

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left: Docents John Carter and Tom Anderson stand outside the Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum in Centreville.

Centreville's Civil War Past

Travel back in time via the Stuart-Mosby Museum.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Few communities are lucky enough to have a Civil War museum in their midst; Centreville is one of them. The Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum first invited the public in for a peek during last fall's Centreville Day. But it opened officially in June.

It's a small building in Centreville's Historic District, but it's jam-packed with memorabilia about two famous Confederate leaders, Gen. James Ewell Brown (J.E.B.) Stuart and Col. John Singleton Mosby.

The curator is Howard Crouch but, often, volunteer docents are there to provide information and answer visitors' questions. On a recent Saturday, the docents were Tom Anderson and John Carter.

"First, we find out people's level of knowledge about Mosby and Stuart," said Carter. "Sometimes, people want to see if they're related to them or if their ancestors might have ridden with them. And if you're from Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William or Fauquier counties, there's a good chance."

Mosby served under Stuart, the entire war; but later on, Mosby had his own, independent command, the 43rd Battalion, Virginia Cavalry. During the war, said Anderson, "They mostly had established places where Stuart and his men would meet to go on a mission." Afterward, added Carter, "They'd disburse and go home to keep secret where they'd been."

The structure housing the museum has its own, interesting history. "The old Four Chimney, or Grigsby House, fell down over the years," said Carter. "The chimney remnants and foundations were used to build this house in 1937 on Lee Highway. It served as a home and a gas station, and [Centreville Realtor] Dennis Hogge later bought it and moved it here."

Centreville's Claudette Ward, who's a member
SEE CENTREVILLE'S CIVIL WAR, PAGE 3



A display of Civil War weapons.

Complete Failure

Fairfax County says Verizon "failed completely" during June 29 derecho.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
CENTRE VIEW

The eerie silence is what Steve Souder, Fairfax County's 911 director, remembers about the night of June 29, when the derecho hit Fairfax County.

"The derecho was fierce and sudden, a lot of things most storms aren't," Souder said in an interview on Friday. "We were busy as all get-out."

The fast-moving storms slammed Fairfax County at about 10:20 p.m., resulting in a record number of emergency calls — a 415 percent jump for 911 dispatchers and a 2,000 percent jump for Fire and Rescue. Approximately 30 minutes later, power flickered and then died in the

McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC), where 46 911-dispatchers were fielding hundreds of calls.

"We can't afford to be crippled, so our generators came on, and we're rocking and rollin' in the blink of an eye," Souder said.

At 1:30 a.m., the first wave of calls started to subside.

"We're taking a deep breath and looking ahead to sunrise, when we fully expected another wave of calls as people wake up and take a look around their homes at the damage," Souder said.

THE NEXT MORNING, as hundreds of thousands of county residents awoke to smashed cars, split fences and downed power lines
SEE FAIRFAX COUNTY, PAGE 9



PHOTOS BY VICTORIA ROSS/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County's 911 Call Center located in the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center, named after former Fairfax County Supervisor Elaine McConnell.

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NEWS

Clifton Car Show on Labor Day

Proceeds to benefit charities.

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring street rods, custom and antique cars, muscle and classic cars, and motorcycles, the 13th Annual Labor Day Car Show is Monday, Sept. 3, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., in Clifton. Sponsored by the Clifton Lions Club and the Custom Cruisers of Northern Virginia, it happens rain or shine.

"It's the only show of its type within 100 miles of here on Labor Day," said event organizer Jim Chesley. "Our show has gotten such a good reputation that people don't want to go anywhere else but here."

More than 400 vehicles of vehicles will be on display throughout the town, with chrome all polished, hoods up and engines open for easy viewing. Visitors may browse at their leisure, while chatting with their owners and listening to 1950s and '60s music played by a deejay from J & J Sound.

"We'll have lots of Corvettes, Mustangs, Camaros and hot rods," said Chesley. "There'll be all kinds of motorcycles, cars and trucks — stock, custom and antique.

To register a vehicle, go to www.customcruisersnova.com, click on "events" and download an entry form. Participants may also register at the show. The first 250 vehicles registering will receive dash plaques. Registration is \$15, or \$25 if the vehicle is for sale. Individuals or companies

SEE CAR SHOW, PAGE 5



Vehicles are parked all along Main Street during last year's Labor Day car show in Clifton.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

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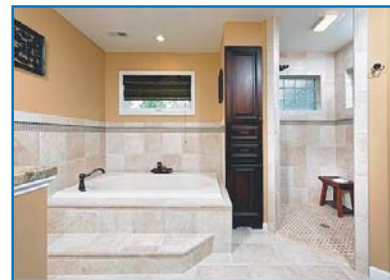
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Clifton Car Show, Sept. 3

Featuring street rods, custom and antique cars, muscle and classic cars, and motorcycles, the 13th Annual Labor Day Car Show is Monday, Sept. 3, from 8 a.m.-3 p.m., in Clifton. It's sponsored by the Clifton Lions Club and the Custom Cruisers of Northern Virginia and all the proceeds go to charity. The fun includes raffles, a variety of food, a Chili Challenge and live bands.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 6, 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.

Women's Self Defense Program

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program. It's based on the SAFE program formerly provided by the Police Department, but now being taught by C&J Security Corp.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. It's currently offered free and all class materials are included. Program funding is provided through the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than the instructors are permitted to be present during a class. For more information, call 703-246-7806, e-mail WSD@fairfaxfoundation.org or go to www.fairfaxfoundation.org.

WFCM Seeks Food, Volunteers

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of oil (48 oz. or smaller); flour (2-5 lb. bag); sugar (2-5 lb. bag); rice (2 lb. bags); canned meats; salad dressing, jelly; jam; peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, Ramen Noodles, canned fruit; canned peas, beets and mixed vegetables; canned soup and baked beans; dry pasta and beans; ketchup, mustard, pancake mix and syrup; hot and cold cereal and coffee. In addition, the Food Pantry would appreciate fresh produce from local gardens. Also needed are laundry detergent, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper and baby wipes. WFCM clients are also in great need of gasoline cards.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near Backyard Grill and Bar) in Chantilly. Volunteers are also needed:

Thrift store: Volunteers are needed Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., to receive donations. Contact Volunteer Manager Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656.

Food pantry: Volunteers are needed Wednesdays and Thursdays, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., to bag/stock groceries. A regular, weekly volunteer is also needed on Wednesdays to pick up donations from Food Lion, from now through August.

Furniture ministry: One person is needed to help move furniture that will be given to clients in need.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.



A portrait of Gen. J.E.B. Stuart and his horse in the museum.



Civil War money and memorabilia inside a display case.

Centreville's Civil War Past

FROM PAGE 1
of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society — which created this museum — also shed light on the story. “The Grigsby House was the headquarters of Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, [Major Gen.] G.W. Smith and J.E.B. Stuart during the Civil War,” she said. “And it's where Mosby met Stuart and began a friendship that lasted the rest of their lives.”

