

Food, Fun, Music And Bonding

Sully Station II residents celebrate annual National Night Out.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Pizza, sombreros, skate boards and a Mariachi band — all were part of Sully Station II's National Night Out celebration, Tuesday, Aug. 3, when this Centreville community partied outside to honor Sully District firefighters and police officers.

"It's fabulous," said Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully). "Year in and year out, they get so many people involved that it's truly amazing. They keep up that community spirit and support for the police and Neighborhood Watch, and it exemplifies why this is such a wonderful community."

Agreeing, police PFC Jim Urie said, "I always enjoy this. I've been

at the Sully District Station since it opened, and it's always a great opportunity to come out, meet the people and chat with them about something besides police work."

National Night Out is an annual, neighborhood-based event, demonstrating local commitment to fight crime. Friends and neighbors lock their doors, turn on their homes' outside lights and spend the evening outdoors together. Leslie and Dan Jenuleson, who head Sully II's Neighborhood Watch, organized Tuesday's 6:30-9 p.m. event, starting with an ice-cream social at the community center.

There were five block parties, with music, food, children's games and other activities, and firefighters and police went from one to the other, visiting with resi-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

The gang's all here: Neighbors, police, firefighters and politicians gather at the block party on Hartlaub Court.

dents and enjoying the festivities. Also participating were Frey, plus state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and his wife Julia.

Calling Fairfax County one of the

safest communities, per capita, in Virginia, Marsden said, "We've made huge strides in terms of public safety, and we ought to be proud of that. Now the issue is dili-

gence to keep people safe, and this is how this community stays ahead of the game."

SEE NIGHT OUT. PAGE 2

Man Convicted in Filming Teen Nude

Incident happened during after-prom party at his home.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

If Craig Dykstra's attorney hadn't immediately said he'd be appealing his client's conviction, Dykstra would have gone straight to jail last week as punishment for unlawfully filming someone in the nude.

The victim was an 18-year-old girl — a classmate of Dykstra's younger daughter at Westfield High — and she was one of several teenage boys and girls filmed surreptitiously by Dykstra, 51, in a changing room during a June 5, after-prom, pool party at his Centreville mansion.

"The victim feels bad and is embarrassed," said Assistant



Craig Dykstra

Commonwealth's Attorney Kelly Pearson during Dykstra's two-hour trial, last Wednesday, July 28. "It's lucky for him, she's 18, so it's [a misdemeanor] — not a class 6 felony."

A software developer and an original member of AOL, Dykstra's June 8 arrest stunned those who know him. Friendly and outgoing, he often hosts parties at his Virginia Run home and is normally the go-to guy when local schools need help building sets for their plays. Now, though, his reputation in the community has been tarnished and at least one principal will only allow him to be around students if another adult is present.

The camera Dykstra used to film

SEE MAN CONVICTED. PAGE 10

"He's had 51 law-abiding years and made a mistake on this one occasion."

— **Dickson Young, defense attorney**

Crash Kills 18-Year-Old Driver

Benjamin Sarley, 18, of Hampton Forest Way in Fairfax, died Tuesday night in a car crash on Compton Road. The tragedy occurred Aug. 3, around 9:26 p.m., near Luton Hill Way in Clifton. He was pronounced dead at the scene, and two male passengers, ages 21 and 24, were treated at Inova Fairfax Hospital for non-life-threatening injuries.

According to Fairfax County police, investigation reportedly determined that Sarley was

driving a 2002 Subaru WRX north on Compton Road at "a high rate of speed. The driver lost control of the vehicle and crossed over the double-yellow line into the path of an oncoming car."

Police say it appears he "over-corrected to the right side, trying to avoid the car. The vehicle left the roadway and struck a tree on the driver's side." All three occupants were wearing seatbelts, and police say speed was a factor in the crash.

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NEWS

National Night Out

FROM PAGE 1

He said Sully II's event was "remarkable" and "well put-together." Said Marsden: "The community really rallied around the police after the tragedy a few years back, and the best way to prevent things for people to be looking out for everybody."

Bill Perry, president of the Sully Station II Community Association, said there's a good mix of young and older families in the neighborhood's 1,320 housing units — including 846 townhouses, plus single-family homes and estates. "It's a good location and an active community," he said. "We've got more volunteers than we ever had because people care."

HARTLAUB COURT

The scene was lively at this block

party hosted by Jennifer Franconeri, a nearly five-year resident throwing her fourth, National Night Out bash. "We love doing this," she said. "It's bonding — a sense of community — seeing our neighbors."

"We have different cultures and, often, we all go in many, different directions, and this is so heartwarming to see everybody together," she continued. "We live next to these people — it's fun to play together, too. This is one time the party is for all of us."

Neighbors there munched on fried chicken, pizza, salad, watermelon and baked goods, and Javier Albarracin enjoyed it all. "We've lived here a year and came [to this event] last year before moving in," said his wife Jeannet. "We wanted to meet the neighbors. It's a great opportunity to talk with them all in the same



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left: Susanna Fertel, 4, and Lilly Wilson, 3, have fun together at National Night Out.

place."

Station 38 firefighter Lilia Alvarado said the people at this block party were friendly and nice and she "got some good pizza." She also said it was a good way for people to get to know each other.

"We get to see them and they get

SEE NIGHT OUT, PAGE 3

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Friends and neighbors, plus police Capt. John Piper and Lt. John Trace, the commander and assistant commander, respectively, of the Sully District Station, get together on Deer Pond Road.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Hostess Heather Wilson holds the third-place certificate her block party on Battery Ridge Lane won for "heart."

Sully Station II Celebrates National Night Out

FROM PAGE 2

to see us," she said. "It's important for them to see who protects their community, and the kids get to see the fire apparatus and equipment. And if they have questions, they can ask us."

Firefighter Erich Williams, at the station since 1999, said, "I love to see everyone in the neighborhood together. They share different types of food, and seeing the political representation here says a lot, too."

"It brings the community out so they'll take care of and look out for their neighbors more," added fire Lt. Jeff Klopp. "Then, if they see something that doesn't look right, they'll call."

