

CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

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"CASTLE BOUND" 25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

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From left: Kristin Girardin, Joe Alexander, Amy Nicol, Wes George, Marcie Schoonmaker and Jesse Stapleton are but a few of the performers in CUMC's Madrigal Feastes.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Returning to Medieval Times

Centreville United Methodist hosts Madrigal Feastes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

An evening of food, fun and entertainment is in store for all those attending the Madrigal Feastes at Centreville United Methodist Church (CUMC). The fellowship hall is transformed into a medieval castle, and people in costume serve a four-course meal while diners enjoy a program of music, song and theater.

Nearly every other year since 2000, CUMC has

put on Madrigal Feastes (Renaissance Dinners) in December. This year's events are Friday-Saturday, Dec. 11-12, from 6:30-9 p.m. The Dec. 12 Feast is already sold out, but \$30 tickets are still available for Dec. 11; call 703-830-2684 between 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

"It's as though you were a guest at a dinner in a castle during Medieval times," said CUMC Music Director Becky Jackson. "All participants — from servers, to musicians to the Royal Court — are costumed."

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Hunt Wins Primary

Former School Board member faces Del. Dave Marsden to fill state senate seat.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
CENTRE VIEW

Eric Alter is sure to remember the first time he voted for several reasons, including the fact that it took two trips to the polling station and approximately 45 minutes of standing outside Centreville High School without a coat on a chilly, 40-degree night.

The Westfield High School senior turned 18 on Dec. 1, just in time to participate in the Republican primary that took place the same night for the Virginia Senate's 37th District.

"I want to make sure the Republicans come out with the strongest candidate for the special election," said Alter, who studied many of the state races that took place in November with his government class.

Incumbent Sen. Ken Cuccinelli (R-37) is vacating the position when he becomes the

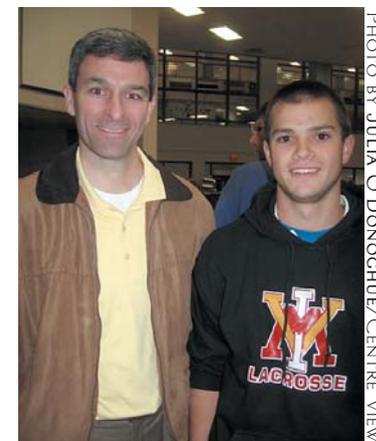


PHOTO BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE/CENTRE VIEW

Attorney General-elect Ken Cuccinelli (R) poses with Westfield High School senior Eric Alter. The teenager voted for the first time and turned 18 on the day of the Republican Primary for the state senate seat in the 37th District.

commonwealth's next Attorney General in 2010.

Former at-large Fairfax County School Board member Steve Hunt won just over 50 percent of the vote in the three-way primary against a former President George W. Bush appointee, Marianne Horinko, and Greenspring retirement community's executive director Will Nance. Hunt garnered 955 ballots to Horinko's 479 and

SEE HUNT, PAGE 4

Fire Kills 69 Cats

Some 69 cats and seven birds perished in a house fire last Saturday, Nov. 28, in Little Rocky Run. The blaze broke out around 3 p.m. at 13925 South Springs Drive, and fire officials estimate the damage at \$75,000.

When Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded, first-arriving firefighters encountered heavy smoke inside

the entire, two-story house. However, they quickly determined the fire had self-extinguished, and they then conducted a primary search of the brick, single-family, home.

The homeowners were not at home when the fire began, but two adults were displaced. Shortly before 3 p.m., a pet sitter and ani

SEE FIRE, PAGE 2

'Music Man' Marches to Stage at Stone

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

It's 1912 in Iowa, and when charming con man Harold Hill comes to town, there's trouble for sure in River City. That's the premise of "The Music Man Jr.," presented by Stone Middle School.

The curtain rises Thursday, Dec. 10, at 3:15 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 11 at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 12, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door for Friday and Saturday's shows; Thursday is pre-sale only. Tickets for all performances are available during lunches, Dec. 7-9.

"The innocent citizens get blown away by music professor Hill and his charismatic ways," said Director Lois Walsh. "He convinces the town that its pool

table will cause the ruination of their youth, but a boys' band will save them."

There's a cast and crew of about 40 and the actors have been rehearsing since September. "It's a period piece, so it's teaching them certain vocabulary words, colloquialisms and history," said Walsh. "And it's a family-friendly classic with familiar, toe-tapping tunes, such as '76 Trombones' and 'Trouble.'"

Assistant Director Emily Altadonna said the audience will really enjoy the song-and-dance numbers, especially "Shipooopi," because it's so playful. Said Altadonna: "The story is so comforting and heartwarming that it'll make people smile and leave here feeling more lighthearted and a bit better about life."

"We've had wonderful parent involvement — par

SEE MUSIC MAN, PAGE 4

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House Fire

FROM PAGE 1

mal rescuer opened the home's front door to check on the animals and immediately called 911 after seeing smoke.

During their search of the home, firefighters found evidence that the flames had spread to the first and second floor. They also discovered dozens of deceased cats and two cages of deceased birds. Firefighters and animal control officers were able to rescue and revive 10 cats from the home, although five remain missing.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. They say it was caused by "an electrical event involving wiring under a sectional sofa" in the first-floor family room. They also passed along the following electrical safety tips:

- ❖ Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- ❖ Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- ❖ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.

— BONNIE HOBBS

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ROUNDUPS

Meeting about Elementary School Boundaries

The Southwestern Regional Planning Study committee will meet Thursday, Dec. 3, at 7 p.m., in the Liberty Middle School cafeteria, 6801 Union Mill Road (just uphill from Centreville High). Possible changes in the school boundaries and populations will be discussed. Schools involved include Clifton and Colin Powell elementaries.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 3 and 17, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the proper use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Helping Our Neighbor's Child

For the 18th year in a row, the nonprofit Our Neighbor's Child is providing Christmas toys and clothing to hundreds of families in need in the local community. But it can't do it all by itself without help from area residents. And this Saturday, Dec. 5, they can contribute to the effort in two, different ways.

* Bring donations of brand-new toys, books, games and new or like-new clothing to Stone Middle School from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Parents and students will then sort, box and load them into a truck to take to a clothing "store" where recipients, ages 12-18, may select items for themselves.

* Bring new toys to the big, ONC gift box outside Wal-Mart in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. Inside the store will be a Giving Tree decorated with paper ornaments containing the age and sex of a child and the item he or she wants for Christmas. People may then purchase it and place it, unwrapped, in the box outside the front of the store between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. And they may fulfill as many children's wishes this way as they'd like.

* Contribute winter coats, blankets and other warm clothing. To do so, and for specific information regarding sizes, etc., contact Denise McNerney, ONC clothing coordinator, at oncdenise@aol.com.

Police Charge Five with DWI

Fairfax County police officers conducted DWI patrols throughout the Sully District, to deter and apprehend intoxicated drivers from Saturday, Nov. 21, at 10 p.m. until Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 a.m. Motorists stopped for suspicion of driving while intoxicated were evaluated to assure that their abilities to drive had not been impaired by alcohol or drugs. Approximately 58 motorists were stopped and five were charged with DWI. Police also made one criminal arrest and issued 31 summonses for miscellaneous traffic offenses. Eight officers and one auxiliary police officer participated.

