



First-grade teacher Caryn Lynch (center) and her students at Colin Powell Elementary wear the chef's hats they made.

## 'Serve with Napkins and Ketchup'

### Recipes for Thanksgiving.

Students in teacher Caryn Lynch's first-grade class at Colin Powell Elementary tell their favorite part of Thanksgiving dinner and how they'd prepare it.

Turkey – "Stuff it with turkey and put it in the oven. Cook it 2 minutes at 1 degree and serve it with chicken-fried rice."

— LEONARDO MORENO, 7

Turkey – "I'd buy it from the store, take it home and put it in the oven. I'd stuff it with vegetables and cook it 10 minutes at 20 degrees."

— RITHA IGOUT, 6

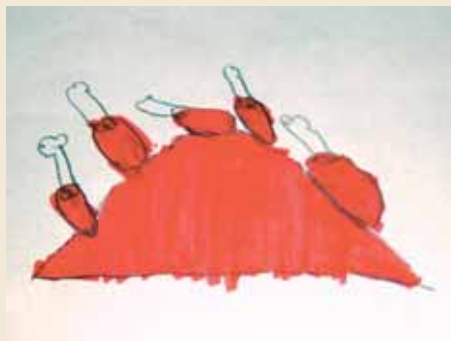
Stuffing – "I'd use bread and cheese and mix it up and stuff it in the turkey. Then I'd cook it for 30 minutes at warm and serve it with vegetables on the side."

— NICHOLAS PHAM, 6



Chicken soup – "You cook a chicken and put soup in it and then tomatoes and rice. Cook it in a pot on the stove for 30 minutes, 'til it's nice and warm and hot."

— SAM PINTO, 7



Turkey – "Cut it and put it in the oven and cook it for 10 minutes at hot. Then put it on the plate, eat it and enjoy it."

— RUDHAR JOSHI, 6

Mashed potatoes – "I'd cook three potatoes in the oven for 2 hours; then mash them with butter and serve them."

— MIN JU KWON, 6

Duck – "First buy one and then make it. Put it in the oven at 1 degree for 2 minutes."

— DANIEL CHOI, 6

Turkey – "I would put it in the oven and cook it 20 minutes at 1 degree."

— EUGENE HWANG, 6

Sweet potatoes – "You'd put four cooked potatoes inside a pan and three scoops of sugar. Then mix it up and eat it and have apple pie for dessert."

— BRANDON VASQUEZ SANCHEZ, 7

Chocolate cake – "I'd put chocolate on a pan, put water on it and mix it. Put it in the oven and then take it out. Then put frosting on it and sprinkles"

SEE SERVE, PAGE 8

## 40 Years Prison for Centreville Murder

Man killed his ex-girlfriend's sister.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Despite the fact that Man Ha Park left his wife and daughter to run off with another woman, they both testified on his behalf before he was sentenced for murdering that woman's sister.

But neither their pleas nor tears could save him from being sentenced to 40 years in prison for a killing so brutal that the prosecutor called the crime scene "a blood bath — worse than in many horror movies."

The offense occurred June 6, 2011 and was actually a triple stabbing. The murder victim was Centreville resident Mihwa Kim, 49.

During Park's preliminary hearing, Sept. 7, 2011, the ex-girlfriend, Shanna Kim, 52, testified that Park stabbed both her and her sister and then tried killing himself, as well. She said he was armed with two long knives — a kitchen knife and a sushi knife.

The tragedy happened inside the Elms of Centreville apartment complex, across Braddock Road from the Old Centreville Crossing Shopping Center. Shanna Kim had known Park four years and he'd lived with her and her sister in that apartment — where Mihwa's husband and 14-year-old daughter also lived — until Park moved out, May 29, 2011.

SEE MAN KILLED, PAGE 5

## Remembering Bonnie Huneke

Virginia Run Turkey Trot to be run in her honor.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

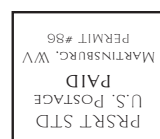
Each year, the Virginia Run Turkey Trot is run in honor of a community resident who's died of cancer, and this year's Thanksgiving Day event is in memory of Bonnie Huneke. She died Oct. 27, 2011 of breast cancer at age 50.



Bonnie Huneke

Sixteen-year residents of Centreville's Virginia Run community, she and her husband Stephen,

SEE TURKEY TROT, PAGE 4



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## NEWS

### CVHS Students Named Top Achievers

The following Centreville High School students have been recognized as top achievers in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program.

- ❖ National Merit Semifinalist: Ben Sando.
- ❖ Commended Scholars: Joanna Ahn, Jonathan Chu, Ananya Dhawan, Shilpa Garg, Hayley Harris, Yoonah Kim, Rachel Knutti, Thomas Le, Sabetta Singh, Warren Smith, Kathrine Steinbach, Matthew Tentoni, Daniel Weisz, Sabina Yim and Esther Yoon.

❖ National Achievement Semifinalists: Hayley Harris and Warren Smith.

All belong to the Class of 2013 and have been named as either a National Merit Semifinalist, a National Achievement Semifinalist, and or a Commended Scholar.

National Merit Finalists will be announced in February 2013 and are eligible for scholarship awards, which include \$2,500 National Merit Scholarships, Corporate-sponsored Merit Scholarships, and College-Sponsored Merit Scholarships.

### Gingerbread Activities at Deer Park Elementary

The Gingerbread Man will help K-2 students at Deer Park Elementary learn about school geography and the staff members when local author Laura Murray comes to share her book, "The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School," Dec. 12, at 9 a.m. Students will enjoy an interactive presentation by Murray in the school's library, where they'll learn how a determined and resourceful gingerbread man — inadvertently left behind at recess by the students who made him — will find his way to them. He'll traverse the school and meet many helpful staff members along the way.

Beginning after Thanksgiving break, Deer Park kindergartners will be using gingerbread-themed activities to learn math, reading, writing and problem solving. A giant gingerbread house will be erected outside the classrooms and used as a quiet place to read. Each classroom also will decorate a giant cookie, which will secretly disappear. Students will guess where the cookie could be and eventually find it in the school.



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Boy Scouts from Troop 7369 of St. Timothy Catholic School sort canned goods together.



Among Saturday's sorters were (from left) Troop 7369 Scoutmaster Mike Warsocki, Virginia Run's John Caccivio, Glennys Warsocki and Athena Hoosang of coed crew 1890 of Chantilly.

# Boy Scout Food Drive Successful

The annual Boy Scout "Scouting for Food" Drive was Saturday, Nov. 10. Locally, Scouts collected food donated by residents, sorted it and brought it to WFCM (Western Fairfax Christian Ministries) for its food pantry. Some 58,691 pounds of food was collected in the Sully District – which is 1,700 pounds more than last year.

More than 900 Boy Scouts plus more than 800 other volunteers — including adults, Girl Scouts and other groups — participated. "I think this is a phenomenal achievement for a one-day collection," said Michael Adere, co-chairman of the Sully event. "We really appreciate the generosity of the people in our community."

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW



From left: Chantilly High senior David Stewart, plus Westfield High sophomore Jonathan Bidinger and his dad David Bidinger, Troop 893's assistant Scoutmaster, with a load of donated food.



Chantilly High sophomore Ian Lambeth brings a load of canned goods to a truck bound for WFCM's food pantry.



Holding canned goods bound for WFCM is Westfield High senior Aionna Campbell.



Helping sort food are (from left) Matt Rodriguez of Lanier Middle School; Nathaniel Stone, Eagle View Elementary; WFCM's Julie Thompson, Centreville's Gate Post Estates community; and Chantilly High sophomore Tony Wang.



Hauling boxes of donated food are (from left) Chantilly High sophomore Cady Belsky, Robinson Secondary sophomore Claire Spina, Westfield High sophomore Thomas Johnson and Westfield freshman Gloria Marshak.

# Turkey Trot To Be Run in Huneke's Honor

FROM PAGE 1

a government contractor and retired Army major, were married 21 years; their children are Elizabeth, 31, Craig, 26 and Mary, 19. Bonnie's first husband, Army CWO3 Billy Bolin, preceded her in death.

"She was one of those super-friendly people who never met someone she didn't like," said Stephen Huneke. "Every day, she'd be out walking our golden retriever and met a lot of neighbors that way."

Bonnie also loved planting flowers and gardening; and as the children grew, she and Stephen enjoyed attending their athletic events in SYA and in high school. She also volunteered at Virginia Run Elementary, Stone Middle and Westfield High and worked at Westfield's blood drives, too.

An active person, she used to be an avid runner until a bone tumor on her right knee, 18 years ago, forced her to have a prosthetic knee. Because of that, several times over the last 15 years, doctors had to remove scar tissue on her knee.

Bonnie did aqua-jogging at the Cub Run Rec Center, a few times a week. She became such a regular there that she and the staff members knew each other well. She also

liked getting together with friends. But a dramatic change in her life was just on the horizon.

"Around October 2010, she started having pain deep in her thigh, and we assumed it was the prosthetic device loosening up," said Huneke. He said she'd also had pain in her breast, but "doctors here didn't catch [her cancer returning] and didn't know what to do about her problem."

When her bone tumor was discovered years ago, the military sent Bonnie to an orthopedic oncologist in San Antonio, Texas. So in April 2011, she returned to him. "He did a cancer scan and found multiple tumors throughout her body," said Huneke. "They were on her lung and liver and one was in her brain."

When she came home to Virginia and saw an oncologist at Bethesda National Medical Center, he also found a tumor in her breast. According to her husband, it was an aggressive form of breast cancer.

"The doctor said, 'This isn't curable,' and said she had maybe a year to live — which was pretty hard to digest," said Huneke. Afterward, Bonnie had radiation to slow the growth of the tumor in her brain, but there wasn't much else that could be done.

"You just hope for the best and try to live as normal a life as possible," said Huneke. "Our youngest daughter was finishing up her senior year at Westfield; so for her last six months, Bonnie focused on getting her ready for college at Virginia Tech."

Their son Craig was in the Army and, about two months after his mother's diagnosis, he was deployed to Iraq. But, said Huneke, "He got to come back for the last month of her life and was here with her when she died."

Daughter Elizabeth lives nearby, so she was with Bonnie every day, along with her three young children, two boys and a girl, which proud grandmother Bonnie loved.

She died, the end of October 2011. Said her husband: "She once said, 'I never really wanted to live to be 90, but I never thought I'd die at 50.'"

A year's gone by since then and, said Huneke, "Last year was a little tougher. We spent Christmas with Bonnie's twin sister Connie in San Antonio and got to see our

son stationed then at Fort Hood, Texas. He's now a DOD contractor in Northern Virginia."

