MARCH 10-16, 2011 25 CENTS Newsstand Price





'Many Cultures, One School'

Poplar Tree Elementary students celebrate their school's diversity while performing, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" on March 3. More photos, page 6.

Photos by **Bonnie Hobbes**Centre View

Wearing colorful Peruvian outfits are (from left) second-graders Cristina Cotrina and Sheyla Valdez during Heritage Night.

'We Are the Champions'

Chantilly theater students win VHSL one-act competition.

> By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

hantilly High has a new state champion in the person of its theater students, who won the VHSL One-Act Play competition, last Saturday, March 5, in Charlottesville.

"We're very happy," said Theater Director Ed Monk. "Their challenge was to do the best performance they've ever done, and that's what they did. They're an extremely talented bunch of kids, and very nice, as well "

Their winning entry, "AP Theatre," was a comedy written by Monk. It's about a student taking an AP theatre test demonstrating his knowledge of three styles of theater history. To do so, he has to write three short plays in those styles about problems facing modern teen-agers.

The styles were Bonruku – Japanese theater with giant puppets, Greek Theater and Theater of the Absurd, and both the story and acting proved to be a winning combination for Chantilly.

In January, Monk's cast and crew of 32 won the

SEE CHANTILLY WINS, PAGE 3

After Explosion, Residents Uneasy

Despite meeting, Brookfield community lacks answers.

> By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

fter an explosion demolished a home in Chantilly's Brookfield community, six days before Christmas, the questions residents there most wanted to know were: "What caused it?" and "Will it happen to my house?"

So some 300 people packed into Brookfield Elementary for a recent, standing-room-only meeting with fire department and gas company officials, hoping to get some answers. But they left with a mostly uneasy feeling that they might never know the origin of the explosion and resulting fire.

"In two months time, nobody can tell us what was

"We might not

have any clear

— Steve Price,

Washington Gas

division head of

operations

answer."

can tell us what was the cause?" asked resident Sara Acuff. "All the informa-

tion needs to be gathered first," replied Steve Price, division head of operations with Washington Gas Co. "Our focus is on this system and how it affects you."

On Dec. 19, 2010, some 60 firefighters from five stations — including two hazardous-materials units — rushed to the home of Thuan Nguyen at 4303 Lees Corner Road, near Pennsboro Drive. Neighbors had called 911 about a gas leak, an explosion and a fire.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

REAKFAS

ROO

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Fire Capt. Paul Masiello, the lead investigator.

No one from the Nguyen family was home when their two-story house exploded around 8:45 p.m., but they lost everything. Fairfax County fire officials estimated the damage at \$400,000.

ight never know the origin of the approximately one hour to bring [the two-alarm blaze] will two months time, nobody under control because of the large

volume of fire," said Fire and Rescue Department spokesman Dan Schmidt. "The heat was intense, nearby trees caught on fire and the siding melted on the neighbors' homes on both sides."

Kevin McCollum, who lives across the

street, said Washington Gas then shut off the gas that night to area homes. "There was a huge hole, about 5x5, in the middle of the road," he said. "The gas company found the leak and fixed it. They worked on it throughout the

SEE EXPLOSION, PAGE 10

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News

Dinner Theater Comes to Clifton



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW From left: Maid of honor, Terri Marin; best man, Hilary Rinke; bride, Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez; and reporter, Lorraine Hoppe rehearse a scene.

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'I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS Centre View

here's big news in Clifton — the town is holding its first-ever dinner theater. The murder-mystery/comedy, "I'm Getting Murdered in the Morning," will be presented Friday-Saturday, March 18-19, at 7 p.m., in the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road.

Tickets are \$30/person for the show and a catered dinner. They're available at A Flower Blooms in Clifton, The Clifton Café, T & K Treasures and The Clifton Wine Shop & Tasting Room, or by e-mailing cliftontheatertickets@gmail.com.

"The story is about a disgruntled bride whose wedding is interrupted by a murder," said producer Dianne Janczewski, a Clifton resident and Fairfax High grad. "While everyone is trying to solve the murder, she just wants to eat a good meal at her reception."

Audience members will become the guests at the wedding reception, and Clifton's Brant Baber, as the detective, will interact with them, asking them questions as part of the plot. The fun begins at 7 p.m. with hors d' oeuvres and drinks (from the cash bar), followed by dinner and the show at 8 p.m.

Shirley's Catering of Lorton is providing stuffed

chicken breasts, rice and vegetables, with vegetarian meals also available. Students from Rocky Run Middle School will serve the food and have some surprise lines during the play.

There's a cast and crew of 18, plus 17 students. Half the cast is from the Town of Clifton and the rest are from Centreville, Fairfax Station, Fairfax and Reston. Said Janczewski: "It's a fun evening dinner and local theater with a community feel."

Directing is Charlt Yakovleff of Centreville's Marleigh Downs community. Professionally, she works in the TV and film industry as a production freelancer for major networks in the Washington Metropolitan area. She's currently coproducing and co-directing three films, including one on 23-yearold LaVonda "Nikki" King, who was killed in the June 2009 Metro train crash.

"I'm thrilled to be directing the inaugural, Clifton Dinner Theater production," said Yakovleff. "I'm honored; it's great to see how the actors come from their everyday lives to become the characters and make them what they want."

"This is a tongue-in-cheek comedy and a great opportunity for people to get together and enjoy themselves," she said. "I really want the audience to have a good time and to walk away thinking,

SEE DINNER THEATER, PAGE 15

8:00-6:00 • 7 Days a Week www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Roundups

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 10 and March 24, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

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

Time To Spring Forward

OK, so snow fell in the wee hours of Monday morning; nevertheless, this weekend is the start of Daylight Saving Time. So when residents go to bed Saturday night, March 12, they should turn their clocks, watches and other time-displaying items ahead one hour.

Velkoff Runs for School Board

Chantilly's Ted Velkoff will announce his candidacy for an atlarge position on the Fairfax County School Board, this Sunday, March 13, from 2:30-4:30 p.m., at the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. Velkoff is a past president of the Chantilly High PTSA.

County Budget Meeting Planned

A Town Hall meeting to discuss Fairfax County's 2012 budget will be held Monday, March 14, at 7 p.m. in the Chantilly High lecture hall. In attendance will be Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), School Board Chairman Kathy Smith and county management and budget staff.

WFCCA Land-Use Committee

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee will meet Tuesday, March 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. Land-use attorney Tim Sampson will present details of Inova Fair Oaks Hospital's expansion plans.

CAC Agenda: Budget, Hockey

The next meeting of the Sully District Citizens Advisory Committee will be Tuesday March 15, from 7-8:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) will discuss the county's 2012 budget. Police MPO Jason Herbert will talk about his ice hockey team that'll participate in the World Police Fire Games, this August, in New York. In addition, Fred Sanborn will discuss Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation initiatives, and Ray Powers will present details from the police chief's retreat in January.

Help Plan Centreville Day

Community members are invited to help plan Centreville Day 2011 by attending a meeting Thursday, March 17, at 7:30 p.m. at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. The Friends of Historic Centreville are looking for people with imagination, energy and organizational skills who'd like to learn more about and support their community by bringing back Centreville Day. Committees include entertainment, logistics, history and vendors. For more information, contact Cheryl Repetti at cbrepetti@verizon.net or 703 830-5407.

'Saturday Night in Suburbs'

Learn more about what local teen-agers' behavior is regarding drugs, alcohol, dating and partying at Westfield High's annual "Saturday Night in the Suburbs" program. It will be held Thurs

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

News



We're number one: Chantilly High theater students celebrate their first-place finish in the state, one-act play championship, Saturday, March 5.

Chantilly Wins State Play Competition

"It was probably one of the

greatest moments of my life."

- Spencer Parkinson, Chantilly actor

From Page

District competition, followed by the Regional crown in February. Then on Saturday, their 35-minute play competed against seven other schools to capture the state championship.

"We got a perfect score of three, first places from the judges," said Monk. "And of the eight, excellencein-acting awards that were given out, we received four. Robbie Novak, Spencer Parkinson, Billy Baker and Matt Calvert were all honored."