Meeting on Historic District Design Guidelines

A community meeting to develop design review guidelines for the Centreville Historic Overlay District will be held Monday, Dec. 14, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Fairfax County has secured a matching grant from the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to hire a consultant to prepare new design review guidelines. For more information, contact: Linda Cornish Blank, Department of Planning and Zoning, at 703 324-1380 or Linda.blank@fairfaxcounty.gov

NEWS



PHOTO COURTESY GREG E. MATHIESON

And they're off for the 21st annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot.

Turkey Trot Breaks Records

The 21st annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot is history now — and it was also one for the record books, with nearly 4,000 people participating. The Thanksgiving Day event drew close to 3,200 runners for the 5K race and some 800 walkers for the 2K fun walk.

"It's the most people we've ever had — 4,400 registered — and the most money we've ever raised for Life with Cancer," said event chairman Dominic DeVincenzo. "I estimate it'll be about \$55,000. The community came out in record numbers and enjoyed the race; I'm really happy with the results."

Life with Cancer is Inova Health System's nonprofit program for cancer patients and their families. Each Turkey Trot is run in memory of a Virginia Run resident who died of cancer during the year, and this one was in honor of Lauri Dodson, who died in January.

Aaron Church, 34, of South Riding won the race in 15:44. Next came Kevin McHale, 25, of Clifton, followed by Tommy McIntire, 17, Terrell, Texas; Mark Hogan, 20, Clifton; and Brian Tullock, 27, of Centreville.

Coming in first in the women's division was 30-year-old Meghan Ridgley of Reston in 17:51. Taking second place was Centreville's Colleen Post; Laura Freix, also of Centreville, finished seventh.

First-place finisher among Virginia Run residents was Scott Engelbrecht, 42. Brianna Berling, 16, in seventh place, was the first, Virginia Run female finisher.

— BONNIE HOBBS



Male winner Aaron Church of South Riding and female winner Meghan Ridgley of Reston.



PHOTO COURTESY GREG E. MATHIESON

Community friends and students, who are home from military colleges running side by side, are from left to right, Peter Schlatter and Chip Mathieson.

Hunt Wins GOP Primary

FROM PAGE 1

Nance's 469, according to local Republican Party officials organizing the election.

Alter had said he intended to vote for Hunt, in part because the candidate is a veteran and Alter plans to attend the Virginia Military Institute next year for college.

"He is a military man and I want to go into the military," said Alter.

Hunt faces Del. Dave Marsden (D-41), who had no primary opponent, in a special election Jan. 12. Cuccinelli's replacement will have to be in Richmond for the start of the 2010 General Assembly session Jan. 13, the day after the election.

"I plan to focus on the same things that Bob McDonnell (R) focused on in the governor's race," said Hunt of the upcoming special election.

THE HIGH primary turnout took both the election's participants and the Republican activists running the primary by surprise. A little over 1,900 voters participated from the district, which spans Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax Station, Burke and Springfield.

"I didn't know there were this many Republicans who lived here," said Virginia Run resident Richie Coryell, who had been waiting about 30 minutes in line to vote.

Anthony Bedell, the Fairfax County Republican Committee president, said the local political party thought they were overshooting by preparing for 1,500 voters to show up at the primary's one polling station.

He and others were shocked when they saw a line of more than 100 people starting to run out the door and down the Centreville High School library. Traffic also started to back up down Union Mill Road and onto Route 29 shortly after the polls opened at 6 p.m.

"We had to come twice. We spent two hours in the car trying to get here the first time, but the backup was so bad that we decided to go back home to listen to Obama's speech and try again later," said Burke resident Evan Stoyas, who called himself an independent voter.

Many of those who came out to participate in the primary said they were motivated, in part, by concerns about President Barack Obama (D) and the Democratic



Former Fairfax County School Board member Steve Hunt garnered a little more than 50 percent of the vote in a three-way Republican primary election for a western Fairfax State Senate seat currently held by Ken Cuccinelli.

Party's majority in the U.S. Congress.

"I worry about 'Obamacare.' I wonder if the people who voted for Obama knew what they were getting. I hope they didn't. I hope they are concerned like us," said Susie Bentz, who lives in Virginia Run.

The high primary turnout had made local Republicans optimistic about their chances of winning in January.

"Judging by our incredible turnout tonight, I think Dave Marsden should save his rent money and spend it on something else," said Bedell, referencing the fact that Hunt's Democratic opponent technically lived outside of the district until he decided to run for the Senate seat a few weeks ago.

Marsden, whose Burke house is just outside the political boundary, has said he is currently renting a house in the 37th District and will permanently move if he wins the race.

Returning to Medieval Times

FROM PAGE 1

About 50 performers have been rehearsing since the beginning of October, with another 30 people have worked on costumes and decorations. "Kerry Arnold has been my right-hand person," said Jackson. "She made lots of the costumes and coordinated the sewing."

Senior Pastor Alan Felumlee will be the town crier, welcoming guests as they arrive and, later, bidding them farewell. Before the meal, an original, 15-minute, lighthearted skit will be presented and will include some audience participation.

The feaste consists of wassail (spiced cider), salad, entrée (usually a sirloin strip

with potatoes, green beans and rolls) and dessert. Dinner is served in courses, with each separated by some form of entertainment — spoken lines, songs, a harpist and a brass quartet.

"During Renaissance times, it was customary for diners to entertain themselves by singing and telling stories and also bringing in guests who could sing and play instruments," said Jackson.

DRESSED IN Renaissance finery, the 15-person choir comprises the Royal Court and serves as the gentry. They'll also greet the guests, and two choir members will be the

SEE MEDIEVAL, PAGE 5



The cast and crew of Stone Middle's production of "The Music Man Jr.," with Assistant Director Emily Altadonna at far left and Director Lois Walsh at far right.

'Music Man' Marches at Stone

FROM PAGE 1

ticularly Linda Tobin and Tina Dempsey, who helped with sets and costumes," said Walsh. "I'm also grateful to Westfield High for lending us some costume pieces."

PORTRAYING HILL, the "music man," is eighth-grader Jake Ehrlich. "He's a sneaky, smooth-talking con artist who needs everything to go right so he can get away with a scam," said Jake. "He has to make everybody in town trust him, including Marian, the music teacher and librarian [played by Madison Stulga] and the mayor."

Jake's thrilled to play the lead, and his favorite song is "76 Trombones" because it describes the musical's plot. "Hill tells everyone that music's great and it'll be good for their kids if they buy them band instruments," he said. "The audience will like the liveliness of the performances, the catchy music and the unexpected plot twist."

Eighth-grader Jamie Frear plays Marian's mother, Mrs. Paroo. "She's an Irish woman with one goal — to get Marian married," said Jamie. "But Marian's stubborn and independent and has refused past marriage proposals. Mrs. Paroo's also loud and kind of obnoxious."

Jamie's also excited to have her first leading role and likes the whole cast. "We're all friends, so we fit together, and that helps with our acting and helps our characters connect," she said. "My favorite number is the opening one, 'Iowa Stubborn.' Everyone's in it, and it shows what people in the town are like and their personalities."

