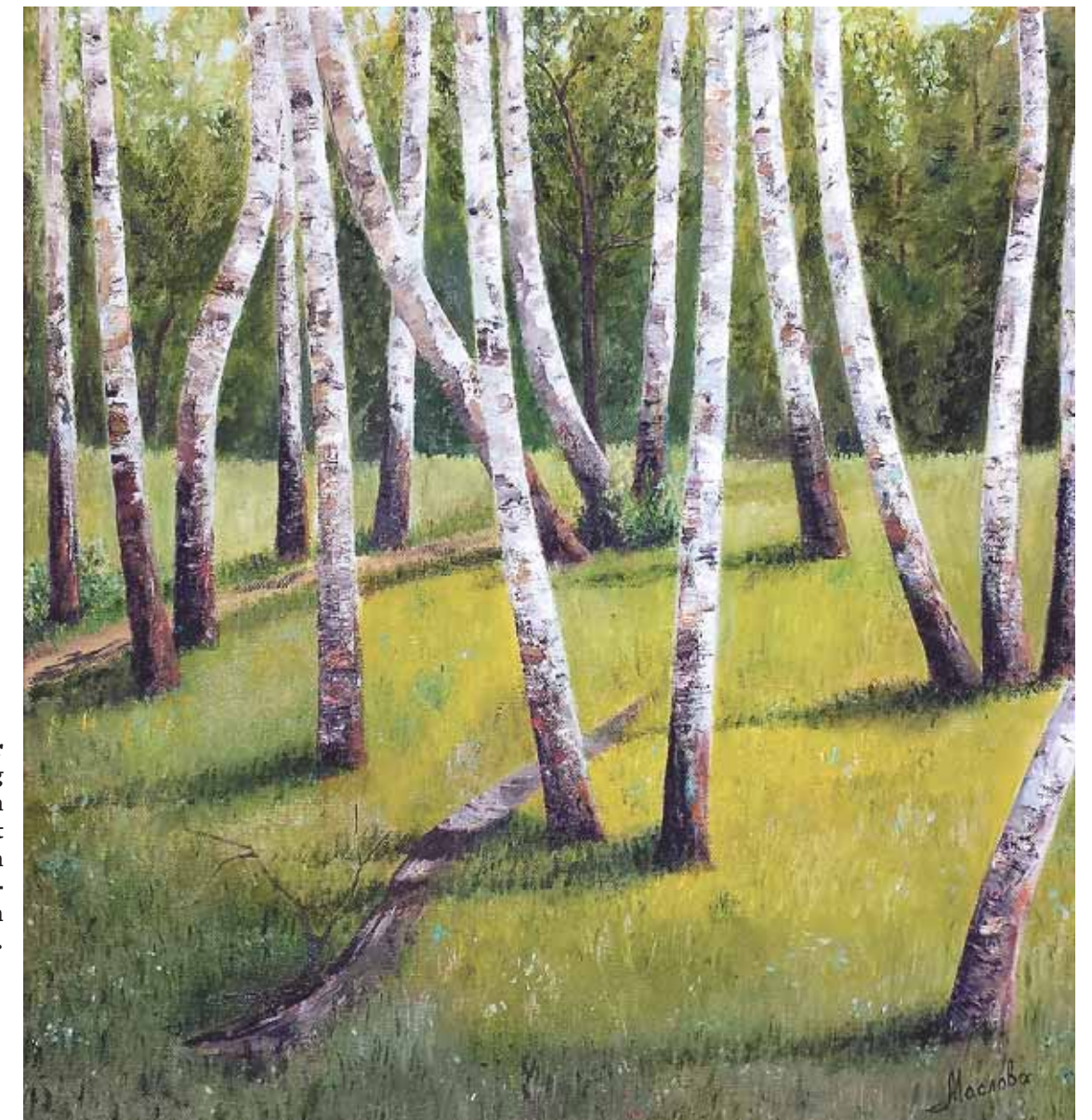
Madison High School, 2500 James Madison Dr, Vienna. Capitol Steps, the quick witted multi-faceted congressional staffers, will be performing their popular fast-paced musical political satire live. \$30. jmhcsteps@gmail.com.

