

Chantilly ❖ Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes ❖ Oak Hill

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 5, 2012

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Collecting new toys for Our Neighbor's Child, last year, outside the Fair Lakes Wal-Mart are (from left) Taylor Kim, Brooke Caskey, Brianna Crump, Katie Barta and Cristina Sturniolo. Caskey assisted ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin, and the others were on the competition team of Creative Dance Center of Chantilly.

Making the Holidays Bright

Our Neighbor's Child collecting toys, clothing.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

For many local families, the holiday season isn't about Christmas carols and pretty decorations. It's about worrying how they'll keep their children warm in the coming winter and explain to them why Santa can't bring them any presents this year.

And that's where the all-volunteer, nonprofit Our Neighbor's Child comes in, working to make sure that no child in need in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes goes without holiday gifts.

This is its 21st year and, when it first began, ONC brought presents to a handful of local families. But over the years, the economy worsened, many local residents fell onto hard times and the need for help grew. So now, the group is providing new toys and clothing for 610 families.

That number includes more than 2,300 children, so the organization desperately needs the community's help. And even the smallest donation can make a difference.

"It takes a community, team effort to do this," said ONC Executive Director Kelly Lavin. "Our volunteers could never serve all these families



Then Stone Middle eighth-graders Erin Steen and Patrick Kearney unloaded donated toys, clothes and sports equipment during last year's ONC collection at their school.

alone. If the schools, businesses and churches didn't host the giving trees — with ornaments con

SEE MAKING THE HOLIDAYS, PAGE 5

Boundary Changes Affect Local Students

Parents learn about what's planned.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

School boundary changes are never easy and, no matter how they end up, somebody's always unhappy. But when schools are projected to be at 125 percent and 109 percent of their building capacities in just a few more years, something has to be done in advance to prevent it.

As a result, nearly 300 people filled Fairfax High's cafeteria Monday night, Nov. 26, to hear what's being considered and to voice their concerns and opinions. And whatever ultimately happens will affect students not only in Fairfax, but in Centreville and Chantilly, as well.

"Fairfax High School and Lanier Middle School are overcrowded," said FCPS spokeswoman Barbara Burke. "They're owned and oper-



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Ajay Rawat, FCPS coordinator of Facilities Planning Services, addresses parents.

ated by the City of Fairfax. But 65 percent of the students who attend Fairfax are county residents, so we're looking to do something that's workable for everybody."

Meeting attendees also included Denise James, FCPS director of Facilities Planning Services; Dean Tistadt, FCPS chief operating officer; some FCPS and City of

SEE FAIRFAX, PAGE 4



From left: Parents Tina Steblein and Reem Akkad talk about potential effects of the boundary changes.

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NEWS

Fundraisers Set for Centreville Family

Husband severely injured in accident.

By BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Debbie Harrison is a kindergarten teacher at London Towne Elementary and has taught school for nearly 30 years. She's also a wife and mother. But in April, her life and that of her husband Frank changed forever.

They and their daughter were driving back from their son's military ceremony in Kentucky, when a tractor trailer smashed into their car. The two women escaped with minor injuries, but Frank was left a quadriplegic.

So on Tuesday, Dec. 4, local group Social Change is holding a fundraiser for them at the new Coyote Grille restaurant in Centreville. It's at 14101 St. Germain Drive (in the old Shade Tree location in Centreville Plaza). Hosting the event will be the group's founder, Julie Sussman of Centreville's Rocky Run community, and her husband Jerry.

Social Change is comprised of residents from Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Oakton and Fairfax. The participants gather monthly to learn about — and raise funds for — various charities and endeavors. And at next week's event, all the money raised will go directly to the Harrison family to offset their medical expenses.

"The wonderful people of Coyote Grille have generously offered to donate 15 percent of all food purchased that day — including lunch and dinner take-out and eat-in — to the Harrisons," said Julie Sussman. The menu may be seen at <http://www.coyotegrille.com/> and the public is welcome to attend.

In addition, people wishing to help the Harrisons may also go to a jewelry show Thursday, Dec. 6, from 3-7 p.m., at the home of Adrienne Bergquist, 5836 Stone Ridge Drive in Centreville. Her children attended London Towne, and one of them was in Debbie Harrison's class.

"Adrienne, an independent consultant for Premiere since 1998, has graciously offered to donate 100 percent of all the profits from the jewelry sale to the Harrisons," said Sussman. "This is a great way for people to buy holiday gifts and help them out, at the same time."

Bergquist sells Premier Designs high-fashion jewelry. She's also running a holiday special; with every \$75 purchase (before tax and shipping), customers may buy any item up to a \$50 value for \$5. Those who can't attend on Dec. 6, but would like to help the Harrisons, may contact her at adbergquist@cox.net and she'll send them her catalog.