Calling "Music Man" a typical love story, Jake said the story isn't just about the main characters and the audience will really like the "period costumes and the old furniture — it's a really neat set."

Portraying the mayor's wife, Eulalie

Macknecknie Shinn, is Ashley Little. "She's full of herself and thinks she's way more important than she is, in reality," said Ashley. "She embarrasses and makes a fool of herself, thinking she's doing something impressive. She's also head of the Pick-A-Littles, a group of gossiping women."

SINCE SHINN'S always loud and dramatic, Little's having fun playing her because "she's different than I am, in real life, so it requires more acting." Ashley especially likes the number, "The Wells Fargo Wagon," because "everyone's all excited, like Santa's coming, because the wagon brings them stuff."

Stephen Cox plays Marian's 9-year-old brother, Winthrop. "He's shy and doesn't like talking to people because he has a lisp," said Stephen. "But he stops being shy when Harold Hill comes and encourages him to join the band."

Stephen said it's difficult to lisp, act and sing, at the same time, but he's enjoying his part. He said the audience "will like the plot and how Hill changes, plus the songs and the really funny parts."

Playing Charlie Cowell is Zack Walsh. "He's the closest thing to evil in the show," said Zack. "He's an anvil salesman who's insulted by Hill and what he's doing to the traveling-salesman profession, so he wants to get rid of him. He's lots of fun because he's extremely mean-spirited, which I'm not, so he's more of a stretch to play."

Zack's favorite scene is the speech his character gives before starting a riot against Hill. "I get to start the riot by storming out of the theater, and that's fun to do," he said. "The play is interestingly written, so the main character is a kindhearted bad guy and my character is a mean-spirited good guy. So the audience will be rooting for a bad guy and not even realize it."

NEWS

Back to Medieval Times

FROM PAGE 4

12 Days of Christmas,' led by the choir, and it takes on a fun quality," said Jackson. "People really get into it. Then come words of farewell, and 'Silent Night' is sung while the servers and Royal Court depart. The guests listen as the choir finishes singing outside the room, and it's really a magical moment."

She said the whole ambience is really something special. "The fellowship hall is candlelit and looks like it has a fireplace," said Jackson. "There's real greenery, plus banners and shields to decorate it, so you feel like you're in a different place and time, surrounded by the look and sounds of hundreds of years ago. There's singing at your table, and even a juggler, and always someone near you in costume. And for those few hours, all your stress disappears; it's really quite a lovely evening."

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Economically, things do seem a bit brighter out there. We hear anecdotal reports from some local retailers and others that traffic is up.

Small retail shops are part of what defines our community. Their livelihood depends on the livability and quality of the neighborhoods around them. A small business owner pays attention to every detail in his or her business in a way that no chain can.

Frequently, it is the local retail or service person who is active in fund raising for local charities, for fire and rescue service, for local schools and in organizing holiday events. They know how important local traffic issues can be. They have a lot at stake.

Still, it's a different world than it was one or two holiday seasons ago, and many families, even families who feel financially secure, are approaching this holiday season differently than in the past.

EDITORIAL

We want to do things more simply, we want what we do to be less harmful to the environment, we want our children to learn the pleasure of receiving and being grateful without being overwhelmed.

Still almost all of us will be doing some significant holiday shopping in the next month. While you're at it, be sure to spend a portion of your shopping dollars close to home.

One way to be sure holiday shopping comes

with some holiday spirit is to do a portion of the shopping in some of the area's locally owned stores. There is special holiday ambience available by shopping in the heart of a town that is decked out for the season.

Local retail stores, mom-and-pop stores, face some of the toughest challenges imaginable right now. The costs of being in business have grown tremendously while revenues are not.

Competition from Big Box stores, expanded shopping malls and shopping online make the holiday shopping season all the more important to locally-owned retailers.

Everyone will do some of their shopping at the mall. In this area, almost everyone will do some shopping online.

But local shoppers should be sure to save some shopping time and dollars for local stores.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Festival of Sacrifice

BY SABA AMJAD

Early on Eid morning, I get up, put on my best Eid clothes, spray on perfume, and go to Eid prayers. While I sit there, I wonder what is the meaning behind Eid-ul-Adha? The literal meaning of it is the Festival of Sacrifice and it marks the end or completion of Hajj.

The story behind Eid-ul-Adha and how it came about involves Abraham and Ishmael. Abraham had a series of dreams in which he saw himself sacrificing his son, Ishmael. Abraham, being obedient, followed God and obeyed him. The Quran says, "And when he was old enough to work with him, he said, 'O my dear son, I have seen in a dream that I am slaughtering you. So consider, what you think of it!' He replied, 'O my father, do as you are commanded; you will find me, if God please of those who are patient. And when they are both submitted to the will of God and he laid him on the ground face down, We called to him: 'O Abraham, You have indeed fulfilled the dream.' Thus indeed do We reward those who do good. That surely was a manifest trial. And we ransomed him with a great sacrifice." (37:104-108). He was going to sacrifice Ishmael, but just as he was about to, God stopped him and told him he had proved his obedience.

Abraham had always been an obedient servant of God, as displayed earlier when he left his wife and son in the desert as commanded by Him. So, from this act of obedience, every year, Muslims all over the world slaughter different animals such as goats, sheep, cows, and camels. The meat of the animal is divided into three different parts, one for the poor, one for one's friends and family, and the last for oneself. The act of sacrifice is symbolic whereby it reminds the person who offers it that as the animal is inferior to him so he, too, is inferior to God and should, therefore, be ready to sacrifice himself and all his personal interests and inclinations for the sake of God when he is required to do so. Abraham was always making sacrifices for God, whether it had to do with his family or devoting his time to build the Ka'bah with his son.

Eid-ul-Adha is an occasion on which Muslims everywhere are encouraged to make every kind of sacrifice for the spiritual, moral, social, and economic uplift of mankind, especially their own. Although, Eid-ul-Adha is a festival where we all have fun, we should remember the true meaning behind it which Abraham has taught us. That is, to follow his path in sacrificing all that we can.

— Saba Amjad is a Chantilly resident.

'Brighton Beach Memoirs'

BY ALLY MARKUSSEN
BISHOP IRETON HIGH SCHOOL

Celebrating its 10th season, Westfield High School's Theatre Arts Department is off to a great start with their performance of Neil Simon's comedy, "Brighton Beach Memoirs."

First hitting the stage in 1983 and written by the well known comedic playwright Neil Simon, "Brighton Beach Memoirs" tells the everyday problems of the Jerome and Morton families, who occupy one household in the Brighton Beach area of Brooklyn, N.Y. However, the comedy especially focuses on a young boy, Eugene Morris Jerome (Kevin Clay), who is a hopeful baseball player and has just reached the awkward stage of puberty.

Westfield High School's Theatre Arts Department's performance of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" had everything necessary to make it a successful show. From the cast, to the sets, to the lighting, each of the groups worked together as a team to put on a great show.

