

Centreville ❖ Clifton ❖ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

SEPTEMBER 27 - OCTOBER 3, 2012

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



Fall Fun

This little boy gets up close and personal with a goat while feeding it at Cox Farms.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

FALL FUN 2012

Crafts, Plays, Dance: Events for Fall

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Below is a partial listing of autumn events happening in the area:

Ongoing:

A highlight of every autumn is the fall festival at Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, just off Pleasant Valley Road, in Centreville. It begins Sept. 29 and runs daily until Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and from Nov. 3-6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. The outdoor family fun on 90 acres includes giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals and their babies, a goat village, food, live entertainment and a Cornundrum Cornfield Adventure – complete with funhouse mirrors, a hall of doors, giant vortex and a pirate ship.

For older teens and adults, the scary, 20-acre nighttime adventure, Fields of Fear, is open Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 28-Oct. 27, from 7:30-11 p.m., plus Sunday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 3. The pumpkin-smashing event, Pumpkin Madness, is slated for Nov. 3-4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For ticket prices and more information, see www.coxfarms.com.

Sept. 28:

Chantilly High' Show Stoppers Fall Cabaret is this Friday, Sept. 28, at 7 p.m., in the school theater. Some of the Show Choir students are highlighted in both solo and small-group numbers. The program features Broadway-themed acts and accompanying, assorted desserts. Tickets are available at www.chantillychoral.org or at the door.

Oct. 6-7

Fairfax Corner hosts the 2nd Annual Fairfax Festival of the Arts. More than 90 artists will offer more than 10,000 pieces of original handmade artwork for sale. Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Visit www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax/.

Oct. 7

The 45th annual Clifton Day festival is Sunday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Rain date, Oct. 14). The family-friendly fun includes crafts, food, antiques, jugglers, bagpipe players, unicyclists, music, pony rides, civil war reenactments and children's activities. For VRE train schedule plus parking information, go to www.cliftonday.com.

Oct. 7:

Encore Theatrical Arts Project of Chantilly will be among 12 dance companies performing in the third annual Fairfax County Dance Coalition Gala Showcase. "A Celebration of Dance" is slated for Sunday, Oct. 7, at 3 p.m., in the theater of NOVA's Annandale campus. Ballet, jazz, tap, modern, hip hop and international dances will be presented. Tickets are \$20 in advance at www.dancefairfax-gala.org or \$23 at the door. The audience is invited to the reception after the show.

Oct. 13:

The Fairfax Fall Festival, held throughout the streets of downtown Fairfax, will be held Saturday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. There'll be crafts galore, plus food, music and fun for children.

Oct. 12, 13, 14:

A three-day, family celebration unfolds at the 16th annual Shenandoah Valley Hot Air Balloon, Wine & Music Festival. It's held on the rolling fields of Long Branch in Clarke County, at 830 Long Branch Lane in Millwood, Va. The all-day fun includes food, hand-



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Actresses from The Alliance Theatre march in Chantilly High's Sept. 21 Homecoming Parade to advertise their upcoming musical comedy, "Nunsense."

made crafts and "pumpkin chunking." The dates are Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 12-14. For more information, go to <http://historiclongbranch.com/events/77.htm>.

Oct. 17-20:

Chantilly High theater students will perform "Urinetown, the Musical," Oct. 17-20, at 7 p.m. each night.

Oct. 19, 20, 21:

The Craftsmen's Classic Arts & Crafts Festival will be held, Friday-Sunday, Oct. 19-21, at the Dulles Expo Center. Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For more information, see www.craftshow.com.

Oct. 22-23

Westfield High's Haunted House and Wax Museum will be held Monday-Tuesday, Oct. 22-23, from 6-9 p.m., at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Oct. 27:

The Clifton Haunted Trail is slated for Saturday, Oct. 27, from 7-10 p.m., in the Town of Clifton's Eight-Acre Park. Sturdy shoes are recommended; snacks and beverages are available. (Not recommended for young children). For cost and other information, see www.cliftonhauntedtrail.org.

Oct. 28:

The 19th annual Valvoline Instant Oil Change Goblin Gallop 5K is set for Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. The 1K fun run starts at 8:30 a.m.; the 5K race, at 9 a.m.; and the 5K walk, at 9:10 a.m. There's fun for the whole family with a moonbounce, hot dogs, popcorn and a band. Many of the participants and those cheering them on wear Halloween costumes, and prizes are given to the best costumes.

Proceeds go to the John Quadrino Foundation to Benefit Children with Cancer. Rain or shine, the race begins and ends in front of Coastal Flats restaurant. Entry fees are: 5K race, \$23; 1K fun run, \$15; 5K walk, \$20. Register at www.goblingallop.org.

Nov. 2-18:

The Alliance Theatre presents the musical comedy, "Nunsense," weekends, from Nov. 2-18, at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court in Centreville. Five of the 19 surviving Little Sisters of Hoboken discover that their cook, Sister Julia, accidentally killed the other 52 residents of their convent. So to raise money for their burials, they decide to stage a variety show. Tickets are \$16/adult; \$14/child (12 and

SEE FALL EVENTS, PAGE 15



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FALL  FUN

Family Fun at Cox Farms

Fall Festival for
children, Fields of
Fear for teens.BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Cool, crisp weather, apple cider, pumpkins and changing leaves are sure signs of autumn. In the local area, it also means it's time for the annual fall festival at Cox Farms.

With giant slides, hayrides, rope swings, farm animals and their babies, a goat village, food, live entertainment and a Cornundrum Cornfield Adventure, Cox Farms offers 90 acres of family fun. And at night, older teens and adults can get their share of thrills and chills via the fright-filled Fields of Fear.

It's all at 15621 Braddock Road, just off Pleasant Valley Road, in Centreville. The festival begins Sept. 29 and runs daily until Oct. 31, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m., and from Nov. 3-6, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Fields of Fear is open Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 28-Oct. 27, from 7:30-11 p.m., plus Sunday, Oct. 7, and Saturday, Nov. 3. The pumpkin-smashing event, Pumpkin Madness, is set for Nov. 3-4, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. For ticket prices, see www.coxfarms.com.

"This is our 40th anniversary and we're really happy about it," said Lucas Cox-Richard, partner and co-manager with his sibling, Aaron Cox-Richard. "Our parents are still involved, but we now have the reins. We like to call ourselves co-farmers-in-chief."

It's a big job, but one they do willingly and with enthusiasm. "Aaron and I grew up with the festival," said Lucas. "And as much as we love Northern Virginia, it's sometimes nice to get into the countryside and enjoy some outdoor, out-of-the-ordinary fun."

He's also excited about all the new attractions in store this year for attendees. "We decided to kick up our hayride a notch," he said. "We changed the route for the first time in nine years."

Always popular, the hayride lasts nearly 25 minutes and travels by several vignettes, including cartoon characters in the cornfield, comical space aliens, cowboys on horseback and a wild-west town. At the end, it travels through a large, revamped and enchanted wizarding barn filled with music, flashing lights and scenes of wizards, witches and magical plants and creatures.

Besides that, said Cox-Richard, "We've upgraded the witches' house along the hayride and added a superhero skit. And a new spaceship has crash-landed in the field. It has a 1974 Volkswagen Beetle cab with all kinds of bells and whistles, and the aliens are waving and giving high fives. The old spaceship is now a target for pumpkin sling-shot."



People waving to the camera while on the hayride at Cox Farms.

The festival also has its first-ever mechanical bull; it'll be in the games area near the dinosaur slide. Open only on weekends, it's for children 4 feet and taller.

The free, weekend events also include the pumpkin slingshot — the festival's most popular game — plus entertainment on the music stage. Live bands perform, and Farmer Jack sings and tells stories while milking his cow, Bingo.

In addition, said Cox-Richard, "The mining sluice is super-cool. It's a water tower that dumps water into a big, curvy trench where people can pan for fossils, gemstones and arrowheads."

New, as well, is Bunnyville, inside the slide barn. "A slide comes out of the top of the barn, and the bottom part houses Bunnyville," said Cox-Richard. "We built a model of Washington, D.C., with the monuments and White House, and the bunnies jump around in there. There are 12 bunnies and they're super-cute and love their new home."

Actually, Cox Farms has animals galore. Children may feed baby goats in their own

goat village. Alpacas are on the mountain leading up to the dinosaur slide and a peacock roams free. There are also baby chicks, hens and chickens, rabbits, turkeys, pigs and piglets, calves, milking cows and a llama.