ONGOING

Straight Ahead Jazz. 8 p.m., at the Maplewood Grill, 132 Branch Road, Vienna. Every Monday drummer Karl Anthony hosts a night of straight ahead jazz featuring guest musicians and open to sit-in musicians. www.maplewoodgrill.com.

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Instruction. Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. Learn about your e-reader and downloading eBooks; event continues through March 31.



View "Birches near Kiev," an oil painting by Viktoriya Maslova and more great escapes at the Vienna Art Center. The exhibit runs through March 29.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2016 Programs

Wednesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is **seeking input from residents** of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2016, which runs July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

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: george.sachs@fairfaxcounty.gov

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
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www.mcleancenter.org

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A student at The Madeira School in McLean enjoys art in the school's art room. Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department, says the school's approach to art draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MCLEAN PROJECT FOR THE ARTS

Visitors look at art created by students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area as part of the McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show.

Local Art Educators, Galleries Celebrate Youth Art Month

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Experts say art can teach valuable life skills.

Brightly colored self-portraits, landscapes dotted with spring flowers and hand-carved sculptures fill a gallery at the McLean Project for the Arts in McLean. All of the art was created by local school children. Meanwhile, in Alexandria, parents and tots dip their fingers in glue, clay and paint to create collages, sculptures and paintings.

"It is a true delight to see parents and

children making things together in the studio. Joy is found in the stuff they make — the collages, paintings, drawings and sculptures — as well as the more intangible things we build: relationships, confidence, creativity, persistence and the many ways we make meaning through art," said Kathryn Horn Coneway of Art at the Center in Mount Vernon.

These are just some of the local art ac-

tivities for children. In fact, Youth Art Month is an annual observance held each March to emphasize the value of art and art education. This year's theme is "Start With Art, Learn for Life," which was chosen by the Council for Art Education, a sponsor of Youth Art Month.

Local art educators are using the month as an opportunity to emphasize the importance of art education and raise awareness

about the important life skills it can build.

"We believe art is important to study for its inherent value, but art also promotes life skills, including creativity, problem solving, determination, concentration, collaboration and confidence," said Samantha Marques-Mordkofsky, education and outreach manager for the Arlington Arts Center in Arlington. "Regardless of what field a child pursues later in life, these skills will translate and he or she will be better rounded be-

SEE YOUTH ART, PAGE 11

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Youth Art Month Celebrated

FROM PAGE 10

cause of ... art. We also offer multidisciplinary classes like Book Illustration, Amazing Architects & Engineers, and Murals: Big Art, Big Ideas where students have the opportunity to master technical skills in art while simultaneously learning about other subjects."

"What our art educators have known for many years research is now confirming," said Benita Cathey, director of admissions at Grace Episcopal School in Alexandria. "Art helps develop critical thinking and reading skills. Art education is vital because it builds concentration, motivation and confidence."

Jorge Luis Somarriba, art teacher and artist-in-residence at Norwood School in Bethesda, Md., says the school is a community of artists. "We believe in a process-oriented and child-centered philosophy," he said. "Art nurtures self-confidence through self-discovery and personal visual expression. Art education is instrumental in the holistic development of a human being: spiritual, mental, emotional and physical. Art making develops the right brain, empowering individuals to become creative, problem-solvers who may think 'outside the box.'"

Experts said art education also develops self-expression and an appreciation for the work of others. "Elementary school students create art with such unbridled enthusiasm for painting, drawing and creating things," said Dabney Cortina, communications director for the McLean Project for the Arts. "I think it's because they haven't been told that there is anything wrong with how they create art. Currently going on is

our youth art show featuring Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area. It is incredible to look at. You see the talent they have. It is totally amazing."

Eileen Lyons, chair of the Fine Arts Department at Connelly School of the Holy Child in Potomac, Md., said that the arts are a vital part of the school's curriculum. "Arts education helps students learn how to solve problems in unique ways and it deepens their overall learning experience," she said. "Through collaboration and cross-curricular projects, teachers at Holy Child work closely together to engage students in the arts on many different levels. Art teachers collaborate with language, social studies, English and geometry teachers to bring deeper meaning to learning."