The leading figures of Brighton Beach Memoirs brought much of the comedy to the stage. Throughout the show Eugene Morris Jerome (Kevin Clay) realizes the effects of puberty while dealing with a chaotic household. Clay did a phenomenal job of keeping character while having some of the most hilarious lines in the show. Clay portrayed his 15-year-old character well, especially when his older brother Stanley Jerome (Adam Thomas) told him that he had reached puberty. Kate Jerome (Phoebe Dillard) played the household mother of the show and did an excellent job in presenting her comedic motherly character, especially when she was yelling at Eugene for hitting his baseball on the side of the house. Though at times projection was lacking, the body language of the characters helped to portray

their emotion.

The supporting characters of this show were especially key in transitioning to the many different problems the Jerome and Morton families face. Stanley Jerome (Adam Thomas), the older brother to Eugene Jerome, did an excellent job in portraying his brotherly figure. Thomas also did an excellent job keeping his character while explaining the awkward subject of puberty to his little brother. In addition, Laurie Morton (Elisabeth Bloxam) never lost her character even though she did not accrue many lines during some of the scenes. Bloxam especially kept her character nicely when she overheard her cousins talking about puberty.

Designed by Alex Butterfield and Annie Dykstra, the two-story detailed set was phenomenal with every aspect from the kitchen to the bedrooms. The lighting, designed by Andy Roca and Aria Velz, also helped to capture the mood of the many demanding scenes, from the moonlit night to the morning house lights. Though some of the use of the lights may have been confusing, the transition of the lights from scene to scene was excellent. In addition, though some of the costumes may have been confusing to the time period, the clever use of different kinds of fabrics was great.

Though comedies are often the most difficult of plays to present, the cast and crew of Westfield High School's performance of "Brighton Beach Memoirs" did put together a truly exceptional show.

Write

The Centre View welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Send to: Letters to the Editor, Centre View, 1606 King St., Alexandria VA 22314
By e-mail: centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

SCHOOLS

The Centreville High School Media Center is holding a fund-raising event on Thursday and Friday, Dec. 3-4 at the Barnes and Noble bookstore in Fair Lakes Promenade Shopping Center. Every time shoppers mention CVHS as they are paying for their purchases, in both the bookstore and the cafe, a portion of the proceeds will be donated by the bookstore back to the Media Center. Centreville High School will bring a myriad of entertainment to the store to celebrate the holidays, including holiday music from their award-winning Performing Arts Department, face-painting, and a kids' story time with special guests.

The Westfield High School Jazz Ensemble, Symphonic and Concert

Bands will present "A Holiday Extravaganza" on Thursday, Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at Westfield High School. Admission is a new toy that will be donated to Our Neighbor's Child.

The Westfield High School Wind Symphony under the direction of Steve Panoff will be joined by Prelude, a group of Premiere Jazz Musicians on Friday, Dec. 11 at 7 p.m. for "A Holiday Prelude". Admission is free; donations accepted.

Chantilly High School is hosting our annual Holiday Art Show on Thursday, Dec. 10, and Friday Dec. 11 from 6-8 p.m. The performing arts department will be performing their Holiday Spectacular show both evenings as well, beginning at 7 p.m.

Congratulations to the following Chantilly High students whose work was selected to be featured in the 2010 CHS Visual Arts Calendar. The purchase price is \$10 per calendar or 3 for \$25. All proceeds will go toward equipment and supplies for the Visual Arts department. To purchase or pre-order a calendar, contact John Adams: jmadams@fcps.edu or 703-222-2241.

Cover: - Jacqueline Kim; January: Rodrigo Ponce; February: Gabby Lutostanski; March: Susan Huang; April: Jane Sun; May: Annie Kim; June: Elizabeth Vranas; July: Ji Yoon Cha; August: Kendall Robinson; September: Jihee Jeong; October: Kevin Nguyen; November: Zeina Ahmed; December: Jihee Jeong; January 2011: Susan Huang.

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11:00 am Contemporary Service	Dec. 24 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

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WORTH NOTING

ONGOING

Our Neighbors Child (ONC) is the local organization coordinating holiday assistance (new toys and clothing gifts) for children of families in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and Western Fairfax. Assistance is made possible through the generous support from local churches, schools, businesses and individuals each year.

In its 18th year, ONC is looking for groups or individuals to "adopt" the special needs of local children this holiday season. There is an especially urgent need for winter coats, blankets and other warm clothing. Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be available by Thanksgiving. If you are willing to help, contact Denise McInerney, ONC Clothing Coordinator at oncdenise@aol.com. For other volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, visit www.ourneighborschild.org.

The Western Fairfax County

Woman's Club is selling the 2009 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors our 24th President Grover Cleveland.

A finely crafted gold-plated wreath of snowflakes, painted in ice blue and white, frames the oval ornament that depicts a view of the White House from the south lawn. The first White House Christmas tree to be adorned with electric lights can be seen through the upstairs window.

The cost of the ornament is \$18 and all profits benefit charity. If you wish to order previous years' ornaments, just ask about that when you call to place your order. Orders can be placed through any club member or by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216.

THURSDAY/DEC. 3

Santa Visit. 6-8 p.m. Free. Santa visits the Centreville McDonalds. Bring your cameras. At 5931 Fort Drive, Centreville.

FRIDAY/DEC. 4

Swing Dancing. \$15 admission. 8:30-9 p.m. beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m. to midnight dancing to the band Rockin' Bones. Hosted by Sue and Gary Caley. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center, Herndon. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

Christmas Concert. 7 p.m. Free. Performing is the Ministering Group, Promise Land Quartet, a Southern Gospel group. At Oakton Baptist Church, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. Call 703 631-1799.

Parents Night Out. 6-10 p.m. For children ages 6-12. Swimming, movies, snacks, activities and games. \$20/first child; \$15/each. At the Cub Run RECenter in Chantilly. Contact Tiffany Daubach or Kevin Jackson at 703-817-9407.

DEC. 4, 5, 6

Fund-Raising Event. Clay Café Studios is hosting a fund-raiser to benefit Fairfax4Horses Inc. Participants will paint horse-themed pottery for holiday gifts. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Fairfax4Horses. No reservations required. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. At 13894 MetroTech Drive, Chantilly. Call 703-817-1051. Go to www.Fairfax4Horses.org or www.claycafechantilly.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

"The Kingdom of Sweets." 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The Joan Izzo Academy of Dance presents "The Kingdom of Sweets from The Nutcracker and "Holiday Rhythms." At The Ernst Cultural Center at the Northern Virginia Community College,