"The sheep moved to the farm-chores area, and they're really snuggly this year," said Cox-Richard. "We also have some newborn goats."

Geared for 2-6-year-olds, the farm-chores area features old-fashioned water pumps and troughs, a corn conveyor belt, chicken coop and a little garden where children may pump water into buckets and water the crops.

The Kiddie Zone, for children 5 and under, also gives them a calmer place to play. The fun includes smaller themed slides, rope swings, hay bales, a wooden train and a pond where they can throw pebbles. Little ones may also play on the Three Little Pigs' house and slide and climb on a wooden Jeep in the front yard.

Festival visitors will also enjoy the five giant slides, straw tunnels and the Cornundrum Cornfield Adventure. The lat-

ter features funhouse mirrors, a hall of doors, giant vortex and a pirate ship. And this year, said Cox-Richard, "We added the Great Pyramid with hieroglyphics and a couple surprises inside."

Food is available for purchase throughout the farm. The selection includes hot dogs, hamburgers, nachos and Dominion root beer on tap. "We also added Dominion root-beer floats," said Cox-Richard. "We bought a new smoker so we can offer home-smoked, pulled-pork, barbecue sandwiches. We've been happily testing it out all summer long. And this year, we're also baking our own chocolate-chip and sugar cookies."

Apples and fresh cider are free. If desired, visitors may bring their own lunches (no alcohol) for picnics on the grounds. They may also buy a wide variety of treats in the farm's market. The goodies include freshly baked apple pies, local apples, kettle corn, fresh cider, dessert breads, jams, local honey, Indian corn, squash, gourds and fall decorations. Visitors even get to choose a free, patch pumpkin to take home.

Once night falls, however, scary creatures are everywhere, so the 20-acre Fields of Fear isn't recommended for children under 12; and anyone under 14 must be accompanied by an adult, 18 or older.

Hardy souls brave enough to enter the Fields of Fear are led to the Corn nightmare to experience cornfield terrors in the dark. There, they walk through the Hall of Whispers, Bug Room and Claustrophobia, secluded in tall corn with creatures that aren't human. And this year, said Cox-Richard, "We added crazed clowns and a new, secret finale to the Corn nightmare."

There's also the Dark-Side Hayride, with scary actors and scenes along the way, including Farmageddon, a junkyard, frightening aliens, jungle monsters and zombies. Cox-Richard says it's definitely not for the

SEE COX FARMS, PAGE 15



An aerial view of part of Cox Farms's Fall Festival in progress.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY COX FARMS

ROUNDUPS

Clarification

In the story, "Buying Pizza Can Help Fight Thyroid Cancer," in the Sept. 20 Centre View (page 5), it should read that, from now until Nov. 13, Paisano's will donate \$2 to Bite Me Cancer from every large pizza sold on Tuesdays.

Learn about Police Careers

Teens and their parents are invited to an informational meeting Monday, Oct. 1, at 7 p.m., at the Fairfax County Criminal Justice Academy, 14601 Lee Road in Chantilly, to learn more about Fairfax County Police Explorer Post No. 1742.

The Explorers serve police departments and their communities across the country and provide young people with opportunities to learn and practice skills that police officers use on a daily basis. Explorers gain experience in fingerprinting, processing crime scenes, staffing special events and helping officers spread the word about safety and crime prevention.

Firefighters Going Pink

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department personnel will don pink shirts between Oct. 1-7 to heighten awareness of breast cancer. During that time, firefighters and staff will wear pink T-shirts as they respond to emergency and non-emergency calls.

This October is the 28th Annual Breast Cancer Awareness Month, and many other organizations nationwide are joining the fight to eradicate this disease. Even the NFL has added a pink ribbon to its logo this month, and players are wearing pink cleats, wristbands, gloves, chin straps and other items showing their support of Breast Cancer Month.

Donations from local employee groups, Fairfax County Local 2068, Fairfax County Progressive Firefighters Inc., UnitedHealthcare and others funded the purchase of the T-shirts.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Oct. 4 and Oct. 18, 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.

Centreville Civil War Tour

John McAnaw of the Bull Run Civil War Round Table will lead a tour of Blackburn Battlefield, sections of the Confederate Military Railroad, historic Mount Gilead, the Stuart-Mosby Museum, St. John's Episcopal Church and cemetery, plus Confederate earthworks in and around Centreville. The tour will be Saturday, Oct. 6, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.; wear good walking shoes.

Transportation will be by caravan from the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Cost is \$25 for Museum members; \$30, nonmembers; \$10, children up to 14. Make checks payable to the Friends of Fairfax Station and mail them to this organization at P.O. Box 7, Fairfax Station, VA 22039, no later than Oct. 1. People should include their phone number and email address.

For more information, contact McAnaw at 703-978-3371 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

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/volunteersolutions.htm.

NEWS



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Last year's WFCM volunteers for the Boy Scout Food Drive are (back row, from left) Gene Luark, Mary Feeney, Laura Gaul, Laura Schutz, William McGuire, Sue Egloff and Fred Schutz and (front row, from left) Brian Furr, Dean Fellingner, Mary Patch-Johnson, Cindy Nichols, Karen Ammons and Catherine Feeney.

Demand for Help Grows Each Year

WFCM celebrates 25th anniversary.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In 1987, a dozen churches in Centreville, Chantilly and Fair Oaks were inundated with people walking in and asking for food and money. Eventually, the pastors discussed it among themselves and devised a plan.

"They didn't know if the needs were legitimate and they realized some people were going to several places for help," said Jan Welch, former executive director of Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM). "So the churches got together, donated money and volunteers, and kept records."

With no paid staff, they created a board of directors and worked toward becoming a nonprofit in 1991. Since then — despite the meteoric rise of wealth in Fairfax County as a whole — requests for food, clothing and monetary aid here have grown exponentially. And now, as WFCM celebrates its 25th anniversary, the need for its services is greater than ever.

"The mission is still to provide basic, essential life needs — food, clothing and financial assistance — plus budget counseling," said WFCM's current Executive Director, Melissa Jansen. "But the demand increases every year."

In the early days, she said, the group had on-call volunteers who answered residents' phone calls and wrote down their names and the type of help they needed on index cards. "Eventually, someone donated a laptop computer that the volunteers shared and took home to input the requests," said Jansen. "Then the board treasurer would write checks to the

callers' landlords, utility companies, etc."

But, said Welch, the churches had to coordinate with the county because — while they could help people buy gas or pay an electric bill — they weren't able to give the full amounts of money that people needed to, for example, pay their rent for a month. So either the county would help or would contact other charitable groups to pitch in, too, to get people through their crisis.

Welch, of Little Rocky Run, joined in 1994, taking over the reins from Executive Director Klaire Jameson of Centreville Presbyterian Church. By now, the client card file was filling up boxes in Welch's home — which became WFCM's office — so she computerized all the information. As more churches joined and the need for help grew, WFCM needed more space.

"In 1996, Dale Keener offered part of his insurance business in Centreville as the food pantry," said Welch. "So churches that had been maintaining their own pantries donated their food supplies to the central pantry. And the Giant in the Colonnade at Union Mill donated bread, canned goods, fruits and veg-

SEE WFCM, PAGE 7

How To Help

WFCM has two, upcoming fundraisers:

❖ On Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9-11 a.m., WFCM is holding a "Help the Homeless" Community Walk, Zumba Class and Family Fun event at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road in Chantilly. The fun includes a walk and Zumba class for participants, plus free games, snacks and activities for their children.

❖ Friday, Oct. 12, at 6:30 p.m., is WFCM's annual, fellowship dinner. It's at the Fairview Marriott and U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) is the keynote speaker. WFCM will also celebrate its 25th anniversary that night. This event is free and open to the public; anyone wishing to make a donation may do so afterward.

❖ To register for the dinner or walk/Zumba event, go to www.wfcma.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

caregivereducation.htm to register. At the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr.

SEPT. 28-30

Food Drives. To conclude Hunger Action Month, Giant Food will host Giant Food Community Food Drives at all its neighborhood locations during store hours. Food banks across the region are in need of nonperishable food items including canned fruits and vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, rice, 100 percent fruit juice, canned meats, cereal, peanut butter, and more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 2

Free Parents Seminar. 6-7:30 p.m. Learn about Brain Education and help children build confidence, creativity and focus. 3903 Fair Ridge Drive. Call 703-359-7282 to reserve.

