

Noel Dickover carved R2D2 on a 40-pound pumpkin.

Fantasy Pumpkins Will Surprise

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Noel Dickover's hand-carved, fantasy Halloween pumpkins have such a huge reputation and a following that many people just can't wait for the big night to see them — literally.

"We've had groups of people driving up, asking why the pumpkins aren't outside, yet," said Dickover, 43, of Centreville's Westbrooke community. "But once you



Woody from "Toy Story"

make a delicate carving in a vegetable and put a flame in it, it's not going to last long."

However, his amazing creations will make their appearance, as usual, outside his home on Halloween night. And this year's crop promises to be spectacular. The 30-some pumpkins will feature everything from beloved "Toy Story" characters to the hottest, scariest figures in sci
 SEE PUMPKINS, PAGE 5

Parents React to Boundary Options

School system's three proposals involve 23 elementary schools.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

No one likes the upheaval that school boundary changes can bring. But with several local schools overcrowded and others under capacity, Fairfax County's School Board decided to remedy the situation.

With input from a parent task force, the school system began the Southwestern Boundary Study, involving 23 elementary schools. Now, having narrowed down the possible solutions into three options, it's asking parents to evaluate the pros and cons of each option and provide feedback.

So on Monday and Tuesday nights, meetings on the boundary study were held at six different schools. Parents watched a video presentation explaining the situation and asking for their help.

"Community input is important to this process," said Barbara Hunter, an FCPS assistant superintendent, to parents Monday at Greenbriar West Elementary (GBW). "And although passions and emotions can run high, this discussion will be carried out with civility."

The parents broke into small groups and were given summaries of options A, B and C, plus large
 SEE REACTING, PAGE 4

Ready, Set, Shovel

Ground broken for work on Fair Lakes Interchange.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Take heart, area motorists, relief is on the way to unclog the bottleneck at the intersection of the Fairfax County and Fair Lakes parkways. On Friday, Oct. 22, federal, state and local officials grabbed shovels and broke ground for the \$69.7 million Fair Lakes Interchange.

It's a three-year project but, when it's done, drivers will no longer have to contend with the traffic, delays and aggravation currently encountered at one of

the most congested intersections in Northern Virginia.

"This project has been in the process for 10 years," said Nassre Obeed, VDOT's project manager for the interchange. "I've worked on it the past 3-1/2 years, and it's a really great feeling to see the fruits of our labor finally start to be implemented."

Planned is a split-diamond, grade-separated interchange, with a free-flowing Fairfax County Parkway bridging over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. Through traffic would be sepa
 SEE GROUND, PAGE 2

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Throwing ceremonial first shovels of dirt for the Fair Lakes Interchange project are, from left, Bill Cuttler, Virginia Department of Transportation assistant district administrator for preliminary engineering; Nassre Obeed, VDOT Fair Lakes Interchange project manager; F. Gary Garczynski, at-large member of the Commonwealth Transportation Board; Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67); Irene Rico, of the Federal Highway Administration; Secretary of Transportation Sean Connaughton; Supervisor Pat Herryty (R-Springfield); Fairfax County Board Chairwoman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large); J. Douglas Koelemay, Northern Virginia member CTB; Supervisor Michael Frey (R-Sully) and Bud Seigel, VDOT program manager.

Ground Broken for Interchange

FROM PAGE 1

rated from local ramp traffic, with traffic signals on the ramps, not on the parkway.

Costs include \$8.9 million for engineering; \$2.6 million, right of way acquisition and utility relocation; and \$58.2 million, construction. Before receiving stimulus money, the project was unfunded. But VDOT used \$40.8 million in federal stimulus dollars, allowing the interchange to advance by at least two years.

The Fairfax County Parkway will be widened from four to six lanes for three miles, from south of Interstate 66 to Rugby Road. Signals at Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive will be eliminated. Long ramps will provide safe, separate access to and from Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive.

Shared-use paths and sidewalks will enhance pedestrian and cyclist access at the interchange and to the Rocky Run Stream Valley Park trail system. Other benefits to drivers will be:

- ❖ No signals on Fairfax County Parkway from Popes Head Road to Route 50;
- ❖ Improved traffic flow on Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive by separating local and parkway traffic; and
- ❖ Better traffic flow at Interstate 66, Route 50 and Rugby Road with the additional lanes of the Fairfax County Parkway.

"Drivers won't have to wait until the entire project is finished to see significant improvements," said VDOT Assistant District Administrator for Preliminary Engineering Bill Cuttler. "Each phase of construction will provide incremental improvements."

VDOT's traffic management plan during construction is geared to keep traffic moving during the busiest travel times, minimize delays and notify motorists well in advance of major traffic shifts and detours.

No lane closures will occur during the morning and evening rush, holidays or during the day on weekends. However, lanes will close weekdays between 9 a.m.-3 p.m., weeknights between 9 p.m.-5 a.m., and weekends between 9 p.m.-9 a.m.

Fairfax County Parkway traffic will still have four lanes and full access to Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive, but will require some traffic shifts. North Lake Drive's intersection with the Fairfax County Parkway will be removed in early 2011 to

enhance parkway safety. Motorists will access North Lake Drive via Tall Timbers Drive. And beginning next summer, traffic on Fair Lakes Parkway heading towards the intersection will be detoured to Fair Lakes Circle for about six months.

Obeed said work began about three weeks ago to survey, identify the project's physical limits and characteristics and locate places for a construction office and material storage. Workers also check existing ponds, culverts, bridges, drainage systems, utilities and signs to make sure that what's there matches what's on the plan.

"They also figure out how they're going to enter and exit the work sites," said Obeed. "The project is about 3.2 miles long, so they'll be working in several areas at once, around the clock, for minimum disruption to rush-hour traffic and to finish on time."

Shirley Contracting is the primary contractor, but subcontractors will each work on their parts of the project. Obeed said they should begin the actual digging soon.

"They need to build the ramps from Fairfax Parkway to Fair Lakes Parkway, north and south," he said. "That way, they can direct traffic to these ramps and start building the bridge over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. Even the ramps will have two lanes north and two lanes south, with turn lanes on them, so there'll be no reduction in the number of lanes during the traffic-shifting phase."

Actually, two bridges will go over Fair Lakes and Monument, with a third bridge going over Route 50 to fill the opening between the two existing bridges, joining them together into one bridge. "That third section of the bridge will accommodate the future,

SEE GROUND BROKEN, PAGE 20

Interchange Timeline

- ❖ November 2011 – Fairfax County Parkway traffic shifts to the new northbound and southbound ramps to allow for reconstruction of the parkway over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. For safety reasons, the speed limits to those ramps will be lowered from 50 to 40 mph for about a year.
- ❖ December 2012 – New bridges over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive open to traffic.
- ❖ July 2013 – Traffic will be in its final configuration; new roadway lighting and signs will be in place, but final paving will need to be finished.
- ❖ October 2013 – Final paving and pavement markings will be completed.



A bloody operating theater from the haunted house.



Morgan Raymond of Centreville is not entirely convinced that Alice is made of wax. Alice is portrayed by Alice Polanski a Sophomore from Herndon.



Sophomores Maggie Mitchell of Herndon, Madeleine Bloxam of Virginia Run and Taylor Horner of Sully Station welcomed visitors to the Witches' Cove, the first stop of the Wax Museum tour.

A Haunting

The Westfield High School Drama Booster Club held its 10th annual Haunted House and Wax Museum this past weekend. The FUN-draiser is organized by the theater boosters to benefit the theater department. The haunted house provided bloodcurdling screams

and frights, while the wax museum was friendlier to the younger crowd with favorite characters represented. The two-night event involves about 50 students, and "is a great way to stimulate interest in the theater program," said theater booster and event coordinator John Butterfield.



Whatever you do, do not let the Zombies out!



Mary Poppins was aptly portrayed by Abby Picard, a sophomore from Centreville.

PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/
CENTRE VIEW



Sophomore Mitchell Buckley of Sully Station II, and Senior Elisabeth Bloxam of Virginia Run portray the Charlie Brown characters Linus and Sally in the Wax Museum.



Maxine Weir, Kayla Felts and Christian Cuttingham of Centreville came to the Wax Museum in costume.



Velma (from Scooby Doo, portrayed by Brittany Simmons, a Senior from the Pleasant Valley Neighborhood of Chantilly), points out the Phantom of the Opera in the theater rigging to (from left) May Zempolich, Christopher Zempolich, Stephanie Zempolich and Emmy Rechter, all of Little Rocky Run.