At the museum, said Carter, “We tell people things they don't know and also talk about Mosby's life after the war. We'd also like people to come in, talk to us casually, ask questions and learn more about both Stuart and Mosby. We'd like this to become a research center for people — and sometimes, we can learn from them. People in the Historic Centreville Society are experts about Centreville history, so we also want to incorporate what both they and longtime residents know.”

In addition, high on Carter's and Anderson's wish list is a sign on Route 29, near Braddock Road, advising motorists about the Historic District. This is an important area,” said Carter. “There are more Civil War — and earlier — historic buildings here than in Manassas, but no sign to tell people where the Historic District is.”

Centreville is ensconced in Civil War history. In those days, a fort circled completely around Centreville. “In 1861, they cut down the trees to make room for the fort and for cabins that housed about 40,000 men between here and Manassas,” said Anderson. “The trees were also used for firewood.”

The intersection of Old Centreville Road and Route 29 was once one of the highest land elevations here. And it served a criti-



A portrait of Col. John Singleton Mosby in the new museum.

cal purpose during the Civil War. “Where Alto Plaza [restaurant] is now [on Route 29] used to be Artillery Hill,” said Carter. “The Confederate soldiers would keep a lookout there, facing Fairfax, expecting a Union army attack to come from that direction. It was there until March 1862, when they withdrew. Then the Union army moved in and stayed until the war ended.”

Carter further noted that Artillery Hill used to be much higher than it is now. But it was cut down 30-40 feet in the late 1940s so the Centreville Fire Station, Hunter Hardware and another building could be constructed there.

These are just a few of the interesting history tidbits that visitors may learn at the new museum. There are also paintings and displays to see. “We have weapons of the period — pistols, sabers and rifles, plus mementos from the reunions of Mosby's Rangers after the war,” said Anderson. “Each person got a ribbon with the date

To Go

The Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum in Centreville's Historic District opened officially in June. On display are photos, weapons and other artifacts relating to Confederate leaders General James Ewell Brown “J.E.B.” Stuart and Col. John Singleton Mosby.

It's at 13938 Braddock Road, behind the Havener House, and is free and open to the public. Hours of operation are Saturdays, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m.; Sundays, 1-4 p.m.; and Mondays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Howard Crouch is the curator.

and location of the reunion on it; they got together from 1895-1906.”

There's also a medal awarded to John Mosby from UVA in 1915 because he'd once attended there. However, said Anderson, “He'd been expelled in 1853 because he shot someone. Later, UVA wanted to trade on his successes, but he refused to go get the medal — they had to bring it to him.”

Soldiers' belts and belt buckles are on display, as is the book, “Ranger Mosby,” written by historian Virgil Carrington Jones. There's also Jones's handwritten journal containing information about 800 of Mosby's Rangers.

Visitors may view the sword Stuart carried during the Battle of the Wilderness in 1863, plus a medal commemorating the dedication of the J.E.B. Stuart Monument in Richmond in 1907. There's an award given to him posthumously in 1962 by the United Daughters of the Confederacy, as well as a spoon Stuart was carrying when he was mortally wounded on May 12, 1864.

Portraits of both Stuart and Mosby are in the museum, as are busts of both men that are replicas of the ones in Richmond's Valentine Museum. Confederate

SEE CENTREVILLE'S, PAGE 4

NEWS

Centreville's Civil War Past

FROM PAGE 3

money, Civil War bullets and locally found artifacts may also be seen. Anderson invites the public to "come tell us your story, too. That's what we want to hear and share."

"Lots of people are interested in the Civil War and the area's history and genealogy," added Carter. "And we can try to help them or, at least, tell them where to look."

As for Ward, she's delighted the museum exists. "It'll bring people into the Historic District and they'll learn some Civil War history," she said.

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) is also excited about it. "I'm just thrilled that it's here and open," he said. "It's an important part of the overall story of the Civil War. It tells these two individuals' perspectives, but it's also part of the history of Virginia and Fairfax County."

Although it's the first, actual museum in the Historic District, Frey noted that he considers all the buildings in this spot as museums. Meanwhile, he said, "The new museum adds so much and will develop incrementally. Every time people go there, there'll be something new to see. Just since they

opened, June 16, they've expanded their collection."

A history buff, himself, he said that in 1862-63 Centreville, Stuart was the Southern commander, and Mosby "spent a good bit of his career in Fairfax County and riding through Centreville to get to his headquarters to the west." Frey also pointed out that Centreville's Singleton's Grove community honored Mosby by using his middle name and naming all its streets for him and for members of his troops. The Confederate Ridge community also contains street names such as Artillery, Musket Ball, Field Encampment, Brass Button and Powder Flask.

"Obviously, the Civil War was a major part of Centreville's history," said Frey. "But Centreville was a gateway to the west long before the Civil War."

"Centreville began the suburbanization of the county and of America," he continued. "The first paved road in Fairfax County was Lee Highway [Route 29] in 1926. And Mr. Spindle — who built the Sears house in the Historic District — worked for the post office in Washington, D.C. He commuted from here to there — which was unheard of then. So I want to stress the whole history of Centreville in the Historic District, and having the museum there is a great start."



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(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)



Car Show To Benefit Charities

FROM PAGE 2

interested in being sponsors should contact Chesley at 703-830-2129 or jchesley@aol.com for further details.

Donations in any amount are also welcome and are 100-percent tax deductible. Mail donation checks payable to the Clifton Lions Club to: Jim Chesley, 7207 Main St., Clifton, VA 20124-0225. There'll also be a donations jar at the show.

Each year, the proceeds go to charity, and this year's recipients are Life with Cancer and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program. Life with Cancer offers a full slate of support programs for cancer patients and their families. And the Therapeutic Riding Program gives people with emotional or physical disabilities the chance to control a horse and feel confident and successful. For more information, see www.lifewithcancer.org and www.NVTRP.org.

"Four years ago, I introduced the directors of these two charities to each other at the car show," said Chesley. "They didn't know of each other then; but because of that meeting, Life with Cancer started sending children in their program to the Therapeutic Riding Center in Clifton."

The car-show festivities will also include the Richard King Annual Fireman's Chili Challenge, from



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM CHESLEY

A horse and member of the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program visit children at Life with Cancer. The children pictured are a mixture of those currently battling cancer, survivors and family members.

noon-6 p.m. It'll be held in a field by the railroad tracks, near the town barn. It's in memory of King, a longtime Clifton resident.

Putting on the Chili Challenge is the Wednesday Night Crew Motorcycle Association. "We'll have a cookoff between Fairfax County fire stations," said the organization's Rusty Hall, of Fairfax. "Ten firefighters will be competing from all over the county. The winning fire station will get a trophy and \$1,000 to contribute to MDA [the Muscular Dystrophy Association] - which the firefighters raise money for over Labor

SEE CAR SHOW, PAGE 7



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Here Comes First Day of School

And never too early for parents to get involved.

