

Centreville ❖ Clifton ❖ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION



A Day in The Life of Centreville

PAGE 3

8:09 a.m.
Lt. Thomas Johnson from
Engine 17 turns off an
apparent false alarm at
Centreville High School.

Insiders Guide

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INSIDERS GUIDE

Welcome

This issue of the Centre View includes our annual Newcomers and Community Guide.

Through narrative, listings, viewpoints and photographs, we endeavor to capture what it means to live here, highlights of places to visit and things to do, a snapshot of local history, help finding community resources and tips on adjusting to living here.



If you are new to the area, you'll find resources and ideas on these pages and on our website, www.ConnectionNewspapers.com. Even some longtime residents may not have visited some of the key places in and nearby their community.

We offer many more resources on our website.

There you will find the complete community guides for each of our 15 papers, including more extensive listings than appear in the newspapers.

You can also access the print edition of each of our papers online, showing each page exactly as it appears in the paper, including cover, photos, display ads and classified advertising. Go to www.ConnectionNewspapers.com, and click on "Print Editions" in the red bar.

As a locally owned, weekly newspaper, the Centre View's mission is to bring the news you need about your community, to give you the information you need to enjoy the best things in and near your community, to advocate for community good, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

AT THE CENTRE VIEW, we invite newcomers to the area and long-time residents alike to be a part of providing more reader input. Let us know how we're doing and let us know what is going on in your part of the community. If
SEE WELCOME. PAGE 22

New to Fairfax County?

The Fairfax County website provides excellent resources to help get acclimated, including registering to vote, licensing animals, local rules about trash and recycling, libraries, parks, schools, the Department of Motor Vehicles and more: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/newtofairfax

INSIDERS GUIDE

A Day in the Life of Centreville

Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Behind 'A Day in the Life of Centreville'

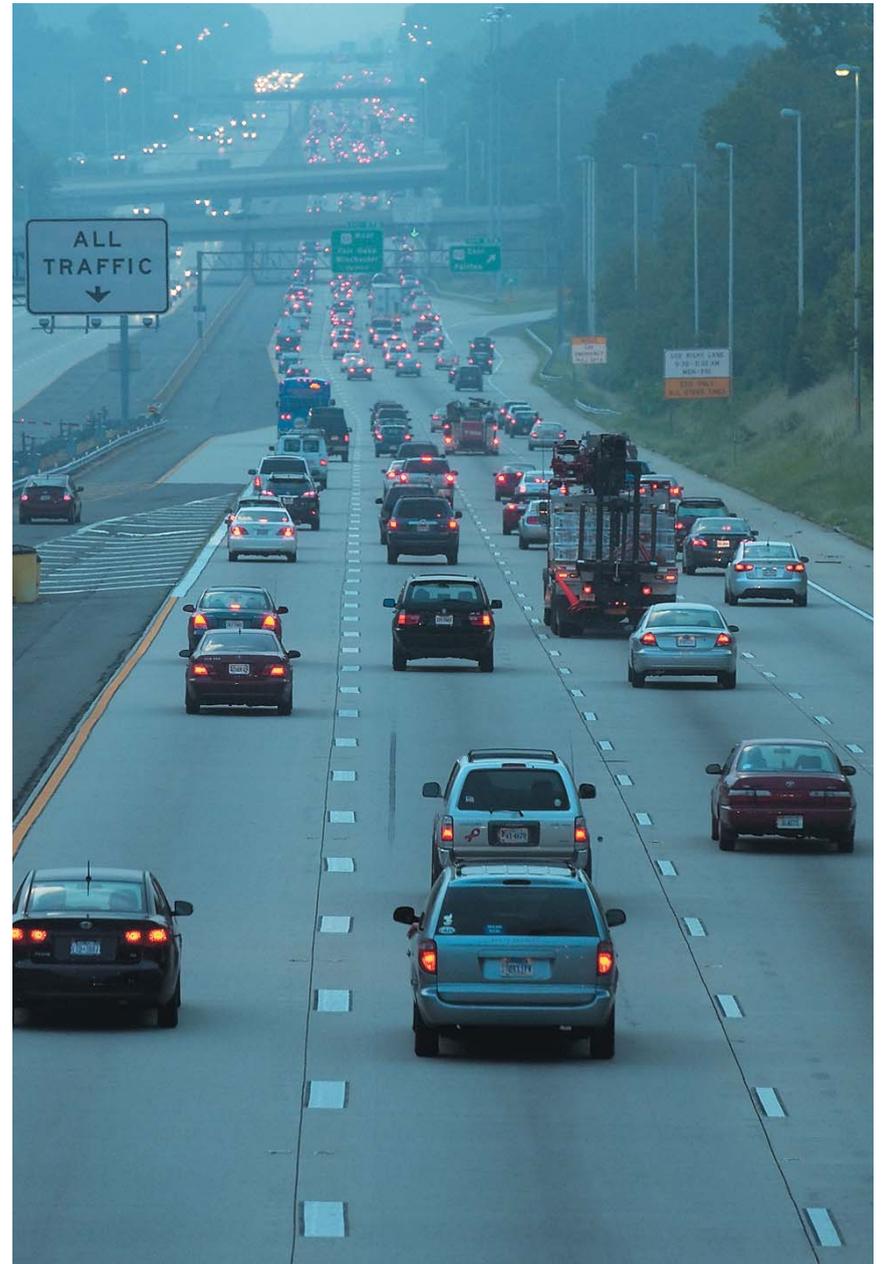
Photographer Deb Cobb spent Aug. 12 traveling through Centreville, meeting with and photographing some of the people and organizations who help make this community greater than the sum of its parts. The list she had was by no means comprehensive, but it serves to spotlight what it means to live, work and play here.



5:45 a.m.
American Disposal Services driver Hugo Peraza stands by his newly repaired truck. One of the neighborhoods Peraza services is Little Rocky Run.



6:49 a.m.
Tyrone Hazelton, a behind-the-wheel training instructor for the Fairfax Connector, and Helen Newman, a safety trainer for the Fairfax Connector, conduct a training exercise for new drivers on a closed course near the Fairfax Government Center.



6:57 a.m.

Traffic heading eastbound on Rt. 66 as viewed from the Monument Drive bridge.



7:39 a.m.

Members of the Centreville High School women's cross country team do A-skips to warm up before practice. From left: Rachel Brown (Senior, Manor Gate); Julie Cuomo (Senior, Balmoral); Brynna Heflin (Senior, Little Rocky Run); Rebecca Vinter (Sophomore, Crofton Commons).

INSIDERS GUIDE

A Day in the Life of Centreville



7:55 a.m.

Sam Zehr (Junior, Little Rocky Run); Brandon Austin (Junior, Little Rocky Run); Francis Oh (Senior, Centre Ridge); Connor Moore (Senior, Clifton). Members of the percussion section of the marching band, Sam, Brandon, Francis and Connor head outside in preparation for the start of band practice.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

8:25 a.m.

The Centreville marching band practices in the back parking lot of the high school.



8:16 a.m.

Keiona Mason, a rising senior, is returning to Centreville High School after having moved away. She is excited to be back. She is pictured with Samantha Taylor and School Registrar Karen Clifton.



9:05 a.m.