For example, said Lyons, on a recent trip to the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., art and French teachers worked together to bring the Van Gogh Exhibition to life in both English and French.

Stacie Steinke, chair of the Arts Department at The Madeira School in McLean suggests art education might not be taken as seriously as other disciplines. "Schools in general have been responding to trends that you need more science and math education and have been teaching to tests. Not at Madeira, but at some other schools, art education has diminished," she said. "We look at arts as a process. Our students learn to work effectively with others. Our approach draws on a student's natural curiosity, ability to perceive art in different forms and ability to think spatially. They develop cognitive growth, so they learn to see how parts relate to a whole."



The McLean Project for the Arts' youth art show features the work of students from Fairfax County Public Schools in the McLean area.

Georgetown MBA Evening Program Expands to Tysons Corner

Those looking to earn an MBA outside the Beltway now have another option: Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business will offer its MBA Evening Program in Tysons Corner beginning this fall. School officials say one of the goals of the expansion is to make the Georgetown MBA accessible to a new population of working professionals in the Washington, D.C., region.

"As business continues to grow in Virginia and Maryland, employers are seeking a highly skilled workforce," said David A. Thomas, dean of Georgetown's McDonough School of Business. "By expanding our geographic reach, we extend access to our MBA curriculum, which prepares principled, globally-minded leaders to serve business and society."

Georgetown's MBA Evening Program was ranked number 11 by U.S. News & World Report in 2013 and is the region's highest ranked part-time MBA program.

Students who attend the Tysons-based cohort will have some of the same technological amenities as their main campus counterparts.

Officials at Georgetown said they selected Tysons Corner for its MBA Evening Program expansion because of its proximity to the region's strong business community, which includes local, regional and national headquarters for many major employers. Additionally, the arrival of Metro's Silver Line later this year is also accelerating job and population growth in the region and will make commuting to the Georgetown program easier for students arriving from full-time jobs.

— MARILYN CAMPBELL

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VIENNA/OAKTON CONNECTION ❖ MARCH 19-25, 2014 ❖ 11



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton senior R.J. Gaines enters the 2014 season as one of the Cougars' top pitchers.

Sophomore Rizzo, Senior Pitchers To Lead Oakton Baseball Team

Cougars won Concorde District, reached states in 2013.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The Oakton baseball team, with a lineup led by a sophomore and one of its top pitchers changing roles, will attempt to return to the state tournament in 2014.

Don't worry, Cougar fans. It's not as bad as it sounds.

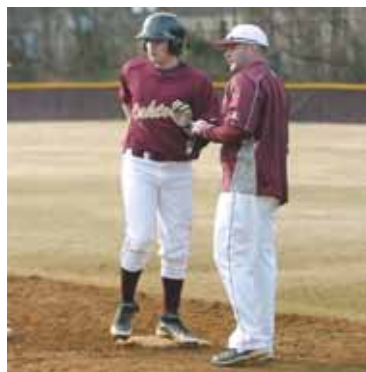
Last season, Oakton won the Concorde District championship, finished Northern Region runner-up and won a state playoff game before losing to Hanover, 9-8, in the semifinals. The Cougars graduated standouts Joey Bartosic (second base), Mitchell Carroll (short-stop), Brian Burns (outfield) and Matt Gregor (starting pitcher), but the team has a strong core coming back.

JOE RIZZO returns for his sophomore season after producing a team-high .450 batting average as a freshman. Rizzo will move from third base to shortstop, where he has played most of his life.

"I think he's an exception to the rule," Oakton head coach Justin Janis said. "You don't really see [a freshman leading the team in hitting] very often. The one thing about Joe is — he has some ability, it's obvious that it's there — his work ethic is second to none. He is a baseball junky. He loves it."

This season, Janis said he's looking for the soon-to-be-16-year-old Rizzo to be a team leader.

"You see these physical gifts and



Oakton sophomore short-stop Joe Rizzo, left, and assistant coach Joey Kamide talk during a March 14 scrimmage at Oakton High School. Rizzo led the Cougars in hitting as a freshman.

these physical things that he's able to do," Janis said, "and you forget sometimes that he's only a 15-, 16-year-old kid."

