Volunteer Mona Dhingra and her daughter Richa, 6, in traditional Indian dress celebrating International Day at Freedom Hill Elementary.
Life Circle Alliances Names Christine Hyland Executive Director

Life Circle Alliances (formerly known as CarefaxLTC) has recently named Christine Hyland as their new executive director. A resident of Oakton for more than years, she has raised millions for social service programs, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and arts groups. She earned her Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) certification in 1992.

CareFaxLTC, re-launching as Life Circle Alliances (LCA) was founded in 2007. LCA is an outgrowth of Fairfax County’s Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC)’s strategic plan. LCA and the LTCCC champion the concerns of older adults and adults with disabilities.

Hyland began her non profit career as a grant writer for Catholic Charities, Long Beach, Calif. and became the first Director of Resource Development for Catholic Charities, Los Angeles. For the past 12 years, Hyland has had her own consulting business, helping a variety of clients to achieve their fundraising goals including the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops-Catholic Communication Campaign; Reston Interfaith; Catholic Charities USA; Prison Fellowship International.

She has an undergraduate degree in English from Emmanuel College, Boston, as well as a master’s degree in communications management, the Annenberg School of Communications at the University of Southern California.

To learn more about Life Circle Alliances’ programs for adults with disabilities, older adults and caregivers, contact Christine Hyland, executive director, 571-321-201, chyland@lifecirclealliances.org or visit www.lifecirclealliances.org.

Preschoolers Collect Coins for Haiti

Over the past several weeks, the children of FB Meekins Preschool in Vienna have been bringing pockets and piggy banks full of coins to school to donate to Save the Children’s relief efforts in Haiti. They took a trip to TD Bank in Vienna to use their Penny Arcade to count the coins. In all, they had collected $182.67. TD Bank offered an additional $100, bringing their donation to $282.67. The children are proud and excited that the change they’ve been saving will help children in another part of the world.

Vienna Teen Collects Shoes for Haitians

After watching CNN news coverage of the earthquake in Haiti, Vienna resident Olivia Long decided to get involved by becoming the hands and feet of Soles4Souls in the northern Virginia area. The 11-year-old fifth-grade student at Colvin Run Elementary School collected 172 pairs of new or slightly used shoes through an email campaign to friends and family.

During a month-long shoe drive that began Jan. 17, Olivia urged her friends to drop off shoes at her house. She in turn, with the help of her father’s company Poemard Cellars, would ship them to the nonprofit organization Soles4Souls Inc., which has donated more than 4 million shoes to those in need in many parts of the world.
Honor Flight Lands at Dulles

Organization transports veterans to U.S. war memorials at no charge.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

In May 2005, six small aircraft flew out of Springfield, Ohio, taking with them 12 World War II veterans whose destination was the World War II Memorial in Washington, D.C. From that first “Honor Flight” grew a network of hubs, 93 of them now, at which veterans converge on their way to visit the U.S. war memorials and to reminisce about their service days.

Honor Flight Network (HFN) volunteers meet the arriving veterans at the incoming gate and arrange for their transportation into Washington. The Auxiliary of Vienna’s American Legion Post 180 has, since 2006, met the veterans at the WWII memorial.

In 2009, the Auxiliary Unit 180 partnered with Honor Flight volunteers to meet the veterans at Dulles. The partnership between Auxiliary Unit 180 and the Honor Flight Network became an official reality on Feb. 11 when Heroes’ Welcome Honor Flight was established as a network hub.

“Many of these veterans have trouble walking, but they go up to the memorial, looking for a particular state, to locate and honor a buddy who’s not there anymore,” said Janet Renner, Unit 180 president and public relations chair for Heroes’ Welcome Honor Flight. Renner noted that a memorial to the veterans of World War II wasn’t dedicated until 2004. By then, that war’s veterans had aged into their 70s and older. America’s WWII vets are dying at a rate of a thousand a day.

“Many haven’t been able to come and share, to cry and to leave wreaths and mementos for their fallen comrades,” said Renner. Honor Flight makes that happen.

VETERANS PAY NOTHING for their Honor Flight or their needs. Their transportation is fully-funded by the organization. Tour bus service, scooters, wheelchairs, meals and other needs are provided by the Honor Flight Network. Heroes’ Welcome is looking for partners to contribute to the funding of this program in any capacity.