SEE WORTH NOTING, PAGE 11

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5829 BELCHER FARM DR	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$340,000	Townhouse	0.04		SULLY STATION
6055 WICKER LN #A	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$328,008	Townhouse	0.04		CENTREVILLE CROSSING
14617 BAUGHER DR	4	1	1		CENTREVILLE	\$325,000	Detached	0.21		COUNTRY CLUB MANOR
15009 CARLBERN DR	5	3	0		CENTREVILLE	\$325,000	Detached	0.25		COUNTRY CLUB MANOR
14165 GABRIELLE WAY	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.04		CENTRE VILLAGE
14800 EDMAN RD	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$325,000	Townhouse	0.06		LEE OVERLOOK
5024 COOL FOUNTAIN LN	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$319,000	Townhouse	0.03		FAIRCREST
6410 BRASS BUTTON CT	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.04		CENTRE RIDGE
13934 NEW BRADDOCK RD	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$315,000	Townhouse	0.05		SINGLETONS GROVE
14621 WINTERFIELD DR	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$307,500	Townhouse	0.05		SULLY STATION
14277 GLADE SPRING DR	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$305,500	Townhouse	0.04		CENTRE RIDGE
5916 JOVET WAY	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$305,000	Townhouse	0.03		WOODGATE CROSSING
5610 OAKHAM PL	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$300,000	Townhouse	0.06		ENGLEWOOD MEWS
6004 RAINA DR	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$294,000	Townhouse	0.03		WOODGATE CROSSING
14615 SEASONS DR	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$294,000	Townhouse	0.04		BRYARTON
13929 WATER POND CT	4	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.03		LITTLE ROCKY RUN
14280 GLADE SPRING DR	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04		CENTRE RIDGE
13935 WINDING RIDGE LN	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$290,000	Townhouse	0.04		WINDING RIDGE
6336 MARY TODD LN	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$287,500	Townhouse	0.03		HERITAGE ESTATES
14527 BATTERY RIDGE CT	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$285,000	Townhouse	0.06		BATTERY RIDGE
14726 SAINT GERMAIN DR	4	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$285,000	Detached	0.25		NEWGATE FOREST
6312 SHIREY LN	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$284,400	Townhouse	0.03		PENDLETON PARK
14824 EDMAN CIR	4	3	0		CENTREVILLE	\$282,000	Attach/Row Hse	0.03		LEE OVERLOOK
14713 BATAVIA DR	5	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$280,000	Detached	0.20		COUNTRY CLUB MANOR
14721 GROBIE POND LN	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.03		SULLY STATION
6425 KNAPSACK LN	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$280,000	Townhouse	0.05		CENTRE RIDGE
14559 CREEK BRANCH CT	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$275,000	Townhouse	0.04		SULLY STATION
14708 BATAVIA DR	5	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$275,000	Detached	0.20		COUNTRY CLUB MANOR
5668 THORNDYKE CT	2	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$270,000	Townhouse	0.03		STONE POND
14541 STILSBY CT	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$267,800	Townhouse	0.06		CROFTON COMMONS
14145 COMPTON VALLEY WAY	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$265,000	Townhouse	0.03		COMPTON VALLEY ESTATES
6928 COMPTON LN	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$262,500	Townhouse	0.04		COMPTON VALLEY ESTATES
13844 RAMPANT LION CT	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$260,000	Townhouse	0.06		ENGLEWOOD MEWS
14515 CHELSEY PL	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$260,000	Townhouse	0.03		CROFTON COMMONS
6014 RAINA DR	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$257,000	Townhouse	0.03		WOODGATE CROSSING
13922 BATON ROUGE CT	3	2	2		CENTREVILLE	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.04		HERITAGE ESTATES
6720 ROCKLEDGE PL	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$255,000	Townhouse	0.06		CLIFTON TOWNES
14401 SALISBURY PLAIN CT	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.05		NEWGATE
14538 CASTLEFORD CT	5	1	1		CENTREVILLE	\$250,000	Townhouse	0.03		CROFTON COMMONS
14010 ADOLPHUS DR	4	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$245,000	Semi-Detached	0.03		SINGLETONS GROVE
6706 JENNY LEIGH CT	3	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$245,000	Townhouse	0.03		CLIFTON TOWNES
6548 SKYLEMAR TRL	3	3	0		CENTREVILLE	\$240,000	Townhouse	0.03		GREEN TRAILS
5106B TRAVIS EDWARD WAY#B	2	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$235,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			STONEGATE AT FAIRCREST
13932 WINDING RIDGE LN	2	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$235,000	Townhouse	0.04		WINDING RIDGE
13965 BIG YANKEE LN	2	3	1		CENTREVILLE	\$230,000	Townhouse	0.03		SINGLETONS GROVE
14197 AUTUMN CIR	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$225,000	Townhouse	0.03		GREEN TRAILS
14503 SKIPTON CT	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$220,000	Townhouse	0.03		CROFTON COMMONS
14765 BASINGSTOKE LOOP	3	1	1		CENTREVILLE	\$210,000	Townhouse	0.04		LONDON TOWNE WEST
6335 PRINCE WAY	3	1	1		CENTREVILLE	\$210,000	Townhouse	0.05		LONDON TOWNE WEST
14305 CLIMBING ROSE WAY#104	2	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$210,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			SANDERLING
13823 LAURA RATCLIFF CT	2	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$205,000	Townhouse	0.03		SINGLETONS GROVE
5134 BRITTNEY ELYSE CIR #G	2	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$204,000	Garden 1-4 Floors			STONEGATE AT FAIRCREST
13386 CONNOR DR #D	3	2	0		CENTREVILLE	\$203,900	Garden 1-4 Floors			STONEGATE AT FAIRCREST
6001 SUNSET RIDGE CT	2	1	1		CENTREVILLE	\$196,000	Townhouse	0.03		SUNSET RIDGE
14604 STONE RANGE DR	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$195,000	Townhouse	0.03		STONEHENGE
14813 HATFIELD SQ	3	2	1		CENTREVILLE	\$175,500	Townhouse	0.06		LONDON TOWNE
14807 LYNHODGE CT	2	1	2		CENTREVILLE	\$168,000	Townhouse	0.03		LONDON TOWNE WEST

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WORTH NOTING

FROM PAGE 9

Annandale Campus. Tickets cost \$15 each. Call Cynthia Davenport at 703-815-7558 or email kostickets@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5

Scrapbooking Santa. 12:30 p.m. Free. Santa will make a special stop at ScrapbooksPlus to meet the kids and share a snack before heading to the North Pole. At 14502-A Lee Road, Chantilly. Visit scrapbooks-plus.com or call 703-263-9503.

Lane's Mill Chapter DAR Meeting. At the home of member Charlene Gross. Prospective members are welcome to attend. Contact Jennifer Smith at jsmithtot@aol.com.

DEC. 5-6

Church Production. Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 p.m. Amahl and the Night Visitors by Gian Carlo Menotti. At Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway, Centreville. Cost is \$10/person. For tickets, go to www.centrevillepres.com or call 703-830-0098.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 9

League of Women Voters. Noon a.m. Will be looking at future issues to study on the local and national level at its December unit meetings. At the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Centreville. Visit www.lwv-fairfax.org. Contact Susan, 703-780-3902.

THURSDAY/DEC. 10

Santa Visit. 6-8 p.m. Free. Santa visits the Greenbriar McDonald's. Bring your cameras. At 13003 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax.

DEC. 10, 11, 12

"The Music Man Jr." Thursday at 3 p.m., Friday at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and are available during lunches on Monday through Wednesday. At Stone Middle School in Centreville. Call 703-631-5909.

DEC. 10-11

Holiday Concert. 7 p.m. Admission is \$8. Chantilly High School's Band, Choral, Drama and Orchestra Departments join forces in this beloved annual Holiday event. At the Chantilly High auditorium.