While leading as a sophomore could be viewed as a daunting task, the left-handed-hitting Rizzo said he's ready for the challenge.

"It's kind of different because it's normally been the senior leading the underclassman," Rizzo said. "But if you're a good ball player and you work hard and you can influence people, I feel that you can be a leader and you should be a leader."

Janis mentioned senior utility player Keith Knicely, a returning starter, as someone who could also play a prominent role for the Cougars.

THE OAKTON PITCHING STAFF features senior all-district performers R.J. Gaines and Tommy Lopez at the front of the rotation.

"I think they keep a good pace to the game, for the most part," Janis said. "They're strike-

Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp

The Oakton Cougar Baseball Camp will be held July 7-10 (ages 6-11) and July 14-17 (ages 11 and up) at Oakton High School's lower fields.

Cost is \$150 per participant. Registration forms and payment must be turned in at or mailed to Oakton High School, 2900 Sutton Rd., Vienna, VA 22181.

throwers, they're able to mix their pitches ... and the other thing, too, is they're both pretty tough kids and they'll battle."

Gaines, a right-hander, earned second-team all-district honors as a junior. He tossed a complete game against South County in the region semifinals, helping the Cougars earn an 8-1 win and a berth in the state playoffs.

Lopez started in the outfield as a junior, but earned first-team all-district honors as a relief pitcher. This season, the left-hander will be a starter on the mound and provide Oakton with a 1-2 punch.

"It's really good to know," Gaines said, "that I have somebody right behind me that's going to do just as good if not better the next game."

Janis said junior Connor Jones and sophomore Kyle Christy could also make an impact on the mound.

"We're not going to score as many runs as we did last year," Lopez said, "but we'll have the pitching this year."

Oakton will open the season on the road against Flint Hill at 4:15 p.m. on Friday, March 21. The following day, the Cougars will take on defending region champion Lake Braddock at 1 p.m. in Burke.

Will Oakton return to the state playoffs?

"I fully expect us," Rizzo said, "to be back there."



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Playing to Stop Hunger Now

Great Falls and Colvin Run elementary schools participated in a sixth-grade charity basketball game that raised more than \$800 for Stop Hunger Now. Colvin Run won 57-52 in overtime. Colvin Run roster: Colin O'Connor; Lucas Gauthier; Luke Addington; Jacob Rose; John Kelly; Rex Kerrigan; Sam Sachtleben; Will Rissing; William Bean; Zachary Crumes; Zack Baskin; Coach Jim Rose; and Coach Rich Gauthier. Great Falls Roster: Andrew Walker; Bradley Carvajal; Cameron Dhillon; Carson Volanth; Cole Walmsley; Ian Walker; Jack Fitzgerald; Nate Mazich; Pierson White; Sam Maruca; Simon Medina; Tre Vasiliadis; Coach John Fitzgerald; Coach Doug White; and Coach Todd Walmsley.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Shown holding their first place regular season and tournament championship trophies, first row: Allie Wakeman, Caitlyn Shumadine, Megan Baxter, Isabella Perkins, Lynley Birchard, Annabeth Holsinger. Second row: Devran Johnson, Fiona Barber, Oma Mere, Dani Grieco. Third row: assistant coach Mark Baxter and head coach Phil McConnell.

Great Falls Girls Win D1 Tournament

The Great Falls Goonies (9-2), the top seeded team in the league met the third seed team from Vienna (8-3) for the division 1 fifth grade girls basketball FCYBL Select tournament championship. Vienna had beaten the Goonies in their only matchup during the regular season. This was a battle of the smallest versus the tallest teams in the league. To get to the finals, the Goonies beat Forth Hunt 36-18 and SYA 25-16.

The Goonies started the game by hitting their first shot, but Vienna scored the next 6 points to take a 4 point lead. The Goonies went on a 17-2 run to take a 19-8 lead but Vienna fin-

ished the half strong by scoring the final 3 points to make it 19-11 in favor of the Goonies. Vienna also started strong in the second half by outscoring the Goonies 10-2 to tie the game at 21. From there, the two teams exchanged the lead several times before the Goonies pulled ahead for good with 6 minutes to go and won by a final score of 45-40 in a well played game by both teams, finishing the year with a 12-2 record. Oma Mere from the Goonies was named tournament Most Valuable Player. The Goonies also placed two players on the All League team, Megan Baxter and Isabella Perkins.