"I hope people will stop by and help this teacher have a Merry Christmas," she said. "If they can't come at the designated time, but want to come at a different time, they can just let me know."

Did you know?
60% of adults in families that were homeless were employed



Put the ZIP on Homelessness by wearing jeans December 14 in exchange for a \$5 contribution to the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to Prevent & End Homelessness.

Learn More & Sign Up
<http://jeansday2012.eventbrite.com>

In 2011, more than 100 employers representing 3,000 employees participated in this community-wide give-back initiative. Help us boost those numbers in 2012!



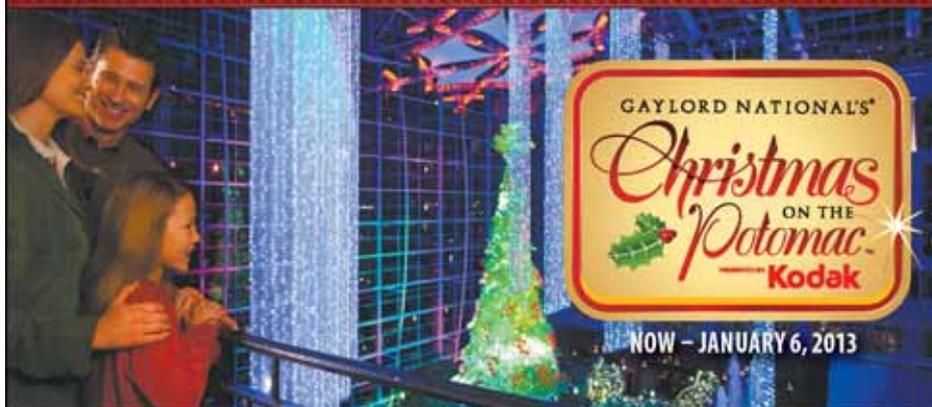
Be a Part of CHILDREN'S (& TEENS') CENTRE VIEW

Every year between Christmas and New Year's, Centre View turns its pages over to the contributions of local students. We are seeking artwork, photography, poetry, opinions, short stories and reflections. We welcome contributions from public schools, private schools and students who are home schooled.

E-mail to: centreview@connectionnews.com, or mail (.jpg and text files on disc only) by Dec. 5, to 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314. Please be sure to include the student's name, age, grade, school and town of residence along with each submission. For information, call 703-778-9410.

CENTRE VIEW

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ROUNDUPS

Sexual Battery Is Charged

City of Fairfax police have charged a local man with sexual battery. He is Mahmood Qalandari, 37, of Cool Fountain Lane in Centreville.

Police say that, on Nov. 15, a 21-year-old Woodbridge woman told police she'd gone to the Shell gas station at 11175 Lee Highway in Fairfax to discuss the possible purchase of a vehicle from Qalandari, the station owner. She reported that, while they were in his vehicle, he allegedly touched her several times, despite her objections.

Following an investigation by the Patrol Division, Qalandari was arrested last Friday, Nov. 23. He was transported to Fairfax County's Adult Detention Center and held on \$4,500 bond.

Man Charged with Embezzling

A Centreville man was one of two people charged by City of Fairfax police with embezzling from their employer. He is Hassan Ali Yousufi, 29, of Four Chimney Drive.

According to police, on Nov. 26, a manager at the Fairfax Kia at 10601 Fairfax Blvd. reported that, since February 2012, two salespersons there had allegedly been stealing money from the dealership. The manager said the suspects had reportedly received cash payments from customers without turning in the money to the firm.

Arrested besides Yousufi was Robert Najib Zaber, 38, of Potomac Highlands Circle in Triangle. After being charged with embezzlement, both were released from the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center on their own recognizance.

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 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.

Clifton Horse Parade

The holidays begin in the Town of Clifton this Saturday, Dec. 1, at 2 p.m., with a parade of horses and riders decorated in Christmas finery. Sponsored by the Clifton Horse Society, it travels up Main Street, goes through town and along Chapel Street to a field where participants and spectators gather for cookies and the awarding of prizes. The public is invited to share in the festivities.

CLRC Open House Dec. 1

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) will celebrate its first anniversary with an open house on Saturday, Dec. 1, from 2-4 p.m., at the center at 5956 Centreville Crest Lane. It's beside Brick Pizza on the lower level of the Centreville Square Shopping Center; it faces Route 29 and the Route 28 onramp.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova will help the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) recognize supporters who made the center's success possible during its first year of operation. Awardees include developer A.J. Dvoskin and Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey.

Refreshments will be served and the community is invited. There'll be tours of the CLRC office and training area, with staff and volunteers describing CLRC's work. Assisting with the event will be volunteers from Alpha Delta Kappa-Beta Zeta, the honorary teachers' sorority, plus the Westfield High Spanish Honor Society.

NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA HELMS

Dolls and a train are at the North Pole in Encore's annual holiday show.

'All I Want for Christmas'

Encore dancers present annual holiday show.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A great way to kick off the holiday season is by seeing Encore Theatrical Arts Project's new show, "All I Want for Christmas." This song-and-dance extravaganza aims to delight audiences of all ages.

Show times are Dec. 8 and 15 at 1, 4 and 8 p.m.; Dec. 9 and 16 at 1 and 4 p.m.; and Dec. 14 at 8 p.m. at NOVA's Annandale campus at 8333 Little River Turnpike. Tickets range from \$17-\$30 at www.encore-tap.org/. Or call 703-222-5511.

"The sets are huge and glorious, the costumes are colorful and there's a lot of acting, plus both old and new songs," said Director and choreographer Raynor van der Merwe. "We have everything from dancing reindeers and elves to sophisticated Rockette-style numbers — one, done with lighted wreaths."

The 31 dancers have been training and rehearsing 18 hours/week in preparation, and van der Merwe says they're "enthusiastic, talented and giving performers." Rounding out the cast are acting veterans Tina and Dan Delafield who portray the head elves, Margaret and Marv.

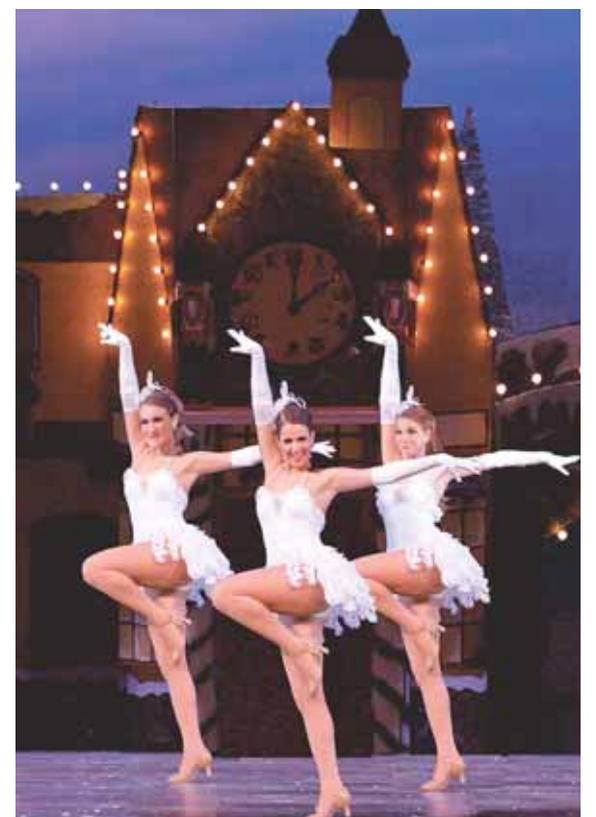
"The girls have worked incredibly hard and have been a joy to work with," said van der Merwe. "And the upbeat numbers will have the audience dancing in their seats."

The sets will show New York's Rockefeller Center and the North Pole. Designed and painted by Tabitha Dees, they're 50 feet wide and 20 feet high and she put in 18-hour days for six weeks to complete them. But she says the long hours and hard work are all worthwhile.

"They have lights, real working windows and doors, and there's even snow," said Dees. "One of my favorite parts is when the curtain goes up and the audience gives a collective gasp. For a moment, they're transported to another place."

"That's part of the magic of theater," added van der Merwe. "For a little while, you're all on the same journey together."

Centreville's Logan Floyd, in her fifth year with



Dancing the Rockettes number are (from left) Katie Dudzik, Yanelle Artieda and Grace Martin.

Encore, has danced since age 9. In the show, she plays Mistletoe the elf. "She starts off as a good elf, but makes the mistake of opening a letter meant for Santa — which she's not supposed to do," said Floyd. "Because of it, she's infected with the Gimme-Gimme Flu and becomes selfish." She then passes it on to the other elves and they have to find an antidote.

As Mistletoe, Floyd likes transforming from a good to a bad elf. "Everyone else is such a good character, so it's fun getting to explore a different type of character," she said. Her favorite song is "Cool Yule." In it, she said, "Mistletoe's made the other elves her minions and they've changed from red and green outfits to all blue. And I get to act very full of myself in that song."

Floyd said the audience will love the show. "We SEE ALL I WANT, PAGE 11

Fairfax Boundary Changes Affect Local Students

FROM PAGE 1

Fairfax school board members; City of Fairfax council members and Cluster VII Superintendent Linda Burke.