DEER POND ROAD

Police Capt. John Piper and Lt. John Trace, commander and assistant commander, respectively, of the Sully District Station, visited all the block parties, includ-

ing this one. "We in the Sully District are very fortunate to have such a supportive and caring community," said Piper. "National Night Out is a great opportunity for our officers to get out and mingle with the people they serve and get to know them."

Giving children coupons for free Slurpees at 7-Eleven, Trace said it's "good to connect with the community; sometimes, you get so tied to the desk. It's great to meet different people and cultures and eat different foods, and we appreciate what they do for us by putting these events together."

Hostesses Kara Stamper and Jennifer Wiemann were delighted to win the first-place award for spirit. "Sully II was the Division 7 swim champion and half the team was here," said Stamper. "The spirit carried over from the pool to the rest of the community, and the turnout tonight has been tremendous."

She did it for the second year in a row because of the support her family received

after their house fire last year and so neighbors could "reconnect, enjoy each other's company and get ready for school starting in a month."

"This is fun," added Wiemann. "Even people not on our street come. We had hot dogs and drinks and everybody brought side dishes."

BATTERY RIDGE LANE

This neighborhood held a block party for the first time, and Heather Wilson hosted. "We have such great spirit in this whole community so I thought we should be included in this," she said. "This event stands for crime prevention, and this year we started a children's flower and vegetable garden."

A landscape architect, Wilson believes that, "If you get children involved, it gives them something to do and have pride in, and they don't get into trouble. And a lot of the things we ate tonight were from the garden." Neighbors also feasted on hot dogs, potato and pasta salads, apple pie, Popsicles and ice cream.

FLOWER HILL DRIVE

Families were doing the Mexican Hat Dance and the Macarena at this Mexican-themed block party, complete with sangria, dinner from Chipotle's and a live Mariachi band. Ed Pauley hosted, Elizabeth Gaeta organized the food and Eva and Kevin Sanchez-Salandy were in charge of the children's games. The fun even included a red chili pepper-shaped piñata.

"We have socials in this cul-de-sac every month," said Pauley. "The neighbors get together for pizza and beer, barbecues and potlucks. Tonight, we had so many people — more than 100 — that we eventually ran out of food."

Cindy and Tony Hayduk, who moved there last September, were laughing with friends and enjoying the warm camaraderie. "It's awesome," said Tony Hayduk. "It's

a young neighborhood and, tonight, the husbands got to hang out together."

Initially, though, Cindy Hayduk was surprised. "I knew we were having a block party, but didn't know the premise behind it," she said. "So when I saw all the fire and police vehicles, I wondered, 'What's going on?' But we love our neighbors, so it's nice to get together with them. We have a lot in common and everyone gets along."

FARM DRIVE AND BEAUMEADOW COURT

Some 80 people attended the All-American Barbecue-themed party in this neighborhood. Guests chowed down on barbecued pork shoulder and ribs, smoked pulled chicken, shish kebabs, corn on the cob, pasta

SEE NIGHT OUT, PAGE 16



Enjoying the Flower Hill Drive party are (from left) Tramaine Nakirigya; host Ed Pauley; El Rey Mariachi band members Limberg Suarez, Trinidad Lobo, Byron Perez and Javier Albornoz; plus Cindy and Tony Hayduk.



Chilling together at the Belcher Farm Drive and Beaumeadow Court party are (not in order) Bill Perry, Sheree Glaze, Clint Crawford, Trish and Buck Strother, Ami Warren, Stephanie Allen and Cathie Flynn.

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SCHOOLS

National Champions

The team of Stephanie Sosa (Woodson), Madeline Goubeaux (Fairfax), Isabel Duarte (Chantilly) and Rebecca Funk (Chantilly), pictured with Chantilly Academy Cosmetology teacher Wayne White, competed in Entrepreneurship at SkillsUSA National Championship held in June in Kansas City, Mo. They competed against 15 other state champion teams from across the United States, and they are the first team in Chantilly Academy's



history to be national champions. Stephanie Blum (Chantilly) and her model Daniela Fant (Fairfax) place 9th in the nation in esthetics. Blum had to give a facial, day make-up and Fantasy make-up. More than 5,000 students from throughout the U.S. participated in 96 competitive events during the four-day conference.

SCHOOL NOTES

Christopher Menzel is the recipient of the 2010 Pamplin Leader Award at Chantilly High School. The Pamplin Leader is a one-year, \$1000 tuition scholarship to Virginia Tech. It is presented annually to a top student from each public high school in Virginia. It was established by Robert B. Pamplin, Sr. (VT Class of '33) and Robert B.



Pamplin, Jr., to acknowledge students with a record of outstanding academic achievement that is balanced with a commitment to community service and leadership experience.

Katie Franklin, a junior at Chantilly High School, attended the Virginia Governor's German Immersion Academy at Virginia Com-

monwealth University in Richmond June 26 through July 18. The students learned, not in the ordinary way with textbooks and CDs, but by really using the language in the cafeteria, in the dorm, on the soccer field as well as in the classroom.

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OPINION

Five Percent Off

While some of us are not sure how it got to be August, never mind time to start thinking about going back to school, the first day of school is more than a month away, Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 7.

Virginia families can take advantage of what amounts to a three-day coupon for five percent off many back-to-school items. Sales tax is suspended for the coming weekend, Friday through Sunday, Aug. 6, 7 and 8 (restrictions apply).

During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax.

The tax holiday should encourage more families to spend their back-to-school dollars in local stores rather than online. This is an excellent time to support local businesses, many suffering from the recession as well as competition from online businesses that

EDITORIAL

offer tax-free shopping all the time. Local businesses that don't get their money from the federal government need local shopping support now more than ever.

Back-to-school shopping for supplies is one of many important things to take care of before school starts. Students need up-to-date immunizations. Early in fall, flu shots will also be available. Add to the list of "safety" items: talk with your students about what they are doing online (hint: it mostly isn't shopping).

But probably the most important thing parents can do to ensure a successful school year is to make contact with your child's teachers, make sure they know who you are, how to contact you and that you care. Use the online tools to track your child's progress (but don't go crazy monitoring every blip).