Free Fall Caregiver Seminars. 7-8:30 p.m. Behavior as Communication in Alzheimer's Disease. Call 703-324-5205, TTY711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/

SATURDAY/OCT. 6

DAR Meeting. 1-3 p.m. Lane's Mill Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution monthly meeting will include a presentation about preservation of the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens by Stephen McLeod, Assistant to the Director, Wreaths Across America. Free. Social time is 12:30 p.m. Prospective members are encouraged to attend. At the Sully Station II Community Center (Pool facility), 5501 Sully Park Dr. No RSVP needed. Contact lanesmillchapter@aol.com.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 10

Free Fall Caregiver Seminars. 3-4:30 p.m. Legal Tools for Caregivers. Call 703-324-5205, TTY711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/caregivereducation.htm to register. At the Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Annual Watershed Clean-Up Day. 9-11:30 a.m. Volunteers of all ages are welcome. Help clear out the Earth's arteries. Collect debris from local waterways. Wear boots, old clothes and bring gloves. Trash bags will be provided. Call one of these sites to reserve a section of the watershed: Sully Historic Site, 703-437-1794 (Cain's Branch) or Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 703-631-0013 (Flatlick Branch, Big Rocky Run, Cub Run and Frog Branch).

MONDAY/OCT. 15

The Republican Women of Clifton Meeting. 7 p.m. Following President Marianne Gearhart's business segment and before celebrating the club's sixth anniversary, Bishop Jackson will talk about "The Black Robed Regiment," featuring preachers from Country's Founding Era. At Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. Visit www.cliftongop.com.

THURSDAY/OCT. 18

Volunteer Fair. 6:30-8 p.m. Teens can discover how to make their volunteer hours count. Middle and high school students and their parents are invited to meet representatives from local organizations that offer volunteer opportunities. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

College Fair and Night. 7:30-9:30 p.m. Fairfax County Public Schools will host its annual College Fair and College Night at 11700 Fair Oaks Mall. College Night is an evening of workshops on college information and preparation. Among the topics to be covered are SAT and ACT tests, career planning, financial aid, writing the college application essay, opportunities for student athletes, opportunities abroad, FCPS Family Connection, and considerations for students with disabilities.

CVHS NOTES

The **Centreville High School Band** will be holding a fundraiser at the Centreville IHOP on Friday, Sept. 28, following the football game.

The community should show up at IHOP between 9 p.m. and midnight, tell the server they are with the band, and the band will receive 20 percent of the total bill as a donation.

Friends and family are welcome. IHOP will be decorated in Centreville colors in honor of the band.

Freshmen Parent Night will be held on Wednesday, Oct. 3, 7 p.m. in the CVHS auditorium.

The guest presenter will be Neil McNerney, author of "Homework: A Parent's Guide to Helping Out without Freaking Out."

The PSAT will be given on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 7:25-11:25 a.m. It is a half-day for all students and lunch will not be served. Grades 9-11 will take the PSAT while seniors will have their senior breakfast, senior meeting, senior photo and cap and gown fitting. Ninth and 11th grade students who would like to receive their PSAT scores should follow the directions on the form. Fairfax County Public Schools pays for all 10th grade students to receive their scores.

Alliance Plans Book Fair Fundraiser

The Alliance Theatre is holding a Book Fair Fundraiser on Saturday, Oct. 13, all day, at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade (off West Ox Road) in Fair Oaks. When customers mention "The Alliance Theatre" at check-out, a percentage of the purchase will go to Alliance. The same applies to online purchases made from Oct. 14 through Oct. 18. Go to <http://www.bn.com/bookfairs> and use Alliance's special, book-fair number, 10807774. Special activities from noon-

4 p.m. will include face-painting, Clifford the Big Red Dog reading stories to children, and Alliance actors singing songs from their upcoming production of "Nunsense." Also planned is a raffle for tickets to see "Nunsense" in November at Mountain View High School, plus information on Alliance's 2013 season. Special in-store food discount vouchers are available by e-mailing contact_us@thealliance theatre.org.



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Vote Now

Don't sweat voter ID; voter registration card, current utility bill, bank statement, paycheck or government check with name, address of voter will work.

Changes in Virginia's voter identification rules are causing confusion in many quarters, and some voters might be tempted to stay home rather than deal with a difficult situation. What about your 92-year-old mother who hasn't driven in almost a decade? Do you need to schlep her to the DMV to get her a photo ID before November?

Slow down, there are alternatives, including a current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter.

Acceptable forms of identification include: Virginia voter identification card (due to arrive in the mail next week); current utility bill, bank statement, government check or paycheck indicating the name and address of the voter; valid Virginia driver's license; military ID; any Federal, Virginia state or local government-issued ID; employer issued photo ID card; concealed handgun permit; valid student ID issued by any institution of higher education located in the Commonwealth of Virginia.

How important is it for Virginia voters to turn out on or before Nov. 6? As a critical "battle-ground" state, Virginia will be key in determining who will be the next President of the United States. Who will represent Virginia in the U.S. Senate is also too close to call. Since polling shows that there are very few undecided voters in the Commonwealth, every eligible voter will want to be sure to cast a ballot. Turnout in Northern Virginia could determine who is president and which party controls the U.S. Senate.

This is a high-participating, politically en-

gaged area.

Fairfax County, with a population of just more than 1.1 million people, has 717,105 registered voters as of Aug. 31, 2012.

And consider that in 2008, 79 percent of Fairfax County's registered voters turned out at the polls.

The City of Alexandria has a population of about 144,000 with 103,445 registered voters as of Aug. 31, 2012.

Arlington has a population of about 216,000 and 160,326 registered voters as of Aug. 31, 2012.

EDITORIAL

When you consider the sheer numbers of people likely to go to vote on Election Day, wouldn't it make sense to go and vote early?

Virtually every voter in Virginia is eligible to vote absentee, which includes voting in-person absentee at a variety of locations. Absentee voting began Sept. 21 and will continue through Nov. 2.

There are many reasons that voters are allowed to vote absentee, but the most broad of these applies to almost anyone with a job: "Any person who, in the regular and orderly course of his business, profession, or occupation, will be at his place of work and commuting to and from his home to his place of work for 11 or more hours of the 13 that the polls are open (6 a.m. to 7 p.m.)."

See http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/absentee_voting/index.html for a complete list of acceptable reasons to vote absentee, links to download a request for an absentee ballot and other instructions.

You can download an absentee ballot and mail it to your local voter registration office,

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Monitor Streams

To the Editor:

How can too much water be a bad thing? Why does the EPA want Fairfax County to control storm water? Come see for yourselves: join your neighbors at one of the many quarterly stream monitoring events around the county. It is a relaxing way to spend a fall afternoon as we check to see whether our streams are still capable of sustaining life. There you will learn that run off is a tremendous threat to the health of our waterways, upon which all life depends. Rainwater is meant to soak into the ground and percolate into the streams slowly, not rush off roofs, driveways, roads, parking lots, and other surfaces and then dump into the streams all at once. These huge surges lead to flooding which erodes the stream banks and topples the trees. Without those trees, there are no leaves to feed the stream organisms, which are also killed by the higher temperatures from lack of shade. Did you know that many flying insects such as dragonflies

spend their larval stages at the bottom of streams? That "circle of life" thing is not just Disney pabulum — the whole ecosystem depends on insects. And, oh yes — we have to drink the water, too, which has just been poisoned by our roofing material, pesticides, and oil leaks. The fault is not in the EPA, but in ourselves.

So think about how you can keep your water on your own property and not turn it into someone else's problem. Divert your downspouts into a rain garden or rain barrel, use permeable pavers, build a green roof, plant a tree. If Fairfax, the third richest county in the United States, is unable to stop destroying its environment, how can we expect that of China?

Look on www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd under "Volunteer Stream Monitoring" details.

Margaret Fisher

Volunteer stream monitor at the Popes Head Creek — Colchester Road site

More Election Information

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email info@sbe.virginia.gov
http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194
email: info@sbe.virginia.gov
http://www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms/Voter_Information/Index.html

or you can vote "absentee in person."

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 the elections office address, listed above.