Todd Utter puts his JV and Varsity football players through receiver drills. Sophomore receiver Anthony Morgan of Sully Station II tips the ball.



11:37 a.m.

Sandra Ammar and her daughter Juliana, of Clifton, are regulars at the Centreville library programs. Today they are enjoying "Yum!" a story program with books all about food read by library employee Jisuk Pak.



9:22 a.m.

Brian Beal, a junior from Virginia Run, does a hurdle mobility drill as part of his practice on the cross country team.

INSIDERS GUIDE

A Day in the Life of Centreville



12:30 p.m.

TEXT AND PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

It's fajita night at the station and Firefighter Matthew Gambino and several of the crew are making a run for supplies. It is policy for the firefighters to take their equipment (the engines and ambulances) with them when they go to the grocery store or to the gym for exercise so that in the event of an emergency they don't lose time getting back to the station house. From left: In engine, Firefighter Matthew Gambino; Station Captain John Morris; Technician Michael Duffy; Ben Sisson, a high school senior and member of the Explorers program; and Firefighter Michael Lee. Station 38 has many events in the community — including being a drop off point for American flags that need to be disposed of properly. Stop by during their open house during fire prevention week, Saturday Oct. 9.



3:38 p.m.

Robert Altenhaus, of Centreville, a camp director at Cub Run for two years, watches as campers try to break eggs without using their thumbs as part of the Summer Rocks! Program.



1:45 p.m.

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey attempts to clean off his desk before he leaves for a tour of Alaska. Boomer keeps him company while he works through the piles.



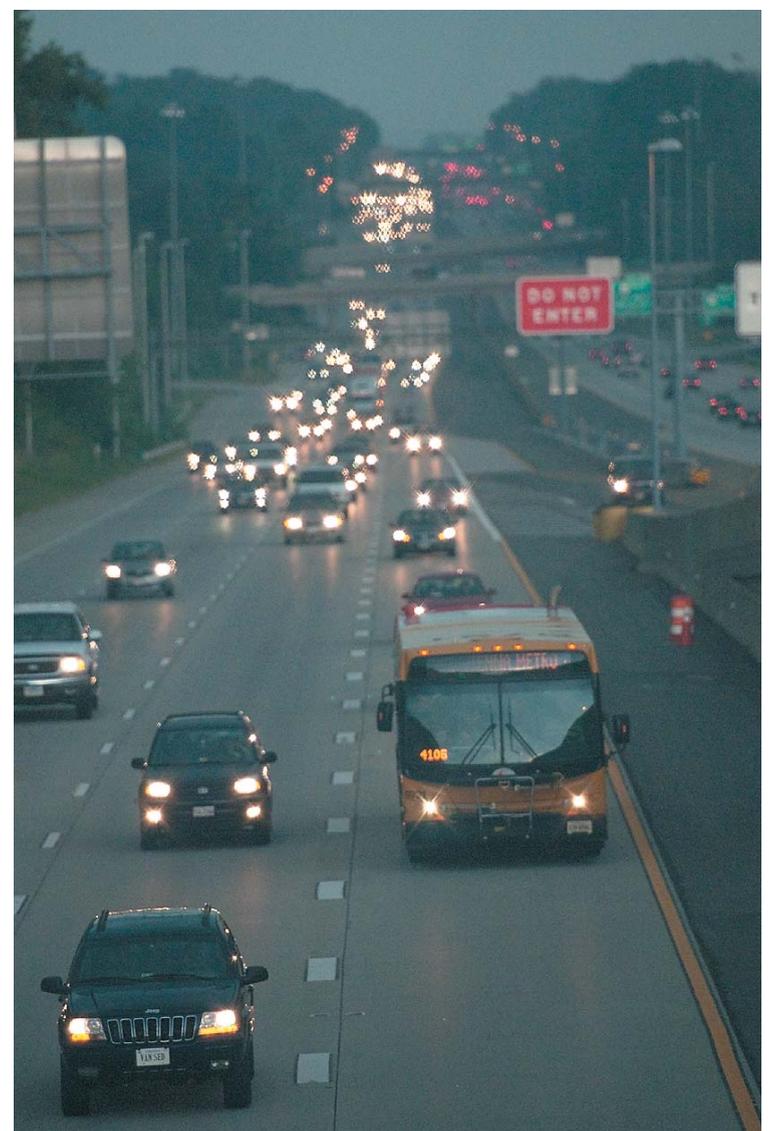
2:17 p.m.

At the Sully Police Station, Officer Ryan Morgan, the shift supervisor, looks at a whiteboard listing school crosswalks covered by the station. Those with hash marks are staffed. Should the crossing guard call in sick, the station makes every effort to send an officer to cover the crosswalk.



2:35 p.m.

Officer Ryan Morgan feeds a carrot to the station mascot, Ellie the guinea pig.



6:20 p.m.

Traffic heading westbound on Rt. 66 from the Monument Drive bridge.

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NEWS

Car Show In Clifton

The Richard King Memorial Chili Cook Off will be part of the 11th Annual Clifton Labor Day Car Show on Monday Sept. 6.

The Car Show will run 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The event features live music at The Barn, 7139 Main Street, with Gypsy Sons, Shirkaday, Slider and The Lost Highway Band. Music starts at noon and goes until 5 p.m.

This is an open car and motorcycle show. All proceeds to benefit local charities. Car Show registration begins at 7 a.m. at the gate. Cost: \$15.

For more information contact: Jim Chesley at 703-830-2129 or e-mail jchesley@aol.com or Rusty at 703-595-0395

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully police department through Aug. 20.

BURGLARY/ ARREST

A man was arrested after allegedly breaking into a home in the 13900 block of Valley Country Drive around 1:55 a.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 17. A 19-year-old male of the 3900 block of Flagg Court in Chantilly, was taken to jail and charged with burglary. Nothing appeared to be missing from the home.

RABIES TESTING

Animal Control officers collected a fox for rabies testing from the 10900 block of Hunter Station Road around 1:33 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12. Two dogs, a Blue Heeler and a Blue Heeler/Rottweiler mix, that came into contact with the fox were given a rabies booster and quarantined for 45 days.

LARCENIES

- 5700 block of Barrymore Road.** Tools stolen from vehicle.
- 14400 block of Black Horse Court.** Cash stolen from residence.
- 14900 block of Braddock Road.** Golf cart stolen from business.
- 4400 block of Brookfield Corporate Drive.** Laptop computer stolen from business.
- Darkwood Drive/Saint Timothys Lane.** Airbags and steering wheel stolen from vehicle.
- 4100 block of Gumwood Court.** Bicycle stolen from residence.
- 13900 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway.** Registration and license plate decal stolen from vehicle.
- 14000 block of Verona Lane.** Laptop computer stolen from residence.

VEHICLE THEFTS

- 14600 block of Creek Valley Court.** 1997 Dodge Caravan.
- 6300 block of Drill Field Court.** 1996 Chrysler Town and Country.

LARCENIES

- 14300 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane.** X-Box game system stolen from business.
- 14300 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane.** License plate stolen from vehicle.

