

Centreville ♦ Clifton ♦ Little Rocky Run

# CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

DEC 17 - 23, 2009

"FROM GRINCH TO CHARLIE BROWN"

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**Stage Manager Alex Cain and Westfield's directors bring in the holidays. Back row, from left: Cain, Emily Howell, Phoebe Dillard, Bradyn Heck, Eric Mitchell; (middle, from left) Melanie Aponte, Serene Peterson; and (front row, from left) Meredith Freeman and Sara Calkins. (Not pictured: Aria Velz, assistant stage manager.)**

## It's Time for Annual Ho-Ho Show

**Westfield High School offers student-directed performances.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

The holiday season is almost here, and so is Westfield High's 10th annual Ho-Ho Show. It's slated for Wednesday, Dec 23, at 8:30 and 10 a.m. in the school theater, and more than 100 students are participating. Tickets, available at the door, are \$5 apiece and \$12 for families up to four.

Geared for children up to age 10, the one-hour show is student-directed and produced and com-

prised of snippets of five, well-known, holiday stories. They are: "The Grinch who Stole Christmas," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "The Chanukah Story," "A Christmas Carol, Abridged" and "Twas the Night before Christmas."

"As we continue our celebration of Westfield's 10th year, we continue with our holiday tradition of bringing a quality children's show to the community," said theater director Scott Pafumi. "It's our gift from Westfield Theatre."

### A CHRISTMAS CAROL, ABRIDGED

With a cast of 17, this shortened version of the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge is co-directed by seniors Eric Mitchell and Bradyn Heck. John Walsh portrays Scrooge; Alice Polonsky, the Ghost of Christ

SEE IT'S TIME, PAGE 14

## Board Honors Mountain View

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Oftentimes, people brand alternative schools as places for students who probably won't accomplish very much. But at Mountain View School, nothing could be further from the truth.

Its students learn, achieve, win academic honors and scholarships and go on to have bright futures — thanks in great part to the nurturing and strong, educational foundation they received at Mountain View.

Last Monday, Dec. 7, the school was officially recognized and honored by the Board of Supervisors for continuing to provide a quality education and foster the kind of atmosphere in which teen-agers

thrive and grow into productive citizens.

"Today was a great day for the students and staff at Mountain View," Principal Jim Oliver said. "We have worked tirelessly in our community to change the image of our school. Over the years, Mountain View's programs have been recognized by FCPS and throughout local school systems as creative, new ways to achieve academic success. Our staff has also been recognized for its outstanding contributions, working with our students and raising the bar of expectation for student achievement."

Oliver said the resolution presented to Mountain View by the supervisors "emphasizes the hard

SEE BOARD HONORS, PAGE 12

## Four Years Prison For Centreville Man

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Before Centreville's Hayung Peter Jin was sentenced in Federal Court to four years in prison for several white-collar crimes, his attorney portrayed him as a kind and caring person.

"Mr. Jin has always willingly and wholeheartedly assisted others and put himself at financial risk to take care of others and take responsibility for them," said defense attorney Whitney Minter. "Up until he made an enormously wrong decision, he was an upstanding member of this community."

Trouble was, when he did embark on criminal endeavors, he did

it in a big way. And on Aug. 17 — with a slew of witnesses waiting outside the courtroom to testify against him — Jin, 46, pleaded guilty in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to three counts of an eight-count, fraud indictment: one count each of mail fraud, aggravated identity theft and using a forged security.

In a statement of facts filed with his plea agreement, Jin, of the Country Club Manor community, admitted operating an Annandale loan-brokerage business. Called Business Capital and Investments Inc., it mainly served Korean Americans in the Washington Metropolitan area.

SEE FRAUD YIELDS, PAGE 9

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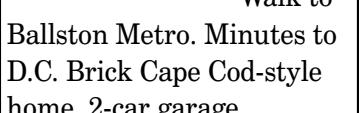
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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**Bob Larsen (on left) explains the current, school-boundary maps to the ad hoc committee members.**

# Parents Examine Boundaries

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

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he 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 Alaine 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



**Al Francesc makes a point.**

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

SEE PARENTS, PAGE 15

## ROUNDUPS

### Misdemeanor Embezzlement Guilty Plea Yields Jail Time

A Chantilly man has been sentenced to four days in jail for misdemeanor embezzlement. He is Gurinder Singh, 62, of 4401 Fallen Oak Drive. In October, he was one of three employees of Fairfax County's Division of Solid Waste Disposal and Resource Recovery charged with embezzling more than \$12,000. According to police, they worked at the I-66 transfer station at 4618 West Ox Road in Fairfax and the I-95 landfill complex at 9850 Furnace Road in Lorton, where customers dispose of trash, recycled materials, brush and other unwanted items.

Based on the type of material and/or weight, the DSWDRR may charge a fee for the waste, and police said these men were allegedly pocketing cash payments from customers. The police department's Financial Crimes Division investigated and, on Oct. 5, police charged Singh and two others with felony embezzlement. On Nov. 30 in General District Court, Singh's charge was reduced to a misdemeanor, and Judge William Minor sentenced him to 180 days in jail, with 176 suspended.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 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.

### Police Release Sully Traffic Enforcement Results

A total of 154 traffic summonses were issued during the Sully Police District's recent, Route 28 Corridor, traffic-enforcement campaign. Nearly 80 tickets were issued for speeding violations. Thirty-one drivers were stopped for running red lights, defective equipment and failing to pay full time and attention.

Traffic summonses were also issued for driving while intoxicated and safety belt violations. The majority of speeding and red-light violations in Centreville occurred at the intersection of Route 28 and New Braddock Road, Braddock Road, Machen Road and Lee Highway.

Sign boards will also be posted along the corridor to encourage safe driving during the holiday season. Some of the intersections along Route 28 where enforcement will be increased include, but are not limited to, Braddock, Machen and Compton roads and I-66.

### Alcohol Stings Nab Three

Last Thursday, Dec. 10, police officers from the Sully District Station Neighborhood Patrol Unit conducted alcohol stings at several locations in the local area. They were part of the Safe December youth alcohol operation which was conducted using a county police cadet dressed in plain clothing to purchase alcohol.

The cadet entered stores and tried to purchase alcohol. If asked whether he was 21 years old, the cadet answered truthfully. If asked for identification, he said he had none with him. If the alcohol sale took place, the plain-clothed officer would take possession of the alcohol and place the appropriate charge(s), with help from the team's uniformed officer.

During the sting, 23 locations were entered, with three arrests made for the alleged illegal sale of alcohol to a minor. Those occurred at Citi Mart, 14631 Lee Highway; Prime Mart, 4300 Willard Road; and CVS, 13031 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway.