He said his young thespians were "totally on" during their performance Saturday at Piedmont Community College and made no mistakes. But, he added, "You literally never know how you'll do; it's up to the judges and is subjective."

The students also had a long and suspenseful wait for the results. "We were the second school to perform and we finished at 11:30 a.m., but we didn't

find out how we did until 6 p.m.," said Monk. "The kids were all excited; they got to go up on stage and get their medals and the trophy."

Junior Robbie Novak

said he was shocked when he heard his name called. "It was an awesome thing to be recognized as an outstanding actor out of everyone there," he said. "They said they liked my acting as a puppet and were really impressed."

He called winning States "like the icing on a cake—the best thing that could happen. They announced second place, and then we were all sitting and holding hands and thinking, 'Chantilly.' And when they said it, we all got up and hugged and screamed. We were so happy."

"Everybody worked together; no one was slacking," continued Novak. "Ours was such an original piece, and the way we interpreted it, it was a fantastic show."

In his scene, sophomore Matt Calvert portrayed an unprepared student who sleeps through his alarm

and runs into school late for a test, in his pajamas. "He thinks he's going to fail, but is able to struggle through it," said Calvert. "But I didn't expect to win an award."

He, Novak, Baker and Parkinson each won medals for their acting prowess, besides the medals given to each Chantilly actor for the play's victory. "And we'll get State Championship rings later on," added Calvert. "I feel like everyone deserved it; we worked really hard. Even during the snowstorm in January, we went to someone's house to practice."

He said it felt amazing to triumph at States. "We won first place every time — for Regionals, Districts and States — so there were a lot of emotions running through us," said Calvert. "We felt happiness that we won, excitement that we were best in state and sadness that it was over."

Baker played a man who keeps his cool while the world around him is crazy and falling apart. "The part was really emotive, with a lot of ups and downs, and is both serious and funny," he said. "Although my

character's the focal point of that world, Mr. Monk and my fellow actors on stage gave me something wonderful to play off of."

"I've been in Chantilly Drama four years now, and I've put so much of my life, time and effort in this that winning States feels like a culmination," said Baker. "It's the cap on my senior year and something I won't ever forget."

In the Bonruku scene, Parkinson did a different voice for each of four puppets — three of which were female — and narrated in yet another voice. He believes the judges liked it because "it was an original thing they've never seen done before — Japanese puppets in a modern story."

Regarding his own performance, he said, "One of

SEE CHANTILLY WINS, PAGE 7
CENTRE VIEW NORTH * MARCH 10-16, 2011 * 3

OPINION

Note to Gov: Sign Autism Bill

Bipartisan effort supports early treatment.

new law to mandate very basic and limited insurance coverage for treating autism in young children awaits the signature of Gov. Bob McDonnell. The added coverage will be a lifeline to many families already coping with major challenges.

The bill passed by wide margins with wonderful bipartisan support (including all of our Northern Virginia legislators). It passed 29-8

in the Senate; 73-24 in the House of Delegates.

EDITORIALS

The governor is facing a major lobbying effort by some

business and insurance company interests to veto the bill, and he has not yet said what his intentions are. The law would save money over time, because it will result in young adults with autism functioning at a higher level.

Contact him and urge him to sign this bill

http://www.governor.virginia.gov/ contact.cfm; (804) 786-2211.

SB 1062/HB 2467 verbatim:

Health insurance; mandated coverage for autism

spectrum disorder. Requires health insurers, health care subscription plans, and health maintenance organizations to provide coverage for the diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder (ASD) and treatment for ASD in individuals from age two to six, subject to an annual maximum benefit of \$35,000 of coverage for applied behavior analysis. This requirement does not apply to individual or small group policies, contracts, or plans. The mandate will also apply to the state employees' health insurance plan and to the local choice health program. This measure will not apply to an insurer, corporation, or health maintenance organization, or to government employee programs, if the costs associated with coverage exceed one percent of premiums charged over the experience period.

Safe for Saint Patrick's Day

Plan ahead to get home safe after celebrations.

hile the City of Alexandria holds its Saint Patrick's Day parade early, that leaves that much more time for celebration on the day itself, March 17.

The Saint Patty's Day SoberRide program will offer 12 hours of safe passage from 4 p.m. on Thursday, March 17th until 4 a.m. the following day to keep impaired drivers off the road during this traditionally high-risk holiday.

First, plan ahead to manage this yourself: leave your car at home, take public transportation, arrange for a designated driver, or choose to abstain if a designated driver isn't

But if you find yourself needing a ride, area residents 21 and over celebrating with alcohol can call the SoberRide phone number 1-800-200-TAXI for a free, safe way home (up to \$30 cab fare).

Last Saint Patrick's Day, 525 possibly impaired people used the SoberRide service rather than possibly driving home impaired. More than a third of traffic fatalities on Saint Patrick's Day and the early morning hours of the next day are alcohol related nationwide.

Sponsors of this year's Saint Patrick's Day SoberRide include the Restaurant Association Metropolitan Washington, Volkswagen Group of America and the Washington Area New Automobile Dealers Association, as well as some of the area's Irish restaurants, including Ireland's Four Provinces and Murphy's, Ri Ra and Sine Irish pubs.

Since 1993, this program on targeted holidays has provided 51,718 safe and free cab rides home to would-be drunk drivers in the area. See www.soberride.com.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Working The Solution

To the Editor:

The proposed Centreville Worker Center will provide a service to the Centreville community, through providing a safe place for workers to gather and wait for

work, away from the busy corner that now serves as an unorganized worker center. The proposal offers a local solution that resolves concerns of business owners, shoppers and library clients. Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) is determined to provide well-trained staff who can operate the Center efficiently and safely to serve the interests of the entire community. Anyone interested in applying for one of the full or part-time staff positions can contact CIF for more

Employers, whether homeowners or business persons who need temporary help, are able to hire without filing tax documents, if total pay does not exceed \$600 per tax year.

This has been U.S. law since 1986. As with all employment of such temporary workers, any liability rests with the worker, not with the employer. Some employers choose to take responsibility for injury, and others do not, but this is not a matter of law.

Certainly, the Worker Center will not hire any workers, but only provide a safe space for hiring that currently takes place on the street. The workers themselves are involved in planning the system for running the Center, and they want to participate because it will provide for fair distribution of jobs. Employers will benefit from help in finding temporary workers with the skills they need. The community will benefit when employers and workers are provided with information about legal requirements and paying taxes. Anyone who wishes to help make the benefits of the Center a reality can donate through sending a check made out to Virginia Organizing; mail to CIF, Box 81, Centreville 20122. (Virginia Organizing is the fiscal agent and 501 (c)(3) sponsor for CIF.) No government funds are involved in the Center.

For more information, come to the next CIF meeting at Centreville Library, 7:30 pm, March 23.

> **Alice Foltz** President

Centreville Immigration Forum

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Celebrating with a Donation

Frank Stitely & Paul Karstetter, founding partners of Stitely & Karstetter, CPAs & Business Advisors, presented Melissa Jansen, executive director of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM), with a check for \$900 on Dec. 14. Capping off a year-long celebration of their 20th anniversary, S&K recognized two decades of helping clients optimize their earnings, grow their businesses and work toward their financial goals. To commemorate 20 years strong, S&K donated money to WFCM for each new tax client as well as for tax referrals from current clients through November 2010.

Taking a Swipe at Childhood Cancer

St. Baldrick's fundraiser is March 19.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

diagnosis of cancer strikes fear in pretty much everyone who receives it or has a friend or loved one in that situation. But whenever people get together for a St. Baldrick's Day event to raise money to fight childhood cancer, there's only joy and happiness as far as the eye can see.

That's the way it's always been at St. Baldrick's celebrations in Centreville, and the seventh annual St. Baldrick's event here should be just as fun. It's slated for Saturday, March 19, at 4 p.m., at Fast Eddie's in the Newgate Shopping Center at Routes 28/29.

In an atmosphere of laughter and merriment, participants will have their heads shaved bald while friends and families cheer them on. Participants solicit donations beforehand, and all the money goes toward the cause.

"We've already gotten 32 shavees and will probably go over 40," said event organizer Steve Ratliff of Centreville's Country Club Manor community. "Our goal is to raise \$25,000, and we just broke \$15,000 on Sunday."

