



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

**Fifty white doves were released during the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Patriot Day service at the Westfield High School Stadium.**

## Community Joins in Remembrance

**Ceremony at Westfield High School honors 9/11 victims and current public safety personnel**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he 9/11 tragedy began with airplanes — and plane after plane flew overhead, Sunday evening, during the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial ceremony in Westfield High's football stadium. This time,

though, there was no tragedy; instead, several hundred residents came to honor local public-safety personnel, while remembering those who lost their lives on Sept. 11.

The pageantry included bagpipers, a marching band, a bugler and doves. And decorating the chain-link fence surrounding the stadium were 406 flags provided by ACE Hardware of Sully Station. They represented the 343 firefighters and 63 police officers, including a K-9 dog named Sirius, who lost their lives at the World Trade Center. Labels attached to the flags bore the names of each one of them.

Capt. Purvis Dawson, commander of the Sully District Police Station, thanked the crowd for coming to honor those who died, plus those who serve every day. "Americans are resilient," he said. "Although shaken, we will persevere."

The Northern Virginia Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band (bagpipers) performed "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America." Presenting the colors was a Patriot Day color guard comprised of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR), Boy Scout Troop 893 and the Fairfax

SEE 9/11 MEMORIAL, PAGE 3



**Fairfax County Police Chief David Rohrer spoke during the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Patriot.**

## Light The Night With Honored Hero

**Greenbriar Boy raises leukemia-research funds.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**oday, Tyler DeMille, 5, is an active, happy kindergartner at Greenbriar East Elementary. He loves cars and trains, enjoys playing outside and is a proud, big brother to his 9-month-old sister, Meadow.

On Oct. 1, he'll also be an Honored Hero at the Light The Night Walk in Reston raising money for leukemia research. But he's already come a long way in his short life. When he was 8 months old, he was diagnosed with Juvenile Myleomonocytic Leukemia (JML) whose victims have just a 20-percent chance of survival.

"Words can't describe what it felt like," said his mother, Erica DeMille, of Chantilly's Greenbriar community. "I heard the [doctor's] words, but couldn't believe them.

Tyler looked perfect — I was in a state of shock."

At 11 pounds, 3 ounces, he seemed healthy at birth, she said. At his 6-month checkup, she pointed out a red bump on his head to the pediatrician. So he referred Tyler to a dermatologist at Georgetown University Hospital who said it was nothing.

"At the same time, he told some med students there that, if that bump is in combination with café au lait-looking birthmarks, the child should be referred to a neurologist," said DeMille. "Tyler had one, but the dermatologist said, 'It's OK; but if he gets more, call me.'"

So she left, not worried. Then literally, overnight, more blotches appeared on his legs and he was referred to the National Institutes

SEE LEUKEMIA, PAGE 2

## Looking Back at Sept. 11 Tragedy

**Local man worked at Windows on the World.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**C**entreville resident Syed Ahsan didn't watch the TV specials about the

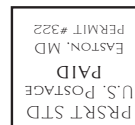
10th anniversary of 9/11, and he finds it difficult to even talk about that time.

That's because, on Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2001, he and one of his best friends were both banquet waiters at Windows on the World — the famed restaurant on the 106th and 107th floors of the North Tower of New York's World Trade Center.

Ahsan's friend, Salahuddin Chowdhury, 32, was working that

SEE LOCAL MAN, PAGE 14

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## NEWS

# Raising Leukemia-Research Funds

FROM PAGE 1

of Health (NIH) and was diagnosed with a neurological disorder linked to a rare form of leukemia.

"Tyler was 8 months old and thriving," said DeMille. "They ran a test measuring his red and white blood-cell count and amount of platelets. And on March 1, 2007, he was diagnosed with JML. It's resistant to chemotherapy, and the doctor said his only chance of survival was a bone-marrow transplant. There was an 80-percent chance my son would die."

He was admitted immediately to Georgetown's Lombardi Cancer Center to be placed under an oncologist's care. Meanwhile, his parents searched for a donor — plus the best, possible chance to save their son's life.

"Tyler's leukemia affects one in 100 million children; less than 30 a year are diagnosed with it," said DeMille. "So there was no treatment protocol, and we needed to find a doctor who'd heard of it and knew how to treat it — it's that rare. They'd never seen it at Georgetown, so we went to Cincinnati Children's Hospital. The doctor there had only seen four cases in 10 years — and we chose her because she'd treated them and they were all still alive."

So DeMille relocated to Cincinnati and her husband Dan, a technical analyst, traveled back and forth. He needed to keep working so the family would have health insurance. Tyler was in the hospital five months and received his transplant, the day before his first birthday, from an unrelated donor.

"In true, Tyler form, he was relaxed the whole time and never complained," said his mom. "No one told him he was sick, so he'd literally vomit and then go on playing. Now in remission, he knows now he had it — it's part of who he is — but he's a totally normal kid."

**"The doctor had only  
seen four cases [of  
JML] in 10 years."**

— Erica DeMille, Tyler's mom

**AT THE TIME** of his treatment, there was no standard of care for his disease; but today, there is. "Because of research partially funded by The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society [LLS], not only did he survive, but they knew exactly how much of each drug to give him," said DeMille. "And he's not showing any long-term side effects — it's really a miracle."

Also praising the "wonderful doctors and nurses" that took such good care of her and Tyler, she said children today with JML have a 50-percent chance of survival — "which is a huge difference in four, short years." As for Dan, she said, "My husband was a complete rock throughout that whole ordeal. He's a great dad and a great husband. I couldn't do what I do without him; he deserves a lot of credit."

Receiving a diagnosis of leukemia, said DeMille, is "obviously, a devastating experience. But now, four years later, it's given so many gifts to our family, such as kindness from strangers. The outpouring from our family, friends and people we didn't even know was great; we had a huge support system."

She also believes she and Dan learned some im-

## How To Help

- ◆ Register a team of family and friends or coworkers at [www.lightthenight.org/register](http://www.lightthenight.org/register).
- ◆ Talk to staff at 703-399-2941 for fund-raising tips.
- ◆ Raise money - Any walker raising \$100 or more becomes a "Champion For Cures" and receives a T-shirt, illuminated balloon and other rewards at the walk. All patients and survivors are "Champions For Cures."



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA DEMILLE

**Greenbriar's Tyler DeMille, 5, and sister Meadow, 9 months.**

portant, life lessons, such as spending time with their children. Said DeMille: "Especially in this area, where people are always on the go, we play with our kids and are a lot more laid back."

She said nothing is as bad as hearing the words that a loved one has cancer. "You're a member of a club you never wanted to join," said DeMille. "But now I'm proud of it, and I share Tyler's story to give hope to other people battling it. I want both patients and caregivers to look at us and say, 'They beat it; so can I.' Tyler beat the odds, and others have to believe that their child can do it, too."

**THAT'S WHY** the DeMilles became involved with raising money for LLS, whose mission is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life for patients and their

families. And that's why they're participating in the Sunday, Oct. 1, Light The Night Walk.

This is Tyler's third year walking in this event, and his family's calling it "The year of the big brother" because, said his mom, "Meadow gets to have him as a big brother, and we're so thankful for that and for the special relationship they have."

They're participating in the walk, said DeMille, because "Light The Night is such an awesome event. The money it raises goes toward research that saves lives, plus patient services for kids who can't be in school [because they're too sick]. I have LLS to thank, in part, for saving Tyler's life."

Calling the walk an "unbelievably fabulous experience," she said every participant carries a lighted balloon — red for supporters; white, survivors; and gold, in memory of someone who lost his or her fight. "It's visually moving," said DeMille. "Seeing all those balloons, you say, 'I had no idea so many people's lives were touched by this disease. Tyler's balloon is white and he's so proud to carry it.'"

The event starts at 5 p.m. and includes games, entertainment, vendors and refreshments, plus a remembrance ceremony. "You hang out in the Reston Town Center and, at 7 p.m., you do a 2.8-mile walk around the Town Center, a lake and through some neighborhoods," said DeMille. "And it's stroller- and wagon-friendly." For more information, go to [www.LightTheNight.org/nca](http://www.LightTheNight.org/nca).

"Our team is called Team Tyler and is comprised of his friends and their parents," said DeMille. "About 50 people are on it; they decorate their wagons and strollers, and Tyler's friends call it the Tyler Parade. I tie-dye T-shirts for our team and, at the walk, there

SEE LIGHT THE NIGHT, PAGE 4

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Ceremony Honors 9/11 Victims

FROM PAGE 1

County Sheriff's Office.

Air Force chaplain, Maj. Michael Morris, gave the invocation, saying, "Oh, God, unite us, restore us and bring Your healing touch to our land. Watch over our soldiers, and grant peace and consolation to the families who lost their loved ones, 10 years ago."

Accompanied by Westfield's band, Sherrie White, with the county's Department of Public Safety Communications, sang the national anthem and "America the Beautiful." And as she did so, doves were released into the sky. Later, bugler Jeff Johnson played "Amazing Grace" and "Taps."

Dignitaries included local, state and U.S. politicians, School Board Chairman Kathy Smith and Westfield Principal Tim Thomas. The first speaker was U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11).

"Ten years ago was a day like today — the sky was just as blue," he said. "And all of us experienced the juxtaposition of the horror on such a beautiful day. It was a day of terror, but also of courage by our firefighters, police officers and ordinary citizens. It was a day we'll always remember."

"We, as a community, experienced extraordinary unity in the immediate aftermath," said Connolly. "We were tested, but we weren't found wanting. We stand for the yearning to be free and the pursuit of happiness. So as we remember this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary, let us rededicate ourselves to our values and always remember those who gave their lives."

County Police Chief Dave Rohrer called himself "honored and humbled" to speak in recognition of the police and firefighters who perished on 9/11. "But we all experienced that day," he said. "You'll remember where you were on 9/11 and the haunting images you saw."

"We could see the smoke billowing from the Pentagon from our [10-story] headquarters," said Rohrer. "Anyone who lost a loved one on 9/11 or while serving in the military, you have my deepest respect. It was an attack on our country, our communities and on each of us as Americans — and that's why we gather."

He said the injured and those still suffering trauma today should not be forgotten. And, said Rohrer, "We'll always remember the courage, compassion, dedication and empathy demonstrated by all the firefighters, police and others who volunteered that day. It was a shattering of our innocence and our sense of security. We felt shock, confusion and anger, but we also felt patriotism."

Noting that 9/11 "awakened a spirit of volunteerism and an appreciation for those who serve," Rohrer said the challenge today is to "renew and sustain that spirit and national unity." He said America's enemies are "extremely patient" so citizens must remain vigilant and prepared.