## NEWS

### Patience, Perseverance Pay Off

#### Chantilly man raises money to feed local children.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**I**t's one thing to donate a few canned goods to a food bank. It's another thing entirely to raise thousands of dollars to fund the shipment of more than 1,000 boxes of food.

What makes this feat even more impressive is that it was done by a Chantilly man who works two jobs to make ends meet and who raised more than \$7,000, little by little, over the course of five years.

"I'm trying to change the statistic that one out of five children in America go to bed hungry," said Thuong Tom Phan, 46, of Walney Village. "I'm just taking a little bite out of that by helping the local community."

He did so by spending his spare time standing outside supermarkets soliciting donations for the national organization, Feed the Children. But his efforts paid off for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Timothy Catholic Church, where he's a member.

He and his wife have no children but, said Phan, "I can do this for other children. They're our future and we've got to take care of them."

A shoe salesman at JCPenney and a sales advisor at Costco, he's lived in Chantilly for three years. And to understand the magnitude of what he's accomplished, it's important to know that most people who donated to the cause only contributed dollar bills or loose change — so it took a long time before it added up to enough money to result in the food shipment.

But Phan soldiered on and didn't get discouraged. "I bought cookies from Giant and water from Costco and borrowed a cooler from my brother-in-law," he said. "Then I sold it outside the Giant stores in Centrewood Plaza [in Centreville] and in Greenbriar [in Chantilly], and outside the Giant and Safeway stores in the Town of Herndon."

Water sold best, so he eventually just concentrated on that, plus his own framed, colored-pencil drawings of cats. Each year, he solicited donations from March to October, mainly on the weekends.

"On TV, I was seeing little children looking through trash for food, and that touched me," said Phan. "So



**Thuong Tom Phan carries boxes of food last month at the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food bank next to St. Timothy Catholic Church.**

I asked my project manager at Feed the Children if I could do something to raise funds for children and immigrant families in my community. She said she could direct any funds I raised to the community I live in."

He said he also did it for his wife. "She's taken care of me well, and I wanted to repay her," said Phan. "But I wanted to do something much bigger than sending her flowers. So I gave her a videotape of the food distribution at the food bank in Chantilly and she was really happy."

**BUT IT DIDN'T** happen overnight. The first year, he only raised \$500. "One day, it was very hot, and I asked God if He'd give me \$10 for each drop of perspiration I had. He came through, because the next person gave me \$30." Joking, Phan said, "I should have asked for \$50/drop."

SEE PATIENCE, PAGE 4

### House Fire Causes \$70,000 Damage

**M**ore than 30 firefighters responded Saturday night, Dec. 5, to a house fire, off Compton Road, in Centreville. The blaze was at 6734 Hartwood Lane and fire officials estimate the damage at \$70,000.

According to the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, the first firefighters on the scene, around 9:05 p.m., encountered smoke in the two-story, single-family home. A housesitter had called 911 after arriving at the house and finding smoke and fire inside.

Firefighters kept the flames from spreading — containing the fire mainly to the first-floor, kitchen

area — and brought it under control in about 15 minutes. No one else was home when the fire broke out, but three adults were displaced. No one was injured.

Fire investigators said the blaze was accidental, originating in the kitchen on the center-island cooktop. They said it was a gas-fed fire and shut off the gas to the home.

Four fire engines, plus personnel from five stations, responded. Both Centreville stations 17 and 38, plus Fair Oaks and Fairfax units participated.

**Kitchen Safety Tips from the Fire and Rescue Department:**

♦ Enforce a 3-foot, "kid-free zone" around the stove.

♦ Wear short or tight-fitting sleeves when cooking. (Long, loose sleeves are more likely to catch on fire or get caught on pot handles).

♦ Keep things that can catch fire — such as dish towels, curtains or paper — at least three feet away from the stove.

♦ Don't leave cooking food unattended.

♦ Turn pot handles inward, facing the wall, to prevent burns caused by overturning or spills.

♦ Pot holders or oven mitts prevent burns when handling hot dishes.

♦ Regularly clean cooking equipment.

♦ Have a pot lid handy to smother a pan fire.

— BONNIE HOBBS

## PEOPLE

# Patience, Perseverance Pay Off

FROM PAGE 3

The second year, he raised \$1,200; the third year, \$800 or \$900; and the fourth year — his best — yielded \$2,000. The fifth year, he raised the rest. “One of the customers outside the Centrewood Giant always gave me \$20,” he said. “I don’t know his name, but I thank him.”

The hardest part, he said, was “sitting out in the cold for 3 1/2 hours.” But now and then, something extraordinary happened. “The most I ever raised at one time was \$250,” said Phan. “That’s because one man, Scoutmaster Richard Borneman of Fairfax, gave me a check for \$100.”

Finally, Phan collected enough money to pay for Oklahoma-based Feed the Children to deliver food to Chantilly. His \$7,200 sponsored the truck transportation costs and, in return, Feed the Children donated \$55,000 worth of food and personal-care items.

On Saturday, Nov. 14, some 1,200 boxes of food and personal-care items were delivered from a warehouse in northern New

Jersey to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul food bank at St. Timothy. The tractor-trailer truck arrived around 7 a.m., and about 50 volunteers — from the Knights of Columbus, Boy Scouts and the food bank — helped unload it.

Local families in need came at 10 a.m., and the distribution began. By 12:15 p.m., nearly 250 families had each received three boxes. One contained about 26 pounds of food, and the others were filled with toiletries and items contributed by Avon.

The best part, said Phan, was “seeing a little girl, 4 or 5 years old, who came to pick up the food with her mom. She looked up at me with big, brown eyes and said, ‘Thank you.’ I patted her on the head and kissed her hand.”

**EACH FOOD BOX** had enough items to feed four people for a week, and Phan even delivered one personally. “A 60-year-old man couldn’t come that day,” he said. “So I delivered his box of food to him at work and he was very happy.”

There was even enough bounty to share beyond Chantilly. Phan knew of people in

need in some apartments off Route 28 in Manassas and gave them vouchers to go to the food bank.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is distributing the remaining boxes this month as part of its regular, monthly food distribution, and Terri Miller, SVDP president of the St. Timothy Conference, is grateful for the help received from both Phan and Feed the Children.

“The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Timothy was blessed and honored that Mr. Phan chose our society to fulfill his efforts to reach those in need in our local community,” she said. “This is proof that one man can make a difference. [Calling it] a corporal work of mercy is an understatement — it was truly for love of neighbor. I am in awe of how he collected the funds, and the humility in the hours, weeks and years to collect enough funds to bring this semi of food from Feed the Children. He’s a true hero among us.”

