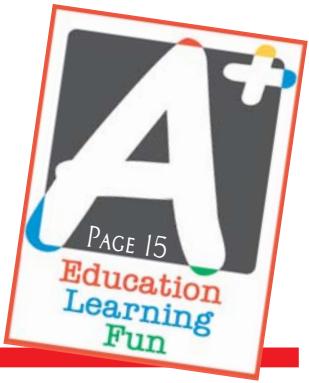


Chantilly ♦ Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes ♦ Oak Hill

CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION



DECEMBER 15-21, 2011

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA DEMPSEY

Gathered 'round the tree are Westfield's "Ho-Ho Holiday Show" directors (from left) Dieter Stach, Colby Dezelick, Joey Biagini, Nick Burroughs, Chaz Coffin, Erica Schmidt, Bryan Pitt, Sophia Alam and Corrine Holland. (Not pictured are Kelsey Thompson and Stage Manager Sarah Schweit).

'Ho-Ho Holiday Show'

Westfield High presents six children's plays.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring five Christmas plays and one about Hanukkah, Westfield High presents its annual "Ho-Ho Holiday Show" in the school theater. More than 100 theater students will take the stage, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 17-18, at 2 p.m., in a production directed by seniors and geared for children.

They'll perform "The Grinch," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," "The Hanukkah

Story," "Twas the Night before Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Tickets are \$5; groups of 15 or more are \$4/ticket. E-mail westfieldtheatreboosters@gmail.com.

'FROSTY THE SNOWMAN'

Directing "Frosty the Snowman" are Joey Biagini and Erica Schmidt. The nine-person play stars Megan McMahon as Frosty, Estella Massey as Karen and Aidan Quartana as Professor Hinkle.

"There's lot of slapstick comedy, and the actors make big motions for the little kids," said Biagini.

"We're learning about directing scenes, in class, and it's fun," said Schmidt. "Having to look at the big picture is different from being an actor. You have

SEE WESTFIELD HIGH, PAGE 14

SEE WESTFIELD HIGH, PAGE 14

20 Months Prison For Chantilly Man

He accepted bribes from Iraqi contractors

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Thomás Aram Manok of Chantilly was sentenced last Friday, Dec. 9, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria to 20 months in prison. He was convicted in September of conspiring to receive bribes from Iraqi contractors involved in U.S.-funded reconstruction efforts.

Manok, 51, of the Estates at Leeton Manor community, was a dual citizen of the U.S. and Iraq. He worked for the Army Corps of Engineers as a project engineer and contracting officer representative, stationed at the International Zone Resident Office at the Victory Base Complex.

When he entered his guilty plea in federal court, Sept. 19, he admitted using his official position to garner cash bribes in exchange for his recommendation that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approve contracts and other requests for payment submitted to the U.S. government by the contractors.

Court documents explained that, in March and April 2010, Manok agreed to receive a \$10,000 payment from a contractor who'd been involved in building a kindergarten and a girls' school in the Abu Ghraib neighborhood of Baghdad.

The contractor sought Manok's influence in having requests for payment approved by the Army Corps of Engineers. Manok was to receive an additional bribe payment from that contractor once the contractor's claim had been approved. Manok further admitted that he intended to conceal the

SEE 20 MONTHS, PAGE 14

Local Man Convicted of Conspiracy, Tax Crimes

Fair Oaks resident secretly represented Pakistan.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

the law requires. He is Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai, 62, a U.S. citizen and resident of the Penderbrook community.

He also pleaded guilty to tax violations in connection with a decades-long scheme to conceal the transfer of at least \$3.5 million from the government of Pakistan to fund his lobbying efforts in

SEE 20 MONTHS, PAGE 14

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NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

WFCCA Celebrates the Holidays

The WFCCA (West Fairfax County Citizens Association) held its annual holiday party, Sunday evening, Dec. 11, at the Virginia Run home of Tami and Ted Troscianecki. Pictured (from left) are Jim Neighbors, Ed McConn, Tami Troscianecki, Jeff Parnes, Judy Heisinger, Yom Kim, Ted Troscianecki, John Litzenberger, Noemi Rodriguez, Stephen Chulick, Carol Hawn and Jim Hart. Barking in foreground is the Troscianeckis' dog, Max.



Torchbearer Award

General Manager Bob Janis (right) and Director of Sales Mary Kashani (center) of the Holiday Inn Chantilly-Dulles Expo accept the Torchbearer Award from IHG Chief Marketing Officer Eric Pearson. The Torchbearer Award is Intercontinental Hotels Group's highest award for Overall Guest Satisfaction.

Malazo Joins TD Bank

Joe M. Malazo has been named store manager of TD Bank at 6200 Multiplex Dr. in Centreville. An assistant vice president, he is responsible for new business development, consumer and business lending, managing personnel and overseeing the day-to-day operations at the store serving customers throughout Centreville and Chantilly.



Malazo

Malazo has 25 years of experience in banking and insurance. Prior to joining TD Bank, he served as a partner at D&J Insurance Agency in Manassas. Malazo is a member of the Independent Insurance Agents of Virginia and the Knights of Columbus, Nunn Council of St. Veronica Catholic Church in Chantilly.

A resident of Chantilly, Malazo serves on the Advisory Board of the Training Futures program with Northern Virginia Family Services, and volunteers with the Boy Scouts of America and as a travel soccer coach with the Chantilly Soccer Club. He is a graduate of Marymount University in Arlington and Falls Church High School in Falls Church.

ROUNDUPS

Koroma Indicted for Murder

A Fairfax County grand jury has indicted Gbassay "Omar" Koroma, 18, for the murder of his father, Francis Koroma, 38, who was stabbed to death, May 27, in their Centreville apartment. The incident occurred late that night, and the victim died, early the next morning, at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Police arrested Gbassay Koroma and charged him with murder. He was indicted Nov. 21 and is now scheduled for a five-day, jury trial, April 23, 2012, in Circuit Court.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 15, 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.

Sully District Council Meeting

To avoid the winter holidays, the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet on the third Thursday, Dec. 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

Three presentations are scheduled:

- ❖ I-66 Automated Traffic Management plans;
- ❖ Outside the Beltway Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement from I-495 to U.S. Route 15;
- ❖ Proposal to construct and operate a wireless telecommunications facility at Centreville United Methodist Church.

Help WFCM Provide Meals

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is providing holiday meals for more than 700 local families, but it can't meet the demand without help from the community.

- ❖ Food baskets, boxes or bags may be dropped off Saturday, Dec. 17, from 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m., at the WFCM food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar).
- ❖ Those unable to provide a whole basket of food – or who don't have time to go shopping – may contribute gift cards to local grocery stores, in any denominations.
- ❖ Grocery-store gift cards may be mailed with a note saying "food basket program" to: WFCM, PO. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.
- ❖ For more information or to sponsor a family, contact Terri Kelly at 703-988-9656, ext. 105, or via tkelly@wfcmva.org. If donors want to shop for holiday-meal items and put together the food boxes or baskets, themselves, she'll suggest items to include.

ONC Planning for Delivery

Our Neighbor's Child will be delivering Christmas presents this Sunday, Dec. 18, from 1-4 p.m., to families in need in the local area. But since this all-volunteer organization has some 633 families on its list, it could use lots of help from the community to get the job done. People interested in lending a hand with the deliveries should go to www.ourneighborschild.org.

Adopt a Shelter Animal

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter has launched "Operation Empty Cage" as part of its "Home 4 the Holidays" adoption push. As part of this event, the shelter – at 4500 West Ox Road^oin Fairfax – will offer free spay/neuter for the first 100 dogs and cats adopted from it until Dec. 31. Animals available for adoption at the shelter may be seen Tuesdays through Fridays, noon-7 p.m., and Saturdays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, call 703-830-1100.

NEWS



Mandy O'Sullivan saved money from each of her paychecks to treat her family to Christmas in Cancun in 2008. "The memories are among our family's favorites," said Katie. This photo shows the family enjoying an authentic Mexican dinner. Standing, from left are Ryan, Sean, PJ and Mandy; seated, from left, are Amanda, Katie and Molly

Centreville Woman Fights for Life Family holding fundraiser for her on Friday.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

The O'Sullivan children don't know how much time they have left with their mother. But they're hoping a fund-raiser planned for this Friday, Dec. 16, will yield enough money to pay for medical treatments to keep her alive as long as possible.

The event is from 5:30-10 p.m. at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville, and the family's hoping for a huge turnout. (See below for details.)

A wife and mother of five children, Mandy O'Sullivan has devoted her life to taking care of them. Now, battling pancreatic cancer at age 51, she's fighting for her own life, and they're doing all they can to

help her.

"This diagnosis was terrible because she was always healthy and physically fit," said daughter Katie, 24, a 2005 Westfield High graduate. "So it took us by surprise to have this happen to someone so young and healthy. Pancreatic cancer is usually a death sentence, but I'm hopeful for the future and very thankful for the time we've had together."

Married 24 years, Mandy and husband PJ O'Sullivan live in Centreville's Pleasant View Estates community. PJ O'Sullivan works for a pharmaceutical company, was an All-American lacrosse player at West Point and helped coach lacrosse at Westfield. They're longtime members of St. Timothy Catholic Church and, until she became too ill to continue, Mandy O'Sullivan was a maternity-ward nurse at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

All five of their children played lacrosse at Westfield; four already graduated from there, and the fifth, Molly, 15, is a sophomore. Katie's also a

SEE FUNDRAISER, PAGE 6

Getting Involved in Mandy O'Sullivan Benefit

The fund-raiser for Centreville's Mandy O'Sullivan is this Friday, Dec. 16, from 5:30-10 p.m., at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville.

From 6:30-8:30 p.m., there'll be a silent auction (pay by cash or check). At 9:30 p.m., the winner of a 50/50 raffle will be announced (the winner need not be present). The event also includes a buffet dinner and nonalcoholic drinks. Entertainment will feature local deejay Lauren Bobby.

Admission is \$15/person or \$60 maximum per family. Pre-registration for admission is available via PayPal: People should log on to their PayPal accounts, click the "Send Money" tab, and enter

[TheMandyFund@gmail.com](mailto:themandyfund@gmail.com).

Label the payment as "personal-gift" and include in the note section the family name of the ticket purchaser, i.e., "Smith family's tickets for the benefit, five people."

To donate silent-auction items, e-mail Lara Weatherholtz at kylaroy7@aol.com with information about the items to be contributed.

To volunteer for the event, sign up at <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4DA4AE292-osullivans>.

The family requests this invitation be extended to anyone in the community who's been touched by the O'Sullivan family, their friends and family or pan-

atic cancer. An Evite invitation is at http://new.evite.com/#view_invite:eid=00CAAA RBSZI3CJ6KEPBEFAQJOKGM4.

Those who cannot attend the event, but would like to support the cause may donate at <http://www.payitsquare.com/collect-page/4464>.

"Everyone's support is graciously appreciated and no amount donated is too small," said Katie O'Sullivan. "People can also help by sending this information to their online distribution lists."

For more information, call Laura Christie at 703-217-8126, Katie O'Sullivan at 571-289-4785, or email themandyfund@gmail.com.

PEOPLE

Campbell Honored as Secondary Level Volunteer

State award spotlights commitment to schools.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Jennifer Campbell began volunteering in Fairfax County Public Schools when her daughter was in kindergarten. Some 17 years have passed since then and, last month, she was honored as the Virginia PTA Secondary Level Volunteer of the Year.

She and her husband Ron live in Centreville's Sully Station community. Daughter Olivia is now a second-year nursing student at Tennessee Wesleyan College and son Ben is a UVA freshman who plans on becoming a doctor.

But Campbell was also a mother to three other children — and it's because of all of her children that she became a school volunteer.

"When my sister died suddenly at age 40 — and her husband died a year later — I raised their three children, summers and holidays, since the youngest was 2," she said. "I did that for 17 years. And I got involved with the schools because I loved kids. I wanted to be connected to the community, but be close to home and have a flexible schedule so I could be there for the children."