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INSIDERS GUIDE

Many Projects on the Horizon

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The Sully District never remains static. New projects are always under way. Below are some of them:

❖ **Fairfax Corner expansion:** Seven new buildings and lots more parking will be coming to the Fairfax Corner shopping center. Developer, The Peterson Cos., is going to add 350 residential units and 636,000 square feet of non-residential development. Planned are:

❖ Two residential-only buildings containing multifamily units, flanking the Coastal Flats restaurant, and another residential-only building west of PE Chang's and the pond by Monument Drive;

❖ Three buildings combining both office and retail, on either side of the theater, adjacent to Random Hills Road;

❖ One hotel containing retail uses, and parking decks.

And all of it will be connected to the trail system running throughout the Government Center complex. Parking decks will arise on the east and west sides of the movie theater. And a new building in front of the east-side parking deck will feature retail on the ground floor and office above it. A Hyatt Place hotel is slated to be built in front of that building.

New, small shops and restaurants, including a Maggiano's, will extend the Main Street/town-center feel, east and west, all the way to Government Center Parkway. They'll go along Palace Way — the



ARTIST'S RENDERING CONTRIBUTED

Funding has come through so construction should begin on the interchange at Fair Lakes and Fairfax County parkways soon and take about 2 1/2 years to complete.

street in front of the theater — on both sides of the theater.

So besides the existing main street, Grand Commons Avenue, Palace Way will become a second shopping and strolling street, with parallel parking on both sides. New plazas will also be built. In addition:

Ozzie's Corner Italian is slated to open this fall on the east side of Fairfax Corner, at the corner of Grand Commons Avenue and Monument Wall Way. It's part of the Great American Restaurants chain, which also operates Coastal Flats in Fairfax Corner and Sweetwater Tavern in Centreville.

Pinkberry yogurt — which has 30 toppings, including fresh fruit — is also opening a new store

SEE SULLY DISTRICT, PAGE 8



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INSIDERS GUIDE

Residents Discuss Their Communities

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Below, a sampling of long-time Centreville residents explain what makes their, particular community — and Centreville, in general — special. They also note some can't-miss places and events in the area and advise newcomers on how to get involved here.

SUPERVISOR MICHAEL FREY



Frey

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) has lived in the London Commons community for 26 years.

"I've loved every minute of it. It's a close-knit community and the people support each other. In Centreville, the social groups all work together — the various PTAs and churches — and it's been fun to see those things grow as the population grows.

"We have Hindu and Buddhist temples and, lately, we've seen the Korean community grow. The area's changed tremendously since I've moved here, but we have great organizations, like SYA and CYA, and a wonderful Scouting community — both Boy and Girl Scouts.

"We also have support services from the county and from social-service providers. So people can get involved in the community, any number of ways — through the youth sports clubs, SYA and CYA, plus churches and nonprofits like WFCM and FACETS — groups that provide for those that are struggling.

"We've got a fabulous facility at Westfields, with the Westfields

Marriott Conference Center and the Westfields Golf Course. The Centreville Historic District has some great sights, as does Bull Run Regional Park. We're also close to the Manassas National Battlefield Park and, for travel, we're near Dulles airport.

"Centreville was recently named the 30th best community to live in, in the country, by 'Money' magazine, so it's nice to see others are finally recognizing what a fabulous place Centreville is."

BARB SHAIKO



Shaiko

Barb Shaiko has been a Virginia Run resident since 1980.

"Virginia Run is an attractive, well-maintained community with nice neighbors.

"I like Centreville's diversity. I think we're a richer community with all the different cultures in it. It's such an advantage to be exposed to so many, different people, ideas and customs — not to mention all the good restaurants you get when you have these cultures.

"Centreville's also a good location because of its proximity to Washington, D.C., as well as to the country — more rural areas — beaches and mountains."

JERRY FOLTZ



Foltz

Jerry Foltz is a 14-year resident of Country Club Manor.

"It was the community with the house I could afford when I was coming here to start Well-

spring United Church of Christ. It

had a nice backyard and room for a garden and was on a fairly quiet street.

"I like it because it's a safe neighborhood, people are friendly and it's well-kept-up. It's accessible to I-66, shopping and entertainment. It's just 20 minutes to the Vienna Metro Station, and Stone Road has grocery stores ad is near the center of Centreville. It's also not far to go west to the mountains or to other counties, and the Manassas Battlefield and the Manassas campus of NOVA are close.

"I think Centreville has a little more sense of identity than Chantilly. We also have two exits on I-66, and Routes 28 and 29 come together in Centreville at a crossroads. All in all, it's an excellent place to live."

CAROL HAWN



Hawn

Carol Hawn has lived in Centreville's Old Mill community for 11 years, moving there from another Centreville community, Singleton's Grove.

"I like our neighbors in Old Mill. I've never had a problem finding somebody who could help, if I needed it. The first day we were here, I locked myself out of my house and knocked on a neighbor's door to borrow their phone. They also helped when my husband broke his ankle and couldn't mow the lawn. And this past winter, we all helped each other shovel snow.

"We're still close enough to Washington, D.C., to take advantage of its benefits. And I think Centreville has a little more of a history than Chantilly. It has an

actual Historic District, and Centreville played an integral part in the history of this nation — especially during the Civil War. That's one thing that sets us apart, and the citizens of Centreville have done a good job honoring that in the work they've done expanding the Historic District."

AL FRANCESE



Francese

Al Francese has lived in Little Rocky Run for 22 years.

"What makes Little Rocky Run special for me is that we've raised our kids here.

They went to Union Mill Elementary, Liberty Middle School and Centreville High — all in the neighborhood.

"It's a family-oriented community; kids and parents here have lots of common interests. People in the neighborhood look after each other, and you can rely on them in time of need. It's a very caring community.

"Since we're so close to Washington, D.C., we take visitors to sightsee there, as well as to the National Air and Space Museum Annex [Udvar Hazy Center] here. And we love the Town of Clifton and exploring the charming, bucolic environment along the way on Compton Road.

"A lot of our friends are history buffs, so we also take them to the Civil War sites in the Manassas National Battlefield Park. On Clifton Day [each October], we enjoy taking the VRE train from Manassas to the town — it's not to be missed. We also attend the Fourth of July celebration at Fairfax High School, and also in July, Little Rocky Run has its annual luau for the residents."

Sully District Has Many Changes Coming

FROM PAGE 7

in Fairfax Corner. It will be across the street from Chipotle's.

❖ **Fair Lakes Shopping Center addition:** This shopping area is getting some new stores, restaurants, offices and a plaza. Developed by The Peterson Cos., the shopping center is between Stringfellow Road and Fair Lakes Parkway. Its addition will go on a nearly 14-acre section bounded on one side by Olive Garden and on

the other by Loehmann's, Toys 'R Us and Pet Smart.

Planned is a building with ground-floor retail, plus office space and structured parking, with storefronts opposite both the existing stores and Olive Garden. A plaza of some 20,000 square feet will go in front of Pet Smart, in the parking lot, and provide a gathering place. The pedestrian arcade will allow people to walk from the plaza to the shops and Olive Garden. Trees, lights and benches will be added to the existing shopping

area to encourage people to sit and relax.

❖ Immigrant Worker Center:

As a way to help local immigrants find work — and also to remove them from street corners near a library and shopping center — plans are progressing for a worker center in Centreville. Al Dwoskin, who owns the Centreville Square Shopping Center, proposed the idea and will donate one of his storefronts for the worker center. He will also

equip the space with furniture and computers and pay for the utilities.