As for Turkey Trot, Huneke said he's "very honored" that his wife is being remembered that way — especially since the proceeds go to Inova's Life with Cancer program that helps families going through the disease.

"The irony is that Bonnie was a fairly avid runner before the problems with her knee," he said. "Connie isn't able to be here for the Turkey Trot, but she and her son will run a 5K in San Antonio at the same time the Turkey Trot is run here. My son is planning on running the 5K [here] and I'm going to do the [2K] walk."

Meanwhile, Huneke and his family are getting on with their lives as best they can. "As time goes on, maybe the technology for diagnosing breast cancer will improve and something like this won't happen to someone else," he said. "But time doesn't heal — you just call it the new normal."

**"Time doesn't heal — you just call it the new normal."**

— Stephen Huneke, widower

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# Man Killed His Ex-girlfriend's Sister

FROM PAGE 1

Kim said they'd asked Park, a sushi chef, to leave because "he couldn't keep a job and wouldn't try." But in the early-morning hours of June 6, 2011, the two women were there alone, sleeping, when he returned. Shanna Kim was in a bedroom and Mihwa Kim was in the living room.



**Park**

Awakened by noise around 5 a.m., Shanna Kim said she went to the living room and saw Park stabbing her sister several times.

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

But she eventually managed to escape and get help and Park was soon arrested. On July 9, in Fairfax County Circuit Court, he pleaded guilty to first-degree murder and malicious wounding, returning Nov. 9 for sentencing. A Korean-language interpreter translated the proceedings for him.

At the outset, defense attorney Rebecca Lindroff noted the presence of some two dozen family members and friends there to support Park, including his son and daughter. She also called his ex-wife, Jum Sokkang, to testify.

Sokkang said they were married almost 23 years; they moved to the U.S. in August 1992, settling in California. "We weren't rich, but we had our son and daughter and we were happy," she said. In November 1997, they moved to Virginia, where a friend helped them start a business.

While she spoke, Park buried his head in his hands and cried, and Sokkang sobbed on the witness stand, as well. "We were very busy, but my husband spent his free time with the kids; he loved them very much. [Later on], he told me he had someone he had affection for, and I couldn't do anything but accept it."

Park then left his family and eventually divorced his wife. Said Sokkang: "He went to live a new life with another person." She said he'd never been violent toward her or their children, and she asked the judge to "show him some leniency."

"He did not stay in touch with you or the kids after he left, is that correct?" asked Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney J. David Gardy. "Yes," replied Sokkang.

Park's daughter, Joo Park, 22, also testified, recalling fond memories of family dinners, trips with her father and how he helped her with homework and came to her school concerts. She was also the first to learn that he'd strayed.

"I found out he was having an affair through a phone call," she said, noting that it made her angry and "incredibly sad." Then, voice shaking, she added, "He told me he loved someone else and wanted to live with her. He left that night."

The next time she saw her father was June 5, 2011 — the night before the murder. "He came to our house," said Joo Park. "He looked frantic and his voice was raised; he was talking really fast and stuttering. He hugged me, cried and said he was sorry. He said he couldn't come see me because he was ashamed, and then he left."

The next time she saw him, he was in jail; still, she also asked the judge for leniency. The attorneys then presented their arguments.

"We're sentencing Mr. Park today for an act of cold-blooded murder," said Gardy. "Shanna Kim is here

today and is lucky to be alive. The defendant plunged a large knife into her with the intent to kill. It was a heinous crime, worse than many. [He] was in Oregon before this happened and, when Shanna Kim refused his overtures, he drove thousands of miles 'cross country to kill her and her sister."

Gardy said Park wrote out his "premeditated intent to kill" on notes found in his car and at the murder scene. He also said Park called Mihwa names and blamed her for his breakup with Shanna. Then, said Gardy, Park waited to strike until after Mihwa's husband left their Centreville apartment for work at 4 a.m., leaving their 14-year-old daughter, Mihwa and Shanna asleep.

"He brought his own large, scary knives to the scene, and this murder was essentially ambush-style," said Gardy. "Mihwa had 24 stab wounds; it was a savage attack, beyond violent and unimaginably brutal."

Furthermore, said the prosecutor, Park was "a selfish individual. He didn't take the sisters' feelings into account; he did what he thought was best for him. Your honor, if all it takes is a breakup to make him kill, then society will never be safe with this defendant on the street. A life sentence is appropriate for the life he took and to protect Shanna Kim from his obsession with her. She deserves to live a life in peace."

Calling the events of this case "truly a tragedy," Lindroff said Park has "profound remorse" and, if he could, "he'd take back all the pain and anguish he's caused." Except for the day of the crime, she said, he'd led "a noteworthy life with no history of crime or violence." And she noted that she'd submitted to the judge 36 letters on his behalf.

When he'd left his wife and children and extended network of friends, said Lindroff, "It was a tight-knit community, so his decision cast shame upon his entire family. In early 2011, Shanna asked him to move back to Northern Virginia, where her sister had encountered financial difficulties. [He did], but was afraid of running into his ex-wife and children [who lived in Oakton]."

However, on June 6, 2011, said Lindroff, "He was suddenly homeless with no job, family or friends. That was the final crack in his psyche. And when he was cast out [of the apartment in Centreville] by his loved one, it was the perfect storm of failure for him. It eroded his peaceful, rational life and he was sulen and angry."

Ultimately, said his attorney, "Mr. Park snapped. All his stressors became too much for him to bear. He became irrational, his thinking became more distorted and his unraveling led us here today. He'd lost everything that identified him as a human. Shanna was the reason he'd given up his good life; he couldn't just go on. After the crime, he was diagnosed as having had a severe depressive episode. He's 54 years old; this isn't a man beyond redemption."

Then, crying, Park stood and, via the interpreter, said, "I have committed a very big sin. I ask for forgiveness from everyone here." He said he was "possessed" by something and "not himself" when he committed the crimes. Apologizing to both sisters' families, Park said, "I've given a lot of pain to a lot of people and I'm very sorry for what I've done." He asked his ex-wife to forgive him and told his children, "Every time I think about you, my heart just breaks."

But Judge Robert Smith had the final word, sentencing Park to 40 years in prison for the murder and 20 years incarceration for the malicious wounding. He then ran the sentences concurrently and placed Park on three years post-release supervision.

## ROUNDUPS

### Parkway Overpass Now Open

As of Thursday, Nov. 15, VDOT shifted traffic onto the new Fairfax County Parkway bridge over the Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. The new bridge spans from south of Fair Lakes Parkway to north of Monument Drive. With the new overpass, motorists won't encounter a traffic signal for the five-mile stretch between Popes Head Road and Route 50.

The work is part of a \$69.7 million interchange project set for completion next spring. It's being built to ease traffic congestion at the intersection of these two, heavily traveled thoroughfares.

Planned is a split-diamond, grade-separated interchange, with a free-flowing Fairfax County Parkway bridging over Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive. Through traffic will be separated from local ramp traffic, with traffic signals on the ramps, not on the parkway.

The Fairfax County Parkway is being widened from four to six lanes for three miles, from south of I-66 to Rugby Road. Signals at Fair Lakes Parkway and Monument Drive will be eliminated. Long ramps will provide separate access to and from both parkways and Monument Drive.

### Donate Blood, Save Lives

Total Framing, at 9528 Main St. in Fairfax, will hold its second annual blood drive in honor of Owen Wicks (the son of a Clifton Elementary alumnus) and Ryan Dillon (whose father was a former Clifton Elementary P.E. teacher). Both lost their battles with Osteosarcoma earlier this year, but this blood drive is to honor their memories and help others battling cancer and other diseases and conditions requiring transfusions.

The drive is set for Saturday, Nov. 24, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Inova Bloodmobile will be in the parking lot of the turnpike Shopping Center in Fairfax. To register, visit [www.inova.org/donateblood](http://www.inova.org/donateblood), click on "schedule a donation," then click on "donate blood" and use sponsor code 7848. Or contact Terri Price at 703-426-0660 or at [terri@totalframing.biz](mailto:terri@totalframing.biz).

A photo ID is required, and all donors will receive a goodie bag full of surprises. Appointments are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. Since blood donations drop dramatically during the holidays, the need is critical during this time of year.

### Advanced Academics Meeting

Fairfax County Public Schools will hold community meetings next week to gather public input about the timing of expanding advanced academic services to all pyramids within the school system. The goal is to make sure all students have access to advanced academic programs (AAP). Locally, the meeting is slated for Tuesday, Nov. 27, from 7-9 p.m., in the Westfield High cafeteria for Clusters 6, 7 and 8.

### Fair Oaks CAC to Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, Nov. 27, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

### Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, Nov. 28, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. The topic is Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Services in the Sully District. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 29, 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

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 8

# OPINION

## Diversity Growing Tune in to our series on immigration.

This week, Centre View and Connection Newspapers kicks off a series about immigration, diversity and the growing population of foreign-born residents in Fairfax County. County reporter Victoria Ross opens with a story that captures vignettes and statistics of the changing population.

It is a topic consistent with the original Thanksgiving story.

More than 28 percent of Fairfax County's population is foreign born; that's 317,000 residents.

Consider Yesuf Beshir from Ethiopia, who two years ago settled in Springfield and now works for a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen. "The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said.

These residents include nearly 20,000 who are self-employed business owners, truly job creators, large and small. One of these is Shami Walia who emigrated from India in 1982, and now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture. One part of our series will look at the business impacts of the foreign-born population.

Fairfax County Public Schools are harbingers of change: 38,760 Fairfax County elementary school students, that is 44 percent of all elementary school students in public schools here, spoke a language other than English at home as of May 2009. And between them, they speak more than 100 different languages. Another part of our series will look at the challenges and opportunities in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Consider Hutchison Elementary in Herndon, where 63 percent of students have limited

English. And Crestwood Elementary in Springfield, where 68 percent of students have limited English. At Lynbrook Elementary, also in Springfield, 74 percent of students have limited English. At Mount Vernon Woods, in Mount Vernon, 52 percent of students have limited English. At Dogwood Elementary in Reston, 56 percent of students have limited English.

Tune in and let us know what you think. You can submit a letter to the editor at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/>

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Be Part of Children's Centre View

During the last week of each year, the Centre View devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school,

name of teacher and town of school location. Please provide the submissions by Monday, Dec. 3.

Some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ Opinion pieces about family, friends, movies, traffic, sports, food, video games, toys, trends, etc.

We welcome contributions from families, public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Email submissions to [smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com).

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD to Children's Centre View, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 3. The Children's Centre View will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2012.