Parents received maps showing the schools with attendance areas contiguous to Fairfax High and Lanier. They also received charts listing the high schools and middle schools currently in the boundary study, plus information about their building capacities, current enrollments and 2017-18 projections.

This study will impact only middle and high-school students who live in Fairfax County. No elementary-school boundary changes are involved. But middle- and high-school feeder schools may change for county students.



Parents listen to school officials discussing possible boundary changes.



Denise James, FCPS director of Facilities Planning Services, discusses the boundary-change timetable.

CURRENTLY, HIGH SCHOOLS in the boundary study are Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax, Falls Church, Oakton, Woodson and Robinson Secondary. Middle schools in the mix are Franklin, Frost, Jackson, Lanier, Liberty, Robinson and Rocky Run. But Barbara Burke said Madison, Lake Braddock and South County might also be added in, and parents were asked to tell which schools they thought should be included in the study.

“The decision on the boundaries will be made in May to prepare for the next school year,” she said. And in response to a parent’s question, James said school officials initially want to alleviate the overcrowding by moving about 300 students currently attending Fairfax High to other schools.

But it’s not as simple as that because, at the same time, FCPS is holding community meetings to gather public input about the timing of expanding advanced academic services to all pyramids within the school system. The goal is to ensure that all students have access to advanced academic programs (AAP).

Ajay Rawat, FCPS coordinator of Facilities Planning Services, told parents that, “If the AAP changes are approved, they’ll be included in the boundary study — including Robinson, which has the IB [international baccalaureate] program.”

Typically, he said, when the changes are implemented, rising eighth-graders and rising seniors affected by them would be grandfathered and could attend their current schools, instead of having to move.

“No students who currently reside in the City of Fairfax will be impacted by the study,” said Rawat. “We’ll look at all the schools with contiguous boundaries, but we’re not limited to them, if other schools have the capacity to offer relief.”

According to the data presented, Fairfax High has a building capacity of 2,412 students and a current enrollment of 2,659 — meaning a 110-percent building utilization. But if nothing changes, it’s projected to have 3,011 student bodies by the 2017-18 school year and a 125-percent building utilization.

Lanier’s capacity is 1,307 students, and it presently has a 1,239 student population using 95 percent of its building. But if left

as is, it’s projected to have an enrollment of 1,421 by 2017-18 for a 109-percent building utilization.

But things are crowded at Centreville and Chantilly high schools, too. Centreville’s building capacity is 2,056 and its current enrollment is 2,381 students for 116-percent building utilization. By 2017-18, it’s projected to have 2,498 students using 121 percent of its building.

Chantilly was renovated several years ago to increase its building capacity to 2,583 students. Trouble is, it already has 2,681 this year for 102-percent building utilization. Its 2017-18 projects are for 2,761 students using 107 percent of its building.

So when a parent asked, “How come some Greenbriar East and Greenbriar West elementary students don’t go to Rocky Run, the middle school closest to them, rather than to Lanier?” Rawat had an answer ready. “Rocky Run has the capacity to accommodate them,” he said. “But Chantilly doesn’t.”

BESIDES RECEIVING all the students from the four, City of Fairfax elementary schools — Daniels Run, Eagle View, Fairfax Villa and Providence — Lanier Middle and Fairfax High also receive all of Willow Springs Elementary’s students. That translates into 157 students currently at Lanier and 364 students at Fairfax just from Willow Springs.

Although Willow Springs students are geographically closer to Centreville High than to Fairfax, when the boundaries for Liberty Middle School were being created, it was decided to send Willow Springs grads to Lanier Middle and Fairfax High. Although Liberty could absorb the Willow Springs students, Centreville — which was once so overcrowded that it had 3,000 students and two bell schedules — could not.

But that’s not all, because some of Greenbriar East, Greenbriar West, Colin Powell and Waples Mill elementary-school graduates also feed into Lanier and Fairfax. Consequently, the total number of these Fairfax County students currently attending Lanier and Fairfax High — just from these four schools alone — is 250 at Lanier and 512 at Fairfax.

So it’s no wonder then, that to ease overcrowding in City of Fairfax schools, the focus is on eliminating many of the students now coming there from the county.

However, many already-worried parents became outraged when Rawat told them that whatever boundary changes are made won’t necessarily be permanent. Trying to reassure them, he said, “If students are switched [to other schools] now, they won’t be moved again for three years.”

But Fair Oaks resident Teresa Cleveland wasn’t buying it. “My son was already moved from Eagle View to Willow Springs,” she said. “Now he could get moved again; and then in three years, he could get again get switched to another school. They should be thinking of the effect of all these changes on the kids.”

Rawat said future relief could come someday in the form of a new high school, but it

was too far in the distance to provide solace to the parents at Monday’s meeting. “We’ve identified a need for a west county high school, and it’ll be presented to the School Board on Dec. 20,” he said. “It would eventually relieve South Lakes, Chantilly and Centreville, which are also projected for overcrowding in 2017-18.”