Campbell has a background in social work, went undergrad to Cornell and did grad work at Boston College. She was a PTA

volunteer and Executive Committee member at Cub Run Elementary, Stone Middle and Westfield High School, often serving as PTA president.

At Westfield, she wrote newsletter columns, raised funds and organized installation of the school's marquee. She also worked closely with the Westfield Community Coalition for Safe and Drug-Free Youth to produce parent-education programs.

"It was so parents would be alert and aware and get their kids help, if needed," said Campbell. "Prevention is free, and it's so important to keep drug and alcohol education out in the open and on parents' minds. We connected people to resources and programs and made them feel they were part of what was happening in their children's school life."

She's also pleased that, at all the schools she was involved with, she "always got good people to do the appropriate jobs, including finding volunteer coordinators for the schools." And at Westfield, she did her best to make a big school smaller.

"Westfield is a huge place, so I worked hard to make parents feel welcome and that they should get involved," said Campbell. "I put parents in touch with people who could answer their questions or resources that could help." Although parents might not agree with something, she said, "Sometimes, if they could understand the process,



PHOTO COURTESY DEBBIE KILPATRICK

At the awards ceremony are (from left) Fairfax County Council PTA President Ramona Morrow; Jennifer Campbell and Northern Virginia District PTA Director Denise Bolton.

they felt better about it."

She's also proud of her ability to remain calm under pressure. "Looking back at all the crises we had in our community — the Virginia Tech shootings, the sniper, the shootings at the [Sully District] police station and 9/11 when the Pentagon was hit — I was volunteering in the schools then. I maintained continuity and a sense of normalcy for the kids, while keeping the lines of communication open between parents and administration."

On a lighter note, Campbell was both thrilled and relieved to be able to pull together Westfield's all-night grad party in just a week when the original venue pulled out of its agreement to host it.

In addition to all her volunteer work, she started substitute teaching in FCPS in 2000.

She currently works in Westfield's Guidance Department, generating and preparing transcripts for students' college applications.

Campbell received her statewide honor Nov. 5 at the Virginia PTA Convention at the Koger Holiday Inn in Richmond. And as far as Westfield PTSA President Mary Coleman is concerned, "I cannot think of a better person than Jennifer for this honor and award. She's such a wonderful person and a great leader, and she was a true asset to Westfield."

The two first met when their children attended Cub Run elementary together. "In fact, Jennifer's the reason I got involved with the PTA, beginning at Cub Run," said Coleman. "She made everyone feel welcome and valued. Over the years, I've worked with her through the PTA or PTSA as our children moved through Stone and finally to Westfield."

Coleman said both students and parents think highly of Campbell. "She was an outstanding member of our Westfield community," said Coleman. "Jennifer had a knack of being able to keep the PTSA focused toward always helping our children and school staff in the best way possible."

She said volunteers like Campbell don't come along frequently. "If the school was in need, Jennifer was there," said Coleman. "Many times, in the summer, I'd go past Westfield and find her trimming the trees or pulling weeds. Jennifer inspired parents to participate and help make Westfield a better school for all."

Clifton Mom Honored as Elementary-Level Volunteer

Award recognizes her dedication to school, community.

BY JENNIFER FEDOR
CENTRE VIEW

Kate Trussell, mother to a third grader at Union Mill Elementary in Clifton, has always been involved — as a room parent, library volunteer, on the school's PTA executive board. At the Virginia PTA State Convention, held Nov. 4 and 5, Trussell was honored for her school-focused endeavors, as a 2011 recipient of the elementary-level PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

Dana Hubchen, PTA President at Union Mill, is excited Trussell was chosen for this award. "We're very proud of her. We're very fortunate to have her as part of the Union Mill family and we're not surprised by this honor because she is such a special person."

A self-described Army brat, Trussell recalls her mother signing up for volunteer activities wherever they moved. Today, Trussell heads the Bread Basket program at Union Mill, organizing students, parents, and staff in a weekly effort to provide sandwiches to a local food bank, Food for Others. "Every Wednesday morning we have a class come into the cafeteria. The parents donate all of the lunch meat and cheese and



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEBBIE KILPATRICK

From left are Trussell's mom, Mary Rhoades; Kate Trussell and her daughter Sarah, 8, a third-grader at Union Mill Elementary, at the awards ceremony.

the PTA provides the sandwich baggies and sanitary gloves for the kids to wear while they're making the sandwiches," she said.

The PTA also provides items like bread and mustard packets for the sandwiches. Once the students have prepared as many sandwiches as they can based on meat and cheese donations from their parents, the food is transported to the food bank. According to Trussell, "Last school year Union

Mill provided over 11,000 sandwiches to the food bank."

Hubchen said, "That's amazing that our school is able to give back that way. Kate's the one that organizes it all and encourages everyone. She makes it so everybody wants to beat their previous records, so it's fun." For example, Shannon Whitney's fifth grade class made more than 1,100 sandwiches in about an hour and a half, bringing the school's October sandwich total to 3,500 this year.

NOMINATED BY TWO MEMBERS of the Union Mill executive board last year, Trussell was selected by the Northern Virginia district PTA for the next level of consideration. She felt "pretty humbled" when a Virginia State PTA member called this October to inform her she'd won the PTA Volunteer of the Year Award.

"It sounds so strange to me [to win this award] because I do this because I love it. I do this because the kids are learning so much from all that we do at the school and so it seems weird for me to receive recognition for that and there's such a large community here at Union Mill that is so involved in the school in all different volunteer positions," Trussell said.

She is grateful for the support of the school staff and administration, as well as a "fantastic committee" that works on the Bread Basket program with her.

Hubchen describes Trussell as "one of those people that you can rely on to do what needs to be done at all times. Her interests are always with the school and with making sure that the kids have a great experience."

Trussell's own daughter is learning the importance of giving back; she assists her mom with carrying supplies to the car each Wednesday and regularly checks in to see how many sandwiches were produced for the week.

Trussell emphasizes parents, grandparents, and family friends participating in the school environment as a way to know what their children are learning and to teach by example the importance of being a good citizen. There are many ways caring adults can help — donating time and resources — to support both the school and the overall community, through school programs like Bread Basket at Union Mill.

Hubchen said, "Union Mill is so very fortunate to have someone like Kate working with our PTA and working with our school and making it better for our children and being so involved. I think we're extremely lucky to have her."

NEWS

Brew Fest Taps Fun at Annual Festival

By MONTIE MARTIN
CENTRE VIEW

A renaissance of micro-beers greeted thirsty patrons for the 5th annual Brew Fest at Bull Run Park recently.

Brew Fest, sponsored by Vintage 50 Restaurant Bar and Lounge, hosted over 50 craft beers and highlighted the quality of many Virginia brewers.

"I'm here to try all the local beers," said John Emery from McLean. "Legend is an excellent brewery from Richmond. Local beer is just much fresher than at a super market."

"Craft beer always tastes better closer to the origin, fresh beer is local beer," said Bill Butcher, CEO of Port City brewery in Alexandria.

"We're truly passionate about our final product," said

Jonathan Berlin from the Star Hill brewery in Charlottesville. "Our beer used to sit in the brewery, but not anymore. Demand is growing."

"We love beer, talking to beer drinkers and having fun."

— Karen Breusch



PHOTO BY MONTIE MARTIN/CENTRE VIEW

Karen Bruesch and Chris Farnsworth from Warrenton volunteer for Beer Fest at the Star Hill tent

On Oct. 3 Star Hill won gold medal in the lager selection at the 2011 Great American Beer Festival for its Jomo Lager.

Other quality American beers included Tall Grass, a brewery from Manhattan, Kansas, with plans to enter the sophisticated Northern Virginia market.

"We came to Chantilly eight months ago; D.C. is perfect for craft beer," said Bill Desrosiers, marketing director for Tall Grass's mid-Atlantic region. "We won a gold metal in the US Open Beer Championship, people seem to like our craftsmanship."

Beer connoisseurs John Craig and Russ Whitmoyer from East Sterling appreciated the dedication and hard work the local brewers put forth.

"I've been a home brewer for 18 years," said Whitmoyer, who works for the GAO. "You name it and I've made it, I once did a hefeweizen and a Magic Hat clone. Now I'm here to have a good time."

Brew fest also hosted arts and crafts, turkey legs, as well as live bands.

Chris "Timex" Huff and Chris Stewart, local musicians from Chantilly, opened with original tunes from their band Train Wreck Endings.

"The organizers do a great job every year, the sound set up is spot on, it's a lot of fun playing here," said Stewart.

"This is a great location," said Huff. "People from the west can be here, and people from the city too. Everyone can have fun and enjoy some great beer."

Helping Needy

Smiles at Fairfax Corner dentists Dr. Tara L. Zier and Dr. Riaz Rayek are offering a discount on dental services to assist people who need dental care in tandem with helping their community food pantry this holiday season.

Zier and Rayek are looking to assist the people in their community who have lost their dental coverage due to job loss by offering dental services at a fraction of their normal rate. For \$39, patients will receive oral examinations, x-rays and dental cleanings, with all proceeds going to Food for Others.

Both dentists were inspired to organize this community effort after reading a report in the New York Times about how an increasing number of Americans are going hungry.

They note that many of these people have also lost their dental coverage and are, therefore, going without preventative dental care, which puts them in danger of tooth decay and gum disease that contributes to problems associated with diabetes, liver and heart problems.

The community discount to benefit people in need of dental care as well as the local food bank will remain in effect until Dec. 20. Details of Zier and Rayek's additional community efforts can be found online at: <http://dentistryfairfax.va.com/index.php/category/fairfax-dentist-community/>

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Fundraiser for Centreville Mom This Friday

FROM PAGE 3

JMU grad now living in Boston and working for a professional lacrosse organization. Sean, 22, attends Loyola University; Amanda, 20, is at Colgate University; and Ryan, 18, is at Bridgeton Academy.

Mandy O'Sullivan's sister, Laura Christie, also lives in Centreville. "She and I have always been close," said Christie. "She's my best friend and, always, my protector." Christie said Mandy O'Sullivan's normally private, selfless and humble; so for her to agree to the fund-raiser in her honor is "a big thing. But it will also bring attention to pancreatic cancer."

She said Mandy O'Sullivan was a volunteer religion teacher at St. Timothy and worked with dogs up for adoption at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. She was also the team mom for many of her children's lacrosse and football teams.

"She's pretty quiet until you know her," said Christie. "But she's funny, witty and strong. With everything she's gone through, she's never complained or griped."

In March 2010, Mandy O'Sullivan was diagnosed with Stage 4 pancreatic cancer. It's the fourth most-common cause of cancer deaths worldwide, and 95 percent of people diagnosed aren't alive five years later. It's often called the "silent killer" because of its lack of symptoms, and its causes are mostly unknown.

"She was shocked by it, but then she started fighting," said Christie. "She's very positive, and her faith has been a huge help for her. Putting together this fund-raiser, I've learned their family's touched so many people in Centreville and the Westfield community. Lots of people wanted to be involved, and that says so much about her."

Westfield High field hockey Coach Starr Karl also hopes the community will come out in droves for the event. Said Karl: "The O'Sullivans are a phenomenal family who have given back in many ways at Westfield, St Tim's and on the lacrosse field."

After Mandy O'Sullivan's diagnosis, doctors operated and removed the cancer from her pancreas, only to discover it had already spread to surrounding organs. She then underwent 11 months of chemotherapy, plus radiation.

"Though she's tenaciously overcome a great deal of setback throughout her journey, the disease continues to spread," said Christie. "And tra-

**"She's
always
been
there
for all
us
kids."**

— Katie
O'Sullivan,
daughter



The O'Sullivans during Christmas 2007. Standing, from left are Katie, Ryan, Amanda and Sean; seated, from left, are Molly, PJ, Mandy and her mother Anne.

ditional medicine — which breaks down the body's cells, both good and bad — has not worked as efficiently as originally hoped."

So Mandy O'Sullivan has just begun treatment at Natural Horizons, an integrative medical and wellness center in Fairfax that takes a multi-pronged, holistic approach to cancer. Therapy at Natural Horizons seeks to help strengthen Mandy O'Sullivan's immune system to help her body fight any new cancer cells.