## Immigrants and Today's Faith Response

BY JOHN HOREJSI, COORDINATOR  
SOCIAL ACTION LINKING TOGETHER (SALT)

The presence of increasing numbers of immigrants is a challenge to the Fairfax County faith community commitments. The challenge is to be a faith community with open arms.

Historically the churches in the United States have been immigrant churches. Who among us cannot trace one's ancestors back to a country outside the U.S.? The church's care and concern for countless European immigrants is well known. Today, we the faith community are called to welcome immigrants with similar hospitality.

The situation of immigrants is often desperate. Entering a culturally strange and different land, and struggling financially is as scary today as it ever was in the past. Perhaps it is even more so because of the quickened pace of American life.

Those who are fortunate to connect with helpers are settled within a few years. Others remain in transition the rest of their lives as families struggle with complex adjustments. All face major problems in housing, employment, health care, legal assistance, and a difficult new language.

Immigrants frequently face the additional obstacle of cruel prejudice and racism. Non-immigrants often want to exclude them from the benefits of a free country, yet are eager to use cheap and reliable labor of immigrants.

The immigrants and other refugees keep coming, not necessarily because they want to, but as one, fleeing from war and persecution, put it, because of "the persistent advantage of life over death."

Presently, many Hispanics from Central America are located in Northern Virginia. About 65 percent are Salvadoran, 15 percent Honduran, and 10 percent each are Guatemalan and Nicaraguan. The faith community in Northern Virginia has not been unaware of the presence and plight of these immigrant refugees.

Nationally, for more than 65 years, Catholic Charities agencies have responded to the needs of people who come to this country in search of a better life. Thousands of refugees have been settled. Over 90 percent of Catholic resettlement services are provided through Catholic Charities which is one of the keys to the future of migration ministry in the U.S.

In Northern Virginia, one of the responses of the faith community has been through Hogar Immigrant Services, a program of Catholic

Charities. Hogar assists immigrants in participating more fully in their everyday lives. Information referrals, legal information services, and educational opportunities are just some of the aids. The aim is to help the Northern Virginia immigrant population become knowledgeable, participating individuals in society.

Yet much remains to be done, especially in and by the faith community. What are the elements of this challenge?

❖ Recognizing the contributions of the immigrants to the community;

❖ Providing a greater voice to the immigrant community in decision-making within the community;

❖ Supporting programs designed to improve the quality of life for newcomers;

❖ Serving as advocates to create a favorable public opinion out of which good things can happen; and

❖ Seeking to raise consciousness for solidarity with the poor and the stranger.

Our response must be to acknowledge by word and action that the spirituality of the faith community and the spirituality of the immigrant communities are interdependent. Through love, kindness, service and advocacy for each other, both stand to gain.

# CENTREVIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

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A Connection Newspaper



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left are the members of Westfield's VTA championship team, Mitchell Buckley, Madeleine Bloxam, Alex Mann and brothers Julian and Brandon Sanchez.

## Westfield Wins VTA Competition

**School's first victory in statewide acting contest.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

The local community knows how talented Westfield High's theater students are; now, so do people in the rest of the state. The young thespians won the school's first-ever Virginia Theatre Association (VTA) competition, beating out 44 other schools statewide.

The event was held Oct. 26-28 at the Reston Hyatt, and Westfield's victory propels its actors to sectional competition, March 6-10, in Louisville, Ky. There, they'll vie against some 30 other first-place winners from across the Southeastern U.S.

Westfield performed the one-act play, "The Hot-house," by Harold Pinter and were onstage 45 minutes. And besides the overall championship, students Mitchell Buckley and Madeleine Bloxam took home All-Star Acting awards.

"I'm very proud of the work the students did, especially since it was a student-directed piece," said Westfield Theater Director Susie Pike. "They tackled difficult material — absurdist theater, which is very mature. So it was a great learning experience, and one of my goals here in the department is to provide as many learning and leadership opportunities as I can."

All the actors are students in Pike's Theater III and IV classes. Buckley, a senior, portrayed Lush, an alcoholic and a staff member at a mental institution. The play's about the staff, plus a rape and murder that happen there to two of the patients. At the same time, there are power struggles between the staff members.

"Lush is insubordinate and wants to cause trouble," said Buckley. "It was fun to get into character because I did all these physical things like picking at my nails, and I had a ridiculous laugh."

CALLING WESTFIELD'S VICTORY "awesome," he said, "It was the first time our school ever won, so it was cool. We all had such deep characterization, and I think that impressed the judges. We won a giant, glass trophy."

Classmate Bloxam played Miss Cutts, describing her as "the sultry secretary who's sleeping with most of the institution's staff. All her actions are very absurd; she's an exaggeration of the easily jealous woman. She seems to throw herself at any man on staff but, at the same time, she has this dark side — which you see in how she treats fellow staff member, Lamb."

Bloxam said it was a challenge "getting comfortable having more intimate scenes with my peers in the cast. But everyone was dedicated to the entire process and we really worked hard for our award."

Still, she was "shocked" when Westfield won the competition because "theater conferences are always a tossup regarding what the judges are going to like, and I'm grateful that they found our piece both appropriate for our school to do and presented well. I don't think a lot of schools try to grasp absurdism in their shows, so I think the judges were surprised by our selection and that we were able to understand and interpret the smart and clever dialogue."

Directing the show was senior Alex Mann. "In most absurdist plays, the characters do crazy things and ridiculous things happen, but people pay no attention," he said. "But in this one, the characters begin to notice. The story is focused on the staff and, at the end of the play, the audience starts to realize the staff is as crazy as the patients."

He called directing "fresh and new" for him because he'd never before formally directed. However, said Mann, "I found it to be more instinctual because I'd done a lot of acting, so I know what it's like and what an actor wants to hear. I also know how to convey an idea so the actors understand it easily."

Although he thought Westfield would do well at the VTA event, he didn't expect to capture the top

SEE WESTFIELD WINS, PAGE 9

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## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 5

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.

## ONC Needs Community's Help

Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) is preparing for its 21st holiday season providing new toys and clothing for children of families in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and Western Fairfax. But it's a volunteer organization and it can only carry out its mission with the support of local churches, schools, businesses and individuals. °

And this year, in the face of a difficult economy, ONC needs help more than ever from groups or individuals willing to furnish clothing for local children in need. The number of requests for winter coats, jackets and other warm clothing is high again this year. °Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be available before Thanksgiving.

Anyone who'd like to help is urged to contact Stephanie Somers, ONC clothing coordinator, at somerss@cox.net. For other ONC volunteer opportunities or to make a monetary donation, visit www.ourneighborschild.org.

## Centreville Elementary Seeks Grant

Centreville Elementary has been nominated by its PTA for a \$50,000 Clorox Bright Futures Grant. °If awarded, the grant will be used to support the school's healthy movement initiative. The school will install a running/walking track for the students and community. This is a nationwide competition, °and the entity with the most votes will win.

Anyone from the community may vote twice a day (once online at <https://powerabrightfuture.clorox.com/nominees/detail/?nid=2099> and once by texting 2099pbf to 95248). Anyone 13 and older may vote every day until Dec. 19. So Centreville counselor Lee Kaiser is asking residents to "please vote, and tell your friends and family to do it, too."

## 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; canned meats; salad dressing, jelly; jam; peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, Ramen Noodles, canned fruit; canned beets and collard greens; canned soup and 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, such as tomatoes, from local gardens.

Also needed are laundry detergent, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper and diapers (sizes 4, 5 & 6). 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.-4 p.m., to receive donations. Contact Volunteer Manager Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656.

**Food pantry:** Regular volunteers are needed to pick up donated food from Costco on Thursday mornings and from Harris Teeter on Fridays between 9-10 a.m.

## 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](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

## NEWS

# 'Serve with Napkins and Ketchup'

FROM PAGE 1

and snowflakes and make faces with them."

— NICOLAS LOZA, 6

Turkey – "Put it in the oven and cook it at 26 degrees for about 3 minutes. Eat it with corn and have ice cream for dessert."

— JAKE KIM, 6

Cranberries – "I'd put them in the oven and cook them two minutes. Then eat them with turkey and mashed potatoes."

— MINJAE KIM, 6

Turkey – "Stuff it with fat and vegetables and cook it in the oven for 20 minutes at 25 degrees."

— HOAI-VIET NGUYEN, 5

Corn – "I'd buy a frozen package of corn and put it in the oven in a pot with some salt. Cook it 6 minutes at 20 degrees."

— SOFIA LYONS, 7

Turkey – "Put it in the oven for 20 hours at 10 degrees and serve it with napkins and ketchup."

— LARA QAZAZ, 6

Mashed potatoes – "I'd mash the potatoes with a masher and add pepper and stir them. Cook them in a pot for 25 minutes and serve them with gravy."

— DAVID SHI, 6

Chicken – "Cut it, put it in the oven and cook it at 20 degrees for 9 minutes."

— DEBORA HORNG, 6

Indian bread – "You mix daal

and milk and flatten it in a pan with a big spoon. Then put it on top of the stove and cook it. I like it plain, but you could dip it in sugar to eat it."

— POOJA SOMAYAJULA, 6

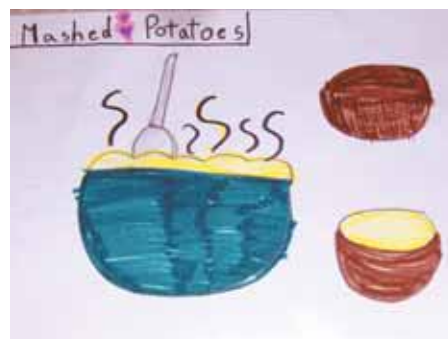
Mashed potatoes – "I would put some milk in 10 potatoes and

mash them. Cook them in a pot for 10 minutes and put gravy on them."

— SIDDHI SURAWKAR, 7

Corn – "I'd put the stove on to 14 degrees and cook it in a bowl for an hour."

— ALEXA ZOMETA, 6





# Handling 'Everything under the Sun'

## Animal Control officer talks about his job.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Although Fairfax County is a bustling, suburban area with lots of businesses, homes and concrete, it still has its share of animals — many of them wild. And both they and people's pets keeps the police department's animal control officers busy.

Andy Sanderson has been a police officer for 20 years and an animal control officer for 15, and he recently shared his knowledge and expertise with members of the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee. He said residents may call 703-691-2131 to report an incident and that animal-control officers are on call from 6-12:30 a.m. for emergencies.

"We cover all 399 miles of Fairfax County, plus the Town of Herndon, and have 28 street officers," said Sanderson. "The administrative people keep us running and give us the data we need in the field."

He said officers are trained in euthanasia, as well as chemical immobilization shot from darts, if necessary. It's used to move an animal from one place to another, but is only used as a last resort.