ROUNDUPS

Chantilly Woman Killed; Husband Charged with Murder

Fairfax County police have charged a 43-year-old Chantilly man with murdering his wife, 44, inside their home. He is Tony Tong, and the couple lived in the 13800 block of Rembrandt Way.

The tragedy occurred early Friday morning, Oct. 22. Police responded to a report of a shooting around 3 a.m. Upon arrival, they located the deceased body of the victim, Kathleen Tran. According to police, investigation determined that she sustained an apparent gunshot wound to the upper body.

After the incident, Tong received hospital treatment for non life-threatening injuries. Police say that, before officers arrived at the scene, Tong was involved in a physical altercation with another family member at the home.

Goblin Gallop Is Sunday

The 17th annual Goblin Gallop is Sunday, Oct. 31, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. The 1K fun run starts at 8:30 a.m., and the 5K race, at 9 a.m. And this year, at 9:10 a.m., there's also a 5K walk. The event includes a moonbounce, hot dogs, popcorn and a band, and many participants and spectators run in costume.

Proceeds go to the John Quadrino Foundation to Benefit Children with Cancer. Rain or shine, the race begins and ends in front of Coastal Flats restaurant. Entry fees are \$25 for the 5K, \$20 for either the 1K fun run or 5K walk. Register at www.Active.com.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 4 and 18, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

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

'It's a Wonderful Life'

The Lord of Life players will present "It's A Wonderful Life, The Musical." The curtain rises Nov. 5, 6, 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; and Nov. 7 and 13 at 5 p.m. The show will be at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Road, off Union Mill Road in Clifton. Tickets are \$15; to reserve them, call 703 646-5906 or 703 323-5389.

Based on the classic, holiday movie starring Jimmy Stewart, this version stars Scott Kyriakakis as Harry Bailey, his real-life wife Catherine as Mary Bailey, John Totten as Henry Potter and Terry Murtaugh as Clarence the angel.

WFCM Needs Food-Drive Help

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is looking for volunteers to help Saturday, Nov. 13, anytime between 8 a.m.-7 p.m., during the annual, Boy Scout food drive. About 100 volunteers are needed for the set-up, sorting and/or cleaning shifts at the Boy Scout sorting site in Chantilly. Volunteers are also needed to help with both of the receiving/stocking shifts at the WFCM food pantry. Call 703-988-9656.

WFCM Needs Food Donations

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

Volunteers needed. Call 703-988-9656.

NEWS



From left: Parents Seenu Biradavolu, Patricia Alarcon, Mah Diomande and Anne Meyer participate in Monday night's school-boundary meeting at Greenbriar West Elementary.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Reacting to Boundary Study

FROM PAGE 1

maps showing which schools would lose or gain students, and where students would move to or from, under each scenario. Maps and details of each option are at <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/southwesternstudy/index.htm>.

IN ALL THREE OPTIONS, Colin Powell Elementary would retain its 10-room, modular addition; students from Clifton Elementary would be split between Union Mill, Fairview and Sangster elementaries; and Colin Powell and Eagle View AAP (formerly called GT) students would shift from Greenbriar West's AAP center to the one at Willow Springs Elementary.

Furthermore, some students who live in Clifton and currently would attend Robinson Secondary might instead attend Liberty Middle and Centreville High. And building additions are being considered at Cub Run, Greenbriar East (GBE) and Union Mill.

❖ Option A involves no new building additions. It reassigns 29 areas from one school to another to balance enrollments and could impact up to some 2,500 students by 2015. Plus, 15 out of 22 schools (Clifton is recommended for closure) would be over capacity.

❖ Option B proposes two building additions – eight rooms at GBE and eight rooms at Fairfax Villa. It reassigns 26 areas from one school to another and could impact up to 2,200 students by 2015 – and Centreville Elementary would be about 100 students over capacity. All together, 11 schools would exceed their capacities.

❖ Option C proposes three building additions – eight rooms each at GBE and Union Mill, plus 10 rooms at Fairfax Villa. It reassigns 18 areas from one school to another and could impact up to 1,500 students by 2015. Just nine schools would be over capacity.

Feb. 7-8, 2011, the School Board will hold a public hearing on the boundary recommendations, conduct a Feb. 14 work session and vote Feb. 24 on the final plan to be implemented. Meanwhile, Ajay

Rawat, coordinator of FCPS Facilities Planning Services, explained why so many schools are involved in the potential changes, although just a handful are currently overcrowded.

"There's some domino effect happening here," he said. "But we can't accommodate the overcrowding [otherwise]; no one school can handle the additional students" moved from schools needing relief.

Among those participating in Monday's meeting at GBW were Seenu Biradavolu who lives in Fair Lakes's Northbourne community and is the father of a GBW first-grader, plus Greenbriar residents Patricia Alarcon, Mah Diomande and Anne Meyer.

Alarcon has three children at GBW, Meyer has fourth- and sixth-graders at GBW, and Diomande has a daughter at GBE.

At the outset, before discussing each proposal's finer points, they gave their opinions of each one. Biradavolu didn't like option B because his son would be moved from GBW's GT center to Poplar Tree. Preferring option C, he said, "GBW has a very good reputation and I believe it's the best school of all. We're paying county taxes and we bought our house here, eight years ago, to send our daughter to GBW."

Alarcon also liked C because it affects less children; Meyer did,

too. "Option A has kids going everywhere," said Meyer. "And it takes a lot of the neighborhood kids and moves them from walking to GBE to busing to GBW." Diomande said A would significantly reduce GBE's enrollment, resulting in a better student-to-teacher ratio.

THEN, ANSWERING specific questions for the school system, they evaluated each option in more detail. Regarding option A, Meyer said, "Geographically, the boundaries make sense because students would move to neighboring schools — but I'm not endorsing it."

Alarcon figured that plan might, therefore, cost less for busing, "although it would have the most schools

"And although passions and emotions can run high, this discussion will be carried out with civility."

— Barbara Hunter, an FCPS assistant superintendent

SEE PARENTS SPEAK OUT, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Fantasy Pumpkins Will Amaze

FROM PAGE 1

ence fiction, horror and anime.

The highlight is Dickover's brand-new, R2D2 creation which he carved on a 40-pound pumpkin. Halloween isn't until this weekend, but his R2D2 has already become an Internet sensation.

"I carved him, two Saturdays ago, and it took about 10 hours," said Dickover. "Now he's gone viral on the Internet and has already received over 10,000 hits. Once I put him up and sent out a couple tweets, a friend at NPR picked it up. Then gizmodo.com — one of the top three or four technology blogs on the Internet — got it, as did craft.com which has 1.5 million Twitter followers. And that doesn't count Facebook and other followers."

He's been designing and carving Halloween pumpkins for 12 years now. It takes him from one to 12 hours to carve each one, depending on the degree of difficulty and complexity. Those he completes earlier are kept in the refrigerator to preserve them. He coats the cut parts with Vaseline and sprays them with a bacterial solution to keep the pattern moist and prevent fungus from growing.

The beginning of October, Dickover designed this year's patterns and started carving, with help from his wife, children and four nephews. "We've got 24 done now," he said on Tuesday. "We should have over 30 by Halloween."

One of the most eye-catching is Pinhead from the horror flick, "Hellraisers." For the pins, Dickover used clear, plastic pegs similar to those in the children's toy, Lite Brite. "I pushed them from the inside of the pumpkin to come out of the face," he said. "That one took six to eight hours to do."

The Borg Cube spaceship from "Star Trek" is another big attraction. "The hard part was finding a square pumpkin, so I found one that's 50 or 60 pounds and square on three sides," he said. "It'll have green LED lights shining through to look like the original spaceship."

Also featuring special lighting will be the Iron Man, cut-through pumpkin. It has no shading, but will have a multicolor light shining through the openings.

For children, the glowing delights will include Buzz Lightyear, Woody and Hamm from "Toy Story 3" and the Mad Hatter from the Johnny Depp version of "Alice in Wonder-

land." Also planned is the cartoon version of the rabbit, Neytiri, from "Avatar," plus cartoon characters SpongeBob and Patrick. And Dickover's wife Nam carved Winnie the Pooh as a pirate.

In the horror category is the Drider pumpkin from the video game, "Dungeons and Dragons." Said Dickover: "It's a creepy monster with a woman's torso and a spider's body with hairy legs. You have to use a V-wedge — a thin, woodworking tool — to get the fine details. It's used for the close-up work on the face, too."