But the facility is an out-of-network center not covered by the O'Sullivans' insurance. So 90 percent of the proceeds from the fund-raiser will go toward Mandy O'Sullivan's treatment there, as well as her previously accumulated medical bills. The other 10 percent will be contributed to pancreatic-cancer research toward a cure.

"I'm thankful for my mom being the fighter she is, and I hope for as much time as we can get with her," said Katie. Crying, she called her mother "absolutely the most influential woman in my life. She's always been there for all us kids. She's somebody to lean on, a shoulder to cry on and someone to walk you through the big decisions in your life."

Christie, Katie and her mom's brother Russell came up with the fund-raiser idea, and the whole family will attend. "I think it's amazing," said 2009 Westfield grad Amanda O'Sullivan. "I'm in awe of how ea-



Mandy O'Sullivan

ger people are to help with anything and everything they can. This whole process really opened my eyes to how openhearted people are, and it's a beautiful thing to see."

Amanda said she's trying to be strong for her mom. "She shaped who I am as a young woman," said Amanda. "She taught me how to be strong, and it's definitely helping me now. She loves her children more than anything, so this fund-raiser is our way of showing her how much love we have for

her in return."

She called her mom both the "rock" and the "glue" that's held their family together. "And now, when she can't carry the whole world on her shoulders, we want her to know we can handle the weight," said Amanda. "Her illness created a strong team among all of us. There's no sense having negative thoughts when there's still time to fight. We'll deal with this card we were dealt and keep our heads up."

She said she doesn't know how her mom managed "with five kids and all our activities, going to a million places at once." And, said Amanda, "I want to spend the rest of the time we have together happy and smiling."

Her brother Sean, a 2007 Westfield grad, also praised their mom. "She's the epitome of a mother," he said. "She dedicated her life to raising us and we're five good kids. We're a close family with good morals and good academically and athletically."

When he was in sixth grade, he played on four sports teams in the spring. His dad was busy working, so his mom drove him and his siblings to their various practices. "She came to all our games — and from fifth to eighth grade, I had baseball double-headers every Sunday, all summer," said Sean. "But she was there, for four or five hours at a time."

Learning of her cancer, he "couldn't believe it because she's so active and seemed so healthy. That really crushed me. After that, how I was doing depended on how she was doing. It's gotten worse recently, and everyone came home for Thanksgiving, and now we're all home again for winter break. We all left school early to be here, and our extended family is here, too."

Hopefully, said Sean, the upcoming fund-raiser will help his mother's spirit and morale. "I think it's awesome, and everyone's been so generous with donations," he said. "Two of my lacrosse coaches at Army and Loyola together gave me \$2,000 worth of lacrosse clothing and equipment for the silent auction. And this event will be a chance for my mom to see everyone at once who cares about her and to know how many people support her."

Salon Teams with Catholic Charities

After a successful Thanksgiving food drive in conjunction with the Knights of Columbus and St. Andrew the Apostle in Clifton, Salon Antoine and Spa will now be a food donation center for the Christmas season on behalf of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington.

Individuals who would rather drop off their food during the evening are invited by Salon Antoine's Tony Chahine to leave the food donations in bins on the front lawn of his home at 13915 Rock Brook Court in Clifton between now and Jan. 6.

While there, donors are welcome to enjoy a light show every hour and half hour

from 6–11 p.m. and tune to 89.1 in their car, to listen to music synchronized to the kaleidoscopic lights. The music and light show runs to 2 a.m. on Dec. 24.

The lightshow and sounds are provided by the AV company iHomeIntegration based in Burke.

The Diocese informs that food pantries are in need of food products like canned meat and tuna, soups, peanut butter and jelly, pasta, rice, hot and cold cereals, juice, canned veggies and baby food. Personal care items like toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, shampoos, bathroom goods and laundry items are also appreciated.

NEWS

Low-Flying Helicopter Upsets Residents

Lack of notification yields concerns.

By HEMI KIM
CENTRE VIEW

From her ground floor basement near the Fair Lakes' Wal-Mart on Saturday, Nov. 26 at 3 p.m., it sounded like someone was cutting grass, said Fairfax resident Michele Carufel. "But it was too close, too loud."

When she looked out the window to see her 14-year-old son attending a birthday party near swingsets and a jungle gym on a hill, she panicked. A black helicopter hovered nearby over a grassy area bounded by basketball and tennis courts, condos, townhouses and above-ground power lines. Carufel worried for her son's safety.

A few days later, inquiries resulted in the Federal Aviation Administration's spokesperson Jim Peters to find that, "On Nov. 26, the pilot of a Bell helicopter notified the Dulles International Airport Traffic Control Tower that it would be conducting an aerial survey of the electric system approximately 4.5 miles northeast of Dulles, operating at an altitude of approximately 400 feet." The pilot indicated his activity would start at noon, said Peters.

The helicopter had "applied for clearance for a low-level aerial survey. They were in compliance for security regulations for the Washington, D.C. area," according to Peters. He said the pilot departed from an airport in Frederick County, Va., to inspect five electrical systems.

Dominion Virginia Power spokesperson Daisy Pridgen confirmed, "We had a contractor working for us on inspecting transmissions in that area." She said it was a basic assessment that occurs about once a year, but not on a specific schedule. According to Pridgen, the contractor's job is to notify proper authorities of their flights, including local and state law enforcement, "so to not cause alarm."

However, Fairfax resident Carufel said she did not receive notification.

"I saw the helicopter almost at a landing

point," said Carufel. Her first thought was that it was police.

"My heart was beating so fast," said Carufel, who ran to fetch her son from her townhome without stopping to put on her shoes. "I could feel my feet getting wet through my socks."

Her son was chasing the helicopter and waving at it. A supervising adult was taking pictures and had assumed it was a helicopter survey of the nearby power lines, according to Carufel. Later, the helicopter zigzagged slowly towards Fair Lakes Parkway, heading north along Fair Stone Drive.

Carufel said, "We should have been pre-warned." Ideally, she said, ground crews would be onsite to caution people about the low-flying aircraft.

TRYING TO TRACK a helicopter flight is a notorious joke, according to Helicopter Association International's public safety director Stan Rose. He pointed his fingers in opposite, crossing directions. Helicopters do not have fixed flights with end points at airports, he said. His colleague Chris Dancy likened the regulation of helicopters to that of driving — not only is it difficult to pinpoint a flight path, but there is much gray area.

For example, an initial call to the FAA's New York office led to confusing reports that the helicopter was conducting an oil pipeline survey and that it did not need special authorization to fly. The Virginia State Corporations Commission and Colonial Pipeline had no such flight records.

Fairfax County Police first referred calls about the helicopter to the FAA. The police said they do not monitor helicopter flights. County officials, including Board of Supervisor's Pat Herrity's office and the Community Emergency Alert Network, were not notified of the aircraft, which they concurred fell under federal jurisdiction.

Families of crash victims have been trying to get an answer on whether certain helicopter companies are exposing pilots and passengers to unnecessary risk and even death. The National Transportation Safety Board convened stakeholders on Thursday,

Dec. 1, at L'Enfant Plaza. Participants examined a regulatory gray area available to helicopters that fly over highly residential communities for the federal government.

Family members of four firefighters who died in a 2008 helicopter crash sat in the front row at the forum, wearing palm-sized pictures of their sons and brothers pinned to their chests. Paul Steele knows the frustration of determining the details of a rotary flight. Steele is seeking confirmation that the government is investigating the crash that killed his son three years ago.

At the NTSB event, four helicopter companies said their pilots apply uniform safety standards regardless of the potential loophole. After listening to the contractors' statements, NTSB member Robert Sumwalt advised them to

formalize their risk assessments in writing. Sitting near family members during a break, Steele questioned what lessons were learned from the 2008 crash.

At least one of the contractors that spoke at the forum also performs surveys for power companies like Dominion Virginia Power, according to HAI's Rose.

FROM AN INDUSTRY PERSPECTIVE, Rose indicated it would be unreasonable to expect a utility company to call local officials advising them of low-flying helicopter surveys, which may cross state lines or be delayed due to weather. He defended the excellent safety record of helicopters surveying power lines, especially in comparison to trucks that might otherwise have to cover the same, often unpaved territory.

Rose noted that surveys can prevent catastrophic failure in the case of a homeowner digging where they shouldn't be, or of an electrical wire about to snap. Pridgen said surveys help in "keeping the lights on."

Residents concerned about helicopters flying over crowded areas can file complaints under the FAA's "careless and reckless" statutes, said Rose.

"It did bother me," said Carufel, to have a helicopter flying low over a field of children.

CRIME REPORT

FORGING AND UTTERING/ARREST

Police arrested a man for attempting to cash a fraudulent cashier's check on Tuesday, Nov. 22 and three fraudulent money orders on Friday, Nov. 25 at the Navy Federal Credit Union at 5900 Fort Drive. A 23-year-old male of the 13900 block of Sawteeth Way in Centreville was charged with four counts of forging and uttering.

ACCIDENTAL DEATH

Members of The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, along with Fairfax County police officers responded to the report of a possible electrocution at a home in the 14400 block of Tracy Schar Lane in Centreville. The first responders arrived at the home on Monday, Nov. 28 shortly after 1 p.m. and were

Activities reported by the Sully police department through Dec. 9.

BURGLARY

Two men attempted to burglarize a home in the 13600 block of Bent Tree Circle around 1 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 17. An investigation determined they attempted to force entry through a door.

LARCENIES

4800 block of Autumn Glory Way. License plate stolen from vehicle.
14100 block of Saint Germain Drive. Beer stolen from business.
4400 block of Stonecroft Blvd. iPhone, watch and necklace stolen from business.
5200 block of Audrey Drive. Construction tools and materials stolen from residence.
14700 block of Basingstoke Loop. Advertisements stolen from residence.

14700 block of Beaumeadow Drive.

Ring stolen from residence.

6400 block of Creek Bed Court.

Purse stolen from vehicle.

6800 block of Cedar Loch Court.

iPod stolen from vehicle.

14500 block of Crim Station Road.

Wallet stolen from vehicle.

14500 block of Crim Station Road.

Wallet and cash stolen from residence.

14300 block of Flomation Court.

Cell phone stolen from vehicle.

14300 block of Flomation Court.

Laptop computer stolen from vehicle.

5200 block of Glen Meadow Drive.

License plates stolen from vehicle.

4300 block of Lees Corner Road.

Cash stolen from residence.

6400 block of Old Centreville Road.

Purses and wallet stolen from business.

4200 block of Pennsboro Place.

Tools stolen from vehicle.

Local Police Target Alcohol Violations

In an effort to keep December a safe and festive month for all, Fairfax County police are stepping up alcohol enforcement efforts with extra DWI patrols, sobriety checkpoints and underage alcohol stings. In December 2010, police made 317 DWI arrests; 252 were men and 65 were women.

Since drunk driving continues to be a serious roadway danger, police urge residents to make their travel plans before attending holiday parties by designating a sober driver. According to recently compiled Fairfax County data, there have been 546 alcohol-related crashes through October 2011, out of a total of 8,214. In 2010, out of 10,471 crashes, 730 involved alcohol.

Besides targeted patrols, DWI checkpoints netted 46 impaired drivers in 2010. So motorists should expect to encounter checkpoints across Fairfax County this month, since they're an additional deterrent and an educational tool.

"Drunk driving continues to pose a threat to all who drive our roadways," said Police Capt. Susan Culin, commander of the county Traffic Division. "We want the public to know that it continues to be a serious problem, and police are out there targeting reckless, illegal driving behaviors."

Despite strict laws governing underage drinking, last year, police cited 246 people under 21 with driving after illegally consuming alcohol. Through the third quarter of 2011, 193 youthful offenders were cited.

To help combat underage alcohol use, police hold business compliance checks to ensure that businesses aren't selling alcohol to minors. In 2010, police entered 227 establishments and charged 38 of them with selling alcohol to minors. That was a 16-percent increase over 2009.