Furthermore, said the chief, "Let us also remember all who continue to serve our country and community with selfless sacrifice and protect us from tyranny and terror. As we commemorate this 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary



**Members of the Northern Virginia Firefighters' Emerald Society Pipe band perform at Westfield High School Stadium on Sept. 11, for the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Patriot Day sponsored by the Sully Station II Neighborhood Watch and the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution Virginia Society Fairfax Resolves Chapter.**



**Firefighters from Station 38 raise a flag from their ladder truck at the Westfield High School Stadium.**

of 9/11, let us resolve to live our lives with character, integrity and a commitment to our core values. We owe our children a world of hope, understanding, tolerance and peace."

Steven Souder, director of the county's Department of Public Safety Communications, said that since 9/11, an additional 55 firefighters lost their lives to illnesses contracted or injuries suffered at Ground

Zero. He also said that, before Sept. 11 was called Patriot Day, it was called 911 day, in honor of the people who handle emergency calls nationwide.

On 9/11, said Souder, the 911 call-takers in Arlington and New York were unsung heroes. "They heard conversations they could not have been prepared for," he said. "People trapped in the World Trade Center would say, 'Please, don't hang up; please,



**The Sept. 11 Patriot Day Color Guard at the 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Patriot Day included Boy Scout Troop 893.**

give a message to my [loved one]. Those conversations were heart-wrenching."

He also praised the U.S. air traffic controllers who "did a heroic job of getting 4,000 airplanes on the ground in a scant couple hours," when all flights were grounded after the attacks. "We are Americans with the spirit instilled by our founding fathers, right here in Virginia, and we will prevail," said Souder. "We stand for democracy and what is right."

Speaking next was Fairfax County Deputy Fire Chief Charles Ryan, who's also on the department's Urban Search and Rescue Team. "I'm deeply appreciative of this community's support for its fire and rescue personnel," he said. "On 9/11, I was at Fire Station 8 in Annandale, and I heard the voice of an Arlington firefighter who saw the plane hit the Pentagon and was the first one to radio it in."

Ryan said downtown Crystal City looked like a disaster movie — "cars crashed and abandoned, people running and acrid smoke hanging over it all. And sitting on a curb was a female office worker sobbing uncontrollably with her head in her hands."

In the days following 9/11, he said, "Well-wishers came by the firehouse in an unending stream, flags sprouted everywhere and it was encouraging to see human kindness take center stage." Ryan said it was needed because, as a native New Yorker, he attended 36 funerals of New York firefighters. "Eight were my personal friends, especially my friend Ray."

Because of 9/11, said Ryan, "Millions of dollars have been spent [here] on terrorism response and communication equipment. I am proud to wear the uniform of a Fairfax County firefighter, and the events of that day have only served to reinforce that belief."

Del. Tim Hugo presented American flags that had flown over the Capitol to four of the dignitaries. "Today there are no Republicans and Democrats," he said. "We're all Virginians and Americans."

Saying the ending benediction was the Rev. Edward Hathaway of St. Veronica Catholic Church. "Oh, mighty God, heal, strengthen and bless our nation," he said. "May we honor and be grateful for the heroism, compassion and sacrifice of the first responders."

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## NEWS

# Light The Night Honors Tyler

FROM PAGE 2

are smiles all around. It's super fun and raises money for a good cause." To donate to Tyler's team, see <http://pages.lightthenight.org/nca/Reston11/TeamTyler>.

Each participant is encouraged to raise \$100.

For Team Tyler, each year DeMille throws a combination carnival, silent auction and party to raise most of the money needed. "Each year we raise \$5,000 and my average donation is about \$35," she said. "But I love the \$5 and \$10 donations, too, because they all add up."

Tyler is one of four Honored Heroes who inspire others at the three walks in the Washington Metropolitan area. "I've spoken at events and shared his story with others to help raise money for LLS," said DeMille. "It gives people someone to think about when they're raising money because it's someone like Tyler they're doing it for."

I really love that we're involved in events where people can see that he fought hard and is a survi-



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERICA DEMILLE

**Tyler DeMille on his first day of kindergarten at Greenbriar East Elementary.**

vor — and every penny goes toward the cause."

She describes her son as "a kind little boy and a great big brother with an easy, gentle manner. He's an all-around, great kid and we're so proud of him."

During Tyler's battle with leukemia, said DeMille, "We started a

CaringBridge site so friends and family would know what was happening.

And my husband told me, 'I promise you, Erica, we'll get through this and, one day, we'll be sharing his first day of kindergarten with people on this site.' And last week, we did."

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## Parkway, Route 50 Road Closures Set

Motorists should expect overnight delays at the Fairfax County Parkway and Route 50, next Monday through Thursday, while crews erect structural steel for the bridge over Route 50 as part of the Fairfax County Parkway/Fair Lakes Parkway interchange project.

Drivers can also expect temporary stoppages of up to 15 minutes throughout these nights while steel is lifted and secured into place. Motorists can expect the following closures between 9 p.m. and 5 a.m.:

❖ Sept. 19: Two lanes on northbound Fairfax County Parkway, two lanes on westbound Rt. 50 and the ramp from northbound Fairfax County Parkway to westbound Rt. 50 will be closed.

❖ Sept. 20: Two lanes on southbound Fairfax County Parkway, two lanes on southbound Rt. 50 and the ramp from northbound Fairfax County Parkway to westbound Rt. 50 will be closed.

❖ Sept. 21: Two lanes northbound and one lane

southbound on Fairfax County Parkway, two lanes on eastbound Rt. 50 and the ramp from southbound Fairfax County Parkway to eastbound Rt. 50 will be closed.

❖ Sept. 22: Two lanes in each direction on Rt. 50, the ramp from northbound Fairfax County Parkway to westbound Rt. 50, and the ramp from southbound Fairfax County Parkway to eastbound Rt. 50 will be closed.

All work is weather permitting. In case of inclement weather, work may continue Sept. 23 and into the following week. Message boards are posted, and Fairfax County police will assist crews with traffic control each night.

Details of the \$69.5 million interchange project, which will be complete in 2013, are available at [http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/fairfax\\_county\\_parkway-fair\\_lakes.asp](http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/fairfax_county_parkway-fair_lakes.asp).

## Fund-Raisers Set for Best Buddies

Centreville resident Kevin Whalen is raising money for Best Buddies Virginia, which helps create programs and one-to-one friendships between volunteers and people with intellectual disabilities. So on Saturday, Oct. 22, he and his Little Rascals bicycle team will ride 62 miles during the Audi Best Buddies Challenge in Washington, D.C.

He's trying to raise \$5,000 for this event, and donations toward the cause may be made at [www.dchallenge2011.org/kevinwhalen](http://www.dchallenge2011.org/kevinwhalen). He's also organized the following fund-raisers:

❖ Pizza: Ledo Pizza, 5081 Westfields Blvd. in

Centreville. On Friday, Sept. 23, from 4 p.m. to closing, Ledo will donate 20 percent of the cost of each meal to the Little Rascals Best Buddies Challenge Team benefiting Best Buddies Virginia. Anyone unable to attend may still help raise funds for Best Buddies at [www.dchallenge2011.org/sciarrino](http://www.dchallenge2011.org/sciarrino).

❖ Oil-change: Casey's Automotive, 4260-A Entre Court, Chantilly. During the month of September (Monday-Saturday), for each person bringing in a vehicle for an oil change and mentioning this fundraiser, Casey's will donate up to \$25 toward the cause. Schedule appointments at 703-802-6300 or [www.caseysautomotive.com](http://www.caseysautomotive.com).

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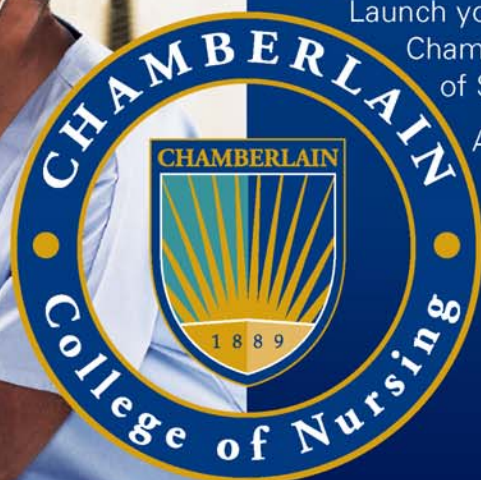
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## SCHOOLS

# Liberty Health Teacher Receives State Award

**M**ichelle Henry, health specialist and physical education teacher at Liberty Middle School, has recently been selected as the 2011 VAHPERD (Virginia Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance Association) K-12 Health Education Teacher of the Year.



Michelle Henry

to benefit the Liberty faculty. She has been the wellness liaison over the last nine years and has provided wellness activities that include: weight loss challenges, walkathons, relaxation treatments, weight room and aerobic exercise trainings, and health screenings. Faculty members often seek her advice and support on wellness topics.

Other health and wellness related contributions that Henry has made include: teaching after school CPR and babysitting classes for Liberty students, mentoring GMU students during their field experience for teacher preparation, preparing school-wide character education lessons that highlight the school's pillar traits, i.e., kindness, compassion, honesty, accountability, diligence and integrity, promoting a CCRF (Children's Cancer Research Fund) program in which Liberty students delivered toy bears each month to a local hospital for children affected by cancer, and presenting at district and state level in-services on such topics as "Making Health Interactive in the Middle School Classroom" and "Implementing Wellness at Your School Site."

In her classroom at Liberty, where Henry has been the health specialist for the past six years, she teaches her middle school students about health and wellness. She finds creative ways to actively involve students in the learning process. For example, during her tobacco awareness lesson, eighth grade students breathe through straws while riding an exercise bike and seventh grade students spread molasses on model lungs to simulate tar build up from smoking. Henry's students examine some of the most pressing health issues for the middle school population i.e., fitness, nutrition, self-esteem, stress management, bullying, peer pressure, recreation and sports safety, and drugs and alcohol awareness.

Henry also applies her expert knowledge of health and wellness

## St. Veronica Wins Tech Sweepstakes

St. Veronica Catholic School in Chantilly was one of three schools nationwide to win state-of-the-art 21st-century classrooms valued at \$43,000, which include notebook computers or tablet PCs, an interactive whiteboard, a student response system, a projector, a document camera and more. The 2011 Win a Wireless Lab Sweepstakes,

sponsored by CDW Government LLC, a provider of technology solutions to government, education and healthcare customers, and Discovery Education, a provider of digital content services to U.S. classrooms, awarded nearly \$200,000 in customized classroom technologies nationwide. More than 600,000 entries were received.



Centreville Elementary School staff visited students' homes prior to the first day of school.

## Welcome Walk Surprises Students

**U**nder crystalline skies, Centreville Elementary School administrators, faculty and staff streamed out of the building late Tuesday afternoon, Aug. 30 for the 3rd annual Welcome Walk.

Initiated in 2009 by Principal Dwayne Young, the Welcome Walk provides students and parents an opportunity to meet the teachers prior to the first day of school.

