



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN

Helping collect toys for ONC outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart are members of Creative Dance Center's competition team (from left) Allie Frey, Meera Jindal, Alexis Stranberg, Abby Sullivan, McKenzie Frey and Caroline Frey. In back is ONC's Brooke Caskey. (Not pictured: Carolyn and Pete Cameron, Emily Luper, Abby Lambert and Caroline Nelson).

Help Our Neighbor's Child

Nonprofit serving more than 800 families and 2,300 children.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Facing a Christmas season that looked cold and bleak, parents of five children didn't request toys for them. Instead, focusing on what's even more important — winter coats, boots and gloves to keep them warm — they asked Our Neighbor's Child only for these items.

Of course, the all-volunteer, nonprofit organization won't let them down. ONC's members will see that — not only will they get their wishes fulfilled — but their children will receive new toys, as well.

But since ONC is providing Christmas gifts this year for more than 800 local families containing more than 2,300 children, it's not an easy task — and ONC can't do it alone. It needs people in the community to open up their hearts and wallets and help. After, all, said Brooke Caskey, assistant to ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin, the recipient families are their own neighbors in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes.

SEE OUR NEIGHBOR'S CHILD. PAGE 4

For Whom The Bells Toll

Salvation Army needs local residents' help.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Year after year, the Salvation Army provides help for people in need in the local area. This year, though, more than ever, it needs the public's help.

That's because three factors are converging on it at the same time: More families are in need, fewer contributions are coming in and Giant Foods has drastically cut the group's red-kettle, solicitation hours.

"Right now, we're concentrating on our Christmas and winter-relief efforts," said Major Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer of the Salvation Army's Fairfax Corps. "Our red-kettle program helps fund that."

Since 1960, the Salvation Army has served Fairfax County residents with utility and rent assistance, food, clothing and furniture on an emergency basis, all year long. During the Christmas holidays, it also gives them toys and bicycles.

Potential recipients apply for aid in October and November; then the organization screens them to verify the need. Last year at this time, the Salvation Army brightened the holidays for 1,100 local families containing 1,500 children. "This year, we're assisting 2,590 children in 1,250 families," said

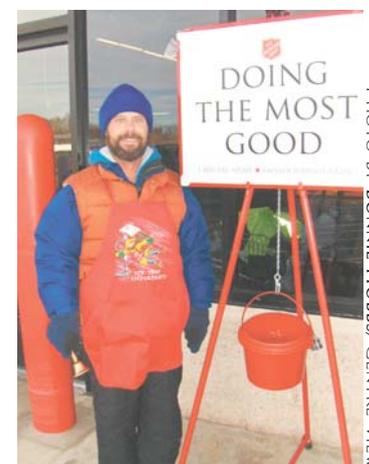


PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Salvation Army employee Melvin Bruce Gomber of Centreville rings the bell, Saturday morning, outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart, for the red-kettle campaign.

Fitzgerald. "Because of the economy, people are out of work and struggling financially."

"We're also getting less donations because of the economy," he continued. "So we're putting an appeal out to the public for assistance."

LAST HOLIDAY SEASON, said Fitzgerald, Salvation Army bell ringers stood outside 21 Giant Foods stores in Fairfax County, at least seven hours a day, Monday through Saturday. "It was a major source of fund-raising for us," he said.

The Salvation Army is more visible at Christmastime and people donated generously at the kettles outside Giant, explained Fitzgerald. "Because of the economy,

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Three Years Prison for Gold Thefts

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

For almost an entire year, a New York couple victimized dozens of residents here, breaking into their homes and stealing nearly \$600,000 worth of gold and other valuables. Now one of the culprits, Melinda Marie Soto, 34, of the Bronx, N.Y., has been sentenced to three years in federal prison.

Authorities said she and her husband, Dagoberto Soto-Ramirez, 27, plus another man, targeted the

homes of South Asians, whom they believed kept large amounts of gold in their residences. Ultimately, they burglarized 37 homes total in both Fairfax and Loudoun counties.

"The defendants didn't just steal gold and gems; they stole irreplaceable heirlooms," said Neil H. MacBride, U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia. "No sentence can replace those valuables, but the outstanding work of law-enforcement offic

SEE PRISON TIME. PAGE 14

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Here are some tips to add Green to your Holidays:

GIVE YOUR HOME A TREE:

Fairfax County is in need of more trees planted on residential properties. This holiday season - before the ground freezes - plant a tree on your property. If you plan on purchasing a live Christmas Tree, you might also consider purchasing a tree - with the root ball intact - to plant after the holiday. Trees can provide many benefits to your home. For details on tree planting and benefits, contact the Fairfax County Urban Forester at 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

USE CARE WITH LIGHTING:

When using festive lighting arrangements, be sure to carefully inspect wires for fraying and other damage. Also, be sure to follow manufacturer's instructions when connecting lights in sequence, using power strips or connecting to outlet adapters - overloading a circuit can overheat wires and cause fires. Use caution when using open flames such as candles and food warmers.

CONSERVE ENERGY:

Using LED decorative lights and timing devices can save on energy usage during the holiday season. Never leave lights on overnight.

CAN THE GREASE:

You can prevent sewer backups and overflows by pouring grease into used cans, adding an absorbent (like kitty litter or a paper towel) and disposing of it in the trash when full.

RECYCLE PACKAGING AND GIFT WRAP:

Cardboard boxes and packaging, all gift wrap (with the exception of foil wrap) and holiday cards, can be recycled through your normal curbside paper recycling collection.

RECYCLE YOUR LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE:

All Christmas Trees less than 8 feet tall can be recycled at the curb in Fairfax County during the first two weeks in January at no additional cost. Please remove tree stands, ornaments, tinsel, lights and tree toppers. For larger trees, contact your trash collector for collection details.



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FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Department of Public Works
& Environmental Services**

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes



ROUNDUPS

Former Child-Care Worker Is Guilty

A man who worked at a local child-care center pleaded guilty in court last week to a sexual crime against a 4-year-old girl. He is Siyamand Salehzadeh, 22, of Lavenham Court in Manassas.

In September, Fairfax County police were called to Minnieland Private Day School, on Compton Village Drive in Centreville, following a report that Salehzadeh had assaulted the child there on Sept. 21. Three days later, police obtained a warrant charging him with sodomy.

Before they could serve it, however, he took off and tried leaving the country. But the U.S. Border Patrol apprehended him in New York State when he tried to enter Canada. He was extradited back to Fairfax County on Oct. 8, arrested and held without bond in the Adult Detention Center.

The grand jury indicted Salehzadeh Nov. 15; and last Wednesday, Dec. 1, in Circuit Court, he entered his plea. Judge Randy Bellows then set his sentencing for Feb. 25.

Salehzadeh was only employed at Minnieland for about three months — from around mid-June to late September, when he was fired. He was an assistant teacher, working with children in two, different classrooms — 4-year-olds and children ages 5-12.



Salehzadeh

Parkway Construction Delays

Since work has now begun on construction of the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway interchange, drivers should be aware that it will result in some traffic delays. This coming weekend, Dec. 11-12, Shirley Contracting will be pile driving for the Route 50 bridge widening. Work is scheduled to be done Saturday-Sunday, from 7 a.m.-9 p.m.

Lane closures are planned on Route 50 near the Fairfax County Parkway; two lanes will be closed in each direction, leaving only one lane open each way on Route 50. In addition, closures will occur on the Fairfax County Parkway near the bridge at Route 50; one lane will be closed in each direction, leaving one lane open each way on the parkway.

Since these closures will cause major traffic delays in the area, motorists are advised to plan their travel routes in advance, those days, and allow plenty of extra time to reach their destinations.

Animal Shelter's Adoption Event

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter during December. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual, "Home 4 the Holidays" adoption celebration to help homeless animals make their way out of the shelter and into a new home in time for the holidays.

The shelter has a variety of cats and dogs available for adoption, in addition to small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/> and click on adoption. A new animal is also featured each week on the Fairfax County Police Department's Web site homepage, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police under "Adopt-A-Pet."

The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday-Friday, noon-6:30 p.m.; and Saturday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 16, 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

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 6

NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Members of Westfield High's Chamber Singers rehearse during class for the upcoming, Candlelight Carols concert.

Candlelight Carols at WHS

Choirs to perform worldwide holiday songs.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The sounds of the season will fill the air when the Westfield High choirs present Candlelight Carols, a holiday choral performance in the school auditorium. The free concert is slated for Thursday, Dec. 16, at 7:30 p.m.

Four choral ensembles – Musical Theater, Concert Choir, Bel Canto and Chamber Singers – will entertain. The Stone Middle School choir will also join them on stage for a total of some 200 students performing.

"This concert will represent a myriad of musical styles, world cultures and seasonal cheer," said Westfield's new Choral Director, David Reimschuessel. "My goal is educating the kids about the roots of many of these songs – where they come from and why we sing them. There'll be traditional music from Europe, Africa, America and Asia."

Among the selections to be performed are "African Noel" by the Concert Choir, "Still, Still, Still" by Bel Canto, and "Carol of the Bells" by the Chamber Singers. The Musical Theater ensemble will preview some songs from its upcoming Madrigal Dinner, Jan. 8, including "Come to the Celebration" and "Soli Deo Gloria."

"All the students are awesome and I'm very proud of them," said Reimschuessel. "It will be an amazing, musical experience."

Agreeing, Stone Choral Director Stephen Kogut is proud of his students' efforts and dedication, as well. As he tells his young singers, "The more you get into music, the more you'll get out of life."

Junior Mary Burke is a soprano with Westfield's Chamber Singers and has been singing since age 5 or 6. "It's fun and is another way to express yourself," she said. Her favorite song in the holiday concert is "Masters in this Hall."

"It's an old, English piece and the harmonies sound really good; everybody blends well together," said Burke. "It's about everyone going to see Jesus, the newborn babe. The song is lively and upbeat, with a spirit to it. It also has a lot of dynamic contrast – the sound grows, backs off and grows again – so it's challenging to get soft and then really loud."

She said the audience will like the ambience of hearing some candles in the dark, lit only by electric candles. And, said Burke, "All the different choirs will get a chance to sing, and then we'll all perform together, which will be really cool." Also a Chamber Singers soprano is junior Emily Hunt, who's delighted to be in the choir. "This year, it's such a great community to be a part of because we're hanging out a lot more, outside of school, so we've had more time to get to know each other," she explained.

