

# School News



Where success is measured one student at a time

March 16, 2007

R-265

## Family unveils portrait of former Superintendent

Mary Ellen Starkey, wife of the late Jesse L. Starkey, unveiled a portrait of her husband that will hang in the lobby of the school system administration offices named for the former superintendent. The unveiling of the portrait, painted and donated by local artist Lucy Richmond, occurred on Tuesday, March 13.

The Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building was constructed in 1983 and was named after Mr. Starkey, who was a teacher, principal, supervisor, director, assistant and deputy superintendent during his 33-and-a-half-year career in public education. He was appointed as Superintendent of Charles County Public Schools in 1969 and was confirmed three times by the Board of Education prior to his retirement in 1981.



**Mary Ellen Starkey gets a first look at the portrait of former Superintendent Jesse L. Starkey.**

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said the administration building was named after Mr. Starkey for his career accomplishments and his vision of the future for CCPS. "Mr. Starkey did an outstanding job as superintendent for 12 years by providing a positive environment for students," he added. "He looked into the future to provide a building and space for us."

Mr. Starkey's contributions to CCPS include the idea to construct a

location where the central administration offices that consolidated school system services could be under one roof. Although the construction of a central office was a result of Mr. Starkey's vision, he retired before the building was completed and never maintained offices there.

## CCPS employees honored for United Way support

The United Way of Charles County recently recognized Charles County Public Schools employees for their support as Gemstone Society Donors to its 2006 fundraising campaign.

CCPS employees were acknowledged at the diamond level for donating more than \$74,000. The diamond level recognizes companies and employees that donate \$10,000 or more. The campaign took place in October

2006 and about 1,000 CCPS employees contributed funds.

Superintendent of Schools James E. Richmond said he is pleased with the level of support CCPS employees have shown through campaign contributions. "The United Way reflects a commitment to strengthening the community," he added. "We are pleased with the support of our employees."

**See United Way, Page 2**

## Board plans meetings

The Board of Education will meet in a retreat with the Charles County Commissioners on Tuesday, March 20, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and March 21, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at the Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building. Agenda topics include the vision for the new high school, benchmarks, long-range budget projections, school building and renovation projects, discussion of ideas for sharing technology and affordable housing issues.

The Board plans to meet for a work session on March 26, 7 p.m., at the Starkey Building. Agenda items include the Board code of conduct and the Capital Improvements Program.

## Richmond promotes technology

Superintendent James E. Richmond participated in an educational panel at the Learning First Alliance Summit in Washington, D.C., which was sponsored by Cisco Systems, Inc. Richmond was one of three panel members to address "Creating the Right Conditions for Educational Innovation." The panel highlighted Charles County Public Schools success in implementing technology changes that are improving teaching and learning. The other two panel members were nationally recognized experts in education and technology.

## Science fair winners

Gavin Reed and Emily Gore, both students at La Plata High School, advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair the week of May 13 in New Mexico. Reed is the grand award winner and Gore is the second grand award winner of the 48th annual Charles County Science Fair.



### *School receives grant*

La Plata High School received a \$2,500 Best Buy Teach Award for integrating the use of interactive technology into the school's curriculum. Elaine Reynolds, the Advanced Placement Environmental Science Teacher at La Plata, submitted the application for the award and plans to use the award to purchase equipment that is compatible with school system technology. The equipment will be used for the AP environmental science and AP biology technology-based laboratories.

### *Judy Centers earn grants*

The Charles County Public Schools Judy Centers were recently awarded two grants from First Book Charles County. Each grant provides two \$500 gift cards to purchase books at Borders for children who need them in their home. Almost 200 books, worth \$2,500, were purchased and distributed to children ages birth through kindergarten. First Book is a national non-profit organization that works to provide children from low-income families the opportunity to read and own new books. Charles County Public Schools has Judy Centers at C. Paul Barnhart, Dr. Samuel A. Mudd and Eva Turner elementary schools.

### *On the cover*

Pictured on the front page are exemplary employees honored by the Board of Education March 13. Pictured, from left, are: Rebecca L. Laroque, instructional assistant, Piccowaxen Middle School; Hannah M. Barnes, building service worker, Arthur Middleton Elementary School; Joyce A. Carter, pupil personnel worker, William A. Diggs Elementary School; and James E. Nasso, mathematics teacher, Thomas Stone High School.

## Teachers earn honors for technology excellence

Two Charles County Public Schools employees, Joseph Greenawalt and Alesha Guechati, have been awarded as outstanding in the field of technology. They will be honored April 3 by the Board of Education for their accomplishments in the field of technology.

Greenawalt, a computer resource teacher at Westlake High School, has been recognized with the Maryland Outstanding Technology-Using Educator Award. The Maryland Outstanding Technology-Using Educator award recognizes outstanding prekindergarten through grade 12 classroom teachers who have made exemplary contributions to instructional computing practices in Maryland schools.