But when a mom asked how soon that new high school could materialize, Rawat replied, “It could take seven to 10 years. We don’t even have a site for it now.”

However, parents told him they don’t want a “temporary patch” for just three years, but a long-range solution. “You need to look at the five-mile radius around the schools,” said another mom. “That’s how you’ll solve this.”

Meanwhile, a parent asked what the hurry was. “Why rush it?” she asked. “Why not take the next six months to decide?”

Parent Perspective on Changes

After Monday’s boundary-change meeting, some parents discussed their own concerns with the potential changes.

Karen Vance lives in the Hayden Village community near Willow Springs Elementary, and her son was moved in the last boundary study. “Centreville High is two miles from my house and my son played SYA sports all his life,” she said. “But Centreville’s overcrowded, so he goes to Fairfax High. He plays football and will be a junior there next year.”

Now, though, there’s a chance he could be moved out of Fairfax and sent to another school to help alleviate Fairfax’s overcrowding. Boundary changes could affect his sister, as well.

“I have a daughter in eighth grade at Lanier and all her friends will go to Fairfax High,” said Vance. But because her family lives outside the City of Fairfax, said her mom, “She’d go elsewhere.”

Vance said school officials “have to do a comprehensive study so we don’t have to do this again in three years. I’d rather

have my children in trailers than moved again — not to mention the problems with busing that boundary changes would bring.”

Ananda Bastola lives in Fair Oaks’s Ridgetop Terrace community. His son’s an eighth-grader at Lanier and, since they live just outside the Fairfax High boundary, he believes his son will be allowed to attend that school next year.

His daughter, however, is in advanced academic programs (AAP) and was transferred this year from Greenbriar West Elementary to Willow Springs. But he’s worried that the boundary changes might prevent her from continuing on to Rocky Run Middle School.

“I’d like her to go to Rocky Run because it’s a good school and all her Greenbriar West friends will be going there,” said Bastola. “But she might get switched to Lanier if the AAP boundary is changed.”

Basically, he said, “I think they need to redraw all the school boundaries from scratch so we don’t have all this fragmentation.”

— BONNIE HOBBS

Making the Holidays Bright

FROM PAGE 1

taining the children's gift wishes, we couldn't do it. And if people didn't take the ornaments, go buy the presents requested and bring them back, it would be hard for us to fulfill all those dreams."

Residents may also help by participating in some collection events for the recipient families:

❖ This Saturday, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., ONC volunteers will conduct a toy drive outside the new, Chantilly Walmart at the Dulles Expo Center site at 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center. Decked out in sparkly, holiday outfits, dancers from the Creative Dance Center's competition team will man the ONC giving tree inside the store.

There, shoppers may take ornaments containing children's gift wishes, purchase these items in the store and then drop them in the decorated, ONC boxes outside or hand them to more CDC dancers there. This is the eighth year the dance group has participated in this event.

❖ ONC will also be collecting toys, Dec. 1, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., outside the Walmart in the Fair Lakes Shopping Center. ONC project leader Phyllis White is coordinating this toy drive.

❖ On Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Stone Middle School is sponsoring its fifth annual Panther Drop Off. Area residents may bring new clothes and toys to the school, and everything collected that day will be donated to ONC. Students in Stone's National Junior Honor Society will be there to help unload cars and sort gifts.

All next week, civics students will be delivering flyers throughout Centreville to inform the community about this service project. They're also running contests in school to see which class can collect the most items, the week before the event.

Although it takes work and time, those who volunteer with and for ONC are happy to do it because they know the importance of the task at hand. Last year, for example, CDC and other area youth organizations joined together to provide 128 coats for children in need.

"In working with ONC for almost a decade, a generation of our dancers has learned of and personally witnessed the generosity of our greater Northern Virginia community," said CDC's Cheri Est. "We consider it an honor to assist ONC with its efforts."

Each year, as well, Centreville High and Westfield High SGA students bring to school and package thousands of homemade cookies so each recipient family on ONC's list can receive a box along with their gifts.

How To Help ONC

❖ Visit the web page at www.ourneighborschild.org for up-to-date information, current volunteer opportunities and a link for donations.

❖ To "adopt" a child and purchase his or her specific clothing needs, e-mail Stephanie Somers at volunteer@ourneighborschild.org.

❖ Groups or businesses still have time to host a giving tree; the link to sign up is on the Web site. ONC will provide ornaments listing a child's specific gift wish, or organizations may host a general, gift or gift-card collection.

Gifts for young teens are particularly needed. Especially popular with teens are iTunes gift cards or Target or Walmart gift cards for clothing that allow them the opportunity to select just the right fit and style.