The St. Baldrick's Foundation began March 17, 2000, when three reinsurance executives decided to transform their St. Patrick's Day party into a fund-raiser for children with cancer. With the help of 17 colleagues, they planned to raise \$17,000 on the 17th by having each person collect \$1,000 to be shaved. That event instead yielded more than \$104,000.

The effort then caught on worldwide and is now the largest, volunteer-driven, fundraising program for childhood cancer research. Since 2000, St. Baldrick's events have taken place in dozens of countries and all 50 U.S. states. Now, more than 147,000 shavees — including more than 12,000 women — have raised more than \$90 million toward funding the most promising



Virginia Run's Betsy Higgins will have her head shaved.

research to save children's lives.

Ratliff — who has a thick head of wavy hair — will be a shavee for his ninth year. "I can't wait because my hair is bugging me," he said. "I have a goatee, too." It's his way of helping others.

Everyone in Ratliff's immediate family has shaved for the cause, and his wife helps him with the organizing. And last year, because of Ratliff's work with St. Baldrick's, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) named him the Sully District's 2010 Lord Fairfax.

"I'll keep shaving 'til we don't need to," said Ratliff. "Hopefully, they'll find a cure for some forms of childhood cancer in our lifetime. Meanwhile, it's a fun and easy way to raise funds and also awareness. And, having healthy kids, you want to help those who don't. Research costs so much and you want to do even more, but every little bit you do helps."

Before Centreville had its own St. Baldrick's event, the closest one was held in Great Falls for two years. "It just grew and grew and grew, and we've now raised close to \$200,000 in the past nine years," said Ratliff. "People look forward to signing up, having their heads shaved and watching their friends get shaved."

"Fast Eddie's has been so good to us and very accommodating," he said. "They're also offering mechanical-bull rides during our event, and a portion of the proceeds from them will go to St. Baldrick's. My son did it last year and had a blast."

Monica Arrington, a longtime hairdresser with Valon Salon in Centreville, will be shaving heads at Fast Eddie's for her fourth year.

"One of my best friend's little boy passed away from Ewing's Sarcoma, so I do it for him," she said. "It's a good-natured event and makes the best of a bad situation."

Besides that, she said, "It's fun to do. You get to shave a lot of heads bald and I just enjoy the atmosphere. It's something positive and upbeat, as opposed to what the cancer families go through, spending a lot of their time going to treatment."

Cub Run Elementary sixth-grader Will Dzubak, 11 and a half, is an example of how children can help other children. This will be his fourth year of getting his head shaved at Centreville's St. Baldrick's Day, and many of his classmates have joined him.

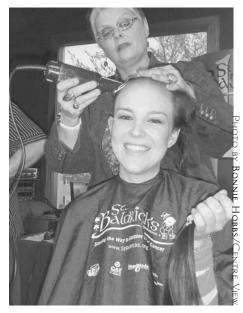
"My friends Thomas, Dominic, Hayden and Logan did it last year, too," said Will. "One day, I saw a kid with no hair and I asked my mom why he was bald, because he was so young. She said he probably had cancer and had had chemo. So that made me want to help others like him."

Ratliff's daughter was also a role model for Will, who's friends with Ratliff's son Thomas. Explained Will: "Thomas's sister Kate cut her hair really short to donate to Locks of Love."

Each year, through donations from relatives and his church, Will tries to raise \$1,000 for St. Baldrick's before being shaved. "It just feels good to raise that much money for people with cancer," he said. "And I want to join Knights of the Bald Table, for people who've gotten shaved for St. Baldrick's for seven years. So if I keep doing it, by the time I'm 14, I'll be a member."

Likewise, 13-year-old Luke Fritzke, an eighth-grader at Liberty Middle, is getting shaved at St. Baldrick's, along with his neighbor, Holcomb Rogers, a sixth-grader at Union Mill Elementary. "Holcomb lost his mother to cancer at 4 years old, and he's doing this for the first time," said Luke. "This will be my third year."

"I like helping people and, by getting my head shaved, I give people a way to donate," he said. "Sometimes people forget about the cause, so this reminds them. For me, it's about both spreading awareness and raising money. The first year, I set a goal of \$600 and almost got double that. The second year, I aimed for \$700 and got about \$800."



2004 Westfield High grad Emily Galloway is shaved by Valon Salon stylist Dana Lightel at last year's fund-raiser for childhood-cancer research.

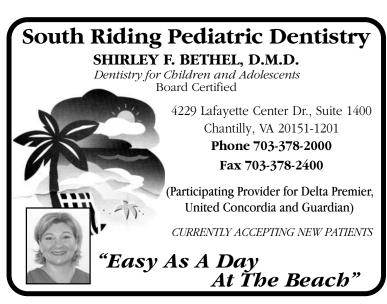
This year, Luke hopes to raise \$900 and is almost halfway there. "I do it to honor my friend's mother," he said. "And it's fun to do because there are a lot of people shaving together."

One of the female shavees at the March 19 event will be Virginia Run's Betsy Higgins, an elementary-education major at Shepherd University, where she's a junior. She has medium-length, curly hair and is participating in St. Baldrick's for the first time.

"I've known so many people who've had cancer and have passed away," said the 2008 Westfield High grad. "And I want to do something different to help. When people ask why my head is bald, I'll say I did it for a good cause and will talk about how important cancer research is and how we need to support it."

Higgins hopes to raise \$500 and will be getting her head shaved during her spring break from college. "I'm really nervous," she said. "But I'm also excited and I know I'm

SEE ST. BALDRICK'S, PAGE 15







Schools



Poplar Tree's students unite for the song, "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing" during Heritage Night.



These second-graders sang the Chinese song, "Ai Hai You" while playing musical instruments.



These first-graders are doing a Mexican dance called "La Raspa."



First-grade students perform a Mexican dance.



'Many Cultures, One School'

Poplar Tree Elementary celebrated its cultural diversity, last Thursday, March 3, with a musical program, "Many Cultures, One School," for Heritage Night.

Second-grader Joseph Stupak plays the gong during the Chinese number. Second-graders play drums and cymbals for a Chinese song.





Kindergartners sing the "Hello Song."



Kindergarten students performed two African songs, "Funga Alafia" and "Tongo."

Photos by Bonnie Hobbs Centre View



Fourth-grader Roshni Puli sings a Telugu song from India.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

News



Training

Coach Neil Ehrlich (right) of Fighting Fitness in Chantilly had the opportunity to impart some of his philosophy and training techniques to the U.S. Naval Academy Karate Team on Feb. 2. Master John Critzos (left), coach of the team, invited Ehrlich to broaden the martial arts knowledge of his team. For more information se www.FIGHTINGFTTNESSLLC.com

Chantilly Wins State Play Competition

From Page 3

the judges wrote that my words were 'colors that painted the neutral palettes of the puppets.' I thought that was really nice. It was exciting to get an acting award. I remember being there before and seeing others receiving them, and it gave me something to aspire to. So it was really cool standing up there and seeing three of my classmates and really good friends receiving awards."

Describing how it felt when Chantilly was declared the state champion, Parkinson said, "That was too unreal, just insane. My heart was beating fast and my stomach had butterflies, and we got up and screamed a lot. It was probably one of the greatest moments of my life."

After their victory, the group piled onto a school

❖ Inova Fair Oaks Hospital campus development,

[which] took advantage of their momentum and

brought a State Championship back to Chantilly

day, March 17, at 7 p.m., in the school lecture hall. Speak Up about

Roundups

Redistricting

From Page 3

Every 10 years, Fairfax County must redraw its electoral boundaries based on the population count by the U.S. Census. The Board of Supervisors appointed an advisory committee to recommend new boundaries, and the committee is looking for feedback from the community.

To provide input and learn more about the process go www.fairfaxcounty.gov/redistricting. Sully district's representative on the committee, Ralph Hubbard, is happy to speak to any citizen's group about this process. He may be reached at ralph.hubbard@cox.net.

Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, March 23, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

- ❖ Christina Jackson and Ellicia Seard, both with the Department of Management and Budget, will give a presentation on the Fairfax County 2012 budget.
- ❖ Fairfax County Redistricting will be discussed by Ralph Hubbard, Sully District's member on the Board of Supervisors-appointed advisory committee www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

to recommend new boundaries.