Armed with class lists, detailed maps and, in some cases, global positioning systems, pairs of teachers traveled through the north Centreville neighborhoods. The teachers, wearing red shirts emblazoned with the Centreville eagle, were easily identified by their students as they approached the houses. Teachers delivered a personal greeting as well as a letter to their students and parents. In the event a family was not at home, teachers left the letter accompanied by a door tag with a greeting and the student's room number. At one residence, there was a preemptive strike — the parent left a message to the teacher apologizing for not being at home and informing the teacher that their son was excited about first grade.

Shouts of "My teacher's here!" could be heard at many a doorstep. In other instances, children asked, "Are you my teacher?"

Students often gathered together in small groups

on the street, swirling on scooters and bikes, pointing out their teacher's arrival. Other students flanked the entrance to their street and rode their bikes on sidewalks, parallel to the teachers' vehicles. Teachers also called out to their former students and asked about their summer fun and what books they were reading.

At some houses, students peeked from behind a window or door as the teachers knocked. At other homes, students flung open the doors and smiled widely at their teacher. At first grader Sophia Puri's house, the Puri family stood outside the front door. With her hands on her daughter's shoulders, Mrs. Puri said, "Sophia has been talking about meeting her teacher for the past two weeks. We love the Welcome Walk because it gets the kids excited about school and they get in the mindset for the school year."

At the Falcone household, first grade teacher Kathy Aderholt delivered her letter and a pencil to her student Reyna. Reyna ran up and down the sidewalk with pencil in hand jumping and exclaiming, "First graders are number 1!"

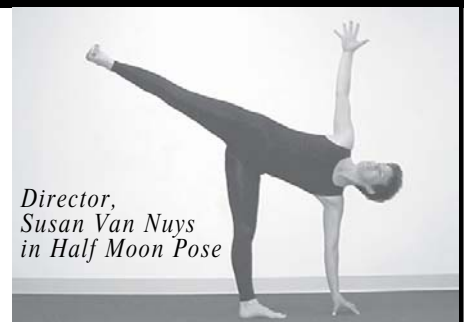
On average, each Centreville Elementary teacher visited approximately 24 students at their residences that evening.

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# OPINION

## Tune in for Elections

Vote early, but not before figuring out who, what, where, when and why.

Voting will be more complicated in some jurisdictions than others.

In Arlington, for example, figuring out what state senate district you are in is important; there are three possibilities, each is contested, and all of the choices are new to you or new to the Senate. In the 30th, Timothy McGhee (R) vs. Adam P. Ebbin (D); in the 31st, Caren D. Merrick (R) vs. Barbara A. Favola (D); in the 32nd, Patrick N. Forrest (R) vs. Sen. Janet D. Howell (D).

In Fairfax County, what is arguably the most important race this year is also nearly incomprehensible in its size and scope: school board, especially the at-large race. There will be at

EDITORIAL

least seven candidates on the ballot for the three school board at-large seats, and only one incumbent, Ilryong Moon, who is endorsed by Democrats. Two more candidates were endorsed by the Democrats, Ted Velkoff and Ryan McElveen. There are three candidates endorsed by the GOP, Lolita Mancheno-Smoak, Sheree Brown-Kaplan and Lin-Dai Kendall. Steve Stuban, father of a high school student who died of suicide earlier this year after being badly treated by the Fairfax County Public Schools disciplinary process, is also on the ballot. Technically, school board is non-partisan, but party endorsements have been important historically. FCPS controls more than 50 percent of the Fairfax County budget.

In the City of Alexandria, determining what Senate district you are now in and sorting out candidates will also matter. Could be 30th, Ebbin v. McGhee; 35th, Sen. Dick Saslaw (D) vs. Robert C. Sarvis (R) and Katherine Pettigrew (I); 39th, Sen. George Barker (D) vs. Miller

### Election Dates

**Friday, Sept. 23** is the first day for in person absentee voting.

**Monday, Oct. 17** is the deadline to register to vote, either in person or mailed registration postmarked by that date.

**Tuesday, Nov. 1** is the deadline to apply for an absentee ballot by mail.

**Saturday, Nov. 5** is the last day to vote an absentee ballot in-person.

**Tuesday, Nov. 8** is Election Day.

### ELECTION INFORMATION

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-324-4700, [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/)

Baker (R).

Virginia's state senate lines have changed dramatically, and all of Northern Virginia's races for Senate are contested by both major parties, so you'll have to tune in wherever you live.

Every voter should consider voting early via "in person" absentee voting. Given the traffic nightmares caused by earthquakes, flooding and man-made problems, anyone could find oneself unable to get to the polls if something goes awry on Election Day.

## Debutante Ball Marks 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

The Old Dominion Cotillion held its 20th Anniversary Debutante Ball on July 16 at Westfields Marriott in Chantilly. Family and friends gathered for a multi-course dinner and dancing to celebrate the social debut of 10 local young women. Dressed in white Cinderella-like ball gowns, the debutantes each appeared under an arch of sabers performed by cadets from the Virginia Military Institute. Each debutante was formally presented by her father, then escorted for the evening by a designated VMI cadet.

The 2011 debutantes are Jessie Noelle Brown, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Brown of Fairfax, who is a rising senior at Fairfax High School; Erin Kathleen Dooley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Dooley of Oak Hill, who is a rising senior at Oakton High School; Morgan Michelle Doss, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bradford Doss of Oakton, who is a rising senior at Oakton High School; Taylor Jane Johnson, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Mitchell Johnson of Oakton, who is a rising senior at Oakton High School; Stephanie Joy Kelly, daughter of Ms. Kristine Kelly of Chantilly and Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kelly of Arlington, who is rising senior at Yorktown High School; Katherine Faye Mahoney, daughter of Dr. David and Dr. Karen Mahoney of Oakton, who is a rising freshman at the College of William and Mary; Esther Soyeon Moon, daughter of Ms. Jenet Ahn of Centreville, who is a rising senior at Westfield High



**Old Dominion Cotillion 20th Anniversary 2011 Debutantes: Seated on floor from left are Morgan Michelle Doss and Alison Jane Mulligan; seated from left are Stephanie Joy Kelly, Taylor Jane Johnson, Esther Soyeon Moon and Cassidy Joy Watkinson, and standing from left are Mackenzie Danielle Peterson, Erin Kathleen Dooley, Jessie Noelle Brown and Catherine Faye Mahoney.**

School; Allison Jane Mulligan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Mulligan of Fairfax and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Kane of Fairfax Station, who is a rising senior at South County High School; Mackenzie Danielle Peterson, daughter of Ms. Megan Vance of Jacksonville, Fla., who is a rising senior at First Coast High School in Jacksonville, Fla.; Cassidy Joy Watkinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Steven Watkinson of Clifton, who is a rising home-schooled senior.

Established in 1991, the Old Dominion Cotillion is a women's organization that encourages young women to grow in confidence and poise while educating them in the social graces through cultural enrichment, social events, and philanthropic activities.

One of its objectives is to teach its young women social responsibility and encourage them to engage in the community. In the spring of 2008, the Old Dominion Cotillion began a philanthropic partnership

with the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax. This year, 2011, the Old Dominion Cotillion received the Shelter House 30th Anniversary Champion Award.

The 21st Social Season will commence with the annual Invitational Tea, Sept. 25 at 3 p.m. For more information about the Old Dominion Cotillion and questions regarding membership, contact [info@olddominioncotillion.org](mailto:info@olddominioncotillion.org) or call Mrs. Charles Gallagher, director, at 703-476-9576.

# CENTREVIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

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# Home Life Style 'Back to School Makeover'

Family renovation allows for multi-tasking, interaction and family-friendly work-at-home space.

BY JOHN BYRD  
THE CONNECTION

Vienna's Johnson family, Christer, his wife Beth and daughters Natalie and Megan, recently remodeled the family-use areas of their circa 1960s Colonial with an eye to spending more time together, even when working at home.

"We wanted an enhanced environment that would make it easier for all four of us to interact, multi-task and learn from one another," says Christer, 40, an IBM executive who has occupied the 5,000 square foot residence with his family for nearly a decade.

**"We wanted an enhanced environment that would make it easier for all four of us to interact, multi-task and learn from one another."**

— Christer Johnson

"I wanted it to be easier for Beth to do her work while keeping an eye on the girls, and for the girls to have some exposure to computers and the internet."

The family also wanted to a) access family living areas without tracking-in mud, b) keep down clutter, c) improve kitchen efficiencies with more visual contact to the outside and d) create an aesthetically cohesive whole.

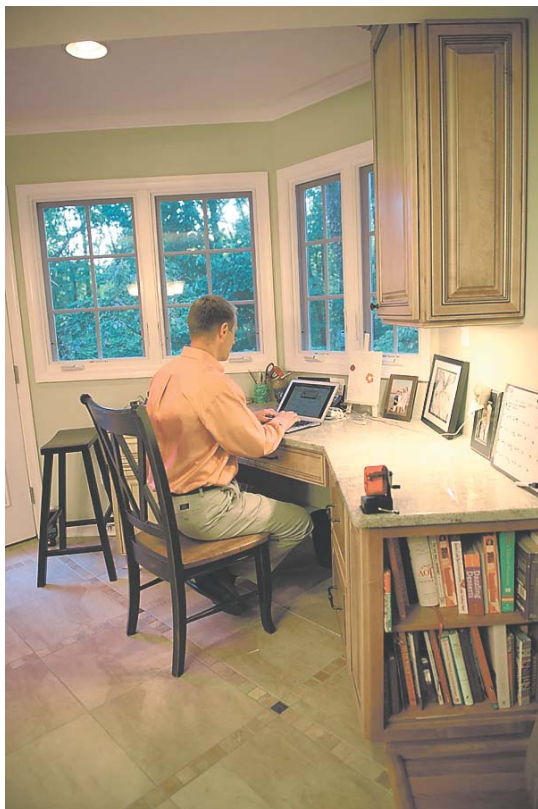
Starting from these goals, Katherine MacNeil at Sun Design Remodeling in Burke commenced a plan that converts a boxed-in kitchen/great room into an open floorplan, including specified activity zones, uncluttered sightlines and an orderly sense of purpose crisply articulated in alcoves, ante-rooms and precisely-purposed built-ins.

"You could call it a back-to-school makeover", the designer quips.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB

**The purpose of the renovation was to create a space where the family could multitask and learn from each other. Here, Christer and daughter Megan prepare dinner while daughter Natalie tackles homework and a friend uses the computer in the background.**



**Christer Johnson and his wife Beth (not pictured) can see their daughters Megan and Natalie Johnson from their "command center" in their remodeled kitchen.**



**Natalie Johnson uses the microwave, built into the kitchen island, while her father cooks.**

MacNeil's first challenge was to render the Johnson program and budget as an actionable floorplan "Katherine helped us visualize," Christer Johnson says. "Her drawings allowed us to edit back a rather over-large program into ideas that are focused and manageable."