One of the best ways to kick off this regular contact with your child's school is to attend back to school night. Most back to school

Back-to-school sales tax holiday a reminder of other back-to-school rituals; buy some extra supplies for needy students.

Sales Tax Holiday

When: First full weekend of August (Friday, Saturday and Sunday) each year. The 2010 holiday will take place on Aug. 6-8.

What's Exempt: During this three-day period, purchases of qualifying school supplies selling for \$20 or less per item, and purchases of qualifying clothing and footwear selling for \$100 or less per item will be exempt from sales tax. Retailers may also choose to absorb the tax on other items during the holiday period, but they are responsible for paying the tax on those items to the Department of Taxation.

www.tax.virginia.gov, click on "Sales Tax Holidays"

Back to School Nights

FAIRFAX COUNTY

See this link for a complete list of upcoming Back-to-School nights

http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool.htm

events for parents are already scheduled; mark your calendar.

— MARY KIMM,

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Local Scouts at National Jamboree

BY JONATHAN ERICKSON
TROOP 518

Tuesday spells the end of the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouting. As the Jamboree is winding down, the scouts are winding up. Scouts and Scouters are scrambling to get done what they passed off earlier in the week. There are mobs and two hour long lines in front of every activity no matter where you go, and because the last day to do activities is Tuesday, it will probably be even more crowded then.

Today, Monday Aug. 2, Scouts are flooding the merit badge stands, extra activities, and museum/action centers. They all want to try new things and finish what they haven't yet. There are more patch traders than I have ever seen, trying to get good deals. The lines are twice as long as they were any other day as people try to get merit badges, get the rockers acquired by certain objectives, and attain new memories and once in a lifetime opportunities. Everywhere you look, people are doing something. The Jamboree bursts from opportunity. You can't do everything, for there are 100 merit badges, 12 several hour activities including bike racing and rock climbing, and many, many other cool things to see and do.

"I almost got a perfect in archery," said Boy Scout David Fraley of Troop 519. "I got a 48/50. I wish this Jamboree wouldn't end." Other Scouts answered similarly.

On Tuesday Aug. 3, everything gets packed up. Many of the activities will be closed or will be closing early that day, causing a mad rush of people trying to do things that they failed to do today. We will have to be back at around 3 p.m. to pack most of our things so we can leave early the next morning. Scouts that I have talked to have even complained that the 100th Jamboree was too short!



PHOTO BY DEB COBB

Waiting Finley, Isobel and Juliet Cobb, of Armfield Farm, check to see whether their Painted Lady Butterfly pupae are close to hatching. The children are looking forward to having some butterflies as "pets" for a few days before they get to release them into the yard.

WFCM Needs Food Donations

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) urgently needs donations of cold and hot cereals. It also needs: canned foods (meat, vegetables, fruit, pasta), dried pasta, bags of rice (3 pounds or smaller), bags of flour and sugar (2-5-pounds), tomato sauce, white rice, baby food (stages 2 and 3), condiments, bottled water, toiletries, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), deodorant, shampoo and toilet paper. Bring them to WFCM'S food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near the Backyard Grill and Bar) in Chantilly.

Also needed are furniture and household items, in good condition, for the thrift store.

Write

The Centre View welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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A Connection Newspaper

LETTER

Stick with Facts

To the Editor:
In its July 15-21 opinion, the Centre View sided again with the Fairfax Education Coalition, a collection of special interest groups on education. The editorial repeated FEC's platform of complaints about the Fairfax County School Board: that the board fails to involve the community, and lacks transparency and accountability in its decisions. The facts do not support these claims.

Community Involvement. School Board members welcome and do their level best to respond to thousands of constituent emails each year.

They attend PTA meetings and town halls throughout the year where citizens have the opportunity for open dialog. Members of the community may participate in any of 10 standing committees, advisory council meetings with the superintendent, study committees and task forces. Citizens have an opportunity to speak at any bi-weekly School Board meeting, as well as special sessions devoted to specific issues such as the budget or boundary decisions.

Transparency. FEC routinely charges FCPS with failing to be transparent — making decisions out of public view. Members of the School Board could not be secretive if they tried. Any gathering of three or more members constitutes a public meeting under Virginia law and requires prior public announcement.

The closed sessions permitted by law are restricted to confidential topics — usually involving students or employees. Detailed records of all School Board activities are readily available on the School Board web site. If FEC believes the School Board is keeping secrets, it should either prove the point by issuing a Freedom of In

SEE LETTER, PAGE 9

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Profile in Real Estate – Kinder Saund

Kinder Saund was born in India, grew up in England and married in the United States. She's lived in Fairfax County, raising her three children here, primarily in Springfield, Burke and Fairfax, since 1990.

Kinder received her real estate license in 1996. She also owns a building company.

"The market now is very similar to 1996," said Kinder, "and knowing that we made it through then, I am sure we will definitely recover now." The biggest difference between 1996 and today is the way that Realtors and clients communicate and market properties, she says. The Internet is a great resource, but not a substitute for the time and personal skills that she brings to serving a real estate client.

Kinder's clients are especially appreciative of the hours she devotes to their needs, and to her extra expertise. In December 2007, Kinder's house caught fire, and she had to tackle the rebuilding project, realizing "the intricate details of fine tuning your personal home." The experience has made her even better at guiding clients through upgrades either to sell or enjoy their homes.

Environmental awareness has led Kinder Saund to become an Eco-Broker and Green Ambassador for the Long and Foster offices in Burke, Clifton and Fairfax Station. She has hosted "Going Green" events where the community can recycle paper and electronics in exchange for contributions to local charities. In rebuilding her home, she used shredded paper as soundproofing in the interior walls and installed geothermal units for heat and air conditioning.



