



PHOTO BY LAURIE GRIGGS

**Production members (back row:) Vince Calvert, Charissa Bower, Becky Hawryluk, Sean Wilson, Zoe Hawryluk, Michael Hawthorne, Matt Calvert, Jim Mitchell, Billy Clay, Terry Mason, Tyler Meiburg, Matthew Lanoue-Chapman, (middle row:) Mike Cash, Meganne Johnson, Elise Cooper, Stephanie Rathjen, Amanda Holsinger, Sue Skaddan, Anthony Ribeiro, Cathy Arnold, Kim Lanoue-Chapman, (front row:) Colin Carmody, Bella Lanoue-Chapman, Jeremiah Lanoue-Chapman and Ryan Carmody.**

## 'A Christmas Carol' from Alliance

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
 CENTRE VIEW

**J**ust in time for the holidays, The Alliance Theatre is once again presenting the Charles Dickens classic, "A Christmas Carol," with Centreville's Jim Mitchell reprising his role as Ebenezer Scrooge.

Show times are Friday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 2 p.m., at Mountain View School, on Spindle Court, off Braddock Road in Centreville. Tickets are \$10, adults; and \$8, children under 12 and senior

citizens; group discounts available. Call 703- 220-8101 or order at [www.TheAllianceTheater.org](http://www.TheAllianceTheater.org).

"Scrooge is a miserable, unpleasant miser who's so unhappy that there's no joy in his life, at all," said Mitchell. "The only thing he has is financial success — and no one to share it with."

Mitchell says it's always fun playing Scrooge because "the character's so multifaceted. In the beginning, I'm nasty and mean. But slowly and gradually, through the course of the show, I have this epiphany and become generous and caring and truly value my

SEE CHRISTMAS, PAGE 3

## Our Neighbor's Child in Need

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
 CENTRE VIEW

**K**elly Lavin has just one word to say to the local community: Help! She's executive director of Our Neighbor's Child — the grassroots, all-volunteer, nonprofit group working 'round the clock to provide Christmas gifts for local families in need.

"We're up to 770 families — including more than 2,300 kids," she said. "And what I didn't count on is that, not only is the number of families up [from last year], but the number of volunteers is down, because they've been impacted by the economy, too. Many had to go back to work because their husbands were laid off; I have some 15-year volunteers who didn't come back."

Besides new toys, clothing is also critically needed. "We're getting a ton of clothing requests, especially for shoes, coats and any warm clothing," said Denise McInerney, ONC clothing coordinator. "I originally had 300 requests for coats, and I'm still trying to find people to donate 71 of them. Caps, mittens, scarves and jackets are also needed; we even have requests for soccer socks. And we could really use hooded sweatshirts in small,



**Catherine Crossett (left) and MaryClaire Bentz of Girl Scout Troop 1683 stand by the ONC giving tree inside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart.**

medium and large."

Many of the recipients' stories reflect the severity of the economy's effect on them. The weather's cold and necessities are paramount. "People who in September asked for toys for their kids just sent me a message asking instead for socks," said Lavin. "And one boy just wants shoelaces."

SEE OUR NEIGHBOR'S, PAGE 3

## Help Needed Providing Holiday Food Baskets

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
 CENTRE VIEW

**W**ith help from the local community, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) was able to provide 626 Thanksgiving food baskets to families in need in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fairfax station. Trouble is, Christmas is on the way, and WFCM already has nearly 740 requests for holiday food baskets.

"And that doesn't include the 100 or more families who've missed the deadline, but will still

come in for help," said WFCM's Director of Development Pam Ryan, coordinating the food-basket program. "They walk in to WFCM, in the days right before Christmas, asking if we have any food. Last year, they still came, up until the time we closed our doors."

With so many people having financial difficulties because of the economy — many having lost homes and jobs, but still having families to support — the demand for assistance continues to rise. So help from local residents and businesses to feed their own neighbors

is crucial.

Said Ryan: "Our dilemma is that, as of [Tuesday] — not counting the unexpected walk-ins — we still have 150 families without sponsors for their holiday meal."

All families requesting holiday aid, food or gifts are referred to Our Daily Bread by either a Fairfax County social worker or the schools. The families' names and contact information are then given to Ryan — who tries to find sponsors for all of them.

She starts with WFCM's 31 member churches, plus the Clifton Lions Club. But because of the

overwhelming demand, these two groups can't fulfill the need alone. And since Christmas is rapidly approaching, she's not asking anyway to go shopping for food — but to send gift cards or checks.

"We'd be grateful for supermar-

ket gift cards, in any denominations not over \$25," said Ryan. "We'd be thrilled with them in \$20 or \$25 amounts, or checks in any amount."

Gift cards may be dropped off  
 SEE MORE FOOD, PAGE 3

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**NEWS**

**Parents Examine Boundaries**

**School committees gather information, raise questions.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

The Southwestern Regional Planning Study considering possible boundary changes, student shifts — and even the future of Clifton Elementary — still has lots of work to do, but has already accomplished a great deal. Members of the various committees met on Thursday, Dec. 3, at Liberty Middle School to give progress reports.

“Schools are already overcrowded,” said Union Mill Elementary parent Elaine Walsh, on the Clifton Renovation Committee. “Closing Clifton would exacerbate the problem, if a new school weren’t built. You’d have to put Clifton’s approximately 400 students elsewhere.” She said there’s a 124-student, classroom-space deficit now at elementary-school level, so adding Clifton’s students would make it more than 500 students.

Walsh said Clifton has site constraints due to lack of public water and steep topography. Questions that her committee is investigating, she said, are:

- ❖ Can the school continue to operate on well water, if it’s renovated?
- ❖ How does the renovation cost compare with the cost of bringing in public water?
- ❖ What’s the cost of renovating Clifton vs. renovating other FCPS schools vs. building another school?

“Clifton Elementary is the hub of that community, and we need to consider the impact closing it would have on those students,” said Walsh. “What would their busing look like? And do they all go to a new school together, or get split up between four different schools? What happens to the staff there?”

She said the viability of long-term maintenance is also at issue. However, she stressed that, if renovated, Clifton could become a

model of a green, environmentally friendly, energy-efficient building.

**SANGSTER ELEMENTARY** parent Bob Larsen, on the Boundaries Committee, said his group is reviewing whether the 23 schools in the study are the right number, whether the current school boundaries make sense and whether any other matters were left out. Part one, he said, is validating the issues; part two is recommending solutions.

His committee suggests five more elementary schools be added — Waples Mill, Navy, Silverbrook, Terre Centre and Lees Corner — but not until the beginning of part two, “to get their input.”

“We must develop solutions with budget cuts in mind,” said Larsen. “For example, transportation cuts for the GT program and changes to the immersion program could drastically change whatever recommendations we come up with.”

He also recommended establishing “simple logic” for boundary evolution and correcting certain “inconsistencies,” such as islands of students attending one school while students in neighborhoods

SEE PARENTS, PAGE 20

**ROUNDUPS**

**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](mailto:Linda.blank@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**WFCCA Land-Use Meeting**

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee will meet Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. On the agenda are three cases from the Area Plan Review (APR):

- ❖ Inova Health Care Services

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 6

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# Our Neighbor's Child Needs Help

FROM PAGE 1

However, ONC only has a certain number of clothing appointments for people to select their own gifts so, said Lavin, "Wal-Mart and Target gift cards would really be a huge help. And if there are people who'd just like to make a donation, we'll go out and buy the toys and other things we need."

**LAST SATURDAY'S** toy drive at Wal-Mart and Panther Pickup in the Sully Station area were both hampered by the snow, but that wasn't all that affected them. "We collected more than 100 boxes and bags of toys and new or like-new clothes — but it was half what we got last year," said Lavin. "It's the economy; people are holding onto their things for themselves."

One group that has stepped forward, however, is the Virginia Chapter of Associated Building Contractors of Arlington. Tuesday night, it donated more than 100 toys to ONC. "That was awesome," said Lavin. "They wanted to give to a local organization that helps local children in need. After a lot of discouragements, this was a bright spot — and from an industry that's been hurt by this economy."

Still, with nearly 800 families to provide for — including 80 new families that ONC is still trying to contact to find out their needs — Lavin hopes that any people or groups able to help will do so. "I know people are struggling, themselves, but we desperately need a few more businesses who could take some of our giving-tree ornaments with children's gift wishes on them," she said.

**LAVIN'S ALSO** worried that ONC might not have enough adult volunteers to help package each family's gifts on Dec. 17 or deliver them on Dec. 20. Said Lavin: "We're doing the best we can, but we're all volunteers." Anyone who can



**Stone Middle School students load up a truck during Saturday's snow to take donated items to the ONC warehouse for packaging.**

lend a hand with packaging, delivery, hosting a giving tree or in any other way should e-mail [ONCVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:ONCVolunteer@gmail.com).