Hence:

- ❖ A needlessly long garage-to-kitchen hallway borrows a few square feet from the dining room to become a family entry, complete with designated closets and cubbies;

- ❖ A U-shaped kitchen counter is replaced by a triangular food preparation island and dining counter;

- ❖ A wing off the rear of the house, a hexagonal-shaped bump out, accommodates a custom-designed work-station.

SEE MAKEOVER, PAGE 11

# Local REAL ESTATE

## Top Sales for July

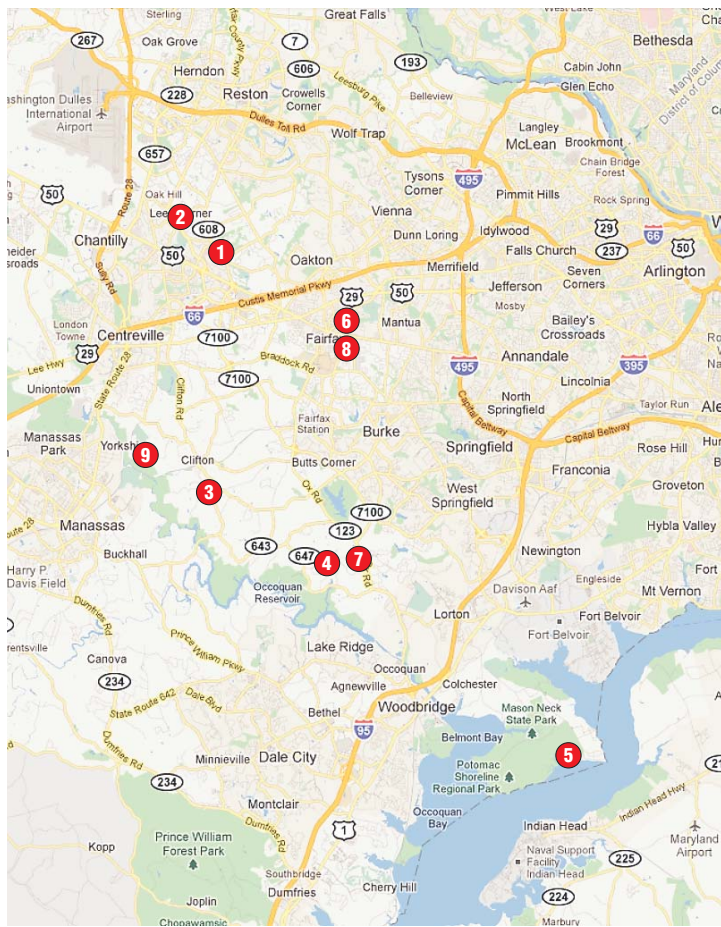
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**2** 13128 Thompson Road, Fairfax — \$1,122,500



**3** 12701 Mill Glen Court, Clifton — \$1,100,000



**6** 3829 Farrcroft Drive, Fairfax — \$950,000



**7** 9728 Thorn Bush Drive, Fairfax Station — \$945,000

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2 13128 THOMPSON RD	6	5	1	FAIRFAX		\$1,122,500	Detached	0.59	22033	THOMPSONS CREST	07/22/11
3 12701 MILL GLEN CT	5	4	1	CLIFTON		\$1,100,000	Detached	5.59	20124	MILL BRANCH	07/25/11
4 8425 HAMPTON WAY	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION		\$1,065,000	Detached	5.03	22039	HAMPTON ACRES	07/18/11
5 11715 RIVER DR	3	2	1	MASON NECK		\$1,050,000	Detached	1.87	22079	HALLOWING PT RIVER ESTS	07/21/11
6 3829 FARRCROFT DR	4	4	1	FAIRFAX		\$950,000	Detached	0.16	22030	FARRCROFT	07/28/11
7 9728 THORN BUSH DR	5	4	1	FAIRFAX STATION		\$945,000	Detached	5.48	22039	ESTATES AT ROSELAND	07/06/11
8 4028 COLONEL MENDEZ WAY	4	3	1	FAIRFAX		\$926,350	Detached	0.17	22032	CLARK'S CORNER	07/08/11
9 7504 WEYMOUTH HILL RD	4	3	1	CLIFTON		\$915,000	Detached	0.83	20124	BALMORAL GREENS	07/15/11

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

# 'Back to School Makeover'

FROM PAGE 9

"This is the command center," MacNeil points out. "It's the spot where adults can check on work projects without leaving the family, and the kids can start home-work with Mom nearby."

Naturally, a key consideration is where this essential cockpit should be located. One can't have a "command center" in the middle of primary traffic streams, so MacNeil proposed an octagonal alcove that extends the rear elevation from the breakfast area. A steel I-beam now supports a portion of the existing rear bearing wall. The alcove also features several divided-light windows and a glass-facing door.

The set-up allows Beth to work from the computer while keeping an eye on the kids playing in the backyard. It's also situated so that she can oversee the children's online activities while preparing dinner.

The work-station complements the existing decor, which mainly deploys traditional furnishings and soft neutral colors.

The solid maple desk features a spacious ivory-hued granite surface. Book-cases and cabinets — finished in a brown antique glaze — were built by Sun Design carpenters to satisfy specific household requirements.

Other original pieces include an alderwood hutch, a floor-to-ceiling wet bar and surfaces, plus drawers and cabinets for a wide array of tasks and tools.

"The built-ins make it clear that living productively is really about knowing what you need, and how to put the whole picture together" Christer says. "Having an experienced guide conduct the process is enormously helpful."

Sun Design Remodeling holds workshops on home remodeling topics at their office in Burke. 703/425-5588 or [www.SunDesignInc.com](http://www.SunDesignInc.com)

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Dismissal Service: Centreville High School at 10:45 AM  
Dedication Service: Mount Olive Baptist Church at 1:00 PM

#### Sunday, September 18

Consecration Service: Mount Olive Baptist Church at 10:00 AM

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Fall Revival: Speaker: Rev. Dr. Leonard N. Smith  
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On Sunday, October 2 Bishop Wilfret Johnson of Louisiana will be the first in a series of speakers and pastors featured on Sunday's this month.



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6327 Still Spring Pl.....\$749,950.....Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207  
6567 Rundale Ct.....\$364,950.....Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207  
6607 Castle Bar Ct.....\$575,000.....Sun 1-4..Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

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](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com)

All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

## Touch of Class Show Choir Hosts Fall Cabaret

Chantilly High School's Touch of Class show choir hosts its annual Fall Cabaret and Silent Auction Sept. 24 and 25 in the school cafeteria. The event begins with dinner at 6 p.m. and the show at 7 p.m. The silent auction features interesting items to bid on throughout the evening. It's a fun-filled evening with music, food and entertaining activities.

Come enjoy the show and see why Touch of Class was voted "America's Favorite Show Choir" by Parade Magazine in 2010. Enjoy this festival of unique and individual musical expression — where students of Touch of Class present a series of solos and small group numbers showcasing a variety of popular music styles.

There will be a light fare dinner that begins serving at 6 p.m. and snacks for sale all evening. In addition, there will be a fabulous silent auction, and numerous door prizes each evening.



Gabby Gomez

Tory Hafner

Visit [www.chantillychoral.org](http://www.chantillychoral.org). Tickets are \$12 for both shows. These are sellout events so you are encouraged to get your tickets in advance.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

**Back 2 School Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and seating is general admission. Includes songs, scenes and dances from the stage and screen featuring Westfield High theater students. At Westfield High School. Visit [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com) or call 703-488-6439.

Centreville High's Athletic Boosters will host the eighth annual **Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament** on Tuesday, Sept. 20, at Westfields Golf Club in Clifton. All proceeds from the tournament will help fund the purchase of an artificial turf field at Centreville High. The registration fee is \$500 for a team of four or \$125 for an individual player. An 8 a.m. shotgun start is planned; breakfast will be served prior to the start of the tournament, and lunch will be served after play. The event includes a \$10,000 hole-in-one competition, long-drive and closest-to-the-pin competitions, and a pre-tournament putting contest. Door and raffle prizes will be distributed, and a silent auction will be held in conjunction with the tournament. To register or to sponsor part of the event, visit [www.cvhs.golf.org](http://www.cvhs.golf.org) or contact tournament director Geordie Bigus at [glbigus@fcps.edu](mailto:glbigus@fcps.edu).

**Centreville High School's Band.** Help support the Wildcat Marching Band at its upcoming car wash on Sunday, Sept. 18 at the Shell Gas Station located off Union Mill Drive in the Colonnade Shopping Center.

**CVHS Wildcat Marching Band** invites the community to enjoy some good food at Tropical Smoothie Cafe and Panda Express on Monday, Sept. 19. The restaurants are located off Pickwick Road and Route 29 in the Centreville Square Shopping Center. Come out and support the band with your purchase of a delicious meal and let the cashiers know that you're there to support the CVHS Band.

**TAG Day** will be Sept. 24. The CVHS Music Department will send their students out into the community to collect donations door to door to help support all the music programs. In return for donations, residents will receive a "TAG" which entitles them to attend one of any music performance throughout the year.

### FRIDAY/OCT. 14

**Centreville Elementary Picnic.** 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Because schools were closed last Friday due to flooded roads, Centreville Elementary has rescheduled its Family Picnic to Friday, Oct. 14, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. Food will be offered by Chick-Fil-A, Cici's Pizza, Baja Fresh, Kabob House and Rita's Italian Ice; and the staff band, The Flock, will play a variety of rock tunes during the entire event. In addition, many community organizations (Boy/Girl Scouts, SYA, Fairfax County Park Authority, Fire and Police departments) will be on hand to share their information in hopes of getting children involved in extra-curricular activities and supporting families' needs. Any organization that would like to participate should contact school counselor Lee Kaiser at 703-502-3573.

### TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

**Centreville Stitchers** welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Join us at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville, VA. Admission is free. If you have any questions, contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email [joknitter@verizon.net](mailto:joknitter@verizon.net).

\* Thursday, Sept. 22 - 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 16

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. With the band Natty Beaux. 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.

**Hispanic Heritage Month Family Day.** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Latin-Americans' contributions to aviation and space exploration, bilingual story times, tours, book signings and hands-on activities. 202-633-1000 or <http://airandspace.si.edu/HazyFamilyDays/>.

### SEPT. 16 TO 18

**Children's Used Book Sale.** The Friends of the Centreville Library announce their Children's Used Book Sale, to be held Friday, Sept. 16 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, Sept. 18 from 1 to 5 p.m. in Meeting Room 1 of the Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Call the Library at 703-830-2223 or visit [FriendsOfCentrevilleLibrary.blogspot.com](http://FriendsOfCentrevilleLibrary.blogspot.com).