The first day of school in most of Northern Virginia is Tuesday, Sept. 4. We don't agree with having the General Assembly dictate the first day of school, requiring the start date to be after Labor Day, but starting school after Labor Day does seem more hospitable than the Aug. 27 start in many other areas.

Attending Back to School Night and making contact with teachers is one of the most important things parents can do to set up the

school year for success. Back to School Nights begin the first week of September. Find the date for yours:

Fairfax County <http://www.fcps.edu/news/backtoschool/>

In Arlington, Elementary Back-to-School Night is Sept. 19; Middle School Back-to-School Night is Sept. 24 and High School Back-to-School Night is Oct. 1, with H-B Woodlawn's being Oct. 2. More at <http://www.apsva.us/aps>

City of Alexandria Back-to-School dates are available at <http://www.acps.k12.va.us/news/good-news/gn2012071801.php>

This school year will be the last for Superintendent for Fairfax County Public Schools Jack

Dale, who has announced his retirement effective June 30, 2013. The School Board will spend much of the coming months in the search and selection of the new superintendent.

In Fairfax County, students will be encouraged to BYOD. That's "bring your own device." With written parental permission, students will be allowed to connect to school wireless with their smart phones, tablets and laptops. Students and parents should remember that school officials will be able to examine those devices and discipline students for content and activities that are in violation of conduct rules and act accordingly. More at <http://www.fcps.edu/it/byod>

EDITORIALS

Reminder: Check Voter Status

While Northern Virginia has remarkable rates of voter registration, many changes to polling places, political district boundaries and rules for voting in Virginia, make it worth double checking your status now. Virginia's front seat role at the Republican National Convention serves as a reminder that every Virginia vote cast will count in November.

To vote on Election Day, you must be registered at your current address no later than Oct. 15, 2012. You can check your registration status online by going to www.sbe.virginia.gov. There you can also download a voter registration form and mail it to your local elections office address.

Every Virginia voter should expect a new voter identification card in the mail at the beginning of October, very close to the Oct. 15 deadline, so better to check now.

Mail or FAX updates to your local Electoral Board.

Alexandria Board of Elections, 703-746-4050, <http://alexandriava.gov/Elections>

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Correction: Last week's Newcomers and Community Guide omitted the name of an independent candidate, Mark T. Gibson, running for U.S. House of Representatives in the 11th District. The same paragraph also mistakenly referred to that district by the wrong district number in a second reference. The correction have been made in our online and PDF editions.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Significance of Wolfe's Case

To the Editor:

In a decision highlighting much of what is wrong with the death penalty, the federal court of appeals affirmed habeas corpus relief for Justin Wolfe on the ground of serious prosecutorial misconduct. ["Another Death Row Victory for Wolfe," Centre View, Aug. 23, 2012] The court affirmed the lower court's holding that, in their zeal to obtain a death penalty in a murder for hire case against Mr. Wolfe, prosecutors concealed sig-

nificant evidence of his innocence, including a report that the investigating police officers told Owen Barber he could avoid the death penalty if he would tell them that Justin Wolfe hired him to kill the victim, Danny Petrole. Mr. Barber has since recanted his testimony implicating Mr. Wolfe and stated that Mr. Wolfe had nothing to do with the killing.

Thus, a threat of the death penalty was used to induce a witness to testify falsely against an innocent man, thereby resulting in a wrongful conviction and death sentence. Were it not for the zeal and persistence of Mr. Wolfe's at-

torneys in his habeas corpus proceeding, the misconduct of the prosecutors would never have come to light and Mr. Wolfe — who has been on death row for more than 10 years — would long since have been executed.

While we at Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty are grateful and relieved that justice has finally been served in Justin's case, we take no pleasure in this outcome. There are no winners in this case, only an assembly of losers. Because of the misconduct of the police and prosecutors, Mr. Wolfe's family have suffered the pain and ignominy of having their

son and brother convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. And the family of the victim, Danny Petrole, have had their suffering and grief compounded by the conviction of an innocent man for the murder of their son and brother.

Justin's case illustrates why we are working so hard to end the death penalty in Virginia. We are grateful to all of you for supporting our efforts and encourage each of you to continue with us on this important journey.

Virginians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty

Fairfax County Police Traffic Safety Efforts Recognized

The Fairfax County Police Department was recently recognized by two law enforcement organizations which evaluate police traffic safety programs across the Commonwealth and the nation.

Virginia Association of the Chiefs of Police awarded its Underage Alcohol special category award for FCPD efforts to deter youth involvement with alcohol. These efforts include working jointly with the Fairfax County

Unified Prevention Coalition on their Driving to Reduce Underage and Binge Drinking campaign, holding undercover buying operations, and strict DUI enforcement initiatives such as "Safe December," sobriety checkpoints and weekly "six pack" patrols.

The VACP also recognized FCPD efforts in the Commercial Motor Vehicle category. A team of FCPD Motor Carrier Safety detectives inspect commercial vehicles

within Fairfax County borders and routinely remove unsafe vehicles from the roadways. Officers are certified by the U.S. Department of Transportation and have received specific training from the Office of Federal Motor Carriers. Each of these officers is equipped with tools, towing equipment and chainsaws to respond to calls involving these large, heavy vehicles.

International Association of the

Chiefs of Police presented its Chiefs Challenge Award second in the nation for FCPD underage alcohol efforts.

FCPD officers responded to more than 474,500 calls for service in 2011. Of those, almost half (224,578) were responses to traffic incidents.

Learn more about FCPD Traffic Safety initiatives at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/traffic/>.

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Fair Lakes**
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A Connection Newspaper

Clifton Car Show on Labor Day

FROM PAGE 5

Day weekend.” To volunteer to help, e-mail rusty@wncrew.org.

“Richard King was a member of our group,” said Hall. “We’ve been involved in the car show for six or seven years and we love giving back to the community to enhance it. This is a diverse community, and it’s good seeing everybody come to this show with their families and relax and have a good time.”

There’ll also be music at the Chili Challenge. Performing on stage there will be Steal the Deal, playing Southern rock; the Wes Thacker Bluegrass Band; Jamboxx, rock and roll; and the Lost Highway Band, playing Swamp Boogie music and featuring 2010 Grammy-award winner Michael Melchione.

Besides chili, lots of other food will be available, as well. The Lions Club will offer hot dogs, hamburgers, pork and beef barbecue, chips, water and soda. The Clifton Presbyterian Church will be selling meatball subs, and the Clifton Café (crepes), Peterson’s Ice Cream Depot and The Clifton Store will all be open for business.

There’ll be a 50-50 raffle at the show, with half the money going to the charities and half to the winner. In addition, the Rolling Thunder motorcycle — a Harley Davidson — will be displayed and raffled off. Tickets will be sold at the show, but the winner will be chosen at a later date because this motorcycle will also be displayed at some other shows.