In the concert, she especially likes the number, "Hodie, Christus Natus Est," which means, "Today, SEE CANDLELIGHT CAROLS, PAGE 20



Colonial Fare

The Lane's Mill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, held its December meeting at the home of member Charlene Gross on Dec. 4. Posing in traditional colonial costumes around a table of classic holiday fare including Persimmon Cake, are members Heidi Haynes, Peg Hogge, Charlene Gross and Jane Shackelford.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN

Lending a hand with the toys and clothes donated for Saturday's Panther Pick-Up are Centreville Wildcat football team members (from left) Chance Roman, Ken Ekanem, Chase Walter and Connor Coward.



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Manning the ONC collection box Saturday outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart are (from left) Vista Omni soccer team members Amanda Cameron, Ellie Evans, Morgan Morris, Jenna Lamb, Lisa Walton and Patti Mann, plus Creative Dance Center competition team members Will and Abby Lambert.

Our Neighbor's Child Needs Community's Help

FROM PAGE 1

"This has really been a tough year for everyone," she said. "There are families just like yours and mine, out there, that could use a little extra help this year and never could have imagined reaching out for help like this, in the past."

Caskey made most of the calls to the families in need to find out what they wanted for their children. And although it was a huge undertaking, she says she wouldn't trade the experience for the world.

"I learned so much about the people in our community," she said. "One woman kept saying, 'We just aren't used to being in this situation; I hope my kids understand. I think they do, but I just want to make sure they have something to open on Christmas morning.'"

Caskey heard stories of families who owned small businesses and had extremely slow years. Some families had children end up in the hospital and the medical bills became overwhelming. She even spoke with a couple parents who had accidents, themselves, and were unable to work for awhile.

Other families are simply doing the best they can to get by. "So many moms said, 'Oh, my gosh, my children hardly ever get brand new toys. This will just be the best,'" said Caskey. "These families are so thankful that there are people in this community who care enough to help each other out in tough times."

A single mother of three just wanted simple arts-and-crafts supplies, Legos and bath toys for her little ones. Another single mom recently lost her job; she's struggling to provide for her family and also pay bills, so she was grateful for anything, at all.

A single father asked for toys for his children; they love Sesame Street, Dora the Explorer, and doing arts and crafts. And a single mother of two wanted some "girl

toys" for her baby daughter who only has hand-me-down "boy toys" from her older brother.

Chris Hobbs is now ONC's Giving Tree coordinator, but when she first began volunteering, some eight years ago, she was the one who called the families. Her daughters helped with the calls and, said Hobbs, "Realizing the need in our immediate backyard was an eye-opener to our whole family. It was also rewarding because I really enjoyed talking to the people. They were all so gracious and, despite their circumstances, most of them were very positive."

Now she contacts the schools, businesses and churches to see if they'll put up Giving Trees for ONC. It takes time and effort, but she's glad to do it. "December wouldn't be the same for me without Our Neighbor's Child in it," said Hobbs. "It's now become part of my holiday season. One of the best parts is that the people taking ornaments [containing children's holiday wishes] from

the Giving Trees really want to get what those children requested. Even with the economy, everyone still wants to help."

One, local company that's done so is Hensel Phelps Construction. "They had a huge, toy drive for us," said Lavin. "They called and asked if they could take 125 ornaments. After they did, there was such an enthusiastic response from their employees that they asked if they could take 100 more. That made our day because, at the time, we didn't have anyone to fill those wishes, so we were thrilled."

She also noted that the Giving Tree in the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart is still there. "We're hoping people will continue to take ornaments from it and buy the gifts requested," said Lavin. "They can just leave them with the cashier, who'll hold them for ONC pick-up."

She also praised the local, high-school students helping ONC. Chantilly High's SGA held a gift-wrap drive. Each recipient fam-

ily is given wrapping paper so parents can wrap up their children's presents, themselves. And guided by teacher Becky Rice, Westfield's Interact Club is decorating ONC's warehouse this Thursday, Dec. 9, so it'll be cheerful and festive for the ONC volunteers sorting toys and filling each family's gift bags.

SEE HELP, PAGE 12

Giving Tree Locations

Ornaments are still available; Monday, Dec. 13, is the last day for gift drop-offs at these sites:

- St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church
- St. Andrews Lutheran Church
- Centreville Baptist Church
- Centreville Presbyterian Church
- Centreville United Methodist
- Pleasant Valley United Methodist
- St. John's Episcopal Church
- Church of the Epiphany
- King of Kings Lutheran Church
- Clifton Presbyterian Pre-School
- Sully Station's Children's Center
- South Riding Children's Center
- McNair Farms Children's Center
- Winwood Children's Center
- Westfields Play & Learn
- Minnieland at Centreville Square II
- Minnieland at Compton Village
- Chesterbrook Academy
- Sully II Community Center
- William E. Crutchfield, DDS
- Association Management Group Inc.
- Webb Mason
- Bull Run Elementary
- ManTech International
- Integrity Applications Inc.
- Langley High
- Ferguson Enterprises
- General Dynamics
- BT Americas Inc.
- Patton, Harris, Rust & Associates
- Disability Determination Services office
- Compton Village Community Center
- Cub Run Elementary
- Minnieland at Dulles
- Poplar Tree Elementary
- Bowl America
- Jobin Realty
- Hensel Phelps Construction
- Centreville Business Alliance
- Quest Diagnostics



PHOTO COURTESY OF CATHERINE BURKE

Some of the students who helped make last Saturday's Panther Pick-up for ONC such a big success.

PEOPLE

Butchko and DePorter Wed

Christina Butchko, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Butchko of Centreville, and Joseph DePorter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael DePorter of Oakton were married on Aug. 14, 2010, at St. Timothy Catholic Church in Chantilly. The ceremony was performed by Celebrants Father Stephen J. Schultz and the Rev. Arnold DePorter, uncle of the groom. Alison Butchko, sister of the bride, was maid of honor followed by bridesmaids, Kristen Butchko, cousin of the bride, Sharon Ennis, sister of the groom, friends Anna Kate Murphy, Courtney Gentry, Meri Woods, Emily Noren, and Sarah Santillano. Abigail Hurst, bride's second cousin, was a Jr. Bridesmaid along with flower girls, Megan Hurst, bride's second cousin and Kaylee Ennis, niece of the groom.

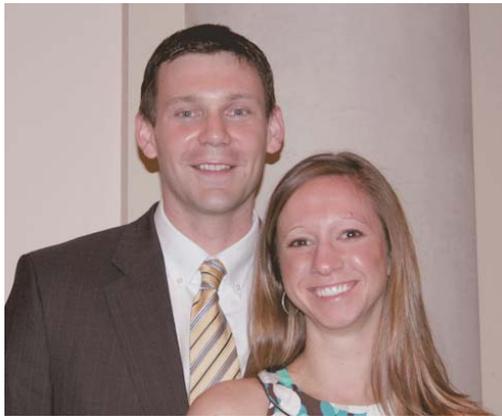
Steven DePorter, brother of the groom, was best man followed by groomsmen, Dave Marszalek and Scott Kruzel, cousins of the groom, friends Paul Smith, Stephen Smith, Matt Scarpace, Matt Dannemann and Craig Wlaschin. Brendon Butchko, second cousin of the bride, was the ring bearer. A reception was held at Evergreen Country Club in Haymarket. The couple took a honeymoon at the Sandals Regency La Toc in St. Lucia, and is currently residing in Centreville.



Christina and Joseph DePorter

Grafton and Carr To Marry

Mrs. D. Andrew Grafton and Mr. and Mrs. John C. Carr are pleased to announce the engagement of their children, Kimberly Anne and Brian Charles. Kimberly is also the daughter of the late Mr. Grafton. She is a graduate of Oakton High School and holds a BA from Christopher Newport University. Kimberly is currently employed by Fairfax County Department of Family Services. Brian is a graduate of Chantilly High School and holds a BBA from James Madison University. He is currently employed by NCI, Inc. in Reston, VA. The two will marry at Fairfax United Methodist Church



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4:00 p.m. Eucharist with Children's Living Crèche
7:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist
10:00 p.m. Festival Choral Eucharist

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Check out our new website: MerrifieldGardenCenter.com

Ho-Ho Holiday Show at Westfield High

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Rudolph, the Grinch, Charlie Brown and more are sure to dazzle and delight when Westfield High's theater students present their annual Ho-Ho Holiday Show.

It bursts onstage Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and \$12 for groups of up to four people. More than 100 students will present five, seasonal, student-directed vignettes: "Twas the Night Before Christmas," "The Grinch who Stole Christmas," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "The Chanukah Story" and "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

'RUDOLPH, RED-NOSED REINDEER'

"Since the actual version is copyrighted, we're going by the song, plus adding a love scene between reindeers Rudolph and Cupid," said senior Andy Talavera-Roca, co-directing with Daniel Hepler. "Each reindeer has his own personality type, and the lines they have reflect that."

There's a cast of 17, and Talavera-Roca says the audience will love it. "There's singing, dancing, good storytelling and funny lines — it's very comedic," he said. "There's a sarcastic elf who's just hilarious. He wants to be there, but he gets stressed out. It's Christmas Eve and everything's going haywire."

Since Talavera-Roca and Hepler are usually tech-crew members, Talavera-Roca said it's interesting having two "techies" directing. "I'm lighting designer for the mainstage, and he does lighting, sound and set construction," he said. "But it's exciting to let my creative juices out to see what's culminating in my mind because we didn't have a script — we had to write it from scratch."

'A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS'

This cast of 15 is directed by Elisabeth Bloxam and Kerowyn Brewer and retells the TV special. "Charlie's directing the Christmas show at school, but realizes he doesn't know what Christmas is about," said Bloxam. "So it's silly and kid-friendly, but



Student directors posing with overall Director Lori Knickerbocker's dog Leo are: (front row, from left) Zoe Tippl and Kerowyn Brewer; (middle row, from left) Brittany Simmons, Jessie Bur, Taylor Reese, Sarah Bowden and Elisabeth Bloxam; and (back row) Andy Talavera-Roca, Joshua and Daniel Braunstein, and Dan Hepler.

has a serious message about the true meaning of Christmas. Linus reads the Bible passage about the birth of Jesus, and it's acted out, so it'll be both cute and deep."

Enjoying bringing this story to life, she said, "I was in it, my freshman and junior years. There's lots of physical and warm, fuzzy humor that makes everyone feel good. I'm looking forward to directing; Kerowyn and I work well together, so it'll be a lot of fun. And I'll learn the challenges of being in a position of responsibility."

'THE CHANUKAH STORY'

Twin brothers Daniel and Joshua Braunstein are directing "The Chanukah Story," featuring a cast of 10-15. An elderly, Jewish couple recounts the story of Chanukah. "They tell how King Antiochus is trying to force the Jewish people to practice Christianity and worship idols," said Daniel. "They refuse and the king fights a war against them. The Jews win and then

they tell how the oil in the menorah lasted for eight days and eight nights."