Absentee Voting in Person, Fairfax County
♦ Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 323, Fairfax, VA 22035

Absentee voting hours, Sept. 21-Oct. 16, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday, 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Thursdays: 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Oct. 17-Nov. 2, Monday-Friday: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m.

Saturday Hours: Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Office Closed On: Monday, Oct. 8, 2012 (Columbus Day)

Last Day to Vote In-Person: Saturday, Nov. 3

Absentee voting in person is available at Sully Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly, VA 20151, Oct. 17 - Nov. 3, Monday - Friday, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m.; Saturdays, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Bikes for the World As a result of Senthil Kannan's (Troop 1983) Eagle Scout Project, 77 bicycles were collected by more than 25 volunteers and donated to Bikes for the World. From left are Nandun Gunawardhana, Kumaran Singaram, Senthil Kannan, Rhonda Krafchin, Yvette Hess, Sathiya Kannan (in front) and Malar Kannan. The effort was coordinated with Yvette Hess and Keith Oberg from Bikes for the World. Rhonda Krafchin, REI Fairfax Outreach Specialist Rhonda Krafchin was thanked for providing the collection site.

Police Chief Tapped for New Position

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday appointed Police Chief Dave Rohrer as deputy county executive for public safety. He'll begin his new job Oct. 20.

This action, explained County Executive Ed Long in a Sept. 25 memo to all county personnel, will dedicate this newly created position exclusively to public safety. It will also free up Deputy County Executive Rob Stalzer — who currently oversees public safety, in addition to his other duties — “to focus on planning, development and transportation functions.” Some of the major issues in these areas impacting the county include Dulles Rail; transportation funding; Tysons redevelopment; BRAC; regional water systems; and the redevelopments of Springfield Mall, Bailey's Crossroads and Merrifield Town Center.

Rohrer will be responsible for the

county's public-safety programs and will oversee the police and fire departments, Office of Emergency Management and Department of Public Safety Communications. He'll also have a liaison relationship with the Sheriff's Office and the courts.

Long said this new position will also “prioritize public safety resources for the county's 1.1 million residents, while serving the county's long-term growth and development needs. A dedicated deputy county executive for public safety is better able to quickly respond to events as they occur and to coordinate regional preparedness in advance.”

This appointment completes Long's leadership team, which includes the deputy county executives, CFO, assis-



Dave Rohrer

tant county executives and directors of human resources and public affairs. “We will work together in the months and years ahead to address our continuing challenges and continue the culture of excellence for which Fairfax County Government is so well known,” said Long.

Rohrer is a longtime county employee who's served nearly 32 years as a sworn police officer. His career here includes 13 years as a senior commander and eight years as the county's police chief; he's held that post since 2004.

He's also served as deputy chief for investigations and operations support; Patrol Bureau commander; Special Operations Division and district commander; SWAT first-line supervisor and first-line patrol supervisor. Rohrer holds a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from GMU. His annual salary will be \$191,168.

— BONNIE HOBBS

WFCM

FROM PAGE 3

etables. Then in 1997, the Boy Scouts began doing their food drive for us, and that has been a Godsend.”

The next year, Centreville United Methodist Church contributed its clothes closet to WFCM which, by then, was also housing its clothing at Keener Insurance. And Welch again sought a larger space. She called Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) who called Betty Management and arranged for WFCM to rent space at a low amount near the Chantilly Kmart.

“We had a lot of volunteers working there, started making money from the clothes closet and were able to give more help to people needing it,” said Welch. “When Klaire was there, they were fielding three or four calls a day. When I left in 2001, we were up to 20-22 calls a day.”

In November 2002, WFCM Executive Director Dorothy Fonow gave a snapshot of the organization's work. “For the fiscal year ending June 30, [2002], we gave out 46 percent more food than in the previous year,” she said. “People make 15-minute appointments to shop for food on the days the food pantry is open, and our appointments are booked three days in advance — especially Saturdays.”

As a result, in fiscal year 2002, WFCM provided 2,065 families with 10,283 bags of food valued at \$30

SEE WFCM, PAGE 16

Communities of Worship

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

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



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and to serve the Lord*

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Centreville, VA 20120

www.saintandrewlc.org
703-830-2768

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The new building is open,
there is room for everyone!

SUNDAY WORSHIP AND BIBLE STUDY
9:15 am & 11:00 am

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Singles, Men, Women, Adult Discipleship, Choir, Awana,
GoGo (Older adults), Bible Study Fellowship,
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), English Language
Classes and Spanish Speaking Ministry

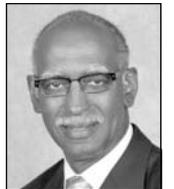
15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120
703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org



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)



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CENTRE VIEW



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Fall for Fairfax KidsFest Returns

Enjoy the best that fall has to offer at the 20th annual Fall for Fairfax KidsFest on Saturday, September 29, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. and Sunday, Sept. 30, from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. Northern Virginia's largest family fall festival includes more than 100 interactive activities, exhibits and programs focusing on education, sport and fitness, the environment, public safety, and personal health.

Activities include: Inova Arcade of Health, Fall for Fairfax Trackless Train, Farmer's Market, Pony Rides, Kids Climbing Wall, Hayrides, Scarecrow-Making, Petting Zoo, KidZone Inflatable Bounces and Slides, Model Trains, Pumpkin Decorating, KidWay MidWay rides, and dozens of performances geared specifically to elementary school and toddler-aged children. A new addition to the festival this year is the carnival.

Fall for Fairfax KidsFest is free; however, select activities require a minimal charge.

In addition to all of the fun fall activities, three festival stages will feature a line-up of popular children's performers, including: Secret Agent 23 Skidoo, Radio Disney Road Show, Busch Gardens Animal Ambassadors!, The Great Zucchini, and Flow Circus, as well as the music and dance of Fairfax's diverse community. For a quick snack or a relaxing family meal, a variety of tasty dining options are available at the festival food court and fresh produce can be purchased from the Farmer's Market.

Parking is plentiful at the Fairfax County Government Center and free shuttle bus service is provided from the Vienna Metro Station (Orange Line) to the festival grounds every hour beginning at 9:30 a.m. No pets are permitted at the festival. Visit www.fallforfairfax.com or call 703-324-3247.

Create a Spectacular Fall Garden



FABULOUS AUTUMN COLOR AND INTEREST

Burning Bush • Red Twig Dogwood
Fall Clematis • Fall Blooming Camellia • Itea
Fothergilla • Coral Bells • Ornamental Grasses

Plus Colorful Mums, Pansies,
Asters and Fall Annuals

**PUMPKINS • GOURDS
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And lots of autumn
decor and decorating
ideas for your home



MERRIFIELD'S FREE SEMINARS!

Saturday, September 29 at 10 am

MERRIFIELD – Houseplants and Bringing Tropicals Back Indoors
FAIR OAKS – Create Combinations of Bulbs, Annuals & Perennials
GAINESVILLE – Salsa & Sauces from the Garden

Full schedules available in our stores & on our website!

**Merrifield
GARDEN CENTER**

Merrifield • 703-560-6222

8132 Lee Hwy., Merrifield, VA

Fair Oaks • 703-968-9600

12101 Lee Hwy., Fairfax, VA

Gainesville • 703-368-1919

6895 Wellington Rd., Gainesville, VA

merrifieldgardencenter.com

Hours: Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 8 pm • Sun. 9 am - 6 pm
New Fall Hours begin October 1
Mon. - Sat. 8 am - 6 pm • Sun. 9 am - 6 pm
(We will close at 4 pm on Sept. 30 for our company picnic)

**Celebrating 220 Years
of Community**

October 20, 2012 10am-5pm
20th Annual Centreville Day
in HISTORIC CENTREVILLE PARK

NEW! 5K Zombie Slouch Fun Run 9am
benefitting DC Metro Candlelighters Foundation

American Legion Parade 10am

Showmobile Entertainment
Alliance Theatre, Centreville Dance Theatre, Creative Center Dance, Epic Quartet, Harmony Road Music, JMU Alumni's Chinese Dragon, Mia Saunder's Ballet, SYA Cheer and DJ Myra Flemister

Especially for Kids
Trick or Treat Trail, A Special Treat from G&C Auto's family to yours: the G&C Auto Children's Ride, Old Fashioned Fun with Miss Charlotte & the ladies of Alpha Delta Kappa, NZone Fun

Hands on History * Marketplace * Food Court
Park Authority Ghost & Van Tours, Antique Cars. Stuart Mosby Museum Living History w/Beverly Pelchar and Swordmasters, Candle-Dipping, Colonial Carpentry, Mount Gilead, Spindle Sears House and more!