KINDER SAUND
Eco Broker, Realtor
Long & Foster Real Estate, Inc.
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13221 MEMORY LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$430,650	Detached	0.26		GREENBRIAR
13114 PARSON LN	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$425,000	Detached	0.28		GREENBRIAR
2404 HAY RAKE CT	3	2	2	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$424,000	Townhouse	0.05		MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 11
13112 POINT PLEASANT DR	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$420,000	Detached	0.22		GREENBRIAR
13105 PENNDALE LN	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$420,000	Detached	0.19		GREENBRIAR
13633 BELLEROSE DR	5	3	0	CHANTILLY	CHANTILLY	\$417,000	Detached	0.23		ARMPFIELD FARMS
2499 TERRA COTTA CIR	4	3	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$416,000	Townhouse	0.04		COPPERMINE CROSSING LAND
13230 COPPERMILL DR	3	2	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$415,000	Townhouse	0.06		COPPERMILL
3855 ALDER WOODS CT	3	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$410,000	Townhouse	0.07		FAIR WOODS
13241 COPPER COVE WAY	3	3	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$405,000	Townhouse	0.06		COPPERMILL
12605 GLENBROOKE WOODS DR	4	3	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$405,000	Detached	0.34		GLENBROOKE WOODS
4414 MIDDLE RIDGE DR	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$405,000	Detached	0.26		GREENBRIAR
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4305 MAJESTIC LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$400,000	Detached	0.21		GREENBRIAR
4348 SILAS HUTCHINSON DR	3	2	1	CHANTILLY	CHANTILLY	\$395,000	Detached	0.25		PLEASANT VALLEY
2653 NEW CARSON DR	4	3	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$395,000	Detached	0.33		MONTEREY
2423 TERRA COTTA CIR	4	2	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$391,000	Townhouse	0.04		COPPERMINE CROSSING LAND
12439 ERICA HILL LN	3	2	2	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$391,000	Townhouse	0.03		CARR AT CEDAR LAKES
13718 SPRINGHAVEN DR	3	2	1	CHANTILLY	CHANTILLY	\$388,000	Detached	0.18		ARMPFIELD FARMS
13506 AVONMORE DR	3	2	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$385,000	Townhouse	0.04		WELLESLEY
4423 MIDDLE RIDGE DR	4	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$385,000	Detached	0.22		GREENBRIAR
4400 CARRIER CT	4	3	1	CHANTILLY	CHANTILLY	\$380,000	Detached	0.32		PLEASANT VALLEY
4405 MIDSTONE LN	3	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$380,000	Detached	0.19		GREENBRIAR
4119 MIDDLE RIDGE DR	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$380,000	Patio Home	0.22		GREENBRIAR
13528 ELLENDALE DR	4	2	1	CHANTILLY	CHANTILLY	\$375,000	Detached	0.20		BROOKFIELD
4303 MARKWOOD LN	4	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$372,500	Detached	0.25		GREENBRIAR
13211 ASHNUT LN	3	3	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$372,000	Townhouse	0.04		MCNAIR FARMS LANDBAY 12
2548 JAMES MAURY DR	3	2	2	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$370,000	Townhouse	0.06		MCNAIR FARMS WEST
13151 MORNING SPRING LN	4	3	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$368,100	Detached	0.34		GREENBRIAR
4314 THOMAS BRIGADE LN	3	2	1	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$366,000	Arth/Row Hse	0.03		CARR AT CEDAR LAKES
2529 BANSHIRE DR	3	2	1	HERNDON	HERNDON	\$365,000	Townhouse	0.04		WELLESLEY
4490 MARKET COMMONS DR#501	2	2	0	FAIRFAX	FAIRFAX	\$365,000	Mid-Rise 5-8 Flrs			ELAN AT EAST MARKET
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

formation Act request or retract the claim.

Accountability. Finally, FEC claims that FCPS acts without accountability to the public. When School Board members make decisions that are unpopular with some or all of the community, they are doing what they were elected to do: evaluate choices and make difficult decisions.

Accountability comes at the ballot box, and the community expresses its judgment on the past and anticipated performance of its School Board members every four years.

Everyone, including FEC, has a right to question or protest decisions of the School Board.

But FEC and the Centre View could significantly elevate the quality of public debate if they stopped attacking the motives and ethics of School Board members

— veiled behind rhetoric about involvement, transparency and accountability — and focused their message on disagreements with specific decisions.

Ted Velkoff
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26189 Rachel Hill Dr.....\$465,000	Sun 1-4.....	Donny Samson.....Samson Properties....703-864-4894
4502 GASTON ST.....\$599,900	Sun 1-4.....	Dianne Lemanski.....Keller Williams.....703-754-0097
26101 Iverson Dr.....\$599,999	Sat 1-4.....	Trisha Cooper.....RE/MAX.....540-903-8525
Clifton		
12415 Henderson Rd.....\$715,000	Sun 1-4.....	Cathy DeLoach.....Long & Foster.....571-276-9421
12610 Knollbrook Dr.....\$1,125,000	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster.....703-503-1812
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11503 Rothbury Sq.....\$465,000	Sun 1-4.....	Ingrid Barrett.....ERA.....571-216-2313
4794 CATTERICK CT.....\$555,000	Sun 1-4.....	Joe O'Hara.....Washington Fine.....703-350-1234
10502 James Wren Way.....\$575,000	Sun 1-4.....	Bill Bisson.....RE/MAX.....703-250-8500
12302 CANNONBALL RD.....\$589,000	Sun 1-4.....	Donna Stoll.....ERA.....703-742-6900
4025 Verret Drive.....\$624,900	Sun 1-4.....	Spencer Marker & Co.....Long & Foster....703-830-6123
4128 HALSTED ST.....\$640,000	Sun 1-4.....	Mindy Link.....Coldwell Banker.....703-380-2706
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Man Convicted in Filming Teen Nude

FROM PAGE 1

the students didn't even look like a camera. Instead, it was disguised as a large fountain pen. Fairfax County police Det. Nicholas Boffi was able to extract the camera's contents via a flashdrive. Then, at the outset of Dykstra's trial in General District Court, the 70-minute video was played on four computer screens.

Defense attorney Dickson Young stipulated that the video showed the victim "in a state of undress" so that section wouldn't have to be shown in open court. And both Pearson and Young told Judge Mark Simmons that the teen's "breasts and buttocks were exposed."