Daniel describes the elderly couple as "very funny, in-your-face, and it's how old people banter. There'll also be a lot of big motions because kids like that. And hopefully, the audience — especially the younger kids — will like hearing the story of what Chanukah is actually about. Most people are already familiar with the Christmas stories."

He began his theater career acting in this show, as a sophomore. So, said Daniel, "I'm looking forward to directing and to giving other kids a chance to act, too."

'T'WAS THE NIGHT'

Directed by Zoe Tippl and Sarah Bowden, this vignette has a cast of 12-18 and illustrates the poem, "Twas the Night before Christmas," to the music of "The Nutcracker." Elements of both stories are combined so, said Tippl, "Characters will include the Sugarplum Fairy; Rudolph, the Red-

Nosed Reindeer; bats; fairies; the Rat King; the Nutcracker Prince; all the reindeer, Santa, a family and three narrators."

Fairies in dresses, cape-wearing rats and reindeer in brown outfits will all dance, while the family members and other main characters do the acting. Santa comes at the end and wishes everyone a Merry Christmas. "It's a really fun piece with lots of bright colors, movement and action," said Tippl. "It wraps up the whole, Christmas spirit."

She's acted in this scenario three years and enjoyed it so, she said, "I'm going to like getting everyone else excited about the show, and showing them what I liked so much about it."

'THE GRINCH'

Directing the cast of 15-20 are seniors Brittany Simmons and Taylor Reese. "The Grinch lives just outside Whoville, and all the Whos are obsessed with Christmas, but the Grinch doesn't like Christmas, as all," said Simmons. "So he decides to ruin it for them by stealing their presents. But instead, he learns the true meaning of Christmas."

She said the audience always loves the Grinch because they like seeing his transformation. "We always give each Who his or her own, individual personality, which makes it interesting and fun," said Simmons. "At auditions, we ask the actors to make up their own, character names. In my freshman year, I was Stumbly Bumbly Who, who was very clumsy."

She, too, is excited to be directing a show she acted in previously and said she and Reese have similar ideas for their vignette. "It's also a wonderful story," said Simmons. "Both Taylor and I love Christmas, so we're happy to do something so cheery and seasonal."

The overall stage managers are Jessie Bur and Ariauna Heck. "We organize auditions and make sure everyone has the props and costumes they need," said Bur. "We're here to make sure things run smoothly, especially the transitions between shows," said Heck.

"It's an incredible way to celebrate the holidays and what they're all about, especially for little kids," said Bur. Added Heck: "It's also a fun way to get into the spirit of Christmas and Chanukah."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct caregivers on the use of the seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Toys and Children's Clothing Needed

Each year, the all-volunteer Our Neighbors Child (ONC) provides new toys and clothes for children of families

in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and western Fairfax County. Local churches, schools, businesses and individuals help out; but now, readying for its 19th holiday season in the face of a difficult economy, ONC needs help more than ever.

The number of requests for winter coats, jackets and warm clothing has increased from last year's record numbers. So ONC is seeking groups or individuals willing to "adopt" local children and contribute the items they need. Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be provided. Anyone wishing to help should e-mail oncvolunteer@gmail.com.

Sully District Council Meeting

Because of the Christmas holiday, the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet a week earlier than usual. The next meeting is slated for Wednesday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Joe Sanchirico, project manager for the Sugarland Run/Horsepen Creek Watershed Plan, will speak on Watershed Management. The panel will also learn about a proposed

in-fill development in Rockland Village (Chantilly Crossing Apartments).

WFCM Seeks Food, Diapers

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries urgently needs donations of sugar, coffee, tea, cocoa, mayonnaise, ketchup, syrup, toothpaste and deodorant. Bring items to WFCM's food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near the Backyard Grill and Bar) in Chantilly.

NEWS



In All-Virginia Jazz Ensemble

Chantilly High students (from left) Jessica Hiemstra, piano; Kevin Ichord, tenor saxophone; and Gabriel Luebbe, trombone; auditioned against nearly 200 of the best musicians in Virginia and were named to the 23-piece, All Virginia Jazz Ensemble. Chantilly's Joe Donegan was named the ensemble's first alternate for trumpet. Said Band Director Drew Ross: "They only take five trumpets in the state, so being sixth is pretty darn impressive."

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully police department through Dec. 3.

LARCENIES

- 14300 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane.** Television, video game system, DVD and speakers stolen from business.
- 14400 block of Chantilly Crossing Lane.** Wallet, BlackBerry and passport stolen from vehicle.
- 14600 block of Crenshaw Drive.** Cash stolen from residence.
- 14100 block of Gabrielle Way.** Fl club and back pack stolen from vehicle.
- 14400 block of Golden Oak Court.** Jewelry stolen from residence.
- 14300 block of Gulliver Road.** Leather jacket stolen from residence.
- 13600 block of Lavender Mist Lane.** iPod stolen from vehicle.
- 14000 block of Keepers Park.** Bicycle stolen from residence.
- 6000 block of Meadow Crest Court.** Television stolen from residence.
- 14300 block of North Slope St.** Workbags stolen from vehicle.
- 5600 block of Ox Road.** Cash stolen from business.
- 5600 block of Sherborne Knolls.** Wallet, jacket and GPS stolen from vehicle.
- 13500 block of Sierra Drive.** GPS and license plate stolen from vehicle.
- 4900 block of Stonecroft Blvd.** Computer, printer and cameras stolen from business.
- 4900 block of Stonecroft Blvd.** Bicycle stolen from school.
- 5700 block of Union Mill Road.** Vodka stolen from business.
- 5900 block of Wild Brook Court.** License plates stolen from vehicle.
- 4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center.** Pistol stolen from residence.
- 6300 block of Mary Todd Court.** Purse stolen from vehicle.
- 15100 block of Stratton Major Court.** Two watches stolen from residence.
- 5700 block of Union Mill Road.** Four DVDs stolen from business.
- 5000 block of Westone Plaza.** Badge stolen from vehicle.

VEHICLE THEFTS

- 13400 block of Midnight Blue Place.** Suzuki.

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OPINION

Tough Road Ahead

State and local coffers will continue to shrink in 2011; transportation improvements unlikely.

The Northern Virginia Transportation Alliance quotes Gov. Bob McDonnell's remarks to the Dulles Area Transportation Association earlier this week. "I can't emphasize how important it is to get started now," McDonnell said, to take advantage of favorable infrastructure pricing [due to the recession] by starting to invest more in transportation.

But the Alliance, which advocates for spending on roads and highways, points out that McDonnell "provided few details as to new funding sources, but promised that specifics would surface in the weeks ahead."

Last January was the "now" to get started to take advantage of "favorable infrastructure pricing."

McDonnell has been in office a year now, and won in Northern Virginia largely because of his vigorous campaigning on transportation issues. But he allowed the first year of his tenure, including the first year's session of the General Assembly, to pass without a serious proposal on how to fund transportation im-

provements in Northern Virginia or elsewhere in the state.

Instead, McDonnell has spent the last months talking up a liquor privatization proposal as a solution to transportation. In fact, that proposal would possibly pay for one intersection or overpass improvement project in Northern Virginia before moving on to cost state funding for education, public safety and social services tens of millions of dollars a year by turning over the revenues for private companies' profit.

Meanwhile, localities in Northern Virginia received essentially zero dollars from the state for transportation improvements in past year.

More on the outlook ahead for public services from Deputy County Executive Ed Long as he prepared the budget forecast for the coming year:

❖ While home values are up for the first time in five years, the county still faces a multimillion dollar shortfall and the future of the local economy is uncertain.

❖ Government contracts are a major component of the Northern Virginia economy. In

Fairfax County alone in 2008, federal procurement contracts totaled \$17 billion. Since this is such a large component of the local economy, the discussion of cutbacks in federal contracts is a major concern.

❖ The Fairfax County budget gets less than 20 cents back from Richmond of every tax dollar it sends to the state.

❖ There are 30,000 unemployed people in Fairfax County, with the current unemployment rate approximately 4.9 percent, or close to half the national rate. Still, 30,000 people is a huge number of unemployed.

Share Your New Year's Resolutions

It's early and much of the holiday eating season is still in front of us. But most of us will engage in some soul searching and resolution making around the New Year. In the first issue of 2011, the Centre View will share the New Year's resolutions of individuals and offices. Send us your resolutions, plus your tips on keeping resolutions. Feel free to offer resolutions for local officials as well. Send to smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

Please include a photo with your resolutions.

EDITORIALS

Gregory and Snyder Celebrate 90th Birthdays

Ruth Gregory and Dorothy Snyder celebrated their 90th birthdays together at a party hosted by the Snyder Family. These 90-year-old women met at a family luncheon to celebrate their grandchildren's engagement.

They were both born in New Jersey, four days apart, are the same age, widows and their grandchildren are married. They both enjoy sewing, crocheting and dote on their grandchildren and great grandchildren. Gregory now resides with her daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Gary Dempsey in Catharpin, Va.; however, she lived in Chantilly for six years. She was an active member at the Sully Senior Center. With her encouragement Snyder now attends the center.

Gregory is an avid sports fan and

attended her grandchildren, Valerie Dempsey Riccardi and Gregory Dempsey's, many team sports games at Centreville and Paul VI, over the years.

Snyder has been a long time resident of Centreville. She and her late husband, Roger (Turk) were also members of Chantilly County Club. He was an avid golfer and in regular attendance at his grandsons, Brandon, Matthew and Michael Snyder's baseball games at Westfield.

When Sarah Snyder and Greg Dempsey announced their engagement the two grandmothers met and began their friendship. They now share a great granddaughter, Kennedy Leigh Dempsey. These 90-year-old woman see each other frequently at family events and both remain active.



Ruth Gregory and Dorothy Snyder

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Legislative Effort Praised

To the Editor:

We wish to commend and thank Delegates Mark Keam from Vienna and James LeMunyon from Oak Hill for introducing legislation that will make legislative voting histories available online, and we encourage them to reintroduce the

legislation this year, since it died in Senate committee.

Their efforts to advance the cause of open government could do much to promote the common good for the citizens of Virginia. We ask citizens to endorse what recently appeared in an editorial appearing in The Richmond Times Dispatch: "For the measure to provide optimum value, however, it will have to include not only floor

votes and committee votes, but also the heretofore unrecorded subcommittee votes."

Therefore, we encourage them to again include in their legislative proposal "floor votes and committee votes, but also the heretofore unrecorded subcommittee votes."

This legislation will do much to provide a light in the current political darkness, a darkness that

provides cover for politicians who are hostile to transparency.

Again, we fully support their efforts and good work in this matter.