He's also proud of the carvings done by his son Justin, 17, a Centreville High senior, and daughter Sarah, 12, a Liberty middle seventh-grader. "Justin's gotten into this online game lots of teenagers play, 'Heroes of Newerth,' and carved one of the characters, Maliken," said Dickover. "It's by far his best carving. That's a hard pattern and it took him at least eight hours to do. He also did Thumper from 'Cinderella.'"

"My daughter also did her best carving ever," continued Dickover. "She did the main character from the anime movie, 'Nausicaa of the Valley of the Wind.' It's a girl on a glider." Sarah also carved the Green Terror from the recent movie, "How to Train Your Dragon."

"One of the cool ones my nephew Joseph did was the mask from 'Scream,'" said Dickover. "He'll also do a Borg character. My nephew James did the Powerpuff Girls, and my nephew Tom did Woody. It's his first carving and he did an awesome job. It's terrific that it's become a whole, family thing."

But that's not all in store for visitors to Dickover's home, this Halloween. "I'm going to do a freehand castle with a dragon on top on a 70-80-pound pumpkin," he said. "I'm also planning a dragon from 'Avatar' called banshee. But I think R2D2 will be the runaway hit. It came out wonderful and is as close to the real R2D2 as you can get."

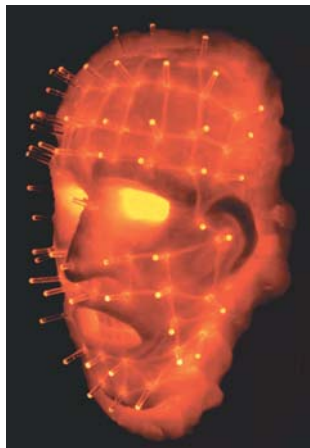
In his daily life, Dickover does online community building for the State Department. He also co-founded a volunteer technology community that helps first responders in crisis situations worldwide. So staying up late at night carving pumpkins takes a big toll on his sleep.

But it's all worthwhile, he said, to see the joy and excitement on people's faces when they view his pumpkins on Halloween. "I like it when parents turn into kids, transfixed by what they see," he explained. "Halloween is specifically a time to escape from reality. When somebody is totally transported someplace else, like a great movie would do, that, to me, is really cool — and that's why I do fantasy pumpkins."

Directions to Dickovers' Home

The Dickover home is at 14223 Hartwood Court in Centreville. From Route 28 south, turn left on Compton Road, go down the hill and up again. Take the first left onto Hartwood Lane. The third right is Hartwood Court, and the house is on the corner of Hartwood Lane and Hartwood Court.

To view Dickover's previous, Halloween creations, go to www.fantasypumpkins.com. To see his current pumpkins, add /2010-pumpkins/ to the end of that Web site address.



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'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels' at Chantilly High School

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Based on the 1980s movie starring Michael Caine and Steve Martin, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels" will take the stage, Wednesday-Saturday, Nov. 3, 4, 5 and 6, at Chantilly High. All shows start at 7 p.m. and tickets are \$10 at www.chantillyhsdrama.com or at the door.

"This is a really funny show," said Director Shannon Khatcheressian. "All the actors fit beautifully into their roles and have great chemistry with one another on stage."

Featuring a cast and crew of 40, this play is also a musical including both choral and theater students. "It's probably the most dance-intensive show I've directed in my nine years at Chantilly," said Khatcheressian. "We've been rehearsing five days a week, since the first week of school."

The story takes place on the French Riviera, where sophisticated, middle-aged conman Lawrence meets a younger, lower-grade conman, Freddy, on a train. Freddy persuades Lawrence to teach him his tricks so they can work together to con the rich tourists visiting the French Riviera. Then they romance rich, older women and take their money.

They eventually bet each other that they can swindle American tourist Christine. Whoever gets \$50,000 from her first can



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left: Amanda Miesner, Adrian Tafesh, Emily Sakowitz, Taylor Jarrell, Alex Johnson and John Downey are among the cast members of 'Dirty Rotten Scoundrels.'

stay on the French Riviera, and the other has to leave.

"It is simply a fun night at the theater," said Khatcheressian. "It's an exciting storyline to follow, with a thoroughly entertaining assortment of characters."

Portraying Lawrence is senior Taylor Jarrell, who describes Lawrence as a clas-

sic aristocrat. "He's a narcissist who backs it up with high style," said Jarrell. "He's what every guy wants to be — successful with women, rich and good-looking, and someone with excellent taste. But he made his fortune conning wealthy women."

Jarrell loves his role because he gets to "be goofy and speak German and Spanish.

A lot of it's over-the-top, and it's an excellent cast to work with. They're easygoing and a talented group, and they play off each other very well."

He also likes the songs because "they're not Broadway style, but more Latin, lounge-y and sexy." Jarrell said the audience "will love every minute of the show because Lawrence and Freddy are classy and crude, and it's a feel-good musical."

Sophomore John Downey plays Freddy, a small-time con artist. "He barely gets by, but manages with little cons he plays on people," said Downey. "He's kind of obnoxious and has no filter for what he says; personal things aren't kept personal."

Downey especially likes working with Jarrell "because of how much our characters contrast. Being a con artist, you're acting as if you're acting, so it's really enjoyable. Your character acts as a different character, but then you have to break out of it and show your real self to the audience."

His favorite song is "Love is my Legs," a duet between Freddy and Christine. "They're singing about such a ridiculous thing, but there's a Gospel choir in the background, making it more important than it really is. And the show's choreography will also be fun to watch."

Christine is played by junior Alex Johnson. "She's a really sweet character, naïve and innocent," said Johnson. "She's
SEE 'SCOUNDREL,' PAGE 7

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NEWS

'Scoundrels'

FROM PAGE 6

called the American Soap Queen because she won a contest; she wrote a poem for a laundry detergent and won a trip to the French Riviera."

Johnson enjoys her part because, "halfway through the show, she changes character, so it's fun to show that. I also get to wear all kinds of fun clothes — different dresses, nightgowns and ballgowns."

She likes Christine's song, "Nothing is too Wonderful to be True," because it's "really pretty and is one of the few songs that's sincere and has a genuine message." She said the audience will enjoy the unexpected ending and the dancing; every number is a different, ballroom dance. It's a really funny show, and the sets will be cool, too. They'll show Lawrence's villa, a hotel, Christine's room and a train."

Senior Adrian Tafesh portrays Andre, Lawrence's assistant. He's the chief of police, but a conman, too. "He's worked with Lawrence for 14 years, is proud of what they have and doesn't want anything to destroy their game," said Tafesh. "That's why Freddy's a threat to him. Andre is sly, shrewd and a little temperamental — the opposite of Lawrence, who's calm, collected and a ladies' man."

"It's one of the most fun roles I've ever gotten to play," said Tafesh. "I get to act over-the-top, it's fun playing somewhat of a criminal and I get to do a French accent." He likes the song "Great Big Stuff" because "it's full of energy. Freddy sings about how he wants to become really wealthy." Tafesh also enjoys singing a duet, "Like Zis, Like Zat," with the character, Muriel, and said it makes the audience cheer for a character.

He said the audience will love this musical because "it's hilarious, based on a well-known film and is a musical with elaborate costumes and big, flashy numbers."

Playing Muriel is junior Amanda Miesner. She said Muriel's naïve and bored with her life and came to France looking for an adventure. "She's also incredibly wealthy and very nice," said Miesner. "Lawrence tricks her into thinking he's a prince in his country and needs money for his country, so she gives him some. She's kind of oblivious to everyone, and it's fun playing someone completely fooled by everything Lawrence is doing." Overall, said Miesner, the audience will enjoy the show's humor, music and choreography. And, she added, "The storyline's really frantic and is what makes the show so funny."

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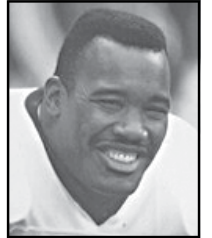
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OPINION

Vote Nov. 2 (or Before)

Polls Open Nov. 2,
6 a.m.-7 p.m.

Know voters' rights.

Turnout could make a big difference in one or more of the three congressional races in Northern Virginia this year.

Every year is an election year in Virginia. This combined with a bevy of special elections in some areas can result in voter fatigue.

This year, every voter in Virginia will vote for a candidate for U.S. House of Representatives plus vote on three statewide constitutional questions.

Voters in Fairfax will also vote on a transportation bond referendum.