High. Go Chargers!"

'drinking from the chalice of victory."

based on the APR nomination approved in February 2010, will also be discussed.

Historic Centreville Society to Meet

The Historic Centreville Society will hold its annual meeting Wednesday, March 30, at 7:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library. John McAnaw will discuss the first two years of the Civil War in and around Centreville and Fairfax. The public is invited. For more details, contact Paul Hancq, president of Centreville Historic Society, PaulHancq@aol.com.

Relay For Life **Needs Volunteers**

The American Cancer Society's community fundraiser, Relay For Life, is coming to Centreville High on June 4. Some fund-raising teams of walkers have already signed up, but the event's planning committee needs more members and more volunteer assistants to make this event successful. Go to www.CentrevilleRelay.org and click the "Volunteer Interest Form" for more details about volunteer positions and to submit an online, interest form. Or email Marion Rantis at CentrevilleRelay@gmail.com for more information.









Beethoven's **Piano Concerto**

Saturday, March 19th – 8:00 p.m.

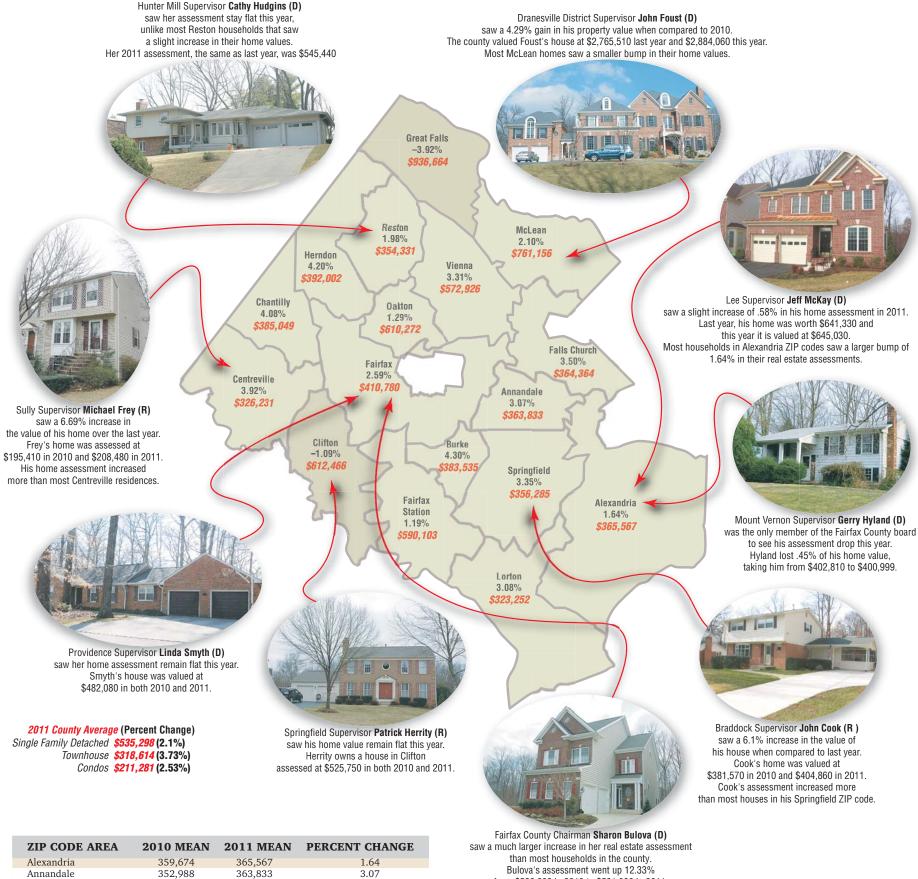
Matti Raekallio, piano George Mason University's **Center for the Arts**

- WEBERN: Six Pieces for Orchestra
- BEETHOVEN: Piano Concerto No. 5
- **SIBELIUS:** Symphony No. 5

Tickets: 888-945-2468 or www.fairfaxsymphony.org

Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2011 Assessments



ZIP CODE AREA	2010 MEAN	2011 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	359,674	365,567	1.64
Annandale	352,988	363,833	3.07
Burke	367,728	383,535	4.30
Centreville	313,922	326,231	3.92
Chantilly	369,952	385,049	4.08
Clifton	619,233	612,466	-1.09
Fairfax	400,391	410,780	2.59
Fairfax Station	583,177	590,103	1.19
Falls Church	352,035	364,364	3.50
Great Falls	974,906	936,664	-3.92
Herndon	376,196	392,002	4.20
Lorton	313,608	323,252	3.08
McLean	745,486	761,156	2.10
Oakton	602,520	610,272	1.29
Reston	347,456	354,331	1.98
Springfield	344,733	356,285	3.35
Vienna	554 550	572.926	3.31

from \$526,990 in 2010 to \$591,990 in 2011.

Changes in Real Estate Values Across the Region

Alexandria	0.46%
Arlington	1.4%
Fairfax	2.34%
Loudoun	2.45%
Prince William	5%

Entertainment

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

TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

Centreville Stitchers welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Meets at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Admission is free. If you have any questions, contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email joknitter@verizon.net.

- ♦ Thursday, March 10 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 ♦ Thursday, March 24 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 ♦ Thursday, April 14 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
 ♦ Thursday, April 28 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

MONDAYS AND WEDNESDAYS

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

MARCH 11 TO 13

"Annie Jr." Tickets are \$10. Presented by the Alliance Theatre. Show dates are March 11-13 at Mountain View School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. For information on group discounts including special Girl Scout programs, show times and ticket purchase, call 703-220-8101 or visit www.thealliancetheatre.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 11

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Natty Beaux. 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.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Gospel Concert. 6 p.m. Southern Gospel Concert with "The Cornetts" at Oakton Baptist Church, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. The church is located on Route 50, 1/5 mile east of the Route 28 overpass at the corner of Route 50 and Sullyfield Circle. A free-will offering will be

received. Call 703 631-1799. **Spring Carnival.** Noon to 4 p.m. At Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville.

MARCH 11-13

Woodworking & D.I.Y. Show. Tickets are \$10/adults. Woodworking celebrities share tips and trade secrets; hobbyists test drive the latest tools; and masters share the artistry of woodworking during hands-on demonstrations. Friday noon to 6 p.m.; Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. At the Dulles Expo Center, North Hall, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Visit www.TheWoodworkingShows.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Roaring Twenties Gala. 6 p.m. to 11 p.m. Fund-raiser for Police Unity Tour's Chapter IV. Dinner, open bar, music, live and silent auction. Sponsored by Amphora Catering and Paisano's Pizza. At Moore Cadillac in Chantilly.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Democratic Women of Clifton. 3 to 5 p.m. With Kathleen Pablo from Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Committee. Her presentation will focus on the personalities and singular courage of some of the major figures in the long struggle to ratify the 19th Amendment and on the turning point in that struggle — the "Night of Terror." At the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Visit the website DemocraticWomenofClifton.org, or call 703-

Bulletin Board

THURSDAY/MARCH 10

Networking Happy Hour. 5 to 7:15 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 at 25031 Riding Plaza, Chantilly. Call 703-722-2844. Email Jay@MidAtlanticNetworking.com to reserve a seat.

SATURDAY/MARCH 12

Lab Rescue's Adoption Event. 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. At Weber's Pet Supermarket, 11021 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Call 703-385-3766 or visit www.lab-rescue.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 13

Fundraising Rally. 6:30 p.m. Free. Northern Virginia Fellowship of Christian Athletes fundraising rally with speaker Jerry Leachman, former Washington Redskins chaplain. At NOVA Community College, Reserve a seat at www.novafca.org or call 703-225-0070.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Saturday Night in the Suburbs. 7 p.m. An evening of dialogue with a panel of senior students to discuss drugs, alcohol, parties, driving, sexting, Facebook, and communication between teens and parents. To be held in the Westfield High Lecture Hall. Contact Jennifer Campbell at ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org, or Jennifer Lewis-Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com.