❖ A box of homemade cookies accompanies every ONC gift delivery. More than 20,000 cookies are needed. Anyone wishing to bake cookies for the

families should drop them off Thursday, Dec. 13, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Virginia Run Community Center, 15355 Wetherburn Court, off Route 29 and Pleasant Valley Road in Centreville. Any type of disposable container is fine; they'll all be repackaged into assortments. Contact Pam Ryan at volunteer@ourneighborschild.org with any questions.

❖ Packaging Day is also Dec. 13, when hundreds of volunteers will be needed to help match up each item to the children's wish lists provided by the recipient parents.

❖ Delivery Day is Sunday, Dec. 16, from 1-4 p.m. People interested in volunteering for either packaging or delivery should go to www.ourneighborschild.org and click on "Volunteer Needs."

❖ To volunteer for any part of this effort or to reach someone in charge of a particular portion, e-mail

And students at Chantilly High conduct a wrapping-paper drive so each family may wrap its presents for its own children.

Lavin continually learns how many people in this area need help. On Monday, while she was at the Chantilly Walmart discussing where the giving tree would go, an employee told her of a girl who came into the store one day, trying to cash a gift card so she could buy lunch at school. The employee said she couldn't use the gift card that way, but she gave her the lunch money, herself.

Even new freshmen in their high school's SGA, participating in ONC for the first time, initially have no clue about the need for help in the local community. "Once they do, they see firsthand the good they're doing," said Lavin. "And they realize that connection between their volunteer efforts and what they can do in the future."

"I love seeing their elation when that sinks in," she continued. "There's no truer high than doing something selfless to help someone else. There's no typical 'look' to a family in need. They might live in a nice home, but it belongs to someone else and they rent space in the basement."

With more clothing requests than ever, this year, Stephanie Somers, ONC project leader in charge of clothing donations, urgently needs people to 'adopt' families and purchase their children's clothing needs. Some 660 families have asked for warm clothing such as coats, hats, jackets, mittens and sweaters.

"Stephanie's gotten one-third of the families' clothing needs adopted, or some 220 families," said Lavin. "But that still leaves 440 more families needing their clothing wishes fulfilled — and we just received 30 new families Tuesday night." Somers may be reached at somers06@cox.net.

Another way people may help ONC is by going to its Web site at <http://www.ourneighborschild.org/index.html> and clicking on the "donate now" button. Ultimately, said Lavin, "That's what's going to help us purchase the needed clothes and toys that aren't donated via the giving trees."

Tax-deductible contributions may also be made by mailing checks payable to Our Neighbor's Child to: Karen Moore, Treasurer, Our Neighbor's Child, P.O. Box 276, Centreville, VA 20120.

As always, Lavin's hoping the caring and generosity of local residents will shine through to help their neighbors. Because, she said, when it comes right down to it, "ONC isn't an entity — it's an effort from the community's heart."

volunteer@ourneighborschild.org and the e-mail will be redirected to the volunteer Project Leader organizing that event.

❖ Financial contributions are more important than ever this season. These funds are critical to help ONC purchase any remaining gifts that aren't adopted by a sponsor.

Due to the increase in clothing requests this year, that number is expected to be at an all-time high.

Checks payable to Our Neighbor's Child may be mailed to: Karen Moore, Treasurer, Our Neighbor's Child, P.O. Box 276, Centreville, VA 20120, or online donations may be made via the "donate now" link on the ONC Web site, www.ourneighborschild.org. One hundred percent of the monetary contributions collected by this all-volunteer organization go directly to the purchase of gifts for local children in need.

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Learning in a Global Community

Students in Fairfax County speak 160 languages.

This week our ongoing series about immigration in Fairfax County takes a look at county schools, and some of the joys and challenges of having a diverse student body that speaks as many as 160 different languages at home.

Find the series compiled online at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Immigration/>

For the director of language acquisition in Fairfax County Public Schools, the 44 percent of students who speak a foreign language at home present an opportunity to create language immersion classes where half a kindergarten is learning Spanish or Korean while the other half is learning English.

For principals of some elementary schools where more than half of their students are not proficient in English, the need to have students meet benchmarks in a variety of subjects is a

relentless process. In addition to limited English, immigrant students come from varied backgrounds, some with good basics in their own languages and some with limited previous education in any language. The parents of these students are similarly varied.

Meanwhile, representation of Latino and African American students in Fairfax County's top instructional centers for gifted students lags dramatically.

FCPS is conducting two critical sets of public meetings this week and next. The call for public input is not specifically about growing diversity in the schools, but related challenges make both the possible expansion of centers for the county's most talented students and the selection of a new superintendent of schools that much more important.