John Horejsi
Coordinator, Social Action Linking Together (SALT)
Robert Stewart
Ignatian Volunteer, SALT Public Affairs

CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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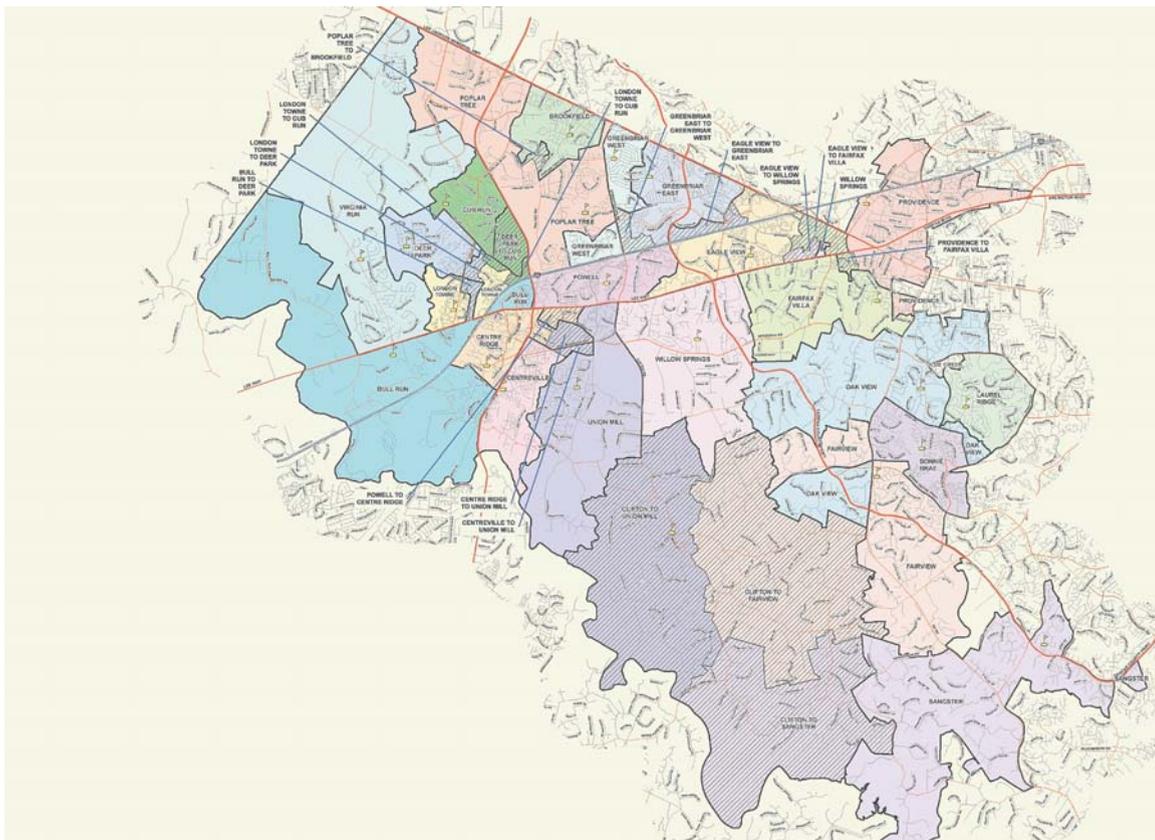
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MAP COURTESY OF FCPS

Fairfax County Public Schools recently released Option D, the fourth proposed scenario to resolve overcrowding in elementary schools in western and southern Fairfax.

Weighing Fourth Boundary Option

Latest alternative moves fewest students, involves four school additions.

BY JULIA O'DONOGHUE
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County Public Schools released a fourth option for adjusting elementary school boundaries in southwestern Fairfax County on Nov. 23, two days before Thanksgiving. The school system is asking community members to provide feedback on the latest alternative, called "Option D," through Dec. 10.

School system staff developed "Option D" in response to feedback about the first three school boundary alternatives presented at community meetings in late October.

Option D moves fewer students than the other three proposals but calls for more "bricks and mortar" school additions than the other plans. All four options assume that Clifton Elementary School closes.

The new option would not necessarily be the final boundary change proposal staff presents to the Fairfax County School Board on Jan. 20.

"I don't think we are there yet. The final answer is probably going to be some combination of what we have seen," said School Board president Kathy Smith (Sully).

The School Board is scheduled to take a final vote on the boundary changes on Feb. 24. It will conduct public hearings on the matter on Feb. 7 and 8.

FAIRFAX SCHOOLS started to undertake a massive school boundary study, which initially included 28 elementary schools in western and central Fairfax, last school year.

The school system's own projections showed severe overcrowding at several elementary schools, particularly in the area where Fairview, Centreville and Chantilly meet near Interstate 66.

Officials projected that Eagle View Elementary School, with approximately 1,200 students, would be at 144 percent of its building capacity in 2015. They said Greenbriar East Elementary School, with about 950 students, would be at 124 percent of its building capacity by the same year. They also predicted that Centreville Elementary School, with approximately 1,000 students, would be at 118 percent of its building capacity in five years.

At the same time, some elementary schools in the vicinity — Cub Run, Union Mill and Willow Springs — are expected to be under their building capacity by at least 20 percent in 2015.

Through the boundary changes and building additions, school officials hope to spread some of the excess student population across a larger number of communities, making use of the vacant seats at some area schools.

"The overcrowding at some of the schools, that is what I am trying to fix," said School Board member Tessie Wilson

(Braddock).

UNDER OPTION D, approximately 961 students would move schools at the beginning of the next school year. An additional 498 students would move schools in the fall of 2013, once some school building additions were constructed.

With the exception of students at Clifton, rising sixth graders would not be asked to move campuses before their final year of elementary school.

In this proposal, the school system would construct six-classroom additions to both Fairview and Fairfax Villa elementary Schools. Officials would also build eight-room additions at Greenbriar East and Union

"I don't think we are there yet."

— Kathy Smith, School Board President

SEE NEW OPTION, PAGE 18

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

ONGOING

Our Neighbors Child (ONC) is the local volunteer organization coordinating holiday assistance (gifts of new toys and clothing) for children of families in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and Western Fairfax. Assistance is made possible each year through the generous support from local churches, schools, businesses and individuals. Preparing for its 19th holiday season in the face of a difficult economy, ONC needs help more than ever from groups or individuals willing to "adopt" the special needs of local children. The number of requests for winter coats/jackets and warm clothing has increased from last year's record numbers. Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be available before Thanksgiving. If you would like to help, contact Denise McInerney, ONC Clothing Coordinator at ond Denise@aol.com. For other volunteer opportunities or to make a donation, visit www.ourneighborschild.org.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is offering a free spay or neuter for the first 100 cats, kittens, dogs or puppies adopted from the shelter during the month of December. The special offer is part of the shelter's annual Home 4 the Holidays adoption celebration to help homeless animals make their way out of the shelter and into a new home in time for the holidays.

The shelter has a variety of cats and dogs available for adoption, in addition to small mammals, reptiles and birds. To view animals available for adoption, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/> and click on adoption. Additionally, a new animal is featured each week on the Fairfax County Police Department website homepage, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/animalservices/ under "Adopt-A-Pet." The shelter is located at 4500 West Ox Rd., Fairfax. Regular adoption hours are Tuesday - Friday, 12 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Contact the shelter at 703-830-1100.

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.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Volunteers for Change Orientation. 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Volunteers for Change, a volunteer program for working adults, is holding orientations for community members. This program features a flexible online calendar of fun weekend and weekday evening projects to fit busy schedules. At Volunteer Fairfax Office, 10530 Page Avenue, Fairfax. Contact Annie Duffield at 703-246-3895 or e-mail aduffield@volunteerfairfax.org.

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Networking Happy Hour. 5 p.m. Free. MidatlanticNetworking.com, in conjunction with Greg Nerantzis of Merrill Lynch, will be hosting a Networking Happy Hour at Vintage 51 Restaurant and Brew Lounge, 25031 Riding Plaza, Chantilly. Call 703-722-2844. This event is for anyone doing business in Chantilly and the area. Email Jay@MidAtlanticNetworking.com to reserve a seat.

TUESDAY/JAN. 11

Preschool Fair. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Come meet representatives from local preschools who will be prepared to answer your questions. Hosted by the MOMS Club of Centreville North. At Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Visit <http://centrevillenorthmoms.webs.com/preschoolfair.htm>.

MONDAY/JAN. 17

Training Tomorrow's Leaders. 7 p.m. Free. GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club will host a spokesperson for Hugh O'Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY) and an alumni of HOBY's unique leadership training, service-learning, and motivation building experiences. Learn more about this outstanding leadership program and WFCWC's annual sponsorship of a local high school student to attend state seminars. At the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. Call Jackie at 703-378-8551 or e-mail us at westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.

SCHOOL NOTES

Suicide/Depression Awareness. Monday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m. The Westfield High School Department of Student Services will host a parent program in the auditorium. Learn the facts that will help you understand the warning signs of suicide and depression.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) choral students have been accepted into National American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) Children's and Middle School Choirs. Members of these ensembles, chosen from over 4,000 applicants from around the United States, will rehearse and perform in conjunction with the National ACDA Conference scheduled for March 9-12, 2011 in Chicago. FCPS students accepted into the ACDA choirs from **Franklin Middle School** are: **Jake Fries, Troy Fries,** and **Connor Golden** for the Middle School-Junior High Honor Choir. **Lorraine Neill** is the chorus director at Franklin.

Winter Holiday Concert. Sponsored by the Ormond Stone Middle School Choral Program. The intermediate choirs will perform on Thursday, Dec. 9 at the 7 p.m. program. Highlights will include songs performed over the past years such as "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and "You've got a Friend in Me" from the original "Toy Story" movie as well as "Come Light the Menorah", and

"Sing We all Noel". At the 8:00 performance, the advanced mixed chorus will perform additional holiday favorites such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Silent Night" and "Harmonika". A special appearance by the Westfield High School Chamber Singers will round out the evening.

More than 100 Westfield High theatre students will present five, seasonal, student-directed vignettes during the school's annual Ho-Ho Holiday Show. It's slated for Sunday, Dec. 19, at 2 p.m. and Monday, Dec. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 each and \$12 for groups of up to four people.

Performed will be: "Twas the Night Before Christmas," directed by Sarah Bowden and Zoe Tippl; "The Grinch," directed by Taylor

Reese and Brittany Simmons; "A Charlie Brown Christmas," directed by Elisabeth Bloxam and Kerowyn Brewer, "The Hanukkah Story," directed by Daniel and Josh Braunstein; and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," directed by Dan Hepler and Andy Roca.