Police also hold routine, shoulder-tap operations. In three such operations in 2010, some 15 people purchased alcohol for the juvenile – a 13-percent increase over 2009. For more information on prevention efforts targeting youth, check <http://www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org/>

OPINION

Five Suggestions for the New School Board

Half of the School Board members are new.

On Monday, Dec. 19, the newly elected members of the Fairfax County School Board will be sworn in, marking the largest number of new members at one time in memory.

The change on the board comes from open seats with previous members deciding not to run. Fully half of the board will be new members, although most are also familiar faces.

But it was apparent from the election that voters were motivated by the school board races, turning out to have their say. It's a mistake to view the election as a vote of approval for all current policies or as a repudiation of particular policies. The level of interest and controversy indicates that it's a great moment for the new board to engage the public.

The fact that 70 percent of voters supported the school bond for county schools shows that county residents understand the importance of quality schools.

The school board consists of three at large

EDITORIAL

Iryong Moon is the one incumbent remaining at large; Ryan McElveen and Ted Velkoff will join the board at large. District members are: Megan McLaughlin, Braddock; Janie Strauss, Dranesville; Pat Hynes, Hunter Mill; Tammy Kaufax, Lee; Sandy Evans, Mason; Dan Storck, Mount Vernon; Patty Reed, Providence; Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield, and Kathy Smith, Sully. Moon, Strauss, Evans, Storck, Reed and Smith are returning members.

It's important to respect the dedication and motivation of school board members. It's hard to understand why anyone would want these jobs. The hours are never ending. The pay is symbolic. Few decisions will come without acrimony from some quarters. These are people who really are dedicated to service.

That said, we offer a few suggestions, some very general, some very specific, for the new board as it steps up to serve.

1) On with the campaign. Begin with a listening tour. Hold some full-board listening sessions around the county. Hold some regional listening sessions in schools and parents' liv-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deepest Sympathies

To the Editor:

An unspeakable tragedy has unfortunately occurred again, Dec. 8, at Virginia Tech. The VTV Family Outreach Foundation extends its sincere condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Officer Deric W. Crouse. We recognize Officer Crouse to be the first Virginia Tech campus law officer to have been killed in the line of duty and extend our deepest sympathies to the law enforcement community.

The Foundation was created by families and survivors directly impacted by the April 16, 2007 tragedy at Virginia Tech. We are well aware of the horror that the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities felt [on Thursday]. We know that the loss of these two victims will resonate forever and understand the struggles that officers,

students, faculty and staff will have as a result of this day.

Family members are willing to visit, meet with, write a letter or speak by phone to anyone who needs our help and support. Our mission is to assist those victims of a tragedy with which we are all too familiar.

Please know that our thoughts are with the families of the victims, campus law enforcement and the Virginia Tech and Blacksburg communities at this time.

Joseph Samaha, President,
VTV Family Outreach Foundation
Board of Directors

Lori Haas, Vice President,
VTV Family Outreach Foundation
Board of Directors,
www.vtvfoundation.org

Religious Background

To the Editor:

It is indeed a tragic incident to witness the incident at VA Tech, especially when nearing the holidays. I feel for the loved ones of the fallen and my sincerest condolences go out to them. Our culprit has been identified as Ross Truett Ashley, 22 of Spotsylvania County, but one interesting thought came to mind. Obviously the media wants to know everything about this person and why he did what he did, but there's been no mention of his religious

background. Had this person been a Muslim I'm betting religion would be one of the first things we would hear among his description. Ashley could be a Catholic Christian for all we know, but there will be no mention of it anywhere, so why is it that religion only becomes an issue when a Muslim comes into the scene? I'm not saying religious background should be brought up when a crime is committed, but there seems to be a selected stereotype here.

No religion has or ever did preach causing harm, especially not Islam. Each religion has been introduced at a time when it was needed, when people forgot how to live in peace, when they neglected their humanity. Basically religion was there for the reformation of man, and to encourage a closer connection to our Creator. It is very easy to misunderstand and misinterpret what was taught many, many years ago, so much so that one manages to stray so far from it and goes against logic.

Ashley's acts will never sit well with anyone, but he is proof that anyone can go off the rails, and that it's not a religious thing.

Seher Chowdhry

Pass It On

To the Editor:

My son and I left Westfield High School at the sound of the 2:05 bell today and drove to FFC, Fast

ing rooms. Listen in small groups and individually. Invite teachers and administrators to come out on tour with you. Don't forget to listen to teachers as well as students, parents, administrators and more.

2) Fix large classes. You don't have to reduce the "average" class size. But do something about every class of 30 students or more. It's the exceptionally large classes where students don't even fit in the room that drive parents wild. It doesn't matter if it's a classroom of poor students or wealthy students or something in between, really large classes are not appropriate.

3) Are surveillance cameras really the best use of scarce dollars? No matter what the current board decides to do later this week (likely vote on Dec. 15 after Connection deadline), set the decision aside until after the listening tour.

4) Don't wait for a state law. Instruct administrators to call parents to be present if they plan to question a student about behavior that could result in serious disciplinary measures or legal action.

5) Celebrate the specific and varied successes in Fairfax County Public Schools.

— MARY KIMM,

mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Food Central, for a bite to eat. We took turns talking to the speaker at Burger King to order our food and pulled around to pay at the drive through. The young man, cashier, said something that I thought I miss-heard and I said, "What?" He repeated it again, "The person in the car ahead of you paid for your food. You know, Pass It On."

I looked ahead quickly so I could get out and rush up to this person to thank them profusely, and the person was quickly turning out of my eyesight. I immediately looked in my rearview mirror to pass the act of kindness on, but there was no one in line. I asked the young worker, how can I thank that person? He said, "I told her, God Bless You," and I could tell that he was as excited and touched by this act of kindness, as I was.

I've heard of people doing anonymous acts of kindness, but when it just happened to me, I feel inspired, energized, and my son and I are humbled to our core. I immediately called my sister to tell her about this beautiful act of kindness and hurried home to tell my daughter (who both were also awed by it). I hope this person reads this and realizes she has helped me look for ways to help others and hopefully all of the people I tell and read this will want to do acts of kindness as well.

Sherry Watkins
Centreville

CENTREVIEW

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HOLIDAY GUIDE

The Art of Appreciation

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

From Christmas lists to piles of presents under the tree, the last thing on a child's mind during the holiday season might be expressing appreciation. In fact, mental health experts say, it is one of the hardest concepts to teach children.

Dr. Todd Kashdan, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University, has studied the link between gratitude and happiness and says that people who are grateful tend to be less depressed and anxious.

"When people are mindfully recognizing and appreciating the benefits they receive from other people, positive events linger longer, [and] it is enhancing and strengthening those relationships. There is a strong link between being a grateful person and having the experience of gratitude and having more happiness in your life," said Kashdan, who is also the author of "Designing Positive Psychology" (Oxford University Press) and "Curious? Discover the Miss-

ing Ingredient to a Fulfilling Life."

During the season of giving, Kashdan and other mental health professionals offer tips for parents for teaching gratitude to children.

Children often hand their parents lengthy Christmas lists. Experts say it is difficult for children to feel grateful when their every wish is granted.

"Allow them to [identify] certain things on the list that might be most important to them," said Annette Kielkopf, a marriage and family therapist based in McLean. "[Say to them] 'If Santa isn't able to bring you everything on the list, what would that be like for you?' And talk with them about how to cope and allow them to appreciate the smaller things. What you're trying to do is teach coping skills. You're teaching them how to accept a disappointment and find a diamond in the rough."

Raising grateful children requires that parents model the behavior. "As parents, talk about things that you're grateful for and not strictly material things. That sets a good example so children don't only hear you complaining or nagging them. Kids really do

notice what their parents and the significant people in their lives talk about," said Karen Prince, MSW, LCSW-C, a Kensington-based clinical social worker who specializes in treating children with anxiety and depression.

Kashdan says parents should encourage children to elaborate on why they like a particular gift.

"Spelling out what makes [a

Teaching children to have an attitude of gratitude during the holidays.

gift] a good thing for them gets them to bookmark and underline it in their brain," he said. "You want them to elaborate on it and what they are going to do with it. Having them say thank you without an elaboration is just one more thing that [their] parents are telling them to do."

This strategy works even when children receive gifts that they

don't like. "Sometimes it is difficult [for children] to receive a present that they don't like," said Kielkopf.

"Take the gift and notice and recognize the good things about it. Maybe it is your child's favorite color. It is good to have discussions about gift-giving so that it doesn't become about the gift; it becomes about the gesture."

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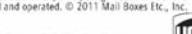
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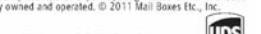
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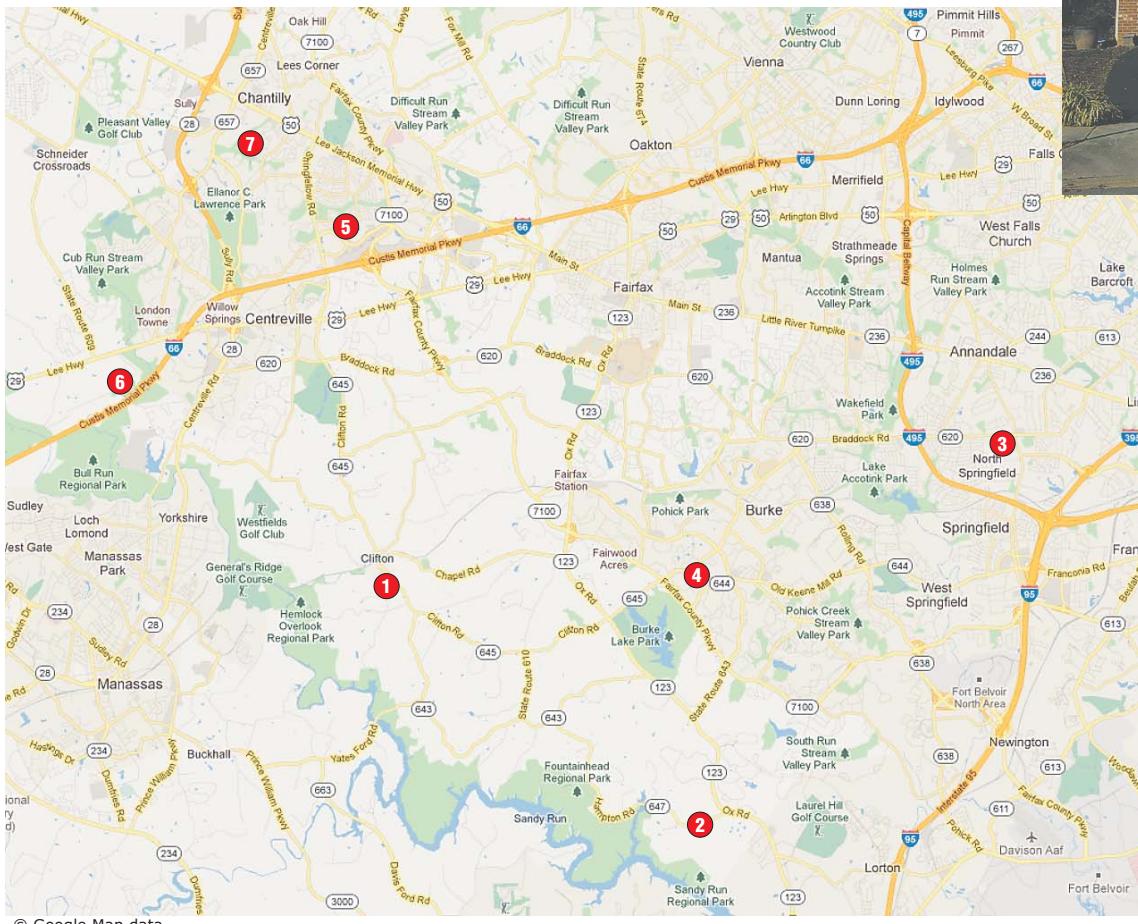
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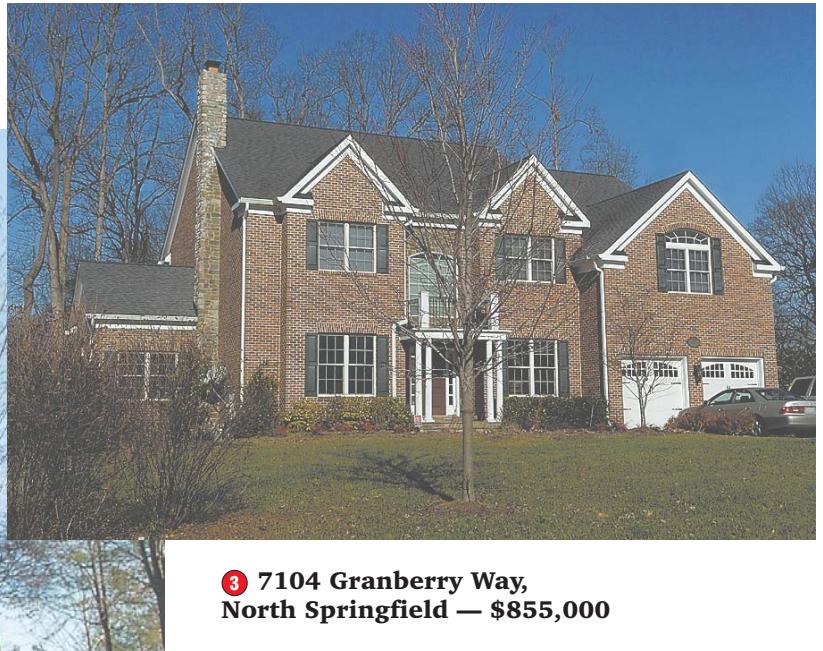
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- 5** 13035 RED ADMIRAL PL 4 .. 4 .. 1 FAIRFAX \$642,500 Detached 0.11 ... 22033 WILLOW OAKS AT FAIR LKS 10/12/11
- 6** 15066 BROWN POST LN 4 .. 3 .. 1..... CENTREVILLE \$615,000 Detached 0.64 ... 20121 GATE POST ESTATES 10/14/11
- 7** 4303 WOODWARD CT 4 .. 3 .. 1..... CHANTILLY \$590,000.... Detached 0.28 ... 20151 WAVERLY CROSSING 10/19/11