"We're going to serve as many people with home delivery as we have gifts for," said Lavin. "We'll have to give gift cards to the rest — if we're able to; it depends on the community."

In addition, ONC sends a package of homemade cookies with each family's gifts and is hoping local residents will help with the baking. Last year, the total was 20,000 cookies, and this year, even more will be needed.

"Any kind of cookies, in any amount, is welcome," said Cookie Coordinator Pam Ryan. "Just put them on paper plates or in Ziplock bags and drop them off Thursday, Dec. 17, between 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Virginia Run Community Center, 15355 Wetherburn Court, off Route 29 and Pleasant Valley Road, in Centreville. Anyone with questions may e-mail [pamelagryan@aol.com](mailto:pamelagryan@aol.com).



**ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin (left) and Angela Gutenson, vice president, Associated Builders and Contractors Inc. with the toys the firm donated to ONC.**

"Every year, the community always comes through," said Lavin, doing her best to remain optimistic. But, she added, "This year is our biggest challenge, yet."

# 'Christmas Carol'

FROM PAGE 1

fellow man."

He said the audience will really love this play because it's "a classic retelling of the story of transgression and redemption and helps us really define Christmas as a holiday."

Vince Calvert portrays Fred, Scrooge's nephew. "He's cheerful — the play's anti-Scrooge — nothing seems to get him down," said Calvert. "He tries to be pleasant and joyful all the time and lighten the mood. It's a fun role — it's upbeat and suits my personality."

He said this production is traditional, but informal, and in an intimate setting. "We start the show with a carol and will also sing them during most of the scene changes and transitions," said Calvert. "It's going to be well done."

Matt Lanoue-Chapman — who usually directs for Alliance — is onstage, this time, playing Scrooge in his 20s and 30s. "In his 20s, he's sort of bashful, in awe of everything around him, a little unsure of himself," said Lanoue-Chapman. "In his 30s, he's got money and is in the beginning stages of his miserly ways. It's pivotal because, in his 20s, he meets Belle, the woman he loves; but in his 30s, he ruins their relationship."

Lanoue-Chapman is delighted to be acting again. "I wanted to do something alongside my children, instead of directing," he said. "They're playing small, ensemble characters, and my wife Kim is playing Belle, so I get to play opposite her."

**ALTHOUGH THERE** are many, different versions of this story, he said it's so strong and unique that it'll really please the audience. Said Lanoue-Chapman: "You can see it in the movies, but there's something magical about being able to see that journey with live people in front of you."

Portraying a female Ghost of Christmas Present is Cathy Arnold. "She's jolly and bubbly — bigger than life," said Arnold. "And she's supposed to show Scrooge what kind of person he is, and what he needs to be, to be able to change his future."

"I love it," she continued. "My character's loud and happy and like Mother Nature. She's trying to lead Scrooge in the right direction, but getting frustrated with him. I'm working with Jim Mitchell, who's a great Scrooge."

Although Alliance did the play last year, Arnold says this script is completely different. "The audience will enjoy the music, and we have a great cast," she said. "There are lots of familiar faces, but also some nice, new ones, plus children."

Directing is Julie Wharton, who teaches and directs theater at Rocky Run Middle School. "I love 'A Christmas Carol,'" she said. "It's one of my favorite stories." This version is adapted by Romulus Linney, a contemporary playwright Wharton met in college, and Wharton said one of the things that's special about it is its focus on Scrooge's childhood.

"I feel like this journey Scrooge goes through is trying to reconnect him with the happy, loving boy he once was," said Wharton. "The Ghost of Christmas Yet to Come I cast as a young teen, and the visions she shows Scrooge are upsetting to her, as well. But this is his last chance to bring that lovable youth back to life."

Wharton's happy to see a simple staging of this story. "It has so much magic and drama in it that you don't need all the high-tech gadgets," she said. "So all the sound effects are done live, right in front of the audience; it should be fun. The characters will be colorful and entertaining, and we've peppered the scenes with familiar Christmas carols. And it's very much a traditional representation of the story that people who know it will love."

# More Food Baskets Needed

FROM PAGE 1

at the WFCM food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, contact Ryan at 703-988-9656, ext. 3, or via [development@wfcmv.org](mailto:development@wfcmv.org).

To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying "food basket program" and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. Checks should be made payable to WFCM.

"We're still hopeful we'll be able to serve everyone who comes," said Ryan. "But we really need help from the local community to make sure everyone who needs food, this holiday season, receives it."



**Members of Centreville United Methodist Church with the food they collected for WFCM's Thanksgiving food baskets.**



Elves carry gifts on the North Pole Express.



PHOTOS BY LINDA HELMS

Encore's 'The Tale of Two Santas' provides a host of dance numbers.

# Encore Presents 'The Tale of Two Santas'

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

## Dates, Times And Tickets

**S**anta Claus and the North Pole elves are familiar characters at Christmastime. But will the Claus family lose control of Christmas when the North and South Pole residents start feuding?

The answer's in Encore Theatrical Arts Project's (ETAP) production of "The Tale of Two Santas." This Broadway-style, holiday extravaganza features local girls, ages 9-18. Brandon Kalbaugh wrote and will narrate the show, and the cast of 35 has rehearsed since August.

"They've worked tirelessly to get this fantastic production together," said director and choreographer Raynor van der Merwe. "It's taken lots of sacrifice and dedication, but we want them to be triple threats — able to act, dance and sing. I'm looking forward to it, and people come back each year to see it."

She said attendees will hear their favorite, holiday songs, including some different arrangements, and will "leave the theater singing a tune and being in the holiday spirit."

The South Pole set looks icy in white and blue, while the North Pole set is in red, white and green. There's a train depot, sweet shoppe, elf quarters and a bridge so, besides the musical numbers, said van der Merwe, "It'll also be colorful and visually exciting."

Westfield High sophomore

❖ Saturday, Dec. 12, at 5 and 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 13, at 2, 5 and 8 p.m., at Freedom Theatre, 25450 Riding Center Drive in South Riding.

❖ Friday, Dec. 18, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 19, at 11 a.m. and 2, 5 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec. 20, at 11 a.m. and 2 and 5 p.m., at Richard J. Ernst Cultural Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

❖ Tickets: \$17, students/senior citizens; \$20, adults, online at [www.encore-tap.org](http://www.encore-tap.org) or call 703-222-5511; Girl Scout and group rates are available.

Grace Martin has danced nine years with Encore and says it's like having another family. Each actor portrays one good and one bad character. Her good one is North Pole elf, Cranberry, and her bad one is South Pole elf, Crumble.

"They're polar opposites," said Martin. "Cranberry's bubbly and kind of clueless about what's going on. Crumble's sassy and the sidekick of the main evil character, Crystal. Most of the characters I play are like Cranberry; Crumble doesn't fit my personality, but it's cool getting to play something different."

Anna McQuitty, of Freedom High, plays Noel and Crystal. "At the North Pole, I'm the gentle, kind Noel — Santa's daughter, who's about to become the first, female Santa," said McQuitty. "But brewing in the South Pole, my opposite, Crystal, has plans of her own to take over the North Pole. It's interesting working with these two



In rehearsal: Dancing in the snow.

extremes."

Calling the show "exciting, suspenseful and great Christmas entertainment," McQuitty said "Blue Skies" is her favorite number. "It has a distinct style of dance, and mastering it and the technique is rewarding," she said. "It challenges you and makes you really work."

Chantilly senior Katelyn Palmer likes "the feeling you get on stage, performing for an audience, and they enjoy it." She said this show has new dances and her favorite

is "Dig that Crazy Santa Claus" because "the music is energetic and upbeat. We wear South Pole elf costumes in different shades of blue."

Dancing since age 2, Centreville junior Katie Dudzik plays North Pole elf, Ginger, and South Pole elf, Snap, who's "mad to be trapped at the South Pole while all the North Pole elves have the good life." Dudzik is pleased because "they're such a contrast to each other, so I don't have to play the same role, the whole time."

She also likes the reindeer costumes she and the others wear for the "Reindeer" dance number. "We wear antlers with a velvet jacket and a tail, so it's really cute," she said. "The choreography is more challenging than other dances and the music's enthusiastic, so I feel good doing it. We're all close-knit and it shows when we perform; and I think it's amazing how doing what I love to do can put a smile on someone else's face."

SEE 'TWO SANTAS,' PAGE 5

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# NEWS

## 'Two Santas'

FROM PAGE 4

Chantilly senior Sarena Hutzell especially likes the rag dolls costumes, with red-yarn hair, plaid dresses and green tights. Her favorite number is "Sing a Little Song" because "we dance with gift boxes and it's like a Rockettes number."