Meanwhile, Phan’s already focusing on his next goal — raising money for another delivery in two years. “I plan to do this ‘til I die,” he said. “This is my calling.”

I’m originally from Vietnam and I came here with my parents when I was 12. I had a lot of people helping me when I was growing up, and I love America. This is my way of giving back.”



**Megan Dorlandt and Raphael Gaeta.**

## Dorlandt and Gaeta Are Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Beatty of Clifton are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Megan Dorlandt, to Raphael Devon Gaeta. Raphael is the son of Mr. Richard Gaeta and Ms. Susan Gaeta of Fairfax Station.

The bride-to-be graduated in 2008 from James Madison University with a degree in psychology and a minor in special education. Megan earned her master’s in special education from JMU the following year. She is a special education teacher at Robinson Secondary School in Fairfax.

The groom-to-be is a 2007 graduate from James Madison University where he earned his degree in social work. He continued his studies at George Mason University, earning his master’s in social work the following year. Raphael is an associate with JBS International in Bethesda.

A July 2010 wedding is planned in Springfield.

**“This is proof that one man can make a difference.”**

**— Terri Miller,  
SVDP president,  
St. Timothy Conference**

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# 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 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.
- ❖ Join the Congregation for a Friday night Shabbat service with Cantor Zucker at Little Rocky Run Community Center # 3 on Jan. 15, 2009 at 8 p.m.

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

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# PEOPLE



**Matthew Grubb and Diane Masone**

## Masone and Grubb Are Married

Marsha and Roger Masone of Clifton are pleased to announce the wedding of their daughter, Diane, to Matthew Grubb, son of Catherine Phillips of Frederick, Md., and William Grubb of Clarksburg, Md.

The couple was married on Aug. 8, at St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church with the reception held at The Atrium at Meadowlark Gardens in Vienna.

The Reverend John D. Kelly performed the double ring ceremony and Catholic Mass. Matron of Honor was the bride's sister, Bethany Harar. Best Man was Timothy Grubb, brother of the groom.

The bride's niece, Jillian Ashleigh Harar, was the flower girl and nephew, Joseph Masone Harar, was the ring bearer.

Prenuptial entertainment included the rehearsal dinner

given by the groom's parents at Ristorante Bonaroti in Vienna. A slide show, with appropriate music, featuring the bride and groom's procession through their young lives was presented at the reception by the groom's mother.

Diane is a graduate of Centreville High School, received a BS in psychology from James Madison University, and holds a master's degree in forensic psychology. Diane is employed by the U.S. Secret Service as a Protective Intelligence Research Specialist.

Matthew is a graduate of Virginia Tech University where he received a degree in electrical engineering. Matthew is employed by the US Patent Office as a Patent Examiner.

The couple honeymooned on the Caribbean island of St. Lucia and now resides in Alexandria.

## MILITARY NOTES

To have military news listed in Centre View e-mail [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos, especially color, are encouraged. Deadline is one week before publication.

**Private Christopher Ryan Thuot**, 18, of Virginia Run in Centreville, graduated from United States Marine Corps boot camp at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island on Nov. 25. Private Thuot successfully completed 13 weeks of intensive



basic training at Parris Island as one of 61 recruits in 2nd Battalion, Golf Company, Training Platoon 2086. While in basic training Private Thuot was a fire team leader, platoon artist, Catholic lay leader, and was awarded the National Defense Service Medal and earned the rifle sharpshooter badge. Fol-

lowing 10 days home on leave he will report to Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, for one month of Military Combat Training then report to Naval Air Station, Pensacola, Fla., for Military Occupation Specialty school to become a flight mechanic, aircrewman, or navigator.

**Air Force Reserve Airman 1st Class Angel M. Vasquez** graduated from basic military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio,

Texas.

The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Vasquez is a 2006 graduate of Centreville High School, Clifton.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

## WFCCA Holds Annual Holiday Party

Carol and Dave Hawn hosted the West Fairfax County Citizens Association's (WFCCA) annual holiday reception, Sunday, Dec. 13, at their home in Centreville's Old Mill community. From left are Dave and Carol Hawn, Lois and Ron Koch, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Jim Hart, Mark and Glenda McConn, Jeff Parnes, Judy Heisinger, Dorothy Steranka, and Barbara and John Litzenberger. Hart and John Litzenberger are planning commissioners; Ron Koch is a former planning commissioner; Parnes is on the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations; and Carol Hawn, Mark McConn, Judy Heisinger and Dorothy Steranka are on the WFCCA.



## Certified Safe Sitters

Several of the girls from Girl Scout Troop 2110 received their babysitting certificates after completing the Safe Sitter Course on Nov. 7. This course is presented by the Kiwanis organization to teach pre-teens how to care for children in the community. The girls pictured with their instructors are: Melanie Helme, Emily Geist, Grace Chung (Troop 2933), Alexa Kehl, Claire Har, Stephanie Mears and Katie Hogge.

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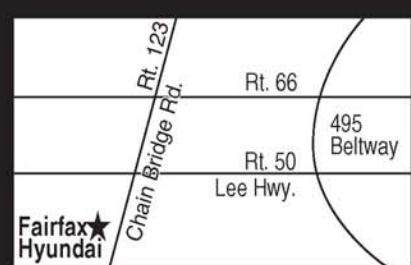


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## OPINION

# Clearing the Air

New rules on smoking are flawed and fail to protect many workers, but still great step in right direction.

**N**on-smokers and families looking to eliminate exposure to second-hand smoke got an early and unlikely Christmas present from Gov. Tim Kaine and Virginia General Assembly on Dec. 1, when substantial restrictions on smoking in restaurants and bars went into effect.

Restaurants and bars in the Commonwealth are required to go smoke free. But many establishments will still be able to offer a smoking area.

If the business has the space and the financial ability, it is allowed to construct a separate smoking area, if it is completely walled off and has its own ventilation system.

This exception is unfortunate for several reasons.

First it is unfair to the businesses that do not have the space or wherewithal to add smoking rooms.

Other jurisdictions, like the District or Montgomery County, Md. have passed true smoking bans, leaving a level playing field for businesses. And overall, in Montgomery County and many other places, receipts at restaurants increased after the smoking ban went into effect.