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CENTRE VIEW

www.CentrevilleVA.org

FALL FUN 2012

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

THURSDAY/SEPT. 27

Homeschool Days at Sully.

10 a.m.-1 p.m. Hands-on fun and learning centers are designed to enrich the understanding of late 18th century life in Fairfax County. Children should bring a lunch and picnic on the grounds. This program is open to both groups and individuals. Reservations are required by Sept. 17. Call 703-437-1794. \$8 per child, \$4 per adult. Call 703-437-1794, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully.

Free Needlework Session.

1:30-3:30 p.m. Centreville Stitchers welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts, and conversation. The Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr. Contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email johnkitter@verizon.net.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 29

FX Live. 6 p.m. Families will experience Biblical truths communicated through special effects and illustrative interaction. At Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Hwy. Contact Marlene Hale at 703-830-3333 x 105 or marlene.hale@cbcva.org.

Bulbs, Annuals and Perennials. 10 a.m. Peg Bier, Merrifield Plant and Design Specialist, will combine bulbs, which need to be planted this fall, with annuals and perennials for long-lasting displays of coordinated color and interest. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

Casino Night. 7-11 p.m. A Forever Home Rescue Foundation is hosting its second annual Casino Night and Silent Auction at the Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Dr. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at www.aforeverhome.org or 703-961-8690.

SATURDAY/OCT. 6

Curb Appeal. 10 a.m. Join Seth Warner, Merrifield Landscape Designer, and learn about trees and shrubs to provide structure and year-round interest and colorful annuals and perennials to add seasonal splashes of color. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

OCT. 6 & 7

Annual Fairfax Festival of the Arts. Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free with abundant free parking. At Fairfax Corner, 4100 Monument Dr. Visit <http://www.paragonartevents.com/fairfax/>

SUNDAY/OCT. 7

Clifton Day. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. The family-friendly fun includes crafts, food, antiques, jugglers, bagpipe players, unicyclists, music, pony rides, civil war reenactments and

children's activities. Visit www.cliftonday.com.

FRIDAY/OCT. 12

Fellowship Dinner. 6:30 p.m. Western Fairfax Christian Ministries will be holding its 5th Annual Fellowship Dinner at the Fairview Park Marriott, 3111 Fairview Park Dr. Reservations are required as seating is limited. Adults only. There will be an opportunity to give financially to WFCM. Visit www.wfcmva.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 13

Chrysanthemum Show. 2-5 p.m. Hosted by the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

SUNDAY/OCT. 14

Chrysanthemum Show. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Hosted by the Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

Table Top N Gauge Model Train Event. 1-4 p.m. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will have a T-TRAK (table top) display and running model trains at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Admission is \$3 for adults; \$1 for children. Call 703-425-9225 or visit www.fairfax-station.org.

SATURDAY/OCT. 20

Gardening Just for Kids. 10 a.m. This seminar is ideal for kids (ages 6-12) who love to garden and get dirty. Each student will bring home a pumpkin that they've planted with flowers. Parents must be present. Pre-registration required. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

Historic All Hallows Eve.

5-7 p.m. Bring family for a lantern lit tour of the 1794 house and grounds and discover some of the origins of today's Halloween traditions. \$10. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way.

SUNDAY/OCT. 21

Annual Marty Shanton Golf Classic for ALS Patients. 10:30 a.m.-9 p.m. The tournament, including golf and a dinner with entertainment, costs \$225 for individuals, will raise money for research to find a cure for ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave. To register for the tournament, sign up online or contact Steve Shanton at 561-670-3625. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

MONDAY/OCT. 22

Greenbriar Garden Club.

7:30 p.m. Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Rd. Barbara Glickman will talk about her new book, "Capital Splendor: Gardens and Parks of Washington, D.C." Open to public. Contact Diane at 703-378-0994 or Kathy at 703-817-0708.

FRIDAY/OCT. 26

Haunted Meadow. 7-10 p.m. Children 8 and older are invited to take a wagon ride through the Haunted Meadow at E. C. Lawrence Park. There will also be scary movies to watch. The cost is \$6 for children under 12, \$8 for adults. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-631-0013. At Cabell's Mill in the park at 5235 Walney Rd.

SATURDAY/OCT. 27

Layered Gardening. 10 a.m. David Culp will share his design techniques for color and interest throughout the year. He'll also autograph copies of his new book, "The Layered Garden." At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

VolunteerFest®. An area-wide day of community service held in conjunction with national "Make a Difference Day" that mobilizes hundreds of volunteers to help nonprofits accomplish tasks that they would not have the time or resources to do on their own. Most projects begin mid-morning and end around lunch time. Projects take place throughout Northern Virginia at schools, libraries, parks and nonprofit organizations. Visit www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Fundraising Event. 2:30-6:30 p.m. The Humane Society of Fairfax County is having its annual fundraiser at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Rd. Bring the whole family — children and costumed dogs — for a day in the country with food, wines, vendors, music and silent auction. Discounted tickets are available on the website (\$35) or at the door (\$45). Visit www.hsf.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 31

25th anniversary of Mall-O-Ween. 6-8 p.m. Most of Fair Oaks' 200 stores, services and dining options will treat from their storefronts while also providing sampling and coupon treats for those accompanying trick-or-treaters. Free and open to the public. Fair Oaks Mall (Immediately off I-66 at Route 50, Lee Jackson Memorial Parkway). Visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 17

Christmas Floral Designs. 10 a.m. Learn how to make beautiful and creative holiday arrangements with artificial greens, flowers and berries. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Call 703-968-9600 or visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com.

BURKE NURSERY

Presents Our 18th Annual

FALL FESTIVAL & Pumpkin Playground

October 1 thru October 31

Fall is a great time to plant. Visit our Nursery for trees, shrubs and all your garden needs!

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www.pumpkinplayground.com

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ADMISSION \$9.00 M-F; \$12.00 SAT/SUN & Oct. 8 • WEEKDAY GROUP TOURS • SEASON PASSES AVAILABLE

DAILY 9AM-9PM

SPOOKY HAY RIDES • MONEY MOUNTAIN MINERS MOUNTAIN SLIDE WIZARD OF OZ SLIDE W/ADDITIONAL SLIDE • MINI CAROUSEL WESTERN TOWN • GRAVE YARD AIRPLANE • MERRY-GO-ROUNDS INDIAN TEE-PEE • TUMBLING TUBES PHONE TUBES • GHOST TUNNEL SLIDE PUMPKIN FORT • FARM ANIMALS • MECHANICAL RIDES PIRATE SHIP AND PIRATES CAMP GHOST TRAIN • SPOOKY CASTLE FIRETRUCK • MONSTER TRUCK SLIDE

SPECIAL EVENTS SAT - SUN 10-5

FACE PAINTING

Additional Fees for these Events:

BALLOON ANIMALS \$2

WOBBLE WAGON \$2

MOON BOUNCE \$2

PONY RIDES \$5

GIGANTIC SELECTION OF

PUMPKINS • CORN STALKS CIDER • JAMS & JELLIES APPLES • HALLOWEEN DECORATIONS CABBAGE & KALE • WINTER PANSIES CHRYSANTHEMUMS

SUN-THU 9-8, FRI-SAT 9-9

FALL FUN

Virginia Is for Lovers, and Apple-Lovers

Apple season in full swing; Grab a basket and pick your own.

Ida Red, Nittany, Gala, Pink Lady or Honey crisp: whether you like your apples tart or sweet, there are plenty of apple-picking orchards and farms to pick from within an hour's drive of Northern Virginia. For many

families, apple-picking has become a fall tradition, providing a fun outdoor activity and healthy food. Grab a basket and pick your own. Many of the orchards and farms listed below also host special events, fall festivals, hayrides and other

activities. Before you head out, call ahead to make sure that your favorite apple (or pumpkin) is ripe and available for picking.