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**3 7104 Granberry Way,
North Springfield — \$855,000**



4 6337 Summerday Court, Burke — \$670,000



6 15066 Brown Post Lane, Centreville — \$615,000



7 4303 Woodward Court, Chantilly — \$590,000

NEWS



IAI Honored with Freedom Award

Integrity Applications Incorporated of Chantilly was honored with the 2011 Secretary of Defense Employer Support Freedom Award during a ceremony at The Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, D.C., on Sept. 22. The Freedom Award is the highest recognition given by the Department of Defense to large, small, and public sector employers for their exceptional support of employees serving in the Guard and Reserve. On hand to accept the award was IAI Co-Founder, Chairman and CEO Joseph L. Brickey, co-founders Steven M. Wear, Kenneth A. Abeloe and Paul J. Frommelt, COO William S. Jugus, President David J. Dzaran, Senior Vice President Victor C. See Jr., Vice President of DoD and Civil Programs Daniel E. Crisp, and Vice President of National Programs Michael J. Rigo. IAI System Engineer and US Air Force Reserve Lt. Col. (retired) Darryl W. Brayman, who nominated IAI for Freedom Award recognition, was also on hand to represent IAI.



For Families in Need

Before Thanksgiving, the Knights of Columbus of St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church delivered to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries 120 boxes of holiday food, more than 100 turkeys and 12 miscellaneous meals that they collected to support WFCM's annual Holiday Assistance program.

Police Launch Online Financial Crime Reporting

Phony checks, embezzlement, skimmed credit cards and identity theft are among the fastest growing and most prevalent crimes in Fairfax County. Detectives have investigated more than 2,500 cases of identity theft since 2009. To help streamline these complex financial investigations, detectives and technical staff worked together to create a new Financial Crime Online Reporting System (FICOR) for simpler reporting and quicker response rates for victims.

Residents can learn about common fraud scams, construction fraud, credit card/check theft and fraud, and vital prevention steps. The new web feature clarifies these issues for the public; it's a one-stop shopping area for vital information concerning all aspects of financial crimes.

The FICOR section can be reached by visiting the Fairfax County home page, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police and clicking on financial crimes reporting.

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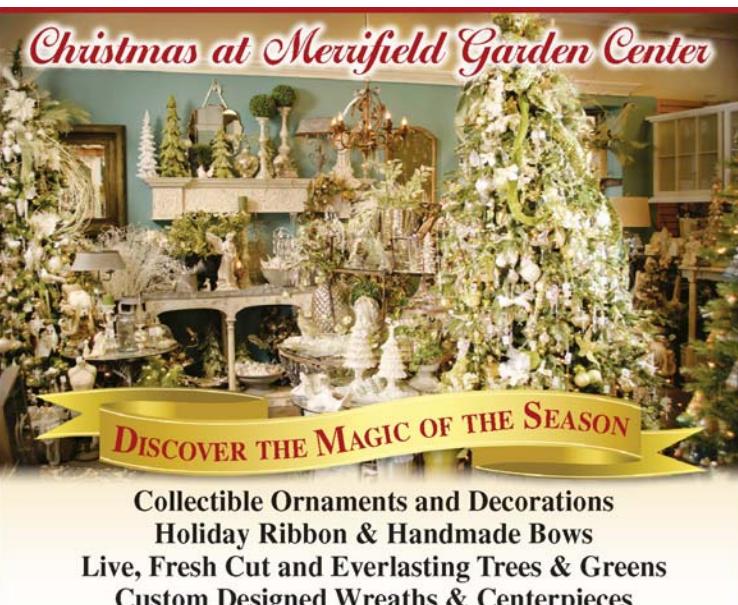
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NOW THROUGH DEC. 25

Enchanted Ice Palace. 10 a.m. At Fair Oaks Mall's Grand Court, the Ice Palace features falling snow, interactive elements, footage of arctic animals and landscapes along with stories and fun facts. The stroll concludes with a visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Guests will have four opportunities to have their pets' pictures taken with Santa. Visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 8

Bull Run Festival of Lights & Holiday Village. Admission: Monday - Thursday \$15 Cars or vans (1-14 people), \$25 Van (15-34 people), \$50 Bus (35 or more people); Friday, Saturday, Sunday & Holidays \$20 Cars or vans (1-14 people), \$30 Van (15-34 people), \$55 Bus (35 or more people). Monday - Thursday: 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.; Fridays - Sunday and holidays: 5:30 to 10 p.m. At Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville.

FRIDAY/DEC. 16

O'Sullivan's Benefit to Beat Pancreatic Cancer. A benefit for Mandy O'Sullivan. 5:30-10 p.m. Features a silent auction, 50-50 raffle, buffet dinner and drinks. Admission is \$15/person; \$60/family max. Call Laura Christie at 703-217-8126, Katie O'Sullivan at 571-289-4785, or email themandyfund@gmail.com. To be held at Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway in Centreville.

Holiday Choral Concert. 7:30 p.m. Free. The choral program at Westfield High School will be performing a concert of traditional and modern Holiday songs on Friday, Dec. 16 at 7:30 p.m.

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Cost is \$15. With the band, King Teddy. Drop-in beginner swing lesson 8:30 to 9 p.m. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

THROUGH DEC. 17

Holiday Candlelight Tours at Sully Historic Site. 5 p.m. Historic holiday candlelight tours of the home of Northern Virginia's first congressman. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Ice Skating Night. 7:30 to 8:40 p.m. Bull Run Elementary School is sponsoring a community-wide skating night. Tickets are \$7/person, which includes admission and skate rental. At the Ashburn Ice House in Ashburn. Email: bresptavp@gmail.com

DEC. 17 AND 18

Ho-Ho-Holiday Show. 2 p.m. Westfield High hosts its annual Ho-Ho Holiday Show. Tickets are \$5; groups of 15 or more are \$4/ticket. More than 100 theater students will perform "The Grinch," "A Charlie Brown Christmas," "Frosty the Snowman," "The Hanukkah Story," "Twas the Night Before Christmas" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer." Email: westfieldtheatreboosters@gmail.com.

SUNDAY/DEC. 18

Christmas Bird Count. The Aubudon Society of Northern Virginia will mark the 112th anniversary of the Christmas Bird Count. Volunteers will count birds in a circle around Centreville. The area includes Manassas National Battlefield, Bull Run Regional Park, undeveloped areas around Bull Run Post Office Road and Dulles Airport. ASNV is seeking volunteers to help. Contact ASNV at info@AUDUBONVA.ORG or call 703-438-6008.

Christmas Cantata. 8:45 a.m. and 11 a.m. Jubilee Christian Center Music Department will perform the Christmas Cantata, "Joy to the World." Jubilee is located at 4650 Shirley Gate Rd., Fairfax. Call 703-383-1170 or see www.jccag.org

WWII Christmas at Sully Historic Site. 5 p.m. Sully Historic Site is all decked out for a WWII era Christmas at home of Northern Virginia's first congressman. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Call 703-437-1794.

DEC. 19-20

Holiday Spectacular. 7 p.m. Chantilly High presents its annual Holiday Spectacular. It features more than 300 students from the school band, choir, theater and orchestra programs in a festive, fun-filled, family event. Tickets are \$10/person at www.chantillychoral.org. Click on the "Buy Tickets Now" tab on the left side of the main page. This show usually sells out prior to the event, so patrons are encouraged to purchase tickets online in advance.

FRIDAY/DEC. 23

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, The Thrillbillies. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Hotel, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.



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Fairfax to Richmond: Do Us No Harm

Transportation funding dominates discussion.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
CENTRE VIEW

The message Fairfax County Board of Supervisors delivered to legislators at its annual 2012 session was summed up in four words: Do us no harm.

"Our theme is basically 'Leave us alone,'" said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), chairman of the board's legislative committee. "We recognize it's difficult this year, and we're begging our legislators not to make it worse for Fairfax County. It doesn't sound collaborative, but we know we lose in all the funding formulas, so we're saying don't make it any worse."

The 2012 General Assembly Legislative Work Session, held at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center on Wednesday, Dec. 7, followed the Boards' unanimous decision to support the 2012 legislative agenda at its regular meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The county's legislative program outlines four priorities: education funding; transportation funding; restoring the decimated level of state funding; and enhancing local authority, giving the county the flexibility to "modernize" its local tax structure, particularly in areas such as taxation and land use.

"I know we're speaking to the choir here," Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-large) said to the mostly Democratic state legislators in the room. "But now is the time for the state to begin the process of rebuilding the funding partnership with local government, by providing adequate funding for core services and avoiding shifting additional state costs and responsibilities to localities."

THE CONCEPT OF DEVOLUTION, or shifting responsibilities from the state to the county, was a heated topic during the three-hour session.

"Basically, devolution means we don't have enough money to go around," said Del. Ken Plum (D-36) "so we end up pushing it down to counties. We're not living up to our end of the bargain."

During the three-hour session, Fairfax County executives said they anticipated mounting funding shortfalls exacerbated by diminishing federal stimulus dollars. At the same time, the state continues to grapple with declining revenue sources.

"The pie has shrunk. The money the state has been able to send us has dropped ... some of that decrease did not feel as bad because of the stimulus," said James J. Regimbal Jr., a consultant from Fiscal Analytics who presented a fiscal forecast of state aid to Fairfax County during the session.

Regimbal said state revenues are not rebounding fast enough after the recession,

which impacts core services such as education, transportation and human services. He predicted that Medicaid and Virginia Retirement System demands will continue to outstrip the state's general fund revenue, putting pressure on state funding for other core programs.

"Without new revenues and expecting modest economic growth, the state will continue to reduce funding for locally-administered, but required programs in the 2012-14 budget. The Governor is going to have to balance the budget. Think about what he might do," Regimbal said.

County Executive Anthony Griffin said Fairfax County's budgetary shortfall is expected to be about \$114 million in Fiscal Year 2013, and the county is taking several steps — including looking at fee increases and analyzing agency cuts of up to 5 per-

"I will not ever, ever, ever, if I have anything to say about it, allow taxes to be put to a referendum. That's what the voters elected you to do ... Plain and simple."