Chantilly High School Student Government Association is holding a wrapping paper drive. Rolls can be dropped off at Chantilly High School or Greenbriar East Elementary now through Dec. 14. The wrapping paper will be donated to Our Neighbor's Child, a non-profit organization that provides holiday gifts for the under-privileged children in Fairfax County. Contact Becky Campbell or Melissa Guerro at 703-222-6307.

BUSINESS NOTES

THURSDAY/DEC. 16

Networking Happy Hour. 5 p.m. Free. MidatlanticNetworking.com in conjunction with Greg Nerantzis of Merrill Lynch is hosting a Networking Happy Hour at Vintage 51 Restaurant and Brew Lounge. At 25031 Riding Plaza, Chantilly. This event is for anyone doing business in Chantilly and the surrounding area. Email Jay@MidAtlanticNetworking.com to reserve a seat. Call 703-722-2844.

Westfields Marriott

Washington Dulles welcomes Christine Boucher of Alexandria as Director of Catering. Boucher previously was director of event planning at the Renaissance Washington Hotel. She was responsible for overseeing large conventions with multiple affiliates and social functions in an 807 room convention hotel with 70,000 square feet of meeting space. Her management duties included training and mentoring a team of event managers and administrative assistants.

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ENTERTAINMENT



SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Chantilly Model Train Displays. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Chantilly Bible Church is hosting a free holiday model train display. This event is for families with children, and will feature multiple displays: Lionel, HO, Lego, and a wooden train area for hands-on fun. At Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road in Chantilly. Call 703-263-1188 or visit www.ChantillyBible.org.

NOW THROUGH DEC. 19

"Camelot." The Alliance Theatre presents the story of King Arthur, Guinevere, Lancelot, Merlin and the Knights of the Round Table. Directed by Zina Bleck. Show times are Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. — Dec. 10, 11, 17, 18; Sundays at 2 p.m. — Dec. 12, 19; Thursdays at 7 p.m. — Dec. 9, 16. At Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Visit www.TheAllianceTheatre.org or call 703-220-8101.

THURSDAY/DEC. 9

Santa Visits McDonald's. 6 to 8 p.m. Santa will take photos with the kids (bring your camera); a fire truck will be outside; free giveaways; free coffee for the parents while they wait. At Greenbriar McDonald's, 13003 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy., Chantilly; call 703-378-4631.

Winter Holiday Concert. Sponsored by the Ormond Stone Middle School Choral Program. The intermediate choirs will perform on the 7 p.m. program. Highlights will include songs performed over the past years such as "Total Eclipse of the Heart" and "You've got a Friend in Me" from the original "Toy Story" movie as well as "Come Light the Menorah", and "Sing We all Noel". At the 8:00 performance, the advanced mixed chorus will perform additional holiday favorites such as "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas", "Silent Night" and "Harmonika". A special appearance by the Westfield High School Chamber Singers will round out the evening.

"A Prelude Christmas." 7 p.m. Westfield High School's Wind Symphony will perform with guest musicians Dave Detweiler and friends. Admission is one new toy to be donated to Our Neighbor's Child program. In the WHS Auditorium at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

Wine Class: Champagne and Sparkling. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. This tasting and seminar is perfect for those looking to discover a sparkling wine that best suits their budget and palate. Eight sparkling wines will be tasted, including a Cremant de Bourgogne, Cava, California sparkling and four



SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Day of Childhood Magic. 11 a.m. Tickets are \$8. Open House includes face painting, moon bounce, cookie decorating and ornament making. Aspiring Snow Queens can make their own tiaras and meet the Snow Queen and Sugar Plum Fairy. The dancers will also be performing excerpts from their holiday shows. At the Joan Izzo Academy of Dance, 14231 Willard Road, Chantilly. For reservations, call 703-327-8402.

stunning selections from Champagne. 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/DEC. 10

Do Business and Celebrate. 8 a.m. to noon. Meet local political leaders, sports figures, 80 exhibitors from 80 industries and an additional 200-plus business owners and professionals. Hosted by Hoop Magic Sports Academy, 14810 Murdock Street, Chantilly. Call Basile Lemba at 703-359-5642.

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

DEC. 10-12

Holiday Used Book Sale. The Friends of the Centreville Library announce their Holiday Used Book Sale, to be held Friday, Dec 10 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec 11 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Dec 12 from 1 to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Call 703-830-2223 or visit FriendsOfCentrevilleLibrary.blogspot.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 11

Holiday Open House. 1 to 2 p.m. Enjoy music, activities and more at special open house celebrations. At the Centreville Regional Library.

Puppetopia Puppet Show. 11 a.m. Puppetopia presents Bundle Up. One fable and two folktales. At Centreville Regional Library.

DEC. 11-12

"The Nutcracker." Performed by Mia Saunders Ballet. Saturday, Dec. 11 at 3 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. Cost is \$12/adults; \$10/students, children and seniors (age 62-plus). All proceeds will benefit the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' Families in Need program as well as

CVHS Drama Booster scholarships. To be held at Centreville High School Theater, Union Mill Road, Clifton. For tickets, contact: Karen at 703-631-8238 or Toni at Toni113@cox.net. Donations of food and toiletries will be collected at the door for WFCM. See www.wfcmva.org/needs.php for a list of needed items.

SUNDAY/DEC. 12

Sounds of the Season Concert. 5 p.m. Come enjoy the Sounds of the Season with Westfield High Schools Jazz, Symphonic and Concert Band as well as a portion of the WHS Choir. Admission is one new toy to be donated to Our Neighbor's Child program. In the WHS Auditorium at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.

"A Lamb's Tale." 11 a.m. The Children's Christmas musical, "A Lamb's Tale," will be presented by the Kids Church Ministry at Jubilee Christian Center. At 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170,

or see www.jccag.org

MONDAY/DEC. 13

Frying Pan Farm at Chantilly Library. 2 to 3 p.m. Meet a duck, enjoy a puppet show and create and take home a holiday craft. At Chantilly Regional Library.

TUESDAY/DEC. 14

Centreville Stitchers. 6:30 to 8:30 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 joknitter@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/DEC. 17

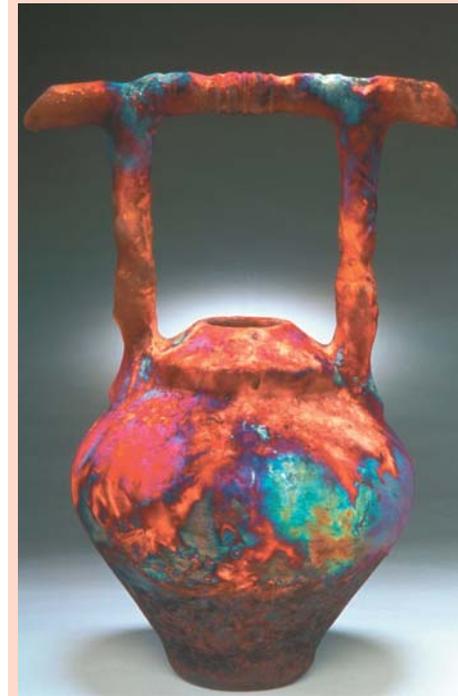
Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, the Rock and Roll Relics. Beginner swing lesson from 8:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road (Route 28 near the airport), Herndon.

DEC. 18-19

Christmas Cantata. Free. Jubilee Christian Center will be presenting a Community Christmas Cantata, "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" (including Handel's Messiah, "Hallelujah Chorus") on Saturday, Dec. 18, 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 19, 11 a.m. At 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

SUNDAY/DEC. 19

Christmas Bird Count. The Audubon Society of Northern Virginia will mark the 111th anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count. Once again, volunteers will count birds in a circle around Centreville. The area includes Manassas National Battlefield, Bull Run Regional Park, undeveloped areas along Bull Run Post Office Road and Dulles Airport, and many other locations. ASNV is seeking volunteers of all skill levels who are interested in birds and birding. Volunteers who cannot go on the count but live within the circle can take part by counting birds at feeders. Anyone interested can contact ASNV at



Pottery by George Blackman

DEC. 10-12

Sugarloaf Craft Festival. Some 250 jury-selected artists specializing in ceramics, sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, furniture and home décor, fine art and photography will show their wares. Friday-Sunday, Dec. 10-12; Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Admission is \$7/online, \$9/door, and free for children under 12. At Dulles Expo Center, at 4320 Chantilly Place Center in Chantilly. Visit www.facebook.com/sugarloafcrafter.

info@audubonva.org or call 703-438-6008.

THURSDAY/DEC. 23

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 joknitter@verizon.net.

FRIDAY/DEC. 24

Christmas Eve Service. 8 p.m. Jubilee Christian Center will have a Christmas Eve Service on Dec. 24, 8 p.m., with refreshments, at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170, or see www.jccag.org

DEC. 30 TO JAN. 2

2nd Annual FROSTIVAL! Will include 15 winter-themed crafts, interactive science activities and games, professional and local celebrity storytelling, 15 bounces, slides and rides, two stages featuring nationally recognized children's performers, as well as numerous exhibits and vendors. At the Dulles Expo and Conference Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. A presentation of Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. Visit www.FROSTIVAL.com.

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Help Our Neighbor's Child through Donations, Time

FROM PAGE 4

Some members of Centreville High's football team participated in last Saturday's Panther Pick-up held by Stone Middle School's National Junior Honor Society. Earlier, Stone students had asked residents in their area to donate brand-new toys, books, games and new or like-new clothing to ONC.

Then on Dec. 4, parents drove them to the homes to pick it up from the doorsteps and bring it back to school for sorting and placing into boxes.

"It was a huge success, thanks to the efforts of organizers Pam DeBell and Cindy Hicks, everyone who donated and those who helped collect, sort and pack it all up," said Lavin. "We filled 125 boxes with clothes, plus several hundred toys. But we needed strong people to pick up the boxes, take them to the warehouse and unload them, and the Centreville football players did this for us."

Also contributing to ONC's gift packages to the families is A Child's Joy, founded by Chantilly's Denise Forgione. It's donating hundreds of handmade stockings filled with small toys and games for children ages 5-12. "I love stockings," she said. "My mother hand-knit ours, so they have special meaning for me."

She began by bringing 45 such stockings to WFCM's food pantry in 2005 and, within two days, they were gone. Friends at her church, Fairfax Church of Christ, also wanted to help; so the next year, they made 150 stockings.

"They're fabric, in about 20 different Christmas prints, and are lined with flannel," said Forgione. "They're the kind of stockings you can keep in your family for generations."

Before long, people were holding toy drives to fill the stockings with gifts including balls, yo-yos, Beanie Babies, sidewalk chalk, cards, dominoes, etc. By March 2007, the group had enough toys for 350 stockings, so Forgione turned it into a nonprofit.