“As you can imagine, it is heartbreaking to learn that a vet has passed while on the waiting list for a flight due to not-enough funds,” said Renner.

See Welcoming. Page 15

Another Safe Year

Theft tops criminal offenses in Vienna in 2009.

By Donna Manz
The Connection

In 2009, the Vienna Police Department, under Chief Robert A. Carlisle, had 12,887 calls for service, just 11 more than in 2008. That number includes police services, traffic complaints, animal cases and business and residence alarms. The number one problem affecting Vienna residents continues to be enforcement of traffic laws.

Motor vehicle thefts and vehicle tampering incidents showed a marked increase. Most of the vehicle intrusions were made available by unsecured parked vehicles, from exposed GPS equipment and cell phones in unlocked cars to handbags left exposed in unlocked cars. In mid-February, a man stopping in a local grocery store left a deposit bag on the front seat of his unlocked car. When he returned, the contents were missing.

Those 12,887 calls culminated in 564 Group B offenses (such as DWI and Drunk in Public), 679 property crimes and 91 Group A crimes, crimes against persons, including assault.

Arrested for the serious Group A offenses were 38 juveniles on 54 charges, and 144 adults on 160 charges. Group B arrests, for crimes considered less serious than in Group A, included 63 charges for 63 juveniles, and 160 charges for 182 arrested adults.

In comparison, 119 adults were arrested for 126 Group A offenses in 2008, and 27 juveniles were arrested for 27 Group A offenses. Of Group B offenses, 46 juveniles were arrested on 49 charges, while 322 adults were arrested on 346 charges.

CARLISLE CALLED Vienna, given its location and population density, a “very safe community.” Citing the numbers only, Carlisle said that although some categories are up, the overall numbers are fairly low.

“However, we are certainly not satisfied and will strive for reductions through prevention strategies, deterrence and investigative efforts,” Carlisle said.

Beyond the numbers, perceptions are also important, Carlisle said. “In that regard, as well, I think citizens feel safe here and feel free to walk about at night without fear,” he said. “Most of our crime is property-related and contributed to by our citizens feeling safe enough to leave their property unlocked at night. Sometimes, feeling too safe can lure us into complacency. Overall, that is a problem many communities might wish for.”

In 2008, the Vienna Police Department transitioned to the federally-mandated Incident Based Reporting (IBR) system. In IBR, each victim is listed as a separate offense while the occurrence of the event is listed as one incident. Additionally, a person listed as one arrest can have multiple charges placed against him.

In response to a request, the Vienna Police Department compiled a separate summary of reported violations comparing the body of the Town of Vienna and the Cedar Lane/Park Street area.

In 2009, there was one reported case of an aggravated assault at Cedar Lane Apartments, two at Cedar Lane Shop
**Week in Vienna**

‘Total Loss’ in Vienna House Fire
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire on Monday, March 1, at 12:05 p.m., in the Vienna area of Fairfax County. The single family home is located at 2005 Carrhill Road. Firefighters encountered large amounts of smoke coming from all sides, and fire visible from the rear of the three-story home upon arrival. Firefighters encountered heavy fire on the first floor as they entered the front door, with fire quickly spreading to the second floor and attic area. Firefighters attacked the fire from the inside until fire conditions severely deteriorated and the second floor collapsed. Firefighters continued to fight the fire from the exterior of the home. It took firefighters approximately 30 minutes to bring the fire under control. No one was home when the fire broke out. Two adults and three children have been displaced. One dog perished in the fire. There were no other injuries. Red Cross support was not needed. A home alarm monitoring system activated and alerted 911.

The home is a total loss. According to fire investigators, the fire is under investigation.

Area Scammers Sentenced
In early 2009, members of the Town of Vienna community reported that an unknown subject was posing as a Town of Vienna employee in an attempt to obtain money by fraudulent means from elderly residents. As the result of extensive investigation by Vienna Police detectives and federal authorities, two men were arrested in October 2009 and charged with the offenses. On Feb. 26, one of the men, Donald Ray Norcross, 26, of Culpeper, Va., was sentenced to 27 months in prison and will have to pay $27,000 in restitution to his victims.