The start of the video clearly shows Dykstra placing the camera so that it's partially hidden inside a pair of swim trunks hanging up in the changing room. He readjusts the camera's position, and then — after the first teen has been filmed — Dykstra returns to adjust the camera once more.

Throughout the video, teen boys and girls — many wearing bathing suits or towels — are shown in that room. Most changed their clothes out of the camera's view in an adjacent room, and one person could be heard showering in yet another adjoining room. Sometimes, more than one person was in the changing room at the same time.

THE END of the video shows a boy finding the pen camera and asking, "What's this? Is that a camera? What the heck?" Another teen says, "This is so creepy." Then, when another teen comes in and is shown the camera, that person says, "No; I can't believe it."

The teens later gave the camera to a parent, who contacted the police. Boffi went to Dykstra's house, June 7, and testified that he saw the changing room on the home's main level. "It's 10x10, with a mirror, brushes, towels and clothing hanging on a hook," said the detective. "It's just off the patio, where you can get to the pool."

Under questioning from Young, Boffi said the home is 12,000 square feet, has three bedrooms, a mother-in-law's suite and four bathrooms. He said the changing room wasn't marked as such, and he estimated 25-27 people used it that night.

On June 7, police confiscated several computers, phones and cameras from Dykstra's home. Boffi said police didn't find anything similar to the pen camera elsewhere in the home.

A 17-year-old party guest said he'd been to that home previously. "I found the pen camera at the Dykstra house," he testified. "I was inside the changing room and I noticed it sticking out of a pair of swim trunks hanging on the wall. It looked like a nice pen, larger than usual. There were several pair of swim trunks hanging up, but they

were dry."

Identifying the camera in court, he said it was tucked "inside one of the pockets of the swim trunks, with the top half out and the bottom half concealed in the trunks. At first, I thought it was a nice pen, but I noticed there was a red, blinking light with a button at the top."

He said a fellow Westfield student was in the room, too, and then two more students came in. He said they discussed the camera, but decided not to tell anyone else. "I put it inside a bag and, the next day, I gave it to [the fellow Westfield student], who gave it to her father," he said.

He said he had been invited to the party, and he arrived in his tuxedo and changed clothes there. He said Dykstra hadn't told him where to change, and he'd gone into the changing room to get towels and to hang up his swim trunks. He'd changed elsewhere in the home.

He said that, prior to leaving, he didn't know what was on the pen camera and didn't discuss his discovery with Dykstra. Later, he said, he saw "only still photos to ID people. Today was the first time I'd seen myself on the video."

Next, the female student who'd been photographed nude testified that she didn't give anyone permission to videotape her and didn't know there was a video camera in that room. She said she had been invited along with other juniors and seniors in Westfield's theater department.

"This was designated as a changing room," said the victim. "I've been to at least three cast parties there." She also stated that she'd shut the door, that night, before changing.

"Had Mr. Dykstra ever told you before to go to this room to change?" asked Young.

"Yes, he had," said the victim. "They called it the changing room. I arrived in my prom dress and changed into my swimsuit. I [later] saw the picture of myself changing out of my swimsuit, afterward, into my pajamas; I spent the night at that house."

YOUNG PRESENTED no evidence on behalf of Dykstra, and Dykstra declined to speak when Judge Simmons gave him the opportunity. In her closing argument, Pearson said, "That was called the changing room and this young lady closed the door to change. She didn't know the defendant was videotaping her."

Young said the commonwealth had to establish that Dykstra's actions were "knowing and intentional. There's never an indication that anyone except the victim closes the door and changes in that room. People changed in the adjoining rooms and in other rooms, all over the house. This is a high-end home and there's surveillance inside and outside."

"This is not a bathroom or a changing room in a department store," continued

Young. He said the victim deserves an apology, but "there's no evidence the defendant specifically directed [her] to that room for the purpose of photographing her while she undressed."

But, countered Pearson, "There's no evidence of any other explanation. The defendant knows it's a pool party and you've got evidence of him positioning the camera to capture people changing in that room." She said there's "better reason for surveillance" in the living room, than in a room where people believed they'd have privacy.

The judge then found Dykstra guilty, beyond a reasonable doubt. "This is not a static, surveillance camera, but a surreptitious camera — the type used for spying on people without their knowing it," said Simmons. "There's video of Dykstra setting it up, checking and rechecking it — and it's in a place where people are in various stages of undress."

"He invited juveniles there and knew they'd be in that room," continued the judge. "He knew they were in nice tuxedos and gowns and would have to go to this room to change into swimwear. Unlike in department stores, there were no signs warning of surveillance or signs saying, for example, 'No stealing my towels.' So it wasn't being done for that reason. To me, there's no doubt there'd be a reasonable expectation of privacy there, and I find the defendant guilty."

Saying she feared Dykstra could be a "future danger to the community," Pearson then asked Simmons to incarcerate him. Young, however, said his client has no prior record.

"He's had 51 law-abiding years and made a mistake on this one occasion," said Young. "He and his family are humiliated, and he's now separated from the Westfield community where he gave sweat and financial contributions. He deeply regrets the conduct that caused the victim the embarrassment that brought her here today."

But Simmons told Dykstra the incident was "disturbing because juveniles were involved — and at your own daughter's party." The judge then sentenced him to 360 days in jail, suspending 350 days, and placed him on one year of active probation. He remanded Dykstra to the custody of the sheriff, but because Young said he's filing an appeal, Dykstra is allowed to remain free, pending that appeal. However, Simmons ordered him to "have no contact with the victim."

ROUNDUPS

Man Charged with Carjacking, Abduction

Fairfax County police arrested a Springfield man Sunday after he allegedly stole a van — with three, 5-year-old children in the back seat — from a grocery-store parking lot in Chantilly. The incident occurred Aug. 1 around 6:30 p.m.

The reported victim, a 49-year-old Chantilly woman, was sitting in her 2011 Nissan Maxima in the Shoppers Food Warehouse parking lot at 13920 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, waiting for a female relative to finish grocery shopping. Then, say police, "A man approached her vehicle, yelled at her, allegedly struck her and jumped into the driver's seat."