MARCH 18 TO MARCH 20

Super Pet Expo. Features 150 pet-related vendors. Show hours are 4 to 9 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Admission is \$13/ adults; \$6/children. At Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly. Visit www.superpetexpo.com.

MARCH 18 TO 27

Home & Garden Show. Free. Monday to Saturday 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.; Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The focal point will be the life-size garden created by Merrifield Garden Center. On-site exhibitors include Benjamin Moore Paints, Bobcat of Northern Virginia, Capital Remodeling, Carefree Boat Club, F.H. Furr, Leaf Filter, Premier Window & Building, and Reamco Patio Enclosures. At Fair Oaks Mall Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax.

SATURDAY/MARCH 19

Wild West Carnival. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Poplar Tree Elementary School will host its annual carnival. Enjoy moon bounces, an 85-foot inflatable obstacle course, penny pitch, ring toss, goldfish pong, 50-50 raffle, cake walks, silent auction. At 13440 Melville Lane, off Stringfellow Road in Chantilly.

Consignment Sale. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. Sponsored by Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples. Items for babies and toddlers, elementary, middle and high schoolers, maternity clothes and more. Indoor sale held rain or shine. At Chantilly High School cafeteria (use Entrance 11), 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Check out the FCMOM web site at www.fcmom.org or e-mail clothingsale@fcmom.org.

MONDAY/MARCH 21

Hawk Talk. 7 p.m. Centreville Garden Club presents John Shafer, assistant manager, E.C. Lawrence Park, who will discuss Birds and Raptors. At Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Visit www.centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com. Call 703-815-

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 23

Spring Concert. 7:30 p.m. The Centreville High School Choral Department will present its Spring Concert. The CVHS choirs will perform the programs they have prepared for adjudication at the District Performance Assessment Concert at Woodson High School on March 26. There will also be select solo performances by members of the advanced choirs. A reception for the audience and performers will follow the concert.

TUESDAY/MARCH 29

Ukulele Workshop. 7 to 9 p.m. Learn ukulele or improve your skills with this workshop. With Grammy award winner Marcy Marxer. Cost is \$25/advance; \$30/door. At Nova Music Center, 7144 Main Street, Clifton. Visit www.NOVAMusicCenter.com

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 30

Historic Centreville Society. 7:30 p.m. The Historic Centreville Society will hold its annual meeting at the Centreville Regional Library. John McAnaw will discuss the first two years of the Civil War in and around Centreville and Fairfax. Contact Paul Hancq, president of the Historic Centreville Society, at PaulHancq@aol.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 17

Saturday Night in the Suburbs. 7 p.m. An evening of dialogue with a panel of senior students to discuss drugs. alcohol, parties, driving, sexting, Facebook, and communication between teens and parents. To be held in the Westfield High Lecture Hall. Contact Jennifer Campbell at ptsa_president@westfieldhs.org, or Jennifer Lewis-Cooper at jalcooper@aol.com.

MONDAY/MARCH 21

WFCWC Honors Women's History Month. 7 p.m. In honor of Women's History Month and to mark the 90th anniversary of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution giving women the right to vote, the GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club's program will feature a presentation on the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial, a memorial planned for Occornan Regional Park in Lorton, Jane Barker and Kathleen Pablo, Chair and member of the Memorial Steering Committee, respectively, will speak. At the Greenbrian Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. Guests welcome. Call Jackie at 703-378-8551 or e-mail at westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com.





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Gainesville · 703-368-1919 6895 Wellington Rd., Gainesville, VA

Hours: Monday - Saturday 8 am - Dark Sunday 9 am - 6 pm

After House Explosion, Residents Wonder Why

From Page 1

night."

McCollum said houses on his street have gas heat, water heaters and stoves. So that night and the next day, firefighters and Washington Gas employees went inside residents' homes with scanners to measure gas levels and make sure no one else was in danger.

Neighbors later took up a collection to help Nguyen, his wife and two children. And at the start of the community meeting, the Brookfield Civic Association presented Thuan Nguyen with a check for \$2,820.

He then thanked his neighbors, friends, the civic association, Brookfield Elementary and Rocky Run Middle School for the contributions they made for his family. Said Nguyen: "Without your help, we couldn't have gotten on our feet."

Capt. Paul Masiello, with the fire department's Hazardous Materials Section, said his section conducted the investigation into the blaze. "The fire department was dispatched for an outside gas leak," he said. "En route to that event is when the house exploded or detonated. Upon arrival, the house was well-involved in fire. Four shifts of investigators then spent several days out there doing the investigation."

Lt. Eric Forbach, with Chantilly Fire Station 15, was among the first responding firefighters. "I asked the neighbor across the street [McCollum] if anyone was home. He'd said he'd been up to the second floor and no one was there. I looked over my shoulder [at the debris] and said, 'What second floor?'"

Fire engine 21 from the Fair Oaks station was second on the scene. "Those firefighters took care of the houses to the right and left, which were also burning," said Forbach. "Then we did some gas monitoring in the street."

Masiello said that, right before the explosion, "Neighbors described a horrific noise. They said the roof lifted off, the walls fell in and the roof fell down. Initially, there was no fire; then what was left of the house was on fire."

Saying he has a personal interest in the Brookfield community, Masiello told the residents, "I went to this school and still have family and friends here." He said the investigation was delayed on the second day because "the electric feed had to be hand dug to render the house safe for us to enter. But we're fortunate to have lots of resources here. A police department helicopter documented the debris field."

"We dug from the outside to the inside of the scene," he said. "We took back all the information and deduced that it was a loworder explosion — a rapid release of energy — because everything was in large chunks. All parts of the house looked alike."

Masiello said the Nguyens didn't smell gas before leaving home that night. But, he added, "It's our opinion that there was a release of gas somewhere in the street that was in the connection going to the feed to the house." There, he said, the gas met an ignition source which could have been "an



Just six days before Christmas, a gas explosion and fire decimated the home of a family of four in Chantilly's Brookfield community.



Steve Price of Washington Gas.



Brookfield Civic Association President Larry Leeds, left, presents a check to homeowner Thuan Nguyen.

open-flame pilot light, open-flame furnace light, hot-water tank or compressors."

A woman said she'd driven by 45 minutes earlier and smelled gas, but Masiello said some residents did and some didn't. And Forbach said someone who lived behind the house initially called the fire department about a gas leak.

The Brookfield community was built in the early 1950s, so resident Steven Daugherty asked, "Do we have problems with the aging gas lines going into the houses, or with the lines within the houses?"

"I have a child at this school," said another male resident. "How great a danger does the pipeline present to this school?"

At that point, Washington Gas spokesman Huey Battle said, "The safety and reliability of our system is of utmost importance to us." Then Price went to the podium to address the crowd.

"My division responded to the explosion and checked for gas in your homes, checked the system and did any repairs necessary," he said. "Tonight is the first time I've heard the fire department's conclusion, but I won't comment on it now."

"I live in a neighborhood like this, and I know how it must feel to drive by that house and wonder about the integrity of that system," continued Price. "But we might not have any clear answer."

However, that was not what those gathered wanted to hear, and they were not at all comforted by his words. "Do we need to worry that, in another month, it could happen to someone else?" asked Acuff. "Do we all need our homes inspected?"

Price said if any residents want their homes inspected, the gas company will do it. But, he added, "We only found one small leak on a valve and we fixed it. We never leave a neighborhood if it's not safe."

Daugherty asked if Washington Gas was going to check all the pipelines in the community, but Price said they've already been checked. When another man tried pressing Price into sharing "any preliminary conclusions" about the explosion, he reiterated that the gas company tries to first gather all the information needed to make a decision.

Regarding the area of road dug up in front of the Nguyens' house, Price said workers did discover that "a piece of copper-service line going to the house had corrosion on it, and it was repaired that night. After the explosion, we surveyed our lines up to the walls of people's homes."

Saying he's lived in Brookfield 43 years, another male resident asked, "When are you going to upgrade the system so it doesn't happen again? When are you going to be proactive?"

Price explained that the Lees Corner/Brookfield gas-pipeline system isn't currently in line for an immediate replacement of pipes. He said the gas company is working with the Virginia State Corporation Commission [VSCC] on these issues and would contact the Brookfield Civic Association to relay any investigation updates or conclusions to the residents.