Members of the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) will be in charge of its day-to-day operations. Two, paid, staff people will be there at all times, and trained volunteers will run it. Funding will come from grants and private donations.

The plan is for prospective employers to come directly to the center to hire workers, instead of pick

SEE MANY PROJECTS, PAGE 9
 WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

INSIDERS GUIDE

Many Projects on the Horizon

FROM PAGE 7

ing them up from the streets. That way, an organized system would be in place, work would be fairly distributed among all the immigrants participating and workers would be paid for their labor.

❖ **Mount Olive Baptist Church:** This congregation is building a new church. Phase one is a 51,916-square-foot sanctuary on the south side of Mount Olive Road. There'll be 1,100 seats initially and an-

other 400 later. Also planned are a child-care area, Sunday School classrooms, chapel, fellowship hall and administrative wing.

❖ **Harvest Chinese Christian Church:** If this church can get VDOT's approval for its turn lanes on Route 29, it'll be a big step closer to being able to build a place of worship in Centreville. The site is four acres at the southwest corner of Route 29 at

SEE WHAT'S AHEAD, PAGE 12

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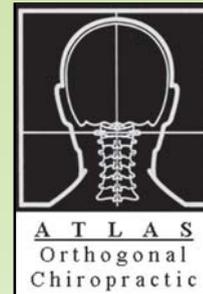


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Cost: shooting skeet and trap is \$5.50/round; sporting clays are \$20/round for 50 targets; five-stand is \$8/round. Shotgun rentals are \$11 for the day, and \$6.50 for a box of ammunition. Take the learn-to-shoot class for \$30/person. Group and corporate shoots can handle 6 to 120 people. Archery lanes are \$5.25/hour. (Must bring archery equipment). The shooting center is open Wed.-Fri. 4-8 p.m.; Sat.-Sun. 9-5 p.m. Closed Mondays. Go to: nvrpa.org. Click on the Bull Run Shooting Center link.

Shadowland Laser Adventures

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703-263-1004

Ever tried laser tag? At Shadowland Laser Adventures, you can strap on a lightweight, high-tech suit and enter the 6,500 sq. ft. multi-level carpeted arena with 40 other players. With your handset, remotely "tag" other players as you sneak around the darkened, fog-filled maze to earn points for yourself and your team. Also tag wall-mounted hardware in the arena to earn special "powers" to improve your ability to play. Ages 6 and up, indi-

viduals, families, youth groups, summer camps, scout troops, business team building.

Hours: Mon.-11 a.m.-6 p.m.; Tues.-Thur. 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; Fri. 11 a.m.-midnight; Sat. 10 a.m.-midnight; Sun. 10 a.m.-10 p.m.

Cost per person: single play \$7.75; double play \$14.75; triple play is \$20.50 per person. Walk-in groups of six to 14 playing two adventures are \$13.50 per person. Groups of 15 to 39 playing two adventures are \$12.50 per person. Groups of 40 and up are \$11.50 per person. Offers birthday parties for ages 7 and up as well as group outings.

Each adventure lasts 30 minutes with 15-minute briefing and 15-minute play time. Located near the Dulles Expo Center. www.ShadowlandAdventures.com. Call 703-263-1004.

Cox Farms' Fall Festival

15621 Braddock Road, corner of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads, Centreville.

Each fall, Cox Farms becomes a 96-acre children's playground featuring mountain slides, rope swings, petting zoos, a castle, hay bales to climb on, mounds of soft sponges for kids to land on, and live musical entertainment. Attractions include Panda Pagoda, Miners' Motel, Cox's Mountain, Volcano Mountain, Fairyland, Winnie the Pooh's House and Jack-and-the-Beanstalk Barn Slide. The Volcano Mountain Slide has dragons on top and special sound effects. Pumpkin Madness, group visits, food and a pumpkin patch round out the entertainment. Go to www.coxfarms.com

Please Pass the Popcorn

New-Movie Nights
Trinity Centre
5875 Trinity Parkway, Centreville

Starting this August, families can participate in free movie nights every Saturday at Trinity Centre Park. Families can arrive at 6 p.m. to enjoy fun children activities. The movies start rolling after dark for an exciting night with the family.

Strike and Spare at Bowl America/AMF Centreville

Bowl America Chantilly
4525 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly

Cost to bowl: Mon.-Fri. before 6 p.m. is \$2.79/person per game. Sat. and Sun. \$3.69 per game. After 6 p.m. it's \$5.25/person. Shoe rentals: \$3.75. Leagues play every evening. For schedules, call Bowl America Chantilly at 703-830-2695.

AMF Centreville Lanes
13814 Lee Highway, Centreville

Cost to bowl: Mon. - Tues. \$1.99 all day. Wed-Fri. \$2.75 per game. After 6 p.m. is \$4.25. Friday and Saturday nights is Cosmic Bowling for \$5.50. Sat. -Sun. daytime is \$4.25/person. Shoe rental. \$3.25/child; \$4.50/adults. Leagues bowl on certain nights. For schedules, call AMF Centreville Lanes at 703-830-3700.

Dive into the Cub Run

4630 Stonecroft Blvd. Chantilly
Call 703-817-9407

The Cub Run Recreation Center features a plethora of amenities, including a competitive pool with spectator seating for 175 people, a 4,860-sq. ft. leisure pool with two huge slides, a whirlpool spa, two multipurpose rooms, a 9,600-sq. ft. fitness and health spa, a 270-square foot party room. The competitive pool also has an advanced drowning-detection system to aid the lifeguards on duty. Cost



Children race down the Cox Farms' Volcano Mountain Slide.

for county members: \$6.85/adults; \$5.95/youth, students, seniors. Cost \$9.15 for out of county residents. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks.

Hoop Magic Sports Academy

14810 Murdock St., on the opposite side of Stonecroft Boulevard, off Route 50, in

SEE FUN, PAGE 11

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INSIDERS GUIDE

Fun

FROM PAGE 10

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PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Cub Run Rec Center in Chantilly offers a wading pool with several waterfalls and a slide.

Giddy Up, Pony

The Clifton Horse Society: P.O. Box 183 Clifton 703-250-6188

Established in 1977, the Clifton Horse Society serves the needs of those interested in horses in Fairfax County and the surrounding communities. Most club members are horse owners, but membership is open to all horse lovers. Although founded in Clifton, the society's hundreds of members now include people throughout Virginia, in other states, and overseas. Activities cover every base including recreational, social, educational and service.

Recreational Activities — Organized monthly trail rides with fast and slow groups are on local trails or those within a short trailer drive of Northern Virginia. Other mounted events throughout the year have included horse/fun shows, Judged Pleasure trail rides, the Fairfax Fourth of July Parade, and Christmas caroling on horseback in the Town of Clifton.

Social — Activities include spring and fall social parties, Knowdowns (a "Trivial Pursuit/Pictionary" type of event) and Christmas caroling. Although this is not a children's riding club, social activities frequently include the whole family.

Educational — CHS sponsors clinics on horse care, training, vetting, safety, trailering, purchasing and maintenance of tack, and other aspects of quality horsemanship.