In January, Robbie Breeden, 25, of Culpeper was sentenced to 9 months in prison for his role in the conspiracy.

Amateur Photo Exhibit to Open March 20
The Vienna Parks and Recreation Department’s annual Amateur Photography Contest and Exhibit will be Saturday, March 20, from 10 a.m.–3 p.m. and Sunday, March 21, from 12:30 p.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Entries will be accepted Thursday, March 18, from 5–9 p.m. and Friday, March 19, from 12:30-4:30 p.m. Photos will be judged by local professional photographers and ribbons awarded in eight categories: animals, architecture, nature, pictorial, scenic, photojournalism, portrait and digitally enhanced. A separate contest section will be for students in grades 7-12. The entry fee is $10 per person. Entries are limited to four photos per person and two per category. For more information, call Vienna Parks and Recreation at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

Free Seminar on Trusts

“What to Feed a Living Trust” will be presented by attorney David Hoffman on Monday, March 15, from 10-11:30 a.m. at the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E. Topics will include funding your trust, what bankers don’t know, trusts and mortgages, trusts and the IRS, record keeping, making amendments and more. This seminar is free of charge, and no advance registration is required. For more information, call the Vienna Parks and Recreation Department at 703-255-6360 or visit www.viennava.gov.

St. Patrick’s Day Party at the Teen Center
Vienna area sixth, seventh and eighth graders are invited to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day on Wednesday, March 17, beginning at 4 p.m. at Club Phoenix Teen Center, located in the Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St., S.E.

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**News**

**Around the World in Six Hours**

*Freedom Hill Elementary draws from 74 countries.*

by Donna Manz

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**Some of the volunteers who helped make Freedom Hill’s International Day a success.**
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*Exceptions apply; some merchandise will not be on sale

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Unsnarling I-66 Congestion

Solutions are at hand to address backups on I-66.

By Sen. Chap Petersen

According to his biographies, Richard Nixon served as a young boy used to listen to the trains rolling by his house in rural California and draw inspiration that one day he could visit places far away. The young Nixon had the good fortune to not live next to Interstate 66 in Fairfax County. Because nobody draws inspiration from stalled traffic.

Fairfax County has been wrestling with the congestion of Interstate 66 since the early 1980s. When I joined the Northern Virginia Regional Commission as City Councilman in 1998, traffic along Interstate 66 was already the #1 complaint of my constituents. A year later, the Commission voted and passed the Interstate 66 Urban Community Transportation Act, which paved the way for the ongoing construction of “High Occupancy Toll” lanes on the Beltway for example.

Public-private partnerships have their place. But a last minute proposal in the Virginia General Assembly would not only allow the private entity to collect direct revenue from a project, like tolls, but would also allow agreements that would pay the private company a portion of increases in tax revenues that might result from the project.

If this were in place when the HOT-Lanes agreement was written, for example, the Commonwealth of Virginia might be paying the private company in this public-private partnership quarterly payments equal to as much as 50 percent of income taxes paid by construction workers and engineers working on the project, plus a similar proportion of sales taxes paid on equipment and materials purchased for the project, plus “multiplier or spin-off economic activity” and so on, in addition to the agreement that allows the company to collect the tolls on the road for more than half a century.

CONSIDER: The bill, HB 1395, allows for the state to pay grants to a private entity out of a “portion of the growth in state taxes attributable to the development of the project.”

“State tax revenues attributable to such economic activity may include, but shall not be limited to, state tax revenues from (i) wages, salaries, and contract payments paid to persons in the development of the transportation facility; (ii) purchases of machinery, equipment, and materials in the development of the transportation facility; (iii) insurance premiums paid; (iv) the production of goods or services at business locations within a geographical area surrounding or adjacent to the transportation facility; and (v) multiplier or spin-off economic activity relating to the development of the transportation facility including, but not limited to, wages, salaries, and contract payments paid to multiplier or spin-off jobs.”

The money would be paid out of the General Fund, money intended to pay for basics of education, public safety and a social safety net, all facing draconian cuts right now. If that isn’t scary enough, the bill would also allow localities and “authorities” to enter into such agreements.