Since 2007, it's distributed most of the filled stockings through ONC. Of the 1,200 stockings created this year by the some 50 women of A Child's Joy, 800 will go to ONC and the rest will go to local shelters and to families who recently left shelters. For more information, see www.achildsjoy.org

"We love the tradition of the stocking, and it's a lot of fun," said Forgione. "I think our volunteers get as much out of this as the children receiving the stockings do; we've been very blessed. I also love the fact that, if we give ONC these stockings, it allows them to use their money to serve more children."

Here's How

❖ Warm, winter clothes are especially needed. To adopt a child for clothing or to contribute clothing, e-mail Denise McInerney at oncvolunteer@gmail.com.

❖ Groups or businesses can collect gift cards to donate. Especially popular with teens are Target, Wal-Mart and iTunes gift cards. "At this point, we're maxed out on space in the warehouse and in delivery volunteers," said Lavin. "So if companies would consider collecting gift cards or making donations, we'd have the flexibility to either buy the gifts, ourselves, or purchase gift cards — especially for the clothing items so desperately needed, but difficult to choose, for teen-agers."

❖ Volunteers are needed Sunday, Dec. 12, from noon-2 p.m., to help set up the warehouse. Contact Jean Novak at oncvolunteer@gmail.com.

❖ Each family receiving gifts from ONC will also be given two dozen, homemade cookies. And with more than 800 families getting gifts, roughly 20,000 cookies will be needed. Anyone wishing to bake cookies for the families should drop them off Thursday, Dec.

16, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Virginia Run Community Center, 15355 Wetherburn Court, off Route 29 and Pleasant Valley Road, in Centreville. The type of container doesn't matter; they'll all be repackaged into assortments.

❖ Packaging Day is also Dec. 16, when hundreds of people will be needed to help match up each item to the wish list provided by the recipient parents for their children.

❖ Delivery Day is Sunday, Dec. 19, from 1-4 p.m. People interested in volunteering for either packaging or delivery should go to www.ourneighborschild.org.

❖ Financial contributions are greatly needed. Either contact ONC treasurer Karen Moore at oncvolunteer@gmail.com or send checks payable to Our Neighbor's Child to P.O. Box 276, Centreville, VA 20120, attention Karen Moore. Or make direct donations via the "donate now" button on the ONC Web site. One hundred percent of all monetary contributions is used to buy gifts for the recipient families.

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11:02 AM

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Salvation Army Needs Local Residents' Help

FROM PAGE 1

the spirit of giving in the holiday season and they respect the work of the Salvation Army.”

Now, though, Giant has reduced the number of hours the organization can solicit there. “They’ve only given us one week in November and one week in December, four hours at a time,” said Fitzgerald. “Because of the Giant decision, between Nov. 12 and Dec. 24, we’ll lose \$150,000 in fund-raising.”

He’s not faulting the decision, however, just stating a fact. “Giant’s new, company policy regarding soliciting is so that more organizations can raise funds there, too — also on a limited basis,” he said. “And we do appreciate the time they’ve given us.”

But, added Fitzgerald, the change was announced “two weeks before we began our Christmas fund-raising campaign, so we weren’t prepared for it. And it’s affecting our fund-raising in both the Fairfax County and Washington Metropolitan areas. “D.C.

Metropolitan-wise, we’re projecting we’ll lose \$700,000,” he said. “That’s a lot of money and help.”

So, with nearly 1,100 more children to provide for, this year, Fitzgerald hopes the public’s holiday spirit of giving will continue as Christmas draws closer. Meanwhile, he said, “We’re scrambling with our fund-raising since donations are down and the need is up.”

HE’S CURRENTLY writing letters to local businesses, asking for their support. “But unless we find a lot of people in the community who make some decent contributions, it’ll be tough making up that deficit,” said Fitzgerald. “My biggest concern is that we use the funds raised in the Christmas and winter-relief campaign to help support families in January and February.”

He said the Salvation Army will “probably” be able to meet its toy and clothing demands at Christmastime, thanks in great part to the Angel Trees in various businesses around the county. Each contains tags with a child’s first name and the gift wanted.

Angel Tree locations include BJ’s and Wal-Mart in Fair Lakes, Wal-Mart in Burke and shops in the Tysons Corner Mall.

The organization also runs an Adopt-A-Family program whereby people can volunteer to buy gifts for an entire family. It’s run through the Salvation Army’s social-service office and may be reached at 703-385-8700, ext. 23.

“We can only help as the finances are provided,” said Fitzgerald. “We’re also looking for at least 100 volunteers, in addition to our paid employees, to man our kettle locations. I’m trying to cover all 21 Giant stores in my service area. This includes Fairfax, Chantilly, Centreville, Herndon, Reston, Vienna, Great Falls, McLean, Burke, Falls Church and Fairfax Station.”

The Salvation Army also needs volunteers for its donation kettles outside other Wal-Marts, Safeways, Magruder’s in Vienna, K-Mart in Chantilly and Herndon, the Lotte store in Chantilly and the Super H Market in Fairfax.

To volunteer, call 703-385-8700, ext. 11, and ask for Stacey Burke. Tax-deductible

checks, payable to Salvation Army, may be sent to it at 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. In addition, people may text the word, “give,” to 85944 to make a \$10 donation from their phones.

“Funds raised [now] help support families in January and February.”

— Major Earl Fitzgerald, commanding officer, Salvation Army’s Fairfax Corps

“I’d like to thank the community for their past support and for what they’re doing this holiday season to support the Salvation Army’s efforts,” said Fitzgerald. “We just hope our donations will pick up so we can better meet the needs of those less fortunate in Fairfax County.”



Peter Hackett, Tony Mehl, Tom Maskey, and Jeff Parana of Potomac Development Group, LLC.

New Real Estate Firm Begins

Four real estate veterans are forming a new real estate development, investment, and consulting firm operating in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan region.

Potomac Development Group’s four principals, Tom Maskey, Peter Hackett, Jeff Parana, and Tony Mehl, have more than 100 years of combined experience in the real estate development industry. While with The Peterson Companies, one of the area’s largest privately-owned companies in the industry, they worked together on numerous projects, including the development, construction, and leasing of mixed-use projects such as National Harbor, Downtown Silver Spring, Fairfax Corner, Washingtonian Center, and Virginia Gateway.

Maskey, 60, was senior vice president of retail at Peterson for 17 years, after spending nine years with Simon Property Group and nine years with Jewel Food Stores. He and family members also own and operate

two retail chains in several states in the Midwest.

Hackett, 48, was senior vice president of design and construction with Peterson, where he spent 22 years. He was previously with Gilbane Building Company. He is a licensed contractor and a licensed real estate agent in Virginia.

Parana, 47, was a vice president at Peterson, where he spent 16 years, most recently serving six years as project executive for the development of National Harbor. He was previously with TRW, Inc., and E. K Fox & Associates, a private engineering services company. Parana is also a licensed real estate agent in Virginia.

Mehl, 40, was a senior manager at Peterson, where he spent 10 years on the Virginia Gateway project. In addition, he has 10 years experience in the geotechnical engineering field. Potomac Development Group is located at 5900 Fort Drive, Suite 430 Centreville. Call 703-863-9496 or phackett@PotomacDevGrp.com.

Prison Time for Gold Thefts

FROM PAGE 1

ers has brought some justice to the victims in this case.”

Soto pleaded guilty, Sept. 17, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to conspiring to transport stolen property in interstate commerce. According to court documents, from January to November 2009, she and her husband, plus Francisco Gray, also of New York, agreed to travel to Northern Virginia for the purpose of burglarizing residences belonging to South Asians.

Figuring that people of this ethnic group would have a great deal of gold jewelry, coins and religious icons in their homes, the trio conspired together to steal it and then transport the stolen property back to New York, where they would sell it.

According to authorities, at least six times during 2009, the three drove to Northern Virginia, where they rented a room at the Landmark Comfort Inn in Alexandria. From there, they would drive to the vicinity of a targeted residence and then telephone that particular house to determine whether anyone was home.

If no one answered the telephone calls, they would drive to that residence, and Ramirez-Soto — dressed in a blue uniform of a workman — would knock on the front door. If someone answered, Ramirez-Soto would claim to be responding to a service call, apologize and leave. They would then go to a second, targeted residence.

If no one answered, Ramirez-Soto and

Gray would use a large screwdriver or pry bar to break into the home through a back or basement door or window. Once inside, they’d search for gold items or other easily transportable property, such as laptop computers, cameras, watches and other jewelry.

Meanwhile, Melinda Soto would remain in the vehicle and monitor the police radio communications for the police district in which the home was located. Because she and Ramirez-Soto maintained telephone contact, she could warn him and Gray if she heard any police communications that indicated officers were on the way.

They got away with their crimes for quite awhile, before they were all arrested, last summer. Then in July, they were indicted by a federal grand jury and later entered guilty pleas.

Soto returned to federal court in Alexandria last Friday, Dec. 3 and, at that time, U.S. District Court Judge Leonie M. Brinkema sentenced her to three years behind bars, followed by three years of supervised release. Soto was also ordered to pay \$590,860 in restitution.

Ramirez-Soto pleaded guilty to conspiracy, Sept. 21, and is scheduled to be sentenced on Jan. 11, 2011. Gray was deported to Peru prior to the start of the federal investigation.

The Fairfax County Police Department, Loudoun County Sheriff’s Office and the FBI Washington Field Office’s Violent Crimes Task Force investigated this case. Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael E. Rich and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul Rosen prosecuted it.



Costumed riders on horseback parade up Clifton's Main Street.



Baton twirlers from St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic School in Clifton lead the parade.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Horses, Holidays and Homes

Clifton celebrates holiday season with parade and homes tour.

The Town of Clifton kicked off the holiday season in style on Saturday, Dec. 4. In the afternoon, the Clifton Horse Parade marched through town, and, in the evening, residents opened their doors for the annual Candlelight Homes Tour.



Chantilly High choir members (from Touch of Class and Chamber Chorale) sing Christmas carols in Clifton Presbyterian Church.



After the parade, friends Abigail Wojcik, 11, left, and Cole Chutuape, 10, both of Fairfax Station, play Christmas carols on the violin to raise money for Haitian relief.



Kelsey Herrity, 11, of Fairfax Station, dressed as an angel for the horse parade. Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity is her uncle.