Service — In cooperation with local park authorities and landowners, the club maintains trails and develops new ones. Funds raised support worthy causes such as Therapeutic Riding and scholarships for those pursuing equine studies.

Benefits Of Membership — Provides camaraderie with others of similar interests and fosters sharing, learning and

meeting new friends. CHS' monthly newsletter, Lead Line, includes articles about horse care and horsemanship, trail and pasture maintenance, other articles of interest, classified advertisements, and a calendar of CHS events and other area horse organization's activities. Members also receive a club roster with members' telephone numbers and addresses (postal and e-mail). Yearly dues are \$20 for individual or \$30 for family membership.

For more information or to get a complimentary copy of the Clifton Horse Society's monthly newsletter, write to CHS, P.O. Box 183, Clifton, VA 20124. Call Mary Flowers at 703-250-6188. The Web site is cliftonhorsesociety.org.

Gone to the Dogs

Centreville Dog Park 15150 Old Lee Road Chantilly

The Centreville Dog Park is on three acres at 15150 Old Lee Road, one-eighth mile north of Old Lee and Braddock Roads. The facility features a separate large-dog area of 1 1/4 acres and a small-dog area of 1/6 acres. The park is free and is open seven days a week during daylight hours. This off-leash playground for pooches opened March 2005 and was made possible by CentrevilleDogs and the Fairfax County Park Authority.

CentrevilleDogs, a nonprofit group of 350 area residents and businesses, sponsored and maintains the 65,000-sq. ft. facility. And dogs need not reside in Centreville to come and have fun. All licensed dogs are welcome, since that also means their shots are up-to-date. Visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/offleash.htm> or visit Centreville Dogs online at Centrevilledogs.org. Call the Public Information Office at 703-

324-8662.

Hey, Swinger

Swing Dancing at the Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Drive, Herndon, Va. www.gottaswing.com

Swing Dances are held every Friday night at the Dulles Hilton in the Red Fox Room with Sue and Gary Caley. Drop-in beginner lesson included in price of admission from 8:30-9 p.m. Live music from 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. All ages welcome, large dance floors, air conditioned. Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Visit www.gottaswing.com.

A History of Flying High

Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center 14390 Air & Space Museum Pkwy Chantilly 202-633-1000 www.nasm.si.edu/UdvarHazy

The Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center opened in Chantilly in December 2003 and is the companion facility to the Smithsonian Institution's museum on the National Mall in D.C. Among the planes on display are the Lockheed SR-71 Blackbird — the fastest jet in the world — and the Boeing B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay.

The centerpiece of the museum's space hangar is the space shuttle Enterprise. The center also offers an IMAX theater, flight simulations, food service, a museum store, free tours, daily educational programs and school group tours and activities. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parking costs \$15, but admission is free.



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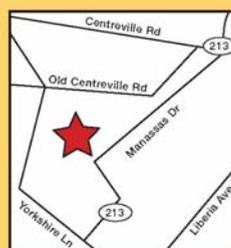


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INSIDERS

What's Ahead

FROM PAGE 9
Cedar Spring Road.

The building footprint is planned for 10,500 square feet, with a 300-seat sanctuary. Also planned is a 2,500-square-foot daycare center to serve 25 children at a time, plus a playground.

❖ **Stringfellow Road:** The part of Stringfellow between I-66 and Route 29 was four-laned in the 1990s by Fairfax County's Department of Transportation. But the section from I-66 to Route 50 will also go from two to four lanes, providing a quicker, wider conduit between Route 50 in Chantilly and Route 29 in Clifton/Centreville.

The goal is to reduce traffic congestion on Stringfellow, especially during evening and morning peaks. There'll be four travel lanes — two, 12 feet wide, and two, 14 feet wide; a 10-foot multipurpose trail, a 6-foot sidewalk and a raised, 16-foot, grass median. And bicyclists will not only share the trail with pedestrians, but also pedal side-by-side with cars, trucks and buses on each outer, 14-foot lane. Construction start is anticipated in late 2011.

❖ **Fair Lakes Interchange Project:** The Fairfax County Parkway will be widened within the existing median to six lanes — three in each direction — between I-66 and Route 50. But an interchange is also needed to handle the congestion and rush-hour backups. And now, the funding has finally come through to build this project that's been on the county's to-do list for years. Construction is anticipated to take about 2 1/2 years.

The signalized intersections at Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive will be eliminated. And the additional lanes on the Fairfax County Parkway will improve traffic flow from south of I-66 to north of Rugby Road. A split-diamond, grade-separated interchange will have a free-flowing Fairfax County Parkway bridging over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive.

Fair Lakes Parkway will be widened to accommodate the necessary left-turn lanes for the interchange. Beginning at Fair Lakes Parkway, a multi-purpose trail is anticipated along the east side of Fairfax County Parkway with a connection to the existing trail at Rocky Run Stream Valley Park.

Because of safety concerns, North Lake Drive will be made a cul-de-sac so it no longer intersects with Fairfax County Parkway.

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Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

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I Peter 3:8



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CENTREVILLE

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 11:00 am Contemporary Service

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Westfield Grad Snyder Producing for Tides

Pro baseball player has 40 RBI for triple-A Norfolk Tides.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

Professional baseball player Brandon Snyder, a 2005 Westfield High graduate who led the Bulldogs to the Northern Region title during his senior season, has spent the 2010 season with the Norfolk Tides, the triple-A affiliate of the Baltimore Orioles. Through games of Aug. 24, Snyder, a first baseman, was batting .258 with seven home runs and 40 RBIs over 92 games. The 6-foot-2 inch, 215-pound right-handed batter also has 21 doubles. He knocked three hits with two RBIs in Norfolk's 8-6 home loss versus the Durham Bulls on Aug. 19.

Snyder was the Orioles' first round selection (13th pick overall) in the 2005 first year player draft. Last year (2009), between double-A Bowie and Norfolk, Snyder batted .289 with 12 homers and 88 RBIs.

While not in the big leagues yet, Snyder, 23, is a part of the Orioles' current 40-man roster and could be a September call-up when Major League rosters expand.

While Snyder is looking to soon break into the Major Leagues, three former Northern Region players are all currently pitching for big league teams.

SHAWN CAMP (Robinson Secondary), who was born in Fairfax and played colle-

giate baseball at George Mason University, is a right-handed relief pitcher this season for the Toronto Blue Jays. Through Aug. 23, Camp was 3-2 with a 2.86 ERA over 56-2/3 innings of work. This past Monday (Aug. 23) he pitched a scoreless inning in the Blue Jays' 3-2 home win over the Yankees.

Originally selected by the San Diego Padres in the 16th round of the 1997 first year player draft, Camp is currently in his seventh season in the big leagues. He spent two years playing for the Kansas City Royals (2004-'05), two more with the Tampa Bay Rays (2006-'07) and is in his third year with the Blue Jays. He has always pitched out of the bullpen as a Major Leaguer and, including this season, holds a career record of 18-22 with a 4.47 ERA in 348 appearances. His most wins in a season came in 2006 with the Rays when he went 7-4 as a reliever.

Camp, a 1994 graduate of Robinson, played catcher for the Rams in high school. At George Mason University he ultimately converted to pitcher under the tutelage of former Patriots' assistant coach Dayton Moore, a South Lakes High graduate and current General Manager of the Kansas City



Brandon Snyder is in his sixth season of professional baseball.