At noon will be the raising of the flag by the Fairfax County Police Honor Guard, in Ayre Square, and the singing of the national anthem. And sometime during the show, if possible, will be a flyover by the po-

lice helicopter.

Dignitaries at the noon ceremony will include U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10), Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, county Police Chief Dave Rohrer and Lt. John Trace, assistant commander of the Sully District Police Station. The awards ceremony is at 2:30 p.m., and helping Chesley hand out the trophies will be state Sen. George Barker (D-39), Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and Supervisor Pat Herrity (R- Springfield).

Two trophies are awarded for Best in Show and one each for Lady’s Choice, Lions’ Choice, Best Back Seat and Best Motorcycle. The top 20 vehicles, as chosen by the participants, will also receive trophies.

The show attracts people from all over the Washington Metropolitan area, and more than 3,000 people attended last year’s event. Admission is free to spectators. There’s a nominal parking fee, and vans from Virginia Tire and Auto of Centreville will transport people from the parking lots to the town.

“If the weather is good, I expect to have some of the best vehicles from North Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey,” said Chesley. “People like the set up, the small-town atmosphere and everything we’ve got to offer. They also like that the show’s open to all kinds of quality vehicles.”

He said attendees will see the best of all classes of cars while having an enjoyable time. “We’ll have plenty of food, they can listen to good bands — and all the proceeds go to two, wonderful local charities,” said Chesley. “It’ll be a full day of fun in the country.”

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

TUESDAY NIGHTS

World-Class Jazz. 6-9 p.m. Paul Langosch on bass and Rick Whitehead on guitar. At the Copper Canyon, 5815 Trinity Pkwy. Call 703-830-6600 for reservations.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

Men's Chorus. 7:30-10 p.m. Sing "Acappella" with the Fairfax Jubilaires men's barbershop chorus. Members of the Barbershop Harmony Society. At Lord of Life Lutheran Church (West), 13421 Twin Lakes Dr. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org or contact Aaron Watts at 703-793-7166 or adwatts78@yahoo.com.

AUG. 31-SEPT. 3

Cole Bros. Circus will be in Centreville at Special Events Field in Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Dr. Tickets start at \$16. Visit www.GoToTheCircus.com.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 1

Battle of Ox Hill 150th Anniversary Commemoration. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ox Hill Battlefield Park, 4134 West Ox Road, Fairfax. The event is free and open to the public. Activities include costumed Civil War reenactor soldiers, officers, and civilians, artillery and infantry demonstrations, and a souvenir craft for the kids. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/oxhill

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

CVHS Fundraiser. 6-9 p.m. Support the Wildcat Band at Tropical Smoothie, 14220-B Centreville Square, Centreville. Students are raising funds towards their spring trip and for band programs.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

How to Create Fresh Flower Bouquets. 10 a.m. Learn how to take beautiful flowers and arrange them into a beautiful display to bring a focal point and an artistic touch to any room. At Merrifield Gardens at

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

Fairfax Choral Society will be holding auditions for its Adult Chorus at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, at 10723 Main St. Call the FCS office in advance at 703-642-3277 to schedule an audition appointment. FCS is also scheduling auditions and placement checks for their Youth Choruses for ages 5 - 18. Visit www.fairfaxchoralsociety.org.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

Metabolism Boost. 12:15 - 1:15 p.m. In this seminar you will learn how to fuel your body, fire up your metabolism, and get the most from your exercise program. At The Women's Club Fitness Center and Day Spa, 14175 Sullyfield Circle. Pre-registration required; call 703-817-0700 or email womensclub@aol.com.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

Volunteers for Change Orientation. 12-1 p.m. Volunteers



Cole Bros. Circus will be at Special Events Field in Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Dr. Aug. 31-Sept. 3. Tickets start at \$16, free with coupon for children. Visit www.GoToTheCircus.com.

Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy.
Home & Lifestyle Expo. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, immediately off I-66 at Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy). The Expo will feature more than 20 exhibitors focusing on products and services for residential buyers for use in and around the home in the fall and winter months. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com or call 703-359-8302.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 9

CVHS Fundraiser. 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Support the Wildcat Band at the car wash. Colonnade Shell Gas Station, 5784 Union Mill Rd, Centreville. Students are raising funds towards their spring trip and for band programs.
Home & Lifestyle Expo. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fair Oaks Mall, immediately off I-66 at Route 50 (Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy). The Expo will feature more than 20 exhibitors focusing on products and services for residential buyers for use in and around the home in the fall and winter months. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com or call 703-359-8302.

for Change invites community members of all ages to attend an orientation where volunteers can choose from more than 50+ monthly community service projects throughout Northern Virginia. At the Volunteer Fairfax Office, 10530 Page Ave. Register for the next orientation at 703-246-3895 or email jkivlin@volunteerfairfax.org.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 12

Metabolism Boost. 7-8 p.m. In this seminar learn how to fuel your body, fire up your metabolism, and get the most from your exercise program. At The Women's Club Fitness Center and Day Spa, 14175 Sullyfield Circle. Pre-registration required; call 703-817-0700 or email womensclub@aol.com to reserve.

SUNDAY/ SEPT. 16

Troop 1983 Eagle Scout Project, Senthil Kannan. Noon- 4 p.m. Bikes for the World Used Bike Collection. Donate your used bike (and bike parts) to make a difference in someone's life. A \$10 donation along with a donated bike (both are tax-deductible) covers shipping and handling, and the donation will help reduce landfill waste. REI Fairfax in

SATURDAY/SEPT. 15

Build the Lawn of Your Dreams. David Yost, Merrifield Plant Specialist will provide the know-how to create a beautiful lawn. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy.

MONDAY/SEPT. 17

GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club First Meeting. 7 p.m. In meeting room of the Total Wine store in the Greenbriar Plaza Shopping Center, 13055-C Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Learn about the Club and its programs, and a wine tasting. Contact Lucy Smith at 703-587-7543 by Sept. 14 to register.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 22

NAMIWalks Northern Virginia 2012! Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Check-in at 9:30 a.m. and start time at 10 a.m. The National Alliance on Mental Illness Northern Virginia is a non-profit organization that provides programs for individuals with mental illness and their families. The walk is 1.5 miles long. Registration is now open. Visit www.namiwalks.org/NorthernVirginia to register.

Fairfax Corner, 11950 Grand Commons Ave. Contact Senthil at senthil.kannan.61109@gmail.com. Visit www.bikesfortheworld.org.

MONDAY/SEPT. 17

Republican Women of Clifton. 7 p.m. Featuring Artur Davis, former Alabama Democratic Congressman and now Virginia Republican, as the speaker at the club's meeting at the Centreville High School Media Center. Members and guests are invited to the social hour, when refreshments will be served. President Marianne Gearhart will open the business meeting at 7:30.

WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 26

Local Grants. If you have an idea or project to improve the quality of life in your neighborhood, Fairfax County is now offering up to \$5,000 in matching grants to make your community a better place to live. The grants are available to neighborhood or civic groups, homeowner's associations or nonprofits through the Neighborhood Enhancement Partnership Program (NEPP). Applications are due by Wednesday, Sept. 26 at 10 a.m. Contact Rachel Robinson, at 703-324-5639, TTY 711.

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Fairfax County Says Verizon 'Failed Completely'

FROM PAGE 1

from uprooted trees, the county's 911 operators braced themselves for another onslaught of calls.

But the next wave never came.

"The phones just stopped ringing. We were dead in the water ... Never, ever, ever has this happened to us," said Souder, who has been in emergency operations for 44 years.

It would be several more hours before Souder and other county officials learned that no calls were getting through due to a problem with Verizon. According to Souder, all calls to Fairfax County's 911 go through the Verizon network, regardless of the commercial carrier service. From 7:36 a.m. until 3 p.m. on June 30, 911 service was completely down and for the next three days service was sporadic.

Souder said signs of trouble with Verizon came around 7 a.m., when Verizon sent a cryptic email to Fairfax County staff saying that the Arlington central office was without power or backup battery/generator. The references to Arlington, according to Souder, suggested that 911 service was affected only in Arlington County, so Fairfax County's 911 staff continued with their normal operations.

"We are completely unaware that incoming 911 call service from Verizon is slowly dying ... We don't get officially notified until

about 10 hours after [the] whole mess begins, which is completely unacceptable," Souder said, adding:

"It's like the captain of the Titanic telling passengers the ship hit an iceberg when the bow is on the bottom of the ocean floor."

As a result of this critical outage, Fairfax County submitted official comments to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) detailing what happened, suggestions for Verizon to improve its service and exhibits to show supporting documentation and actions.

"During and after a storm, and in any emergency or disaster, the loss of the public's ability to contact emergency responders is most profoundly felt," according to County officials. "Families in darkened homes crushed by fallen trees, motorists unable to get through roadways blocked by downed electric power lines, elderly residents in care facilities without power in temperatures over 90 degrees, and any other citizens in need of emergency services must be able to call 911 to seek assistance."

"Fairfax County is, and will stay, on top of this," said Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at large). The county's response to the FCC,



Steve Souder

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

released last Thursday, lays the blame for the outage squarely at the feet of Verizon, and Verizon acknowledged some responsibility in its Aug. 13 report to the MWCOG.

After first denying it had major problems with Arlington County's 911 service, Verizon officials admitted they did not know 911 emergency service was out in Fairfax County until alerted by county officials.

In the Verizon report, officials said two major generator failures — one in Fairfax and one in the central Arlington office, which routes 911 calls to multiple centers — caused "multiple failures cascading from these specific generator problems."

Verizon also reported that it lost visibility over its own network, so that technicians did not know that power was draining from battery-operated generators until it was too late.

"When the batteries in the Arlington central office were being depleted ... why was there a delay in deploying additional resources to remedy the situation before the Arlington facility went dark?" asked county officials, in concluding statements in the FCC report. "Verizon's 911 service in Fairfax County failed completely during the June

29, 2012, derecho. Both immediate and longer-term changes are needed to improve 911 service in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area."

THE CURRENT FCC REPORT is one of several investigations launched into the 911 fiasco. According to officials, Fairfax County is pursuing the issue from many angles, including the report to the FCC and regional work through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government.

"We are very fortunate that no one died as a result of the 911 outage," said Supervisor Pat Herrity, (R-Springfield). Herrity is a member of the statewide 911 panel tasked with looking into the outage.

"I have every confidence that Fairfax County is up to whatever emergency comes our way — in as much as we have control. I'm more worried about third parties such as Verizon based on our 911 experience. Frankly, that was wholly unacceptable and we are going to do everything necessary to hold their feet to the fire," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee).

Souder said it's gratifying to know Verizon is taking some responsibility, and attempting to fix its communication problems.

"The public should know that, seven weeks after this storm, we're still a long way from being done from making sure this [911 failure] doesn't happen again," Souder said.

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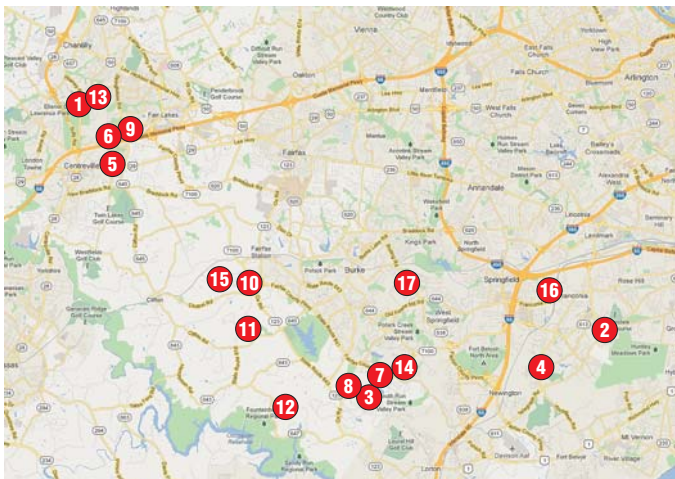
3 7925 Hollington Place, Fairfax Station — \$739,000



9 5021 Veronica Road, Centreville — \$720,000



16 6221 Willowfield Way, Springfield — \$700,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 4720 WALNEY KNOLL CT	4	.3	1	..	CHANTILLY	\$740,000	Detached	0.42	20151	POPLAR CORNER	06/04/12
2 7000 CLIFTON KNOLL CT	5	.3	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$740,000	Detached	0.23	22315	CEDAR KNOLL	06/29/12
3 7925 HOLLINGTON PL	5	.4	1	..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$739,000	Detached	0.29	22039	BARRINGTON	06/01/12
4 6420 CALEB CT	4	.4	1	..	ALEXANDRIA	\$735,000	Detached	0.13	22315	KINGSTOWNE	06/22/12
5 13477 CONEFLOWER CT	4	.4	1	..	CENTREVILLE	\$730,000	Detached	0.19	20120	FAIRCREST SOUTH	06/28/12
6 5101 HIRST VALLEY WAY	4	.3	1	..	CENTREVILLE	\$730,000	Detached	0.24	20120	FAIR LAKES CHASE	06/29/12
7 9011 SCOTT ST	4	.3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$725,000	Detached	0.35	22153	SOUTH RUN FOREST	06/22/12
8 7902 GLENBARR CT	4	.3	1	..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$720,000	Detached	0.26	22039	BARRINGTON	06/29/12
9 5021 VERONICA RD	5	.4	1	..	CENTREVILLE	\$720,000	Detached	0.16	20120	FAIRLAKES CROSSNG	06/29/12
10 6118 UNION CAMP DR	5	.3	1	..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$719,900	Detached	0.46	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	06/08/12
11 11200 SPLIT RAIL LN	5	.3	1	..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$710,000	Detached	5.00	22039	THE HOLLY FOREST	06/22/12
12 10609 TIMBERIDGE RD	4	.2	1	..	FAIRFAX STATION	\$708,000	Detached	5.00	22039	FOUNTAINHEAD / TIMBERLANE	06/29/12
13 4715 LEIGHFIELD VALLEY DR	4	.3	1	..	CHANTILLY	\$705,000	Detached	0.38	20151	POPLAR PARK	06/25/12
14 7700 WHITE WILLOW CT	4	.3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$705,000	Detached	0.21	22153	WHISPERWOOD	06/29/12
15 11640 HAVENNER RD	4	.3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.58	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	06/01/12
16 6221 WILLOWFIELD WAY	6	.3	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.20	22150	HIGHGROVE ESTATES	06/22/12
17 8626 JAMES CREEK DR	5	.4	1	..	SPRINGFIELD	\$700,000	Detached	0.17	22152	JAMES CREEK	06/29/12