According to police, he drove off with the three children — boy and girl twins, plus another boy related to them — still in the vehicle. He then pulled over before leaving the parking lot and ordered the children to get out, which they did. They were not injured.

Patrol officers observed the suspect traveling westbound on Routes 28 and 50 at a high rate of speed and followed the van onto the Loudoun County Parkway. There, the driver apparently lost control of the vehicle and it jumped a curb and came to rest in the grass.

He then jumped on top of the car and scaled a fence, but was met by officers who took him into custody. Police charged Charles William Lawrence, 28 of 7505 Tralee Woods Court with carjacking, three counts of abduction and speeding to elude.

He was taken to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital for treatment of non life-threatening injuries. He's now being held without bond in the Adult Detention Center and has Sept. 2 and Sept. 8 court dates.

Appliance Causes House Fire

Fire investigators say a malfunctioning coffeemaker caused a Chantilly house fire that did an estimated \$103,000 damage. Six people were in the home at the time, but were alerted by smoke alarms.

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue units responded last Tuesday, July 27, around 4:50 p.m., to the two-story, single-family home at 13706 Lynncroft Drive in the Brookfield community.

First-arriving fire-fighters saw smoke and fire showing from the windows, with flames reported in the first-floor kitchen. They brought the fire under control in approximately 25 minutes. According to fire officials, most of the home's interior was damaged and four adults and one child were displaced. No one was injured.

Park Authority to Meet

The Fairfax County Park Authority will meet Wednesday, Aug. 11, at 7:30 p.m., in the Herry Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 900 in Fairfax. Call Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

WORTH NOTING

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

FRIDAY/AUG. 6

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With JP McDermott and Western Bop Band. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m. to midnight dancing. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

School Supplies Collection. 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Dominion Virginia Power volunteers will partner with K-Mart stores in Northern Virginia. They are collecting donations of school supplies to stuff trucks with backpacks, pencils, markers and a variety of other supplies needed to help students in the public school system prepare for school. Supplies can be dropped off in the parking lots at select K-Mart stores throughout Northern Virginia. The drop-off is the Chantilly K-Mart Store, 13910 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly.

SATURDAY/AUG. 7

Starlight Cinema - "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs" (Drive-in Movie). Free. Gates open at 6 p.m. At Trinity Centre Parkway, 5870 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469) www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Pirate Jack (Songs). 10 a.m. Free. At E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Call 703-324-SHOW (7469).

Silky Smooth Jazz Festival. Noon to 10 p.m. Cost is \$45. A jazz festival with great food, arts and crafts vendors. At Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville.

Call the Silky Smooth Jazz Hot Line at 703-647-9771 or Sandra Mason at 703-217-8992 or send an email to silkysmoothjazzfest@gmail.com. Or visit www.silkysmoothdance.com.

Annual Dog Wash. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The SPCA of Northern Virginia will be hosting its annual dog wash to raise funds for rescued animals. Along with washing dogs, there will be nail trimming and ear cleaning, if desired. At Webers Pet Supermarket 11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

Columbia Doubles Volleyball at Bull Run. 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Columbia Doubles Volleyball offers primarily grass doubles competition Divisions. Open down to BB and we also offer limited 4's events. Each event starts and ends on the same day and this is an all day competition with playoffs for the leading teams. At Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. Call 301-422-4440

AUG. 7-8

4-H Fair at Frying Pan Park. Saturday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Includes livestock exhibits, dog and horse shows, live entertainment, fair food, farm demonstrations, carnival rides contests, exhibits, wagon rides and tractor pulls. If you want to volunteer call 703-437-9101 or via e-mail at Stephanie.rochford@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Lego Brickfair. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. See amazing Lego creations big and small. Build in the Stay & Play area. Watch Brickfilms. At the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

SUNDAY/AUG. 8

Columbia Doubles Volleyball. 6:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Columbia Doubles Volleyball offers primarily grass

doubles competition Divisions. Open down to BB and we also offer limited 4's events. Each event starts and ends on the same day and this is an all day competition with playoffs for the leading teams. At Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. Call 301-422-4440.

TUESDAY/AUG. 10

Living Well Workshop. Free workshop that helps people handle the frustration, fatigue, and pain that often accompanies chronic illnesses. First of a six-week series. At Ox Hill Baptist Church, 4101 Elmwood Street, Chantilly. Call 703-324-5489, TTY 703-449-1186 for more information and to register.

Centreville Stitchers. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting or other needlework crafts and conversation? Join Centreville Stitchers at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. All levels (adults) welcome. Questions - call Jo at 703-803-0595 or email joknitter@verizon.net.

AUG. 10-11

SERVPRO Golf Tournament. Northern Virginia's largest high school golf tournament. At Twin Lakes Golf Club, 6201 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Contact Rati Bogdan at brati@fwm1.com or 703-595-6712.

FRIDAY/AUG. 13

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band Blair Carman and the Belleview Boys. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

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Rec Sports Leagues Provide Competition, Fitness, Friendship

Sports playing careers don't have to end after college for athletic minded.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

Growing up in his hometown of Vienna in the 1970s, current Chantilly resident Rodger Melchiori had a love and passion for playing and following sports. Some of his greatest memories are of playing youth basketball for the Cougars within Vienna Youth Incorporated, as well as playing baseball for the Rebels within the Vienna Little League.

Melchiori continued to play and excel in athletics as he moved into his teenage years, always enjoying the competition and camaraderie that comes with being part of a team unit. He competed at the intramural level at James Madison University in Harrisonburg and, during the summers, loved playing slow pitch softball within the old Vienna Church Softball League as a member of the St. Mark's team.

As an adult, Melchiori, a 1981 graduate of James Madison High School in Vienna, played softball for years within Fairfax County as part of the Fairfax Adult Softball organization — one of the largest adult softball programs in the country. He also played in Fairfax County-run basketball and flag football leagues.

One of the greatest benefits for athletic-minded adults, like Melchiori, in Northern Virginia is the Fairfax County adult recreation sports leagues which allow individuals to continue their playing careers for as long as they wish. There is always an available sports venue for men and women who love hitting the ball field or the hard wood.