He reached the Majors in September of 1999 with the Twins. He played for Minnesota through the 2005 season, working exclusively out of the bullpen his final four seasons in the Twin Cities. His best season with Minnesota was in 2002 when, in 81 relief appearances, he was 9-2 with a 1.89 ERA. He spent 2006 with the Angels and part of 2007 with the Boston Red Sox before being released by Boston in June of that season. He was picked up within a week by the Phillies and has remained with the Phillies ever since. He was the winning pitcher in two games of the 2008 World Series when the Phillies defeated Tampa Bay.

Joe Saunders Update: The Arizona Diamondbacks' starting southpaw pitcher, a graduate of West Springfield High School, is 1-3 with a 4.24 ERA since getting traded from the Anaheim Angels to the Diamondbacks earlier this season. Saunders was scheduled to pitch against the San Diego Padres on Wednesday (Aug. 25) of this week. In his most recent outing, a 9-5 Arizona loss to the Cincinnati Reds, Saunders, the pitcher of record, allowed four runs and eight hits while striking out five over six innings. Prior to the trade to Arizona, Saunders was 6-10 with a 4.62 ERA for the Angels.

Saunders is a former Virginia Tech pitcher. Drafted by the Angels in the first round of the 2002 draft, Saunders won 17 games for the Angels in 2008 and 16 for them last year.

SPORTS NOTES

Potomac Inline Hockey in Chantilly has opened youth league registration for the fall season, set to begin on Sept. 9. Registration can be done online at www.potomachockey.com. Goalie and sibling discounts available.

Contact youth@potomachockey.com or call 703-961-8280 for full details. Also, Potomac Inline Hockey in Chantilly is offering free, year-round 'Learn to Skate, Learn to Play' lessons for youngsters interested in playing inline hockey. Lessons are held on Saturday mornings from 8-9 at The Box in Chantilly. Registration can be done online at www.potomachockey.com. Contact youth@potomachockey.com or call 703-961-8280 for full details.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes' Northern Virginia chapter, on Tuesday, Oct. 5, will be holding its 11th Annual FCA One Way 2 Play Drug Free

Golf Classic at Westfield's Golf Club in Clifton. FCA has been serving local athletes and coaches in the local community for many years and the One Way 2 Play Drug Free event will provide the needed resources for camp scholarships, leadership opportunities, and drug-free assemblies in area schools. To sign up for the upcoming golf event, visit the local FCA website at www.novagolfclassic.org.

Patrick Anderson of Centreville will represent Virginia in his age group at a youth ice hockey shootout during half-time of a Washington Capitals game next season. Anderson, a youth goalie for the Ashburn Xtreme, is among one goalie and one skater from both Virginia and Maryland in five age groups that won a recent competition to qualify for the Caps game shootout. His favorite Washington Capitals player is Semyon Varamov.



The Western Fairfax (WFBC) Mustangs 13U girls basketball team made the Elite 8 at the 2010 AAU Nationals in Cincinnati. The team beat top national teams from Texas, Minnesota, Indiana, Tennessee, and Philadelphia before losing a close game in the quarterfinals. Members of the Mustangs are: Abigail Rendle, Alli Kemp, Amanda Nelson, Ashley Brusick, Colette Toma, Jenna Green, Katie Blumer, Kirsten Cornwell, Natalie Toma, Sasha Sprei, and Tori Collar. The head coach is Tom Watson and Cliff Toma served as an assistant.

SPORTS

Wildcats Reclaim Top Golf Spot

BY KAREN FULKERSON

After slipping to second in 2009, the Centreville High School varsity golf team took back the Bryan Gunter Memorial title from a resilient Loudoun Valley team. The high school golf tournament was held last Thursday, Aug. 19 and Friday, Aug. 20 at two golf courses.

CENTREVILLE HIGH SPORTS NOTEBOOK

The final margin of victory for the Wildcats was only two strokes - after a day earlier having finished round one at Winchester Country Club with a six stroke lead.

Centreville team members scoring in round one were: senior Noori Hyun (65), senior Chris Upham (73), junior Marria Cho (83), and sophomore Keon ho Song (83). Round two was contested at Rock Harbor, which proved to be a much more demanding track. Hyun fired a 3-under 69 to follow his 7-under performance from Thursday. Song rebounded with a 77, while Upham had a great back nine to scramble for a 79. Freshman MacKenzie Kim scored an 85 to follow up her 83 from the Stallion Invitation the previous week.

In the individual category, Hyun shot 65-69 (minus-10) to earn his third straight Billy Phillips Award for the top individual player. Upham rounded out the medalist podium with a 73-79 (plus-9), garnering him a fifth place finish.

TWO WEEKS EARLIER, while most students were still enjoying summer vacation, Centreville opened the new golf season by picking right back up on last

year's winning ways.

The 2010 high school fall sports season officially teed off on Thursday, Aug. 5 at the 9th annual Curly Licklider Memorial golf tournament at Shenandoah Valley Golf Club, in Front Royal. The event was sponsored by Warren County High School.

Upham nailed a 15-foot putt for an eagle on the par-5, 9th hole, in route to a 6-over-par 77 on the day. Song, meanwhile, led the Wildcats with a team-best 4-over-par 75. Cho and sophomore Shaan Kologi contributed to the team success by carding 84 and 85, respectively. Song finished in a four-way tie for third place in the individual category.

Albemarle High won the event with a team score of 319, followed by second place Centreville (321), third place Dominion (323) and fourth Loudoun County (324).

Girls' Golf Ice-Breaker

After rain prevented play on Wednesday, Aug. 18, the Centreville High School girls' golf team took to Twin Lakes Golf Course on Friday afternoon, Aug. 20 for the season's Northern Regional opener.

Junior Antoinette Roland carded the low round of the day for the Lady Wildcats with a solid 51. Roland finished tied for fifth in the 9-hole flight. Senior Gina Masters and junior Jacqueline Hogg shot 57-75, respectively. Junior Katie Rouleau took an errant shot to the hand from a drive off the 17th tee while playing the 11th hole. She played two more holes after receiving some medical attention, but the injury prevented her from finishing the outing.

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note to self: raise garage door before backing out.

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Centreville REAL ESTATE

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For information about appearing on this page, contact Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

On the Market



Centreville- A Lot Of Great Updates

Home shows very well with a lot of updates. Hardwood in M/L and Granite Counter-top, Crown molding and custom trim surrounding the house with Morning room. Master bedroom is very large with 2 custom walking closet. End of cul-de-sac on .59 acres.



For more information contact:

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Phone: 703-772-4767, Email: Nancy.Han@longandfoster.com

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For more information contact: REALTORS- Jennifer Denk & Linda Smith,

Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

4000 Legato Road, Suite 100, Fairfax, VA 22033

Cell: 571-236-9093 Jennifer / 703-307-4265 Linda

Office: 703-691-1400

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Centreville- Willoughby's Ridge Lovingly Maintained, Light and Bright, 2 BR, 2 BA Condo

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For more information contact: Spencer Marker: 703-830-6123:

Spencer Marker & Co. / Long & Foster View home and virtual tour

at www.seln4u.com

Priced at: \$219,000

Profile in Real Estate – Jennifer Denk

I was born in Southern Mississippi where my mother had a thriving real estate and insurance career and my father was a banker. I never thought I would go into either profession, but both professions led me to a real estate career and I married a mortgage banker.