Remembering Segregation in McLean and Vienna

Longtime resident reflects on life in McLean and Vienna during uncertain times.

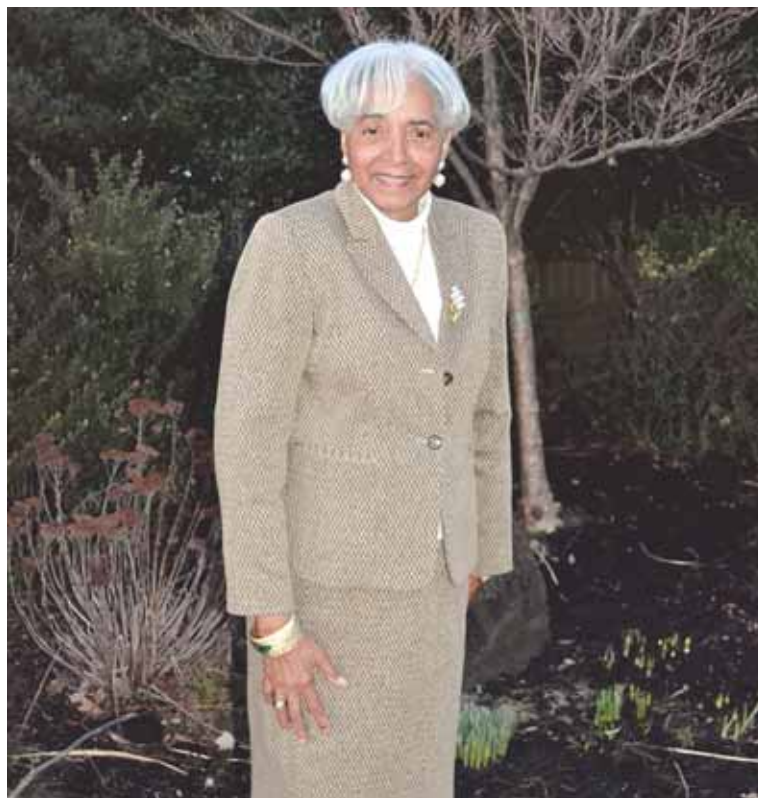
BY LORI BAKER
THE CONNECTION

Deloris Evans remembers the excitement of riding the bus with students from The Madeira School. She was thrilled because they were going to see Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1941 inauguration parade. She was also delighted because this was her father's bus. He was the chauffeur for Lucy Madeira, head and founder of The Madeira School. And for this event, he was given permission to bring his young black daughter onto a bus full of white students to see the historic parade.

A lot has changed since that time, and Deloris Evans has lived that change. Today's youth likely cannot imagine that at one time, young African-Americans from McLean could only enter a favorite restaurant through the back door. That is how Evans grew up. But over the years, Evans has seen McLean and Tysons evolve from a small segregated town, to an open and vibrant community.

Evans, whose strength of character is evident, says it is those very struggles that made her strong. And on the heels of Black History Month, she recalled some of the stories that helped shape her. She was affected by the time and events around her; and she, in turn, helped to shape and improve the lives of young Northern Virginia African-Americans that would follow after her.

EVANS was born off of Swinks Mill Road in McLean. At that time, Black women in the McLean/Great



Deloris Evans, born and raised in McLean and Vienna, has seen dramatic change in Northern Virginia over the years.

Falls area were only permitted to have their babies delivered at Freedman's Hospital, which is now Howard University Hospital; or at home by the local doctor. Deloris Evans was born in her family's home in July of 1932, with the help of Dr. Harold Johnson. "He served the entire Black community by visiting homes," Evans said. She recalled waiting numerous times, as a child, with chronic and painful ear problems for the busy Dr. Johnson to arrive.

Once she reached school age, Evans would walk from her home on Balls Hill Road, down Lewinsville to its intersection with Spring Hill Road. The small Odrick's School was located there, and offered education to Black children in grades one through seven. "It was a long walk," she laughed. Charity Baptist Church now sits very close to where Odrick's School once stood.