### SATURDAY/SEPT. 17

**Tag Day.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Students in Chantilly High School's Band, Chorus, and Orchestra programs will be traveling house to house requesting donations in exchange for a "Tag". This "Tag" will be good for two complimentary admissions to one of three Fall music concerts. All donations are tax deductible (less the value of the tickets) and directly support the music department.

**Consignment Sale.** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free admission. Fairfax County Mothers of Multiples (FCMOM) is holding its semi-annual consignment sale. Some 150-plus families will be selling gently used clothing, shoes, toys, books for the whole family. Checks and cash accepted. At Chantilly High School Cafeteria (Entrance #11), 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

**Sweetwater Tavern Oktoberfest.** Noon to 5 p.m. Live music from Road Soda, kids activities, food and beer. Beer brewed on site. At Sweetwater Tavern Centreville, 14250 Sweetwater Lane, Centreville. Call 703-449-1100 or visit [www.greatamericanrestaurants.com](http://www.greatamericanrestaurants.com).

**Southern Gospel Concert.** 6 p.m. Free. With Michael Birchfield. At Oakton Baptist Church, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. The church is on Route 50, 1/5 mile east of the Route 28 overpass on the corner of Route 50 and Sullyfield Circle. Call 703-631-1799.

**Westfield High 5K Run/ Walk.** 8 a.m. Both the run and walk will begin and end at Westfield High at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Registration costs are \$18 for all FCPS students and \$24 for all others until Aug. 13. The fee goes up to \$28 after Aug. 13. Sign up for the event by going to the WHS 5K website: <http://pts.westfieldhs.org/5k-homepage.html>

### SEPT. 17 TO 18

**36<sup>th</sup> Annual Virginia Wine Festival.** 11 a.m. to 6

p.m. Featuring 50 wineries, 400 varieties of wine and wine seminars. Plus gourmet food offerings and a juried arts show. A crowd of 10,000 is expected at the oldest wine festival in Virginia. At Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville.

**Fall for the Book.** 7 p.m. Truro Church will collaborate with George Mason University and the City of Fairfax to present a discussion, reading and book signing as part of Fall for the Book in Truro's historic chapel. An outdoor reception and book signing will begin at 6pm prior to the lecture. The 2011 reading will feature author Dr. Carol Lee Hamrin, affiliate research professor at George Mason University and an expert on social and cultural changes in China.

### SUNDAY/SEPT. 18

**Fall for the Book.** 7 p.m. Truro Church is collaborating with GMU and the City of Fairfax to present a discussion, reading and book signing as part of Fall for the Book. The reading will feature author Dr. Carol Lee Hamrin, affiliate research professor at GMU and an expert on social and cultural changes in China. She will discuss Volume III of Salt and Light: More Lives of Faith that Shaped Modern China. At Truro Church.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 19

**Centreville Garden Club Meeting.** 7 p.m. Get your gardening questions answered by Merrifield Garden Center's expert David Yost. At the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Visit [centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com](http://centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com) or email [centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com).

**Inova Fair Oaks Hospital Golf and Tennis Classic.** 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Hospital fundraiser for Inova Spine Institute and the Inova Joint replacement Program at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, followed by a silent auction and reception. At the International Country Club, 13200 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Contact Kate Sims at 703-391-4810 or visit the events section on [www.inova.org](http://www.inova.org).

**Highlights of GFWC History.** 7 p.m. The Western Fairfax County Women's Club (WFCWC) kicks off its 2011-2012 club year with an in-depth history of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest women's volunteer service organizations. At the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call Co-Vice President Jackie at 703-378-8551 or e-mail [westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com](mailto:westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com).

### SEPT. 23-25

**Capital Home Show.** Friday, Sept. 23 and Saturday, Sept. 24 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 25 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Featuring more than 200 exhibitors. Tickets are \$7/online; \$10/door. At the Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Visit [www.capitalhomeshow.com](http://www.capitalhomeshow.com).

### FRIDAY/SEPT. 23

**Back 2 School Cabaret.** 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 and seating is general admission. Includes songs, scenes and dances from the stage and screen featuring Westfield High theater students. At Westfield High School. Visit [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com) or call 703-488-6439.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, Rock and Roll Relics. 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, Herndon.

## BUSINESS NOTES



LePelch

**Francois LePelch** of Centreville has helped to create memorable experiences for guests at The Inn at Little Washington for two decades, and The Inn's staff and management recently celebrated him on the occasion of his 20th service anniversary with The Inn. LePelch began his career with the

Inn as a server's assistant on Sept. 5, 1991. LePelch quickly distinguished himself, was promoted to waiter, and within a few years was promoted to dining room service trainer. By the end of the decade, LePelch was promoted to his current position as service director.

**The Northern Virginia Association of Realtors's** Fairfax headquarters facility has achieved gold certification under the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design core and shell rating system.

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## ROUNDUPS

### Centreville Farmers Market

The farmers market has returned to Centreville. Every Friday from 3:30-6:30 p.m., local vendors are selling their wares at the Trinity Centre office park, 5875 Trinity Parkway (off Route 29). The next farmers markets are Sept. 16 and Sept. 23. A partnership of Smart Markets Inc. and Trinity Centre, it will run through October. For more information, contact Jean Janssen at [jean@smartmarkets.org](mailto:jean@smartmarkets.org).

### WFCCA Land-Use Committee

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee will meet Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

### Emergency Readiness at CAC

The next meeting of the Sully District Citizens Advisory Committee will be Tuesday, Sept. 20, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. David M. McKernan, director, Fairfax County Officer of Emergency Management, and that department's volunteer coordinator, Marcelo Ferreira, will speak.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 22, 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.

### Learn about Electric Cars

An Electric Car Forum will be held Monday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library. It's sponsored by Transition Centreville/Clifton, and local auto dealers will provide information and answer questions about their new, electric cars and plug-in, hybrid-electric cars. Discussions will include the Nissan Leaf, Toyota Prius Plug-in-Hybrid, Chevrolet Volt, Mitsubishi MiEV and Ford Focus Electric.

### Police Invitation to Teens

Teens and their parents are invited to an informational meeting about policing, Monday, Sept. 26, at 7 p.m., at the Massey Building, 4100 Chain Bridge Road in Fairfax. It will let them learn about Fairfax County Police Explorer Post #1742. The meeting will be held in the A-level conference room.

For any teen considering a potential career in law enforcement, the Explorers are a good place to start. Explorer Post #1742 is open to county residents between ages 14-20.

This is the only time this year that this program will be offered. Free parking is available in the public parking garage on Page Avenue. More information is at [www.post1742.org](http://www.post1742.org).

### CIF Meeting Is Sept. 27

The next meeting of the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) is set for Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, in Centreville. And CIF President Alice Foltz says things are looking good for the Centreville Labor Resource Center.

"Our August-Labor Day fund-raiser raised \$15,935, much of this in small donations from more than 30, individual donors," she said. "There were also some very generous donors, including those who offered the 100-percent gift match."

For more information and photos of recent CIF events, go to [www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org](http://www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.org).

## NEWS

# Murder Case Sent to Grand Jury

By BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

When Fairfax County police first discovered Shanna Kim, she was bleeding profusely, lying in the hallway outside an apartment next to the one in which her sister lay, already dead.

Last Wednesday, Sept. 7, in General District Court, Kim relived her terrifying ordeal while testifying against the man she said stabbed them both and then tried to kill himself. When she and a police officer were through speaking, the murder case against Man Ha Park, 53, was certified to the grand jury.

"He had two knives," said Kim, 52. "One was a sushi knife, thin and long, and one was a long kitchen knife."

The triple stabbing occurred June 6, inside the Elms of Centreville apartment complex, across Braddock Road from the Old Centreville Crossing Shopping Center. The sisters lived in a corner apartment on the third floor; the one who died was Mihwa Kim, 49.

Shanna Kim had known Park four years and, she said, he'd lived with her and her sister in that apartment — where Mihwa's husband and 12-year-old daughter also lived — until Park moved out, May 29. But in the early-morning hours of June 6, the two women were there alone, sleeping. Shanna Kim was in a bedroom and Mihwa Kim was in the living room.

Around 5 a.m., said Shanna Kim, "I heard a noise of fighting and my sister's voice saying, 'Huh, huh.' I came out to the living room and saw [Park]; he was wearing black clothes and a hat." Crying, she then lifted up her right hand and arm as she told the court,

"He was stabbing my sister many times, so I screamed and my sister fell to the floor."

"Then he came over to me and I grabbed the knife," continued Kim. "I told him, 'Why are you killing my sister? You should kill me.' And he said, 'You die, too,' and he stabbed me in the tummy."

She then told Park to calm down and made her way to the bathroom in her bedroom and put a towel against her stomach wound. "I fell into the tub and banged on the wall that connected to my next-door neighbor," she said. "I had to let somebody know — the only thing I could think of was my sister."

She then blacked out. When she regained consciousness, she heard Park in the bedroom, talking on the phone. "I think he was talking to the minister's wife in Oregon," said Kim. "He was saying he'd killed both of them and he'd stabbed himself and was dying, too."

She said Park's voice sounded weak, so she came out of the bathroom. She said she saw Park lying on the bed and then passed out. "Then I came to and crawled outside and banged really hard on a neighbor's door across the hall," said Kim. "Nobody came out, so I rolled my body to the apartment next door to ours. They opened the door and I told them, 'I need help — call 911.'"

When she first saw her sister that morning, said Kim, both she and Park were standing. "She had a blanket over her head, and he was stabbing her chest

SEE MURDER CASE, PAGE 15



Man Ha Park

## Centreville Man Charged with Soliciting

Fairfax County Police have charged a Centreville man who directs band at Robinson Secondary School with computer solicitation of a child under age 15. He is Michael Keith Cook, 43 of the 14300 block of Climbing Rose Way, and he was arrested on Aug. 31.

Detectives say the investigation is ongoing and the alleged victim was not a student at the school or anyone under Cook's supervision. According to FCPS spokesman Paul Regnier, Cook has been placed on unpaid leave. He's also scheduled for a preliminary hearing, Oct. 25, in General District Court.

Cook has been an FCPS employee since August 1999. He's been the band director at Robinson since 2006. Before then, he taught music at Stone, Carson and Robinson middle schools.

In an Aug. 25 affidavit for a warrant to search Cook's home for possible evidence, Det. Nickolas Boffi of the Criminal Investigation Bureau, Child Exploitation Unit presented details of the case against him. At various times in July, Boffi was online in an undercover capacity, posing as a 14-year-old boy. Then on July 21, he was contacted by a person using a particular e-mail address that was later reportedly traced back to Cook. During their online exchange, wrote the detective, Cook was made aware of the "boy's" age and allegedly asked for a picture to verify it.