I came to Northern Virginia for a management job and have been here for 15 years.

I earned a Psychology degree with high honors from George Mason while I worked full time as a Licensed Underwriter and Settlement Officer at a locally owned title company in Fairfax city. That job was my entrée into the real estate industry and fueled my love for the industry. I also met my mortgage banker husband through that job!

I worked there for almost ten years until the adoption of my daughter. During the early years, I stayed at home with my daughter and pursued a Master's degree in Social Work, inspired by the adoption of my daughter. My first passion is adoption advocacy and the

importance of open adoption and foster care adoption.

My biggest challenge is balancing a burgeoning real estate career with a 5-year-old and a very busy husband who works for Virginia Heritage Bank-Mortgage Division.

With our strange and sometimes long hours it can be very challenging. In my spare time, I love to read and exercise, and of course spend time with my daughter. I also enjoy working in adoption advocacy and other causes in the community that are important to me.

Overall, I have been in the real estate industry in some capacity since 1998, first in the real estate title industry, mortgage compliance and now real estate sales for Coldwell Banker. I love what I am doing and love to help people through what can be a complicated and stressful process. I enjoy the challenge of each new transaction and finding the perfect home for clients.



Jennifer Denk, Realtor

Coldwell Banker

Residential Brokerage

Cell: 571-236-9093

Office: 703-691-1400

e-mail:

Jennifer.Denk@cbmove.com,

www.jendenk.com

INSIDERS GUIDE

Most Expensive Centreville Homes Sold So Far in 2010:

Address	Price	Neighborhood	Sale Date
15428 Kentwell Circle	\$1.2 million	Virginia Run	May 13
5203 Rosalie Ridge Drive	\$1.07 million	Pleasant Valley	July 15
14909 Cub Run Park	\$920,000	Sully Estates	May 26
5803 Ridings Manor Place	\$875,000	Virginia Run	Feb. 22
6316 Barnesdale Path	\$860,000	Virginia Run	May 26
5120 Doyle Lane	\$775,000	Fair Lakes Chase II	April 30
4988 Marshall Crown Road	\$740,000	Fair Lakes Crossing	May 24
5740 Chandley Farm Court	\$740,000	Sully Estates	Jan. 5
13469 Gray Valley Court	\$730,000	Fair Lakes Chase	June 25
13509 Lamium Lane	\$716,000	Faircrest South	May 5

Centreville Neighborhoods With The Most Homes Sales So Far In 2010:

Sully Station	52 homes sold
Centre Ridge	46 homes sold
Newgate	41 homes sold
Green Trails	28 homes sold
Faircrest	26 homes sold
Little Rocky Run	25 homes sold

General Fact About Centreville Real Estate:

- ◆ Centreville has 19,186 homes
- ◆ About 50 percent of Centreville's homes are townhouses
- ◆ About 63 percent of Centreville homes were built between 1980 and 1999
- ◆ About 71 percent of Centreville residents also own the property where they live
- ◆ 38 percent of Centreville residents moved to their homes in 2005 or later

Real Estate on Road to Recovery

D.C. regional market rebounds ahead of national sales.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
CENTRE VIEW

Northern Virginia and the Washington D.C. area have probably already seen the bottom of the local real estate market, according to a mid-year report on local housing trends.

Across the D.C. area, home prices were higher during the first half of 2010 than during the first six months of 2009, according to the data collected by Metropolitan Regional Information Systems, Inc. and Delta Associates.

The number of days a D.C. area home sits on the market before selling has also declined over the past year, according to the report.

The real estate recovery is particularly robust in Northern Virginia.

The average price of a home for sale in Fairfax County or the City of Alexandria jumped 7.9 percent from the first half of 2010 to the first half of 2009. Arlington County houses posted an increase of 13.5 percent, significantly higher than the average D.C. regional increase of 4.2.

Arlington also had the highest median home price of any locality in the metropolitan area, followed by the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County.

Montgomery County, Md. — typically considered Northern Virginia's biggest rival for local residents — saw a decline of 0.3 percent in housing prices from one year to the next.

According to the report, Northern Virginia has had stronger and faster job growth than Maryland in recent months. The Northern

Virginia housing market also dropped off earlier on in the recession than Maryland's, which could also account for Northern Virginia's faster recovery.

In spite of the higher prices, Washington-area homes spent fewer days on the market than they were a year ago.

During the first half of 2009, houses usually sat on the market for three months before selling. Now, they are purchased — on average — in just under two months.

Local houses have not moved this quickly since 2006, according to the report.

The Washington housing market is performing better than those in most the country's other major metropolitan areas.

While the D.C. region has seen an increase in home prices, the National Association of Realtors has reported that there is a national decline in housing prices.

The D.C. region's economy has been particularly strong over the past decade and has contributed to keeping the housing market afloat, according to the report.

From 2000 to 2009, the Washington area gained more new jobs each year than the nation's other major metropolitan markets. The D.C. region also has the lowest unemployment rate of 12 largest metropolitan areas in the country.

While most other markets lost jobs over the past 12 months, the Washington region added 13,200 payroll employment positions during that time. According to the report, many of these jobs are expected to be located in Northern Virginia, rather than D.C. or Maryland.

The D.C. region has mostly likely weathered the recession better than other metropolitan hubs because of an increase in spending by the federal government. Many of the new local jobs created in the last year are with the government and not a reflection of local private sector growth, according to the report.

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Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

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4236 WHEELED CAISSON SQ.	\$359,900	Sun 1-4	Karen Plum Long & Foster 703-631-3271
12106 WEDGEWAY PL.	\$363,000	Sun 1-4	Stacy Siu Samson Properties 571-277-3630
12302 FIELD LARK CT.	\$429,500	Sun 1-4	Heather Embrey McEneaney 703-790-9090
10725 Norman Av.	\$480,000	Sun 1-4	Ron Fowler Weichert 703-691-0555
10321 COMMONWEALTH BLVD.	\$549,999	Sun 1-4	Walt Sobie Long & Foster 703-726-3416
4786 TAPESTRY DR.	\$555,000	Sun 1-4	Mary Hovland Long & Foster 703-425-8000
10213 PUMPHREY CT.	\$599,900	Sun 12-4	Hannie Gonzalez PLUSH HOMES 703-481-5700
9307 CONVENTO TER.	\$699,999	Sat 1-4	Gayle Yates RE/MAX 703-568-1153
3775 Center Way	\$789,000	Sun 1-4	Diana LeFrancois Century 21 703-930-6682
12814 Holly Grove Court	\$1,200,000	Sun 1-4	Keith Harris Samson Properties 703-395-6601

Chantilly			
13557 SMALLWOOD LN.	\$625,000	Sun 1-4	Judyanne Pfanner Samson Properties 703-378-8886

Clifton			
5589 Rockpointe Dr.	\$649,000	Sun 1-4	Ron Fowler Weichert 703-691-0555