But, said resident Linda Bayer, "All of our homeowners could be raised unless you reach some conclusions soon to assure our insurance companies that we don't live in a volatile community."

"I can't tell you about insurance companies, but I someone
else?"
— Sara Acuff,
Brookfield resident

"Do we need

to worry that

it could

happen to

can tell you this community is safe," responded Price. "Gas can migrate, though; so every three years, we survey our system. If you ever smell natural gas, we want you to call us immediately." Afterward, however, Schmidt said residents should first leave their homes and call 911.

Price also advised homeowners that, if they're concerned, they can have annual HVAC inspections of the appliances in their houses. "But you may not get a conclusive finding of how this happened," he said. "The [VSCC] is also working on its own report. But it may not reach the same conclusion as do the others investigating this incident."

A man asked what the life cycle is of the copper lines coming to the residents' homes. He also wondered how long the "steel-wrapped pipe in the main line" would function before failing.

Price didn't know, but said, "The pipes in your neighborhood aren't beyond their expiration date. The company's sorry for the Nguyens' property loss and we're very grateful that no one got hurt."

REAL ESTATE

The residential real estate market in Northern Virginia experienced many positive trends compared to December of last year, according to The Long & Foster Market Minute reports. In the Northern Virginia counties surrounding Washington, D.C., including the city of Alexandria and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William counties, some areas experienced increases in median sale price versus the same month last year, and houses are selling in less than two months on average.

The Long & Foster Market Minute reports are compiled from data from residential real estate transactions within specific geographic regions, not just Long & Foster sales.

December data shows that median

sale price increased for some Northern Virginia counties compared to the same month last year. Fairfax and Prince William counties each experienced year-over-year increases of 8 percent and 3 percent, respectively, to \$390,000 and \$242,000. Loudoun County experienced a 1 percent increase in median sale price versus year-ago levels to \$355,000. Arlington County and Alexandria City experienced year-over-year decreases of 3 percent and 11 percent, respectively, to median sale prices of \$534,500 and \$370,000.

In December, active inventory was down for most of the Northern Virginia region compared to the same month last year. Prince William and Arlington counties experienced significant 23 percent and 17 percent decreases, respectively, and Fairfax and Loudoun counties saw 16 percent and 11 percent decreases in inventory, respectively. Alexandria City experienced an 11 percent increase in inventory compared to December 2009.

The average number of days a house remained on the market before going under contract remained low throughout the region in December, with houses in most areas selling in less than two months. In Prince William County, days on market (DOM) remained low at 41 days. The remainder of the region is also seeing houses sell quickly, averaging 50 days in both Loudoun and Fairfax counties, 56 days in Arlington County, and 67 days in Alexandria City.



OPEN HOUSES SAT. & SUN. MARCH 12 & 13



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

riangle Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times. $m I\!\!I$

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			Fairfax					
4310 Cannon Ridge Ct Unit E.	\$280,000Su	n. 1-4	Linda Smith	Samson Properties	703-338-0060			
5503 Ridge View Dr W								
9010 Colesbury Pl								
9201 Briary Ln								
5402 Leeway Ct	\$329,900Su	n. 12-4	Richer Cadima	Classic Realty, Ltd	703-597-3418			
10500 Elmira Ct	\$529,000Su	n. 1-5	Lena Restivo	Weichert	703-691-0555			
		•	entreville					
15529 Eagle Tavern Ln								
13652 Fox Meadow Ct	. ,							
15155 Stratton Major Ct	\$579,900Su			Keller Williams	703-674-1777			
			oringfield					
6234 Levi Ct								
6920 Spur Rd								
7250 Hillmead Ct	\$279,750Su	n 1-5		Long & Foster	703-981-3277			
	Burke							
9805 Pulham Rd								
9638 Ironmaster Dr								
6114 Pond Lily Ct	. ,		' '					
10135 Walnut Wood Ct			•		703-628-3822			
			wne/Alexandria					
3845 Dominion Mill Dr								
6411 Casperson Rd	,							
6612 Netties Ln. #26B			•	•				
7417 Gillingham Row	\$509,950Su		•	Long & Foster	703-822-0207			
			nnandale					
4209 Downing St	\$429,900Su			Weichert	703-801-4082			
			rt Belvoir					
9149 Ciri Lake Ln	\$539,950Su	n. 1-4	Tom & Cindy and Associates.	Long & Foster	703-822-0207			
Fairfax Station								
8223 Bayberry Ridge Rd	\$649,990Su	n 1-4	Deborah Baird	Coldwell Banker	703-585-9231			
8303 Pinyon Pine Ct	\$845,000Su	n 1-4	Mary FitzHenry	Long & Foster	703-503-1825			
Clifton								
12204 Henderson Rd	\$724,900Su	n 1-4	Carol Hermandorfer	Long & Foster	703-503-1812			
7114 Ivakota Rd	.\$799,500Su	n 1-4	Debbie Besley	Long & Foster	703-346-5103			
12109 Wolf Valley Dr	\$849,000Su	n 1-4	Diane Lenahan	.Wolf Run	703-283-7328			
6406 Deepwood Farm Dr								
7519 Detwiller Dr			•					
12105 Wolf Valley Dr	\$759,900Su	n 1-4		.Century 21	703-850-8488			
Lorton								
9220 Wrights Hollow La								
8515 Silverdale Rd	. ,		,					
9272 Cardinal Forest La #101.	\$225,000Su			.McEnearney Assoc	240-606-9423			
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14719 National Drive	\$60,000Su			Coldwell Banker	703-691-1400			
	Manassas 10926 Pennycress St\$350,000Sun. 1-4David GillisLong & Foster571-451-7306							
10926 Pennycress St	\$350,000Su	n. 1-4	David Gillis	Long & Foster	571-451-7306			

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 p.m.

ZONE 4: Centreville

EMPLOYMENT

703-917-6464

ZONE 4 AD DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY 1 P.M.

Zone 4: • CENTREVILLE



703-917-6400

ZONE 4 AD DEADLINE: Monday Noon

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE LANDSCAPING Two years ago, on February 27, 2009, after

two months of medical testing and emotional upheaval which began innocently enough (isn't it always?) with with a migrating pain in my side/rib cage and some difficulty breathing/ inhaling, I was informed I had stage IV lung cancer; "Not curable, but treatable," according to my oncologist (my new best friend). My prognosis was grim: "13 months to two years," as many of you regular readers know. My reaction to this news was shock, to say the obvious; and fear, to say the truth. What has transpired since has been written about in this space nearly every week beginning June, 2009, when I first went public with my diagnosis/prognosis: "Dying To Tell You" was the column which wrote out the

February

27, 2011

facts, as I understood them.

I have thought about - and certainly wrote about - today's date, 2/27/2011, my two-year anniversary (some anniversary), for as long as I've been indulging myself - and perhaps some of you readers as well, with the trials and tribulations of my journey to hell - and back: chemotherapy in particular, life as a terminal cancer patient in general. I have learned a lot - and seen a lot. In these past two years I have known of five people in our social circle who have been diagnosed with cancer (three with lung cancer) who have already died. As a result, I have attended funerals, wakes and Shiva's and made charitable contributions honoring their memory. I have been as involved with death and dying as I have been with life and living. I've had my moments to be sure, but overall, I've managed to find a methodology to this madness, though it hasn't been easy.

I have been fortunate, however. I have tolerated all the treatment protocols that my oncologist has recommended. After my main chemotherapy was completed I was accepted into a Phase II FDA study - and actually received the medication, not the placebo. Moreover, as part of my acceptance and participation in that study, I was more closely monitored/examined and scanned than had I not been so involved and felt, as a direct result, that my health care was proactive rather than reactive, a much preferred alternative according to most educated opinions expressed about such matters.