DEC. 11-12

Manor's Christmas Feaste. 6:30 p.m. An evening of food, music and entertainment set in the Renaissance period. Members of the adult choir will act as the Royal Court to the Lord and Lady of the manor. Catered dinner and entertainment of a brass quartet, harp, Madrigal Choir, vocal soloists and dramatic vignettes. Tickets are \$30. At Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-2684, ext. 1869.

Friends Holiday Book Sale. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Call 703-830-2223.

DEC. 11-13

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 craftspeople to display handmade works. Master craftspeople will demonstrate their expertise in a range of media, including copper spinning, ceramics, and kinetic sculpture making. Admission is \$7/online, \$8/door. Hours are Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. At the Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Place Center, Chantilly. Go to www.sugarloafcrafter.com or call 800-210-9900.

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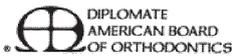
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Denny and the 'Cats Seek Strong Start

Wildcats boast depth, early teamwork on 2009-10 basketball team.

BY REED S. ALBERS
CENTRE VIEW

For Centreville guard Warren Denny, jumping from football to basketball conditioning in a matter of weeks proved harder than it seemed.

"I thought I was in better shape than I was," the senior said. "But after about three to four minutes of practice, I got winded."

Denny, who was a standout wide receiver for the Wildcats' football team this past season, said he still had some rust to shake off before Centreville's Dec. 2. tip-off against West Springfield.

"As a wide out, it's about five or six seconds and then your play is done," he said. "In basketball, it's back-and-forth non-stop. You also have to get back your shooting, dribbling and leg work. After practice, my legs felt like Jello."

But fear not Wildcat fans, Denny is confident that he'll be ready for the season opener and return to exciting the throngs of hometown fans.

"[Our team] has great shooting and our point guards can handle the ball well," he said. "If we just get to work on our conditioning, we'll be fine this season."

The team is looking to improve upon a 10-14 record that saw the Wildcats reach the Concorde District semi-finals. Head coach Drew Murphy hopes the experience of his returning varsity players provide the spark this season.

"I love the experience of our team," Murphy said. "We returned six juniors and three other varsity starters from last year. It's basically our old team except for two players we lost to graduation."

Murphy said having an experienced team already is paying off in early scrimmages.

"There were things that we haven't even put in or talked about that guys were just doing on the court," he said. "We're ahead of where we've been because we have so many players coming back."

THE PRESEASON vibe from the returning players suggests that Centreville could get off to a hot start while most teams are

trying to find their game and work as a team.

After the season-opening game with West Springfield, the Wildcats take on Lake Braddock, Thomas Jefferson and Wakefield, providing an opportunity to get to off to a fast start.

Murphy is cautiously optimistic that the team can make an early run.

"Guys have been playing football and aren't quite conditioned yet, and we have one kid coming off an injury," Murphy said. "But I'd like to get off to fast start if we can."

While fans can expect Denny to be one of the Wildcats' leaders, Murphy also named senior Holland Anderson as a key player who will help make Centreville successful this season.

"He's our sixth man," he said. "He's going to be a key guy for us."

Murphy also cited sophomore Ken Ekanem and junior Jake Brodie as key contributors.

"We're going to be able to play eight or nine guys," Murphy said. "But [Ekanem, Brodie] need to have good years for us in particular."

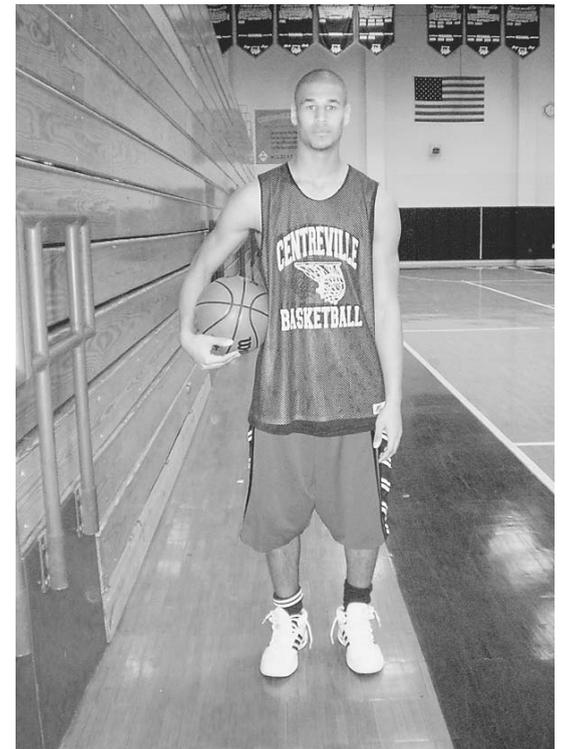


PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/CENTRE VIEW

Senior Warren Denny is transitioning from football to basketball, but the guard says he's ready to lead the Wildcats.

Spirited Swimming to Propel Bulldogs in 2009-10

Young swimmers expected to help bolster Westfield's swim team in 2009-10.

BY REED S. ALBERS
CENTRE VIEW

Sometimes it can take a team leader a few games, days or weeks to identify what a team needs to be successful, but Westfield senior swimmer Will Karras already has an idea of where his team can improve this season.

"We need to bring a lot more spirit to get pepped up for the meets," Karras said. "I do a lot better when people are cheering me on. I feel like every other team does a good job of cheering each other on."

Karras said a lack of spirit, a driving force behind a swim team, is one of the reasons the team finished fifth in the Concorde District — a far cry from the usual strong finishes the program has had since



PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/CENTRE VIEW

Head coach Bruce Andersen discusses swimming techniques with his athletes during practice. "We have a lot of great kids who are strong swimmers," Andersen said.

it started when the school opened in 2000.

Along with an infusion of more spirit is also a new crop of talented swimmers. Karras hopes they can help put the team on pace to finish in the top three in the Concorde District.

"The year before last season [in 2007-08] we lost a lot of talent and we're still trying to rebuild from that loss," Karras said. "But

it looks like we have a lot of fast new swimmers. I want to see how they can contribute and help us."

THE SLOW DECLINE hasn't gone unnoticed, but head coach Bruce Andersen is hopeful that this season is the beginning of the rebuild.

"[The program] started with some really talented swimmers, but not much depth," he said.

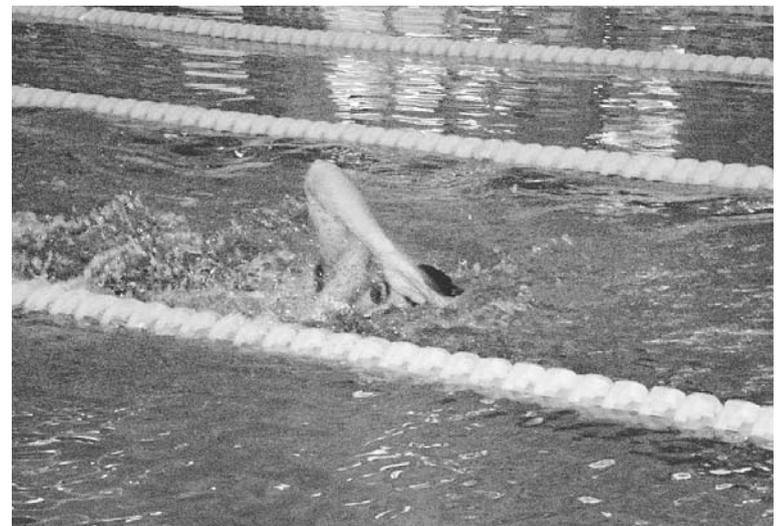


PHOTO BY REED S. ALBERS/CENTRE VIEW

Senior Will Karras works on his freestyle during a practice on Nov. 25. Karras said a lack of spirit troubled the Bulldogs' 2008-09 season.