Fairfax Station			
6518 Little Ox Rd.	\$660,000	Sun 1-4	Diane Lenahan Keller Williams 703-283-7328
10631 Timberidge Rd.	\$869,990	Sun 1-4	Carol Ford Long & Foster 703-503-4027
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct.	\$899,000	Sun 1-4	Mary FitzHenry Long & Foster 703-503-1825
10910 Rice Field Pl.	\$995,000	Sun 1-4	Helen Grozbean Century 21 571-233-4287
8401 Cardinal Rose Ct.	\$1,199,000	Sun 1-4	Anita Vera Vera's Realty 703-639-0927

Lorton			
9077 Arch Hall Rd.	\$485,000	Sun 1-4	Julie Krenzke Keller Williams 703-851-7169

Burke			
10085 Apple Wood Ct.	\$319,950	Sun 1-4	Bridgette Newman Long & Foster 703-930-5635
9213 Honey Creeper Ct.	\$364,950	Sun 1-4	Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
9638 Ironmaster Dr.	\$579,900	Sun 1-4	Doris Crockett Weichert 703-615-8411
6617 Degen Dr.	\$649,990	Sun 1-4	Grace Kim Prime Realty & Inv. 703-340-0464
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Springfield			
7815-A Harrowgate Cir.	\$220,000	Sun 1-4	Ann Wynne Long & Foster 703-402-7265
9006 Golden Leaf Ct.	\$305,000	Sun 1-4	Linda Min Keller Williams 703-655-3597
9213 Rockerfeller La.	\$545,000	Sun 1-4	Bruce & Tanya Tyburski RE/MAX 703-239-2525
5806 Craig St.	\$575,000	Sat 1-4	Clinton Burnham Exit Advantage 703-678-8536

Kingstowne/Alexandria			
6625 Haltwhistle Ln.	\$439,950	Sun 1-4	Tom & Cindy and Associates Long & Foster 703-822-0207
6705 Scottswood St.	\$599,000	Sun 1-4	Tom & Cindy and Associates Long & Foster 703-822-0207
902 Emerald Dr.	\$1,465,000	Sun 1-4	Joni Koons Weichert 703-209-7277

Annandale			
3233 Viscount Ct.	\$314,900	Sun 1-4	Duby Oliverio Park Plaza Prop. 703-980-6567

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Welcome

FROM PAGE 2

you have questions or ideas, call or send us an e-mail.

We invite you to send letters to the editor or to send an email letting us know about something you especially liked or didn't like about our coverage, and suggestions for improvement.

We appreciate readers' ideas. If you see something that you think might be a story, or something you have a question about, give us a call, or drop us a line. If you know of a person or an organization doing important work, something that might make a good feature story, we are looking for people to feature each week.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished some feat like running a marathon or having art included in an art show. We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc.

Email us a photo and a note about the event. Be sure to include the names of all of the people who are in a photo, and say when and where the photo was taken. We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome. It is especially important to us to let people know about events ahead of time in our calendar of events. We appreciate getting notice at least two weeks ahead of the event, and we encourage photos. Events for our calendars should be free or at nominal cost and open to the public. In covering the issues, we strive to provide a voice for our readers.

I look forward to hearing from you.

— MARY KIMM,

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WORTH NOTING

FRIDAY/AUG. 27

Dairy Days. 1 to 4 p.m. Make ice cream, churn butter and experience a taste of 18th century life. At Sully Historic Site. Cost is \$5/person. At 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

Balloon Figures. "Extreme Balloon" man Steve Gambrill will be making and giving out balloon figures at Fairfax Corner, 6-8 p.m., by the fountain area. The event is free, and sponsored by Jubilee Christian Center, Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

SATURDAY/AUG. 28

Car Wash Fund-Raiser. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sponsored by the Chantilly High School Touch of Class. Proceeds support costumes, props and preparations for the 25th Anniversary Celebration. Meets in the front parking lot of Chantilly High School, off Stringfellow Road.

Starlight Cinema — "Aliens in the Attic" (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.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Adam Patrick Seymour
July 2, 1992--August 22, 2010

Beloved son of Beverly & Jim, best-brother-in-the-world to Nick, and soul mate to Becca. Of sudden heart failure on August 22, 2010. A renaissance man, sweet and relentlessly purposeful, he was a friend to many, an exceptional student, a gifted athlete, and an aspiring artist. He is also survived by grandparents Roland Brown, Robert Schwartz, Peggy Schwartz, and Betty Seymour and by many cousins, uncles & aunts. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, August 28 at 11 a.m. at King Of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax, VA 22033 (www.kofk.org). Memorial donations may be made to Strobants Cardiology Research Group, C/O Centra Foundation, 1920 Atherholt Road, Lynchburg, VA 24501.

Memories and thoughts may be shared with his family at www.heritagefuneralandcremation.com

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Change - For the Worse



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Of course, the Postal clerk wouldn't know I have cancer. How could she? It's not as if I am emblazoned with a scarlet "C" on my forehead (which is now mostly covered by a full head of hair, anyway) any more than I respond to any standard greeting by replying that I have cancer (see column entitled, "Fine," 8/4/2010). Still, in my head/brain, I can't help but filter everything I see - and hear, through that prism.

Consequently, when the clerk asked me if I wanted to buy a book of first class stamps (which I didn't need) to make her change-making of the twenty-dollar bill I had handed her less tedious (in fairness to her, all I owed was 34 cents. However, a twenty-dollar bill was all I had) and less problematic with respect to the cash she had in her register (now, in fairness to me; it was a Friday morning at 10 o'clock, she should have had plenty of cash on hand; it's the Post Office!), I hesitated. Not taking my hesitation sitting down (in point of actual fact, she was standing up), she proceeded to attempt to sell me on the benefits of buying 20 44-cent stamps: "They are a good investment. They're good to have." And then the killer, which sent me over the edge and onto a bit of a verbal tirade (although "tirade" is too strong a characterization of my outburst, even "outburst" is too strong a characterization. How about mild rebuke?): "They're forever stamps, they last for like 100 years." And before I went off, I went on the following internal thought process: As a cancer patient OR ANY OTHER HUMAN BEING having as a reason to buy stamps, that they will forever be first-class appropriate regardless of future price hikes - "for 100 hundred years," matters to me because, I'LL STILL BE LIVING IN 100 YEARS. Well, that finished me, or rather started me:

"What do you mean, 'They're good to have?' Is the Post Office closing tomorrow or something? Are you never opening again? 'Good investment?' Are my stamps gaining value every day that I don't use them? '100 years?' Is that reason to buy stamps so that I can still use them in a hundred years? That's so not that point."

Now my question is, if I were not living with a life expectancy-challenged time line, would I have reacted (you'll note, I didn't say, overreacted) in a similar fashion? Would the illogical ludicrousness of what she rationalized as reasons for me needing to buy stamps set me off if in fact I had 100 years still to live (instead of 100 days, hopefully a lot more, or less), not considering for a second whether the Post Office, as we know it, would itself even be around in 100 years? (I only know that it's pretty unlikely that I'll be around in 100 years.) The point is moot. I can't change who I am now and/or how I view the world - especially since I've become a member of the cancer club. I am forever affected by its insidious growth inside my body.

I don't blame the clerk for her ridiculous reasoning any more than I apologize for questioning her logic. It's not about her. It's about me. I don't want it to be, but it is. Cancer changes everything, even something as simple as a visit to the Post Office.

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

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