— VICTORIA ROSS



Stribling Orchard



Marker-Miller Orchards



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Baskets of apples at Rock Hill Orchard



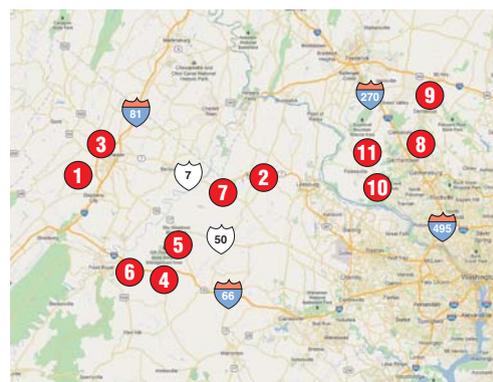
Valley View Orchard



Virginia Farm Market



The Little Country Kitchen at Homestead Farm



© GOOGLE MAP DATA

Maryland

8 BUTLER'S ORCHARD

For 60 years, this family farm has become known for its apple picking as well as its popular fall festival. In addition to apple orchards, there's a market and bakery, featuring everything "apple," a country store, hay rides, slides and tons of pumpkins.
22200 Davis Mill Road, Germantown
301-972-3299
Butlersorchard.com

9 ROCK HILL ORCHARD

Rock Hill Orchard, located in the Agricultural Reserve in Northern Montgomery County, offers a variety of apples to pluck, from Red Delicious to Empire. There's also a fruit, flower and vegetable market packed with locally-grown produce. Rock Hill Orchard features free hayrides to the orchard on Saturdays and Sundays.
28600 Ridge Road, Mount Airy, 301-831-7427
Rockhillorchard.com

10 HOMESTEAD FARM

The Allnutt family has farmed in Montgomery County since 1763, when James Allnutt purchased 746 acres by the Potomac River. Homestead Farm consists of 230 acres of James' original purchase. Today, the Allnutt family continues the family farming tradition. Visitors can pick their own apples, or enjoy Homestead's homemade caramel apples. The Little Country Kitchen features apple pie, cider and fresh vegetable soup.
15600 Sugarland Road, Poolesville, 301-977-3761
Homestead-farm.net

11 LEWIS ORCHARDS

18901 Peach Tree Road, Dickerson, 301-349-4101
Lewisorchardfarmmarket.com

Virginia

1 MARKER-MILLER ORCHARDS

A family favorite, Marker-Miller Orchards has something for everyone in the family. Relax on the front porch in wooden rocking chairs, pack a picnic lunch and enjoy eating in the midst of the lush orchards, or go on an adventure to pick-your-own apples. Every weekend through October, the market is open where apple-lovers line up to get fresh apple cider donuts (a must-have). There's also hand-dipped apple ice cream and cider slushies. On the weekends, there are wagon rides, the cow train and a huge play area for children.

3035 Cedar Creek Grade, Winchester
540-662-1980
Markermillorchards.com

2 CROOKED RUN ORCHARD

Crooked Run Orchard is a small family farm on the outskirts of Purcellville in Loudoun County. Many families go to this orchard for the simple pleasure of apple-picking. There are no mazes or wagon rides or kiddie trains. Owners Uta and Sam Brown grow the food; you pick it. There is no entrance or parking fee. There's only a charge for the food. Children also enjoy the orchard's "table of things." Yes, that's what children call it. There are several "table of things," that include bones, snake skins, nests,

dried bats or frogs, turtle shells and "anything else we find that's interesting during the year," Brown said.

37883 E Main Street, Purcellville, 540-338-7445
Crookedrunorchard.com

3 VIRGINIA FARM MARKET

Virginia Farm Market began in 1952 as small roadside stand selling homegrown fresh peaches. The market has grown to include a bakery, a gift shop featuring wood baskets and local preserves, and apples, apples and more apples. Taste the "jug-your-own" apple cider. Look for the big red barn located on Route 522 north of Winchester.

1881 N. Frederick Pike, Winchester, 540-665-8000
Virginiainfarmmarket.com

4 STRIBLING ORCHARD

The Stribling farm and orchard has been in the Stribling family for almost 200 years. Beginning in September through November, the farm has fresh apples, cider and all sizes and shapes of pumpkins. In addition to apple-picking, visitors can enjoy beautiful views of the Blue Ridge Mountains, Stribling Farm's historic buildings and many farm animals.

11587 Poverty Hollow Lane, Markham
540-364-3040
Striblingorchard.com

CVHS SPORTS REPORT

VOLLEYBALL

Thursday, Sept. 20: CVHS Volleyball played Lake Braddock HS. The freshmen Lady Wildcats lost, 0-2; JV team won, 2-0. The Varsity Lady Wildcats won, 22-25, 25-20, 25-18, 26-28, 15-12. Yasemin Atalay had 10 kills and 12 digs; Grace Simmons had 9 kills and 10 digs; Janine Simmons had 9 kills; Meghan Pollard had 9 kills; Haley Santamire had 30 digs; and Bethany Forte had 36 assists and 7 digs. The team is now 8-7 on the season.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Centreville Varsity girls Cross Country team captured first place in the "B" race at the Oatlands Invitational, over hilly Leesburg terrain. Leading the charge for the Wildcats was senior Rebecca Vinter with a 5th place finish. Senior Isabela Medina placed 11th and sophomore McKinsey Smith 21st to join Vinter as medalists. Rounding out the varsity squad were Jackie O'Shea, Joanna Ahn, Colette Rizzi and Natalie King. Junior Maya Munoz scored a 3rd place finish in the JV Upperclassman race and freshman Kayley Bogemann placed 15th in the Girl's JV Underclassman race.

For the Wildcat boys, the top finisher was sophomore Bobby Dunn with an 8th place ranking in the boys Varsity "B" race. Senior Sean Nguyen was also a medalist in the boy's Upperclassman JV race, placing 16th.

GOLF

The CVHS Wildcats Golf team has had an



PHOTO COURTESY OF CVHS AND ITS GOLF WEBSITE

The Centreville High School Wildcats Varsity Golf Team have enjoyed a successful season, winning all five matches they have played in the past five weeks. They enter Districts this week. They are: Carter Bach (9), Kirk Whitmore (10), Jae Jun (10), Yoojin Kim (9), Coach Fisher, Shaan Kololgi (12), Chris Sokol (12), Keon Ho Song (12), C.oach Bigus. Not pictured: Drew Brickwedde (11)

outstanding run for the past month, winning all five of their matches during the time period.

On Wednesday, Aug. 29, in their first District matchup, the team beat the Herndon Hornets playing "at home" on the Westfields Golf Club, 149-173. Senior Chris Song shot a 34, freshman Yoojin Kim, a 36; senior Chris Sokol a 39, and senior Shaan Kololgi shot a 40.

On Monday Sept. 10, the Wildcats took on Westfield at Chantilly National. The 'Cats beat the 'Dogs, 152-185. Top 4 individual scores were Song, 36; Kim, 36; sophomore Jae Jun, 39; and Kololgi, 41. The next day CVHS defeated Oakton HS at the International Country Club in Fairfax, 168-175. Top 4 individual scores were Kololgi, 39; Kim, 40; Sokol, 42, and Jun, 47.

Two matches were played on Monday,

Sept. 17. The first match had the Varsity team taking on Robinson at the Westfields Golf Club; the Wildcats continued their winning ways with a score of 160-168. Top four individual scores were Song, 36; Kololgi, 39; Kim, 41; and Sokol, 44.

The second match of the day was a JV scrimmage against Robinson, also at Westfields G.C. The JV team won over the Rams, 116-119, over 5 holes. Top four individual scorers were sophomore Zach Forbes, 26; sophomore Josh McCarron, 27; junior Brian Carmichael, 28, and junior Patrick Rouleau, 35.

FIELD HOCKEY

The Centreville HS Lady Wildcats Field Hockey team is currently posting a 9 - 3 record for the season. The team defeated Langley High School 1 - 0 on Tuesday, Sept. 11, with the game-winning goal coming from junior Caroline Bollman. The Wildcats then opened District play against Chantilly High School on Thursday, Sept. 13, and after a tightly contested game, lost 1 - 2 (goal for CVHS by Bollman). The Lady Wildcats faced Herndon High School on Tuesday, Sept. 20 and lost 2 - 4, with both goals for the Cats coming from junior Katherine Zempolich (assisted by senior Lindsay Egbers and junior Devin Kelly). On Thursday, Sept. 22, the team defeated TC Williams High School, 2 - 1, with goals by Egbers and Zempolich. The Field Hockey team is scheduled to host West Springfield on Thursday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m.