According to Boffi, Cook reportedly offered to perform oral sex on the "teen" and asked if he was interested. Eventually, wrote Boffi, Cook allegedly asked the "boy" for a picture of part of his body. That same day, Cook allegedly e-mailed to the "teen" a picture of himself wearing a tan shirt.

Two days later, wrote the detective, Cook report-

edly discussed meeting the "boy" at a specific time and place in Fairfax County. Meanwhile, Boffi was allegedly able to identify the computer from which the messages were sent and the Cox Communications customer associated with it as Cook.

The detective also determined Cook's address and obtained his Virginia driver's license photo from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles. Comparing it to the picture e-mailed to the "teen," Boffi wrote that "it appeared to be the same individual."

On Aug. 25, police executed a search warrant at Cook's home in the Sanderling Condominiums in Centre Ridge and seized two laptop computers, a tan shirt, five floppy discs, two thumb drives and an external drive. On Aug. 31, police charged him with use of communications systems to facilitate certain offenses involving children.

At Robinson, Cook directed the high-school bands, including the Symphonic Band, Advanced Band Concert 4 and the Percussion Ensemble. He also taught the Robinson Marching Rams. In addition, Cook is president of the Virginia Band and Orchestra Directors Association. He's a member of the Music Educators' National Conference and the National Band Association and plays tuba in the Fairfax Wind Symphony.

A graduate of the University of Maine, he taught middle- and high-school instrumental music in Maine for eight years. He received the "Maine Distinguished Teaching Award from Bowdoin College in 1999. Two years later, he obtained his masters in Instrumental Conducting from GMU, where he was assistant conductor of the university's Wind Ensemble and Symphonic Orchestra.

— BONNIE HOBBS

# Local Man Worked at Windows on the World

FROM PAGE 1

morning and died in the terrorist attack. Ahsan lived — but only because he wasn't due to work that day until noon. And the pain of his friend's death still hurts.

Chowdhury's wife, Ashrafi Barahee, was nine months pregnant and had a doctor's appointment that day. So, the day before, Ahsan and his buddy talked about it.

"I asked him why he wasn't going to the appointment, instead of to work," said Ahsan. "But he said,

"Don't worry; it'll be my last day working and I'll take many days off after that."

Ahsan and Chowdhury knew each other from back home in Bangladesh.

"He was a good friend of mine and my family's," said Ahsan. "When

we were single, he was my roommate in Queens, for four or five years." On 9/11, they'd both worked six years at Windows on the World.

Ahsan and his wife, Sarwar Jahan Choudhury, married in 1992. They now live in the Asher View community and have a daughter, Shairin, 16, who attends Centreville High, and a son, Labib, 8, a student at Centre Ridge Elementary. On 9/11, though, Shairin was their only child and was 6.

That morning, Ahsan was in the shower when his wife told him one



**Friends and family celebrating Shairin Ahsan's (child on the right) first birthday, in 1996 in New York included Salahuddin Chowdhury (second from left), his wife Ashrafi Barahee (second from right) and Shairin's parents, Syed Ahsan (holding his niece, child on the left) and Sarwar Choudhury (next to that girl).**

of his colleagues called and asked if they were watching TV. She normally worked as a cashier in a department store, but it was her day off. They lived on Long Island City by the Queensborough Bridge, about 4 miles from the World Trade Center and, said Chowdhury: "From my kitchen window, I had a view of the Twin Towers."

They turned on TV and learned a plane had crashed into the North Tower. "From where I worked, I'd always see small planes flying around, so I thought it might have been one of them," said Ahsan. "Then I saw it was a big plane. My cousin called to make

sure I wasn't working that day, and she was very relieved. At that moment, I saw the second tower get hit."

Years before, he said, "When we had orientation to work in the tower, they told us this building would never collapse. So I thought it would take time to reconstruct, but it wouldn't be destroyed."

But instead, said Chowdhury, "I watched the Twin Towers falling down from my kitchen window. I was crying — I didn't believe it."

Ahsan's cousin asked him if he knew anyone working that day. "I hung up the phone and started screaming," he said. "Then we drove to our daughter's school to get her. I didn't know what happened; I was really scared and I wanted to have my daughter safe and at home."

They dropped her off at home, where Chowdhury's brother-in-law took care of her so they could go to Salahuddin and Ashrafi's house. "We didn't know if he was coming back, or not," said Ahsan.

After the attacks, they lost phone service, but pagers still worked. Ashrafi paged her husband many times, said Chowdhury, but he didn't respond.

"She was in shock and wasn't talking," said Ahsan. "She didn't know if her husband was alive. She kept saying, 'Check outside; maybe he'll be here any minute.' Most of her friends and family were there, but nobody was talking — you could have heard a pin drop."

In the days that followed, they checked the hospitals, in case Salahuddin was there. "We had hope that maybe he was injured, but alive," said Ahsan. "It was really hard for his wife; she was expecting any moment."

On Thursday, Sept. 13, 2011, Ashrafi gave birth to their son, Farqad, now 10. They later moved to Oklahoma, near her sister, and still keep in touch with Ahsan and his family.

Ahsan's manager at Windows on the World also perished on 9/11, as did another co-worker from Bangladesh. He said 100 guests were eating at the restaurant, the morning of 9/11, so four waiters plus the manager were working. Looking at her husband, Chowdhury said, "I'm thankful to God it wasn't him."

When the phones weren't working, said Ahsan, "Our relatives all over the world couldn't get in touch with me." So for about three days, his parents back home had no idea he'd survived, and they were very worried. Meanwhile, he and his wife were devastated over the loss of their good friend, Salahuddin.

"About a month or so later, some friends and family came to our house and we just sat, not talking, everyone quiet," said Ahsan. "Everybody was so shocked, what could we say? We had no language to talk."

Then, in the midst of grief came another problem. With his place of employment destroyed, Ahsan had no job.

Banquet waiters earn more than regular waiters, so he'd hoped to get the same type of job elsewhere, but had no luck finding any work as a waiter, at all.

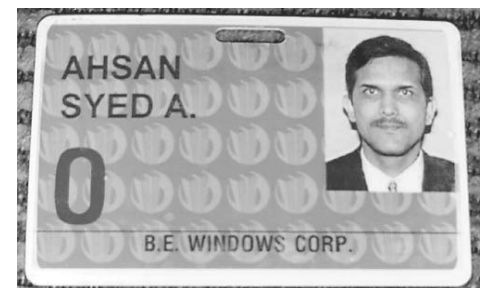
"I looked for a whole year," he said. "Business wasn't good then. After 9/11, the economy was bad and nobody was hiring." Luckily, he collected unemployment and received help from the Red Cross. He worked for a limousine service for awhile, and his sister and a nonprofit organization helped his family with the rent. "I really appreciated it," said Ahsan.

But by early 2002, he decided to leave New York. "My sister-in-law lived in Alexandria then, so we moved to Virginia," he said. Ahsan bought a barbecue restaurant in Centreville and ran it until 2004, eventually selling it because it wasn't successful. His son was born in 2003 and, the next year, he began working again as a banquet server in the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Washington, D.C., where he's still employed. "I struggled three years, but I survived," he said on Saturday. And now, looking back at the tragedy that happened 10 years ago, said Ahsan, "I pray to God this won't happen anymore to anybody, anywhere in the world."



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**From left are Shairin Ahsan, Syed Ahsan, Labib Ahsan and Sarwar Jahan Choudhury.**



**Syed Ahsan's ID card from Windows of the World.**

# NEWS

## Murder Case

FROM PAGE 13

and tummy," Kim testified. "I saw him stab her twice."

Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney J. David Gardy asked her if Park had expressed any feelings toward her sister, in the weeks leading up to the tragedy. "He say my sister don't want him there [in the apartment] and was pushing him away," replied Kim. "On May 29, I talked to him [alone]. He couldn't keep a job and wouldn't try."

After the stabbings, Park was treated at Inova Fairfax Hospital, as was Kim – who was there 1 and a half weeks. Police arrested Park and charged him with murder, and he's still being held in the Adult Detention Center without bond.

Last week, under cross examination from Park's attorney, public defender Todd Petit, Kim presented further details of the incident. She said that, when she saw Park attacking her sister, she asked him in Korean, "What are you doing?"

"He had a temper, but he always listened to me, so I told him to calm down," she said. "But he put the knife in my tummy and everything was yellow and I couldn't see anything; my blood was pumping

out."

"Have you ever seen him upset like this before?" asked Petit.

"He'd turned over a table, but never hit," answered Kim.

"Was there any issue that caused him to be so upset?" Petit asked her.

"I'd asked him to move out," said Kim. "After he did, he called me almost every day and told me not to change the telephone number. He threatened me that, if I did, he didn't know what he'd do to me. So I was always afraid. But my sister and my son changed the number. I called him right away and left a message with the new number. Somehow, I don't think he got the message."

One of the last times she and Park talked, said Kim, "He asked me if we were finished for good, or just temporary. I told him I'd go back to him if he could hold a job for three months."

The night before the stabbings, said Kim, she talked about the situation with her sister and brother-in-law. "I told them I felt really bad because he was going through a tough time, and I was thinking of going back to him," she said. "They said I had to think about what was best for me, too."

Crying, she told the court, "This is so hard – if he'd only waited a couple more days. I told him he

had to make it work, too; I couldn't do it all by myself."

Testifying next was police Officer Christopher Sharp, who'd responded to the crime scene. "I found an Asian female laying in the fetal position in front of the apartment next door to her sister's," he said. "It was Shanna Kim. She was covered in blood and had numerous slashes on her throat and hands. She was barely breathing."

He said police discovered Park – alive and with a chest wound – in a bedroom, and the "deceased victim" on a mattress on the living-room floor. According to the officer, Mihwa Kim had "numerous slash marks on her throat, face and left arm. She had no pulse and was cold to the touch." Sharp then identified photos of both sisters, as he'd found them that day, and the pictures were introduced into evidence.

Meanwhile, while both he and Kim testified, a Korean-language interpreter translated the proceedings for Park at the defense table, where he listened with his head hung down.

Judge Ian O'Flaherty then found probable cause to believe Park committed the crime of which he's accused and certified the case to the grand jury for possible indictment.

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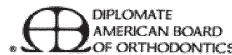
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# Girls' High School Volleyball Season in Full Swing

**Chantilly High on track for another big season; Centreville High looking to improve on last year.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
CENTRE VIEW

Both the Centreville and Chantilly High girls' volleyball teams are believing they can be impact teams within the Concorde District this season. The Wildcats of Centreville, under head coach Ken Moser, were 2-4 overall going into matches this week, while Chantilly, under coach Charles Ezigbo, was off to a fast 6-2 start.

The two local teams are not scheduled to meet one another until late in the season on Oct. 24 when Chantilly will host the Wildcats.