"We get calls for everything under the sun," said Sanderson. "If it's not human, we get it. People call us for dogs running at large, animals hit by cars, snakes, squirrels in a house and arguments between neighbors over animals — a cat scratched a car or a dog left a 'present' on the neighbor's lawn."

Officers no longer respond to calls about barking dogs, but they do answer calls regarding animal bites and possible exposure to rabies. "In 2011, the Animal Services Division responded to 1,043 reports of animal bites," said Sanderson. "If a dog bites a human, the dog's quarantined for 10 days. Untreated, the rabies virus can be fatal."

Officers also handle rabies certificates, dog licenses, impoundment of loose dogs, plus dangerous-dog and animal-cruelty cases.



**Animal Control Officer Andy Sanderson.**

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

"In 2011, we responded to 14,799 calls for service," said Sanderson. "That's a lot of calls for animal-related events. We also do rescues of trapped or injured animals. We responded to 705 reports of animal cruelty, and about 352 of them resulted in arrests and convictions."

That includes pets left in vehicles in extreme heat, as well as animal-hoarding cases. Sanderson showed slides of some of the conditions in which hoarded animals had been living and recalled a case in which officers removed 250 animals out of one room of a house.

Officers are often called for sick or injured wildlife, such as deer and foxes. But, noted Sanderson, "We don't rehabilitate deer, except for injured fawns less than a week old. Animal Control also assists in deer management." He said it's necessary because "an average of 4,500-5,000 deer/vehicle collisions occur in the county each year."

He said rabies transmission to humans is also a possibility after bites from skunks, raccoons and bats. "A telltale sign of an animal with rabies is that their central nervous system is so shot that they can't walk a straight line," said Sanderson.

In addition, he advised the audience, "Close your garage door to prevent bats from getting in. They eat mosquitoes, so they help us combat the West Nile virus."

Now and then, said Sanderson, horses get loose on the road, especially in Clifton. And several years ago, dogs who'd broken free of their yards and leashes broke into a Clifton ostrich farm and frightened the ostriches onto the roads, with Animal Control having to track them down and round them up.

As if all those things weren't enough, Sanderson said Fairfax County "sometimes gets unexpected guests. There was a tiger in a camper, a bear cub running loose in Vienna and a bobcat that was hit by a car in McLean."

Then, of course, there was the case of the alligator that started off as a pet, but turned into something else entirely. "People bought it as a baby," said Sanderson. "But they kept feeding it for 10 years — and it grew."

## Westfield Wins VTA Competition

FROM PAGE 7

prize "because there were so many schools. I was excited even when we made the top four; I would have been happy with that. It's a tough competition, so to win the first-place award was a resounding success."

Mann believes their play stood out from the rest because of the material and because "every actor is allowed to have such a diverse emotional range in this show. And they all pulled it off wonderfully."

Portraying Lamb was junior Julian Sanchez. "He's the play's sacrificial lamb," said Sanchez. "He's a lock keeper on the staff, is very awkward and shy and is looking to make friends among the staff. I loved playing Lamb because it was such a departure from any of the roles I ever played. He's only in two scenes, but one of the great, emotional climaxes of the show is when he's electrocuted."

Sanchez said everyone connected with the show was so happy to win the competition. And, he added,

"I think the judges liked seeing a high school taking on such a different piece of theater because of the absurdism and mature content."

His twin brother Brandon played a staffer named Gibbs. "He's a confidant of the head guy of the institution," said Brandon. "On the surface, he seems diligent, obedient and hardworking, but all he really wants is to be in charge. So he has a plan to take over the institution and puts it into action throughout the play."

Brandon had fun playing "the most evil of the characters. I usually play good-natured characters, so it was a change of pace. I got to physically fight with people."

When Westfield was announced as the winner, he said, "It was a really cool moment — almost disbelief that we won it; we were all kind of shocked. But it was probably the only absurdist play at the conference, our acting was truthful and brave and we were able to pull off this challenging show."



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# FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

## Finding a Home in Fairfax County

Fairfax County has become an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination.

By VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

Part one of an ongoing series.

Y esuf Beshir spent nearly three years gathering the mountain of paperwork he needed to leave Ethiopia and emigrate to America. Two years ago, he settled in Springfield and now works as a government contractor. In May, he became an American citizen.

"The main thing here is democracy, the right to vote," Beshir said. "You can be what you want in America. You can be president. If you want to be a doctor, you can be a doctor. I tell my daughter that the possibilities in America are endless."

Shahinaz Hassan of Fairfax, originally from Egypt, also became an American citizen in May. "I am happy for today. Everything gets easier here," she said.

In 1982, Shami Walia emigrated from India. He was 18 years old, and worked in "every job you can think of" all over Northern Virginia. "I didn't have anything when I came here, but I worked hard." He now owns Burke Cigar Shop, a popular cigar lounge that's become a neighborhood fixture.

Rosemary Osei came to Centreville in 2000 from Ghana. The 22-year-old voted in her first presidential election this month, and works as a special needs teacher in Vienna.

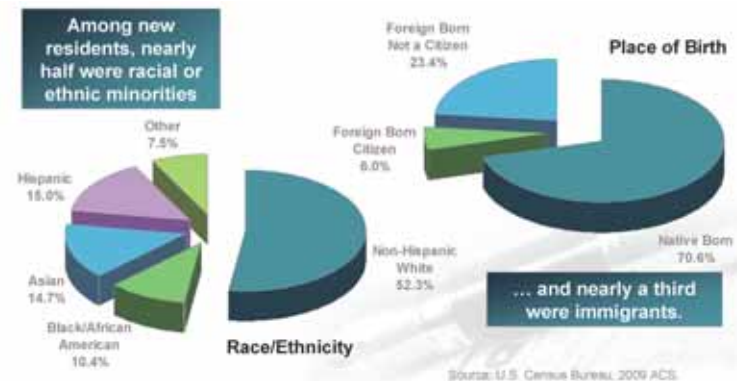
Srikanth Ramachandran came to America 14 years ago from India. In 2002, he founded the Fairfax-based Multivision IT company; by 2007 the company employed 200 people and had \$32 million in sales.

Andy Ton came from Vietnam. He now owns Andy's Barbershop in Vienna, where customers line up out the door on the weekends. Del. Mark Keam (D-35), the first Korean American and the first Asian-born immigrant to serve in the Virginia General Assembly, is one of his regular customers.

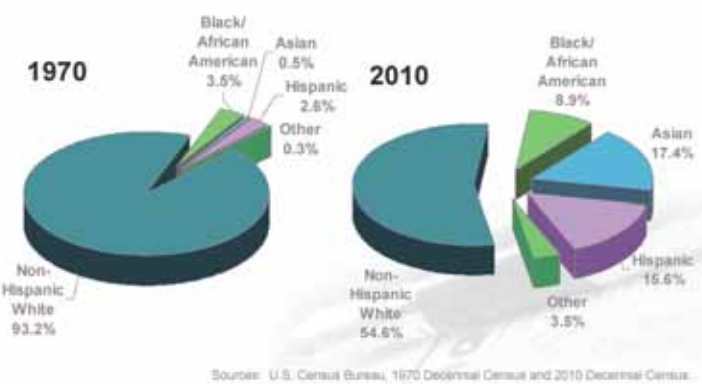
Individually, immigrants bring their own talents, culture, hopes, fears, sorrows, skills and needs. Collectively, they have permanently altered the fabric of Fairfax County.

In the span of one generation, Fairfax County has seen an explo-

### Residents Who Moved to Fairfax County During 2009



### Population by Race/Ethnicity Fairfax County, 1970 and 2010



sion in its immigrant population. In 1970, more than 93 percent of Fairfax County's population was white and middle-class. In the fall of 1970, a white 6-year-old child beginning elementary school in one of the county's developing towns—Chantilly, McLean, Vienna, Herndon and Centreville (which did not yet have one major grocery store or drug store)—could look to his left, or look to his right, and see a classroom full of children who, at least 90 percent of the time, looked like him and who spoke English.

By 2010, a child entering elementary school in Fairfax County would almost certainly encounter a classmate who did not speak English as a primary language, and whose parents or grandparents immigrated from places such as Vietnam, India, Korea or a country in Africa.

According to the 2010 U.S. Decennial Census, more than 46 percent of the county's population are of a racial or ethnic minority, and nearly a third are immigrants.

"I think the migrant population

is creating a richness and diversity and really enhancing our culture," said Frederic Bemak, PhD, director of the Diversity Research and Action Center at George Mason University. He said residents notice changes in obvious ways and subtle ones.

"There's a language change; there's a cultural change; there's a change as you walk down the street in the communities, there are changes in signs on the storefront because some of them are in different languages... or in churches, religious institutions. I hear it all day. It's not like it used to be." Well, it's not, and that's positive," Bemak said.

In comparison—from 1990 to 2010—the United States doubled the number of migrants settling in America.

"By 2020—and this is astounding—the children and adolescents of migrants will comprise one third of the U.S. population... one-third," Bemak said. "People don't know that, if we're talking about children... that's our future. And if that's only 2020, imagine what

2040 be like."

Bemak argues that a healthy process of acculturation and adjustment—when existing cultural features are combined, and new features are generated—is possible, but only when the non-immigrant culture reaches out.

"We know racism and discrimination have an impact on people's mental health. We say 'you've got to figure out how to be here,' [The work] is simultaneously with the larger communities. . . . Those issues have to be attended to at the same time we help people adjust, adapt, acculturate," Bemak said.

Bemak said he disliked the word "tolerance," because it suggests that we're just "tolerating" immigrants. "We need to respect and celebrate immigrants," Bemak said.

Parents often notice the increasing inflow of diverse cultures at their children's schools. Robert E. Lee High School in Springfield, for example, reflects the increasing diversity of the community in its student body. The school, which opened in 1958 with nearly all white students, now has students from 42 countries who speak more than 34 languages.

In the 2009-2010 school year, according to FCPS, Lee High School's student body was slightly more than 30 percent white, 26 percent Asian, 24 percent Hispanic and about 16 percent black.

"Go to a high school graduation and listen to the names being read. It's not just Smith and Jones anymore," said Lee High School parent Paula Montero, who came with her parents from El Salvador when she was 6 years old.

Statistics show the breathtaking breadth of change in diversity and immigration in Northern Virginia:

- ◆ From 2000 until 2010, Fairfax County gained 91,165 immigrants. In 2000, Fairfax County had 237,677 foreign-born residents; in 2010, the number of foreign-born spiked to 328,842, according to the American Community Survey and the U.S. Census Bureau's 2000 Decennial Census.

- ◆ Forty-four percent of Fairfax County elementary school students currently speak a language other than English at home. That's nearly 40,000 students who go home to households that speak one of more than 100 languages.