MANY OTHER STATES have entered into public-private transportation projects have done so by having the private company pay huge up-front cash payments, billions of dollars, in exchange for “leasing” a toll road, that is collecting the tolls for some often very long period of time into the future. In the HOT Lanes example, the company is widening the Beltway and replacing and repairing bridges, etc., between approximately the American Legion Bridge and the Mixing Bowl, in exchange for being able to charge an as-yet-to-be determined toll to drive in a lane that will be kept free of congestion by raising the tolls, likely much higher than the $4.15 each way currently charged on the Dulles Greenway. Vehicles with three or more occupants (high-occupancy) will ride in the congestion-free lanes without charge. Or that’s the plan.

At the point that the state believes that it’s appropriate to collect tolls approaching $10 for a round trip on a portion of their commute, it makes sense to investigate the funds available to the state directly by issuing bonds based on that revenue stream. It’s not clear who is looking out for the best interests of the citizens of Virginia in these partnerships. Details of some proposals, like a proposal for HOT-Lanes on I-95 appear to build in many guarantees and protections for the private companies, but less for the Virginians who would be paying the tolls or who could be getting less benefit for their tax dollars.

This year in Richmond, a small group of legislators is trying to break the impasse. It is clear to us that, without a public-private project like HOT Lanes, there is not sufficient public money to fund cost-intensive solutions like fixed-rail or the widening of the current Interstate 66 corridor.

It’s time to think outside the box. Over the past decade, the technology behind “bus rapid transit” (or “BRT”) has made it a cost-efficient service with the ability to transport the same number of people as fixed rail at a fraction of the cost. Modern cities like Seattle and Toronto rely on BRT to move their commuters within a large urban community.

The Interstate 66 corridor is a perfect match for BRT for a number of reasons. First, there is a high demand for transit service heading inside the Beltway. Second, there is an existing interstate with dedicated lanes along the corridor. Third, the interstate already has parking areas and access to arterials like the Fairfax County Park- way.

Like any good solution, it won’t be free. The Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation estimates a cost of $250 million to establish a functioning network with sufficient parking, at-grade boarding and direct access ramps from Interstate 66. Notably, that is about 6 percent of the cost to build the Dulles Rail line from East Falls Church to Wiehle Avenue.

This week, a number of “outside the Beltway” lawmakers signed a letter which proposed that we “green light” a BRT system along Interstate 66 “as soon as possible” and without waiting on more time-consuming studies of a problem which we all know exists. Instead, let’s let private companies bid on this contract and show us how the service can be best optimized at a reasonable cost.

Perhaps years from now, a child in Fairfax County will hear the BRT bus going by and dream of destinations unknown. Or at least know that his parents will be getting home from work.
Freedom Hill Elementary School Goes Global

From Page 4

said, after the speech. “I have friends from kindergarten to now who come from all over the world, at least, six other countries ... other than Antarctica.”

AT THE BEGINNING of the school year, the PTA surveys the students, noting their native lands. Seventy-four countries showed up on the list. From its records, the PTA committee invited children to participate in the parade who had not participated in earlier ones.

“It’s a proud day for everybody,” said event chair Lucia Fan. “They come to school and show off their roots.” Fan comes from Hong Kong. An array of more than 60 dishes, from Indian curry and snacks and Middle East appetizers to caramel-y Peruvian cookies, coq au vin, Asian treats and lots more, was laid out on the cafeteria stage for sampling by the students, staff and volunteers. Children did not hesitate to try new foods, and some students said they had tasted these international foods previously when their friends brought them for lunch.

When asked, students said they enjoyed the festivities of the day. Amaan Ansari of India said he liked the flag and the song the most. Richa Dhingra favored the parade and wearing her native dress, a shimmering pink silk. Ahmed Anwar of Malaysia has been in the United States just six months. As his father interpreted, Ahmed described what he likes about Freedom Hill. The fifth-grader said being there was good for him. He likes to “mix around” with everybody.

Every student in the school learned a new song for the day. “It was a very moving song,” said Fan. “A lot of teachers said they were brought to tears.”

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---

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center’s FY 2013 Programs

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

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is seeking input from residents of Darnestown Small District One at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2013, which runs July 1, 2011, through June 30, 2012.