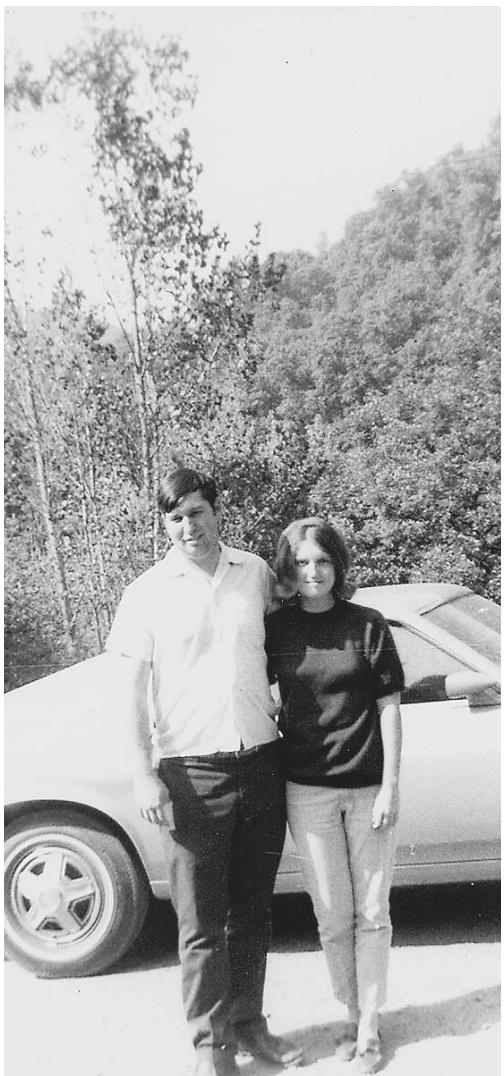
Second, such restrictions fail to protect workers from the serious detrimental health effects of second-hand smoke, one of the key objectives of smoking restrictions. Especially in the current job market, restaurant workers are

more likely to feel compelled to continue to work in conditions that are hazardous to their health. A full ban on smoking in restaurants and bars would protect more workers.

Third, even with a separate ventilation system, many smoking rooms will continue to leach smoke into non-smoking areas every time the door is opened and closed. Those who want a truly smoke-free dining environment will still have to do a little research.

But even with all its flaws, the successful implementation of smoking restrictions in Virginia remains a bit of a miracle, and a blessing.

— MARY KIMM,  
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com



**'Lordy Lordy, Happy Forty!'**  
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Whitt of Centreville will celebrate 40 years of marriage on Dec. 22, 2009. Their children and five grandchildren: Zachary Nylund, 11, William Nylund, 8, Emma Nylund, 5, Hunter Whitt, 5, and Madison Whitt, 2 wish them a very happy 40th anniversary.



**Toys for Tots Free Movie Celebrates 15th Year**

Local Realtor Ed Lang and his team from Remax Premier held their 15th Annual Free Movie event to sponsor Toys for Tots. More than 350 residents ventured through the cold and snowy weather to attend the early morning event Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Centreville Multiplex Theatre. They each brought at least one new toy to donate to Toys for Tots, and enjoyed the free Disney movie, "Old Dogs," along with many fun activities. Guests enjoyed events that took place before the movie, including a Guitar Hero competition; they could decorate a stocking, write a holiday greeting card to soldiers at Walter Reed Medical Center, and have their photo taken with Santa. Local merchants donated items that were raffled off to guests before the movie.

## Write

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. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar,

good taste and factual errors. Send to:  
Letters to the Editor  
Centre View  
1606 King St.  
Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-778-9410.  
By e-mail:  
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

## CENTREVIEW

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A Connection Newspaper

# NEWS

## Fraud Yields Prison Time

FROM PAGE 1

Authorities said Jin was involved in two, separate fraud schemes. In October 2005, he convinced a former client to sell his Loudoun County home to another person, a South Carolina businessman named Han — when, in fact, Han had never agreed to purchase the home. Jin then used Han's name and social security number to obtain financing for the apparent purchase of the home, plus additional home equity loans for it in Han's name. The total amount of fraudulently obtained financing was \$620,000.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen P. Learned, Jin "abused his position of trust as a notary public by knowingly and falsely notarizing the forged signature of the identity-theft victim."

Then in January 2007 — allegedly aided and abetted by another person — mortgage broker Jin convinced a Manassas businesswoman that he'd found four people who wanted to borrow a total of \$360,000 from her. But the alleged borrowers had never made such an arrangement.

Instead, Jin forged four promissory notes and gave them to the businesswoman to induce her to transfer the \$360,000 to him, with the intent that he would transfer the funds to the four borrowers. In reality, though, Jin kept the money for himself.

Furthermore, wrote Learned, "As relevant conduct, and unconnected to the other two schemes, the defendant also admitted that he had defrauded [another] one of his clients, a San Antonio businesswoman, of \$100,000." Eventually, the FBI's Washington Field Office investigated and Jin was arrested.

Entering court last Friday, he knew he'd receive at least the mandatory, two-year sentence required for aggravated identity theft, and Minter argued that 24 months is "a substantial amount of time — two years his family will suffer without him and will [be with-

out] his income."

Acknowledging that "this is a serious offense with a substantial amount of money involved," Minter told U.S. District Court Judge James C. Cacheris that "the other individual involved in this case has fled and will probably never come before this court. But Mr. Jin is here, accepting responsibility, and he will have the burden of responsibility for the [financial] restitution, for the rest of his life."

However, countered Learned, "There are two, Korean-American businesswomen that he just plain ripped off. And those fraudulent acts had nothing to do with the individual who fled. Mortgage fraud is very serious; [Jin's] well-known and respected in the local community, and we have to send a message that white-collar crime is terrible [and won't be tolerated]."

Then, before a courtroom full of his friends and relatives, Jin stood and said, "I'm sorry for what has happened and for the people and institutions that were hurt — and I apologize to my family."

Cacheris sentenced him to 48 months — four years — in prison: 24 months total for mail fraud and using a forged security, plus an additional 24 months for aggravated identity theft. He also placed Jin on three years supervised release and ordered him to immediately pay a \$300 special assessment to the court.

Jin must also pay \$665,000 restitution and undergo any substance-abuse treatment recommended by his probation officer. Cacheris said he'd ask that Jin be incarcerated in the federal penitentiary in Petersburg, and he allowed Jin to remain free until Dec. 21, when he must surrender to authorities.

"It's a serious case and you had no prior record," he told the Centreville man. "But the sentence provides [both] punishment plus restitution to the victims."

## 'The Dancing Forest' Lights Up Nightly

Tis the season for twinkling lights and Christmas carols, and Salon Antoine & Spa's owner, Antoine "Tony" Chahine, has mixed the two in a light display at his home in Clifton. Located at 13915 Rock Brook Court in Clifton, the house is a festive treat for the eye and ear with an elaborate lightshow display choreographed by custom AV company, Executive 411, who donated their

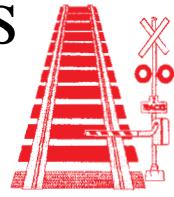
services to the project.

The "Holiday Music and Light Show in The Dancing Forest" runs from now through Jan. 6 each evening starting at 6 p.m. every half hour on the hour and half-hour until midnight. The lights dance in time to seasonal melodies.