Soon afterward, she attended Louise Archer School on Nutley Street, after her family moved to Vienna. The school, in its early days, was called the Vienna Col-

ored School. Dedicated educator, Louise Archer, along with two other teachers, taught and fed black students in the three-room brick building. The school was renamed Louise Archer Elementary School not long after the much-loved educator's death in 1948. "Ms. Archer taught history like it was the only subject in the curriculum," Evans said. "You knew everything about the presidents."

When it came time for high school, McLean and Vienna's African-American students were bussed to Manassas, unless they could find transportation to a black high school in Washington, D.C. So Evans attended Manassas Regional High School for four years starting in 1945. After graduation, Lucy Madeira, who Evans considered a kind friend to the family, strongly encouraged Evans to attend Howard University, and offered to help with the financing. But scholarship money, along with the opportunity to live away from home led her to Johnson C. Smith College in Charlotte, N.C.

Evans noted that at the time, she



Deloris Evans, pictured on the right, founded the Esther Honesty Scholarship Committee in 1963. The scholarship awarded college funds to young members of Shiloh Baptist Church in McLean. The Scholarship Committee still exists today. The late Pastor Roger V. Bush is pictured in the center back.

accepted segregation as a part of life. "We were so molded in segregation. We didn't have the mindset that young people have today."

But slowly things began to change. The growing business industry around what is now Tysons Corner brought new jobs and new people, many who were less apt to tolerate racism and segregation. "The physical growth did it, really," she said. "And with that came diversity. And then the dynamics of government and politics and laws began to change."

In the late 1950s, Evans and her family helped register nearly every African-American family in the area to vote. Her mother canvassed the neighborhoods, working through the black churches. She had Deloris and her brother focus on spreading the word to younger people. Evans has been very voter-conscious ever since.

She eventually began teaching, and was one of the first African-Americans assigned to teach in Fairfax County. She was moved from James Lee Elementary, the school for black students in Falls Church, across the street to the all white Westlawn Elementary School. In the mid-1960s and early 1970s, according to Evans, Fairfax County "was rapidly making a name for itself."

The county conducted two-year studies of African-American candidates they were considering for

integrated teaching jobs. They even conducted home visits, because "some people had never been in a black home," Evans said. The candidates, established teachers, and administrators all attended training courses on integration. Her career in education grew, and eventually led her to principal positions at three schools.

IN 2002, Evans chartered a youth council of the NAACP in Fairfax County. The purpose of the council was, and still is, to help identify and address challenges to African-American youth in the area. Some of the challenges, as identified by the youth themselves, were drugs, alcohol, and teen pregnancy. As a result, countywide Teen Summits were developed, and are still ongoing. Evans helped run those summits throughout Northern Virginia until 2010.

These days Evans is struck by the feeling that young people may not realize how far things have progressed in a fairly short time. And she wants them to realize their potential.

"There are still barriers that prevent a lot of black kids from trying to reach a goal," she said. "But we can hardly accept any excuse for you're not trying to have a goal and reach it. You just have to keep going, searching, and pursuing whatever that goal is."

Budget Plan Unveiled

FROM PAGE 5

directly affecting the Town.

Among the budget highlights, from the General Fund, Payton is proposing increased expenditures of \$588,530 total. Included are pay raises for

town employees on their anniversary dates, increased pension costs, plus an estimated 16-percent increase in health-insurance premiums.

In the Debt Service Fund, meals-and-lodging tax collections are

estimated to increase \$380,000 over last year's budgeted level.

"This year's budgeting process was different [than last year's], as each department was given a maximum budgeting dollar amount for their department as a

whole," explained Payton in his budget message. "The dollar amount represented a 1-percent cut from that department's adopted FY 2013-2014 budget. Requests for restoration of cuts and new programs are included in

a new section of the budget, Unmet Needs."

This entire budget is subject to adjustments and updates. Any modifications will be included in the final budget adopted by the Town Council.

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NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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No Know. No Problem.