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5411 Hampton Forest Way.....	\$560,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Melissa Comi.....	Century 21.....	703-818-0111
10493 Courtney Dr.....	\$570,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer.....	Long & Foster.....	703-503-1812
12219 Colchester Hunt Dr.....	\$649,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer.....	Long & Foster.....	703-503-1812
10012 Manor Pl.....	\$850,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Ken Miller.....	RE/MAX.....	703-608-4438

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14868 Lambeth Sq.....	\$264,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Lori Hall.....	Long & Foster.....	703-405-1601
5529 Ajuga Ct.....	\$658,880.....	Sat/Sun 11-5.....	Kim Rosewall.....	Jobin Realty.....	703-433-0600

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4608 Fillingame Dr.....	\$499,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Joyce Sheftic.....	Coldwell Banker.....	703-981-9494
14054 Eagle Chase Cir.....	\$674,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	Sanjiv Vashist.....	Capital Gateway.....	703-773-9300

Clifton

12204 Henderson Rd.....	\$749,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Carol Hermandorfer.....	Long & Foster.....	703-503-1812
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Fairfax Station

8321 Argent Cir.....	\$699,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	David Billups.....	Long & Foster.....	703-690-1795
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Burke

5827 New England Woods Dr.....	\$539,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Charlene Bayes.....	Prudential Carruthers.....	703-597-4067
9617 Chapel Hill Dr.....	\$573,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Bill Hoffman.....	Keller Williams.....	703-309-2205

Springfield

7417 Spring Tree Dr.....	\$319,900.....	Sun 1-4.....	R.O. Dickson.....	The Dickson Co.....	703-273-1714
7306 Elgar St.....	\$399,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Valerie Gaskins.....	Weichert.....	703-881-2787
7931 Saint George Ct.....	\$477,500.....	Sun 1-4.....	Karen McGavin.....	Keller Williams.....	703-477-1125

Kingstowne/Alexandria

6811 Duke Dr.....	\$425,000.....	Sun 1-4.....	Joni Koons.....	Weichert.....	703-209-7277
7009 Bentley Mill Pl.....	\$459,950.....	Sun 1-4.....	Tom & Cindy and Associates.....	Long & Foster.....	703-822-0207
6576 Kiernan Ct.....	\$549,950.....	Sun 1-4.....	Tom & Cindy and Associates.....	Long & Foster.....	703-822-0207

Annandale

4725 Springbrook Dr.....	\$520,000.....	Sun 12-3.....	B.J. Winar.....	Avery-Hess.....	703-402-5072
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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.

For Wrestling Enthusiasts, It's a Classic

NOVA Classic meet set for this weekend at Fairfax.

BY RICH SANDERS
CENTRE VIEW

One of the yearly highlights of the early high school winter sports season is the annual Northern Virginia (NOVA) Wrestling Classic, the large showcase extravaganza that is hosted by Fairfax High School and includes most of the public schools from across the Northern Region as well as other public and private schools from the metropolitan area and further out.

The Classic has been one of the most successful and longest-running booster-sponsored events in the region. This year's Classic, the unofficial starting point of the local prep school wrestling season, is believed to be in its 23rd straight year, although that fact is a little fuzzy to event coordinators.

"We were trying to do a countdown and we think this is the 23rd year," said Tim Gordan, Fairfax High's Director of Student Activities, in a recent e-mail regarding the event. "But our memories are fading!"

Whatever the Classic's official year start-up, the tournament is a monitor for local coaches to get a sense of where their respective teams are at the early stages of the mat season.

"The NOVA Classic is a great opening tournament for the season," said Scott Matheny, Lake Braddock Secondary School head coach. "It gives the guys a preview of what is in the region and some good competition from outside the region. It is an early season measuring stick for where you are and what you need to work on."

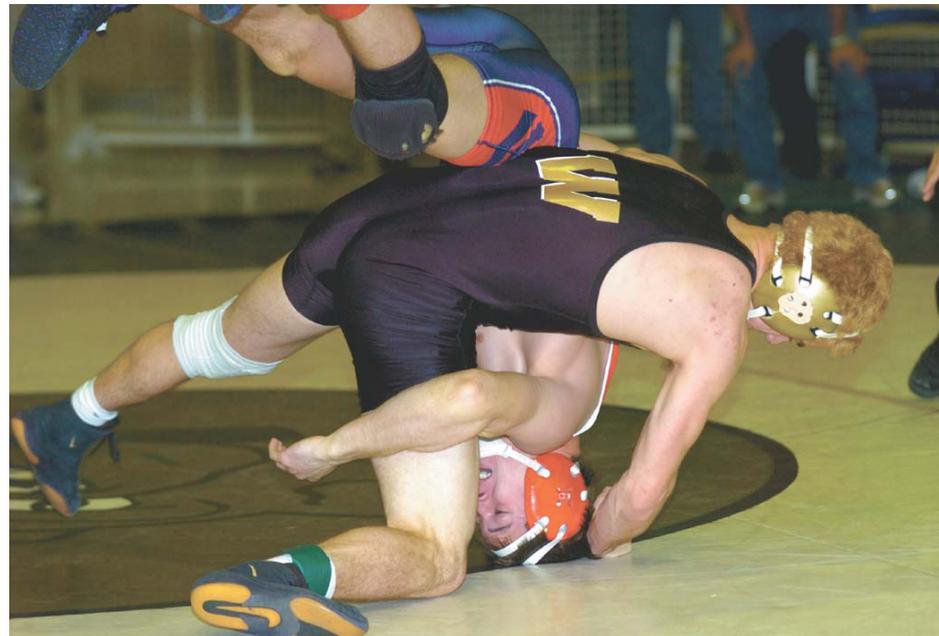
The Classic will be held this Friday, Dec. 10 and Saturday, Dec. 11 at Fairfax High. The action will begin at 10 a.m. on both days.

Phil Cronin, the Chantilly High coach, said coaches have different outlooks regarding the early season Classic.

"Most coaches are split on the tourney," said Cronin. "Some don't like seeing region opponents this early, while others like to 'test the waters' as it were. I belong to the latter. Success at the Classic sets the tone for the season; it lets you know where kids will shake out and who looks tough. It motivates those who don't do well and it gives confidence to those who did."

Jack Clark, the Woodson High head wrestling coach, said the Classic is a great opportunity for his wrestlers, especially the younger team members, to get a 'big meet' experience — a preparatory for the bigger and more important tournaments later in the season.

"My expectation for the NOVA Classic is that it is a motivator for the guys — to get an idea of what they need to do to prepare



Fairfax High will, once again, be hosting the annual early season Northern Virginia Wrestling Classic this Friday and Saturday.

for the end-of-year tournaments," said Clark. "Time is short and I really believe in our guys. They are great kids, good listeners and willing to put themselves on the line and do the work that's necessary. I'm particularly proud of their team-first attitude."

While succeeding and doing well at the Classic, both in the team standings and individually, are of importance for athletes and coaches, the reality of the event suggests it is but the first step of a long, often grinding season.

"The NOVA Classic is a big early event, however it is so early in the season that it won't have a major effect on the team," said Sean Anderson, the coach at South County Secondary School. "We all know it's not how you start a season but how you finish it. With that being said we look forward to the challenge of a big tournament and look for some of our wrestlers to make a name for themselves."

Thirty-one teams are expected to participate in this year's Classic, including local schools Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield.

The other participating schools will be: Annandale, Fairfax, Lake Braddock, Paul VI, South County, West Springfield, W.T. Woodson, Bishop Ireton of Alexandria, Bishop O'Connell of Arlington, Edison, Fauquier, George Mason (Falls Church city), Herndon, Jefferson, Madison, Marshall, McLean, Mountain View (Stafford), Oakton, Potomac Falls, South Lakes, St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School of Alexandria, Tallwood (Virginia Beach), T.C. Williams, Wakefield, Washington-Lee, and Yorktown.

Last year's top five team finishers at the 2009 NOVA Classic were champion Westfield, second place Fairfax, third place Woodbridge, fourth place Annandale and fifth place Potomac Falls of the Dulles District.

Robinson Secondary won the team title in 2008 and Westfield took the crown in 2007. (Robinson is participating at another tournament this weekend in Annapolis).

The following is a brief look at some of the local wrestling teams as they go into this weekend's Classic.

CENTREVILLE: The Wildcats, under head coach John Belyea, competed at the Ray Oliver Invitational at McDonough High in Maryland last weekend where they finished 16th place overall in the 21-team field. The team champion was Arch Bishop Spalding. Langley was the lone other Northern Region team other than Centreville to compete at the event. The Saxons finished 10th overall.

Key wrestlers to keep an eye on this season for Centreville include Ryan Sepulveda (160 weight class), Connor Mitchell (119) and David Chenevey (189).

Sepulveda was the Wildcats' top finisher at the McDonough meet with a third-place finish.

"We are very young this year," said Belyea. "Only five returners from last year's team have any varsity experience."

The coach is interested to see how his squad will handle a big meet such as the NOVA Classic.

"The NOVA Classic will be a good test for

us to see where we stand with some of the region's competition," he said.

CHANTILLY: The Chargers opened up the season in a competition at Potomac Falls High School (Dulles District) on Dec. 4. There, Chantilly went 5-0 as a team, getting dual meet wins over Stonebridge, Broad Run, Woodson, Madison, and T.C. Williams.

One of the individual highlights of the day for the Chargers was senior Wes Litton's overtime win over defending Northern Region champion Albert Schultz of Madison.

Several Chantilly team members who were part of the school's football team this fall that made it to the region finals were not able to join the wrestling squad until recently because of the extended postseason football run.

"The good and bad of having a good football program is that anytime a kid can be in a championship situation, it makes them better," said Cronin, the Chantilly wrestling coach. "However, I am just now getting many of my guys back. Many of them are not 'on weight' yet, either."

Chantilly wrestlers to watch this season include: senior Bernabe Mejia, who finished fifth in the region last year; Ben Cobb, a First Team All-Region football linebacker this fall; junior Sam Cronin, coach Phil's son who finished sixth in the region last year; and Litton, a fourth-year starter.

WESTFIELD: The Bulldogs, the defending NOVA Classic champion, are a younger squad this season, consisting of a starting line-up that currently includes three seniors, five juniors, five sophomores and one freshman. "This is a young but talented team," said Westfield head coach Chuck Hoskins.

Bulldog wrestlers to look out for include: Harry Van Trees, Jacob DeLeon, Beau Donahue, Derek Arnold, Brett Campbell and Dennon Carranza-Kee.

"The NOVA Classic will be a good test to show us where we are compared to others in the region," said Hoskins. "We are working hard to keep the tradition going. With God's blessing we will stay healthy and get better every week."