"We've kind of swam the opposite way. We don't have any big superstars, but we have a lot of great kids who are strong swimmers."

Andersen also said the opening of the Cub Run Recreation Center in Chantilly is another reason the team is hopeful about the future.

"Cub Run has helped create a stronger swim club presence in the area," he said. "As those clubs get more developed, it will help feed

our program."

Although the boys' team is shooting to finish in the top three after a fifth-place finish, Andersen said the girls' team, who finished third in the Concorde District in 2008-09, is poised for another strong season.

"We still have strong girls for distance swimming," he said.

SEE SWIMMING, PAGE 15

Chantilly Minority Pyramid at 25 Years

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

As Chuck Coffin stepped to the podium to emcee the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee's 25th anniversary, the song, "Celebration," played in the background. And, said Coffin, "It's no accident, because we have a lot to celebrate."

Founded by Poplar Tree Estates residents, Shirley and Johnny Nelson, in 1984 to help close the minority student achievement gap in Fairfax County Public Schools, CPMSAC began offering academic enrichment programs open to all students. And before long, things started improving.

"We've been in the business of encouraging parents and young people in the community to make a difference," said Coffin at the November anniversary fete at the Fair Lakes Hyatt. "And we stand here today proud to have made such an impact. When people ask us how we did it, we tell them it's taken faith, prayer and a lot of hard work by a dedicated group of people. We're trying to help every child fulfill their dreams so they can reach their full potential."

Johnny Nelson said the achievement gap is closing in Virginia and "it's in part due to CPMSAC. Rocky Run Middle School got an award for achieving a 90-percent or more pass rate on the SOLs for reading — and that was the first school to which we brought CPMSAC."

His daughter, Meka Nelson Sales, then paid tribute to her late mother, along with the choral group, Young Voices of Chantilly. "Pyramids represent a small, stable base that can be built upon, and that's what my mother meant to so many people," she said. "We remember her determination to have students strive for excellence."

THE GROUP'S young men and women then told the careers they now have and what they'd accomplished, thanks to CPMSAC and Shirley Nelson's encouragement. Shawn Purvis said Nelson taught her "never to take 'no' for an answer and to always do my best. CPMSAC was the first time I saw awards given for education."

"CPMSAC lit a fuse that inspired me to go out and achieve," said Army veteran Carlton Hollingsworth. Added Nikee Goffigan: "Mrs. Nelson taught us self-confidence and that you have to work hard to achieve your goals."

Kristina Foster, a security analyst for the Department of Defense, said, "She taught me that, even in the smallest thing, you need to do your best and it will pay off." Then, next to Shirley Nelson's photo on a table, a candle was lit to show that her spirit, said Coffin, "is still alive."

FCPS Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko said that, in his 34 years in public education, "I've never seen an organization that had the power to make the impact that CPMSAC has. And we look forward to working with you for 25 more years to make an even greater impact on the community."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

Johnny Nelson and daughter Meka Nelson Sales.

Coffin then related a story illustrating Shirley Nelson's philosophy. Several years ago, he told her there weren't enough people to do what CPMSAC needed to do. In reply, she said, "I look at this as the ocean and starfish that wash up along the beach. If we can pick up just one starfish and get it back into the ocean, so it can survive, I'll have succeeded."

The Rev. Jerry Bryant, pastor of Chantilly Baptist Church, said that church was pleased to be part of CPMSAC's founding. And in his invocation, he asked God to "continue to bless our children and all those who teach them."

KEYNOTE SPEAKER was former Chantilly and Westfield High Principal, Dale Rumberger. "CPMSAC always meant to me quiet elegance — a force of a different nature," he said. "It also meant concern for others and miles of smiles from them to young people and from schools to communities." He recalled how, when Shirley Nelson came to his office with a three-ring binder, he knew they were going to have a serious talk. He said current CPMSAC Senior Vice President Barbara Tyler encouraged minority students to join the National Honor Society.

Rumberger said he and CPMSAC's Fran Blair learned about tutoring minority students and began the STEP (Saturdays Toward Excellence Program) at Chantilly to tutor minorities, plus other students needing help with their schoolwork. They later started the BITS (Bulldog Instructional Tutoring of Students) program started at Westfield.

"CPMSAC understands that equality and equity aren't the same," said Rumberger. "It takes inequitable resources for equality to be reached."

"So I commend you," he told those gathered. "The achievement gap is shorter be-

cause of you. This group cares — and it matters." He then quoted French philosopher Alexis de Tocqueville, who asked, "Can a small group of people make a difference? In all of history, they are the only ones who have." Added Rumberger: "Congratulations on your silver anniversary and the work you've done. And tomorrow, you'll go to work again."

The Rev. Eugene Johnson of Mount Olive Baptist Church said that, when he belonged to the Nelsons' church, Chantilly Baptist, Shirley Nelson brought the congregation statistics about the disparity between Caucasian and minority-student achievement.

"Sitting on a pew and addressing us with passion, she shared with the Rev. Leroy O. Payton the need for action, and he said he'd support her 100 percent," said Johnson. "She said the minority population of Chantilly was small, but a disproportionate amount of them were being expelled and not enough of them were in the GT program. She said something needed to be done and she stepped forward to do it."

EACH YEAR, CPMSAC honors the academic success of minority students in Centreville, Chantilly, Oakton and Westfield cluster schools. "At the first awards ceremony, about 50 trophies were given out," said Coffin. "Last year, we awarded over 4,500 certificates during the first three quarters. Then, this past June, we awarded over 500 trophies to high-school students, 400 to middle-school students and 150 to elementary-school students — plus 500 more certificates and multiple scholarships. And it's all worth it because it makes a difference."

One of the past recipients, 2000 Centreville High grad J.P. Gary, does management consulting and holds a finance degree from Morehouse College. "Throughout my middle- and high-school years, CPMSAC was a staple in my life and there was an expectation of excellence. It became a part of me and I worked hard to be recognized."

"The impact those trophies have on students is immeasurable," continued Gary. "But it's not enough to only be helped by this group — you should also give back and help others."

Following a plaque presentation to Johnny Nelson, event chairman Tyler told the crowd, "We reach out to everybody because we can't do it alone, and we thank everyone who's been part of our organization."

Holiday Joy on Tap at CHS

Santa, the Grinch, reindeer and Christmas music performed by a choir, band and orchestra are all part of the annual holiday shows at Chantilly High. The Tiny Tots program, geared toward preschool and daycare children, will be presented Wednesday, Dec. 9, at 9:30, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. in the school theater.

These shows will run 40 minutes. For tickets, contact Mary McVicar at 703-622-7100.