Greenawalt has been teaching computer courses since 1979 and is credited with innovative use and modeling of technology as well as his involvement in developing advanced computer courses. He provides a variety of staff development opportunities to teachers at Westlake and the county. Additionally, Greenawalt has provided training for teachers in the use of projection systems and has pioneered the use of video conferencing in the county. He taught AP Computer Science to students at Westlake and Thomas Stone through video conferencing for two years.

In a nomination letter, student David Wilson wrote that Greenawalt is a teacher with love for technology and computer science and has passed that passion to his students. "Mr. Greenawalt has always been looking for new ways to improve his teaching with new technological advances in the classroom. Mr. Greenawalt taught the first class at Westlake to be taught by web cam and advanced sound systems to another school in the county. This

allowed students at another school to take an otherwise unavailable course from a real teacher and interact as if they were right on the other side of the classroom," Wilson wrote.

Guechati, an instructional specialist, was honored with the Outstanding Technology Leader Award. This award recognizes an educator outside the classroom who has made exemplary contributions to the implementation of technology in Maryland schools. Any full-time educator or administrator whose primary job responsibility is not teaching in a prekindergarten to grade 12 classroom is eligible.

Amy DiSabatino, principal at William B. Wade Elementary School, nominated Guechati for knowledge in the area of technology and for putting it to use to inspire students and motivate them to learn. "She believes that technology should only be used if it improves the lesson and helps students to learn. Her desire to infuse technology into education is not to showcase the technology, but instead to showcase students' knowledge," DiSabatino wrote in a nomination letter.

Guechati has been an instructional specialist since 2004. Previously she was a fifth-grade teacher. She has also served as a Summer Academy Coordinator, technology trainer and a Maryland Technology Academy Fellow. She conducts voluntary sessions for staff to introduce new instructional technology techniques and often follows up by modeling or coaching the technique in the classroom. Additionally, Guechati worked with administration to create a blog for teachers to help answer questions and solve problems following staff development lessons.

## United Way

Continued from page 1

### Top 10 schools - Campaign 2006

- 1 - Westlake High - \$5,732
- 2 - La Plata High - \$4,778
- 3 - Thomas Stone High - \$3,727
- 4 - William A. Diggs Elementary - \$3,022
- 5 - Malcolm Elementary - \$2,773
- 6 - Maurice McDonough High - \$2,521 and Dr. Thomas L. Higdon Elementary - \$2,521
- 7 - Mary H. Matula Elementary - \$2,511
- 8 - Eva Turner Elementary - \$2,446
- 9 - Gale-Bailey Elementary - \$2,287
- 10 - J. C. Parks Elementary - \$2,023

The campaign also consists of the emerald level, which recognizes donations of \$5,000 to \$9,999; the ruby level, which recognizes donations of \$2,500 to \$4,999; the sapphire level, which recognizes donations of \$1,000 to \$2,499; and the opal level, which recognizes donations of \$500 to \$999.

Permanent employees can opt to donate funds through payroll deduction, one-time donations or through credit card payments. CCPS has been involved in United Way of Charles County fundraising campaigns since 1995. The United Way of Charles County uses such funding to address needs and concerns of members in the community.



## Students explore careers on Groundhog Shadow Day

### Piccowaxen student uses shadow experience to cement choice for future

Chelsea Lollar already knows her career goal. She wants to be a journalist, and at age 12, the Piccowaxen seventh grader is doing all she can to prepare.

Already, Chelsea is a published writer. She has traveled to Washington, D.C. to interview the first female Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, and has written a story about a George Washington impersonator at a re-enactment program.

During Groundhog Shadow Day activities in February, Chelsea went to the *Maryland Independent* to shadow Jacqueline Rabe, an education reporter, and also spent the day in the Superintendent's office with Katie O'Malley-Simpson, coordinator of communications.

"I love writing and researching. I think being a journalist is something I would like to do," Chelsea said.

Lately, Chelsea has been getting a lot of writing practice. Named as a Scholastic Kid Reporter, she is covering at least one event a month for *Scholastic Magazine*. That's how she met Pelosi and interviewed her in her Capitol Hill office. "She was fun and asked me a lot of questions," Chelsea said. "You can tell she (Pelosi) loves children and she is glad she is the first woman speaker. She thinks we need the female point of view."

Chelsea, who has lived in Charles County for about a year, was selected as a kid reporter after she completed an extra credit assignment for her social studies class. The assignment required students to write about what makes their hometown great, and the magazine selected her for a yearlong assignment with their press corps.

Chelsea was one of more than 9,000 students countywide who participated in the 2007 Charles County Public Schools Groundhog Shadow Day experience. The job shadowing experience is a chance for students to explore careers and employment prospects. Groundhog Job Shadow Day meets the objectives for one of the school system's three focus areas – career readiness. "It goes along with our efforts to ensure that all students have a complete career plan including career goals, personal resume and personal portfolio," said Minnie Reynolds, director of minority achievement.