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I felt a bit of a dope this week when, after reading last week's column, "Whew!", multiple friends called to inquire specifically as to the "Tony-the-Tiger Great" news I wrote that I received from my oncologist, and I couldn't answer them in any detail: shrinkage, less fluid, "partial stable remission"? Nothing. And though I tried to get my oncologist to explain to me exactly what was so encouraging about this most recent CT Scan – compared to the one I took three months ago (as opposed to the one I had nine months ago which was mistakenly compared to this most recent scan and resulted in the "Some better, some worse. I'll explain more on Friday" e-mail I received from my doctor and talked about in "Whew!") – I was rebuffed. Rebuffed in the best possible way: being told instead how great I was doing, how great my lab results were (for this most recent pre-chemotherapy) and how I could live a long time like this (presumably continuing to be infused with Alimta) – it was almost disconcerting; especially when you consider the original e-mail assessment we received and our less-than-positive interpretation of it. Moreover, the oncologist's exuberance and smiling countenance, along with his offer of a congratulatory handshake led me away from the missing facts and immediately into these new-found feelings.

There's an old advisory among salespeople: "Don't be afraid to take a 'Yes.'" Well, I took a yes (figuratively speaking), and didn't feel compelled to press my doctor to further explain the reasons for his excitement. I became very happy taking the good news, and extremely fortunate that what Tuesday's inaccurate e-mail suggested: trouble, was turned completely on its figurative ear Friday when in person, my oncologist explained the semi-miscommunication. Believe me, when your oncologist gives you news with which you can live – pun intended, your reaction, at least mine, is not to question his judgment too much further in pursuit of some heretofore untold truth that could ruin what super-amazing-positive words you just heard. Call me naïve, "Simple Simon," whatever, but since I am still alive five years post-diagnosis, you can call me anything you want.

A week later, a few of these phone calls have given me pause for reflection. And though I've tried to answer their queries in a sort of intelligent way, I'm sure I've failed. But I'm moving on. I will enjoy relative peace over the three-month interval until my next CT Scan on May 28th and follow-up appointment with my oncologist to discuss the results – in person. Then, we'll do this all over again. For the time being, I'm very lucky to have received such good news, however incomplete it originally may have seemed. Nevertheless, I can certainly appreciate the message even if I was confused by the delivery.

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

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“ I'm Isabel and I like to dance. ”

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Week in Vienna

Man Charged with Stalking

Town of Vienna police have charged a local man with stalking. He is Gency Funez Pineda, 41, of Adahi Road in Vienna. Police say a resident of the 200 block of Cedar Lane, S.E., contacted them March 6 at 3 p.m. about a former roommate.

She told them that person, whom she identified as Funez Pineda, had allegedly been “stalking her and making threats to physically harm her.” Police spoke with her and determined that evidence existed to obtain a warrant for stalking. They then arrested Funez Pineda, and he was held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. In addition, a Protective Order was issued, ordering him to have no contact with the resident.

Police Warn of IRS Scam

Vienna police have recently received several reports of people calling Vienna residents and claiming to be IRS employees. The callers say the resident has either committed tax fraud or had improperly filed previous tax returns. The callers then tell the resident to send a Western Union payment or purchase a prepaid debit card, for payment, or the resident will be arrested. But, say police, “This type of call is a scam. Never send a payment unless you have verified the validity of the caller, and never agree to meet with the caller, under any circumstances.”

Leadership Workshop for Boys

Vienna Parks and Recreation's Club Phoenix Teen Center will host a free program for boys ages 11 through 15 on Saturday, March 22, from noon-4 p.m., at 120 Cherry St. S.E. Called “Boys Workshop: Awakening the Inner Leader,” it's to help young boys develop a strong self-image, foster positive self-esteem and strengthen basic life skills.

Several speakers, including Coach Mark “Pudge” Gjormand and Vienna Police Department officers, will discuss topics including working as team players, how to be successful in relationships and making positive choices. The program is free, but registration is required: Contact Tammy Funk at 703-255-5736 or tfunk@viennava.gov. For more information, visit www.viennava.gov.

Town Council Budget Session

The Vienna Town Council will hold a budget work session on Monday, March 24, at 8 p.m., in the Town Hall, 127 Center St. S. in Vienna.

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