Overall, she said the audience will find lots to enjoy. Said Hutzell: "The plot's funny and interesting, the choreography is really good, the costumes are amazing and the sets are beautiful."

Corinne Holland, a Westfield sophomore, has danced 11 years and plays elves Jingle and Jangle, each other's alter ego. "Jingle, at the North Pole, is jolly and energetic and loves to laugh and have a good time," she said. "But nothing much happens at the South Pole, and we're angry that we only get to make coal, so it's gloomy."

She likes the "Rag Dolls" number because the dancers perform as couples. Holland said the show should be a big hit because "it's a great family show to get into the spirit of Christmas and the holidays."



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**Working on Emergency Response** A group of students from Rocky Run Middle School recently participated in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Lego League competition. FIRST was founded in 1989 to inspire young people's interest and participation in science and technology. This student group of ECOBOTS consisted of 7th and 8th graders: Adam Summers, Arjun Balaji, Brian Morris, Dhruv Gaba, JooHwan Kim, Joseph Ju, Kapil Gadre, Michael Qu, Nikhil Srinivasan and Rocco Barbero. The ECOBOTS studied how 911 calls are taken and how the response teams respond to a car crash site to rescue victims and save lives. They developed a way to improve the emergency response system. The team participated in the Regional event and won the championship award for their research, presentation, Robot performance and Team work.

**Katelyn Anne Bishop**, a 2003 graduate of Westfield High School, has won the Bill Ferrell Scholarship in athletic training, the University of Arkansas announced. Bishop earned undergraduate degrees in public relations and exercise and health promotion from Virginia Tech. She is the daughter of Patricia and Douglas Bishop of Centreville. She is majoring in kinesiology in the athletic training graduate education program based in the College of Education and Health Professions at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville. The Razorback A Club - a group of former athletes and lettermen - worked together to endow a scholarship fund in memory of Ferrell, a longtime athletic trainer and head baseball coach at the university. Bishop is currently working as a student trainer with the Arkansas Razorbacks football team. In the spring, she will work with the baseball team.

**Christian songwriter and vocalist Tifani Wilson** was voted the recipient of the 2009 Independent Gospel Music Awards Female Vocalist of the Year Award on Saturday, Nov 14 at a spirit filled ceremony in Woodbridge. The Fourth Annual awards event is sponsored by the Music 4 Life Organization/IGMA which pays tribute to the spirit and resiliency of a people strengthened by a spiritual foundation and deeply enriched by its gospel heritage. The IGMA's mission is to recognize those whom in the last year made important contributions to the art of recorded gospel music. Wilson was



a performer at this year's IGMA's and also shared an honor as friend Rafeal Ross received the award for Praise and Worship Song of the Year for "Praise Awaits" to which Wilson penned and vocally produced. "Praise Awaits" will be featured on Ross' highly anticipated New Creation Live to be released in January 2010.

Wilson is Minister of Music at Grace Covenant Church in Chantilly. She has been leading worship for 10 years and in that time has had the privilege to learn from and serve with Israel and New Breed, Kevin LeVar and One Sound, Tyrone Powell and Team Judah, Kevin Singleton and Ricardo Sanchez. "My life is all about ministering to the hearts of people, seeing them healed, whole and right with God," says Wilson.

**Olga Corretjer of Chantilly** has accepted membership in Golden Key International Honor Society and was honored during a recent induction ceremony at George Mason University. Golden Key International Honor Society is the world's premier collegiate honor society, with more than 1 million members and over 360 chapters in the United States, Australia, Canada, Malaysia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates. The global non-profit organization provides academic recognition to top-performing college and university students, as well as scholarships and awards, career and internship opportunities, networking, service and leadership development opportunities.



ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 2

- (Fair Oaks Hospital) - proposal for expansion;
- ❖ Long & Foster - proposal for increased density and possible hotel use of its building on Route 28 in Centreville; and
- ❖ Middleton property at Route 28, Frying Pan Road and Park Center Road - proposal for increase in space for office and retail use.

Sully District Council Meeting

Because of the upcoming holidays, the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Dec. 16 - the third Wednesday of the month, instead of the fourth, as usual. It's at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Police PFC Brett Katinsky, crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station, will address the membership. The Land-Use and Transportation agenda includes the Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Comprehensive Plan nomination for the east side of Rugby Road and Ox Trail, plus the Long & Foster, Realtors, Comprehensive Plan nomination for the northwest corner of Sully and Willard roads.

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<p><b>HIGH KICKS</b> 14155 Sullyfield Circle, Suite F 703-378-1000 www.highkicks.us</p>	<p><b>Little Lords and Ladies</b> Biggest kids consignment store in Northern Virginia 14088 Sullyfield Circle, Suite F 703-488-9948 www.littlelordsandladies.com</p>	<p><b>GYMBOREE</b> play &amp; music Parent/Child Developmental classes Art, Music, Play, Ages 0-5 14155 Sullyfield Circle, Suite I 703-378-0144 www.gymboreeclases.com</p>

## SCHOOLS



The Brainstormers team.

# Oak Hill at Robotics Tournament

FIRST stands for "For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology." LEGO Group partnered with FIRST to create a program combining play with learning. Using the LEGO Mindstorm technology to design, build and program an automated robot, FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams compete in robotic tournaments and present their research solutions about real-world engineering challenges facing today's scientists. The 2009 FLL Challenge is called "Smart Move" — about the future of transportation.

One of the Northern Virginia's FLL Regional Tournaments was held on Saturday, Nov. 7, at Franklin Middle School. Six FLL teams represented Oak Hill Elementary: Capital Girls, Brainstormers, Super Computers, Team Dynamite, Lego Squad and Lego Lords. The school

won four awards including the Champion's Award — sending one team to the Virginia FLL Championship Tournament.

Lego Squad won the Team Spirit Award. These 6th graders — Steven Bishop, Joshua Cotton, Isaac Iyengar, Ajay Iyer, Rohan Pandit, and Siddharth Surapaneni and Jack Trahan — became known as the "Congo team" and paraded from one event to another in a congo line chanting "Lego, Lego, Lego." It set the tone for a fun robotics tournament.

The Brainstormers is a rookie team with 5th graders: John Feng, Yash Jain, Maximillian Kolhof, Christopher Nero, Ashwin Srinivasan, Jack Thompson, Ashvin Venkatesan and Jack Xiang. Their ingenuity and unique robot design — along with patience and hard work — earned this team the 1st Place Robot Design Award—

Division 1.

Super Computers, another rookie team with 5th graders — Robbie Bowen, Harish Chandrasekaran, Matthew Dasher, Rachel Eldering, Diego Fontanilla, Grey Golla, Meredith Lawing and Stephen Wehlburg — received 1st Place in Robot Performance - Division 1. They also won the Championship Award—Division 1 — given to the best "all-around team"— scoring high on all four parts of the competition: robot performance, robot design, research presentation and teamwork. Super Computers will now prepare to represent Oak Hill Elementary at the Virginia FLL Championship Tournament on Dec. 5 and 6 at James Madison University.

To read more about Virginia's FLL program, go to: <http://www.vadcfll.org/index.html>.



The Super Computers team.

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## Choose Responsibly

Many families have paid dearly for the mistakes of others; SoberRide offers a safety net.

The season for holiday parties is upon us, and with it the increased incidence of driving under the influence.

The possible consequences of driving drunk and underage drinking are often hard to comprehend. But the stories and grief of local families who have lost loved ones to such accidents should provide a chilling cautionary tale.

William Cameron Schlifke, born in Fairfax and a graduate of Robinson Secondary School, died Monday, Nov. 24, 2008, less than three days after his Volkswagon Jetta was rear-ended in Newport News. He was 22.

Schlifke was serving as designated driver for friends in his fraternity at Christopher Newport University. The driver who crashed into him, Eric Fowler, 20 at the time and also a student at CNU, was arrested at the scene and

charged with DUI refusal, reckless driving and underage possession of alcohol, and later with involuntary manslaughter.

Last week on Nov. 30, 2009, just after the one-year anniversary of Schlifke's death, Fowler was convicted of involuntary manslaughter in Newport News, according to court records. Fowler's bail was revoked and he will be in jail over the holidays awaiting sentencing in March.

Unfortunately, such tragedy is not rare. In fall 2008, a different young man from Fairfax was sentenced to three years in jail for involuntary manslaughter because of a drunk-driving accident on Dec. 3, 2007 that resulted in unspeakable tragedy for three families.