The Chahine's, who are parishioners of St. Andrew the Apostle church, have also turned their

front yard into a collection site for non-perishable and canned foods as part of the church's food drive that will benefit Western Fairfax Christian Ministries and House of Mercy.

Salon Antoine & Spa, located at 11092 Lee Highway in Fairfax, also serves as a food collection site for the drive. More details are available online at [www.salonantoine.com](http://www.salonantoine.com).



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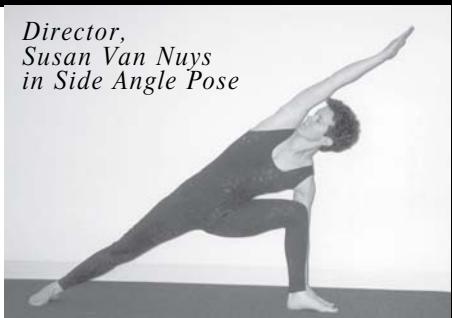
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## WORTH NOTING

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### 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).

### 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.

### ONGOING

**Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM)** will provide more than 1,500 holiday food baskets to families in need in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fairfax station. So it's seeking local residents and businesses willing to either sponsor a family, by providing food for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal, or donate supermarket gift cards in any denomination.

Gift cards may be dropped off 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 Pam Ryan at 703-988-9656, ext. 3, or via [development@wfcma.org](mailto:development@wfcma.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.

**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](mailto:oncdenise@aol.com). For other volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, visit [www.ourneighborschild.org](http://www.ourneighborschild.org).

**The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club** is selling the 2009



### 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.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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).

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## SCHOOLS

**Centreville High School** will be giving away 250 basketballs to fans during halftime at home basketball games this season — thanks to the Apple Federal Credit Union.

The mini-sized play basketballs with the Apple Federal Credit Union logo and Centreville High logo are part of the outreach efforts Apple FCU has extended to Centreville High.

"Apple enjoys being able to provide support and sponsorships for the local schools that border branches like mine," said Manjit Brar, Apple FCU Centreville branch manager. "In addition to items and efforts like the basketballs, we also regularly host workshops that teach students about saving, budgeting and basic financial wellness."

"We are excited to have the support of Apple Federal Credit Union for this basketball season," said Jimmy

Sanabria, athletic director for Centreville High School. "Partnerships like this are important to promoting a successful season for our student athletes."

Fans attending each of the remaining Wildcats boys and girls home basketball games will receive a souvenir Apple FCU basketball. For a game schedule, visit [www.wearecville.com](http://www.wearecville.com).

**Some local schools** have received the Energy Star label from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The Energy Star label is earned by a school system benchmarking a school's energy performance and physical characteristics against other K-12 schools in the EPA's National Energy Performance Rating System and demonstrating superior energy performance for at least 12 months. Local schools receiving the En-

ergy Star label are Cub Run Elementary, Virginia Run Elementary and Centreville High School.

**Centreville Preschool Inc. (CPI)** is hosting an Open House on Saturday, Jan. 23 from 9 a.m. to noon. Registration packets will be available for the 2010-2011 school year beginning in September. Morning and afternoon co-op and non co-op classes are available to children who turn 3 or 4 years of age by Sept 30, 2010. A beginner's non co-op morning class is offered to children who turn 2 1/2 by Sept 30th. Established in 1969, CPI is a non-profit cooperative preschool located in a renovated Victorian house at 13196 Braddock Rd. in Centreville. Bring your child's birth certificate and meet the staff of professional teachers. Call 703-830-5656 or email [register@centrevillepreschool.com](mailto:register@centrevillepreschool.com).

## BUSINESS NOTES

**The National Association of the Remodeling Industry (NARI)** named Fred Case, MCR and founder, co-chairman and CEO of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc. of Chantilly as the first recipient of the Master Certified Remodeler (MCR) designation. The Master Certified Remodeler designation is the latest certification given by NARI, to exemplify the highest standards of the remodeling industry. Recipients must hold an active Certified Remodeler (CR) designation for at least 10 years and must hold a leadership position within their local NARI chapter or community, in addition to several other requirements.

**Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. Of Chantilly** announces that William W. Anderson, PE, has joined Bowman Consulting in its Chantilly office. Mr. Anderson will be responsible for strate-

sign & Associates, PC, based in Virginia Beach, as part of its strategy to better serve the Tidewater region of Virginia. Massey Design was established in 2003, and provides civil engineering services to public and private sector clients with a specialization in streetscape planning and design. Massey Design & Associates (MDA) was instrumental in the development of major projects in and around the Virginia Beach area including streetscapes, college and university projects, commercial developments, and recreational facilities.

**Bowman Consulting Group, Ltd. Of Chantilly** announces that William W. Anderson, PE, has joined Bowman Consulting in its Chantilly office. Mr. Anderson will be responsible for strate-

gic initiatives to establish Bowman's national presence, and for project management processes and systems within the firm. He comes to Bowman from Ann Arbor, Michigan where he was a Vice President with Atwell-Hicks, LLC, land development consultants.

**The Centreville Rotary Club** has moved its meeting location from the I-Hop in Centreville to the Eggspectations Restaurant in Chantilly. The Rotary Club meets Tuesdays from 11:30-12:30 p.m. for lunch. There is a new guest speaker every week with topics ranging from estate planning to how the Rotary helps during emergencies. Contact Gregg Caldwell at [gregg@gandcauto.com](mailto:gregg@gandcauto.com).

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# NEWS



Those attending Mountain View's recognition by the Board of Supervisors included (far left) School Board Chairman Kathy Smith; Becky Pearson, Cluster VII director; and Linda Burke, Cluster VII assistant superintendent; (in middle) Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, Mountain View Principal Jim Oliver and Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity; and (far right) Art Steffen, Mountain View government teacher.

## Board Honors Mountain View

FROM PAGE 1

work our teachers and students have done to rank our school as one of the best in SOL data in the state. We are extremely proud of our program and the accomplishments that have transpired over the past few years."

According to the resolution, Mountain View provides similar curriculum and services for its students as other schools, but is distinguished from them in its teaching approach and classroom environment. Under the No Child Left Behind Act, it achieved Adequate Yearly Progress in 2008 and is currently ranked sixth in Virginia for SOL test performance in Algebra I and English Reading.

Furthermore, Mountain View has no minority student achievement gap — with 100 percent of its African-American and Latino students having passed the math and English SOL tests. It's also received acclaim for the innovative, electronic portfolios that are prepared for each graduating student, as well as its success in planning for student transitions.