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HOME SALES

In July 2012, 19 homes sold between \$850,000-\$379,000 in the Chantilly area.

Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision
4823 AUTUMN GLORY WAY	5	5	1	CHANTILLY	\$850,000	Detached	0.39	20151	THE HUNTER PROPERTY
13715 MONET CT	4	5	1	CHANTILLY	\$745,000	Detached	0.23	20151	CHANTILLY GREEN
4774 WALBERN CT	5	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$700,000	Detached	0.33	20151	WALNEY ESTATES
13424 MARBLE ROCK DR	4	4	0	CHANTILLY	\$635,000	Detached	0.26	20151	POPLAR TREE ESTATES
13461 POINT PLEASANT DR	5	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$630,000	Detached	0.23	20151	POPLAR TREE ESTATES
13605 ANGELICA CT	5	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$595,000	Detached	0.23	20151	ARMFIELD FARMS
14038 WALNEY VILLAGE CT	4	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$560,000	Detached	0.11	20151	WALNEY VILLAGE
4622 GRANITE ROCK CT	4	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$549,500	Detached	0.27	20151	POPLAR TREE ESTATES
4387 POPLAR TREE CT	4	2	1	CHANTILLY	\$545,000	Detached	0.20	20151	POPLAR ESTATES
PINE FOREST DR	5	4	1	CHANTILLY	\$530,000	Townhouse	0.46	20151	AVONLEA
3542 ARMFIELD FARM DR	4	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$511,000	Detached	0.21	20151	ARMFIELD FARMS
4163 TRAVERS CT	5	3	1	CHANTILLY	\$500,500	Detached	0.07	20151	ROCKLAND VILLAGE
13606 GLADWYN CT	4	2	2	CHANTILLY	\$500,000	Detached	0.18	20151	ARMFIELD FARMS
13471 STREAM VALLEY DR	4	2	1	CHANTILLY	\$480,000	Detached	0.20	20151	POPLAR TREE WOODS
4521 FILLINGAME DR	4	2	1	CHANTILLY	\$402,500	Detached	0.24	20151	BROOKFIELD
13531 LEITH CT	4	3	0	CHANTILLY	\$400,000	Detached	0.20	20151	ARMFIELD ESTATES
4417 LEES CORNER RD	4	3	0	CHANTILLY	\$389,900	Detached	0.45	20151	BROOKFIELD
15215 PHILIP LEE RD	4	3	0	CHANTILLY	\$385,000	Detached	0.35	20151	PLEASANT VALLEY
4405 CARRIER CT	5	3	0	CHANTILLY	\$379,000	Detached	0.25	20151	PLEASANT VALLEY

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SCHOOL NOTES

The following Centerville local residents have been named to the Dean's List at **Clemson University** for the spring 2012 semester:

Haley Nicole, who is majoring in Psychology.

Shawn Patrick Mordhorst, who is majoring in Psychology.

Molly Kathleen Seltzer, who is majoring in Political Science.

Chelsea Nicole Wallis, who is majoring in Computer Science.

Hanna Elizabeth Skahn of Centerville was named to the Dean's List at **Baylor University** for the 2012 spring semester.

Karen Molloy, who teaches Advanced Placement (AP) biology and chemistry and serves as science department chair at Chantilly High School, has been named the 2012 Virginia Teacher of the Year by the Air Force Association (AFA). Chantilly High School is a Fairfax County public school.

Molloy was nominated by the Gabriel Chapter of the Air Force Association, which named her its Teacher of the Year for four consecutive years based on her work to advance STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) education in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). The AFA specifically praised Molloy for her work with the local community to encourage and inspire students in STEM subjects, including working with the AFA, Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, and others in the defense industry to serve as mentors, financial sponsors, and technicians for students competing in the Cyber Patriot competition.

Known for her use of technology in the classroom, Molloy engages her students with interactive SMART Board activities, personal response clickers, digital photography, electronic learning stations, and probeware for data collection. By applying for several grants, she received funding to train her colleagues to use technology in the classroom; as a result, five teachers collaborated to create science lessons that incorporate more data collection using technology.

Molloy has a goal of increasing student involvement and enrollment in science classes at Chantilly; she is introducing a Genetics and Biotechnology elective course at the school for the first time during the 2012-13 school year, in which 60 students have enrolled. She has also worked to engage more citizens as judges for the school's science fair along with increasing student participation. The number of judges has grown from 80 to 120 in four years, and nearly 600 students participated in this past year's science fair. As sponsor of the Science National Honor Society, Molloy developed a speakers' program to attract professionals such as medical doctors,

university professors, engineers, and veterinarians to the school to speak to students. Her future plans include development of a STEM day for students in the Chantilly High School Pyramid to encourage more students to consider science as a career option.

During the summer, Molloy works for AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination), a nonprofit college readiness organization for students that also teaches teachers how to teach, where she authors science books and develops materials for summer institutes. Molloy will be leading three of the professional development institutes this summer which will help teachers re-think how they plan and instruct students to incorporate writing, inquiry, collaboration, reading, and organization into science education.

Molloy has worked for FCPS for 12 years; she taught at McLean High School for eight years and has been a teacher at Chantilly High School for the past four years.

Matthew Litton, a junior electrical engineering major has been named to the Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester at Grove City College. Matthew is a 2009 graduate of Chantilly High School and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Litton (Stephanie) from Fairfax.

Brendan Soucie, a student in the 4th form (10th-grade) at Kent School in Kent, Connecticut, was named to the honor roll for the spring term of 2012. Soucie is the child of Christopher and Cynthia Soucie of Oak Hill.