One family lost a beloved daughter after she clung to life for five brutal days; one family has seen their active son reduced to 70 pounds and "unresponsive" and living in a nursing home; the family of the defendant has also seen life as they knew it change.

**DON'T TAKE THE RISK.** Plan ahead, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't available.

But if you find yourself in the unfortunate position of drinking without a safe way home on your own, the Washington Regional Alcohol Program has provided you with a safety net called SoberRide. Take their number with

### Free Ride Home

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service. For more, see [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org).

you when you head out, and be sure any young adults in your family are similarly armed.

Founded in 1982, WRAP is a public-private partnership working to prevent drunk driving and underage drinking in the Washington-metropolitan area.

Parents are well advised to talk to their teens and let them know that if they find themselves without a safe ride home, that they can call their parents to be picked up. There are consequences of binge drinking for teens that go beyond driving under the influence. But it is also important for parents to let their teens know that whatever happens, it is not OK to drink and drive or to get into a car driven by someone who has been drinking.

Since 1993, WRAP has provided over 41,010 safe rides home. Call 800-200-8294. For more information, see [www.wrap.org](http://www.wrap.org)

WRAP's 2009 Holiday SoberRide program will be offered from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. nightly, from Friday, Dec. 11, 2009 through Friday, Jan. 1, 2010. To receive a free cab ride home (up to a \$50.00 fare), call 800-200-8294. You must be 21 or older to use the SoberRide service.

EDITORIAL

## Rocky Run Middle School Competes in Model UN

Rocky Run Middle School came away with several awards from the Greater Washington Conference on International Affairs at George Washington University on Saturday, Nov. 7. Top awards went to Charlie Maier and Shrinath Desai who won Best Delegates. The Outstanding award winners were Nikhil Garg, Keshav Rao, Jay Devanathan and Kapil Gadre. Honor Mention awardees are Rahul Ramraj and Raju Arabandi.

Twenty-nine students participated in the Model United Nations Conference, which is a simulation of the real UN. In Model UN students act as though they are a country's delegates or representatives to the United Nations. Prior to the conference,

each student is assigned a country and a committee. Each committee meets separately and debates several topics of a general subject matter. Each delegate tries to advance the objectives of his or her country in dealing with each topic. The entire committee works together to develop a resolution or multiple resolutions that aim to resolve the issues at hand.

Model United Nations promotes student and teacher interest in international relations and related subjects, increases the capacity for students to engage in problem solving, teaches aspects of conflict resolution, research skills, and oral communication skills, and creates the opportunity to meet new people



and make new friends.

Other Rocky Run students who attended the conference were: Joohwan Kim, Florencia Son, Nidhi Gandhi, Sarah Heaton, Rahul Ramraj, Raju Arabandi, Rishabh Mazmudar, Jack Skopowski, Noah Shin, Samantha Cadd, Sahana Rao, Jay

Devanathan, Kapil Gadre, George Triebsch, Nikhil Garg, Keshav Rao, Matthew Park, James Jang, Aditya Srikanth, Sahil Laheri, Alisha Compton, Aleesha Toteja, Sage Teasley, Jenny Kim, Sarah Mohideen, John Maier, Shrinath Desai, Justin Jang and Aria Kim.



### Adopt a Highway

The Chantilly's SGA has actively taken part in the Adopt a Highway Program since 2008. They maintain a segment of Stringfellow Road that expands from the school up to the traffic light immediately past the local middle school, Rocky Run. Every semester the SGA strives to spend time to keep the road in good condition through collecting the garbage and other litter that resides on and off the road. The SGA went for their first clean up of the year on Oct. 22.

# Voices Raised in Song

Westfield, Stone choirs performing together.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Some 300 students from Stone Middle and Westfield High schools will take the stage, Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in Westfield's auditorium for a free, combined choral concert called, "A Solstice Celebration." Stone will sing first, followed by Westfield.

"The kids are thrilled to be on the high-school stage," said Stone Choral Director Steve Kogut. "We're singing winter and holiday songs — about 10 pieces altogether."

Stone's 150 performers include the Girls Ensemble, Boys Ensemble and Advanced Mixed Chorus. One of the highlights will be "Hushabye Mountain" from the movie, "Chitty, Chitty, Bang, Bang," sung by both ensembles together. Seventh-grader Vivian Kim will sing a solo during that number.

The Boys Ensemble will perform a jazzed-up arrangement of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and the advanced choir will sing "Psallite," by German composer Praetorius. "It's a classical, a cappella piece, and I'm really proud because it's pretty advanced for 13-year-olds to perform," said Kogut. "They'll sing in Latin and there's four-part harmony."

For their closing number, all three Stone choirs will combine to

sing "Carol of the Bells." Then the students will stay and hear the high-schoolers perform so they can see what's in store for them later on.

"My eighth-graders also look forward to this concert because it's when they each meet their high-school, chorus buddy," added Kogut. "They'll get a Westfield T-shirt and gift bag; and when they come to high school, they'll know someone. They'll also see each other, during the year, at choral festivals."

He said his students are off to a "good, strong start," having covered lots of ground since school started in September, so they're all ready for the upcoming concert. "We've put in a lot of hard work and there's a good variety of music," said Kogut. "It's great to have family and community support, and it'll put people in the holiday mood."

**WESTFIELD'S ENSEMBLES** performing will be the Caroling Ensemble, Concert Choir, Bel Canto Advanced Women's Chorus, Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Chamber Singers. There'll also be a string quartet, oboe soloist and African drumming ensemble.

"This will be the third year in a row we've collaborated with Stone on our winter concert, and I look forward to it because it gives me a chance to get to know the middle-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield choral students practice for the concert with student teacher Dustin Brandt at the piano.

schoolers," said Westfield Choral Director Jessica Lardin. "We really pack the house for this. People like the holiday music and seeing the kids perform it."

Student teacher Dustin Brandt, from Shenandoah Conservatory, will conduct one number. And leading the Vocal Jazz ensemble will be jazz clinician Jim Van Slyke. The program contains music from ancient to contemporary compositions by Mozart, Bruckner, Elgar and Rutter, plus African carols and jazz renditions of "Snowfall" and "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town."

"I really like the variety of mu-

sic we're singing, including an African song, 'Betelehemu,'" said senior Jenna Randall. "It's very rhythmic and has bongo drums in the background — not typically used in Christmas songs."

After previously singing a Mozart mass, senior Carey Jarosik said it's "nice to 'move on to different styles' in this concert. Newly crowned "Westfield Idol" Laura Galanti, a junior, said they've all worked hard blending their voices. And, she added, "Our student teacher is directing one of our songs, so that's cool."

**SENIOR** Scott Jarman loves mu-

sic and performing and calls 'Betelehemu' Westfield's best number. "It's really emotional and will have the audience standing and clapping by the end," he said. "The drums and music altogether will make them sway."

However, "How Lovely Are the Messengers" is junior Felicia Franco's favorite number. "It has a pretty melody and the sopranos sing really high — and I like doing that," she said. "It teaches the Gospel of peace and is really moving."

Junior Robert Buckley said this show is "a nice and cheerful way  
SEE WESTFIELD, PAGE 10

## HOLIDAY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### NOW THROUGH JAN. 10

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** Features 2 1/2 miles of holiday light displays. Hours are Monday to Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m.; Friday to Sunday and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$15/car weekdays and \$20/car weekends. At Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. Visit [www.nvrpa.org](http://www.nvrpa.org) or call the Holiday Hotline at 703-359-4633.

### 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

**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.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Christmas Parade of Horses.** 2 p.m. Clifton Horse Society will parade through the Town of Clifton dressed in costumes for the holidays. Afterwards, there will be the singing of Christmas Carols at Kings Field, with a costume judging contest. If rain or snow, the event will be cancelled.

### DEC. 12-13

**Candlelight Tours.** 5-7 p.m. Ride the hay wagon around the grounds, then see the home of Richard Bland Lee in the glow of natural candlelight. Tickets are \$10/adults, \$7/seniors and children. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly.

Call 703-437-1794. **"The Tale of Two Santas."** Encore Theatrical Arts Project (ETAP) presents a dance performance directed and choreographed by Raynor van der Merwe and written by Brandon Kalbaugh. Dec. 12 at 5 and 8 p.m.; Dec. 13 at 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$17/students and seniors, \$20/adults. At the Freedom Theatre, 25450 Riding Center Drive, Chantilly. Call 703-222-5511 or go to [www.encoretap.org](http://www.encoretap.org).

**Christmas Musical Drama.** 6 p.m. Free. "A 1940s Christmas Homecoming." The drama is about a WWII soldier who is attempting to be home in time for Christmas to surprise his family. At Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170 or go to [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org).