Therefore, stated the resolution, "the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, on behalf of all residents of Fairfax County, does congratulate Mountain View Alternative High School faculty, staff and students for their tradition of commitment, compas-

sion and excellence in teaching, guidance and learning."

Afterward, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), said, "It certainly is a pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievements of Mountain View. It is truly incredible that, given the diversity of the student population, Mountain View continues to achieve such high levels of academic success."

Similarly, Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) called the school "a great asset to Fairfax County. Based on my experiences with their hard-working and dedicated staff, it is no surprise to me that they have received this honor."

The resolution was read prior to the supervisors' board meeting, and Oliver said it was an honor to be recognized in front of them, along with FCPS Superintendent Jack Dale, Linda Burke and Becky Pearson from Cluster VII and School Board Chairman Kathy Smith.

"The best part of the morning was the expression of our students who were present from [teacher] Art Steffen's government class," said Oliver. "The smiles on their face, and the one from their teachers, said it all. I am so very proud of our school and community. The View is a special place, and the county leaders recognized that today."

**"The View is a  
special place, and  
the county leaders  
recognized that  
today."**

— Principal Jim Oliver

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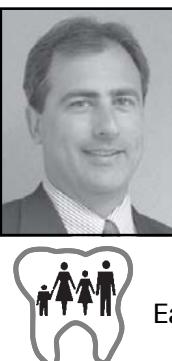
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## NEWS

# It's Time for Annual Ho-Ho Show

FROM PAGE 1

mas Past; Eric Pavelski, the Ghost of Christmas Present; and Zach Nordwall, the Ghost of Christmas Future.

"The funny thing we're doing is casting a girl as Tiny Tim," said Mitchell. "She'll be Tiny Tina. It's a classic, Christmas story, so the audience will like the ghosts and how Scrooge becomes a nice guy, but they won't be scared."

Mitchell said it's a fun project. "For the past four years, we've been on the other side, acting," he said. "Now, as directors, we get to put our own twist on it."

"It's our own vision," added Heck. "This show is new to the [Ho-Ho] lineup. We had to cut it down from 57 pages to six."

### THE CHANUKAH STORY

This play is co-directed by Phoebe Dillard and Lani Fu, with assistance from Connor Scudder. "It's a funny, modern spoof on how Judaism somewhat started and how the candles burned for eight days," said Dillard. "The play centers around an old, Jewish couple telling the story to the audience."

Leading the 16-member cast are Daniel Braunstein and Kathryn Hartzell as the couple. Bryan Pitt plays Judah Maccabee and Josh Greenberg portrays King Antioch — rivals acting out the story.

"They're all really energetic about it," said Dillard. "It's a great opportunity for underclassmen or those who haven't had many chances to act on the main stage. It's also a good opportunity for me because I want to go into teaching theater and directing, and Lani and Connor are fun to work with."

She said children will enjoy this play because it's funny and the actors make big movements to capture their attention. Actually, said Dillard, "It's an entertaining day of all the shows."

### THE GRINCH

Featuring a cast of 19, this holiday treat is directed by Serene Peterson and Melanie Aponte. "This year, the Whos will narrate the story and it'll be more audience-oriented," said Peterson. "The Grinch will be able to walk into the audience and talk directly about how he hates Christmas."

Playing the Grinch is Max McGough; Amanda Durso is Max the dog, and Terri Lonstein is Cindy Lou Who. Added Peterson: "All the Whos got to be creative and pick their own first names, such as Ya Who, Boo Hoo Who and Guess Who." She said children will be excited about the Grinch's cave being where they are and will like how much the Whos love Christmas. And, said Peterson, "There may even be a special surprise for the audience."

She's enjoying directing and interacting with the actors. "I've gotten closer to them than when I was an actor," said Peterson. "I like challenging them and I'm glad the Grinch gets to have a big part in the show."

### CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS

Emily Howell and Deanna Hughes are co-directing this 17-person play. "It's about Charlie Brown trying to figure out the true meaning of Christmas, as opposed to a lot of the characters who just want presents," said Howell. "The ridiculous characters will make the kids laugh. And because of their childish nature, the kids will be able to relate to them. There's also lots of physical comedy, especially between Snoopy and Woodstock."

Nick Burroughs portrays Charlie Brown; Mitchell Buckley, Linus; Germeen Sanad, Lucy;

and Elisabeth Bloxam, Sally. And Howell says she's learned how to change her directing style, depending on the actors' needs and what will help them.

"I love directing 'A Charlie Brown Christmas' because I've been in it every year since I was a freshman," she said. "And I think it's a great Christmas story."

### 'TWAS THE NIGHT

"'Twas the Night before Christmas" has a cast of 20 and, under the direction of Sara Calkins and Meredith Freeman, this poem will come to life in dance and music. "There's a family and, when their kids go to sleep, all the fairies come in," said Freeman.

"Rats come in after that, and they take the kids away from the fairies," said Calkins. "Then the nutcracker comes out, and he and the rat king have a guitar battle to save the kids," said Freeman. "And then it's Christmas morning and the kids get their presents."

Taylor Aucott is the Nutcracker and Andrew Oquendo is the Rat King. Katelyn Reimer is Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer and Maggie Mitchell is the Sugarplum Fairy.

The majority of the cast — including the Nutcracker and Rat King — is comprised of dancers, so it's different from the other shows. "It's all Trans-Siberian Orchestra music," said Freeman. "So it's cool music and Santa comes out; we're the finale."

She said the audience will enjoy all the dancing, and she's happy to direct. "Directing is having your idea for the show and being able to shape it the way you want," said Freeman. "And since we've been in the show for three years, it's passing on the tradition."

Calkins, too, loves directing. "I like the leadership position and communicating with the underclassmen," she said. "It's tricky matching the narration to the music, but we're working on that and I think it's going to come out really well."

## Pennies for Peace

St. Andrew Lutheran Preschool of Centreville recently participated in the Pennies For Peace program as a service project in the school. The 4-year-old classes and the Pre-K class collected pennies during October and November to help build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The students collected 10,277 pennies that will go to building new schools, primarily for girls, in the war torn tribal regions of these two countries. A single penny buys a pencil for a child; \$360 pays the salary for a teacher for an entire year.

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# Parents Examine School Boundaries

FROM PAGE 2

"inconsistencies," such as islands of students attending one school while students in neighborhoods 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



**Sue Sarber of the Data Crunchers Committee.**

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



**Cassie Eatmon gives her report.**

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. Noting that Korean Central Presbyterian Church, currently under construction along Route 29 in Centreville, will contain a private school (for students in grades K-2), she said, "We wonder what impact it will have if parents take their kids out of FCPS to put them there. And are we planning for the next upturn in the economy?"

"Expansion should be a secondary consideration," said Eatmon. "We don't have enough schools in the system [to handle the enrollment], especially if we lose Clifton, without building a big, new school."