— State Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35)

cent — to bridge the financial gap.

"Quite frankly, we're running out of places to make reductions. This is a struggle now, and it's going to continue to be a struggle for my successor," Griffin said, alluding to his retirement in April 2012.

Griffin said there was some good news. Job growth in Northern Virginia has continued to grow each month since April 2010, and Fairfax County's unemployment rate remains stable at 4.6 percent (which is about 28,000 unemployed residents), compared to 6.4 percent across the state and 9 percent in the nation. He also said families are starting to save money, and the number of foreclosed homes in the county has decreased since Sept. 2010.

Although Gov. Robert McDonnell (R) has not yet proposed specific road devolution legislation, House Republicans have been looking at ways to shift spiraling road-maintenance responsibilities back to localities for several years.

Mark Sickles (D-43) agreed the county's roads are in terrible shape.

"At some point we have to act," he said, suggesting a referendum asking voters to decide whether to increase certain taxes, similar to a 2002 failed referendum on the sales tax, in order to pay for transportation costs.

State Sen. Richard Saslaw (D-35) told the elected officials not to "punt the damn ball."

"I can tell you this: It ain't gonna happen with my vote ... I will not ever, ever, ever, if I have anything to say about it, allow taxes to be put to a referendum. That's what the voters elected you to do. If they don't like what you did, they will show you the door the next election. We have no business putting revenue-raising measures to a referendum. Plain and simple."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he thought road devolution was viable if done correctly.

"It's not going to be pain-free, but there are ways to do it," Cook said. "If we're going to have the responsibility, we ought to own the streets. And if we're going to own them ... we ought to have the mechanisms to raise the money we need to raise," Cook said.

"Would you be supportive of raising taxes to do it?" Bulova asked. Cook did not respond.

ON THURSDAY, DEC. 8, the Governor outlined his transportation policy and funding plans for the upcoming 2012 General Assembly session. Speaking to more than 700 industry and transportation agency professionals during the 2011 Governor's Transportation Conference in Norfolk, McDonnell called for changes in laws governing the allocation of future surpluses to transportation, dedicating portions of revenue growth attributable to transportation infrastructure projects to transportation and increasing the portion of sales tax dedicated to transportation.

His strategy also includes providing matching funds for localities maintaining their own roads — a measure that local officials say is a step towards "road devolution."

Several legislators, including state Senators Chap Petersen (D-34), Dave Marsden (D-37), Janet Howell (D-32) and Del. Ken Plum said they will hold Governor McDonnell to his promise of a dedicated source of revenue for a transportation bond package passed last session.

"There's a fundamental disconnect," Marsden said. "Any transportation solution is not acceptable if it doesn't come with money ... What we were promised was a funding stream and not the transfer of responsibility to localities. I think we need to let the governor know this is not acceptable."

"Keep this in mind," Saslaw said, "I don't suspect anything is going to happen in 2012 because the Governor wants to get on the presidential ticket," Saslaw said.



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/CENTRE VIEW

School Board member Ted Velkoff (D-At-large), Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) and Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) at the meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and the Fairfax County delegation to the General Assembly on Wed. Dec. 7 at the McConnell Public Safety Transportation and Operations Center.

Fairfax County leaders have been unequivocal in their opposition to any prospect of road devolution, saying it's tantamount an unfunded mandate that would force the County to increase property taxes.

"It's a major concern for anyone who cares about transportation, but frankly anyone who cares about anything else localities have to keep up because all those elements would be affected," said McKay. "My greatest fear is that [with road devolution] we would be pitting roads against schools and public safety."

Tom Biesiadny, director of Fairfax County's Department of Transportation, estimated that Fairfax County would have to make a one-time investment of up to \$208 million to take local control of local roads, which would mean a property tax increase of about \$479 for the average household.

He said that localities that maintain their own roads typically spend about 25 percent more than what the state allocates. For example, he noted that in Fiscal Year 2010, Arlington spent \$18 million, while the state spent \$15 million.

"Counties in Northern Virginia already spend millions of dollars a year to mitigate the effects of state underfunding of road construction, which has created some of the worst traffic in the nation," Biesiadny said.

Bulova added that if counties are required to maintain their secondary roads, the resulting disparity in road conditions will affect Virginia's ability to attract business.

"Once a crisis in Northern Virginia, transportation needs are now catastrophic throughout the Commonwealth ... In Northern Virginia alone, the long-range transportation plan estimates the region needs \$700 million per year in additional transportation funding to address its transportation problems," the Fairfax legislative agenda states.

During the roundtable discussion, Del.

Westfield High Presents Show of Six Children's Plays

FROM PAGE I

to consider each actor, not just what you're doing."

Biagini directed Westfield's VTA competition piece, "Oleanna," so this play marks his second time at the helm. Toughest, he said, is "dealing with the actors' time-schedule conflicts, because this isn't someone's entire life. But I enjoy seeing things come together."

Schmidt said the audience will like their play's humor and the overall variety of shows in the whole production. "They're not just about Christmas," she said. "And 'Twas the Night before Christmas' is a dance show."

As for "Frosty," added Biagini, "I think the kids will enjoy the big personas the actors bring to the stage."

A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS'

Nick Burroughs and Chaz Coffin are directing "A Charlie Brown Christmas" together. The cast of 11 features Brandon Sanchez as Charlie Brown, Madeleine Bloxam as Lucy, Mitchell Buckley as Linus, Rachel Moser as Sally, Julian Sanchez as Schroeder and David Koenigsberg as Snoopy.

"Things are going well," said Burroughs. "We're putting final touches on the show now. Because it's such a classic and so famous, the audience will enjoy seeing it onstage and recognizing some of the differences between the cartoon and our version."

"The children will like the slapstick, the colorful costumes and the comedy," said Coffin. "And we'll also have some holiday music playing."

Thrilled to be a director, he said doing so as a student "makes me feel like I've grown

in this department and have finally gotten to the place every actor waits for — being a director." Coffin said the most difficult thing about directing is "organizing everything onstage so the audience will respond to the play positively."

"Directing is a lot harder than I realized," said Burroughs. "It's not just the staging, but getting everybody in the same place at the same time and focused on the same objective."

Regarding their play, said Coffin, "The children attending the show will flip over all these characters they usually see on TV and read about in storybooks."

Added Burroughs: "A lot of people come back to see this show, year after year, like a holiday tradition for them, and new audiences will be able to do the same thing."

THE HANUKKAH STORY'

Although the subject is serious, "The Hanukkah Story" is presented as a comedy. Directed by Bryan Pitt, it has a cast of 13, including Zoe Hawryluk as Judy Macabee, the leader of the Jews, and Zack Walsh as King Antiochus, the king of the Greeks.

"It's the story of how the Greeks invaded Israel and took over their land, and how the Israelites got it back," said Pitt. Narrating are Sy and Celia, portrayed by Alex Mann and Ali Koenigsberg, respectively.

"They're an old, Jewish couple telling this story to the audience while the actors show what happened," said Pitt. "It's a split stage where half is the real world and half is the flashback world. I think the audience will love it. There are a bunch of clever bits, jokes and puns we put in for the adults, plus plenty of physical comedy for the kids."

He said directing's fun because "you get

to work with so many different people. It's more about teamwork and getting a group of individuals who don't have anything in common, besides a love of theater, to work together to make the best story possible."

'NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS'

Directing "'Twas the Night before Christmas" is Corinne Holland, and the story is told mainly through dance. "There are narrators and a family with children," said sophomore Emily Tobin. "It's the children's dream of the fairies vs. the rats, but the reindeer, rats and fairies don't speak."

In this vignette, the nutcracker and the rat king fight, and the fairies all turn into reindeer. Santa Claus brings presents and all the reindeer do a kickline dance led by Rudolph.

"It appeals to kids because it's almost all music and dancing," said Tobin. "The girls will like the fairies and the boys will like the rats." Regarding the whole "Ho-Ho Holiday Show," she said, "It will be wonderful because we have great actors and it's just fun stuff to watch."

'RUDOLPH THE RED-NOSED REINDEER'

The 12-person cast of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" includes T.J. Vinsavich as Rudolph; Annie Snyder as an elf; Olivia Joseph as Rudolph's love interest, Cupid; and Taber Singh as Rudolph's arch enemy, Blitzen. Directing are Kelsey Thompson and Sophia Alam.

"The plot follows the song, and we added how Rudolph interacts with the other reindeer," said Alam. "We also added an elf and an elf helper — an elf-in-training who tries to be like the leader elf."

Besides that, she said she and Thompson gave this story more modern jokes that the audience will understand and relate to. They also made it more humorous than in past years so, said Alam, "The stereotypical characters are really funny. And hopefully, at the end, the children will learn a nice lesson that we're all different, but we're all friends."

She said directing is challenging because "you want everyone to have fun and the actors to be comfortable. But at the same time, they need to be focused and ready to work and make a commitment. So that can be a bit stressful. But I enjoy helping actors find their voice and teaching them ways to act in front of other people. I try to bring the best out of them and show them they can do it."

'THE GRINCH'

Directed by Colby Dezelick and Dieter Stach, "The Grinch" has nine characters and stars Dezelick as the Grinch, Sam Dempsey as Cindy Lou Who and Bryan Pitt as Max. "The actors are picking up things really quickly," said Stach. "They bring a lot of good ideas to the table so the group dynamic is fun."

Stach is typically a sound engineer, so this show marks his first time directing. "I'm glad to be working with Colby," he said. "We share a lot of the same ideas, and it's fun to watch our initially rough ideas come together."

In this vignette, Stach reads the story and the actors react to it. "We're also putting in some quirky acting bits and scenarios that should be fun for the audience," he said. "It's a classic, Dr. Seuss tale that shows what Christmas is all about."

Resident Secretly Represented Pakistan

FROM PAGE I

America related to Kashmir.

Fai served as the director of the Kashmiri American Council (KAC), a non-governmental organization in Washington, D.C., that purported to be run by Kashmiris, financed by Americans and dedicated to raising the level of knowledge in the U.S. about the struggle of the Kashmiri people for self-determination. But according to court documents, the KAC was secretly funded by officials employed by the government of Pakistan, including the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISI).

"For the last 20 years, Mr. Fai secretly took millions of dollars from Pakistani intelligence and lied about it to the U.S. government," said U.S. Attorney Neil MacBride. "As a paid operative of ISI, he did the bidding of his handlers in Pakistan while he met with U.S. elected officials, funded high-profile conferences and promoted the Kashmiri cause to decision-makers in Washington."

"Mr. Fai purposefully hid financial transactions from the U.S. government, with intentions that his scheme to fund lobbying efforts by a foreign government

would go unnoticed," said FBI Assistant Director in Charge James McJunkin. "[But] the FBI will detect and defeat those who attempt to surreptitiously exert foreign influence on our government by using agents who conceal their foreign affiliation."

Arrested July 19, Fai appeared last Wednesday, Dec. 7, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria and entered his guilty pleas before Judge Liam O'Grady. He could now receive as much as five years in prison for the conspiracy offense, plus a possible three years incarceration for the tax violation, when he's sentenced on March 9, 2012. As part of his plea agreement, Fai will forfeit \$142,851.32 seized from him by the government in July.

"The Tax Division is committed to prosecuting any individual who illegally uses the tax-exempt status of charitable entities to promote or conceal federal crimes," said Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General John DiCiccio.

Doing so, added IRS Special Agent in Charge Jeannine Hammett, "harms all Americans, as we all have to pay our fair share for the government services and protections that we enjoy."

Fai admitted in court that, from 1990 until about July 18 of this year, he lied to and defrauded the U.S. government. And according to court documents, Fai told FBI agents in March 2007 that he'd never met anyone who identified himself as being affiliated with the ISI. Then in May 2009, he falsely denied to the IRS on a tax return for the KAC that the KAC had received any money from foreign sources in 2008.

Furthermore, court documents state that, in April 2010, Fai sent a letter to the Justice Department claiming that the Pakistani government didn't fund the KAC. He also told the IRS that the KAC hadn't received any money from foreign sources in 2009. Again, in July 2011, Fai lied to the FBI that neither he nor the KAC received money from the ISI or from Pakistan.