"Groundhog Job Shadow Day is a unique opportunity to pro-

### A day at the office

by Chelsea Lollar

I job shadowed Katie O'Malley-Simpson, and she is the coordinating supervisor of communications and media relations for Charles County Public Schools. In order to have a job such as this you need a bachelor's degree. During the job you will have to continue your education and training to keep current in the field and understand new ideas coming into Charles County and public relations.



Chelsea Lollar

There is no typical day for Mrs. Simpson because everyday is different. "It's exciting and it's never boring," says Mrs. Simpson. Each day she is responsible for answering public inquires and handling county publications. Each day Mrs. Simpson uses reading and writing in one way or another, which, she says, is the greatest part of her job. After job shadowing Mrs. Simpson I think that this type of work would be something I would really enjoy.

vide students with job shadowing experiences. It is rewarding not only for the students, but also for the people allowing the students to shadow them," said Superintendent James E. Richmond, who had five students shadow him at different times last month.

Kick-off for the job-shadowing program is on Groundhog Day, Feb. 2, but students are allowed to participate in a shadowing experience through mid-March.

To read Chelsea's article on Nancy Pelosi, visit <http://teacher.scholastic.com/scholasticnews/magazines/junior/current/index.asp>. The article appears under Special Reports for Women's History Month.

### Did you know?

- Charles County Public Schools joined the Job Shadow Day program in 1999 and has participated annually since then. This year, more than 9,400 students participated in some type of job shadowing experience.
- The Boston Private Industry Council first started Groundhog Job Shadow Day in 1996 as part of its School-to-Work Effort.
- In 1998, a coalition including Gen. Colin Powell's America's Promise was formed to encourage national participation, which led to CCPS participation.

## Personnel

Apply for positions at [www.ccboe.com/hur](http://www.ccboe.com/hur), or in writing to the personnel office. Positions are open until filled unless otherwise noted. All teaching positions require a bachelor's degree and MSDE certification requirements.

### Job openings

**Human Resources Support Personnel Specialist** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position; master's degree preferred. Apply by March 26.

**Food Service Worker** – Malcolm Elementary School; six-hour, full-time position. Apply by March 16.

**Guidance Secretary** – John Hanson Middle School; 11-month position. Apply by March 20.

**Food Service Workers** – Dr. Gustavus Brown Elementary School, Mary H. Matula Elementary School, and Westlake High School; three-hour and four-hour, 10-month positions. Apply by March 16.

**HVAC Mechanic II** – Maintenance Shop, 12-month position. Open until filled.

**Secretary** – Benjamin Stoddert Middle School, 11-month position. Apply by March 16.

**Food Service Worker** – William B. Wade Elementary; three-hour and four-hour, 10-month position. Open until filled.

**Technical Assistant in Instruction** – Jesse L. Starkey Administration Building; 12-month position. Apply by March 20.

**Special Education Instructional Assistant** – Westlake High School; 10-month position. Apply by March 22.

**Building Service Worker** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School; 12-month position. Apply by March 26.

**Security Alarm Monitor** – Maintenance Shop; 12-month position. Apply by March 28.

**Mathematics Teachers** – Positions open at La Plata High School and Mattawoman Middle School.

**Occupational Therapists** – Openings for all age levels; 10-month positions.

**Family & Consumer Science Teacher** – John Hanson Middle School.

**Power Reading Teacher** – General Smallwood Middle School.

**Pre-Kindergarten and Kindergarten Teachers** – Indian Head Elementary School.

**Speech Language Pathologist** – All schools; 10-month positions.

**Reading Resource Teacher** – Dr. James Craik Elementary School.

**Reading Recovery Position** – Dr. Samuel A. Mudd Elementary School.

**Special Education Teachers** – La Plata and

Henry E. Lackey high schools.

**English Teacher** – Robert D. Stethem Educational Center.

**Summer Elementary School Academy Site Coordinators** – All elementary schools; master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by March 26.

**Summer High School Academy Site Coordinators** – All high schools; master's degree or Advanced Professional Certificate required. Apply by March 26.

**Summer School 2007 Teaching Staff** – Teachers needed for Summer School at Henry E. Lackey High School. Apply to Jason Bursick at [jbursick@ccboe.com](mailto:jbursick@ccboe.com). Send background information including current teaching position, area of certification and course interested in teaching at summer school. The first staff day is June 25. The first student day is June 26.

### Extra pay positions

**Maurice J. McDonough High School** has the following openings: assistant varsity football coach (two positions); junior varsity football coach; freshmen football coach; cross country coach; head varsity volleyball coach; junior varsity head volleyball coach; and poms coach (dance team).

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Charles County Public Schools  
301-932-6610  
301-934-7220  
Fax: 301-932-6651

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Charles County Public Schools  
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