Centreville, a young squad with just one senior — defense specialist Brooke Wallace — opened the season Sept. 2-3 at the 26-school Richmond Volleyball Showcase, held at the University of Richmond Volleyball Center. There, the Wildcats went 2-3 overall. The wins came over Maggie Walker Governor's

School (Richmond), 2-1, in its opening competition at the Showcase, and 2-1, over Salem High (Roanoke area), in its final match of the two-day event. In between Centreville lost matches to Massaponax (Fredericksburg), 1-2, Midlothian High, 1-2, and Mills Godwin of Richmond, 0-2.

Centreville, at the Richmond event that consisted of public and private school teams from all across the state, competed in the 16-team Second Division. The Wildcats played each of their opponents tough and were in every game they played in throughout their five matches.

"The potential is great with this team," said Coach Moser. "We're young but still have some experience. The girls are just getting used to playing together. I was really happy with the way the girls played. They were in every set."

The coach described his squad as tall and athletic and said nine of his

11 team members play on club volleyball teams.

Centreville, in its most recent match, lost to Langley High, 0-3, in a non-district road match earlier this week on Monday, Sept. 12. The Saxons, annually one of the top teams in the Northern Region, are members of the Liberty District.

This Saturday, Centreville will be hosting a three-team competition which will include guest teams First Colonial (Virginia Beach) and fellow Northern Region member Robinson High.

Centreville will work to improve on last year's 3-16 season. Key returning players include junior defensive specialist Haley Santymire and junior outside hitter Yasemin Ataley.

Santymire, a team captain, earned All-Concorde District Honorable Mention honors last year.

"She leads my back row," said Moser, who said Santymire is an excellent passer as well as digger. "She really asserted herself last year. She has the ability to go after anything."

Meanwhile, Ataley, a returning starter, has shown good all-around improvement this season and played particularly well in Rich-

mond. The 5-foot-6 inch Ataley, while a few inches shorter than many outside hitters, has a good vertical leap and the ability to hit winners.

Other Centreville players to keep an eye on include the Simmons sisters — junior outside hitter Grace, who played in the middle last year, and sophomore middle hitter Janine.

Moser said his squad is determined to improve on last year's record and to become a region playoff caliber team once again. The Wildcats last qualified for regionals three years ago.

"They understand that last year was last year and they are focused on improving and getting better and getting back to the postseason," he said.

**CHANTILLY HIGH**, which went 12-6 last year, is under the guidance of coach Ezigbo and assistant Chrissy Campbell. The Chargers were a 3-0 winner over visiting non-district opponent Fairfax High earlier this week on Monday. It was an important victory for the Chargers following a tough 0-3 home loss against Woodson last Tuesday, Sept. 6.

Overall, it has been another fine season thus far for Chantilly. Wins have come over Annandale, Edison, Madison, Oakton, and Fairfax (twice). The two losses have come to South County and the Cavaliers.

Chantilly's top returning players from last year's squad are junior outside hitter Ali Cooper, junior setter Lauren Vicinski, senior outside hitter Briana Neuberger, and senior middle blocker Carrie Ceh.

Although Chantilly lost a number of key players to graduation from last year's region-qualifying team. Coach Ezigbo fully expects his team to be competitive against every opponent it faces in Concorde District play.

"All of our district matches are critical," he said. "All teams in the district are strong."

In the region, two of the best teams are Lake Braddock (Patriot District) and Stone Bridge (Liberty). Chantilly will host Stone Bridge on Oct. 5.

The Chargers, who were scheduled to travel to Jefferson on Wednesday, Sept. 14, will play their next home match next Wednesday, Sept. 21 versus South County.

# Centreville Secondary Overcomes Early Miscue

BY JON ROETMAN  
CENTRE VIEW

Facing second-and-15 on the Centreville 45-yard line, West Potomac quarterback Charles Ruiz threw deep and connected with Joseph Marinelli for a touchdown. Centreville head coach Chris Haddock later attributed the scoring toss, which gave West Potomac a 10-7 lead late in the first quarter, to a technique breakdown in the Wildcats' secondary.

After burning Centreville down the field, West Potomac continued attacking with the vertical passing game. However, it was clear the Wildcats' secondary had learned its lesson.

Following the touchdown, Centreville intercepted a pass on three of the Wolverines' next four possessions and did not allow another point for the remainder of the contest en route to a 49-10 victory on Sept. 10 at Westfield High School. The game, originally scheduled for the night of Friday, Sept. 9 at Centreville, was moved to Saturday morning at Westfield due to problems stemming from inclement weather. While the Wildcats' secondary might have been asleep early



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

**Centreville's Chase Walter caught a touchdown pass and recorded an interception against West Potomac on Sept. 10.**

in the game, things quickly turned in Centreville's favor. Chase Walter, Brett Martin and Mark Behne each intercepted a pass in the first half. Connor Coward snagged Centreville's fourth interception of the contest in the fourth quarter and returned it a school-record 99 yards for a touchdown.

"I think, technique-wise, we broke down a little bit," Haddock said of the West Potomac touchdown pass. "I think we were prepared for what

they do, but I just think we moved some personnel around and just re-adjusted and changed our technique a little bit and the kids did a real good job."

West Potomac trailed 35-10 and faced third-and-goal from the 12 when Ruiz uncorked an underthrown pass to his left and Coward took advantage.

"I thought I got beat a little bit to the inside, so I tried to make up and then when I looked up, I saw the



**Mark Behne was one of four Centreville defensive backs to snag an interception against West Potomac on Sept. 10.**

ball," Coward said. "At first I thought [a Wolverine] was going to catch me [during the return], so I just took off as fast as I could."

Coward's return gave Centreville a 42-10 advantage with 8:52 remaining in the fourth quarter.

"I think it was a little bit of an underthrown ball, but [Coward] was in the right place and he's just a super athlete," Haddock said. "Not many kids can go 100 yards

against [West Potomac's] athletes and not get run down. ... That could have been a 14-point swing and that certainly was a back-breaker."

Centreville rushed for 401 yards, led by Manny Smith's 149-yard effort. Chase Heiner scored on a 90-yard run late in the fourth quarter, Coward had a 61-yard touchdown run and Damani Frazer reached the end zone on a 20-yard scamper. Tight end Ken Ekanem scooped up a

Smith fumble and raced 30 yards for a touchdown. He also caught a 31-yard touchdown pass from Mitch Ferrick on fourth-and-nine in the second quarter, giving Centreville the lead for good at 14-10.

Centreville (2-0) will travel to face Mount Vernon (1-1) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16.



## SPORTS

# Quarterback Matthew Pisarcik Leads Westfield to Victory

Senior throws three touchdown passes, bounces back from injury scare.

BY JON ROETMAN  
CENTRE VIEW

After throwing a pair of first-half touchdown passes, Westfield quarterback Matthew Pisarcik laid on the turf with an apparent left knee injury late in the second quarter of the Bulldogs' home opener against T.C. Williams on Sept. 10. He walked off the field, but left the stadium on a motorized cart.

At first glance, Pisarcik's situation appeared grim. However, the senior's ride to the locker room was merely precautionary. No. 7 returned to the game in the second half and continued where he left off.

Pisarcik threw a 15-yard touchdown pass to receiver Quentin Basil in the fourth quarter, giving Westfield a 21-point lead en route to a 28-13 victory over TC. Pisarcik said he had ice on his knee at half-time and the cart ride was to avoid limping up to the locker room.

"From what I've heard, initially, [a potential knee injury is] always going to seem pretty bad," Pisarcik said. "I think somebody just rolled up on it. Once I started to walk off I felt fine. I knew I would be able to come back out in the second half."

Westfield's offensive line and running backs greeted Pisarcik's return with a strong performance on the ground. The Bulldogs opened the second half with an 11-play, 77-yard touchdown drive to take a 21-0 lead. Westfield ran the ball on each play and six different Bulldogs carried the ball.

Leading 21-7 in the fourth quarter, Pisarcik threw his third touchdown pass of the night. He connected on a 42-yard scoring strike to Basil and a 25-yard touchdown pass to Artie Pickett on Westfield's first two possessions of the game. Pisarcik finished 10 of 19 for 160 yards.

"[The Titans played] some off coverage and Quentin and Artie did a great job with their routes," Pisarcik said. "It's just pitch and catch for us."

Westfield head coach Kyle Simmons said two thoughts

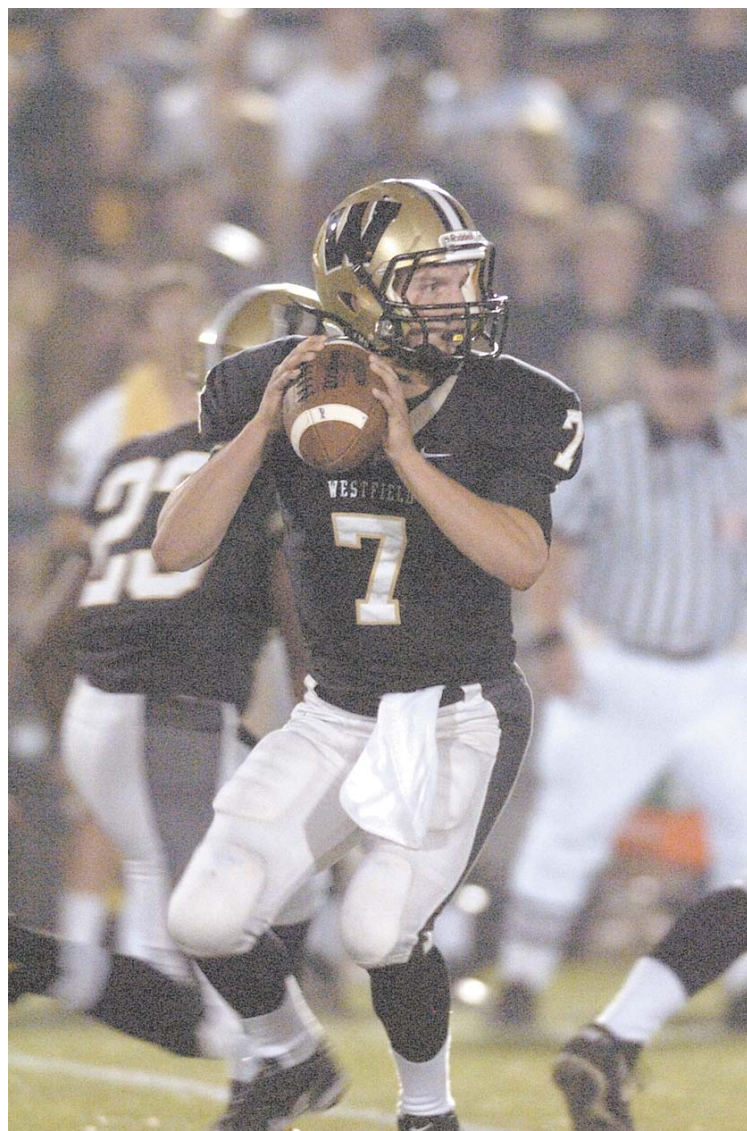


PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

**Westfield quarterback Matthew Pisarcik threw three touchdown passes during a 28-13 victory against T.C. Williams on Sept. 10.**

crossed his mind when there was a chance Pisarcik was lost to an injury.