SEE HOLIDAY CALENDAR,  
PAGE 10

# RECESSION

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## ENTERTAINMENT

**Westfield High's  
Chamber Singers  
hold a note during  
practice.**

PHOTO BY BONNIE  
HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



## Westfield, Stone Choirs To Perform

FROM PAGE 9

to start off the holiday season. The audience will like the uplifting nature of the songs we're singing." Senior Howie Bouchat said the program's eclectic pieces mean "there's something for everybody; each song is so different from the others."

"The Very Best Time of Year" is the number senior Jeremy Whitehurst likes best because it gets people "in the spirit of giving and cherishing their families while they're home from college and elsewhere." Sophomore Dylan Covert, a tenor, is delighted to sing with the basses on it and says it has some "re-

ally nice harmony."

Junior Michelle Lerch hopes for a singing career someday and loves "being onstage and getting the audience's reaction — especially if I'm singing a really emotional piece." She said this show will also be visually appealing. The boys will wear tuxedos with gold vests and ties, and the girls will wear black dresses with gold bodices and a bow in the back.

Classmate Colby Dezelik is looking forward to singing "Santa Claus is Comin' to Town" — "a classic everybody loves, but with a jazz spin." Overall, he said, this concert's "a great way to incorporate different, holiday songs and is fun for the whole family."

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# HOLIDAY CALENDAR



FROM PAGE 9

## SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**Jazz Holiday Benefit Concert.** 7-9:30 p.m. Clifton resident Jeff Franca and his quartet performs. Proceeds go to the nonprofit Band of Parents, which raises money to fund new treatments for neuroblastoma. Tickets are \$50. At the Chantilly National Golf and Country Club, 14901 Braddock Road in Centreville. Visit [www.bandofparents.org](http://www.bandofparents.org) or call Barb Sanders at 703-830-8131 for tickets.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 17

**Winter Choral Concert.** 7:30 p.m. Centreville High School Choral Department presents "Celebrate the Season: A Winter Choral Concert." All the choirs in the choral program will be performing, along with selected soloists and a student-directed ensemble. A diverse program of choral pieces from different eras and a variety of styles.

Tickets are \$5/adults, \$3/students. At Centreville High School.

## DEC. 18, 19, 20

**"The Tale of Two Santas."** Encore Theatrical Arts Project (ETAP) presents a dance performance directed and choreographed by Raynor van der Merwe and written by Brandon Kalbaugh. Dec. 18 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 19 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 5 p.m., and 8 p.m.; Dec. 20 at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. Tickets are \$17/students and seniors, \$20/adults. At the Richard J. Ernst Cultural Community Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. Call 703-222-5511 or go to [www.ensemble-tap.org](http://www.ensemble-tap.org).  
**"A Christmas Carol."** Presented by The Alliance Theatre. Dates are Dec. 18 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 20 at 2 p.m. At Mountain View School Auditorium, Centreville. Tickets are \$10/adults; \$8/children under 12 and seniors. Call 703-220-8101 or order online at [www.TheAllianceTheatre.org](http://www.TheAllianceTheatre.org).

## DEC. 19-20

**Mia Saunders' "Nutcracker."** Saturday, Dec. 19 at 2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets: \$12 adults/\$10 seniors/\$8 students and children. Proceeds benefit the CVHS Drama Boosters and Fisher House. Centreville High School Theatre, 6001 Union Mill Rd., Clifton. Contact Celine Righi at [celinemrighi@yahoo.com](mailto:celinemrighi@yahoo.com) or 703-968-9530.

## MONDAY/DEC. 21

**Longest Night Service.** 7:30 p.m. A worship service of healing, hope and encouragement on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. At Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, at the intersection of the Fairfax County Parkway next to Children's World & KinderCare. Call 703-620-1977 or visit [www.cof-umc.org](http://www.cof-umc.org).

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 23

**"Ho-Ho Show."** 8:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. A student-directed and produced children's theater show with 100 students comprised of snippets and well-loved holiday stories. Presented by Westfield High School theater. Tickets are \$5/person; \$12/families up to four. At Westfield High School.

## THURSDAY/DEC. 24

**Christmas Eve Services.** Three services: 5 p.m. is for preschool age and young children; 7:30 and 11 p.m. are traditional candlelight services. At Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Go to [www.cof-umc.org](http://www.cof-umc.org) or call 703-620-1977.



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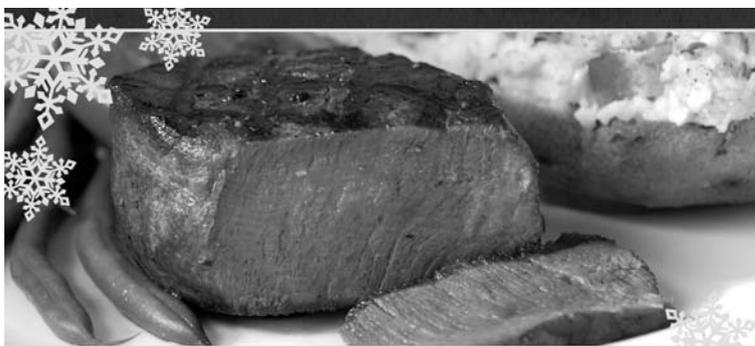
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*—Please call for holiday hours—*  
 Online Reservations: [www.McCORMICKandSCHMICKS.com/DC](http://www.McCORMICKandSCHMICKS.com/DC)

## DINING

### Restaurant Accommodates Smokers

Backyard Bar and Grill has revamped its Chantilly store to accommodate both smokers and nonsmokers in the wake of the state smoking ban which took effect Dec. 1.

Owner Robbie Qreitem has made the changes to ensure that all guests continue to have a comfortable and enjoyable experience, despite the change in Virginia law that would leave some smokers left out in the cold.

Backyard Grill now features a completely enclosed and separate bar area where smokers can come and enjoy themselves while non-smoking patrons enjoy a smoke-free dining experience in an adjacent dining room. The two separate dining areas boast their own ventilation systems.

Qreitem previously owned Black Orchid, and now spends his time between Backyard Grill's Manassas and Chantilly locations. In addition, Backyard Rotisserie Chicken has opened in South Riding.

**Bob O's  
 RESTAURANT  
 & BAR**

**EARLY BIRD DINNER!**  
 4 P.M.—7 P.M.  
**\$9<sup>99</sup>**

**Entrée Selection Includes:**

- Chicken Picatta
- 1/2 Roasted Chicken
- Mushroom Ravioli w/Marinara or Alfredo Sauce
- Herb Crusted Baked Tilapia
- Flank Steak
- Classic Fish & Chips

or Try Our Burger & Side Just **\$4<sup>99</sup>**

<b>FREE        Dinner Entrée</b> Buy One Dinner, Get 2nd Dinner Of Equal Or Lesser Value <small>Not Valid With Bob O's Specialties • (Dine In Only)</small> BOB O'S RESTAURANT & BAR • 703-961-2800 <small>With this coupon. One coupon per table. Cannot be combined        with other offers or with Early Bird Dinner. Expires 1/15/10</small>	<b>20% OFF        Your Food Check</b> Dine In Only BOB O'S RESTAURANT & BAR • 703-961-2800 <small>With this coupon. One coupon per table. Cannot be combined        with other offers or with Early Bird Dinner. Expires 1/15/10</small>
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# WORTH NOTING

To have community events listed in Centre View, e-mail to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Call Steve Hibbard at 703-778-9412.

## ONGOING

**Music Education Program.** Offered through St. Johns Episcopal Church through the Royal School of Church Music. Learn to sing, read music and music theory. Grades 1-5 meet Sundays at 12:15 p.m. for rehearsal and study; Grades 6-12 meet Sundays at 4:30 p.m. for rehearsal and study. At 5649 Mt. Gilead Road, Centreville. Visit [www.StJohnsCentreville.org](http://www.StJohnsCentreville.org). Call 703-803-7500.

## WINTER BREAK

**Winter Break Animation Camp.** Stop Motion Animation Camp for children ages 8-11. Children will create their own cartoon character, motion toys, take pictures for their production and develop an art project. Two sessions of two days each: Dec. 23 and 24, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Dec. 30-31, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church, Chantilly. Cost is \$130 for one; \$220 for both sessions (includes supplies). Call 703-327-9370 or visit [www.artsmartstudio.biz](http://www.artsmartstudio.biz).

## ONGOING

**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. 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.

## 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. 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 in Chantilly, 4320 Chantilly Place Center, Chantilly. Go to [www.sugarloafcrafter.com](http://www.sugarloafcrafter.com) or call 800-210-9900.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 11

**Swing Dancing.** 8:30-9 beginner lesson; 9 p.m. to midnight dancing. With the Daryl Davis Band, a mix of rock and roll, rhythm and blues and swing standards. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

**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.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 12

**Model Train Displays.** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. This event is especially for families with children, and will feature multiple displays: Lionel, HO, Lego and a Wooden train area for hands on fun. At Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Call 703-263-1188.