You can still vote early. Voters are allowed to vote absentee if they might be unavailable to vote on Election Day, including people who might be at work or commuting to work for 11 hours on that day. That's eight hours at work, a possible one-hour commute each way plus a lunch hour.

VOTERS' RIGHTS, excerpts from the State Board of Elections, www.sbe.virginia.gov:

As a Virginia voter, you have the following

rights:

❖ To be treated with courtesy and respect by the election officials

❖ To seek help from the election officials if you are unsure about anything relating to the voting process.

❖ To be given a demonstration of how the voting equipment works.

❖ To enter the full name of a write-in candidate.

❖ To have a ballot brought to your vehicle instead of entering the polling place if you are 65 years of age or older, or if you are disabled.

❖ To vote even if you have no identification with you at the polling place. You must sign the "Affirmation of Identity" statement before voting if you have no ID (unless you are voting for the first time and did not mail in a copy of your id). Even so, bring your identification with you.

❖ To vote by provisional ballot if your status as a qualified voter is in question, and to be present when the Electoral Board meets to determine if your ballot will be counted.

❖ To bring your child age 15 or younger into the voting booth with you to observe you vote.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student Survey Invaluable

To the Editor:

Stan Barton's letter, "What's Value of Student Survey," questioned the usefulness of Fairfax County student surveys (CentreView, Oct. 14). However, from our perspective, we see student surveys as actually quite valuable in documenting the extent of dangerous and unhealthy drug and alcohol use and related risky behaviors among schoolchildren. Such surveys have a long history of beneficial use by providing a scientific analysis of trends and levels of youth drug and alcohol use as a basis for developing drug prevention policies.

Almost immediately after publication of the 2008 Fairfax County Student Survey, explosive news hit on Nov. 23, 2008 revealing the bust of a major drug trafficking ring among Fairfax County youths. Explosive because it came as such a surprise to the community. The ultimate goal of our work and these surveys is to better understand teenage exposure to drugs/alcohol and high risk behavior. Our daughter was one of the record-high 18 Fairfax drug overdose deaths that year that attracted attention to that drug ring. As we followed the prosecution of those young traffickers that led to eventual long-term incarceration for many, we learned that a common

origin of their drug trafficking was their own early introduction to addictive substances in their schools. Some also targeted schools to sell drugs to maintain their own addiction. The students have real information to share with us that will help FCPS, CSB and county officials target the proper training, education and resources to help our parents and children combat these issues. The results of these surveys provide a snapshot of our youths that fall into a high risk behavior category. It is irresponsible as parents to recommend our children to opt out of the Fairfax Youth Survey when they can provide real life insight on the realities of our youths lives.

Among revelations by students in the 2008 Fairfax Youth Survey were the following (based upon the percentages cited in the Survey among an FCPS 80,000 students enrollment (7th to 12th grades.):

❖ 22,320 reported drinking alcohol recently (in the past 30 days.)

❖ 7,900 reported having used marijuana recently.

❖ 5,200 reported having sold drugs.

❖ 8,000 reported having been drunk or high on drugs at school.

❖ 3,800 reported having ever been raped.

❖ 24,640 reported feeling sad or hopeless for days or weeks (depression.)

❖ 11,760 reported having seriously considered suicide; 2,800

actually attempted it.

❖ 44,760 reported having been bullied at least once

❖ 27,000 reported riding in a car driven by someone drinking.

❖ 9,120 reported driving a car while drinking.

Reported responses from our youths such as shown above allows us to understand why there is an increase of high risk behavior among our students. The "supply" is the alcohol/drugs and the "demand" is the revealing answers on the survey (such as, depression, been raped, been bullied, etc.).

We hope that parents do not opt out and encourage their children to take the survey which will teach them civic responsibilities and will provide the community with vital information. Let's continue to break the silence on our youths.

Donna and Greg Lannes
Co-founders and Members of
P.R.O.T.E.C.T.

Get Out And Vote

To the Editor:

The decision over how to volunteer this election cycle was a difficult one. I agonized over ideology, candidates and personalities. Because I like to be involved it was important that I got it right. In some cases the direction I wanted to go in conflicted with something or other that I believed. Then there

To find your polling place, see a sample ballot, check your registration, go to www.sbe.virginia.gov and click on "Voter Information." Registered voters can vote in person absentee for many reasons before Election Day, see details below.

For more information, contact:

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In-Person Absentee Voting available until Oct. 30:

Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. -7:30 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Also available through Oct. 30, at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151.

IF YOU FEEL your voting rights have been violated or that you may have witnessed an election law being broken, it is important to report the incident immediately, before the polls close on ElectionDay, and preferably while you are still at your polling place. Contact the State Board of Elections at 1-800-552-9745, or via email at info@sbe.virginia.gov.

If you still believe your voting rights may have been violated, you have 10 days to file a formal complaint with the State Board of Elections.

was the possibility that I would offend either a Democratic or Republican friend. Or even worse, offend my "cousin" involved in the Tea Party. My husband felt I should stay out of anything political or simply pick one or the other. The few friends I appealed to had no comment. I was angry and experienced even more confusion. I felt extreme pressure and often guilt because my decision and activity might make me seem disloyal. I recalled the oft-quoted words of my father: "to thine own self be true. Thou can not then be false to any man." I decided to remain a fence sitter or Independent.

I made decisions, some hesitantly. I decided early that I liked many things that President Obama was doing, but did not feel the best decision was to support every Democratic candidate. I got the opportunity to speak to a few people and decided that representatives need to better connect with their constituents. To those people I consider friends, and those acquaintances, who allowed me to disagree on some position and who are still speaking to me, thank you. That demonstrates a sincere appreciation for the first amendment. I am extremely grateful. Everyone who can should get out and vote. It is considered a right, but what a gift. We the people are powerful indeed. If we get it right, we all win.

Audrey Dutton
Chantilly

CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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NEWS

Shooting Investigated

The FBI announced Tuesday that it's opened an investigation into three shootings that have occurred in Northern Virginia since Oct. 17. The latest happened between Monday and Tuesday, Oct. 25-26, at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station at 13881 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly.

Investigative evidence has confirmed that shots fired Oct. 17 at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Triangle, and on Oct. 19 at the Pentagon in Arlington, involved a single weapon. Ballistics testing is underway to see if the Chantilly shooting is related.

However, federal authorities say that no further information — including a potential weapon used or the caliber of the ammunition — will be released at this time, to preserve the integrity of investigative efforts.

The FBI's Washington Field Office Joint Terrorism Task Force (WFO JTTF) provides critical incident response in the National Capital Region for both federal investigations and the request of any law-enforcement agency. The Prince William County and Fairfax County police departments, and

the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, are all represented on the 35-agency task force.

Law-enforcement agencies involved are asking anyone who may have seen a suspicious vehicle or person, or who has any information, to contact Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477 or text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637.

Meanwhile, Fairfax County police are investigating this incident as vandalism. They responded to the recruiting office, Tuesday, Oct. 26, around 8:30 a.m., after receiving a report of property damage there.

An employee arriving for work contacted police after discovering two apparent bullet holes in a window of the office, plus one in an adjacent business. Officers don't believe anyone was inside either business at the time of the shooting. They believe the incident occurred between Monday at 8:30 p.m. and Tuesday at 8:30 a.m.

Fairfax County police remind the community that the targets in Tuesday's shooting appear to have been unoccupied buildings. The investigation is ongoing.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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Profile In Real Estate – Pam Mooney

I have lived in Northern Virginia for the last 25 years. Actually, I have lived in two different homes in the same Chantilly neighborhood. That is what we fell in love with, here in Northern Virginia—the schools and community involvement in the local neighborhoods. My husband Mike and I have raised 3 great children—two boys and a girl. I believe that between the three, they played every sport CYA had to offer. Mike and I coached and volunteered for many teams, traveling all over. They each graduated from Chantilly High School and these days, we still get to enjoy watching our youngest son play rugby at Radford University.

When my children were young, I was a licensed daycare provider in my home and later started teaching so

I could be available to take them to all their activities. In 2002 I started working with Danny Samson, the owner of Samson Companies, as his office manager, and then later in 2005 became a licensed Realtor. In my time here at Samson Properties, I believe I've been exposed to just about every aspect of the business. With this experience, I'm able to provide my client the best possible service. I've often been told that I am everyone's "mom" and that I not only work for my clients, I take good care of them. Their interests always come first!

In my spare time I love to cook for family and friends, I try to exercise every day, and I enjoy reading. I also spend as much time as I can with my 3 dogs, who are my other children.