Christine LaPlaca of Fairfax has been selected as a writing intern for Phi Beta Kappa's two-semester internship program. LaPlaca is the daughter of Peter and Stacy LaPlaca and is a 2009 graduate of Chantilly High School. A senior majoring in Asian studies and English with a concentration in creative writing, LaPlaca is co-president of Rotaract and a tutor at the Writing Center. She is a member of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Phi Beta Kappa, history honor society Phi Alpha Theta and literary honor society Lambda Iota Tau. She has been named to the Dean's List and President's List.

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) graduates from the class of 2012 have been named winners of college-sponsored scholarships by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC). Recipients, with their probable career fields in parentheses, are:

Rebecca Holley of Westfield High School (Music/Education), National Merit University of Rochester Scholarship.

Ian Van Pelt of Westfield High School (biology), National Merit Vir-

ginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Scholarship.

David Rice, a resident of Chantilly, was awarded Dean's List honors for academic achievement during the spring 2012 semester at St. Mary's College of Maryland (SMCM).

The Bill of Rights Institute announces that seven Northern Virginia high school students, **Conrado Castro, James Harkless, Moriah Dreisbach, Neha Telhan, Lauren Ierardi, Nicholas Santoni, and Emily Yaremchuk** have returned from a week spent in the nation's capital.

This July, Castro, Harkless, Dreisbach, Telhan, Ierardi, Santoni, and Yaremchuk attended the Constitutional Academy, the nation's premier program for high school students to study the Constitution. The scholarships were provided by the Ohrstrom Foundation.

Dreisbach and Telhan will both be juniors at Falls Church High School. Ierardi will be a senior in the fall at Centerville High School; where Santoni graduated this spring. Yaremchuk will be senior at Oakton High School in the fall.

Castro, Harkless, Dreisbach, Telhan, Ierardi, Santoni, and Yaremchuk read the Founding documents and other primary source resources, and discussed the ideals of the American Founding along with contemporary issues with students from across the country and constitutional scholars in Washington, D.C.

The following students from Chantilly enrolled at Virginia Tech were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2012 semester:

Bushra A. Alam is a sophomore majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech.

Rand i. Andoni is a sophomore majoring in management in the Pamplin College of Business.

Sujata Bhattarai is a senior majoring in biochemistry in the College of Science.

Katherine E. Boyd is a freshman majoring in psychology in the College of Science.

Brett O. Boyle is a freshman majoring in general engineering in the College of Engineering.

Hunter V. Brigman is a senior majoring in biochemistry in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

David E. Cooper is a sophomore majoring in university studies at Virginia Tech.

Kaitlyn M. Cotter is a junior majoring in communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences.

Brian Dan is a sophomore majoring in finance in the Pamplin College of Business.

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 13

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Standing, from left, Evan Cater and Cam Meyer explain LEGO building techniques to the young campers.



Camp founder and instructor Cam Meyer, (in black T-shirt in center), stands with his team and the tall, LEGO tower they constructed.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Hands-On Fun While Learning

Children attend LEGO camp in Clifton.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Sure, LEGOs are child's play — but they're also much more. And Clifton's Cam Meyer, 15, recently shared his knowledge of what these colorful building pieces can do during a Lego camp held in the town's meeting hall.

"I started building with LEGOs around age 4," he said. "I started by using the instructions, but then realized it was much more fun to break away and just do what you want."

A rising sophomore at Trinity Christian School in Fairfax, Meyer says LEGOs provide him "a medium of creativity to express my art." He especially likes constructing spaceships and "cool, sci-fi creations."

"As I got older, I began using more advanced techniques and figuring out new connections and new ways of using parts," he said. He also joined other teen and adult LEGO enthusiasts in using Flickr, the photo-sharing Web site, to post his models online.

In addition, Meyer began the nonprofit Junior Brick Builders Association to teach his skills to children; and from July 23-27, from 1-4 p.m., he hosted a camp for 8-12 year olds. Fourteen boys from Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton and Fairfax participated, and Meyer ran the camp with friend and fellow LEGO aficionado, Evan Cater of Arlington.

They met a few years ago at Brickfair, a Washington, D.C., LEGO convention. Both belong to the Washington Metro Area Adult LEGO User Group. And, said Cater, who attends Yorktown High, "We wanted to teach children using LEGOs to think more outside the box."

"Online, there wasn't anything for kids to learn new techniques," said Meyer. "So I wanted to create a place where they could build and share ideas with each other — because when you're little, you're building at home alone and don't really have anyone to share [your creation] with who's as passionate about it as you are."

Tuition for Junior Brick Builders Summer Camp was \$160/person. "The money was used to purchase

the LEGO sets, plus other costs of putting on the camp," said Cater. "Each day, the kids did a new LEGO set."

So, said Meyer, "They each got four LEGO sets worth \$80 total, a plastic box to hold them, daily snacks and the overall building experience."

Every day, the campers did challenges for prizes, such as small LEGO sets. For example, one afternoon, half the children and Meyer competed against the other half and Cater to see which team could construct the strongest bridge. "We wanted our bridges to hold six cans of tomatoes, but we got way past that," said Cater.

"Our bridges were so strong that we had to drop things on them to finally break them," said Meyer. "They were about 2 feet wide and even held six-packs of water. The contest ended in a tie and everyone got lollipops."

Each day, the boys worked with a themed LEGO set, without using the instructions. "The first day, we built cars and raced them down a track," said Meyer. "The fastest one won a LEGO set." Cater said they showed the boys Flickr photos of "cool cars to get their creative juices flowing."

"I was incredibly impressed with how they used particular techniques to make their own cars go fast," said Meyer. Added Cater: "A lot of them were so fast that they beat both of our cars."

Another day, they all constructed spaceships and voted on which one they thought was the most creative and well-built. Other days, the boys built LEGO robots and dinosaurs. And on the last day of camp, they combined all the sets so the boys could let their imaginations soar and build whatever they wanted.

Meyer said the camp was so successful that they plan to hold it again next summer and might even hold it on weekends during the school year. They planned to have the boys tell them which activities they liked best and thought were the most fun. "I really loved the bridge-building," said Cater. "It was hands-on and they worked really well as teams."

"I enjoyed seeing the different models that everyone came up with using the same parts and a limited number of them," said Meyer. "They were so diverse, and that's fascinating to see. So even though I've been building longer and am more advanced than these kids, I learned from them because they created things I haven't even thought about."

Creative Thinking And Engineering

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Philip Everard is only 8, but says he's been building with LEGOs ever since he was born. "We had [the large] Duplo LEGOs then," he said. "My brother would put them in my hand and guide me."

Both he and his brother Stephen, 11, attended the recent Lego camp in Clifton and had a great time. A third-grader at Willow Springs Elementary, Philip said they have two big tubs of LEGOs at home, plus a shelf displaying some things they've built.

"Stephen and me like to buy LEGO sets and sometimes we build them like they say," said Philip. "But we also like not to so we can get better at building. We play good guy vs. bad guy and we especially like building big robots. But sometimes our little brother James, who's 5, smashes what we've made and then we have to recreate it."