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Get Ready for Clifton Day

45th annual festival is Sunday, Oct. 7.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Live bands, moonbounces, handmade crafts, Civil War re-enactors, food galore, pony rides and a unicyclist — all these things and more will be part of the 45th annual Clifton Day. The festival is slated for Sunday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Rain date is Oct. 14.)

"I have a lot of fun on Clifton Day," said event Chairman Fred Ansick. "I really enjoy seeing the smiling faces on the kids, and folks laughing and having a good day. They love the atmosphere of the town. The residents welcome everyone to see Clifton as a community — a small town in the shadows of the big city. So we want everyone to come on out and have a good time."

The Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) puts on Clifton Day and proceeds go to the town's nonprofit groups, including the Clifton Lions Club, Girl and Boy Scouts, Clifton Presbyterian Church, Clifton Gentleman's Club, Clifton Woman's Club, the CBA and Acacia Lodge.

Admission is free; parking is \$5/car (\$10 on the floodplain), with proceeds going to charity. "It's the largest fund-raiser for all our local nonprofits," said Ansick.

Sonia Dyer, 88, moved to Clifton with her family in 1964, and her daughter Bonny and oldest son Tuck went to the first Clifton Day. "It was in the old firehouse on the second floor," she said. "There were tables with crafts and things, but that's all there was to



Thousands of people jammed Main Street for last year's Clifton Day.

it. My children bought me a little, ceramic jewelry chest that I still use."

"At the time, we didn't think Clifton Day would amount to anything; but through the years, it just kept growing," continued Dyer. "It's that small-town feel Clifton has that makes it special. And I think the citizens are more involved in town activities now than they were then, so there's more of a community feeling."

For her family, she said, Clifton Day's a holiday. Said Dyer: "My children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren all come home for Clifton Day." And this year, they'll have lots of things to keep them busy.

The town park off Chapel Street will host a slew of children's activities. JumpWorks will have inflatables and moonbounces there, Kerry the Face-Painter will decorate children's faces and Sharon the Balloon Artist will twist colorful balloons into fanciful shapes. Local Girl and Boy Scout troops will also have booths there with games such as safe darts and beanbag toss.

The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Academy will give pony rides near the barn behind Acacia Lodge. It will also provide a pony for petting in the park. The Unicycle Lady will perform mainly in the park, but will also do some stunts on Main Street. There'll also be some roaming entertainment. Performing while strolling through town will be the Banjo Man and bagpiper Michael Ahnell.

The stage on Chapel Road will feature a variety of singers, dancers and musicians. At 10:30 a.m. is the Boyle School of Irish Dance; 11:30 a.m., They Call Me Piano, a local girl who sings; 12:15 p.m., Steve Hudson and his Fabulous Exaggerations, a stand-up comedian and musician who plays piano and guitar.

At 1:15 p.m. will be The Wayward Street Players music group; 2:15 p.m., The Acoustic Burgoo, a bluegrass group from Purcellville; and 3:15 p.m., The Randy Thompson Band playing modern country-rock music. Clifton resident Thompson recently returned from a music tour in Switzerland.

Artisans on Main Street's Ayre Square will

demonstrate crafts such as wood-carving, wool spinning, weaving and pottery- and basket-making. And more than 200 arts-and-crafts vendors will sell their wares throughout the town.

Items include jewelry, candles, plant hangers, glasswork, children's clothing, baskets, ceramics, woodworking products, furniture, mixed media, needlework, quilts, sculpture, metalwork, seasonal decorations and holiday items, sports memorabilia, toys, stained glass, and watercolor and oil paintings.

Food will be available in several places. The Clifton Lions Club will offer hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue; Clifton Presbyterian Church, crab-cake meals, brisket meals and corndogs; Clifton Gentleman's Club, red beans and rice, chili and chili dogs; Cub Scout Packs 1861 and 1104, cotton candy, popcorn, lemonade, cookies, candy and apple cider; Acacia Lodge, pulled pork and Italian sausage.

As for commercial food vendors, Baja Fresh will sell burritos, quesadillas and chicken, fish and shrimp tacos. Rachelle Slotnick is catering an Oktoberfest booth by the stage in front of the Clifton Town Meeting Hall on Chapel Road. It'll offer a-la-carte, German-style food such as bratwurst, kielbasa and sauerkraut. The CBA will sell beer there, too.

Trummer's on Main will have outside tables where people may purchase food and cocktails. Food samples will be available in front of the former Heart in Hand restaurant called Buckley's. And Paradise Springs Winery will offer wine samples in front of the post office on Chapel Road.

Altogether, there'll be 10 food vendors throughout the town, selling treats including kettle corn, funnel cakes and Sno-Cones. The Clifton Store and Peterson's Ice Cream and Dog Pound will also be open for business, as will the town shops.

Antiques vendors will be behind Buckley's, and the Acacia Lodge will have some Clifton artifacts and memorabilia on display upstairs. Also for history buffs, Civil War re-enactors Tony Meadows and the 49th



Customers peruse blown-glass items at a vendor's booth.

Virginia Infantry will be encamped in the yard across from the stage on Chapel Road.

The American Red Cross Bloodmobile will be stationed next to the lodge, and people donating a pint of blood will be entered in a drawing for a gift certificate for door prizes.

The VRE train will run to and from Clifton, or festival attendees may park at Clifton Elementary, the floodplain, Kincheloe Road, Newman Road, and Chapel Road at Frosty Meadows. CBA-sponsored shuttles will ferry people to and from Frosty Meadows. For more information, see www.cliftonday.com.

This year's sponsors are The Peterson Cos., Ourisman Toyota, VRE, Blackbarn Media and the Norfolk Southern Railroad. Ansick, in his sixth year as chairman, says his 10-person committee begins working on Clifton Day in January, reserving the stage and the town properties.

"Things start ramping up in April, when I get the volunteer list," he said. "In May, June and July, we do the planning; and in September, we start praying for good weather."



Tall, whimsical giraffes made of packed straw and raffia were among the craft items on sale last year.



Strolling bagpiper Michael Ahnell entertains the crowd on Main Street.

SPORTS

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW



Quarterback Chris Mullins, seen earlier this season, and the Westfield football team remained undefeated with a 24-21 win against Robinson on Sept. 21.

Westfield Football Remains Undefeated

The Westfield football team remained undefeated with a 24-21 victory against Robinson during the Bulldogs' Concorde District opener on Sept. 21 in Chantilly.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Westfield, ranked No. 8 in the Washington Post's top 20, will host Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28.

Centreville Football Wins Concorde Opener

The Centreville football team shut out Herndon to earn a victory in its Concorde District opener, 14-0, on Sept. 21 at HHS.

Scott Walter led the Wildcats, passing for 54 yards and a touchdown and rushing for 42 yards and a score.

Centreville (3-1, 1-0) will host Hayfield at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28.

Chantilly Football Improves to 3-1

The Chantilly football team beat previously undefeated West Springfield, 49-14, on Sept. 21 to improve to 3-1.

Chantilly will travel to face Edison at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Sept. 28.

WHS Field Hockey Gets 10th Win

The Westfield field hockey team defeated previously unbeaten Fairfax, 3-0, on Sept. 24, improving its record to 10-2. The Bulldogs' two losses came to teams outside of the Northern Region (First Colonial and Tabb). Westfield is 9-0 against Northern Region foes, outscoring those 43-2.

The Bulldogs will travel to face South County at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27.

CVHS Field Hockey Improves to 9-3

The Centreville field hockey team defeated T.C. Williams, 2-1, on Sept. 21, improving the Wildcats' record to 9-3. Centreville will play its final non-district game at home against West Springfield at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 27. The Wildcats are 0-2 in the Concorde District, losing to Chantilly and Herndon.

Chantilly Field Hockey Beats Centreville, Robinson

The Chantilly field hockey team is off to a 2-0 start in the Concorde District, defeating Centreville, 2-1, on Sept. 13 and Robinson, 2-0, on Sept. 18.

The Chargers' next district game is Oct. 2 at home against Herndon.

Devin Kelly (16), seen earlier this season, and the Centreville field hockey team improved to 9-3 with a victory against T.C. Williams on Sept. 21.