But in fact, U.S. authorities say he repeatedly submitted annual KAC strategy reports and budgetary requirements to Pakistani government officials for approval. In 2009, they say, these documents included his plans to "secure U.S. congressional support for U.S. action in support

20 Months Prison

FROM PAGE I

payments from authorities by transferring them, via associates, from Iraq to Armenia.

Manok was sentenced last week by U.S. District Court Judge Anthony J. Trenga. Following completion of his prison term, he'll be on three years supervised release. A forfeiture hearing is slated for Jan. 13, 2012, to determine how much money he owes the federal government because of his crime.

This case was investigated by the FBI's Washington Field Office, the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General, the Army Criminal Investigation Command and the Defense Criminal Investigative Service. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul J. Nathanson and trial attorney Mary Ann McCarthy of the Criminal Division's Fraud Section.

This prosecution is part of efforts underway by President Barack Obama's inter-agency Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force. Obama established this task force as a way of waging a coordinated effort to investigate and prosecute financial crimes. For more information, go to www.stopfraud.gov.

SEE CONVICTED, PAGE 18

Getting into the 'Right Fit' Private School

Experts explain how to navigate admissions process for area's most elite schools.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Each year, parents who opt out of their neighborhood public school in favor of an independent school must sift through the long list of the Washington area's independent schools to find one that meets the needs of their child.

They must then navigate the lengthy application required by most schools, and hope that their efforts are deft enough to gain acceptance in a competitive environment. Some schools report receiving as many as nine applications for each available slot.

Even for prospective pre-kindergarten students, the independent school admissions process often includes a written application, admissions tests, parent statements, student interviews, parent interviews, playdates, school visits, transcripts and teacher recommendations.

"What we're trying to do is get a whole picture of a child and look at information from a variety of different sources," said Christina Tait, director of admission and financial aid at The Langley School in McLean.

THE APPLICATION PACKETS provide insight for both the school and the applicants. "We have a fairly detailed process so that we get to know the girls and they get to know us," said Pilar Cabeza de Vaca, head of the Madeira School in McLean. "Our goal is to find girls who are the right fit for our school and for whom our school is the right fit."

The role of each component of the application varies depending on the age of the applicant. "The admission [process] for young children is especially complex and difficult because we have to use both explicit and intuitive measures because we have less data," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria. "If you were looking at a ninth grade [admissions] folder, you would have eight years of report cards and maybe four years of standardized testing. You are also able to interview [older applicants] in a different way than when you are interacting with the young children."

Why is so much probing necessary?

"Schools are looking for consis-

tency in grades, attitude, testing and recommendations," said Lindsay White, educational consultant with the School Counseling Group in Washington, D.C. "[For example] If there is a huge difference between a [teacher] recommendation and what they are seeing on the grades, that is going to be a red flag."

Most schools want prospective applicants to spend time on campus. "The [school] visit is important to us. It gives the boy and his family a chance to experience the Heights first hand," said Richard Moss, director of admission at the Heights School in Potomac, Md. "On the flip side, it gives us a chance to really get to know the boy. How is he interacting with his peers? Is he friendly? Is he courteous? Does he have a good, firm handshake? Does he look the teachers in the eye when he greets them in the morning?"

Most applications ask parents to answer questions describing their children. Here are two questions from the Langley School's application: What do you believe is your role as a parent in your child's education? What qualities do you consider to be most important for your child's education?

Consultants say schools look at the way parents answer questions. "There are a lot of parents who regurgitate the school's mission statement and all the language that is used on the school's website. Schools can see right through that," said educational consultant Clare Anderson, of Chevy Chase, Md. "They want to know that the family is in line with how [the school] works with students and [their] approach to education."

Schools also pay attention to a parent's evaluation of their child. "Red flags go up when everything is just perfect and they've never encountered a setback or difficulty," said Anderson. "[Schools] are looking for honest, candid responses. Obviously parents are going to frame it in a positive light, as they should."

Most schools require admissions tests. Depending on the age and grade of the child, these tests include the Wechsler Preschool and Primary Scale of Intelligence (WPPSI-III), Wechsler Intelligence Scale for Children (WISC) and the Secondary School Admission Test for (SSAT).

"Testing often creates the most anxiety," said Dunning, of St.

Stephen's & St. Agnes.

THE TESTS are used differently depending on the age of the applicant. "Tests for [young children] are used as standardized tools to give an overall picture of a child's learning profile. These are not predictors for academic success. They give broad overviews of how a child learns," said Anderson. Tests given to middle and high school applicants are more meaningful. "Those tests measure how well your child has done with the information he or she has learned in school. If they see an eighth grader who has only average grades, but remarkable SSATs, they are going to ask, 'Is this an underachiever? Why is this child not excelling in the classroom?'"

Should children prepare for tests? When it comes to young children, most consultants say no. "It is unethical and makes your test scores invalid," said Anderson. "You are going to shoot yourself in the foot [if you prep your young child]. Your child will be the first to announce it either in the tester's office or at the school on the playdate. Then the scores are invalid."

The scenario is different for those applying for slots in middle and upper school. "I've had students who've taken [admissions tests] without prep, and then I worked with them and their scores [went] up considerably," said Christa Abbott, an Arlington-based independent test prep tutor.

Anderson agrees. "Just like you preheat your oven, you've got to get your child ready for the test. Just knowing the format of the test can really help," said Anderson. "But I caution parents about [taking expensive test prep classes]. There has to be a primary concern that something is going to get in the way of your child being able to show what he or she knows."

SOME PARENTS hire educational consultants like White or Anderson, hoping to get a competitive advantage. Consultants say their role is to guide families through the process. "The number one mistake that I think parents make is thinking that hiring an educational consultant is going to give them an advantage at a very competitive school," said Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association in Fairfax. "That is just not the way the system



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE MADEIRA SCHOOL

The Madeira volleyball team recently won the Independent Student League title.

works. Consultants don't have a secret handshake that they can use with an admissions director to help get a student in. The reason you hire an educational consult-

ant is to find a good fit between a student's needs and a school's strengths. A consultant's role is to [identify] a school where a child is going to thrive."

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A Promise Kept

Lori Cleveland, Greenbriar West Elementary School principal, challenged the students to meet a fundraising goal by selling 1,000 coupon books. They stepped up and met her challenge. In exchange both the principal and assistant principal Lauryn Campbell (left) volunteered to work from the roof for a day. On Monday, Nov. 28, Cleveland and Campbell greeted the children from the roof, worked at their make-shift desk, and tossed candy to the students as they passed by on the sidewalk. The students were thrilled to see the administrators fulfill their promise and the PTA is thrilled to have funds to support many activities this year.



Sharing Poetry

Kalli Dakos, former Fairfax County Public Schools teacher and now poet, came to Union Mill Elementary to share her poetry with fifth graders. Her books of poetry include, "If You're Not Here Please Raise Your Hand" and "The Bug in Teacher's Coffee." She also shared her newest book of poems, "A Funeral in the Bathroom," where she explained the setting of all of the poems in the book is the school bathroom. The students were able to participate in several poems and principal Kathleen Case was called into action by kissing Hamlet, the pig in the poem "Our Principal Kissed a Pig." Dakos explained that the poem is based on a real experience where a school principal promised to kiss a pig if the students read 10,000 books that year. Her poem is told from the point of view of the pig who does not want to be kissed by the principal. Dakos encouraged the students to find poetry everywhere they look and to write it all down in a special notebook.



Supporting Food Pantry

Thirteen girls from St. Timothy School Brownie Troop #1295 shopped last week at Bloom for the traditional holiday trimmings to put into their Thanksgiving gift basket they were creating for a needy family in the area. They each made a card for their adopted family, decorated the boxes and filled the boxes complete with a complete Thanksgiving Feast. They also included a \$25 Bloom gift card for their family to purchase a turkey; Bloom also gave the girls a \$10 gift certificate to add to their basket. This year the food pantry — with the help of St. Timothy School in Chantilly and the church community — will provide 100 local families with a Thanksgiving basket full of food, and grocery gift cards. If interested in helping St. Vincent dePaul Society provide Thanksgiving baskets this year, contact St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry at eileensvdp@gmail.com. Above are (back row) Ariel Laptad, Mariah Bayha, Stephanie Ghyzel, Kristine Tran, Emma Pollock, Madi Pollock, Sarah Poole, (middle row) Kellyn McNulty, Sophia Whitfield, Daniella Brown, (front row) Mazeray Bayha, Caleb Pollock and Christina Cupelli.



Collecting Gifts for Our Neighbor's Child

Virginia Run Elementary School held a Community Outreach Program collection the first week of December. The students brought in new, unwrapped gifts for the children that Our Neighbor's Child supports. Our Neighbor's Child is a non-profit, community-based organization, which started out in 1992 by providing holiday gifts for children in low-income families in western Fairfax County. Last year, ONC and their volunteers served more than 2,300 children in our communities. The Student Council Association members Tanner Lydic, Bobby Pickett, Michael Leo, Maggie Masterson, Nancy Mullins, and Kari Cochran were responsible for collecting the gifts every day from the classrooms. More than 1,000 new gifts were collected. The school's mascot, Victor the Viking, was on hand to promote the collection.



Thanksgiving Luncheon

Two "pilgrims" enjoy Thanksgiving luncheon at Lees Corner Elementary recently.



Collecting Toys

Poplar Tree Elementary School's "Just Say No" club recently completed the school-wide annual toy drive. All the toys collected were given to "Our Neighbor's Child," a local group which assists families in the Centreville and Chantilly area. Pictured here with 10 boxes of toys are 6th grade Poplar Tree students: Front row: Vishal Reddy, Megan Meyers, Flora Baxter, Sonya Spiewak. Back row: Nick Gercken, Steven Risi, Matthew Gabro, Harrison Shay and Colton Applegate.

SPORTS

Pohanka Acura and Chantilly High School are once again teaming up to host one of the top holiday basketball tournaments in the Washington, D.C. area — the **19th Annual Pohanka Chantilly Holiday Classic** (boys' and girls') — set to take place Dec. 27-29 at Chantilly High School.

This year's showcase will feature 16 schools from Northern Virginia, Virginia Beach, Maryland, and Wash., D.C. in a three-day chase for the title. Last year's tournament featured some of the best and exciting basketball in its history.

On the boys' side, the defending champion Chantilly Chargers feature an up tempo style of play with senior Brady Caslavka, freshmen Tyler Femi and Dylan Madawo, and 6-10 inch center Aaron Rodenas. The Chargers are looking to defend their tournament championship from 2010 and will be going for their fourth crown in five years.

In addition to Chantilly, the boy's bracket will feature improving programs such as South County Secondary and Stuart High, both from the Northern Region.

The South County boys return big man Marquiee Johnson, one of the area's top front court players. Chantilly and South County played in last year's finals, with Chantilly winning.

Other boys' teams will include Mills Godwin, traditionally one of the Richmond area's finest programs, as well as Wilson High (D.C.), Mountain View (Stafford), Green Run (Virginia Beach), and Forest Park (Woodbridge).

The girl's tournament will also feature an array of teams, including Georgetown Visitation, Langley, Mills Godwin, and Deep Run (Glen Allen, Va.). Georgetown Visitation, a private school member of the Independent School League, is traditionally one of the top teams in the area and returns to defend its 2010 championship. Kate Gillespie, last year's tournament MVP, returns for Visitation this year.

Admission is \$6 for an all-day pass and \$15 for a 3-day pass. Concessions will be open and feature many of the area's local restaurant menu items. Chantilly High students with their high school ID's or any Chantilly Youth Association (CYA) basketball players, under the age of 12 and wearing their team uniform shirt, will get a \$3 discount if they are with a paying adult.