**"Forever Together."** 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Holiday pet food drive to collect pet food for needy pets in the area. Sponsored by the Westfield High School DECA. All donations go to the Humane Society's Ani-Meals program. At Weber's Pet Supermarket, 14508-G Lee Road, Chantilly. Contact Daisy Robles Johnson at [daisy.johnson@fcps.edu](mailto:daisy.johnson@fcps.edu) or 703-488-6300

**Care Packages Drive.** 9 a.m. to noon. Drop off donated items at any local Moe's Southwest Grill for a big packaging party to support local troops. At Moe's Southwest Grill of Chantilly and South Riding.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 13

**Gift-Making Workshop.** 3:30-5:30 p.m. An opportunity for children to make and wrap gifts for family and friends. At St. John's Episcopal Church, 5649 Mount Gilead Road, Centreville. Call 703-803-7500.

**Arches and Ridges for Boys and Girls.** 11 a.m.-Noon. Over 800,000 children go missing every year, so keep your family safe by having your child's fingerprints and other crucial information to give to authorities in the worst-case scenario. Sponsored by the National Child Identification Program, the American Football Coaches Association, and the Society of Former Special Agents of the F.B.I., this Eagle Scout project will help keep your family safe by conducting free fingerprinting of children from ages 4-18 at the Lord of Life Lutheran Church at 13421 Twin Lakes Dr., Clifton, VA 20124. All fingerprints and other information will be retained by family. Parent/guardian must accompany child during the process. All participants will be entered in a raffle to win an iPod Nano or a Fuzion Scooter. Contact Life Scout Tejas Aralere at 703-830-7278.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 18

**Swing Dance.** 8:30-9 p.m. beginner lesson; 9 p.m. to midnight dancing. \$15 admission. With the band King Teddy, specializing in swing, rockabilly and jump blues. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

**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.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 19

**Education Planning.** 6:30-8 p.m. Presented by Emily Dupre, MFS Investments. At Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc., 5870 Trinity Parkway, Suite 100, Centreville. RSVP to Christopher D. Allen, Advanced Financial Advisor, at 703-825-2382.

## SUNDAY/DEC. 20

**Christmas Bird Count.** Volunteers will count birds in a circle around Centreville. The area includes Manassas National Battlefield, Bull Run Regional Park, undeveloped areas along Bull Run Post Office Road and Dulles Airport, and many other locations. Sponsored by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia. Visit [www.audubonva.org](http://www.audubonva.org) or [info@audubonva.org](mailto:info@audubonva.org) or call 703-256-6895.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 23

**Open House.** Sponsored by Centreville Preschool Inc. Registration packets will be available for the 2010-2011 school year. Morning and afternoon co-op and non co-op classes are available to children who turn 3 or 4 by Sept. 30, 2010. A beginners non co-op morning class is offered to children who turn 2 1/2 by Sept. 30. At 13196 Braddock Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-5656 or email [register@centrevillepreschool.com](mailto:register@centrevillepreschool.com).

**People generally quarrel because they cannot argue.**  
—G. K. Chesterton

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**Celebrate Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church**

<b>Sunday Worship Services</b> 8:00 am & 9:30 am Celebration Service	<b>Dec. 18, 19 &amp; 20</b> 7:00 pm Christmas Musical (Childcare available for ages 0-5)
11:00 am Contemporary Service	<b>Dec. 24</b> 4:00 pm Family Christmas Eve Service 6:00 pm & 8:00 pm Candlelight Christmas Eve Services

**Sunday Bible Study**  
9:30 am & 11:00 am

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703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org

*Warm People ~ Hot Coffee  
Come in for a serving of both this Sunday*

**Centreville United Methodist Church**

**Sunday Worship Services**  
8:15 AM  
9:30 AM  
11:00 AM  
Contemporary Service in the ROC  
11:02 AM



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6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121  
Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28



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**Centreville United Methodist Church**

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 Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m.  
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Pastor James & First Lady Ada Vanison, Founders



**Worship Services:**  
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 Wednesday Service 8 PM

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**Come Worship with us at Centreville Presbyterian Church**

**Sunday Services**  
 8:15 & 9:45am Praise & worship  
 11:15 Traditional

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 703-830-0098  
 www.centrevillepres.com



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*A Family Church Where Every Person is Loved And Cared For*

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 (1st, 3rd, 5th weeks of the month)  
 11:00 - Morning Prayer & 9:00 - Holy Communion  
 (2nd, 4th weeks of the month)

(CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY)  
 13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA  
 703-830-3176



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Worship Service:	10:00 AM
Children's & Youth Church:	10:00 AM
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Wednesday Bible Study (Includes Youth Classes)	7:00-9:00 PM

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 Centreville, VA 20120  
 Phone: 703-830-8769  
 Fax: 703-830-6718  
 Website:  
[www.mountolive-church.org](http://www.mountolive-church.org)  
 Email:  
[mtolive@mountolive-church.org](mailto:mtolive@mountolive-church.org)



Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor  
 6600 OLD CENTREVILLE ROAD CENTREVILLE, VA 20121

# FAITH

## MONDAY/DEC. 21

**Longest Night Service.** 7:30 p.m. A worship service of healing, hope and encouragement on the Winter Solstice, the longest night of the year. At Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, at the intersection of the Fairfax County Parkway next to Children's World & KinderCare. Call 703-620-1977 or visit [www.cof-umc.org](http://www.cof-umc.org).

## THURSDAY/DEC. 24

**Christmas Eve Services.** Three services: 5 p.m. is for preschool age and young children; 7:30 and 11

p.m. are traditional candlelight services. At Community of Faith United Methodist Church, 13224 Franklin Farm Road, Herndon. Go to [www.cof-umc.org](http://www.cof-umc.org) or call 703-620-1977.

**Congregation Yad Shalom**, located in Centreville, provides a variety of programs in a traditional format with a modern flair. It openly invites inquiries about participation in these special activities by the local community. There are a number of exciting activities for the family:

- Join the Congregation for a special Chanukah celebration on Sunday, Dec. 13 at 6:30 p.m. - check the Web site for details.

- Join the Congregation for a Saturday Shabbat service with Cantor Zucker on Dec. 19 at 10 a.m. at Little Rocky Run Community Center # 3 (near Centreville High School).
- Enjoy dinner with the Congregation on Dec. 25, at one of our local restaurants.

For more information and/or directions, contact the Congregation at 703-579-6079, or visit [www.yadshalom.com](http://www.yadshalom.com).

**Liberty Middle School in Clifton** will serve as the new temporary worship location for the congregation of Mount Olive Baptist Church while their new facility is built on the church's current Centreville site.

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**VIRGINIA MARKER HISTORY**  
VOLUME II  
Northern Virginia Region

# Charger Girls Seek Consistency in December

**Chantilly starts 1-1, but looks for point guards to step up for offense.**

BY REED S. ALBERS  
CENTRE VIEW

**C**hantilly girls' basketball head coach Valerie Allen survived a rough sports weekend.

First the Pittsburgh native's beloved Steelers dropped a game to the Oakland Raiders on Sunday, Dec. 6 and then her Lady Chargers lost their season-opener 41-34 on Dec. 3 to McLean.

"The Steelers didn't want to play fourth-quarter defense and I guess my team didn't either," she said jokingly.

Fortunately, the poor weekend didn't spill over into the girls' second game of the year, a 73-51 victory over Yorktown on Dec. 8.

With a 1-1 record to start the year, Allen said it's time for the Lady Chargers to get back to work and continue improving.

The second-year coach already has pinpointed the issues her team needs to address if they want to be successful.

Her first item of business: Find a point guard who can quarter-

back the team's offense.

"We're trying to find some consistency in the point guard position," she said. "We need to see who will step up and take that role. It's our most important priority."

**FORTUNATELY FOR ALLEN**, she has five candidates for the job and all bring a different style of game to the team.

"I have to find the one or two who can be consistent every night," she said. "I feel like I can move them around and try to see what works the best for us right now."

One of the possible point guards is sophomore Katrina Hutzell who scored 12 points in the Chargers' victory over Yorktown.

"I see the floor well, especially on fast breaks," she said. "I like to distribute the ball and get it down the court."

Another point guard prospect is senior Katie Poe who said she doesn't view competing for the position as a distraction.

"If one of us is having a bad day on the court, we can back each other up," she said. "Different teams offer different styles and one of us might be better for that team."

Another challenge for Allen is acclimating her roster to varsity-level play.