A fast moving proposal to expand the number of centers to provide "advanced academic" services is the topic of meetings this week. The meetings will run from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 27, in the Westfield High School cafeteria; Wednesday, Nov. 28, in the Lee High School cafeteria; Thursday, Nov. 29, in the Kilmer Middle School cafeteria.

ered in these pages. I would like to point out, however, that the challenge of getting the CLRC going even during a deep recession, has taken nearly all our time and attention. While the CLRC met an urgent need, we have not forgotten our greater goal, to find ways to bring together people of all nationalities, to appreciate each other's differences, and thus to build a strong, vibrant and exciting place to live. (This is in my own words.) This sounds a lot like what Dr. Bemak of GMU says in Victoria Ross' first article, who I see used "vibrant", too.

As the CLRC approaches its first anniversary of operation, it will be celebrating with an open house from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 1 (just four days short of its anniversary). All are welcome to visit. More details can be found

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Jack Dale will be retiring in June of 2013. The School Board has hired a search firm, Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates, which will be gathering community input.

Many of the challenges facing the new superintendent will revolve around growing diversity, and a track record of open communication and achievement in this will be key to success.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- ❖ Dec. 3 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, South County HS, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079
- ❖ Dec. 4 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Langley HS, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean, VA 22101
- ❖ Dec. 5 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Robinson SS, 5035 Sideburn Road, Fairfax, VA 22032
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 10 a.m. Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Annandale HS, 4700 Medford Drive, Annandale, VA 22003
- ❖ Dec. 6 - 7 p.m., cafeteria, Groveton Elementary School, 6900 Harrison Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306
- ❖ Dec. 7 - 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042 Room 1600

on www.centrevilleimmigrationforum.com on the home page, including a link to a clear map of where the center is.

Watching the CLRC grow and develop during its first year, a year of testing ideas, adapting, improving, building community, and establishing what I hope will be traditions, has been one of the most exciting experiences of my life. Come see why.

It is my hope that the CLRC will thrive in the coming year and that the CIF can begin thinking of other ways to achieve its greater goal.

Stephen Vandivere
Centreville

Hopes Nation Comes Together

To the Editor:

Regardless of party lines, congratulations are in order for President Obama's reelection as our 45th president of the United States. This election year was especially important for me, because it was my first time voting in a presidential election. It is fascinating how many demographics I fall into: youth, female, and minority.

As an American Muslim woman, I understand and am honored to participate in the voting process as it showcases our great and peaceful democracy. As a 20-year-old college student, I feel proud knowing that my country acknowledges my voice and allows me to directly contribute my opinion. It is my hope and prayer that our divided and polarized nation comes together as one, and that this administration will uphold the rule of law, adhere to justice in all affairs, and to continue to promote human rights and human welfare. May God bless America.

Saira Bhatti
Centreville

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Applauds Coverage Of Immigration

To the Editor:

Writing as a member of the board of directors of the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF), I applaud your editorial, the op-ed by John Horejsi (SALT), and the opening articles. I am glad to see more attention being given to immigrants in Fairfax County, and I look forward to seeing the rest of the series. I don't think I need to explain what the CIF is, as it and the cause of its formal organizing in order to meet the challenge of finding totally private funding to operate the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), has been very well cov-



WHS Brass Quintet

The Westfield High School Brass Quintet performed Sunday, Nov. 25 at the Barnes & Noble in Fair Lakes. Its performance was in conjunction with the Westfield High School Library's book fair. Members of the group will also be marching in the Rose Parade in January 2014. The quintet players are (from left) Nick Serbu, Kevin Mannikko, Francis Baylock, Chandler Comer and Connor Parsons.

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A Connection Newspaper

WFCM Says Thanks for Giving in November

During Thanksgiving, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries gave baskets of food to families in need in the local area.

As with all successful ventures, WFCM did not do it alone. Many churches, businesses, dance teams, local high schools, and many individuals, sponsored one to hundreds of families to provide Thanksgiving food. Now, WFCM is preparing to serve additional families at Christmastime and, once again, it needs the community's help.

"We provided food for 597 families at Thanksgiving, and I have over 500 families asking for food assistance for Christmas," said Jennie Bush, community outreach manager for WFCM. I have some sponsors, but still need about 200 more." Complicating the situation is that WFCM hopes to be moving to a new location in December, so all assistance will need to be delivered directly to the families and not delivered to WFCM.

To serve as many of the families as possible, WFCM is requesting donations of grocery store gift cards that can be given to clients and those families needing food assistance. Gift cards can be in any amount and will be distributed by WFCM based upon size of family.

WFCM is also looking for people to adopt a family to provide Christmas Food Baskets.

Baskets typically contain a turkey or ham, stuffing, vegetables, fresh fruit, dinner rolls, onions, potatoes, juice and a pie and cookies.