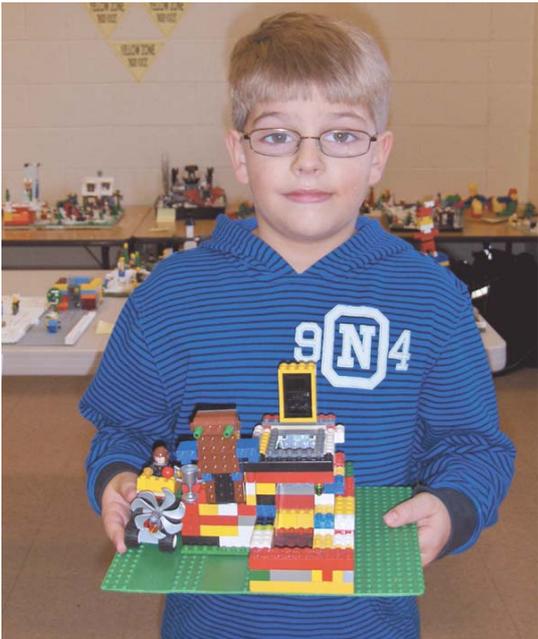
SPORTS BRIEFS

The Lady Wildcats are hosting a **Winter Lacrosse Camp** throughout January and February of 2011. On Sunday afternoons and evenings during those two months, two camp sessions will be held in the gymnasium at Centreville High School — the first session, for girls from fourth through the eighth grades, will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m.; and the second session, for high school aged girls, will be from 6 to 8.

The following are the Sunday camp dates: Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30; Feb. 13 and 20. Parents may sign their daughters up for individual sessions for \$35 per session, or \$150 for all six sessions.

For more information, call the Centreville High activities office during working hours at 703-802-5416 or contact girls' lacrosse coach Brian Newell at brian.newell@c2sginc.com.

SCHOOLS



Second-grader James Joyce displays the candy machine he built.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Fourth-grader Rose Klosky, left, made a Lego Santa's Helper, and fifth-grader Sydney Harris created Winter in a Park.

Lego Masters at Poplar Tree Event

Students participated in a Legos competition during Poplar Tree Elementary's Winterfest event Saturday, Dec. 4, at the school. The children created winter scenes out of Legos.



Crazy Sock Day Students in Chrissy McLaughlin's fourth grade class at Lees Corner Elementary, had fun with "Crazy Sock Day" as part of Red Ribbon Week, the county's anti-drug campaign.

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New Option Affects Fewest

FROM PAGE 9

Mill elementary schools. Fairfax schools would also move an eight-classroom modular from Canterbury Woods Elementary School to Centreville Elementary School, according to public documents about the new boundary proposal. The total cost for moving the modular and adding the new additions would be approximately \$17.7 million overall, according to documents.

BY FAR, the most students to be moved from a school would occur at Eagle View and Clifton, which the School Board has voted to close permanently.

As in earlier options, about 326 Clifton students would be split up between Union Mill, Fairview and Sangster elementary schools at the end of this school year.

Eagle View, the most overpopulated elementary school in western Fairfax, would lose 117 students to Willow Springs at the end of this year and 202 students to Fairfax Villa and Greenbriar East in 2013.

Under Option D, only one school would be subjected to a "double bump," where students are moved out of a building to make room for other students who are moving into the same facility.

In 2013, Centre Ridge would lose about 128 students to Union Mill but gain almost the same number of children, about 115, from Powell Elementary School.

This boundary alternative also calls for about 138 students enrolled in the Advanced Academic Program, previously called gifted and talented centers, to move locations.

OPTION D does little to eliminate attendance "islands," where school boundaries are not contiguous.

Notably, the Oak View "island" in Fairfax Station, which is also known as the Woodson High School "island," remains intact under this option.

Option D also expands a Willow Springs attendance "island" north of Lee Highway into communities that currently attend Eagle View.

At the request of parents, officials said they did not change middle and high school attendance patterns as part of Option D. This action would result in some "split feeders" at the elementary school level.

Students formerly from the Clifton attendance area would still attend Robinson Secondary School instead of continuing onto Centreville High School like other Union Mill students or Lake Braddock Secondary School like other Sangster students.

Students moving from Greenbriar East to Greenbriar West would still attend Fairfax

High School instead of going to Chantilly High School.

IN OPTION D, the school system would be moving some families out of schools with full-day kindergarten programs into schools with half-day kindergarten programs, a point of contention for many parents.

Those moving from Eagle View to Willow Springs; from Powell and Centreville to Union Mill; and from Greenbriar East students to Greenbriar West would shift from full-day to half-day kindergarten program.

The School Board members intend to expand full-day kindergarten to all campuses eventually but tight budgets have caused them to put a freeze on the program. Full-day kindergarten is awarded on basis of need and those schools still without full-day kindergarten are usually among the most affluent in the county, according to school officials.

OPTION D would leave all schools at an acceptable population level, using between 95 and 105 percent of their building capacity by 2015, according to statistics released by the school system.

But "building capacity" is often calculated by including modular classrooms, which some parents find inappropriate. For example, school officials report that Centreville Elementary would move to 91 percent of its building capacity by 2015, but only if they include the eight-classroom modular unit they would move to the campus.

"[Option D] only puts us down 40 children. That isn't enough. We still have two trailers. It kills me to have trailers," said Sandy Jones, PTA president at Greenbriar

West, a school that would be at about 100 percent building capacity, with trailers, if option d was adopted.

"We have rooms in use in the building that were never intended to be classrooms. We have absolutely zero space. ... We would still be overcrowded," said

Jones.

THE CLIFTON COMMUNITY, which is still fighting the School Board's decision to close their school, is also concerned about plans to move their students to Fairview and Union Mill before new additions at those schools are completed in 2013.

"Are they going to be moving students out of our school building and into trailers?" asked Patti Hopkins, PTA president at Clifton.

"My main concern is that they are closing Clifton at the end of this year without having enough seats at the surrounding schools," she said.

"[Option D] only puts us down 40 children. That isn't enough. We still have two trailers. It kills me to have trailers."

— Sandy Jones, PTA president at Greenbriar West

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"Bank Error in My Favor"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I received a \$25 check in the mail today. It was sent to me by my bank, the bank with whom I've had a long-standing (through their name-changing) relationship. A bank however, with whom I've had minimal interaction, other than maintaining a checking account and being the recipient of any number of direct mail solicitations. I have no savings account, no money market account, no IRA account, no home equity and/or second trust and no personal loans; I may have a credit card (that I don't use) but it serves as a back-up/overdraft account which I most definitely have. Although, with the passage – and implementation recently of the new banking legislation, I'm not exactly sure what it is I still have, and/or what it is I'll be charged the next time a check presents itself without proper support. So you can imagine my surprise (or perhaps you can't), when I received a plain white business envelope from my bank which contained this mystery money and a brief explanation for its being sent – to me: some refund of a fee I don't remember paying and/or even caring about.

My reaction was to say aloud something like: "The bank made an error in my favor? Wow! That never happens." As soon as I said that 'bank error' line, I was transported – figuratively speaking, since I wasn't in a hot tub at the time, back some 45 years to those youthful days of playing board games, "Monopoly," specifically, on our back porch on Athelstane Road in Newton Centre, Ma., where my brother and I would play for hours on end (I always chose the dog, he chose the iron) until one player had all the money and/or all the property and the other player was unable to pay for landing on their Hotel/Utility/Railroad.

There I was, "Taking a 'Chance' on 'Community's Chest' (as I always intentionally mispronounced them) to see what fortune – or misfortune – would befall me: "Advance Token to Boardwalk," "Take a Ride on the Reading," "Elected Chairman of the Board, Pay Each Player \$50," "Pay School Tax of \$150," "You Have Won Second Prize in a Beauty Contest, Collect \$10," and of course, "Bank Error in your Favor, Collect \$200," that was as much "found money" as there was in "Monopoly." Granted, the check I received in the mail was only for \$25, but collecting money out of the blue like that, when you're not expecting any – and having done nothing to deserve it, made that \$25 feel like \$200. It was as if "Community's Chest" had advised me to "Advance To Go" and "Collect \$200," or even better, I had landed on "Free Parking" and collected the "kitty," as we called the money paid to the game/placed in the center of the board.

As much as anything though, receiving that \$25 check and remembering "Monopoly" and the simpler, much less complicated days of my board game-playing youth, brought a smile to my face and a slew of wonderful memories to my mind. I had a happy childhood and it all came rushing back to me when I read the explanation for the check: "Bank error," a refund of a fee or overcharge, or something to that effect. It was a warm and fuzzy moment, that's for sure; one which always included milk and cookies because if my brother and I were in the house playing a game like that, there was always milk and cookies; my mother saw to that.

She (I can still hear my father admonishing my brother and I: "Don't call your mother 'she'") was determined to make sure my brother and I drank our eight glasses of milk every day; the medical prescription in the 50s and 60s to guarantee children consumed enough calcium in order to develop strong bones. And to make sure we drank our milk, we needed to eat something for it to wash down and cookies were the obvious choice: Oreos (before there was "Double Stuff"), Chips Ahoy or some other kind of chocolate chip cookie and Keebler's Fudge Town or Fudge Stripes; these were the most popular, there were others. And though it was a board game we were playing, we weren't bored. We were "Monopolized." It made us happy and it made our parents happy. No wonder it's a fond memory, everybody was happy and the living was good, so far as we knew.

Ah, the innocence of youth. There's no recapturing it, but it was sure nice remembering it.

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

Candlelight Carols at Westfield High School

FROM PAGE 3

Christ is Born." Said Hunt: "The soprano I part is different from everyone else's and that makes it a lot of fun to sing. It changes pace a lot, flows nicely and, at points, we just explode. It starts out softly, and the other parts come in and out, throughout the song."

She's also looking forward to the way the concert will begin. "What I'm most excited about is that we're all going to process in

from the back of the auditorium, and all the lights will be down," said Hunt. "We'll be holding candles and will surround the audience, and we'll sing our first one or two songs in the dark. The first one has eight solos, and the voices will be singing from all different parts of the room."

Freshman Blake Feichtl, a tenor, started singing in his church choir as a child. "I've had a goal to be in the Chamber choir because my sister, Brooke, who's now a se-

nior, is in it," he said.

"Carol of the Bells" is his favorite song because he likes "how we're doing it in multiple parts. And the way it intertwines is really cool."

As for the audience, Feichtl said everyone will enjoy the song selection that'll be presented. "It's a diverse group that we've chosen," he said. "They'll hear a lot of different songs they've never heard before."

Senior Jacob Ford, who sings bass, is new

to the chorus, this year. "I played the viola and took music theory, last year," he said. "As an assignment, I had to sing, too, and Mrs. Lardin [Westfield's former choral director] liked it and suggested I join choir. I did, and it's been lots of fun."

He also likes "Carol of the Bells" because "I like the tune and it's a great, Christmas song. Most of the music, though, will be new to the audience, and I think they'll enjoy hearing new things."



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