- ◆ Among new residents who



Khatira Alvarez (left) of Springfield, and Laura Simon-Salzer of McLean, took the Oath of Allegiance and became naturalized American citizens at a ceremony on July 10, held in the Hayfield Secondary School auditorium.

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

### In Upcoming Weeks

During the next month, *The Connection Newspapers* will feature stories, viewpoints and columns about the significant impact immigrants have in Fairfax County.

- ◆ Part II focuses on immigration and Fairfax

County Public Schools;

- ◆ Part III examines politics of immigration;
- ◆ Part IV explores the religious and cultural diversity immigrants bring to Fairfax County.

We encourage your letters and thoughts as we explore this topic.

moved to the county in 2009, nearly half were racial or ethnic minorities, and nearly one-third were immigrants.

- ◆ In the decade from 1990 to 2000, the increase in the number of foreign born in Fairfax communities included: Centreville, 323 percent; Herndon, 168 percent; City of Fairfax, 88 percent; Springfield, 78 percent; Burke, 63 percent; and McLean, 10 percent.

- ◆ 19,301 (6.4 percent) immigrants in Fairfax County are self-employed business owners. This is higher than the 4.1 percent of self-employed business owners who are U.S.-born Americans.

Between 1990 and 2000, Fairfax County became an immigrant gateway—a place immigrants choose as their destination upon entering the United States, according to a 2006 Fairfax County demographic report. The trend continues. In 2010, Kiplinger called Fairfax County one of the nation's top eight gateways for immigrants.

"Immigrants to this region come from nearly every country in the world, and some localities are home to people from more than 100 countries," said Audrey Singer, a senior fellow in metropolitan policy at the Brookings Institution.

### OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

According to scholars at the Brookings Institute, localities and

their residents typically respond in one of two ways to newcomers: they either accommodate diversity or deflect immigrants through policies and procedures.

The rate and intensity of immigrants settling in Fairfax County have pushed community leaders to acknowledge the scope of diversity and address the benefits, as well as the challenges, created by the rapid influx of immigrants.

When R. Scott Silverthorne became the 10th person to serve as mayor of the City of Fairfax in June, he made diversity a talking point, promising to recognize and reflect the city's growing diversity through representation on the city's boards and committees.

"It's no secret that our community continues to diversify," Silverthorne said during his swearing-in ceremony.

"When former Mayor Rob Lederer graduated high school, our minority population was just over 2 percent. When I graduated high school 10 years later, the minority population was 10 percent. Today, it's 40 percent," Silverthorne said, noting that in the Fairfax County school system, more than 100 languages are spoken. "I believe we have turned a blind eye to this trend."

Sharon Bulova, Fairfax County's Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, has emphasized and celebrated Fairfax County's diverse

cultures in a number of ways. In 2009, she supported Filipino advocate Corazon Sandoval Foley's efforts to organize and host the first Naturalization Ceremony in the Fairfax County Government Center.

"Everywhere you look, there are signs of diversity in our community," Bulova said. "And it's made us a richer, stronger place. It's important that Fairfax County is recognized as a community that welcomes people from all backgrounds."

One of the basic ways that Fairfax County reaches new immigrants is by publishing materials in languages other than English, tailored to specific immigrant communities. For example, the Fairfax County Guide to Emergency Preparedness, as well as many other county brochures, is available in six languages—English, Arabic, Farsi, Korean, Spanish and Vietnamese.

The growing immigration population in Fairfax County has presented some challenges. While the county's "politics of place" may be welcoming, the realities of rapid change, in particular the challenges and issues low-income immigrants face, can be daunting.

According to a 2006 study, "Unsettling Immigrant Geographies and the Politics of Scale," the shifting of responsibility from the federal government to localities for the

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 12

## A Way Out of No Way

Two women—one African-American and one from Africa—learn to see America through each other's eyes.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

By VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

Lillie Reynolds and Rosemary Osei in Reston Town Center in November.

Rosemary Osei, 22, and Lillie Reynolds, 61, have been good friends for four years. The two women, who help teach special needs students at a Vienna elementary school, are sometimes mistaken for mother and daughter.

They bonded over their faith — both are devout Christians — and family values.

Recently, they attended a rally for President Obama at George Mason University. The 2012 presidential election was the first time Osei was exercising her right to vote as an American citizen, and Reynolds was proud of her.

"Voting is a powerful feeling," Reynolds said. "It's one of the best things about being an American."

Although they have much in common, both women said they've learned important lessons from their differences.

"We both experience being Americans in different ways. Rosemary came here because she wanted to come here," Reynolds said. "My family was brought here in chains. . . . We've both found a way out of no way."

Osei spent the first 12 years of her life in Ghana. In 2003, she and her younger brother, Reuben, reunited with her family in Centreville. She became an American citizen on Aug. 25, 2012.

"In over nine years of living in the U.S., my proudest moment was on Nov. 6, 2012, when I waited in line for over an hour to help re-elect the president of the United States. I am now proud to say I am an American citizen."

**LIKE MANY IMMIGRANTS**, Osei said she grew up seeing America as a land of wealth and opportunity. She said there was always a celebration when family friends would come back from America, because they brought armfuls of clothes, candy and toys. "It was something special and magical to me," Osei said.

"Although I lived a comfortable life in Ghana, I believed that America would be a better place to live. To me America represents freedom and justice. Since the money is higher in America, I believed my family and I would become rich and have more money than we had in Ghana," Osei said.

She said she was disheartened when — as a 7th grader at Liberty Elementary School — she did not receive the welcome she anticipated.

"In my country, when we saw white people, we welcomed them. We wanted them to think well of us and come back. I thought everyone would welcome me when I came here," Osei said. Instead, Osei said she felt out of place "as though I didn't belong because of the complexion of my skin color." She said she often cried, and ate lunch in the school's bathroom. Within a month, the 12-year-old yearned to return to Ghana.

"I wanted to go back 'home' to my friends. I was very unhappy because I wasn't being welcomed and accepted for who I am as a person," she said.

Reynolds said she understands that feeling all too well. She grew up in Mobile, Ala. in the 1950s and '60s, during state-sponsored segregation, a time when laws forced blacks and whites to use different drinking fountains, public parks, pools and transportation.

"I have a lot of friends from Africa. They didn't understand why I was so excited to be voting for President Obama the first time. I had to explain to them that we didn't always have the right to vote, and I didn't think I'd live to see the day I could vote for a black man," Reynolds said.

Reynolds said she remembers when she and her sister would walk to go shopping in downtown Mobile. "You could buy the clothes, but you couldn't try them on because white people didn't want to touch anything a black person wore," she said.

Osei said it was eye opening to learn about the United States' recent history of racial discrimination. "When Lillie tells me stories about growing up in America as a black girl in the '60s, it breaks my heart," Osei said.

"It's one thing to watch a movie on TV about how horrible African Americans were treated in the past, but it's another thing to know someone who lived through those experience."

"I was in my 40s, my 40s," Reynolds said, pausing, "before I stopped hating myself for being black."

"My daddy was a smart man," she said. "He was a lumber-checker, and he was really good at math. He did everybody's taxes in our part of town. But he couldn't ride in the front seat of a car with a white person or he'd get arrested. He was talked down to by white people, called 'boy' . . . I always felt hurt and angry for him."

Reynolds said her grandmother had a saying that stuck with her "She would say nobody is better than you and you're no better than anybody else. My family was smart. I grew up strong in one way and beat down in another."

"It took me to become an adult and to witness a black man become president of the United States of America before I could really feel proud about being an American," said Reynolds. "And make no mistake about it, I am proud to be an American, and proud to live here."

**BOTH REYNOLDS AND OSEI** said they like living in Fairfax County, where they get to experience the benefits of such a vibrant, diverse culture.

"I am proud of so many things now. It makes me proud of America for how far we, as people, have changed for the better," Osei said. "Most of all I am proud of Lillie for not allowing her past experience turns her into a bitter person—an angry black woman—but instead she is a stronger, independent black woman, who treats everyone with respect."

## FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

# Fairfax Becomes Immigrants' Gateway

FROM PAGE 11

integration, assimilation and social welfare of immigrants has caused frustration and some resentment.

In Fairfax County, slightly more than half of those who are classified as "foreign born" live below the poverty line. Minority students, according to FCPS records, are less likely to graduate from high school on time. The on-time graduation rate for the class of 2010 was 95.6 percent for white students, 94.5 percent for Asian students, 87.5 percent for black students and 75.3 percent for Hispanic or Latino students. On the flip side, Asian students make up more than 60 percent of students admitted through a rigorous admissions process to Fairfax County's elite magnet school, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

Immigrants are less likely to have health care coverage. Although immigrants comprise about 30 percent of the county's total population, they comprise 63.5 percent of the county's uninsured residents.

Immigrants are also more likely to experience housing discrimination. According to Fairfax County's Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs, the agency that enforces fair housing laws in the county, discrimination cases have been on the rise in Fairfax County in the past six years.

"Sadly, housing discrimination is alive and well and we've seen an uptick in complaints during the past six years," said Ken Saunders, executive director of Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs.

Although discrimination based on race remains an issue, Saunders reports that in recent years complaints received by his office are related to national origin or involve disability-related issues.

In contrast to national trends, discrimination based on nationality made up 25.6 percent of complaints from 2008 to 2010. In comparison, about 9 percent of complaints to HUD fall under this category. Discrimination complaints, Saunders said, are not filed by one particular group.

"It runs the gamut. We have complaints from Latin Americans, Asians and Pacific Islanders, individuals from the Continent of Africa," Saunders said. Saunders said Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs does a significant amount of education and outreach to communities with limited English proficiency, by hosting seminars aimed at various ethnic groups and by publishing and disseminating information in a number of languages.

### VIBRANT CULTURE THROUGH IMMIGRATION

Most community leaders and residents in Fairfax County agree the benefits of diversity and immigration outweigh the challenges.

"Fairfax County is proud to be a community in which companies of all descriptions can and do succeed to a greater extent than in the rest of the region, the state or the country," said Gerald L. Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

In September, the county was recognized as a successful market for minority-owned businesses in several national business publication rankings. Businesses owned by Hispanics, African-Americans and women generated nearly \$1 billion in revenue and



Frederic Bemak

PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/CENTRE VIEW

provided more than 1,000 jobs, according to the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

Eleven Fairfax County-based companies were among the 500 largest Hispanic-owned businesses in the nation based on revenue—more than the total in 40 states, according to HispanicBusiness.com.

The Fairfax County companies comprise 22 from Virginia on the 2012 Hispanic Business 500 list. In the Washington area, eight companies are from Maryland and two are from the District of Columbia.