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My Team



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not literally, of course. Nor am I the coach or the general manager. But I do feel like an owner, in that there are people that I invest in – again not literally, but definitely emotionally. The people who express the kind of positivity and confidence and encouragement – and empathy and understanding quite honestly, of the demands and rigors physically, emotionally and spiritually of being a terminal cancer patient. Aside from my immediate family and inner circle of friends, co-workers, and fellow cancer patients with whom I've connected, I refer to all the people who have sent cards, letters, e-mails and general well-wishes offering their hope, prayers and confidence in yours truly surviving this ordeal. Moreover, there are people I've met along the way: health care providers, therapists, newly diagnosed cancer patients, previously diagnosed cancer patients, individuals who don't know me/don't know my story; whose personality, perspective, enthusiasm and sincerity have empowered me, and who have exuded the kind of positive and uplifting spirit that fuels the passion that a stage IV lung cancer patient tends to lose as the fight for one's own survival continues. To invoke a sports cliché: these are people who are good in the locker room/clubhouse.

These individuals are selfless, dedicated, motivated, caring, concerned, successful, can-do-type positive influences who optimize their optimism and bury their pessimism, especially around a terminal cancer patient. The last thing, the absolute last vibe that a terminal patient needs is negativity, depression, anxiety, worry and stress; internally and equally importantly: externally. I don't need to feel or be influenced by or be in the presence of anybody – or anything, that intentionally or unintentionally (by their nature) brings me down or opens me up to self doubt, or doubt of any kind for that matter. I need to believe. And most importantly, I/we need to be infused with positivity. And I don't mean Stepford Wives-type behavior (robotic, following a script, lacking in substance) either. I mean, the human touch, emotionally certainly and occasionally even physically. In summary, we need a connection, a feeling of togetherness and mutual awareness of the patient's plight and a willingness to face it and dare I say, discuss it together in an intelligent, thoughtful and exuberant-type manner where the highs – in life and in any treatment protocol, are maximized and where the lows are minimized.

The up-and-down-and-all-around existence of a cancer patient who's terminal is already as much negativity (which becomes almost endemic) as one can endure. Therefore, any more negativity from any source in any way/context might just push that patient over his or her emotional edge. An edge which might involve a metaphorical set of finger nails. Who knows really, what the patient's limitations are? We only know who, what, where and when circumstances exacerbate an already precarious position, a position certainly worth avoiding. My team consists of individuals with attitudes that reflect this reality. It may not be for everybody. But it better be for the cancer patient. "I don't know much, but I know that." (Ben Affleck – out of context, from the movie "Good Will Hunting.")

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

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Fall Events

FROM PAGE 2

under); \$14/senior citizens. For specific show times, see boxoffice@thealliancetheatre.org.

Nov. 9-11 and Nov. 16-17:

Centreville High theater students will perform the musical comedy, "Cabaret," Nov. 9, 10, 11 and Nov. 16-17.

Nov. 9-11:

The Northern Virginia Christmas Market craft show returns to the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly, Friday-Sunday, Nov. 9-11. Hours are Friday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Nov. 10:

The 20th annual Holiday Happenings Craft Show will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St. in Fairfax.

Nov. 13:

Chantilly High's Fall Choral Concert is set for Nov. 13 at 7 p.m. in the school theater. The evening's entertainment features ensembles from both the Concert Choir and Show Choir.

Nov. 15-17:

Rocky Run Middle's theater students will perform "The Election," Nov. 15-16 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

Nov. 16-18:

Westfield High theater students are performing the comedy, "Laughing Stock," Nov. 16-18.

At Cox Farms

FROM PAGE 3

faint of heart, adding, "The zombies will scare people."

The Firegrounds is also part of the nighttime events, but it's fun and not frightening. Cox Farms's big, six-lane slide is open for rides by torchlight, and there are giant bonfires where people can hang out, listen to music and roast marshmallows. And performing will be a fire dancer and a magician.

Traditionally, the fall festival draws thousands of people each week from throughout the Washington Metropolitan area, and Cox-Richard is delighted to see them. "Fall is that time of year when the weather's perfect and everyone's hardwired to go outside," he said. "And we're happy giving them a break from the go-go-go, D.C. atmosphere and letting them have some good, old-fashioned, technology-free fun."

"Aaron and I played here as kids, and now Aaron's kids and my friends' children are coming out and enjoying the same things – the slides, rope swings, hayrides and cider – we loved as children," continued Cox-Richard. "We're working harder than we ever have, but it's incredibly rewarding seeing all the families smiling and happy. It makes it all worthwhile."

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WFCM Responds: Demand for Help Keeps Growing

FROM PAGE 7

each and totaling \$308,490. That figure was nearly \$100,000 more than in fiscal year 2001. WFCM also gave financial assistance to 337 households, equaling 1,050 individuals.

By then, the organization had more than 200 active volunteers and 26 churches serving residents of Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks, Fair Lakes and Fairfax Station. Jansen became executive director in January 2008 and, in April 2009, WFCM renovated and enlarged its food pantry — by then at its current location at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. It also opened a thrift store in the space next door.

WFCM now has 850 volunteers who gave a total of 20,000 volunteer hours in fiscal year 2012. They're in addition to all the Scout, student, church and business groups who've also donated their time. And with the downturned economy, the need has continued to soar.

A 2010 Brookings Institution study of census data referenced in the Sept. 22 Washington Post revealed that, in Washington, D.C.'s Virginia suburbs, the largest increases in the number of people living in poverty in recent years have been in Centreville, Chantilly, Linton Hall and



Melissa Jansen

BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Leesburg.

As a result, from July 1, 2011 through June 30 of this year, WFCM gave out 32,000 bags of food, equaling 369,000 pounds. "That's over \$590,941 in value," said Jansen. "And that's not including the clothing given to clients or the \$146,713 in financial

assistance for rent, utilities, car repairs, gas cards, medical/dental care, prescriptions and transportation."

During that same time period, added Jansen, "We saw 3,272 individuals who had food, clothes and financial-aid needs. And we graduated 20 people from our budgeting class."

For many years, WFCM has also done community outreach via its school backpack program and by providing Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets to people in need. "This year, we gave out a record 1,889 backpacks to 23 schools," said Jansen. "And last year, we gave a total of 1,587 holiday food baskets. When I first started, the backpacks and holiday baskets each totaled about 1,000."

Basically, she said, "The downturn of the

economy has caused people to lose their homes, jobs and income. Homelessness in Fairfax County is decreasing; however, poverty is still the same. Some 57,000 people in this county are living at or below the poverty level. That's alarming to me because we live in such an affluent county with lots of resources."

Looking toward the next 25 years, said Jansen, "I think things will get better, but there's no guarantee. My hope is that WFCM will be able to continue existing and still serve this community. But to do so — and even now — we rely on donations from the community. We especially need financial contributions, but giving in the community is down because of economics — yet the need is still there. We're a nonprofit, but we still have to pay our bills to function and keep serving the population."

She said the toughest part of her job is balancing a quality program on a limited budget, while continually encouraging her staff — six full-time and six part-time people — because "they're seeing people in crisis every day. Of course, the most rewarding part is seeing the smiles on the faces of the clients when they leave our office and I know they've been helped in some way."

Even Welch is still involved. After Fonow left in 2007, she returned to lead WFCM for one more year until Jansen was hired. She then joined the board of directors be-

fore retiring again, a few years ago. But on Mondays, said Welch, "My husband and I pick up donated food from Food Lion to bring to WFCM."

She's enjoyed "getting to know so many wonderful and generous people in the various churches and community groups. I still treasure those friendships and all the nice things I saw people do." She also stressed how important WFCM's work is.

"As a community, we can't have people dying from starvation. These are our neighbors, our friends — people whose children are in school with our children," said Welch. "This is a Christian organization, and we're responding to God's call to love our neighbors as ourselves."

It's also part of America's heritage, she said. "The pilgrims and pioneers didn't leave for new areas alone; they banded together and helped each other. People depended on each other to survive, and we still do. That's who we are as Americans, as citizens."

Excited about WFCM's 25th anniversary, Welch said, "I think it's fabulous that we've been able to continue this work with the help of the community and the churches. I'm happy that so many people are willing to step forward and give of their time, treasure and talent. And I hope others will be encouraged to participate, because there's still a great need out there and we still need people to help."



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