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

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

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**Art Raffle at VAS**

**By Donna Manz**

The Vienna Arts Society (VAS) wants to make original art available to the community, and they’re making it come true with its Ticket to Art fundraiser. Local VAS artists have contributed art pieces, from paintings to sculpture and jewelry, that will be raffled off on March 20, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Raffle ticket prices are $12.50 each, entitling the holder to a piece of art valued at more than the ticket price. Wine and appetizers will be served.

“We’ve got so much wonderful local talent,” said ticket holder Carol Kelly. “She bought tickets for the art raffle for the past three years and also other art pieces from the society.

“People need to come in here and see what’s it’s all about,” Kelly said. “It’s a great group of people, a warm place. Even the building, it’s just really nice.”

VAS supports the arts in Vienna and community activities, said Ticket to Art chair, Grace Rooney of Vienna. “We’re involved in a lot of things, in our center and in the community.”

---

**Saturday, March 13**

**11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.**

*Storybook Festival*

Come enjoy entertainment by special guest, *Billy Lou Pellissier* stories, soft pretzels, foods, and book-related materials, refreshments and more. Children can meet some of their favorite storybook characters in person.

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**Art to Art**

*Ticket to Art* chair, Graze Rooney, points out an art piece donated to the March 20 raffle.

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**Sunday, March 21**

**10 a.m.**

*Sara Jane, 7:30 p.m. At The Connection*

---

**Saturday, March 20**

**11 a.m.**

*Festival of the White House in Art*

Annual 10th District Congressional Art Show. All of the village’s six congressional districts are represented.

**12-4 p.m.**

*Festival of the White House in Art Raffle*

All proceeds benefit the Vienna Arts Society. A total of 60 pieces of art are available to be raffled off, with 50 one-of-a-kind pieces and 10 sets of prints.

**5:30 p.m. at The Connection**

*TICKET TO ART*

*Vienna artist Pauline Lorfano donated her mixed-media Creative Ideas to the VAS art raffle. She currently has three paintings traveling to museums.*
Police Reports Help Suppress Rumors

FROM PAGE 3

ping Center and four throughout all other areas of Vienna. There were 12 cases of simple as-
sault at Cedar Lane Apartment, 11 at Cedar Lane Shopping Center and 46 in all other areas of Vienna.

In 2008, there were no reported cases of aggravated assault at Cedar Lane Apartment, three at Cedar Lane Shopping Center and three in all other areas of Vienna. During that year, there were eight reported cases of simple assault at Cedar Lane Apartments, five at Cedar Lane Shopping Center, and 51 in all other areas of Vienna.

Chief Carlisle noted that alcohol consumption contributed in big part to these statistics, with most incidents taking place in late evening or at night. “They drink too much, wind up getting into fights,” said Carlisle. “We do have concerns about drunk individuals being easy victims.”

The compact area between Patrick Street and Cedar Lane full of rental apartments increases the population density in that area above what is typical in Vienna. Undercover investigations in the Cedar/Park area detected no evidence of drug dealing. The management of the apartments and of the shopping center cooperate with the police department to maintain the safety of the Cedar/Park area. Retail tenants need consumers and the shopping center management protects its tenants’ interests to that end.

“The majority of complaints we get about Cedar/Park is about day laborers milling around,” said Carlisle. “The shopping center pushed them out of the parking area.”

Referring to the day laborers, Carlisle emphasized that they are not causing trouble in the community. “They know that the police are watching them. They want to be left alone. They want to find work.”

A YEAR AND A HALF AGO, the police department introduced to the public and to the media Vienna Police Highlights, a summary of incidents, calls, crashes and other services performed by officers during a one-week time frame. This, and other media releases, are posted online at the Town of Vienna website when they are disseminated to the media.

The weekly highlights, read online and in newspapers, inform citizens and bring in new witnesses to violations and incidents.

Newsworthy pieces of human interest are frequently picked up by national media and late-night talk show hosts.

“The highlights report has changed people’s perception of what is going on in the community,” said Public Information Officer, MPO Bill Murray. “It does a great job of ripping rumors.”

Murray produces the newsletter, speaks to civic groups and talks to school children. “The community takes ownership of the town police department,” said Murray.