"We have eight seniors on the team and it seems like a lot of

experience," she said. "Of those eight seniors, two were two-year junior varsity kids and only three started [on varsity] last year."

**WITH SUCH** an older, inexperienced team, Allen said the team's success will be determined by how fast her older players grow into their new competition.

"I'm going to lose 50 percent of my team next year," she said. "We have to build upon what we have, not what we have coming up."

The Chargers won't play a Concorde District team until Jan. 8 when they face Robinson. Allen said the team's December schedule is a good proving ground for her team.

Chantilly's second week of play begins against Madison on Dec. 11. The team will face Hayfield, West Springfield and Wakefield before the annual Pohanka Chantilly Classic Basketball Tournament over the holiday break.

"We have a tough schedule in December," Allen said. "It's going to get us ready for Concorde District play."

Despite the 1-1 start, Allen isn't worried that her team won't be successful this season. The early hiccups will breed winning later on, she adds.

"It's the little details that we need to take care of now," Allen said. "It's not about how we start. It's how we finish."



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

**Senior forward Jessica Rowe grabs the opening tip-off of the Lady Chargers' basketball season. The girls lost their season-opener to McLean 41-34 on Dec. 3.**

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Chantilly Finishes First and Second At BRYC Tourney

Two teams from the Chantilly Travel Basketball teams faced off in the finals of the Braddock Road Youth Club's Thanksgiving Tournament on Nov. 29.

Both teams came to the game undefeated in their round-robin pools.

The team coached by Travis Irby took home the title by defeating Bill Smith's squad.

### Savage, Fridy Lead Chargers To 2-0 Start

While the Chantilly girls' team is still working out some kinks in their game, the boys' basketball team started their first week of season



**Coach Irby's Chantilly basketball team. From right to left, back row: Travis Irby, Jack Chapman, Spencer Wallace, Michael Procinsky, Austin Margarida, Miles Lindsey, Asst. Coach Bob Sargent. Second row: Jay Bowen, Eric Tram, Christopher Gepford, Teddy Mondloch. Front: Bobby Lam.**

red-hot.

The Charger boys opened the season with a 64-25 drubbing of Madison on Dec. 2.

"We played pretty well," head coach Jim Smith said. "We were good defensively and only gave up

25 points in the game and seven in the first half."

The Chargers' offensive explosion was led by junior guard Kethan Savage who led all Chargers in scoring with 22 points, but Chantilly's center John Manning suffered an injury during the game.

According to Smith, during a charge, Manning bit down on his tongue causing the large center to need medical attention.

"He's got 16 stitches in his tongue," Smith said. "He's getting the stitches out and hopefully he'll be ready for the tournament we play this weekend."

Fortunately for the Chargers, Chantilly's big-man was able to return to the floor on Dec. 8 for the team's 55-37 victory over Yorktown.

Senior forward Adam Fridy led Chantilly in scoring with 23 points in the win.

The Chargers next games will be at the Gonzaga D.C. Classic Basketball Tournament on Dec. 10 through 12.

### Indoor Lacrosse

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 tryouts in its 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>.

### Holiday 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. Go to <http://webtrac.loudoun.gov> or call 571-258-3500.

# SCHOOLS

**Paul VI Catholic High School** students recently entered the local 2009 Voice of Democracy Competition sponsored by the Veteran of Foreign Wars. Junior Stephanie Davis won first place and junior Frankie Marrero earned third place. Stephanie's speech has been forwarded on to the regional round of competition. Created in 1947, the Voice of Democracy scholarship program is an audio-essay contest for high school students sponsored by the Veteran of Foreign Wars in grades 9-12 that annually provides more than \$3 million in scholarships. The Voice of Democracy program is designed to foster patriotism by allowing students the opportunity to voice their opinion in a three- to five-minute essay based on an annual theme. This year's theme was "Does America Still Have Heroes?"

**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.

On Monday, Nov. 23, some 117 Centreville High School students were honored for receiving straight A's on their first quarter report cards. Students were honored with a breakfast and each received a certificate of recognition. The students honored were: Sabrine Ahmed Iqbal, Joanna Ahn, Rachel Avery, Peter Bahng, Christopher Bark, Sodbilig Bayarmagnai, Kseniya Belik, Andrew Belloli, David Bertoglio, Dylan Bezzini, Ahmad Bilal, Nicholas Bilyeu, Andrew Bongardt, James Byun, Lauren Catalano, Randy Chaing, Sung Cho, Jeong A Cho, Younhee Choi, Michael Chon, Borahmie Chon, Suk Won Chung, Bobbie Chung, Holly Clark, Marlo Clingman, Jennifer Conner, Thomas Cramp, Steven Crane, Juliana Coumo, Anton Dahbura, Kylene Daily, Michael Donovan, Ellen Dranginis, Daniel Drangtsveit, Rebecca Ellis, Bret Fite, Alaina Forte, Catherine Fu, Jacob Fulkerson, Deep Gandhi, Anand Gandhi, John Germanis, Rishi Gupta, Hayley Harris, Kelly Hicks, Connor Howell, Erika Hubbard, Lauren Hunt, Megan Hutcheson, Chae Wook Hwang, Noori Hyun, Won Young Jeong, Kelsey Kallapos, Taeho Kang, David Kilpatrick, Cha Hyun Kim, Sa-Reum Kim, Beom Jun Kim, Da Hyun Kim, Jiwon Kim, Brandon Kim, Sung Do Kim, Yoonah Kim, Yoonah Kim, Lora Kim, Christine Kim, Judith Kim, Christian Knoble, Rachel Knutti, Yoon Ko, Joshua Kosters, Andrew Kurowski, Matthew Lapuz, Michael Lapuz, Thomas Le, Eleun Lee, Young Jun Lee, Min Gi Lee, Maria Lee, Paul Lee, Chang-Won Lee, Elga Lee, Adrienne Lewis, Erin Lindgren, Peter Lizza, Valery Luna, Carolyn Macek, Lauren Maginness, Kevin Malachowski, Maaz Malik, Laura Marrow, Taylor Morrow, Anna McKittrick, Emily McLenigan, Mari Kate McMahan, Amanda Michaels, Lexi Moles, Tasmia Moulvi, Alyssa Muggleworth, Samantha Mullen, Megan Murphy, Richa Nambella, Hajra Nashin, Sarah Nawab, Khanh Hung Nguyen, Nhut Nguyen, Christopher Nguyen, Quang Nguyenlu, Peter Nixon, Sara Oh, Seo-yoon Ok, Rachel Orlovsky, Alexandra Peterson, Mark Piatkowski, Sydney Pryor, Zachary Rader, Jasmine Rangi, Sapna Rao, Kristina Rathjen, Seher Raza, Omar Raza, Paige Reaman, Sang A Rhim, Matthew Rice, Jenna Richmond, David Riedel, Joshua Rimer, Julia Rivera, Jeffrey Roland, Bennett Salmon, Thomas Schneider, Sean Scott, Damanjit Singh, Pravneet Singh, Matthew Smirich, Jenny Smith, Warren Smith, Jung-Ho Sohn, Daniel Son, Keun Song, Kathrine Steinbach, Jacob Strauch, Georgeanna Stuebner, Bo-Won Suh, Aaron Sulkin, Chantelle Tait, Lee Teng, Chumma Thean, Jeena Thomas, Nicholas Tisinger, Michelle Tran, Danvy Tran, Connie Trihn, Sonal Vijayanagar, Nicholas Visos, Jonathon Vu, Cameron Walter, Lauren Waters, Daniel Weisz, Danielle Wilbur, Connor Wilhelm, Rachel Wills, Christopher Winans, Hannah Woodruff, Ho Jin Yang, Chang-Shing Yoon, Sarah Yoon, Esther Yoon, David Yu, Seung Wan Yu, Joshua Zarger, and Alexandra Zeller.

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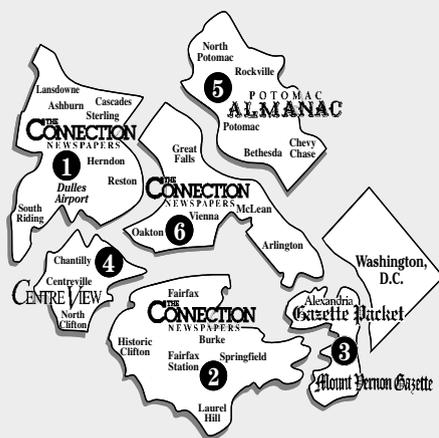
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# Mind Games



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

First, the good news (make that the Tony-the-Tiger, GREAT NEWS!), the results of my first diagnostic scans (M.R.I. Brain, CT upper torso and Full Body Bone) in four months showed my tumors are "Essentially stable," which I can live with (pun intended). Medically speaking/layman interpreting this means, movement and/or growth not indicated (I'm paraphrasing). Over the phone (how I received the news) my oncologist's nurse characterized these results as "Good news," (oncologists and/or their nurses are not prone to hyperbole). Nevertheless, a day later when I saw my oncologist at The Infusion Center (for my every-three-week chemotherapy) semi unexpectedly, he walked over to where I was sitting in my BarcaLounger while being infused, gave me a big smile, gestured two thumbs up and said, "You're doing great!" Now that's how you make a cancer patient feel like smiling.