Together these companies generated \$655 million in revenue and employed more than 3,000 workers in 2011, according to Hispanic Business.

### CELEBRATING OTHER CULTURES

There are numerous ways to experience the cultural diversity of Fairfax County, but perhaps one of the most accessible is by attending one of the county's Naturalization Ceremonies.

"Immigrants bring talent and culture to our community in many ways, and make us who we are," said Bulova. "Every time I attend one of our Naturalization Ceremonies, I'm reminded of how important diversity is to Fairfax County."

On May 25, 2012, Bulova presented the Certificates of Naturalization to 75 new Americans in the Fairfax County Government Center. The board room was packed with immigrants and their families from every corner of the globe—Afghanistan, The Congo, Costa Rica, Burma, India, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Malaysia, Morocco, Nepal, South Korea, the United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam.

"Some of you have endured hardships to arrive at this time and place," Bulova said in her remarks. "All of you have invested your time, money and efforts to become citizens. Many of you came here to escape war or endless poverty. . . . You who are here today now officially have a seat at that table."

Samuel DeVera, a captain with the county's Fire and Rescue Department and a member of the Fairfax County Asian American Firefighters' Association, gave the keynote address, telling the audience his personal story of coming to America from the Philippines when he was 14 years old in 1983. After becoming a paramedic in 1994, he received a Valor award and, in 2010, scored first on the test to become a captain with the Fire and Rescue Department.

"Look at me. The one thing I can say is work hard to make you and your families better," DeVera said. "If you're vice president of the company, aim to be president. I'm not here to encourage you; I want to challenge you."

The room was quiet when U.S. Rep Gerry Connolly (D-11) stepped to the podium.

"My fellow Americans," Connolly said with gravitas, pausing to let the meaning sink in. And when it did, 75 immigrants, who had just raised their right hand and taken the Oath of Allegiance to become American citizens, erupted with applause and tears, waving American flags and hugging family members.

"You now join us. . . . Every new wave of immigrants refreshes us, makes us stronger," Connolly said, leading the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.



BY ALEX McVEIGH/CENTRE VIEW

Ellen Graves leads newly naturalized citizens in the Pledge of Allegiance Saturday, Sept. 22 at Lake Anne.

### VIEWPOINTS

## Immigrants' Experiences: Becoming Americans

On Sept. 22 at the Multicultural Festival on Lake Anne Plaza in Reston, 25 people participated in a naturalization ceremony that made them American citizens. Some of them talk about how they came to the U.S. and why they chose to become citizens.

—AMIEE FREEMAN



PHOTOS BY AMIEE FREEMAN

### Xiomara Artola, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from El Salvador

"Since I was 18 I had thought about becoming a citizen. But I was young then. I have lived here since kindergarten and I went to school here. Now that I am 23 I felt that it was time to complete the naturalization process."



### Jose Zalles, currently living in Woodbridge, originally from Bolivia

"I came here as a very young person. My parents came here first and then I followed. I grew up here. My parents already spoke English. I never really felt the need to become a citizen until recently. During college I saw opportunities that were only available to citizens, so I thought it was time for me to become one."



### Seung Il Kim, currently living in Falls Church, originally from South Korea

"This is really a very special event. I have been a member of the community for a long time, but not really. Until now I never had the rights or responsibilities of a citizen."



### Bassam Ghazi, currently living in Ashburn, originally from Lebanon

"I came here on a visit 25 years ago and decided I would like to stay here. So, I got my green card. Now I will have time to travel and see more of the country."



### Saaeddine Zaghbani, currently living in Burke, originally from Tunisia

"From today I can say I am an American citizen. It is a big honor. For me it is a great opportunity. I can live my dream. My first step as a citizen will be to vote freely. I have visited 47 countries, lived in five of them. Here is where I want to stay."

# Local REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

## September, 2012 Sales from \$625,000~\$650,000



2 5201 Dunleigh Glen Lane, Burke — \$641,000



1 14030 Eagle Chase Circle, Chantilly — \$648,800



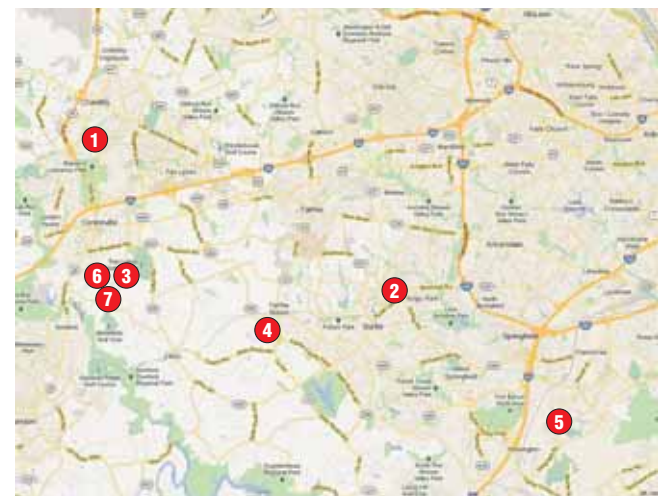
3 6230 Sandstone Way, Clifton — \$634,000



4 11024 Clara Barton Drive, Fairfax Station — \$633,000



7 6609 Rock Lawn Drive, Clifton — \$634,000



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Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	PostalCode	Subdivision	Date Sold
1 14030 EAGLE CHASE CIR	7	4	1	CHANTILLY	\$648,800	Detached	0.27	20151	WALNEY ROAD	09/24/12
2 5201 DUNLEIGH GLEN LN	4	3	1	BURKE	\$641,000	Detached	0.23	22015	DUNLEIGH	09/04/12
3 6230 SANDSTONE WAY	6	3	1	CLIFTON	\$634,000	Detached	0.30	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/12/12
4 11024 CLARA BARTON DR	4	2	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$633,000	Detached	0.58	22039	FAIRFAX STATION	09/14/12
5 6357 ALDERMAN DR	4	3	1	ALEXANDRIA	\$633,000	Detached	0.10	22315	KINGSTOWNE	09/28/12
6 13910 MARBLESTONE DR	4	3	1	CLIFTON	\$631,500	Detached	0.20	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/26/12
7 6609 ROCK LAWN DR	6	4	1	CLIFTON	\$628,000	Detached	0.23	20124	LITTLE ROCKY RUN	09/06/12

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 Merrifield: Dec. 5, 12 - 3 pm  
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## ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to  
[centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com).  
 Photos welcome.

### NOV. 21 THROUGH JAN. 6, 2013

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** This event features more than two miles of holiday light displays, food, fire pits for marshmallow roasting, carnival rides, hay rides and Santa's Enchanted Lights. The light show is open Monday through Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday through Sunday and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$15 per car Monday through Thursday; \$20 per car Friday through Sunday and holidays. At Bull Run Regional Park located at 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Visit [www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com](http://www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com) or call 703-359-4633.

### SUNDAYS/NOV. 25, DEC. 2 & 9

**Santa Paws.** The annual Fair Oaks Mall "Santa Paws" will be offered on Sunday, Nov. 25 from 8-9 p.m.; Dec. 2 from 7:30-9 a.m. and 8-9 p.m.; and Dec. 9 from 8-9:30 p.m. Owners with their dogs and cats will be able to access Fair Oaks Mall during "Santa Paws" hours only from the lower level south east entrance adjacent to Todai Japanese Seafood Buffet. All pets must be on a leash or in a lightweight cage or pet carrier with a harness. Dogs and cats must be up-to-date with their shots and owners will be responsible for their pets at all times.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Decorating with Holiday Greens.** 10 a.m. Learn how to bring the beauty and fragrance of the holiday season indoors with fresh cut pine, holly, cedar, boxwood, magnolia and other plants. Peg Bier will share her ideas and displays. At Merrifield Gardens at Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Hwy. Visit [www.merrifieldgardencenter.com](http://www.merrifieldgardencenter.com).

**Toys for Tots Event.** The Ed Lang Team and Re/Max Premier will be hosting their Annual Toys for Tots Charity Movie Event at the Centreville Multiplex theatres. The event is free to local residents with the donation of at least one unwrapped new toy per guest. This charity event has brought in more than 10,000 gifts for the Toys for Tots Foundation over the past 15+ years. Some of the past sponsors and participants include the Marines, Girl Scout Troops, Rocky Run Middle School Band and Choir, St. Timothy's Conquest Boys Clubs, and many local community member volunteers.

### THROUGH DEC. 5

**Yogurt Lid Collection.** Western Fairfax Alumnae of Zeta Tau Alpha Fraternity are collecting pink Yoplait yogurt lids. For each lid collected 10 cents will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Foundation. Community drop off location is Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Rd, Centreville. Call 703-631-8238.

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 7-8

**Holiday Used Book Sale.** The Friends of the Centreville Library will be holding a used book sale: Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the lobby of the Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Books for all ages in like-new condition will be offered at bargain prices. Proceeds from the book sale benefit Centreville Regional Library and its patrons by helping to fund educational programs for young readers and by supporting maintenance of the library itself. Call



**Santa's Toy Co. at the Bull Run Festival of Lights.**

## Festival of Lights

The Bull Run Festival of Lights is open Wednesday, Nov. 21 through Jan. 6. Featuring more than two and a half miles of holiday light displays, the Bull Run Festival of Lights at Bull Run Regional Park has drawn thousands of visitors from hundreds of miles away.

The Bull Run Festival of Lights is more than just a light show. After the light displays, visit the Holiday Village. Complete with food, fire pits for marshmallow roasting, carnival rides, hay rides and Santa's Enchanted Lights — animated and set to music, the light show features more than 40,000 lights. There will also be opportunities for photos with Santa.

The Light show is open Monday-Thursday, 5:30-9:30 p.m. and Friday-Sunday and holidays, 5:30-10 p.m. Admission is \$15 per car, Monday-Thursday and \$20 per car Friday-Sunday and holidays.

For more information on admission for vans and buses and a complete schedule for the holiday village, visit [www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com](http://www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com) or call the Holiday Hotline at 703-359-4633.

703-830-2223 or visit  
[Friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com](http://Friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com).

### FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 7-9

**Sugarloaf Craft Festival.** Visitors can shop a variety of sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, accessories, photography and fine art — all hand-crafted by more than 300 artists who have been jury selected for this show. Craftspeople will demonstrate their creative processes in iron forging, papermaking, stone sculpting and other media. Live music, children's entertainment and gourmet goodies from dozens of specialty food vendors will make the Festival a great destination for the entire family. Admission is \$8 online, \$10 at the door. Free for children under 12. Admissions are valid all three days. Visit [www.sugarloaforcrafts.com](http://www.sugarloaforcrafts.com) or call 800-210-9900. Free parking. At Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Friday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 8

**Toy Train Show.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. The Washington, Baltimore & Annapolis Chapter (WB&A) of the Train Collectors Association will be holding a Holiday Toy Train Show and Sale at the Shriner's Kena Temple, located at 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Attendees of all ages will get into the holiday spirit at the Holiday Show, which will include working layouts of model trains of all types and gauges. Model trains, track, and components will also be available for sale. Admission is \$5, free for children under 12 and Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in uniform (when accompanied by an adult); active members of the military, National Guard, Coast Guard, and Reserves; and members of the WB&A. Call James or Colleen Hall at 540-497-1840 or email [memberwba@gmail.com](mailto:memberwba@gmail.com).

**Snacks with Santa.** 1-4 p.m. at Lord

of Life Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Dr, Clifton. Snacks, Face painting, crafts, raffle prizes and time with Santa. Cash and non perishable donations appreciated. All donations will be used to adopt an elementary school filled with families in need. Sponsored by local Girl Scouts and The Dulles Airport Rotary Club. All are welcome.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 15

**Art Show and Sale.** The Art Guild of Clifton will hold an art show and sale, featuring a variety of original art, hand-made by the member artists, including paintings, pastels, sculpture, jewelry, pottery, fiber art, and photography, some of which will also be demonstrated. Followed by a reception where the public can mingle and chat with the artists. Show and sale are noon-6 p.m., reception is 6-8 p.m. No entrance fee. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Call 703-830-1480 or visit [www.artguildofclifton.org](http://www.artguildofclifton.org).

### THROUGH DEC. 24

**Fair Oaks Enchanted Ice Palace Holiday Tradition.** Open during all Fair Oaks regular and holiday hours. Fair Oaks' Ice Palace features a 30-foot ice dome with falling snow, interactive multi-sensory elements, larger-than-life snow globes, Ice Throne and light show beneath twinkling icicles descending from Fair Oaks' 65-foot Grand Court atrium. New this year will be showcases of the beloved prehistoric herd from the family film Ice Age: Continental Drift. The 1,200 square foot Ice Palace will culminate with a visit to Santa and a complimentary Ice Age gift. Fair Oaks will also celebrate the eight days of Hanukkah with a display adjacent to the Ice Palace featuring the history and significance of the dreidel (sevivonim). Free and open to the public. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or call 703-279-2708. Fair Oaks Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall.

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-Abraham Lincoln

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**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

**21 Announcements**

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Our company is seeking telemarketers for part time positions. Hours are flexible between 12:00pm - 8pm. Experience strongly preferred but not necessary. Must have good speaking voice. Clean, fun work environment with excellent commission packages & contests. Located in Fairfax off Rt. 66. Call Keith at **703-383-0400**

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**Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette  
**Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South  
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**Fairfax Water**  
**NOTICE OF WATER RATE Public Hearing**  
At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.  
The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2013, include the following:  
1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$3,700 to \$3,850.  
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$9,000 to \$9,500.  
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,000 to \$1,050.  
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$33 to \$35.  
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$8.35 to \$9.20.  
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$2.16 to \$2.29 per 1,000 gallons of water.  
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.20 to \$3.45 per 1,000 gallons of water.  
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$46 to \$50.  
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and Peak Use Charge.  
10. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$41 to \$44.  
11. An increase in the Returned Payment Charge from \$16 to \$17.  
A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates/index.htm>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017. Interested parties also may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:  
**Fairfax Water**  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2012 to be included in the record of the public hearing.  
\*Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

**Fairfax Water**  
**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2013 BUDGET**  
Fairfax County Water Authority (Fairfax Water) is proposing a \$143.4 million budget for calendar year 2013.  
On Thursday, December 13, 2012, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its proposed 2013 Budget in its offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax. The public hearing will begin at 6:30 p.m.  
A copy of the proposed budget can be viewed on our Web site at <http://www.fairfaxwater.org/>. Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed budget should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.  
Revenues are expected to be \$143.4 million in 2013. Water sales are expected to provide \$124.6 million. Approximately \$18.8 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.  
The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:  

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2012	2013
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$46,473	\$48,367
Power and Utilities	11,345	11,686
Chemicals	6,694	7,968
Fuel	916	960
Postage	547	460
Insurance	1,300	1,107
Supplies and Materials	3,976	4,233
Contractual Services	8,749	8,657
Professional Services	1,656	1,902
Other	2,005	2,285
Sub-Total	83,661	87,625
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(9,559)	(9,613)
<b>Total</b>	<b>74,102</b>	<b>78,012</b>

  
Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:  
Debt Payment \$39,374,000  
Improvement Fund \$11,000,000  
General Fund \$14,068,000  
Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

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## Buy Now, Pay Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Meaning: If I'm terminal, why deprive myself because of cost? If, in fact, I'm only living once – as the old saying goes, and somewhat less of a life than I had anticipated, shouldn't I, at the very least, "Pull my pants down and slide on the ice," as prescribed by Dr. Sidney Freedman in an episode of M\*A\*S\*H, way back when? I mean, what am I waiting for? Godot? It seems fairly clear, after having received the diagnosis: stage IV non-small cell lung cancer, and the prognosis: "13 months to two years" back in late February, 2009, that time was not exactly on my side. Nevertheless, I've tried to live my life like I wasn't dying (to bastardize Chris Allen's debut single). However, doing so is sort of like serving two masters. I can't live today like there's no tomorrow if a part of me is living as normally as I can today as a strategy for there being a tomorrow. It's somewhere between taking one step forward and then two steps backward and/or doing the Hokey Pokey. You're getting nowhere fast, but at least you're getting somewhere. Huh?

I can't tell you, although I attempt to every week in these cancer columns, how confusing the uncertainty of being a terminal cancer patient can be. I want to believe the means that I'm employing to survive is not simply a fool's errand/alternative to the same fate that awaits us all. Moreover, I want to act responsibly and prudently in the face of this killer disease. But sacrificing today for tomorrow, a tomorrow that 44 months ago lost its guarantee, seems counter-productive, almost counter-intuitive anymore. There are certain consequences to actions – or inactions quite frankly, that perhaps I don't need to consider as I did when I was p.c. (pre-cancer). If I'm living on borrowed time, so to speak, I don't need to pay the "vig" (vigorish). What's the point of paying interest, metaphorically speaking? What interest I should be paying is for any and all things that bring me happiness now – while I'm alive and still kicking. Later, apparently, is being taken care of, or so I've been told by my oncologist – if you know what I mean? (One of his suggestions to me at the initial Team Lourie meeting was to: "Take that vacation I've always dreamed of," as in: since you're dying sooner rather than later, there's no time like the present, literally).

But I was always put off by that notion and the bucket with the lists. I never wanted to check off any lists. I simply wanted to live like I always had, hoping that the normalcy and familiarity of what I was doing would help sustain me through the inevitable dark days to follow. (Generally speaking, a cancer diagnosis doesn't exactly spread joy in its wake.) I didn't want to live like I was dying. I wanted to live like I was/had been living. ("Denial," as they say, "is more than just a river in Egypt.")

The only problem: being diagnosed with a terminal disease is a hell of a thing. Change is coming: mentally, physically, emotionally, spiritually and everything in between and all around, too; and control of any and all of it becomes increasingly more difficult. I know what I want to do, but sometimes the cancer has other ideas. And even though some of these ideas are not mine, occasionally, they just might be for the best. Who knew? Live and learn. Thank God!

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

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-Thomas Fuller

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# Interviews and Recommendations

**Admissions officers at private schools offer insight into application process.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

**M**ark Fischer sat with his parents in the plush reception area of one of the region's elite independent schools, biting his fingernails and tapping his left foot while waiting to speak with an admissions officer for the interview portion of his application.

"Yeah, I'm a little nervous," he said.

Admissions directors say the interview is a chance for both students and their parents to get to know the schools and for the school to become familiar with the applicants. But what do admissions teams want to learn from interviews with applicants and their families?

"We really just want to get to know you better and hear what you have to say about your school year and thoughts for next year," said Ann Richardson Miller, director of admission and financial aid at The Madeira School in McLean.

"We like to see that the student is curious about life, what he or she is interested in and what they are passionate about," said Diane Dunning, director of admission and financial aid at St. Stephen's & St. Agnes School in Alexandria.

Tim Simpson, director of admission and financial aid for Bullis School in Potomac, Md., adds that schools value sincerity. "Does the student talk about things that are important to them? Do they go into detail so that I don't have to dig? If I ask about a physics class, does the student go into detail about their own personal experience? It is always exciting for me to hear different layers of a student's experiences," he said.

**COMPETITION TO GET INTO** independent schools can be fierce — some school admissions teams accept only one out of every 10 applicants — so parents may wonder if they should hire education consultants or coaches to help their children prepare for interviews.

Mark Sklarow, executive director of the Independent Educational Consultants Association, says it's not worth it: "A school is trying to get ... an understanding of who that student really is," he said. "They'll try to get past any planned or scripted answers."

Richard Moss of The Heights School in Potomac agrees. "It is often easy to tell when a student is not interested based on their knowledge of the school and the reasons for wanting to attend," he said. "The interview with the parents is important because you get a sense of the kinds of people you're going to be working with. We want to make sure our parents are on board with what our instructors are trying to do."

Admissions directors say parents often ask how their families should prepare for interviews. "This is an opportunity to soul search about why they are interested in the school," said Moss, adding he notices a lot about a prospective student during an interview. "Does a student present well? Does he look



PHOTO COURTESY OF ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL SCHOOL

**Instructor Laura Hoffman teaches a science class at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac, Md. Independent school officials say interviews with applicants and their families help identify students who fit "the personality of the school."**

sharp? Does he have a firm handshake? Does he thank you for having him? Does he look alive and engaged? Does he mumble?"

Sklarow says that while students should not over-prepare, they should know what to expect. "Every school is not looking for the same kind of student. Every school is not looking for the same answer. They are trying to figure out whether that student fits the personality of the school. They want to know if this is a student who will find friendships within the school and fit into the school community."

**WHAT ROLE** do the teacher recommendations play in admissions decisions? "Teacher recommendations give us a broader perspective on student effort and attitude, and often provide us with a different perspective than what the application alone might show," Michael Cresson, director of admissions, Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington.

"Families would be surprised by the thoughtful and insightful comments most teachers make on the recommendations," Miller said. "Trust the teachers. They have your child's best interest at heart."

Charlotte Nelsen, director of admission for the Potomac School in McLean said,

"Potomac School takes a particular interest in the current teacher's recommendation for the applicant. We recognize a teacher has known the student far longer than we have."