Carlisle said that many of the drug possession and distribution cases are not immediately publicized since they are usually part of an ongoing police investigation of larger networks.

The Vienna Police Department secured federal and state grants with which to assist in the purchase of new equipment and to supplement overtime compensation for specialized enforcement activities.

A federal Urban Area Security Initiative grant funded one police cruiser License Plate Reader (LPR), a device which reads and checks the status of approximately 3,600 license plates per hour.

As part of its bicycle safety campaign, the VPD created its own eye-to-eye program in an ongoing effort to educate bike riders and motorists on the need to be aware of each other’s presence.

Carlisle and Murray feel that the community recognizes it has input to Vienna law enforcement and the police department works to maintain a good relationship with Vienna residents.

“For the most part, our citizens feel they get good response, good communication, and good value from us,” Carlisle said. “We are judged every day by the community, and the accolades we get are really encouraging. This is a fun job. It’s an enjoyable thing to be a part of.”
CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 9

Birth-12 months with adult. 703-938-0405.

Printmaking Workshop. 4 p.m.

Author Timothy M. Gay: Satch, Dizzy and Rapid Robert. 7:30 p.m. at Brander Books, 8027 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. 703-556-7766.

St. Paddy’s Day Pre-Party with

Celebrate the Ancient Persian New Year. 6-9 p.m. at the Great Falls Library, 9630 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Learn about 3,000 years old traditions and enjoy a free Persian concert directed by Dr. Majd. Contact: sounia@chainlink.com.

Travel and Adventure Film: Inside Iran Today. 7:30 p.m. at the McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The architectural wonders, people and historical destinations of Iran in a newly released film. $10, $8 district residents. 703-790-9223.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 17

Celtic Woman: Songs From the Heart. 8 p.m. at the George Mason University Patriot Center, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. $45-$79. Tickets available by Phonecharge at 703-573-HEAT or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

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

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Vienna Connection  March 10-16, 2010  11
SPORTS

Oakton Girls Overwhelm Stonewall Jackson in State Playoff Opener

By Rich Sanders
The Connection

From the start, the Oakton High girls' basketball team looked to be the aggressor, the squad calling the shots in its 74-58 Virginia State AAA quarterfinals playoff victory over Stonewall Jackson (Manassas) Saturday afternoon, March 6. The postseason affair took place at Robinson Secondary School, the same site where the Cougars captured the Northern Region title five days earlier with a win over West Springfield.

“We came out and we weren’t scared, but we had energy and came out confident,” said Zora Stephenson, Oakton’s junior shooting guard and a team tri-captain, of the win over Stonewall. “We said we were going to play Oakton Basketball. And playing at (near-by) Robinson, it’s like a second home. We’re familiar with this place.”

Oakton (24-1), with the win, earned a trip to the Richmond Siegel Center where it is scheduled to meet Princess Anne (Virginia Beach) in a state semifinals game on Wednesday, March 10 at 2 p.m. A year ago at states, it was Princess Anne, a member of the Eastern Region, which defeated Oakton in the championship game, 71-61.

That title game, which took place at the Siegel Center, accounted for the Cougars’ lone loss of the season.

Wednesday’s Oakton versus Princess Anne winner will advance to Friday’s state finals at 7 p.m. versus the West Springfield/Lake Taylor semifinals winner.

Stephenson, following Oakton’s win over Stonewall Jackson, said the Cougars might not have shown their high excitement level and joy on the outside at moving on to Richmond again but they were plenty thrilled on the inside.

“We were real excited to win and get to where we were last year,” said Stephenson, who scored all nine of her points versus Stonewall Jackson over the second half of the game. “We want to keep our compo-sure, practice hard this week and hopefully win (Wednesday’s semifinals) game. We just have to keep playing [great] defense and execute.”

SATURDAY’S GAME against the Raiders of Stonewall Jackson was only close for about four minutes of the first quarter before Oakton took control and never relinquished it. The Cougars led 8-7 before Danielle Davis, a junior shooting guard, connected on a long range three-pointer from the left corner to make it 11-7 Oakton with 4 minutes, 22 seconds remaining in the opening quarter. That basket began a 14-4 scoring spree from Oakton, which re-sulted in a 22-11 Cougars’ lead after one quarter. Davis added another trey during that key stretch of the game while sopho-more point guard Caroline Coyer also landed a three-pointer.