And it has mattered - in my head, anyway. And by that I mean, psychologically/emotionally. I don't feel (and haven't felt) that I'm on my own in this pursuit (family and friends notwithstanding). I've had regular and recurring interaction with my doctor and all the oncology nurses treating me. Throughout this process, I have been encouraged to stay connected to all of them as often - and whenever I felt the need. As a result, I have felt part of something that was bigger and better than me, and perhaps that inclusion has given me the confidence and wherewithal to fight this battle and ultimately outlive my original prognosis. As of this Feb. 27, 2011 date, I am officially an exception, an aberration, a statistical anomaly; a patient who has not succumbed to his disease, at least as originally projected by his oncologist. (In fairness, with respect to these sorts of time line projections, my doctor did say he was wrong all the time, and hoped he would be this time as well.)

Now that I've made it this far, is death more inevitable than it ever was?. Perhaps not. But as significant a date on my calendar as this Feb. 27, 2011 is - and has been, now that it's here (and I am, too), and I've written about its arrival, my feeling going forward is, the less said about it, the better. I don't want anybody in a position of authority/control to be alerted to my existence. I want to keep a low profile and fly under the radar so that any entity who's omnipotent, won't realize the mistake he's made: I'm alive and doing pretty well. (I realize there are no guarantees here, but I don't want to mess with what success I've had, diagnosisto-date. In fact, I wish this column would selfdestruct.) Next week: "February 28, 2011."

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

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SPORTS



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

The Chantilly High boys' soccer team, which made a strong late season surge during a successful 2010 campaign last year, is set to begin the new season next Monday night, March 14 when it travels to Fairfax High School for a contest at 7 p.m. The Chargers will also play road games next week versus Wakefield (March 16) and Stone Bridge (March 18) before playing their home opener on March 22 versus Herndon. Chantilly is under the direction of head coach Brian Goche.

The annual Northern Virginia Senior Olympics (NVSO), set to take place Sept. 17-28, will add three new events volleyball, badminton, and a 1600 meter walk — this year.

"These three events join over 25 others NVSO offers during 10 days of competition," said NVSO Chairman Betsy Bailey.

Bailey also said that participation during the past two years has increased 20 percent each year. "We are particularly happy to see so many new faces taking our goal of living healthy longer seriously," said

NVSO offers both indoor and outdoor events including swimming, diving, tennis, table tennis, racquetball, pickleball, men's basketball, bowling, Wii bowling, team line dancing, golf, miniature golf, bocce, fencing, eight ball pool, horseshoes, and track and field. Board games and card games are also offered such as chess, cribbage, duplicate bridge, bunco, backgammon and scrabble. For more information, call 703-228-3600, ext. 9996, or e-mail jmassa@arlingtonva.us. Check the website at www.nvso.us for photos and general information.

Hannah Miller (Westfield High graduate) of Herndon earned Second Team recognition as part of a relay for the Penn State Altoona women's swim team. Miller and fellow 800-relay team members Kerstie Musoleno (Hatfield, Pa.), Amy Waldron (Muncy, Pa.) and Michelle DeFelice were named to the Allegheny Mountain Collegiate Conference second team all-conference squad. The second team allconference squad consists of individuals who finished as runners-up in their respective events at the AMCC championships in February.

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teams are needed. Don't miss your opportunity to enjoy one of the nation's top adult team sports. FAS is currently accepting applications for adult softball teams. Men's, Women's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Senior's (age 50-plus), and Master's (age 35-plus) leagues are available. Applications are accessible via the home page www.playsoftballnow.com.

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Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS) is a non-profit corporation registered in the state of Virginia which administers the largest adult softball program in the state with nearly 10,000 participants. Become a part of the best softball program in the region.

Local boxing sensation Jimmy Lange will return to the ring on Saturday, March 12, at the Patriot Center on the George Mason University campus in Fairfax, officials at Ice Promotions announced over the holidays.

In his most recent bout, Lange, a Great Falls resident who sports a professional record of 34-4-2, with 24 knockouts, captured the North American Boxing Association's U.S. super welterweight title on Nov. 6 when, in dramatic fashion, he earned a 10th-round knockout win over Joe Wyatt.

Currently rated as the No. 15th ranked super welterweight boxer (154-pounds) in the world by the



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

The District 17 American Legion baseball All-Star game is played at Waters Field in Vienna every year on Independence Day. The action is from last summer's game.

American Legion Baseball: An Investment in America's Youth

ow many parents and their baseball-oriented sons, from ages 15 to 19, have given much thought to the advantages of playing American Legion Baseball — a program that is extremely active in the Northern Virginia District 17 of the American Legion? American Legion baseball is not just another local baseball program for youth.

American Legion Baseball is the oldest and largest nationwide teenage baseball program played throughout America since its inception in 1925. Over 10 million teenagers have played American Legion baseball since that time. On an average, nearly 70 percent of all college baseball players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers; approximately 52 percent of Major League Baseball players played American Legion Baseball as teenagers; and more American Legion alumni have been inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum than any other amateur baseball program — the outcome of positive support provided mostly by a volunteer coaching staff throughout the nation.

American Legion Baseball presents the potential of playing in the various American Legion tournaments at the district, state, regional, national, and the ultimate — the American Legion World Series. In fact, since 1926, Major League Baseball has honored the American Legion World Series Champions at the Major League World Series. The National Baseball Hall of Fame honors the American Legion Player of the Year with a plaque at the annual induction ceremony in Cooperstown, N.Y.

For information on how to be involved in American Legion baseball as a player or coach, contact Bill Murphy, District 17 Baseball Chairman via e-mail at bigmerf@gmail.com or Jim Glassman, District 17 Baseball Administrator, jimglassman@verizon.net.

World Boxing Association (WBA), Lange, the former star of 'The Contender' TV show, will be headlining his 12th live pro boxing event at the upcoming March 12 event. Doors at the Patriot Center will open at 6 p.m. with the first fight scheduled to begin at 7.

The Fairfax County Sports Committee will collaborate with local groups to develop and promote a variety of events, from the Virginia High School League Jubilee that attracts student-athletes from all areas of the state, to the Washington Area Girls Soccer League's annual tournament that draws more than 15,000 players and family

members from 17 states and Canada.

Tournament organizers, private facility managers, and potential sponsors are encouraged to contact Eric Kulczycky at 703-752-9510 or ekulczycky@fxva.com for more information.

Chantilly is offering free, year-round 'Learn to Skate, Learn to Play' lessons for youngsters interested in playing inline hockey. Lessons are held on Saturday mornings from 8-9 a.m. at The Box in Chantilly. Registration online at www.potomachockey.com. Contact youth@potomachockey.com or call

703-961-8280 for full details.

Washington Redskins star tight end Chris Cooley has announced dates for his annual Old Spice Chris Cooley Football Camp. The two-day event will be held Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 at Fairfax High School from 9 a.m. Potomac Inline Hockey in to 12:30 p.m. Chris' wife, Christy, will be hosting a cheerleading camp that runs in conjunction with the football camp. The football camp will feature a selection of the top prep and collegiate coaches in the Washington, D.C. area. Cost of the camp is \$199. www.ChrisCooleyCamp.com or by calling 888-389-CAMP.

News

Join in St. Baldrick's Fund-raiser

From Page 5

doing the right thing."

Another participant, Bob O'Brien of Bristow, is a third-time shavee. And this year, he and EJ Strittmatter wanted to persuade a co-worker of theirs, Sean Byars, to get his head shaved.

"Sean has a thick head of curly red hair, but he'd defeated our recruiting efforts in the past," said O'Brien. "But I suspect he went on the St. Baldrick's Web site and read a few of the stories about these extremely brave kids and their families, and the choice became easy."

Once Byars said yes, his buddies put together a team, Brandywine Shines, knowing Byars's involve-

ment would inspire others to follow. "We've recruited several other co-workers and are currently up to 10 volunteers and hope to get a few more people involved this week," said O'Brien. "We've raised more than \$8,000 so far and hope to raise over \$10,000 by March 19."

"The St. Baldrick's Foundation really is an amazing story," he said. "I'm sure the founders never could have imagined in their wildest dreams the incredible impact their simple idea would have on families around the world."

For more information or to donate to anyone participating in the Centreville event, go to www.stbaldricks.org/events/mypage/eventid/149/ eventyear/2011.

Dinner Theater Launches in Clifton

"It's not The

Kennedy Center,

but it sure is fun."

- Helen Rusnak, playing the

mother of the bride

From Page 2

'Wow, I really liked that and I can hardly wait 'til they do another show."