Some experts say that reports from a student's current instructors can raise red flags as well. "Teacher recommendations can shed light on the difficult aspects of a student's personality that you don't see on a report card," said Moss. "Report cards don't necessarily tell you how hard a student is working, how generous he is or what his true abilities are."

"We realize that teacher recommendations are subjective, but they are important," Moss continued. "If a student is required, for example, to get a recommendation from a current English teacher and they have a terrible relationship with that teacher ... they should ... ask the previous year's English teacher to write a supplementary recommendation, just so they can balance out the negative one. The one thing you don't want to do is get a bad recommendation and say, 'Well this is a horrible teacher who doesn't like my son.'"

**"Trust the teachers. They have your child's best interest at heart."**

— Ann Richardson Miller,  
The Madeira School in McLean

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## Westfield Football Advances to Region Final

The No. 1 Westfield football team defeated No. 4 Chantilly, 34-27, in the Northern Region semifinals on Nov. 16 at Westfield High School. With the victory, the Bulldogs advance to the region final, where they will host No. 7 Oakton at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 24.

According to stats from the Washington Post's website, Westfield running back Dalaun Richardson carried 23 times for 149 yards and three touchdowns. Tyler Thrasher-Walker ran for 113 yards on 14 carries. Quarterback Chris Mullins scored a pair of rushing touchdowns.

Chantilly running back Ross Simms carried 14 times for 160 yards and a touchdown. Quarterback Sonny Romine was 12-for-25 for 162 yards, two touchdowns and four interceptions. He also rushed for 101 yards and a touchdown on 20 carries. Sean Huelskamp had seven receptions for 108 yards. DeAndre Harris and Hunter Reynolds each had one touchdown reception.

Chantilly finished the season with an 8-4 record.

Westfield (12-0) and Oakton (8-4) faced each other earlier this season, with the Bulldogs winning, 28-14, on Oct. 19 at Westfield High School.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

**Chantilly linebacker Sean Huelskamp (9) wraps up Westfield running back Dalaun Richardson during the Northern Region semifinals on Nov. 16.**

## Centreville Cross Country

The Centreville Cross Country team wrapped up its 2012 season last week with its annual awards banquet. Among this year's highlights were individual awards for a group of athletes who distinguished themselves throughout the season. The award winners were: Top Runners: Isabela Medina and Bobby Dunn; MVPs: Jackie O'Shea and Kip Talman; Top Rookies: Colette Rizzi and Patrick Pankratz; Most Improved: Norine King and Nicho Stevens; and the Coaches' Award winners: Joanna Ahn and Steven Yu.

## Westfield Grad Receives National Basketball Honor

Following a strong showing at the Hoopville National Invitational Classic over the weekend, Catholic University senior Chris Kearney was named to the D3Hoops.com Team of the Week on Tuesday. Kearney, a 2009 Westfield graduate, averaged 18.5 points on 58-percent shooting and also pulled down nine rebounds per game in the two wins over nationally-ranked opponents.

Kearney had quite the weekend, beginning with an 18-point, six-rebound performance in CUA's 67-41 win against No. 16 Transylvania on Friday. The Virginia native also registered three steals and three blocks in the victory.

One day later, Kearney went back to work, this time totaling a double-double with 19 points and 12 rebounds, in addition to three more blocks and a steal in a 65-52 victory over No. 19 St. Mary's. In 77 minutes of action at the tournament, Kearney committed just one turnover.

Kearney and the Cardinals are off for the

**Pictured are award winners from the Centreville cross country end-of-the-year banquet. Seen from left in the front row: Joanna Ahn, Colette Rizzi, Norine King, Jackie O'Shea and Isabela Media. In the back row: Nicho Stevens, Steven Yu, Kip Talman, Bobby Dunn, Patrick Pankratz.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Thanksgiving holiday before returning to action on Monday, Nov. 26 when they travel to Pennsylvania to face Haverford. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m.

## Fairfax Adult Softball Annual Officer Election Held

At its Board of Directors meeting held on Tuesday, Nov. 13, elections were held for the expiring terms of the second vice president (Rules) and FAS secretary. Edmund Greene of Centreville begins his first term on the executive committee as second vice president. Incumbent Joe Morice, also of Centreville, was re-elected by acclamation

as secretary. They begin their new term of office in January 2013.

Beginning his fifth consecutive term, Morice, is delighted to continue serving as FAS secretary. In the following two years Morice will focus on continuing the growth of the individual registration program and steer the marketing committee towards higher new team registrations.

Greene returns to the executive committee as second vice president (rules) after a six-year sabbatical. Greene cites his love of the game as the primary reason he sought the position, and he looks forward to watching the program continue to grow during his term.

FAS depends heavily on volunteers and needs new people to share brand-new ideas.

Directors meet monthly throughout the year to review and establish policies and rules for the operation of the program, to provide direction concerning financial and administrative operations, and, in November, elect the officers of the corporation.

These officers comprise the executive committee which meets monthly to direct the FAS program. The executive committee includes the president, first vice president (umpires), second vice president (rules), secretary, and treasurer. They serve staggered two-year terms to provide for corporate stability. FAS is always seeking new voices with enthusiasm to consider joining the board.

# SCHOOLS



## Walk for the Homeless

Students at Stone Middle School raised \$4000 during the school's annual Walk for the Homeless. Thanks to Catherine Burke and the National Junior Honor Society in making this event such a success.



## Nutrition Fair

Fifth graders from Union Mill Elementary participated in a Nutrition Fair recently. Each fifth grader chose a fruit or vegetable to study. The students presented the research projects to their classmates and some of the children also prepared a dish consisting of their ingredient. Recipes included homemade guacamole, salsa, fruit smoothies, cakes, cookies, and salads.



## First Graders Celebrate Thanksgiving

Parents were invited to come and enjoy a Thanksgiving lunch with Virginia Run Elementary first graders.

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## TUESDAYS AND/OR THURSDAYS

### Senior Fall Prevention Classes.

1:30-2:30 p.m. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. At The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Dr. Registrations are required. Call 703-667-9800 to register as space is limited. Cost is \$10 per class.

## FRIDAY/NOV. 30

**Shabbat Service.** 7:30 p.m. At Temple Beth Torah located at 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Call Jennifer Harding at 703-217-8938 or visit [www.BethTorah.net](http://www.BethTorah.net).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 1

**Nosh & Drosh with Rabbi Block.**

10:30 a.m. "We're Going on a Guilt Trip and the Rabbi's Driving!" At Temple Beth Torah located at 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. Call Jennifer Harding at 703-217-8938 or visit [www.BethTorah.net](http://www.BethTorah.net).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 2

**Teen Blues Jam.** Play or listen. House drummer and bassist provided. All are welcome. At Sully's Restaurant, 14513 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy, Chantilly. Call 703-818 9292. Free. Sponsored by Grace Fellowship Church and The Music Stores. Email Joe at [josephmendezva@yahoo.com](mailto:josephmendezva@yahoo.com) or Nancy at [snaze@verizon.com](mailto:snaze@verizon.com).

## FRIDAY/DEC. 7

**Registration Open House.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. Clifton Children's Academy will be holding a Registration Open House for kindergarten for preschool classes for fall 2013. There will also be limited registration available for this winter. Bring children and tour the school.

The school is located at 14315 Compton Road in Centreville. Call 703-968-8455. Registration information is available at [www.childrensacademy.com](http://www.childrensacademy.com).

## ONGOING

**Volunteers Needed.** Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) is the local volunteer organization coordinating holiday assistance (gifts of new toys and new clothing) for children of families in financial crisis in Centreville, Chantilly and Western Fairfax. Assistance is made possible each year through the generous support of local churches, schools, businesses, and individuals. We are preparing for our 21ST holiday season and in the face of a difficult economy, ONC needs help more than ever from groups or individuals willing to "adopt" the special needs of local children. The number of requests for winter coats/jackets and other warm clothing is high again this year. Specific information (sizes, etc.) will be available before Thanksgiving.

Contact Stephanie Somers at [somerss@cox.net](mailto:somerss@cox.net). For volunteer opportunities or to make a monetary donation, visit [www.ourneighborschild.org](http://www.ourneighborschild.org).

**White House Ornament Sale.** The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2012 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors William Howard Taft. This ornament features President and Mrs. Taft delivering Christmas present in a White Steamer automobile. The ornaments cost \$19. Proceeds benefit charity. Order by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments.

**Holiday Greenery.** Order holiday greenery from the Westfield H.S. crew team. Select from two sizes and colors of florist quality poinsettias and mixed wreaths. Order online now, visit <http://poinsettiasale.westfieldcrew.org/>. Orders due by Nov. 16 with pickup on Nov 28. Contact Candis Anhalt, [anhalt.dc@cox.net](mailto:anhalt.dc@cox.net).

**ReStore Anniversary Event.** The

main goal of the ReStore (4262 Entre Court, Chantilly) is to fund Habitat for Humanity in the mission of building simple, decent, and affordable housing. To donate, call 703-360-6700 or visit [www.restorenova.org](http://www.restorenova.org). Regular store hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Monday to Friday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

**Pleasant Valley Preschool,** a non-profit cooperative preschool located in the Greenbriar Community Center, currently has limited openings in its program for 4 and 5 year olds that meets on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. 4615 Stringfellow Road. Visit [www.pleasantvalleypreschool.com](http://www.pleasantvalleypreschool.com) or call 703-378-6911.

**Congregation Yad Shalom** in Centreville provides a variety of activities in a traditional format with a modern flair. We welcome interfaith couples who wish to participate, and openly invite inquiries about a range of programs offered for the entire family. Contact the Congregation at 703-579-6079, or visit [www.yadshalom.com](http://www.yadshalom.com).

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[www.connectionnewspapers.com](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com)

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

# CENTREVILLE

## THE CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION



Traditional Anglican Service  
1928 Book of Common Prayer

**Holy Communion 10 A.M. Sundays**  
(with Church School and Nursery)

Evening Prayer and Bible Study 7 P.M. Wednesdays  
13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA  
703-830-3176 • [www.thechurchoftheascension.org](http://www.thechurchoftheascension.org)



## Sunday Services at Centreville Presbyterian Church



Loving Christ



Loving People



Serving the World

**Sunday Worship with us:**  
8:45 & 11:00am  
with Sunday School  
at 10:00am

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



**Centreville**  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## Saint Andrew Lutheran Church

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

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

Braddock Road and Cranoke Street  
Centreville, VA 20120

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

## CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



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

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

Nursery through Elementary, Youth, College Age,  
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](http://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](http://www.mountolive-church.org)  
E-Mail: [mtolive@mountolive-church.org](mailto: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)