“We definitely had some good shots at the beginning of the game and through the en- tire game,” said Goyer, last week’s region tourney MVP who scored a game-high 34 points against the Raiders. “We had a real good shooting game. We had a good game plan and executed real well.”

Following that first quarter, Stonewall never got closer than within 10 points the rest of the game. Oakton led 40-26 at halftime and 59-43 after three quarters.

Coyer, in her incredible scoring game, continually made hard drives to the basket that resulted in converted shots or her get-ting fouled. Ten of her points came at the free throw line. She made two of Oakton’s eight three-point shots.

Oakton’s second leading scorer was Katherine Coyer, a sophomore guard and Caroline’s twin. Katherine finished with 16 points, including a pair of treys. Davis, meanwhile, finished with 10 points, nine of those coming on three-pointers.

For Stonewall Jackson (19-4), sophomore guard Ryan Jordan led the Raiders with 21 points, including three treys. Kyani White of those coming on three-pointers.

Oakhaven basketball from a Stonewall Jackson defender. Matthes, a center, contributed four points to the Cougars’ win.

Oakton senior Brieneke Matthes (44) protects the basketball from a Stonewall Jackson defender. Matthes, a center, contributed four points to the Cougars’ win.

Katherine Coyer (10) scored 16 points and had five rebounds in Oakton’s state quarterfinals win over Stonewall Jackson last Saturday.

Priester’s team now set to face Princess Anne at state basketball semis in Richmond.

Hooding opponents defensively.

“I think we’re kind of hitting our late sea-son form,” he said. “Will that be enough for our next game? We’ll see. If we do go down, we’ll go down shooting.”

Oakton has returned to the state semi-finals even after having lost five seniors to graduation from last year’s state runner-up team. While Oakton certainly benefited from the return of three key starters from last year — the Coyer sisters and Stephenson — the team has also received outstanding production from other players who were not key figures a year ago.

“We’re excited,” said Caroline Coyer, of once again advancing to Richmond, “espe-cially after losing five seniors. We’ve come back this season with a different group.”

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**P/T Executive Director**

The Alliance for Housing Solutions, a non-profit organization that works to increase the supply of affordable housing in Alexandria through research, public education and advocacy, seeks a part time (20 hours a week) executive director. For information about the position and the search, see www.allianceforhousing.solutions.org
In a little more than two weeks, Heroes’ Welcome raised more than $2,000 through word-of-mouth promotion, including a $500 pledge from C&C Garage in Vienna.

Veterans of all U.S. wars are given the opportunity to visit the memorial dedicated to the war in which they served.

Terminals-ill veterans and World War II veterans have priority on the waiting lists. The youngest WWII veteran is 79.

A separate program accommodates terminally-ill veterans of any age. Their Last Chance (TLC) brings in veterans on short notice, sometimes in a matter of a few days. Renner said those arrangements are more expensive as Honor Flight receives no type of advance purchase discount.

Guardians that accompany veterans on the flights pay their own way. Heroes’ Welcome Honor Flight welcomes volunteers to greet at airport and to assist veterans as guardians. Guardians take a short training workshop.

“Each flight is different, but about 60 percent or more are mobility-restricted,” said Renner. The need for wheelchairs is great. The airport escort transports them to the buses but are desperate for a partner who can supply wheelchairs to the memorial.”

Heroes’ Welcome is giving a training session for guardians on March 13, from 1-4 p.m., at the American Legion Post hall at 330 Center St. N. Anyone interested in becoming a guardian, including high school students, is welcome to attend.

“I DO THIS because this generation of war (WWII) veterans stepped up because of their love for their country,” said Ichikawa. “It wasn’t because of the economy, needing college money or a last-life choice, not that I am belittling these choices.

“These men and women bonded together to fight a common enemy and they returned home and were not always thanked for their courage and sacrifices. Well, now we can do it. We can shower them with our sincere gratitude, respect and appreciation. We can do it. We can do it.

“Many veterans stepped up because of their love for their country and we are not always thanked for their service,” said Ichikawa.

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