Philip came to camp to improve his skill at building with LEGOs without instructions. "I've learned different techniques, and I've enjoyed combining parts from old creations," he said. "At the end of the camp, we'll put everything all together to make something. I'm thinking of making a robotic dinosaur."

Clifton's Nicholas Richmond, 9, says LEGOs are easy to build with; and at camp, he learned that "you have to build a thick structure so your creation doesn't fall down. I liked building whatever I felt like, and I liked the challenge where we had to build something fast."

Friend Ryker Lawter, also 9 and from Clifton, especially likes constructing vehicles. "I make any kind of transportation, including fantasy vehicles," he said. "The coolest thing I built was an RV with two trailers connected."

He came to camp because it sounded like fun to him and some of his friends also attended. "I like

Ryker Lawter, a Willow Springs fourth-grader, holds up the robot and speedboat he built with LEGOs.



Philip Everard, left, and Nicholas Richmond show their mech robot and space-ship, respectively.

how you get to keep the LEGOs you built with, at the end," said Ryker. "My favorite things I built here are a robot and a speedboat, and I got second place in the car-race challenge."

A rising third-grader at Greenbriar West Elementary, Chris Woodward, 8, also enjoys building cars and other moving objects. "It's fun because it takes a long time and keeps you company," he said. "My biggest LEGO set is a 'Toy Story' train that's about 500 pieces." At camp, he liked building robots the best and was glad he went so he could "learn how to build my own things, not following directions."

Clifton resident Cam Meyer started the camp and led it with friend Evan Cater. "This camp brings together kids with a common interest in taking LEGO-building to the next level," said Cam's mother, Kari Meyer. "They make new friends, which is awesome, and they love competing against each other. It unites creative thinking, problem solving and basic engineering principles."

Besides, added Philip's mom, Wendy Everard, "It's pretty impressive that they created a program that occupied kids for three hours a day, five days a week — and they're all working well together and not fighting."

Greenbriar West third-grader Chris Woodward displays his latest LEGO creation.



SPORTS



Sophomore Jessica Reeves and the Chantilly field hockey team competed in the "Under the Lights" tournament Aug. 24-25 at Lee High School in Springfield.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly Field Hockey Struggles to Finish

The Chantilly field hockey team controlled possession for most of its contest against Woodson on the first day of the "Under the Lights" tournament at Lee High School in Springfield, but the Chargers couldn't finish the job.

Chantilly and Woodson tied, 1-1, on Aug. 24, two days after the Chargers lost to the Cavaliers, 2-0. Chantilly senior Rebecca Teti scored Chantilly's lone goal.

"We're still trying to figure out how to finish balls. It's a work in progress," head coach Ralph Chapman said. "...We either hold the ball a second too long

instead of getting rid of it, or we take too many touches. We're constantly on them in practice to trust themselves and take a one-touch. I don't tear their heads off if they swing and whiff and miss. I'd rather them try and get the ball off then to wait and have somebody steal it off your stick."

Chapman said he expects senior forward Alyssa Cuellar, senior defender Leandra Collela and senior forward Victoria Tickle to be standouts this season.

Chantilly travel to face Marshall at 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 4.

— JON ROETMAN

SPORTS BRIEF

Football Openers

The Westfield football team will open its 2012 season at home against South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 30. The Bulldogs finished Division 6 Northern Region runner-up in 2011.

Chantilly will host Woodson at 7:30 p.m. on Thurs-

day. The Chargers made the playoffs last season, but lost to West Potomac in the quarterfinals.

Centreville will open at home against Lake Braddock at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 31. The Wildcats won the Northern Region championship last year and finished Division 6 state runner-up.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 11

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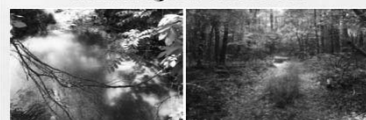
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Diagnosed But Not Sick



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Or so I tell myself – and others, as often as the opportunity presents itself. It's a distinction with which I can live, a distinction with which I'm comfortable, and a distinction which enables me to live my life as normally as possible; which when one considers my diagnosis: NSCLC (non-small cell lung cancer) and the original, terminal prognosis – received back in Feb. 2009: "13 months to two years," and my age when all this stuff hit the figurative fan: 54, it's no wonder I assimilate such delusions and don't give them a second thought. (The first thought: premature death, is bad enough.)

But it does take a little convincing. And it's not to say that having cancer isn't an excuse/explanation for me acting a certain way and/or requiring certain things (not exactly accommodations). Because it is. As much as I don't want having cancer to seep into my thoughts and/or actions, it is impossible to prevent it from doing so (and you regular readers know how much I try). Its reality has a life of its own, whereby it almost creates new instincts in how I think and feel and react, instincts that I am aware of when they happen, but not quite predisposed to prevent their appearance/occurrence. Being diagnosed with a terminal disease at age 54 and a half tends to narrow your vision and unleash – occasionally – the beast which resides within, a beast with which you're likely well acquainted but not particularly proud.

As much as I'm able to minimize the damage, collateral or otherwise, from these cancer-driven behaviors (see how easy it is to place blame), I still maintain that these behaviors are not because I'm sick, but rather because I'm diagnosed. My feeling is, once I start using/invoking sickness as an explanation, it might become a slippery slope. And once I've begun using and in turn becoming increasingly comfortable with the cause of, and description for, my inappropriate and selfish words and deeds, then the cancer has indeed won; and as a direct result, sooner rather than later these columns will cease as I will have permanently desisted.

I imagine these words probably sound like mind games, and too little too late at that. However, it's been my experience that being diagnosed with a terminal disease leads to an awful lot of self doubt, recrimination, insecurity, fear, anxiety, stress and non-stop introspection and deals you don't ever want to make with the devil. Ergo, any little thing I can do – or think, or tell myself – repeatedly, is what I have to do. I suppose it's a bastardized version of the power of positive thinking, or the act of a desperate man. Either way, I'm still alive and rationalizing my behavior.

If my not calling a spade a spade enables me to deal the cards with which I've been dealt a little bit longer, and I'm not cheating anybody but death in the process, then I will continue to do so. Having/being diagnosed with cancer/a terminal disease is neither fun nor funny; however, unless I find some humor or wishful thinking in how I approach this situation, I don't suppose I'll be approaching it much longer. To me, it's always been mind over matter, and even though these matters are rather serious, I still don't mind.

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

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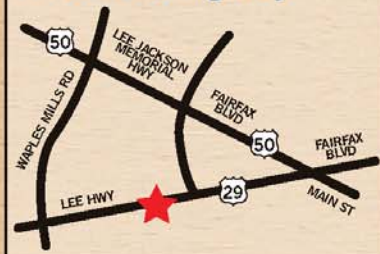
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