The first day (Tuesday, Dec. 27) schedule of games are as follows: Georgetown Visitation versus Langley (girls' game, 9 a.m.); Deep Run versus Thomas Jefferson (girls' game, 10:45 a.m.); Mills Godwin versus Robinson (girls' game, 12:45 p.m.); Mills Godwin versus Mountain View (boys' game, 2:15 p.m.); Wilson versus Forest Park (boys' game, 4 p.m.); Green Run versus South County (boys' game, 5:45); George Mason versus Chantilly (girls' game, 7 p.m.); and Stuart versus Chantilly (boys' game, 9 p.m.).

For updated bracket information throughout the tournament please call the Chantilly High sports hotline at 703-448-4909 or go to chantillysports.org.

Northern Region high school cross country standouts Sophie Chase (Lake Braddock Secondary), Ahmed Bile (Annandale High), and Sean

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Chantilly High's Sean McGorty, shown here running at the Virginia High School League triple-A Championships last month, finished 10th place overall at last Saturday's National Foot Locker Championships in San Diego.

McGorty (Chantilly High) each had solid showings at last Saturday's Foot Locker Cross Country National Championships in San Diego.

Chase, a junior at Lake Braddock, finished 11th place overall among a field of 40 girls' runners. She timed at 17 minutes, 45 seconds.

In the boys' race, McGorty and Bile finished 10th and 12th place, respectively, with times of 15:28 and 15:30. The Nationals event took place at Morley Field, Balboa Park in San Diego.

4 Star Tennis Academy in Merrifield, a fixture in the Fairfax County community since 1973, was recently certified as a United States Tennis Association (USTA) Training Center. Over the years, 4 Star has helped develop numerous collegiate and professional players in the Northern Region. Khamp Bounkong, the director of business development for 4 Star Tennis Academy, said lots of positive pressures come along with the status of being associated with the USTA. Bounkong can be reached at Khamp@KBSportsMgmt.com.

Fire and Ice 16U, a competitive girls travel softball team, is looking for a pitcher, catcher, infielder and an outfielder/utility player to join its team for winter training and for the 2012 season. For more information or to set up a personal tryout, contact John Mehalic at 703-969-7310 or go to mehcrew@aol.com.

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NEWS

Convicted

FROM PAGE 14

of Kashmiri self-determination.” Fai also admitted not telling the IRS that, from 1990 until July 18, he arranged for at least \$3.5 million to be transferred to the KAC from ISI and Pakistani government employees. Court documents explain that he did so via his co-defendant Zaheer Ahmad, 63 — a U.S. citizen living in Pakistan — plus middlemen (straw donors), whom Ahmad reimbursed with ISI and Pakistani-government funds for their alleged charitable — and therefore tax-deductible — “donations” to the KAC.

Conducting the investigation into this case were the Washington field offices of the FBI and the IRS criminal-investigation division. Prosecuting it are Assistant U.S. Attorneys Gordon Kromberg and Daniel Grooms; trial attorney John Gibbs of the Counterterrorism Section of the Justice Department’s National Security Division; and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Allison Ickovic from the Justice Department’s Tax Division.

AT THE LIBRARIES

THURSDAY/DEC. 15

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Stories and activities. Age 2 with caregiver. 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/DEC. 17

Practice Your English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Conversation group for adults learning English. 703-830-2223.

MONDAY/DEC. 19

N2Reading: Book Discussion. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Last Holiday Concert by Andrew Clements. Age 9-12, accompanying adults welcome. 703-830-2223.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Ask for title. Adults. 703-830-2223.

Kinder-Budds: Book Buddies for Kindergarteners. 2 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. “Hi! Fly Guy” by Tedd Arnold. 703-502-3883.

Number One Budds: Book Buddies for First Graders. 3 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. “Diary of a Killer Cat” by Anne Fine. 703-502-3883.

Mysterious Monday Book Club. 4 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Book discussion group for 3rd-4th graders. Ask for title. 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/DEC. 20

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories & activities. Age 2-3 with adult. 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/DEC. 27

Thriving Three to Fives. 11 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. 703-830-2223.

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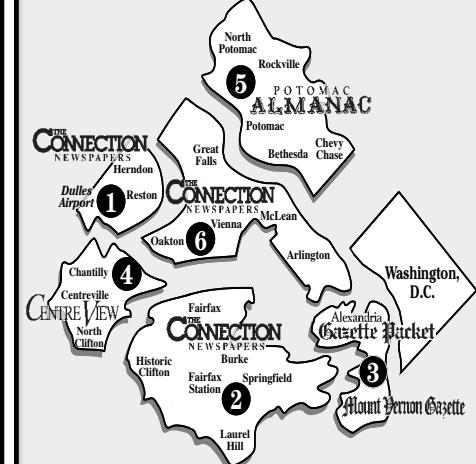
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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How does one not become consumed with something that is all-consuming? Moreover, how does that same one take certain information in stride that potentially is anything but stride-worthy? And if one were not to be all-consumed by the information that, disturbing as it was, was in fact taken in stride, how does that one not feel guilty and/or responsible about neglecting to act – if there was even anything to be done about the unsettling news that may have spawned this initial paragraph?

I don't. I can't. I won't. Somehow.

Not that I received any news of late that was particularly jarring or life-abbreviating but, as a terminal patient, so far as I know (and how far do I really know, since I've never been a terminal patient before), information that is not positive is negative (almost by definition) and the fine line of life upon which I straddle every minute of every day becomes that much more difficult to sustain, especially if the negative begins to overtake the positive. I have equated the sensation to taking the first few curious steps across a newly frozen pond – in winter, each step more precarious than the last, waiting for the cracking – or not, and the associated fear. You want to go forward, but not at your own peril. Yet going backward seems equally ill-advised. I mean, you've been there and done that. Backwards represents the past. Forward represents the future. Personally, I don't want to live in the past. I want to live in the present/future. Receiving results which prevent you from going forward – which may stop you in your tracks, are not so much safe as they are insecure. For me, it's all about momentum. I don't want to lose what progress I've gained, nor do I want to retrace my steps. However, survival may be about knowing when to redirect those energies/treatment, to rest and/or retreat (to fight another day) and to work with your body, not against it.

But who knows? For a terminal patient, changes in anything are disproportionately significant. It could mean anything. It could mean nothing. Objectivity disappears the day your oncologist tells you have an incurable disease. Accordingly, it's extremely difficult to shrug off any abnormal medical findings. How do I not think that the beginning of the end starts at the end of the beginning? The point at which my body begins to weaken and reveal indicators that reflect a body in distress and one whose underlying diagnosis is starting to assert itself and break down all the barriers that have been constructed (metaphorically speaking) over the previous 34 months?

In summary, how do I interpret change? For the better? The worse? Meaningful? Meaningless? As a cancer patient who has now outlived his original prognosis ("13 months to two years") by a rather significant amount of time, how do I remain objective about lab work, urine specimens, diagnostic scans, etc.? I can't. However, worrying about any or all of it likely produces no real tangible benefit either, whereas not worrying about it, not stressing about it might, anecdotally speaking, anyway. Unfortunately, worrying and stressing are not simply emotions I can switch off, especially when you're consumed by a terminal disease, whether figuratively or worse, literally.

Diagnosis to date, my cancer-related problems have been figurative, mostly. Nevertheless, it's difficult to not react negatively when results are changing right before your eyes, literally. Yet somehow, I have to. If I don't, I'll likely make matters worse. And given my underlying stage IV lung-cancer diagnosis, I probably don't need to go out of my way to cause any more trouble. It's already found me.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for
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Shelter House Inc. and Barnes & Noble

Fairfax are partnering together to ensure that homeless children at Shelter House's the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter receive books for the holiday season. From now through Jan. 1, 2012, customers entering Barnes and Noble Fairfax will be given the option upon checkout of donating a book to a child in the shelter. All books collected will be given to the children residing in the shelter. The Book Drive for the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter will run at the Fairfax Barnes and Noble store in the Fair Lakes Promenade Shopping Center at the corner of Monument and Fair Lakes Parkway.

The Chantilly Carolers bring cheer to holiday events and enliven festivities with their renditions of timeless, seasonal classics. Whatever the occasion — corporate function, community event, private party — these singers from Chantilly High's nationally acclaimed,

advanced-choral performing groups add a special touch to holiday gatherings. To hear a sample of their singing, go to www.chantillychoral.org. To book one of the caroling ensembles, e-mail caroling@chantillychoral.org. Proceeds from their performances help raise funds for their annual trips to compete against choral groups from around the nation.

White House Ornament Sale. The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2011 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors the 26th president, Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt. This ornament features a view of the White House with Santa approaching carrying a bag full of toys. The 2011 ornaments cost \$19. Proceeds benefit charity. Order yours now by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments.

BUSINESS NOTES

HomeAid Northern Virginia of Chantilly

, which builds and renovates homeless shelters, transitional houses, food banks, medical clinics, counseling centers, and other facilities that help homeless families and individuals, announced that Doug Smith, president, Miller & Smith, has won its annual Presidents' Award and that John Darvish Construction has won its Trade Partner of the Year Award.

The Presidents' Award, presented to an individual, a company or an organization that has shown exceptional dedication to the goal of ending homelessness with service to HomeAid Northern Virginia, is the

organization's highest honor. The Trade Partner of the Year Award is presented to a vendor, trade partner or industry partner who has gone above and beyond in their service to HomeAid.

Want to improve one's communication skills? Then visit the TASC Toastmasters Club and learn how membership can help one succeed. Meets Wednesday afternoons from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Northrop Grumman Building, Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Contact Adim Okwudishu at 410-227-0177 or Email: adimkris@gmail.com. Visit www.tasctoastmasters.org

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

THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Traditional Anglican Service
1928 book of Common Prayer

One Sunday Service - 10:00 am
(CHURCH SCHOOL & NURSERY)
13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA
703-830-3176
www.thechurchoftheascension.org

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



Centreville United Methodist Church

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

Worshiping God ~ Serving Others

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

Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church


Loving Christ


Loving People

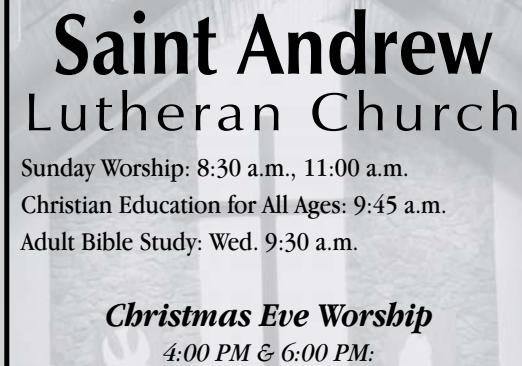

Serving the World

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

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.

Christmas Eve Worship
4:00 PM & 6:00 PM:
Family Worship with Live Nativity
9:00 PM & 11:00 PM:
Carols, Candlelight & Communion

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

Celebrate Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church

Sunday Worship Services	Dec 3 & 4	6:00 pm
8:00 am & 9:30 am	Children's Musical	
Celebration Service	Dec. 17 & 18	6:00 pm
11:00 am	Dramatic Christmas Presentation	
Contemporary Service	Dec. 24	4:00 pm
Sunday Bible Study	Family Christmas Eve Service	
9:30 am & 11:00 am	6:00 pm & 8:00 pm	
	Candlelight Christmas Eve Services	

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





Mount Olive Baptist Church
6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville, VA 20121
Phone: 703 830-8769; Fax: 703 830-6718
www.mountolive-church.org
E-Mail: mtolive@mountolive-church.org





Rev. Dr. Eugene Johnson, Pastor

Service Times:

Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Children's Church and Jr. Youth Church:	
During regular Worship Service	
Sunday School	(9:00-9:45 AM/ All ages)
Spiritual Development Courses:	(8:45-9:45 AM)
Youth Sunday Morning Worship:	10:30 AM
(Rev. Bobby J. Ford Jr., Youth Minister)	
Holy Communion (Third Sunday)	10:00 AM
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/ Bible Study	
and Spiritual Development Courses:	7:00 PM
(Includes Youth Bible Study)	



Centreville United Methodist Church

11:02 AM Contemporary Worship Service

Every Sunday in the ROC (Recreation and Outreach Center)

Contemporary Music ~ Connections Praise Band

Interactive Prayer Stations

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

Weekly Communion Table Open to All

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