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12814 Holly Grove Court, Fairfax • \$1,194,500 • Open Sunday 1-4
Eddie Seymour, Samson Properties, 703-989-1598

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click the Real Estate links on the right side.

Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times.

Centreville

14653 Winterfield Dr. \$319,900 Sun 1-4 Fran Rudd ERA 703-980-2572

Fairfax

12814 Holly Grove Court \$1,194,500 Sun 1-4 Eddie Seymour Samson Properties 703-989-1598
5484 Safe Harbor Ct \$315,500 Sun 1-4 Steve Bingham Keller Williams 703-389-1985
11318 Westbrook Mill Ln #304 \$319,900 Sun 1-4 Mary Kimball Coldwell Banker 703-938-5600
12140 Wedgeway Court \$325,000 Sun 1-4 Pat Samson Century 21 703-380-7025
4371 Farm House Ln \$525,000 Sun 1-4 Martin Johnson RE/MAX 703-503-4302
4793 Tapestry Dr \$525,000 Sun 1-4 Mary Hovland Long & Foster 703-425-8000
8730 Beechwood Dr \$560,000 Sun 1-4 Valerie Wilkinson Weichert 703-585-9271
10923 Adare Dr \$649,900 Sun 12-4 Lena Restivo Weichert 703-855-7341
10430 Courtney Drive \$650,000 Sun 1-4 Marian Williams ERA 703-628-2242
12796 Fox Keep Run \$725,000 Sun 1-4 Bill Milletary Century 21 703-850-1541
3775 Center Way \$749,000 Sun 1-4 Ed Duggan Century 21 703-989-7335
4101 Taylor Dr \$798,900 Sun 1-4 Fanny Bonilla Bonilla and Associates LLC 571-275-1633

Clifton

12610 Knollbrook Dr \$1,195,000 Sun 1-4 Carol Hermandorfer Long & Foster 703-503-1812
13514 Little Brook Dr \$325,500 Sat 1-4 Rosario Carballo Fairfax 571-215-0735

Lorton

8318 Southern Oaks Ct \$379,000 Sun 1-4 Rob Blitzer RE/MAX 703-461-3615

Burke

9515 Millgate Pl \$459,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
7206 Drifter Ct \$529,950 Sun 1-4 Kathleen Quintarelli Weichert 703-862-8808
9617 Chapel Hill Drive \$590,000 Sat/Sun 1-4 Bill Hoffman Keller Williams 703-309-2205

Kingstowne/Alexandria

4651 Neely Ann Ct \$845,000 Sat/Sun 1-4 Phyllis Patterson Coldwell Banker 703-518-6158

Annandale

4215 Wakefield Dr \$475,000 Sun 2-4 Carol Greco Long & Foster 703-658-1600
4410 Duncan Dr \$485,000 Sun 2-4 Carol Greco Long & Foster 703-658-1600
8815 Charles Hawkins Way \$489,900 Sun 1-4 Danielle Feder Keller Williams 703-517-5015
8312 Upper Spring La \$747,700 Sun 1-4 Annie Cefaratti Weichert 202-841-7601

To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-Mail the info to kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com All listings due by Tuesday at 3 pm.

BULLETIN BOARD

The Western Fairfax Alumnae Chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha is collecting the pink Yoplait Yogurt lids for the Save Lids, Save Lives program. This is the third year Western Fairfax has participated in the campaign, and last year they were #11 in the country for number of lids collected by alumnae chapters. Collections will continue through the Thanksgiving weekend. Large pink collection boxes can be found at two area Giants: Giant Food Store- 5740 Union Mill Rd., Colonnade, Clifton, and Giant Food Store- 5615 Stone Rd., Sully Station, Centreville. Two community locations: Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville, and Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Rd, Clifton. The Centreville High School cheerleaders are partnering with Zeta in the collection of Yoplait lids and will be collecting the lids from the community at the Homecoming football game against Oakton High on Friday night Oct. 22 at 730 p.m.

ONGOING

The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling the 2010 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors our 25th President, William McKinley. The two-sided ornament commemorates the long history of music in the White House with the Marine Corps band greeting White House guests and entertaining the President and Mrs. McKinley. The 2010 ornaments cost \$19. All profits benefit charity. Order yours now by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216.

Ladies, do you have a Revolutionary Patriot in your family tree? Membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution

(DAR) honors and preserves the legacy of your Patriot ancestor. Any woman is eligible for membership who is no less than 18 years of age and can prove lineal, blood line descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence. Admission to membership is by invitation through a Chapter. Interested in learning more? Contact the Lane's Mill Chapter at lanesmillchapter@hotmail.com

Craft Vendors are needed for the Holiday Bazaar and Craft Fair Saturday, Nov. 13 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road. Leased spaces for vendors are going quickly. Book your vendor space now. Contact novemberbazaar@hotmail.com or 703-830-2684.

New Neighbors League Club (NNLC) of Northern Virginia is looking for women who are new to the area, looking to reconnect, or just interested in meeting new people for fun and friendship. Come to one of the monthly coffees or luncheons to meet us. Then join one of the numerous clubs such as bridge, couples bridge, mahjong, gardening, quilting and stitching, Bible study, bowling, bunco, Southern living dining, movie outings, cards or board games, couples mixers, book club, nursing home sing-alongs, and many other activities. Visit the Web site www.newneighborsvirginia.com or Newneighborsleagueclub@yahoo.com

NOW THROUGH NOV. 18

ESL Classes. Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7 to 9 p.m. Register on Tuesday, Sept. 7 from 7-8 p.m. Cost is \$10. Text book is \$25. Three Levels: Basic, Intermediate, Advanced. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. Call 703-323-9500 or visit www.lordoflifelutheran.com

FRIDAY/OCT. 29
"The Business of Green." 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Learn why green construction and retrofitting are not passing fads. Hosted by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors. At NVAR's new green building at 8407 Pennel Street, Fairfax, near Williams Drive and Arlington Blvd.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 3
Crusader Cupboard Food Collection. To benefit House of Mercy. All non-perishable foods and baby items must be placed in the school lobby by 8:15 a.m. At St. Andrew School, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton.

SATURDAY/NOV. 6
Open House. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. At Pender Veterinary Centre at Dulles Gateway, 4508 Upper Cub Run, Chantilly. Activities include: CPR demonstrations, free microchipping for pets (first 100), teddy bear surgery, hospital and boarding facility tours. Dr. Betsy Henly is the full-time veterinarian. Call 703-277-7272.

"The Job's Not Done!" 2-5 p.m. Come to NOVACAN's fourth climate change workshop and learn from the experts about the impact of climate change on the Washington area, on our health and the jobs that can be created as we transition to a clean energy economy. At Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax (NOT in Merrifield). Free and open to all. Contact Linda Burchfiel 703-506-4310.

TUESDAY/NOV. 9
Networking Lunch. 11 a.m. MidatlanticNetworking.com in conjunction with Greg Nerantzis of Merrill Lynch will be hosting a

Networking Lunch. Lunch is for anyone doing business in Chantilly and the surrounding area. Free to anyone participating but you must register in advance. Space is limited. Email Jay@MidAtlanticNetworking.com to reserve a seat. At Vintage 51 Restaurant and Brew Lounge at 25031 Riding Plaza, Chantilly. Call 703-722-2844.

MONDAY/NOV. 15
Learn About Foster Care. 7 p.m. Free. GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host Aaron and Katherine Hawthorne, "ambassadors"

for Fairfax County's Foster Care and Adoption program. At the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. Guests welcome. Call Jackie at 703-378-8551 or e-mail westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 17
Fairfax Area Commission on Aging Meeting. 1 p.m. At the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly. Share your ideas and concerns during the public comment period. Contact 703-324-7746, TTY 711 or go to Fairfax Area Commission on Aging.

SCHOOL NOTES

Chantilly Academy students have partnered with Quality of Life Plus (QL+), a McLean-based non-profit, and the EPICS program, "Engineering Projects in Community Service."

The project will channel the talents of young women engineers to create a technological solution for the visually impaired. The students will develop a radar-type system that provides a detailed level of feedback that will improve the quality of life for area veterans.

This new pilot program will help to bring the QL+ experience to the high school level by creating hands-on student projects that will help those who served on the front lines. The press conference to launch the project was held on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at Chantilly Academy.

Visit www.qlplus.org

Chantilly High's National Honor Society (NHS) is hosting a Veteran's Day dinner to honor the men and women who have served our country.