**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

## 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.

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.

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 overcapacity 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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# SPORTS

## It's Déjà Vu for Danny Fenyak

### Bulldogs boys' basketball 1-4 start mirrors senior's football season.

By REED S. ALBERS  
CENTRE VIEW

**W**estfield forward Danny Fenyak groaned and laughed when asked about the boys' basketball team's start to the 2009-10 season.

As quarterback of the Westfield football team, Fenyak watched as his football team started the year 1-4 in a string of heartbreaking close-but-no-cigar losses.

Now Fenyak has a serious case of déjà vu as his basketball team is 1-4 after another similar string of close games.

"I looked at the record and we were 1-4. I was like are you serious?" the senior said. "It's just like football season."

The record comes courtesy of losses to St. Stephens/St. Agnes (64-52), a last-second loss to West Springfield (43-42), an overtime loss to Langley (47-45) and the most recent defeat to Hayfield (47-40) on Dec. 11.

Of course the upside of Fenyak's first 1-4 season with the football team is that the Bulldogs rallied to capture their sixth Concorde District football title. Now, the former quarterback is looking for a similar finish with the basketball team.

"I know we're going to be really strong this year," Fenyak said. "We're a very talented team. We're going to get it going."

Getting the team on the right track is something that head coach Doug Ewell is striving for as De-

cember ends and Concorde District play picks up in January.

"We're off to a non-traditional slow start," he said. "We've been in every game and our kids are working extremely hard, but we have to keep on keeping on."

**BUT BEING** in every game isn't enough for Ewell. If the team wants to see success, it needs to take every minute of the game seriously.

"We've had two games where we had a lead with less than 10 seconds left and came up short," he said. "It takes 32 minutes of basketball to win, not 31 and I think [the team] understands that."

Another area the team needs to find success with is helping to develop younger players and acclimate them to varsity-level play.

"We have a lot of inexperienced kids on the team," Ewell said. "It's a young roster, but we have to focus on working as unit."

Most importantly, Ewell just wants to see his team taste winning before January's tough Concorde District schedule begins.

"We really need to get a win," he said. "It might help us get up because when district play starts, we need to be up."

In order for the Bulldogs to replicate the success of their football team, Ewell said the players, young and old, need to step into leadership positions.

**ONE OF THE TEAM'S** top young



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/CENTRE VIEW

**Danny Fenyak (right) and Zach Elcano (left) share a laugh during practice on Dec. 15. Despite the 1-4 record, Fenyak said the Bulldogs aren't worried the season is slipping away.**

talents is 6-foot 9-inch sophomore center Zach Elcano.

"We run our offense through him," Fenyak said. "We really work him in our game plan, so for him to do well is really big for us."

Elcano played one year of freshman basketball before being added to the varsity roster, but he said he's transitioned well between the two levels of play.

"I played in the spring and fall with [the team] so I'm used to the speed," he said. "But there's tougher opponents and everyone's a good team. No team is easy."

Westfield rounds out its December play with games against Lake Braddock (0-3) on Dec. 15, South Lakes (1-1) on Dec. 16, South County (2-2) and Battlefield (0-3) on Dec. 22.



PHOTOS BY REED S. ALBERS/CENTRE VIEW

**Head coach Doug Ewell instructs a Westfield player during practice. "We're off to a non-traditional slow start," Ewell said.**

## Four 'Cats To Play Baseball in College

By REED S. ALBERS  
CENTRE VIEW

**E**ven though 2010 will be the last season that Centreville baseball players Ryan Ashoosh, Connor Bach, Chris Campbell and Andy Viands play together as teammates, the four seniors might cross paths in the collegiate ranks.

Ashoosh, Bach, Campbell and Viands have signed to continue their baseball careers in college, with three of the players heading to Division 1 programs.

"It's very rewarding as a coach

to have four guys moving on [to college]," head coach Morgan Spencer said. "It's part of the reason you take this job. To help students play college baseball."

Left-handed pitcher Ryan Ashoosh will be playing with the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, one of the state's best NCAA baseball programs.

"I liked the coaches and everything about the program was really nice," Ashoosh said. "I liked how my parents could come down and see me and still enjoy watching me play baseball."

Ashoosh, who was named co-

pitcher of the year in the Concorde District in 2009, said he also is looking forward to facing Virginia Tech in the annual match-up between the two ACC rivals.

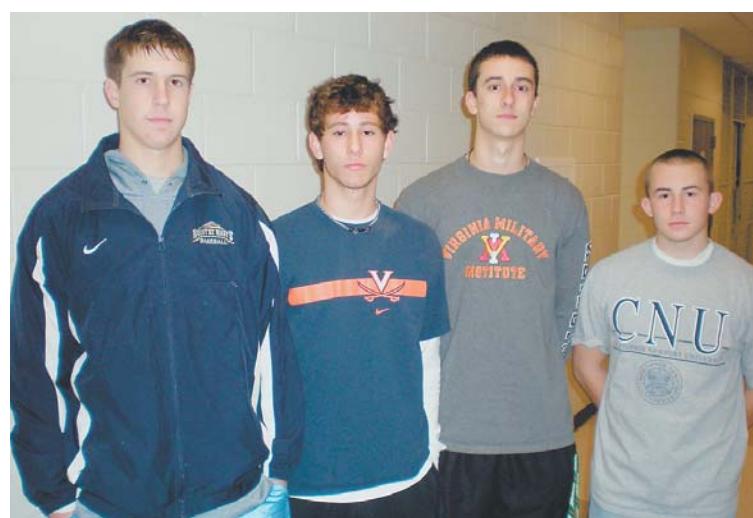
Connor Bach will be playing his college ball at the Virginia Military Institute in Lexington.

"I liked the scholarship that they offered me," Bach said. "It will also keep me in shape and I'll have an option to work in the military if [baseball] doesn't work out."

The 6-foot 4-inch Bach was a second-team All-Concorde District selection as an outfielder last

SEE COLLEGE, PAGE 19

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**Centreville baseball players (from left to right) Brian Campbell, Ryan Ashoosh, Connor Bach and Andy Viands will continue their careers in the collegiate ranks.**

# NEWS

## 'A Christmas Carol' at CHS

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**S**crooge, Tiny Tim and a trio of ghosts — they're all there in Chantilly High's presentation of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol." Show times are Tuesday-Wednesday, Dec. 22-23, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door or at [www.chantillyhsdrama.com](http://www.chantillyhsdrama.com).

It features a cast and crew of 25 and tells the story of Ebenezer Scrooge, a wealthy and cruel man who hates Christmas and its trappings. He's then haunted by the ghost of his best friend, Bob Marley, who tells him he'd better change his ways or his afterlife will be terrible.