"Fairfax County [for adult athletes] is excellent," said Melchiori, the father of three. "They do a fantastic job of providing opportunities to play, having well organized programs and having good playing facilities."

As Melchiori's children grew older over the year, he got more involved in their sports endeavors and 'retired' as an active athlete himself.

"Once your kids start playing sports, their activities kind of take over," said Melchiori, with a laugh. "But I have always thought it would be fun to be in one of the 50-over leagues."

Fairfax County's most popular adult sport venue is Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS), which has close to 10,000 participants — men and women combined — who make up well over 800 teams. The organization runs spring, summer and fall leagues. Ball players can compete in men's or women's leagues, as well as coed and senior divisions.

The long-running FAS organization is currently as popular as ever.

"We have a whole lot of teams — from the [more] competitive level to recreation level for those who like that," said Christine Frece, FAS Administrative Assistant. "This year we have increased teams for fall, spring and summer."

Frece, whose father played competitive tournament softball, said there are so many positives that come from playing adult softball or any sport.

"It's fun, you get exercise and you have the social aspect playing with friends and family," said Frece, a former girls' softball player at Lee High School in Springfield. "It's funny who you'll run into on the softball field."

Frece also plays recreation volleyball.

"I like volleyball a lot," she said. "You play three games a night and it's fast paced."

Those interested in playing within FAS's upcoming fall league softball program should contact the FAS office@fairfaxadultsoftball.com.

Fairfax County adult sports programs which take place on outdoor fields across Northern Virginia include baseball, field hockey, flag football, lacrosse, rugby, soccer, kickball, softball and cricket. There are about 50,000 adult participants in those sports combined. The county sports programs held indoors include badminton, basketball and volleyball. Close to 13,000 participants take part in those sports.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County adult recreation indoor soccer provides participants a chance to compete while staying in shape and having fun.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax Adult Softball offers an opportunity to compete for a range of age groups and ability levels.

Karen Avvisato, the Fairfax County's division director for community use scheduling for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, said adults love competing in sports for numerous reasons.

"People want the socialization and they want to unwind after their work day and get together with friends," said Avvisato, who works out of the Pennino building in Fairfax. "Some [participants] have never played before and go out for the fun of it. But most people have played sports most of their lives and want to continue

that.

"We live in such a fast-paced area," she said. "It's a tough time economically and people work hard for a living here. It's nice for people to unwind and to have that avenue to exercise and play sports with friends."

While adult softball has the most participants, Avvisato said soccer is also hugely popular with over 9,000 athletes having participated this past spring season and just as many likely to play this fall.

"There's lots of running and it's a way to get exercise," said Avvisato, of the cardiovascular

strengthening sport of soccer. "Soccer helps you maintain fitness."

Fairfax County, for its sports programs, utilizes gym and field space at local schools and park sites, providing playing venues for all those involved in adult recreation sports.

"It's our job to give everyone a [quality] place to play — to maximize all the facilities out there," said Avvisato.

Competitive Fire

Tom Tudor stands in the batter's

SEE SPORTS, PAGE 13

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SPORTS

FROM PAGE 12

box at Braddock Park's field No. 5 in Clifton on a warm Monday evening. The game is slow pitch softball and the 64-year-old Fairfax resident isn't interested in anything other than delivering a hit.

Facing a two-strike count, Tudor lets the pitcher's offering fall to the ground: it's not to his liking. But the home plate umpire has a different view, and rings Tudor up with a called third strike. Tudor doesn't think the pitch was legal, stating the pitcher was too far behind the rubber upon delivery. He argues his case with the umpire, but to no avail. Moments later, Tudor reminds the umpire of his frustration from the dugout.

After the game, won handily by Tudor's Solid Gold squad, the second baseman is all smiles as he shares stories. But when he and his teammates are on the field, it's all business. Tudor said Solid Gold has been one of the best teams in the Fairfax Adult Softball league for the last 10 years and they intend to keep it that way.

"Some of the teams don't even want to play you because it is just total recreation for them," Tudor said. "I always play on something to better myself. [It feels like I'm] trying out every time. Your reputation is on the line. I struck out watching the ball tonight. I'll hear about that for two months now."

Tudor started playing rec softball in 1969 after returning from his second tour of duty in Vietnam. He had played basketball and baseball at Madison High in Vienna, and received a partial scholarship for basketball at Old Dominion University, but nothing became of it. After returning from Vietnam, rec sports gave him an outlet for his competitiveness and athletic talents.

"It really got into my blood," he said.

Tudor plays with several teams, and has competed for top-flight national teams from Florida and California. His Solid Gold squad, which includes W.T. Woodson head softball coach Bob Coleman, competes in Division I of the Fairfax Adult Softball senior (50 and over) league. Solid Gold is listed on the

FAS Web site with a 7-0 record through July 27, having outscored its opponents 136-65.

"We built this team on chemistry and ability," Tudor said. "Chemistry is No. 1, to tell you the truth. There's a lot of guys that wanted to play on this team and we've been the No. 1 team for 10 years."

"You'll see in the late innings every once in awhile [when] we're down and we haven't been playing well, somebody will come in and say, 'Hey, let's take it up a notch. Let's go,'" he said. "Everybody just comes together and they do the job."

While Tudor and his teammates are focused when it comes to softball, there's also room for fun. On Sunday mornings, members of Solid Gold get together for batting practice — something Tudor said he enjoys.

"I look forward to that more than anything else," he said. "You play a double-header out here and you might get eight swings, unless you take some batting practice. Out there, we'll hit 100 balls on Sunday. We really do like the sport and try to be good at it."

Lasting Memories

Dave Sanders, who grew up in Vienna and currently lives in Ashburn with his family, played within the Fairfax County recreation men's basketball and softball leagues for years, and currently plays hoops within Loudoun County.

Sanders, a former Madison High basketball player (Madison, class of '87), has great memories of his 20-plus years on the ball diamond playing softball. He played for Emmanuel Lutheran Church's men's softball team within the Vienna Softball Church League in the mid-to-late 1980s and into the early '90s. Eventually, the team moved into the Fairfax County league.