This year, the event is taking place on Nov. 18 at 7 p.m. at Chantilly High School. The members of NHS volunteer their time and energy to be able to honor these heroes. The whole production, including all of the food, preparations and entertainment is run by the students and officers of NHS.

The students will be offering the veterans a variety of options for their meal and will encourage them to enjoy the entertainment that is also provided.

All veterans are welcome to come and enjoy themselves.

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Parents Speak Out on School Boundary Study

FROM PAGE 4

overcrowded.” And Biradavolu called it “a Band-Aid solution – a temporary fix. It’s the most cost-effective, since there’s no building, but many students are impacted.”

Option B, said Diomande, “reduces the size of Poplar Tree’s boundary area and has students going to schools nearer their homes, so it seems more convenient.” However, Biradavolu said it involves building,

so it wouldn’t be cost-effective.

“But if they’re going to build two additions, it would reduce overcrowding in the long term,” said Alarcon. Although Diomande said the construction could be “somewhat disruptive” at schools getting additions.

“Option B helps, but doesn’t go far enough,” said Meyer. “You’d still have 11 schools over capacity.”

Overall, option C was this group’s choice. Alarcon said the building additions would provide more space for students.

Meyer said it would cost the most because of the three additions. But, explained Biradavolu, “This would fix things permanently. Even if it costs more money, they should do it.”

Furthermore, said Meyer, “You end up with the least number of kids impacted and

the least number of schools overcrowded.” Diomande said C involves “less movement of students because of the new buildings.”

She and Alarcon said C yielded a “fair distribution of students” and would result in the best building-utilization by the 2015 school year.

“We like this option the best,” summed up Meyer. Added Biradavolu: “It costs the most money, but it’s worth it.”

Communities of Worship
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CENTREVILLE

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



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Pastor James & First Lady Ada Vanison, Founders

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Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church



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Traditional – 11:15 a.m.

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Centreville
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Centreville Baptist Church

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11:00 am Contemporary Service

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Mount Olive Baptist Church
New Worship Location Starting March 14, 2010!!
Centreville High School
6001 Union Mill Road
Clifton, VA 20124



SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT CENTREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday School	9:00-9:45 AM
Worship Service	9:45 AM
Children’s & Youth Church	10:00 AM
Youth Minister: Rev. Bobby Joe Ford, Jr.	
Wednesday Bible Study (Includes Youth Classes)	7:00-9:00 PM

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Phone: 703-830-8769
Fax: 703-830-6718
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www.mountolive-church.org
Email:
mtolive@mountolive-church.org



Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor
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Childhood Cancer Group Vies for National Award

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When Centreville's Rachel Crossett was battling cancer in the late 1990s and early 2000s, she received medical care, but there was no entity offering comfort and support to her family. Rachel died in July 2001 at age 6, and in 2007 her mother Meg co-founded DC Candlelighters with West Springfield's Jen Click, whose daughter also fought cancer.

It's an all-volunteer charity that provides financial, emotional and educational support for families in similar circumstances. It gives parents facing the devastating news of a child's cancer something these moms wished they'd had, themselves — someone to talk to who's been through it and understands the resulting fear, helplessness and financial and family pressures.

"DC Candlelighters was founded because we did not have a direct-services group to support the families of kids with cancer, and we decided this was something we could do," said Crossett, of the Pleasant Hill community. "I love knowing that I can help another family."

She said her family did have "a fabulous community here in Centreville with lots of friends and relatives willing to lend us support and love." But she would have liked to

have had someone to commiserate with who knew exactly how she was feeling.

"When we went to New York and stayed in the Ronald McDonald house, I found a camaraderie that didn't exist here in Virginia," said Crossett. "It came from so many parents living together, including some who were veterans of treatment willing to talk with 'newbie' parents about what to expect and give them hints to make life easier."

DC Candlelighters offers the same kind of camaraderie in other ways, and Crossett visits parents and children in clinics and does what she can to share her own knowledge, help and experience with them. And now, the group is receiving national recognition and has a chance to do even more good.

Last Saturday, Oct. 23, DC Candlelighters was named Small Charity of the Year for Washington, D.C., at the second annual Classy Awards. Known as the Academy Awards of Philanthropy, Classy recognizes the top philanthropic achievements in eight cities across the country.

Now, DC Candlelighters is vying for the national award — which comes with a



COURTESY OF HANNAH BLANK

Porter Blank, 2 and a half, is fighting rhabdomyosarcoma.

\$10,000 prize. The national voting only runs until Nov. 5, with the winner announced Nov. 7 at a ceremony in San Diego.

"We'd be able to put that money toward our program of financial support," said Click. "In this economy, people are having a tough time. One parent usually has to stop working to stay home and take care of the sick child. So a family's income is cut in half just as its medical bills are going through the roof."

The money would help families pay for medicine, household bills and transportation to treatment. Every family applying to DC Candlelighters and proving need would receive \$500. But winning the contest here is just the first step, said Click.

"We really need the votes to win nationally and get the prize money," she said. "We also need people to spread the word to everyone they know and ask them to vote for us." To do so, go to www.classyawards.stayclassy.org and vote for DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation as Small Charity of the Year. Or go to the DC Candlelighters Facebook page for voting information.

"In the past two years, we've served 160 families and given them \$50,000 in financial assistance," said Click. "But our budget for this year is already gone because childhood cancer is on the increase, and people who might not have needed financial help before now do."

She said some donations to DC Candlelighters come from the annual Angel Kisses 5K organized by Tasha Virostek of Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates community, in memory of her son Jeffrey, who died of leukemia at age 4. Cox Farms in Centreville also helps out.

"Each fall, it donates admission and lunch for all the families to come out and have a fun day together," said Click. "That's the kind of extra thing you normally can't do when you're watching your money. So for Cox Farms to do that — and let them feel like regular families, free of cancer worries for one afternoon — really means a lot."

Her own daughter, Carolyn Coveney, 12, is a neuroblastoma survivor. "She was in stage four when diagnosed in 2003 at age 4 and a half, and she's now in remission," said Click. "We are very blessed."

Now, she said, everyone in DC Candlelighters is excited to be in the running for the national award. Said Click: "There are some pretty remarkable women in this group, including Meg, who truly have taken the lemons they were handed and are making lemonade."

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Come out to meet some of our dogs at Home 4 the Holidays, Saturday, Nov. 6 at Reston Town Center or visit our website to see all the cats and dogs waiting to find their homes.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

ZUMBA Classes. 7 to 8 p.m. Latin based dance fitness class. The first class is free; afterward it's \$7-\$9 per class. At Cornerstone Montessori School, 4455 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Suite 201, Chantilly.

MONTH OF OCTOBER

Fields of Fear. Admission is \$15. Friday and Saturday nights in October, 7:30 to 11 p.m. For teens and adults wanting a good scare. Visit the Cornightmare, Haunted Library, Hall of Whispers and Claustrophobia. Bonfires, food, games. At Cox Farms, corner of Pleasant Valley Road and Braddock Roads. Visit coxfarms.com/Fear.

THURSDAY/OCT. 28

Beer Class: Beer-Relevance. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. A classic 'old world' vs. 'new world' style comparison and taste of brewing history. Savor classically brewed beers from countries such as Germany, Belgium and England alongside North American beers brewed with inspiration from these old world brewing styles. Class includes beer selections, tasting sheets, take home educational materials, and discounts on the beer presented in class. \$15 per class. At Chantilly's Total Wine & More, Greenbrier Town Center, 13055-C Lee Jackson Hwy., Chantilly. Call 703-817-1177.

Centreville Stitchers. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Do you enjoy knitting, crocheting or other needlework crafts and conversation? Join the fun at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. All levels (adults) welcome. Call Jo at 703-803-0595 or email jkknitter@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/OCT. 29

Swing Dancing — Howling Halloween Hop. 8:30 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. Halloween extravaganza with the band, King Teddy. Ghoulish decorations, creepy tricks and prizes for best

costumes. Beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

SATURDAY/OCT. 30

Clifton Haunted Trail. 7 to 10 p.m. Admission is \$10. A Halloween tradition in the Town of Clifton's Eight-Acre Park. Visit www.cliftonhauntedtrail.org. To volunteer, email jpowell32@cox.net.

Halloween Night of Frights. Free. This event includes a Haunted House, graveyard light show, candy tables, and music. The event is put on by kids in high school and adults in the other 11 surrounding homes. Located at 14708 Rabbit Run Court, Centreville.