Then on Thursday-Friday, Dec. 10-11, at 7 p.m., will be the Holiday Spectacular, which lasts about two hours. Tickets are \$8 at www.chantillychoral.org; click on the box-office icon.

Attendees may also see the school's Holiday Art Show, Dec. 10-11, from 6-8 p.m., when Chantilly art students display their works in the halls, but the main attraction will be in the theater.

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The Cancer Club



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A club whose membership you don't want in. Heck, a club whose membership you don't ever want to be considered for. A club, though, that can make the ideal claim, as being truly indiscriminate. A club that will, in fact, not discriminate based on race, creed, color, ethnic or religious background or belief, country of origin, level of education (or lack thereof), sexual orientation or any other preference/persuasion one can imagine/create. However, it is a club that will not exactly invite you to join as much as it will tell you that you are a member. To sort of quote Groucho Marx, you might become a member regardless of whether you would refuse to join such a club simply because they invited you to join. In reality, you have no control, well, not total control. You're either in or you're out. And in my brief experience/membership, it is much better to be out than in.

Now that I'm in, though, it is indeed a club. One without walls and secret handshakes, but a club nonetheless. There aren't exactly meetings per se (although there are support groups) and there aren't exactly dues (although there are a lot of don'ts and shouldn't-anymores); nor are there membership drives or incentives to upgrade your membership. However, unlike many other clubs, once in, you're in for life; whether you're an active, under-treatment member or a formerly under treatment/inactive member. Moreover: membership, participation, attendance does not have its advantages. It's been my experience, diagnosis to date (nine months, approximately) that membership only offers disadvantages.

Sure, you meet wonderful, caring, nurturing, well-meaning health care professionals; as well as supportive, empathetic, similarly-struggling, cancer-diagnosed patients – some of whom you see regularly (depending on your infusion schedule). Others you see less frequently, sort of in passing (no pun intended), when scheduled appointments, scans, lab work, etc., cause you to be in the same place at the same time. And, of course, there is comfort in sharing, and knowing that you are not alone, and seeing familiar faces, even if they are faces you've seen when visiting (I use that term loosely) your oncologist or after receiving treatment, is soothing, sort of.

However, as important as feeling a part of something (that is so much bigger than you) and part of a group of similarly affected individuals is concerned, still, it's the being-alone time that can't be prevented. Being left with your own thoughts, in your own personal space – and time, is when the rubber really meets the road. Diversions and interactions with other cancer patients certainly help pass some of that time, and make that time less lonely and scary, but it's hard to hide from yourself (and you know where you live).

It's at the end of the day, literally and figuratively, when whatever you've gained or absorbed from these fellow club members needs to take root once again. Remembering what was said, what shared experience was recounted, what encouragement was expressed, what explanations and characterizations of treatments, protocols, procedures, etc. was discussed and most importantly, what appreciation of some of the pain and suffering you've endured, physically and mentally was understood, which is so helpful and so rewarding that, if I wasn't already a member, I'd try to form a club whose members were so likewise engaged.

Cancer is certainly not for everybody (thank God!), but for those of us already in the club, membership matters. I wouldn't say there are privileges, but there are possibilities.

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

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21 Announcements **21 Announcements** **21 Announcements**

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Back row: Michael McAdoo, Jay Beagle, Mathieu Perreault, Jason Pensler. Front row: Emily Loxtercamp, Zac Cummins, David Tamaro, Tara Hackett, Steven Risi.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Capitals Give Hockey Lessons at Poplar Tree

Members of the Washington Capitals visited Poplar Tree Elementary School on Nov. 25 to give students a hands-on chance to enjoy floor hockey. Capitals forward Mathieu Perreault and Jay Beagle instructed students in passing, shooting and puck-handling drills before competing against each other in a skills competition. After the skills competition, students enjoyed friendly floor hockey scrimmages with the Capitals players. The hour-long session ended with the Capitals donating an entire set of floor hockey equipment to the school.

New Coaches At Centreville

A former softball and basketball player at Chowan College in Murfreesboro, N.C. has been selected as the new varsity softball coach. Bennett is also an instructor at Frozen Ropes Baseball Training Facility in Chantilly. The girls' varsity lacrosse team also received a new head coach. Brian Newell is set to take over the team for the 2009-10 season.

Indoor Lacrosse Registration

Northern Virginia West Lacrosse (NoVa West) is currently in the process of registering for its indoor lacrosse season. The group is also accepting registrations for try-outs in their summer select teams which include U11, U13, U15 and two levels of High School play. For more information about NoVa West Lacrosse's youth sports offerings for 2010, visit <http://www.novawestlax.com>.

Tortorich Takes Gold in Russia

Centreville High School freshman Annalise Tortorich recently competed in the World Junior Elite Power Tumbling Championship in Saint Petersburg, Russia and captured the gold medal. Tortorich is currently ranked No. 1 in the United States in Power Tumbling.

Barondess Signs With Longwood

Westfield High School senior lacrosse player Mary Barondess recently signed her National Letter of Intent to play for Longwood University in Farmville. Barondess was named to the First Team All-Concorde District and Second Team All-Northern Region teams in 2009. She was also selected to play on 2009 High School Girls Metro D.C. National Team. Barondess is an honor student at Westfield and also plays on the varsity basketball team.

Holiday Sports Camp

Parents seeking a high energy camp for children during the holiday break might be interested in the Fit Kids Sports Mania Holiday Camp. The Camp is for children ages 5 to 9 and will be held at the Claude Moore Community center from Dec. 28 to Dec. 30. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and will feature a variety of sports including soccer, hockey, t-ball and more. The camp's goal is to emphasis teamwork and sportsmanship. Interested parties can find registration information at <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov> or call 571-258-3500.

Spirited Swimming

FROM PAGE 12

"We're hoping to keep up our strength there and plug up some holes. We have some transfers that will help our girls' backstroke and bolster our individual medley events." The Bulldogs open the 2009-10 swimming season against cross-town and Concorde District rival Centreville on Dec. 4 at Cub Run Recreation Center.



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to gourmet kit with granite, bkfst bar, FP in Rec Rm, w/o basement. Two updated baths. Vienna Metro-2.1 mi, Cue Bus-2blks. FFX City named 3rd best place to live in US by Forbes Mag. **\$529,000**



Chantilly

Great opportunity and priced to sell! Spacious inside and out. 3 BR/2FB with a nice soaking tub. Separate DR/LR and eat in area. One of the largest lots in the neighborhood. 2 decks and outside stor-

age. Club house, pool, security guard and more... Need property management approval for ground rent. **\$29,800**



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ances. Peek through in kitchen. Lots of parking right in front of unit. A/C warranty until 2010. Storage unit in basement. Nice patio. Agents, please leave your cards. **\$210,000**



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more. Enjoy your gourmet kitchen with 42" maple cabinets and corian countertops, as well as crown molding and hardwood floors in the living room dining room and kitchen. **\$259,000**



Gainesville

Open floor plan with two story foyer, vaulted ceilings, first floor study, big eat in kitchen with center island, family room with 2 sided gas fireplace, luxury master bed and bath, neutral

throughout, immaculate condition, custom shades, solar tube natural lighting, screened porches, one pre wired for spa/hot tub, very private premium lot. **\$425,000**



Gainesville

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