Senior Maggie Monk narrates. "I start and end the show and come in throughout the play to tell what's going on," she said. "I've wanted to be the narrator since I was 4, so I'm excited. The first line is 'Marley is dead.' The theater is pitch black, and then I come out with a candle and start speaking — it's so cool."

She's also a bit nervous, because she doesn't just have single lines to say, but whole paragraphs. So, said Monk, "There's a lot to memorize." But she says the show will be great. "Most people know the story, so it's familiar," she said. "But our set's interesting and the story's told in a different way."

Portraying Scrooge is senior Miles Drawdy. "He's bitter, cynical and reclusive," said Drawdy. "He's content to be alone and hate the world. He's had a life of hardships, a terrible relationship with his father and no luck with his relationships with women. At a certain point, he closed himself to learning and sees a pinhole view of the world. But the three ghosts bring him an all-encompassing view."

Playing this role is fun, but terrifying, said Drawdy, because he hasn't had long to rehearse and he feels obligated "to portray Scrooge as people see him — the Scrooge archetype. When you're playing a lesser-known character, you have more freedom of expression. But it's a more demanding role than I've had before, and I like the challenge; it's a chance to do something new."

Drawdy said director Ed Monk got especially "artsy" and creative with this play. "The set is amazing, with platforms looking like they're floating, and the ghosts appearing out of nowhere," he said. "And the story's pulled right from the book and keeps the integrity of what Dickens wrote. It's probably one of my favorite shows."

Junior Adrian Tafesh plays Bob Cratchit. "He's kind and caring — everything a good father ought to be," said Tafesh. "But he works for Scrooge and that doesn't allow him to provide enough for his family because he's very poor."

"I love playing him," said Tafesh. "He's gentle, but deals with things calling for



Striking a pose are (back row, from left) Kelsey Martin, Ghost of Christmas Past; Miles Drawdy, Scrooge; Cory Davis, Ghost of Christmas Present; and (in front) Lauren Manbeck, Tiny Tim.

harshness, so he's in a dilemma — and I like the complexity it adds to his character."

He, too, said the audience "will be wowed by the set. It'll be magnificent and interpretive. It's going to be well-acted, and Mr. Monk is a terrific writer and we're performing his adapted version. It's more concise and will be easier for the audience to relate to."

Portraying Mrs. Cratchit is sophomore Amanda Miesner. "As Bob's wife, she's caring and dedicated to her children and will do whatever she can to protect them," said Miesner. "She'll do anything to help the people she loves. It's interesting to see how, as the play progresses, her relationship with Bob changes. She grows stronger after things become difficult and has to hold the family together."

Miesner said the cast is strong and it's a "classic story that survived so long because the writing is so brilliant. And Chantilly always has really good, special effects."

Stage manager Holly Pardo makes sure the actors have their props and is notified about anything wrong that needs fixing. "I enjoy it," she said. "You meet new people, it's a great leadership opportunity and it's fun to hang out with the cast. You just have to be organized. Being backstage during the show — making sure people are in their spots and everything goes well — is thrilling."

She said the play has a great moral — "not to take life, family and friends for granted. And money doesn't matter, as long as you find happiness."

Director Monk says he has a "great cast of really talented kids. It's always a fun show to do because it's such a fun time of year. And the last performance is the same day winter break begins."

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# "Serve-Us" Contracts?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Can someone please explain to me the pros and cons of these after market, service contracts, available for purchase after your car dealer's/manufacturer's warranty/warranties have expired? Their solicitations on television, radio and print are almost replacing the credit card companies in their vigorous pursuit of American consumers. Just yesterday, I received in the mail, what looked like a very official, certified-type, for your-eyes-only directive, aimed very specifically at yours truly, owner of an expiring automobile warranty. When I tore the four perforated sections and opened the remaining fold, what I found was yet another "If your car is not more than 15 years old and has less than 200,000 miles on it" offer of automobile repair and maintenance relief.

However, since I wasn't born yesterday (or even the day before), I can't help being cautious and concerned about the "relief" offered. Moreover, I can't help thinking that there's likely so much fine print, finely printed, that I won't be able to read or, won't likely understand, that as a car owner with future repair bills ahead, what I'll likely be relieved of is my money, not my worry about those future bills. But what do I know? As has been proven in this space many times before, not much.

My instincts, as a former Life & Health insurance broker, is to be concerned – and to plan for – worst case scenarios and pre-existing conditions (meaning exclusions). With respect to life and health insurance, I am well aware of the issues and conditions under which medical and lifestyle-type, pre-existing conditions/considerations might adversely affect one's coverage. However, I don't have near that same level of experience and instinct when it involves car repairs and maintenance. What little I can say is, with absolute certainty, that the longer a car is driven/owned and the more miles it accumulates, the more likely repairs will be needed. And if I may presume a little bit more, the more expensive and involved those repairs likely will be.

That presumption being logical and agreed to, in theory; why would companies take on that unfunded – and likely undocumented by the car's owner – commitment, to assume liability of future repair bills likely to be "major:" engine, transmission, struts, gaskets, etc., as listed in the company's advertisements? Further presuming that these companies are not in business to lose money and are not advertising (putting their money where their marketing mouths are) because they are stupid, I'm left with no other conclusion than to paraphrase one of my recently deceased father's favorite expressions: the idea must have merit.

Still, I can't get past the "If it sounds too good to be true..." feel of these promotions/assurances. Are these companies regulated in some way like Life and Health, and Property and Casualty insurance companies are? Must these service-contract companies have a certain amount of cash reserves on hand to pay for their future – and as yet undetermined – liabilities? Have they been vetted/investigated/researched and/or evaluated by consumer groups, consumer magazines or even Consumer Agencies? Has the Better Business Bureau done any due diligence?

I understand the coverage is not free. However, if I am to believe – and ultimately buy in to – all that I hear, read and see about these reassuring offers, I'd have to be crazy to not to want to learn more and see if I really can eliminate the worry I will admit to having, about these inevitable future car repairs. But I'm hesitating. I must be crazy, right? (Maybe that's a side effect of the oral chemotherapy?)

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

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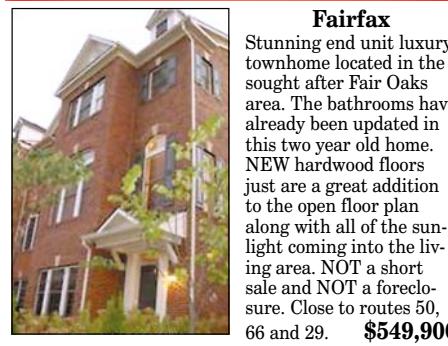
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