"Playing softball in Fairfax County was and has been a great experience," said Sanders. "It gave me the ability to connect with family, church and college friends on a weekly basis for 20 years. Memories include playing at Braddock

Park, my favorite venue, during summer nights — nothing quite like the feeling of playing under the lights against tough competition. The most special experiences, however, were the teammates — guys trying to sustain the glory years, giving it their all - allowing us for just a moment to leave all the daily responsibilities behind.

"My memories include the feeling of hitting a line drive to the opposite field, relays to the plate, guys taking shots off their chest from aluminum bats that became more difficult to navigate, calling the [FAS] rain lines and, most of all, the friendship and competition," said Sanders, who currently has cut down his athletic playing endeavors to basketball within Loudoun County. "Fairfax County always ran a good league."

RESTON NATIVE Anne Nichols, 21, plays for a social league softball team despite having no experience. She joked that she plays catcher to avoid being involved in the action.

"It just seemed like a fun opportunity, even though I'm really miserable and I've never played before," said Nichols, a student at Wake Forest.

Nichols' boyfriend's sister, Katie Flynn, started the team. Flynn, a 27-year-old Reston native, played softball at South Lakes High School and Seton Hall University. While Nichols is a newcomer along for some fun, the rest of the team has a different approach.

"As a team, we're outrageously competitive to a point where it's embarrassing and awkward for everybody," Flynn said.

Within Fairfax County adult recreation sports, there is a place for the highly competitive as well as those who come out strictly for social enjoyment and exercise.

"For me, it was more being with your friends," said Melchiori, of the greatest enjoyment he received over the years playing sports, both as a youngster and on into adulthood. "You develop such friendships playing youth ball and into high school [and beyond]. Playing sports is a great way to maintain friendships."

— Jon Roetman contributed to this story.

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NOTICE

TO: William Samuels
RE: The Proposed Guardianship of Baby Girl Kim

You are hereby notified that a guardianship case has been filed in the Circuit Court for Montgomery County, Maryland, case number A15678. All persons who believe themselves to be parents of a female child born on the 8th day of May, 2010 in Rockville, Maryland to Caroline Y. Kim (DOB: 4/2/86) shall file a written response. A copy of the Show Cause Order may be obtained from the clerk's office at:

Circuit Court for Montgomery County
50 Maryland Avenue
Rockville, MD 20850
(240) 777-9400

If you do not file a written objection within 30 days after the last date on which this Order is posted you will have agreed to the permanent loss of your parental right to this child.
Date of Issue: July 26, 2010
Loretta E. Knight, CLERK

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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"Fine."



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That's my standard answer to the most frequently asked question I hear: "How are you feeling, Ken?"

The problem is not with the question or the questioner, it's with the "questionee," yours truly. I never know if the question pertains to me in general or to me with cancer, in particular. Am I being asked about life or about death? Admittedly, I can't be objective and keep an open mind. Almost instinctively I think the question is being asked in the context of me having cancer. But sometimes, it's not (as I've found out). Sometimes, as they say, "a cigar is just a cigar." And so, to keep from making that very presumptuous mistake – and thinking the world revolves around me and my cancer – I simplify my answer and wait for a follow-up question, to be sure.

I don't need to talk about my cancer (apparently I need to write about it, though). I don't need – or want, quite frankly – to be Kenny with cancer and/or play the cancer card and receive pity/special treatment. I want (need) to be treated as normally as possible. However, given the fact that I am myself consumed (mentally, not physically; thank God!) by it, it is nearly impossible. Though I have tried, on occasion, not thinking about it for one minute; (it's akin to holding your breath – it doesn't work long term; heck, it doesn't exactly work short term, either), it's extremely difficult for me to not think others are, at the very least, aware of my condition and as a result, their questions must have something to do with the big picture (cancer), not the every day picture.

Therefore, after having given a few ill-advised and unanticipated answers to this standard question, I have decided to be simple-Simon rather than cancer-Kenny. Oh sure, I'll give somebody chapter and verse, if that's what they're really asking and interested in hearing, but until I know the depth of their inquiry, I won't bore anybody with the low lights of my diagnosis, prognosis, current treatment protocol and miscellaneous side-effect deficits. I want to be sure I'm answering the question that they're actually asking.

Now writing about it is something different entirely. I'm not writing these "cancer columns" (as I call them) because somebody asked me a question or because I'm trying to educate the general public (with some unique information that only I have had the good fortune to benefit from which I'm now able to share; I wish) about cancer as some time-honored – and unselfish – respectable, journalistic pursuit. Hardly. I'm writing these columns because I need to, probably for self-preservation, I imagine, but definitely as a means hopefully-not-to-my-end. And it's in these columns where I can indulge my fantasies of thinking how much my life (or my "journey," as one reader characterized it) might matter, maybe even benefit others.

In reality though, my life matters most to me, and that's why it is so difficult to take a question at face value. Given the severity and terminal nature of my original diagnosis/prognosis, how can anyone ask how I'm doing and not realize the gravity of the situation? But they don't necessarily. Why should they? They're just asking a simple question. And from now on, I'm going to give them a simple answer.

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

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National Night Out

FROM PAGE 3
salads and desserts. Children played beanbag toss and zipped around on ripstiks – two-wheeled skateboards.
“Everyone enjoyed themselves,” said host Clint Crawford. “We introduced ourselves to new neighbors, firefighters and police, and folks from Neighborhood Watch.

We won first place for best party overall because of the food, atmosphere and party spirit. Everything was homemade and the food was superb.”
Their prize was \$300 from the Sully II community, and they’ve already got plans for it. Said Crawford: “We’re going to use it to hold an Oktoberfest.”



The Gisin sisters, (from left) Sequoia, 4, and Sky, 6, get into the spirit of the Mexican-themed party on Flower Hill Drive. Parents are Jen and Greg Gisin.



State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and wife Julia chat with (from left) Station 38's Lt. Jeff Klopp, Erich Williams and Lilia Alvarado.

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