"One was, sure, it looked like it could be bad and that was a big concern," he said, "but we also have a saying on our team, 'next man in,' and that's why we practice more than 11 guys on each side of the ball. There are things that are going to happen. We had an O-lineman go down with a virus last Friday night 30 minutes before the game [against South Lakes] and [it was] next man in."

"Certainly, I don't want to see anything happen to Matt and it would have an impact our team, but at the same time we've got 125 guys in our program at the JV and varsity level and somebody has to step up and step in if that happens."

Christopher Mullins, a junior, filled in at quarterback while Pisarcik was out. Mullins completed 2 of 7 passes for 30 yards,

rushed twice for 10 yards and consistently escaped TC pressure in the backfield.

Basil finished with five receptions for 106 yards and two touchdowns. Pickett caught two passes for 36 yards and a score.



"One thing I really like about our receivers is not only do we have a pretty good passing game, but they block so well," Simmons said. "For what we do, we need our receivers to block and we get a lot of extra yards once we get it beyond the first and second levels because of our blocking at receiver."

Senior running back Kendall Anderson ran for 140 yards and a touchdown in 24 carries.

Westfield will host Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 16. The game against T.C. Williams was originally scheduled for Sept. 9, but was postponed until Sept. 10 due to issued stemming from inclement weather.

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# A Cut Above— And Across



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

Even though I heard first what I eventually saw, it was still an extremely pleasant sight to see: one of my neighbors, chain saw in hand, cutting through a tree that had fallen across our driveway (care of Hurricane Irene), blocking our cars' exit, rendering us somewhat trapped. Nevertheless, aside from this crossing and miscellaneous other non-threatening tree and branch damage in our yard, we experienced minimal effect and even less inconvenience, other than losing our cable service (television and computer) for a few days. Overall, we endured the Hurricane fairly well, fortunately.

Living in a 250-year-old log cabin surrounded by trees presumably just as old, storms such as these, however, long ago stopped being a source of curiosity and bemusement. The combination of a saturated ground and high winds – before, during and after the torrential rains fell, gives me pause, not to refresh, but rather to worry if this time, our house will be hit by a 100-foot Maple. Given the age and number of trees on our property, the sound of cracking branches, breaking limbs and trees toppling to the ground has hardly been uncommon during our 19-year residence. Only once though, has a tree actually landed on our house, fortunately with minor damages. Still, having experienced it once hardly prevents it from happening again. The law of averages doesn't exactly work in determining the likelihood of a tree falling on our house. In fact, in my mind, it's only a matter of time. It's inevitable, given the nature – of nature, that one day, probably sooner than later, the next sound I hear will be either my wife or myself screaming while staring at a fallen tree – in our living room.

Until that day comes, I can only anticipate the disruption and consider what preemptive "proaction" I could take. I suppose someone with the other half a brain that I don't have could easily plan for such an occurrence and purchase the necessary tools of the trade to circumvent – and presumably prevent, what many homeowners – other than me, consider their primary responsibility: property damage.

However, I have so little experience and even less training and instincts in such matters that when a situation arises that requires a homeowner to act without consulting the manual, the half a brain that I possess doesn't quite know what to do. I simply hope for the best and try not to worry about the worst. (Oddly enough, as I sit and write this column about gratitude and trees falling, my philosophy seems to mirror my attitude toward my having cancer: control what you can, don't worry about what you can't; try to think positively, know your limitations/don't take on more than you can handle, and always be grateful for the assistance and understanding of others and most importantly, don't be afraid to ask for that understanding and assistance.)

Today, my neighbors, the Darlings, went above and beyond the call of neighborly duty: seeking us out to solve our problem. Though I am not in any kind of distress due to the cancer, I am nonetheless compromised a bit by its hold on me; not so much emotionally, but physically for sure. Moreover, problem solving doesn't seem to happen as instinctively as it once did. As such, before I could even begin to stress over our "tree-dicament," I heard the "most respected tool in the homeowner's arsenal:" the chainsaw whirring away up our driveway. And when I walked outside to inquire further to see who had come to our aid, I saw my neighbor Allan doing for me what I can no longer do for myself: manual labor and heavy lifting. What a wonderful sight! Thanks again for your help. It is most appreciated.

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

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**21 Announcements**

**LEGAL NOTICE**

AT&T intends to file an application to construct a new cellular telecommunications facility at Old Yates Ford Road, Clifton, Virginia 20124. AT&T is publishing this notice in accordance with Federal regulation 37CFR1.1301 et seq, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation 36 CFR 800. The project referenced as "Lake-wood" will consist of the construction of a new monopine tower and telecommunications compound on an existing parking lot at the Bull Run Marina park. Antennas will be installed at a height of 150 feet RAD center. Parties interested in submitting comments or questions regarding any potential effects of the proposed facility on Historic Properties may do so in writing by contacting Ms. Rebecca Grant, AT&T, at 7150 Standard Drive, Hanover, Maryland 21076 or c/o theresa.scarlato@atcassociates.com.

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**21 Announcements**

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

-Werner Heisenberg

**21 Announcements**

**NOTICE PUBLIC HEARING FOR BUDGET ADDITION**

Notice is hereby given that the Clifton Town Council will hold a Public Hearing preceding the regular meeting on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Va. 20124 to consider a proposed addition to the FY12-06 Budget in the total amount of \$25,000 for payment of legal fees associated with the defense of Clifton Elementary School. This notice will be posted on the Town's website ([www.cliftonva.us](http://www.cliftonva.us)), at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124 and at Clifton Store, 7150 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend to express their views with respect to the proposed addition to the FY2012 Town Budget for fiscal year ending June 30, 2012. Town residents are strongly urged to attend. Action will be taken at the meeting following the Public Hearing.

By order of the Town Council, Clifton, VA  
Kathleen Barton, Town Clerk

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**21 Announcements**

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**21 Announcements**

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.

-William Van Horne

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### TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

**ESL Classes.** 7 to 9 p.m. Basic, Intermediate and Advanced levels. Cost is \$10 registration fee, \$25/book fee. Starts Sept. 13 through Nov. 17. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church in both Fairfax and Clifton locations: At 5114 Twinbook Road, Fairfax, and 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Call 703-323-9500 or visit [www.lordoflifelutheranva.org](http://www.lordoflifelutheranva.org).

### SEPT. 15 TO DEC. 15

**GriefShare Group.** Thursdays 7 to 9 p.m. Lost a loved one recently or long ago? GriefShare.com is beginning a new series of video and discussion groups nearby. Being with others who understand in small group often

helps ease the pain. Talking or listening to others aids in processing many phases of loss. At Grace Fellowship Church, 25350 Poland Road, Chantilly. Call Kristi at 703-850-4546.

### MONDAY/SEPT. 19

**Highlights of GFWC History.** 7 p.m. The Western Fairfax County Women's Club (WFCWC) kicks off its 2011-2012 club year with an in-depth history of the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC), one of the world's largest and oldest women's volunteer service organizations. At the Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Call Co-Vice President Jackie at 703-

378-8551 or e-mail [westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com](mailto:westernfairfaxcountywc@gmail.com).

### TUESDAY/SEPT. 20

**Witnesses to Faith.** 7:30 to 9 p.m. A Special Inquire Program "Witnesses to Faith" will be held. Spiritual formation classes for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) begin on Tuesday at St. Timothy Catholic Church, Fr. McGivney Room, 13807 Poplar Tree Rd., Chantilly. All adults interested in inquiring about the Catholic faith are welcome. Call Marie Pedersen 703-867-0380, or e-mail [RCIA@sttimthyparish.org](mailto:RCIA@sttimthyparish.org) or visit [www.sttimthyparish.org](http://www.sttimthyparish.org).

**The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) of Centreville** will form a new Chinese-speaking congregation in Northern Virginia to accommodate the Church's growing Chinese membership.

The Church's outreach to Chinese people residing in Northern Virginia commenced in January 2010 when it formed a Chinese Group in Centreville. With four Chinese-speaking full-time missionaries serving in the area, and several dozen former missionaries who previously served full-time Mandarin-speaking missions in Taiwan, Singapore, Canada, Australia and elsewhere, the Church has touched a responsive chord among a growing number of Chinese

people residing in Northern Virginia. The Twin Lakes Branch (Chinese) will meet in Centreville and will serve Chinese-speaking Church members and those interested in the Church who, until now, have met with English-speaking congregations throughout the area, or with the aforementioned Chinese Group. The leadership for the branch will be chosen from the Chinese community and others who are fluent in Mandarin Chinese.

The Twin Lakes Branch (Chinese) will be officially created at services on Sunday, Sept. 18, at 11 a.m. at the Church's Centreville Virginia Stake Center (14150 Upperridge Drive, Centreville). The public is invited.

**Communities of Worship**  
To highlight your faith community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

## CENTREVILLE

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**703-830-3176**  
[www.thechurchoftheascension.org](http://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



Worshipping God ~ Serving Others

703.830.2684  
[www.centreville-umc.org](http://www.centreville-umc.org)  
6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121  
Corner of New Braddock Road & Route 28

### Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church



Loving Christ



Loving People



Serving the World

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

[www.centrevillepres.com](http://www.centrevillepres.com)  
15450 Lee Highway,  
Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-0098



**Centreville**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### 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](http://www.saintandrewlc.org)  
703-830-2768



Centreville  
United Methodist Church

**11:02 AM**

### Contemporary Worship Service

Every Sunday in the ROC  
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Contemporary Music ~ Connections Praise Band

Interactive Prayer Stations

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

Weekly Communion Table Open to All



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### 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),  
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#### Come Join Us!

15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-3333 [www.cbcbva.org](http://www.cbcbva.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	9:00-9:45 AM
Worship Service	9:45 AM
Children's & Youth Church	10:00 AM
Youth Minister: Rev. Bobby Joe Ford, Jr.	
Wednesday Bible Study (Includes Youth Classes)	7:00-9:00 PM

#### MOUNT OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Administrative Office:  
13924 Braddock Road Suite 201  
Centreville, VA 20120  
Phone: 703-830-8769  
Fax: 703-830-6718  
Website:  
[www.mountolive-church.org](http://www.mountolive-church.org)  
Email:  
[mtolive@mountolive-church.org](mailto:mtolive@mountolive-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor



6600 OLD CENTREVILLE ROAD CENTREVILLE, VA 20121