And smile I did, and then I called, texted, e-mailed Team Lourie and shared the story; smiles and atta boys all the way around. It was a super day and an unexpected but most appreciated response from my oncologist. However, there is bad news, or rather good news which must be understood and placed in its proper place/context.

As I found/find myself talking/thinking/writing about this "good news," I have to realize that I'm not out of the woods, yet, by any means. In fact, I'm still in the woods, and will be there for the rest of my life. The question is, whether I'll be able to see the forest save for the trees, all the while remaining under that semi cover of wooded darkness. Meaning, I haven't turned a corner, I just haven't fallen off a cliff. All of which I can live with (hopefully for much longer than my initial diagnosis/prognosis), but in so living with it, what I am living with is, uncertainty. Not so much daily (I'm over that kind of mental anguish), but definitely quarterly when these scans are cycled to schedule again.

Unless I feel some symptoms, which diagnosis to date – and to a lesser degree, chemotherapy to date, I haven't/I don't. Pretty much what I have to go by (live with) are the results of these scans. They are the tale of the tape. Whatever I feel, whatever I think, whatever happens to me and my body; good, bad or indifferent, will be diagnostically confirmed and/or explained on a quarterly basis (by these scans), unless some more obvious circumstance occurs.

Now the task becomes to try to trick/deceive/obfuscate my brain into minding its own business (for its own good of course), sticking to the few facts in hand, not exaggerating the positive – or the negative, reports either, quite frankly, and the most difficult challenge, trying to find some intellectual balance between the known and the unknown.

As such, face value becomes the order of the day; heck, not just the day, but the week, the month, the quarter, etc. I can't get too high or too low. I must remain positive and only worry about the things I can control and try (and it's a HUGE try) not to worry about the things I can't control. I must learn to take the good with the bad and perhaps even more importantly, learn to take the bad with the good.

This column has been yet another attempt in an ongoing effort, to find peace, serenity, understanding, tolerance, patience and acceptance of my situation; stage IV lung cancer. Every day it's the same thing, only different. Yet every day matters. For the time being, I'm OK. The news is, not bad. It may – or may not be – temporary. Only time will tell. But so far, so good.

It's just hard not knowing what's likely to happen next.

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

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
On December 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia, the Town Council of the Town of Clifton will hold a public hearing on a lease of Town-owned property located at 7137 Main Street, Clifton Virginia, known as the "Pink House" property. The public hearing will be held pursuant Virginia Code Section 15.2-1800 (disposal of public property). The public hearing was authorized at a special meeting of the Town Council on November 22, 2009. Copies of the rental criteria are available for public inspection at 7150 Main Street, Clifton Virginia.

21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements    21 Announcements

**Notice of Application to Establish a Branch Office**

Notice is hereby given that Burke & Herbert Bank & Trust Company of 100 South Fairfax Street, Alexandria, VA 22314, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to establish a Branch Office at 14122 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 22031.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments, in writing, with the regional director (DSC) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its regional office located at Suite 800, 10 Tenth Street, NE, Atlanta, Georgia 30309-3906, not later than 15 days after the date of this publication, unless the comment period has been extended or reopened in accordance with regulation 303.9 (b)(2). The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

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## Shamrocks Go Undefeated, Take Championship

The SYA U-10 Girls Soccer team "the Shamrocks" completed an undefeated season with the 2009 Championship at Kincheloe in Clifton, on Sunday, Nov. 15. The team members are; Paige Richbourg, Grace Guthrie, Savannah Poling, MacKenzie Karl, Niki McNamara, Lauren Evers, Claire McKittrick, Payton Moore, Carly Duncan and Sarah Kate Simmons. The Shamrocks are coached by Jim Richbourg and Mark Guthrie.

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# Parents Examine School Boundaries

FROM PAGE 2

all around them attend a different school. Representing Liberty Middle School, Al Francese said his committee investigated FCPS building a new elementary school next to Liberty or on some other site. "We believe the heavy overcrowding isn't here, near Liberty," he said, adding that the overcrowding is occurring near the Fairfax County Government Center and Colin Powell Elementary. If a school were built on the north end of the property near Liberty, it would require "heavy removal of trees on this environmentally sensitive site that's supposed to be protected," he said. "And putting the school on existing ballfields to the south of Liberty may not be possible, either, without violating the integrity of the Occoquan Watershed." Francese said building another school in that area "might create more traffic on Union Mill Road and adversely impact Liberty Middle, so our committee isn't thrilled with this option. He said committee members have driven around the area looking for another site, to no avail. He said a new school next to Liberty might overpopulate both it and Centreville High, just down the street. "The only, real advantage to using Liberty as a site is that it's already in the School Board's inventory. It wouldn't have to buy land," said Francese. "But it seems that staff needs to approve

alternate sites, in addition to this one. And we need to involve Liberty and its PTA."

"**WE DID** a quantitative analysis of the data," said Clifton's Ina Patton, on Francese's committee. "We looked at alternative sites because the overcrowding is in the area from Colin Powell Elementary through Eagle View Elementary."

Virginia Run Elementary parent Cassie Eatmon said her Expansions and Renovations Committee looked at which schools could be renovated or expanded, without it being cost-prohibitive. "We also considered how much capacity they could hold and what [enrollment] limit we wanted an elementary school to have," she said. "The vast majority are 800-900 students, and adding more would push them to 1,000, the size of a middle school."

Eatmon said it costs \$2.5 million just to add eight classrooms and renovations don't necessarily add space. Instead, she said, her committee is investigating "modular units" (trailers) as possibilities, or renovating a school with an addition embedded in it.

But she said none of the schools in the study are due for renovations for years. "We also discovered that, where expansion is more likely to be feasible, it wouldn't be helpful," said Eatmon. "For example, Bull Run Elementary has room, but [nearby] Virginia Run isn't overcrowded."

She said her committee also has problems with FCPS formulas determining the impact of new development on enrollment.

**COLIN POWELL ELEMENTARY** parent Dawn Fraioli, of the Programs and Centers Committee, said both GT and kindergarten classes affect capacity. "GT centers, each with 200 students, are [currently] at two schools that are over capacity," she said. "And some schools have six kindergarten classrooms. We could get to three classrooms if we go to half-day, but we're making no recommendation on that."

She said her group wants to find out how many students entered FCPS this year from private schools, due to the economy. "We couldn't find this information, but think it's important to consider," said Fraioli.

Providence Elementary parent Sue Sarber said her Data Crunchers Committee is trying to help the other committees. "We're getting information from each one and will then come together so we all have the same information," she said. "And we looked at what percent of each elementary school goes to which middle school and high school."

About 40 people attended the meeting and, after the reports, the committee heads answered their questions.

"We need to make sure we have correct numbers for each school's capacity," said Laurel Ridge parent Melody Rudy.

## School Study

Representatives from the following elementary schools are taking part in the Southwestern Regional Planning Study:

Bonnie Brae, Brookfield, Bull Run, Centre Ridge, Centreville, Clifton, Cub Run, Deer Park, Eagle View, Fairfax Villa, Fairview, Greenbriar East, Greenbriar West, Laurel Ridge, London Towne, Oak View, Poplar Tree, Powell, Providence, Sangster, Union Mill, Virginia Run and Willow Springs.

Larsen told her each school would return that information before the committees embark on phase two.

"Realistically, can we change 23 boundaries?" asked Fairview Elementary parent Amy Riddick. "Politically, would the School Board members be agreeable to that?"

"If we develop criteria that are logical and easy to understand, common sense will prevail," said Larsen. "But you also need 25-30 percent of your communities to push the issue. It takes time, discussion and letting them think about it."

"If people get to keep their school programs and not have their children in over-capacity schools, and it saves money, I think they'll be willing to [make the necessary changes]," said Rudy.

At the group's next meeting in January, said Larsen, the final, phase-one reports will be presented, phase two will begin and, with the School Board's permission, the other five schools will be invited to join.

Ultimately, said Rudy, things will work out. "I'm a military spouse, and my children have attended seven schools in eight years and they're thriving," she said. "We're all here to make the best decision for the children of this county. Change isn't easy but, in the end, everyone survives."



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