Fairfax's Terri Grimes-Marin plays Bunny, the maid of honor. "She's smart, intellectual, well-read and interested in the truth," said Grimes-Marin. "Although serious, she's still fun-loving. I'm having a ball; I was a theater major in college, and it's fun to be acting again. I'm enjoying my fellow cast members a great deal, and I play a broad character that I can change up at each rehearsal."

She said the audience will appreciate the show's humor and "the fact that we look like we're really

having fun. It's so exciting to have dinner theater in Clifton; I think every town should have one."

Lorraine Hoppe of Fairfax Station portrays a reporter who covers the society scene for a local, weekly paper, but who considers herself a celebrity-magazine reporter. "She has a giant ego and is a muckraker and a loudmouth," said Hoppe. "But she wants to be

a serious reporter and is one of the few people in the play who want to get to the bottom of the murder."

She's great to play, said Hoppe, because "she's brash and loud and the opposite of me, and she's got some funny lines. And the audience will like being included as part of the production — essentially, everybody's on the stage.

Playing the bride, Brenda, is Reston's Nichole Klocke de Rodriguez, formerly of Centreville's Asher View and Sully Station II communities. "This is Brenda's third marriage and she's whiny and a daddy's girl," said Klocke de Rodriguez. "She's a spoiled brat and nothing makes her happy. I'm quiet and easygoing, so it's fun to make everyone bend to time."

'my' whims. And I get to be pretty and wear a wedding dress."

Klocke de Rodriguez says the audience will like the surprising and humorous references to things currently happening in Clifton. But the play will appeal to everyone, she said, because of elements in the show that are "universally funny."

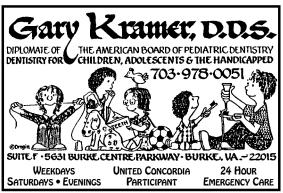
One of the most hilarious characters is Mildred, mother of the bride, played by Clifton's Helen Rusnak. "She's very high class and hoity-toity and feels her daughter is marrying way beneath her. The man her daughter has chosen is a hillbilly with no class or culture, at all, and Mildred is peeved to be going through her third wedding with this girl."

> "I love it because I like character-acting and getting to be somebody else," said Rusnak. "The only way Mildred can survive this wedding is to get drunk. She starts off fairly sober and, by the end of the show, she's really sloshed."

> She said the script has many plays on words, especially at the expense of the groom's relatives, who aren't too bright. "And we

expect the food to be delicious," added Rusnak. "It's 30 bucks for dinner and a show; it's not The Kennedy Center, but it sure is fun. The Town of Clifton is excited about having a dinner theater here, and I think it'll be a real treat for anybody in the area."

Rocky Run Middle eighth-grader Andie Matten will help serve dinner and, as part of the show, will ask diners who they think did the murder. "It's awesome because, at rehearsals, I read the lines of whoever's not here," she said. "So I've gotten to know everyone and they're all really nice. The audience members will feel really involved, too, because the actors will treat them like they've known them for a long





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Schools

With six State Champions, Chantilly High School's DECA thrived at last weekend's State Leadership Conference in Norfolk. Chantilly DECA's contingency of 48 students were shining stars among the 3,000-plus student competitors. Some 28 of Chantilly's students were recognized on Saturday night for earning Top 10 honors in either their test or role plays. On Sunday (at the grand awards ceremony), 26 of these students were called to the stage once again for recognition of their outstanding achievement. Twenty of these students qualified to advance to the International Competition which will be held in Orlando, Florida in late April.

Here is a list of the students who will be advancing to the next level of competition:

FIRST PLACE (State Champions)

Kyle Smith - Principles of Marketing Brittany LeKang and Mariah Powers - Buying and Merchandising Team

Ngoc Duong - Food Marketing Series Chun-Ming Chen - Principles of Finance * Raju Arabandi - Fundamentals of Communication (Freshman only event)

OTHER QUALIFYING STUDENTS

Brenna Ferris- Sports and Entertainment Series Sean Rogers - Automotive Service Series Kristin Perkins - Entrepreneurship Participating

Liz George and Matt Filipek - Travel and Tourism

Hannah Strub - Business Services Series Daniel Lawler- Business Services Series John Crowson - Professional Selling Mitch Phillips and Matt Eshleman - Sports and **Entertainment Team**

Marin Shipe - Apparel and Accessories Series

Tim Harwick - Automotive Series

Sai Peddy - Principles of Business Administration Raaj Bhavsar and Evan Johnson - Business Law and Management Team

Chantilly High School will host its 13th Annual International Night, next Tuesday, March 15 at 7 p.m., in the school theater. The colorful, singing and dancing event celebrates the school's vast cultural

Greenbriar East Elementary School will be having their Kindergarten Registration/Orientation on Monday, May 16 at 2 p.m. Call the school office at 703-633-6400.

Middle school students from Fairfax County Public Schools have been named to the 2011 American Choral Directors Association Middle School Honor

Choir. The choir will perform at noon on Saturday, April 30, at the Visual and Performing Arts Academy at Salem High School in Virginia Beach. Local students selected for the Middle School Honor Choir are: Carson Middle School: Aditi Takle.

Franklin Middle School: Kayla Blatman, Jake Fries, Troy Fries, Connor Golden, Nathan Keene, Matt Peters, Jackie Plummer, and Nicholas Tenny.

Lees Corner Elementary School is gathering information on children who will be 5 years old by Sept. 30, 2011 and live within the school's boundaries. Boundary information can be accessed at www.fcps.edu/boundary/. If you have a child who meets these requirements, call Mrs. Nolan at 703-227-3500. Enrollment information and forms will be mailed out prior to the Monday, May 2 Kindergarten Registration/Orientation. Visit www.fcps.edu/start.htm

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Common Prayer

One Sunday Service - 10:00 am

(CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY) 13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA

703-830-3176

www.thechurchoftheascension.org

Warm People ~ Hot Coffee Come in for a serving of both this Sunday



Centreville United Methodist Church

Sunday Worship Services 8:15 AM 9:30 AM

11:00 AM Contemporary Service in the ROC

11:02 AM



Worshiping God ~ Serving Others

703.830.2684 www.centreville-umc.org 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121 Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28

Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church



highlight your faith

Christ



People



the World

Sunday Worship Services 8:45 a.m. & 11:00 a.m

www.centrevillepres.com 15450 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120 Centreville 703-830-0098



Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

Sunday Worship: 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. Christian Education for All Ages: 9:45 a.m. Adult Bible Study: Wed. 9:30 a.m.

Our mission is to welcome all people, to grow in our relationship with Christ, and to serve the Lord

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street Centreville, VA 20120 www.saintandrewlc.org 703-830-2768





Contemporary Worship Service

Every Sunday in the ROC (Recreation and Outreach Center)

Contemporary Music ~ Connections Praise Band

Interactive Prayer Stations

Children's Quiet Play Area & Children's Worship Message

Weekly Communion Table Open to All



703.830.2684 www.centreville-umc.org 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121 Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28



Centreville **Baptist Church**

Worship Services

8:00 & 9:30 am Celebration Service 11:00 am Contemporary Service

Bible Study

9:30 am & 11:00 am

Ministries Include:

Nursery through Elementary, Youth, College Age, Singles, Men, Women, Adult Discipleship, Choir, Awana, Bible Study Fellowship, MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), English Language Classes and Spanish Speaking Ministry

Come Join Us!

15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120 703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org



Mount Olive Baptist Church

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

A NEW CHURCH IS BEING BUILT!



SUNDAY SERVICE SCHEDULE AT CENTREVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday School Worship Service Children's & Youth Church Youth Minister: Rev. Bobby Joe Ford, Jr. Wednesday Bible Study

(Includes Youth Classes)

9:45 AM 10:00 AM 7:00 9:00 PM

9:00-9:45 AM

MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH Administrative Office: 13924 Bradddock Road Suite 201 Centreville, VA 20120 Phone: 703-830-8769 Fax: 703-830-6718

www.mountolive-church.org Email: mtolive@mountolive-church.org



6600 OLD CENTREVILLE ROAD CENTREVILLE, VA 20121