Family Fun Festival. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. Kids come in costume and trick-or-treat at the stores; doggies come in costume and trick-or-treat for biscuits! There will be a free moon bounce, facepainting, balloon artist, and much more! Store giveaways, free food samples. At the Lee Plaza Shopping Center, 11725 Lee Highway, Fairfax.

Fall Festival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children under age 12 who wear a costume will receive a free Chick-fil-A Kids' Meal. Moonbounce, workshop sponsored by Home Depot, a Sir Brixalot Lego play area, a performance by The Alliance Theatre and live music. At Chick-fil-A at Chantilly Place, 4412 Chantilly Place, Chantilly. Call 703-994-0420.

Homestretch 20th Anniversary Masquerade Gala. 6 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Tickets are \$195 per person or \$1,850 per table of 10. The event will mark the 20th anniversary of Homestretch, a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering homeless families from across the region return to stable housing and attain self-sufficiency. At the Washington Dulles Hilton, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon. Visit <http://www.homestretchgala.org>.

OCT. 30-31

Cox Farms. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Giant slides; unlimited hayrides; rope swings; farm animals and their babies; the Cornudrum Cornfield Adventure; Kiddie Zone for younger kids; straw tunnels; goat

village; live entertainment; and a patch pumpkin to take home. The Fall Festival is now open thru Nov. 7, 2010. Hours are 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sept. 25 – Oct. 31, and 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Nov. 1-7. Admission is \$15 on weekends and Columbus Day; \$9 on weekdays. At the intersection of Pleasant Valley and Braddock Roads. Visit www.coxfarms.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 31

Mother/Daughter Event. 1 p.m. "Just Between Us: A No-Stress, No-Rules Journal for Girls and Their Moms." Presented by Meredith and Sofie Jacobs. At Geesher Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax. Books available for purchase at the event (RSVP to reserve a copy – limited availability). RSVP to Gesher PTO, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax, VA 22030, ATTN: Jacobs event. Call 703-978-9789.

Halloween Night of Frights. Free. This event includes a Haunted House, graveyard light show, candy tables, and music. The event is put on by kids in high school and adults in the other 11 surrounding homes. Located at 14708 Rabbit Run Court, Centreville.

NOV. 3-6

"Dirty Rotten Scoundrels." Chantilly High School drama department at Chantilly High School, Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

THURSDAY/NOV. 4

Wine Class: Wines of Spain and Portugal. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The newest trends in wine consumption are the marvelous whites and reds produced in the Iberian Peninsula. This tasting and seminar offers up great information with eight stunning selections. Class includes wine selections, tasting sheets, take home educational materials, and discounts on the wine presented in class. \$25 per class. At Chantilly's Total Wine & More, Greenbrier Town Center, 13055-C Lee Jackson Hwy., Chantilly. Call 703-817-1177.

FRIDAY/NOV. 5

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the music of Dave Kitchen. Beginner swing lesson 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing 9 p.m. to

midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

NOV. 5-13

"It's A Wonderful Life (The Musical)." Evening performances: Nov. 5, 6, 11, and 12 at 7:30 p.m.; late-afternoon shows: Nov. 7 and 13 at 5 p.m.; At Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Road in Clifton. Tickets are \$15; reserve them by calling 703-646-5906 or 703-323-5389.

SATURDAY/NOV. 6

Book and Author Luncheon. 11 a.m. Tickets \$38. The lineup of authors and their books, includes Helen Simonson, Major Pettigrew's Last Stand; Deanna Raybourn, The Dead Travel Fast; Carrie Brown, The Rope Walk; Edward Dolnick, The Forger's Spell; and Kristin Downey, The Woman Behind the New Deal: The Life and Legacy of Frances Perkins. Hosted by the American Association of University Women Fairfax City Branch. Reservations must be made by Nov. 3. Checks payable to AAUW Fairfax City Branch may be mailed to Suzanne Mahoney at 8313 Chapel Lake Ct., Annandale, VA 22003; Visa and MasterCard also acceptable; email: suzanne070946@mac.com or 703-978-3258. At the Country Club of Fairfax, 5110 Ox Rd., Fairfax.

SUNDAY/NOV. 7

Bluegrass Gospel Concert. 6 p.m. Free. A free-will offering will be received. With the band "True Spirit" from Richmond. At Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly, corner of Sullyfield Circle and Route 50 in Chantilly. Call 703-631-1799.

TUESDAY/NOV. 9

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Chantilly Charges Back in Win Over Westfield

Coach Mike Lalli's team improves to 7-1 with Concorde victory.

BY RICH SANDERS

CENTRE VIEW

The Chantilly Chargers got back onto the winning track last Friday night in their Concorde District home football game versus Westfield. But it wasn't easy.

The Chargers, who two weeks ago lost for the first time this season in an overtime setback at Centreville in the annual Sully Bowl game on Oct. 15, scored all of their points in the final quarter to defeat Westfield, 17-14.

The come-from-behind win improved Chantilly's record to 7-1 overall and 2-1 in district play. Westfield fell to 4-4 overall and 1-2 in the district.

Westfield trailed Chantilly, 14-0, after three quarters of play. But the Chargers got untracked in the final quarter as quarterback Carson Romine (12-of-22, 144 yards) rushed for touchdown runs of one and 15



Chantilly quarterback Carson Romine ran for two fourth quarter touchdowns and accumulated over 100 yards running the ball on the night to lead the Chargers to a comeback win over Westfield last week.

yards. For the game, the QB led his team in rushing with 109 yards on 17 carries.

Of Romine's 12 completions on the night, four of them went to junior wide receiver Caleb Reinhardt (71 receiving yards).

Billy Germain converted extra point kicks following both of Romine's fourth quarter

scoring runs as Chantilly tied the game at 14-14. Later, Germain, a junior, won the game with a 28-yard field goal.

EARLIER in the game, Westfield, following a scoreless first quarter, surged ahead with a couple of second quarter touchdowns

— a 24-yard scoring pass from quarterback Matt Pisarcik to wide receiver A.J. Winesett, and a one-yard keeper run by the junior signal caller. That gave the Bulldogs a 14-0 lead going into halftime. Neither team scored in the third quarter, setting the stage for the Chantilly rally.

Chantilly will be at home this Friday night against Herndon. The Hornets (1-8) are coming off a Saturday afternoon, 35-14, homecoming loss to non-region opponent Loudoun Valley (Cedar Run District). The Hornets hurt themselves in the loss to the Vikings with two turnovers deep inside Valley territory. Loudoun Valley also returned an interception for a score.

The Chantilly defense, in facing the Hornets, will have to keep an eye on Herndon running back Cameron Reynolds, a hard-running, 5-foot-11 inch, 210-pound bruiser who seemed to dish out more hits than he took against the Loudoun Valley defense. For the game, Reynolds gained 117 yards on 20 carries. He scored a second quarter touchdown on a 12-yard run off the right side in which he ran over a couple of Valley players in the secondary before romping into the end zone.

Chantilly, following this week's game with Herndon, will wrap up its regular season schedule on Nov. 5 with a district game at Oakton.

Perfect So Far, Westfield Now Has Sights on Regionals

Starr Karl's Bulldogs ready to give it their all at 16-team tournament.

BY RICH SANDERS

CENTRE VIEW

The Westfield High girls' field hockey team still has more to accomplish this season with the onset of the Northern Region tournament beginning this week. But with the regular season and Concorde District tournament now behind, it's pretty amazing to look at the Bulldogs' accomplishments thus far.

Legendary region coach Starr Karl — who led Fairfax High teams to region crowns in 1981 and 1992 and, later, did the same at Centreville High in 2000 and 2001 — has turned Westfield into a region and perhaps state power. Karl and her coaching staff, from the start of the season, have stressed fundamentals and crisp, smart passing. The staff has also emphasized the importance of a team-first mentality over individual accomplishments.

"It's in their grasps to get [a region title]," said Karl, who twice in the past has coached teams that entered the region playoffs with no losses. "I feel the coaching staff has given

them the tools."

Westfield (18-0) defeated Centreville, 5-0, in a district tournament semifinals game last Wednesday, Oct. 6, then handled Oakton, 3-0, two days later in the championship game. Both games took place on Westfield's home field. The Bulldogs, in regular season meetings with those same teams, had been equally as dominant with a 3-0 home win over the Cougars on Oct. 1 and a 6-0 triumph over the visiting cross-town opponent Wildcats on Oct. 6.

Westfield has won 10 games by shutout this season, including the two district tournament victories. During one stretch earlier in the fall, the Bulldogs won four straight games — over Edison, T.C. Williams, Robinson and Yorktown — by shutouts. Later on, there was a three-game shutout stretch from Oct. 1 through Oct. 6 with district wins over Oakton, Herndon and Centreville.

Going into regionals, Westfield has outscored its opponents 68 (tops in the region) to 10. The most goals the Bulldogs gave up in a single game were three in a 4-3 Westfield win at Annandale on Sept. 21. Karl's team has won six games by a single goal - wins over Langley, 2-1, South County, 3-2, the Atoms, 4-3, Jefferson, 2-1, Chantilly, 2-1, and Fairfax, 2-1.

But Karl is grounded in the nature of sports enough to realize that an 18-0 record does not assure her team of region playoff

success. "On any given game you can have a bad game and a team can come down the field and score," she said. "In the Oakton and Centreville [district playoff games] we didn't play well until the second half. Then our team showed [their real selves] and when they turn it on they turn it on."

THE BULLDOGS were scheduled to play visiting McLean in a first round region tournament game this week on Wednesday, Oct. 27. Coach Karl and Summer Vanni, the Highlanders' head coach, are quite familiar with each others' teams and coaching styles. Both are coaches, along with Andy Muir, the West Springfield High Director of Student activities, within the Rampage Travel Field Hockey League, a travel league organization that was put together several years ago by Karl.

"We coach together in the winter," said Karl.

Westfield and McLean played one another in an early season, 25-minute scoreless scrimmage at the Oakton High Jamboree. The Highlanders (11-8) recently lost at the Liberty District semifinals, 2-1, to top seeded Jefferson, which went on to fall in the finals to Fairfax High.

Karl's teams will always respect their opponents but not change up the way they play against any one team. That is the team's philosophy going into regionals.

"If we believe in each other and work hard

in practice every day, they'll have success," said Karl, of her team.

The coach said her defense, which has been so terrific all season long, must continue to lead the way for the team at regionals. "They in particular are playing real well," she said, of the Bulldogs' 'D.' "I think we're real solid [defensively] right now. Our attacking [on offense] will come around."

FOUR WESTFIELD PLAYERS earned all-district tournament recognition — senior back Dana Vivirito, junior back/midfielder Abby Fallon, sophomore midfielder Meghan Winesett and senior forward Annie Martello, who was this year's district MVP for the season.

Coach Karl said her team became a closer unit through a day-long experience volunteering at the Susan G. Komen 3-Day Walk for the Cure — a benefit for breast cancer awareness — in Washington, D.C. over Columbus Day Weekend. Members of the Westfield varsity and about half of the JV squad got up early Sunday morning and worked at the event for 13 hours.

"I didn't make them do it, they all wanted to," said Karl. "It's so important for [youngsters] to learn to give back to the community."

Throughout the month of October, Westfield, at home matches, wore white game jerseys with pink lettering to pay tribute to the cure for breast cancer cause.

SCHOOLS

Author Discusses Writing at Franklin

In observance of the American Library Association's Teen Read Week, author and local Maryland resident Priscilla Cummings visited Franklin Middle School on Thursday, Oct. 21. She discussed her writing process and published works, including "Red Kayak," a seventh grade English reading selection at Franklin. Students wore red clothing that day as a visible demonstration of the novel's themes of guilt, hope and responsibility.

Originally from Massachusetts, Cummings was a newspaper journalist before becoming a children's author and is a past recipient of United Press International's Virginia Journalist of the Year award. She is the author of the Chadwick the Crab series of Chesapeake Bay picture books, seven additional picture books, and five novels.

Cummings noted that her writing process often takes up to eight years from concept to publication. She got the idea for the plot of "Red Kayak" from reading a newspaper article about two boys from



Franklin Middle School 7th grade students swarm author Priscilla Cummings after her presentation to the faculty, parents and student body last Thursday.

the eastern shore. One challenge to her writing was the realization that a lot of non-fiction research needed to be done to create a compelling fictional account. She also said that she works out the entire

plot of her books before she begins writing. Cummings and her books can be seen on her website at <http://www.priscillacummings.com/> and also on a new Facebook fan page.



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A Scary Thought



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not knowing (never knowing) if what I'm feeling physically is a direct result of the stage IV lung cancer (the "underlying problem," as I find myself describing it) with which I've been diagnosed, or rather the fact that I'm 56, overweight, physically unfit and sleeping on an old bed is unsettling to say the least, downright incapacitating to say the most. Are the aches and pains symptomatic of the tumors in my lungs growing and/or moving – or of the cancer appearing somewhere else in my body independent of the "underlying problem," or are they completely normal given my age and overall physical condition/lifestyle/diet, etc?

How do I separate fact from self-created fiction? Moreover, how do I prevent my brain from maximizing everything while minimizing nothing? I don't want to make a lot of a little any more than I want to make a little out of a lot. Sometimes I feel if I ignore a certain pain, maybe it will disappear and therefore not be symptomatic of anything cancer-related. Other times, if I accept the pain as legitimate and worthy of a call to my oncologist (which I am encouraged to do as often as I feel the need to), perhaps the pain will in fact represent bad news – for me, and the beginning of an unexpected and premature end. There's a naive part of me which thinks, if I don't mention it or, if I make light of it, it won't be cancer-related and thus not confirmation of my oncologist's original 13-months to two-year prognosis, given to me/us back on Feb. 27, 2009.

Whenever I do feel something: in my lungs, especially when I cough or have any breathing or respiratory problems; in my sternum; in my sides – where the pain first manifested itself back on Dec. 28, 2008; in my brain/head – where lung cancer spreads to in 30 percent of patients; in my arms and legs where regularly I have muscle weakness; in my lower back where my kidneys are located (my creatinine is high and constantly monitored), I worry if this pain is it. "It" not being as good thing.

Since this mental battle has been fought for nearly two years now (dating back to that original Emergency Room visit, which led, ultimately to where I am today) I feel like I've won a few skirmishes. However, it doesn't make me feel any more empowered having endured these challenges. Certainly I can say, "I've been there, done that," unfortunately the experience doesn't solve or address the "underlying problem." As such, the problem remains: how does one live with such uncertainty?

Every day I feel something somewhere in my body, I wonder, is that the cancer? Every day I don't feel something somewhere in my body, I wonder, is the cancer still active; maybe it's simply doing what cancer often does: kill without any real symptoms until it's too late to treat successfully. (I always ask myself: whatever happened to stages I, II and III?) Both thoughts wear on me, constantly. Is it something or is it nothing? Is it real or is it imagined? Should I call my oncologist or not? Sometimes I think the mental demands are worse than the physical ones. Everything is magnified, nothing is simplified – in my head, anyway.

Death comes to us all. Trying to convince myself that what I feel does or does not matter – relative to the "underlying problem," has kept me awake more nights than any pain or discomfort I've felt. It hasn't been easy. However, it sure beats not feeling anything; if you know what I mean.

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

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Ground Broken for Fair Lakes Interchange

FROM PAGE 2

additional lane to be added in each direction on the Fairfax Parkway, as part of this project," said Obeed.

At last week's groundbreaking, Virginia Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton said that, while construction-related delays might be a hassle at times, "Once local and parkway traffic is separated and signals are removed, it will prove worth the wait. The 66,000 motorists who travel through this area each day will shave valu-

able minutes off their trips to work, school and shopping."

Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) was also pleased to see things move forward and praised everyone's efforts to make the interchange a reality. "If you don't have a good team, things don't get done," he said. "And on this project we had a good team." He then thanked particular people from VDOT, Fairfax County's Department of Transportation, Dominion Virginia Power and past and present members of the Board

of Supervisors.

"The Fairfax County Parkway was originally built in large part due to the efforts of my dad, former Board Chairman Jack Herry," he said. "I've been working to accelerate construction since taking office in 2008 and am proud to be part of the team that is finally getting this interchange improved."

Obeed said the 10-member VDOT team has also done "magnificent" work behind the scenes regarding environmental con-

cerns, materials, traffic, project control, construction, quality, right-of-way and utilities, structure and bridge, surveying, and location and design. Their efforts, he said, made this project viable for construction.


"It's important to the neighborhood, the community, the Fair Lakes League, Fairfax County government and Federal Highway Administration," said Obeed. "It's an excellent project, and long overdue. The community deserves every foot of it, and it's going to be amazing when it's finished."



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