Recipients will prepare their own meals. Sponsors are given a family's name, address and phone number. Then they'll call to see if they'd like turkey, chicken or ham, and what their favorite vegetables and desserts are. They'll also ask the best time to deliver the basket.

To provide grocery store gift cards (no cash or checks), deliver them to WFCM at 13981 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151, near Backyard Grill, or mail them to PO Box 220802, Chantilly, VA, 20153. WFCM needs to receive them by Dec. 7 so it can mail them out in time for the holidays. To sponsor a family for food at Christmas, contact Jennie Bush at jbush@wfcmvva.org or call 703-988-9656, ext. 105.

The recipient families live in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fairfax Station, Fair Oaks and Fair Lakes.



A few members of Phase Twilight dance team helping with the WFCM food baskets.

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The master bedroom suite consists of a sitting room, dressing room, and large walk-in closet. There are decks off the first floor and the basement level. In addition, there is a year round sun room off of the great room.

Large kitchen and great room with a formal living room and dining room. There is a fireplace in the living room and great room. The basement level is partially finished with a full bath and a 2-car garage. Cottage located about 50' from the main house and has a small kitchen—ideal as a guest cottage or mother-in-law house.

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FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

Schools Using Diversity for Student Benefits

Immersion, ESOL programs aim to take advantage of area cultures.

By ALEX McVEIGH
CENTRE VIEW

As Fairfax County has experienced massive growth in its international population, its effects have spread to its educational institutions. Forty-four percent of the Fairfax County Public Schools students come from homes that speak a language other than English, which includes 160 different languages.

In 2006, the county came up with the goal to eventually have all graduates be able to communicate in two languages. The county currently offers 11 different languages.

"We highly value the diversity of our population, because it's advantageous for our students to grow up here, as global citizens," said Teddi Predaris, director of the county's Office of Language Acquisition. "We believe it's a huge asset for our students in their future endeavors."

Approximately 28 percent of the county's current population are foreign born, with Spanish, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Urdu and Chinese/Mandarin being the most common languages spoken in the homes of elementary school students.

The county's kindergarten two-way immersion program is one method used by schools to take advantage of increasing diversity. The program consists of half English speakers and half who speak the immersion language.

"In this program, the teachers and students are language models for each other, and they spend half the day working at each language," Predaris said. "Our criteria for adding these programs is having a large enough population of the non-English speaking group to make a 50-50 mix possible. This is one of the models we hope to expand in coming years."

The county has five Spanish kindergarten two-way immersion programs, at Bailey's, Braddock, Lake Anne, London Towne and Rose Hill Elementary Schools. New this year is a Korean two-way immersion school at Colin Powell Elementary School in Centreville.

THE PROGRAM AT COLIN POWELL was designed to take advantage of the area's large Korean

population. The Korean students who are in the program all could speak a little English.

"The program is a niche that fits very well in our community. For the native English speakers, it helps them understand more about the culture of the people they share the community with every day. It gives everyone more understanding of the people that walk through our doors every day," said

Principal Linda Clifford. "Walking into a classroom the other day, I was amazed at how many non-Korean students were able to understand Korean very well."

Clifford said she hopes in future years that the school can expand the program beyond kindergarten, eventually to every grade at the school. The school also offers an after school program to all students who are interested in learning Korean, and they even have a pre-school program to teach immigrant families about school programs and other information they might not otherwise be familiar with before their children start school.

Students in the program at Bailey's Elementary take health, math and science in their native language. As a magnet school, students from across the county can apply, which the school uses mainly to fill its English-speaking requirement.

"The native Spanish speakers come to Bailey's with a wide range of English skills, depending on where they come from," said Assistant Principal Rachel Charlton. "Some come from very rural areas

where they have little to no schooling. There's always a silent period in the beginning, but periods like lunch and recess allow the Spanish speakers to talk among themselves, which helps open them up. Children learn most of their language from each other, so having native speakers of both languages helps both groups immensely. Each group of native speakers gets to be the language role model for half a day, with the other students learning from them. It really boosts their confidence."

COUNTY SCHOOLS also feature

"We highly value the diversity of our population, because it's advantageous for our students to grow up here, as global citizens."

— Teddi Predaris, director of the county's Office of Language Acquisition

Janet Funk, principal of Gunston Elementary School in Lorton, where approximately 300 students come from a home where another language is spoken, says everyday interaction with new cultures is an important part of early education.

"Interesting conversations can be heard in the lunchroom, especially when students from other countries bring their food from home. Children are very interested in bringing their favorite foods, which naturally flows to a discussion of traditions and celebrations," she said. "With these informal discussions, the students learn the importance of accepting classmates for who they are. This supports our goal of cultural acceptance and collaborative interaction among our school community."

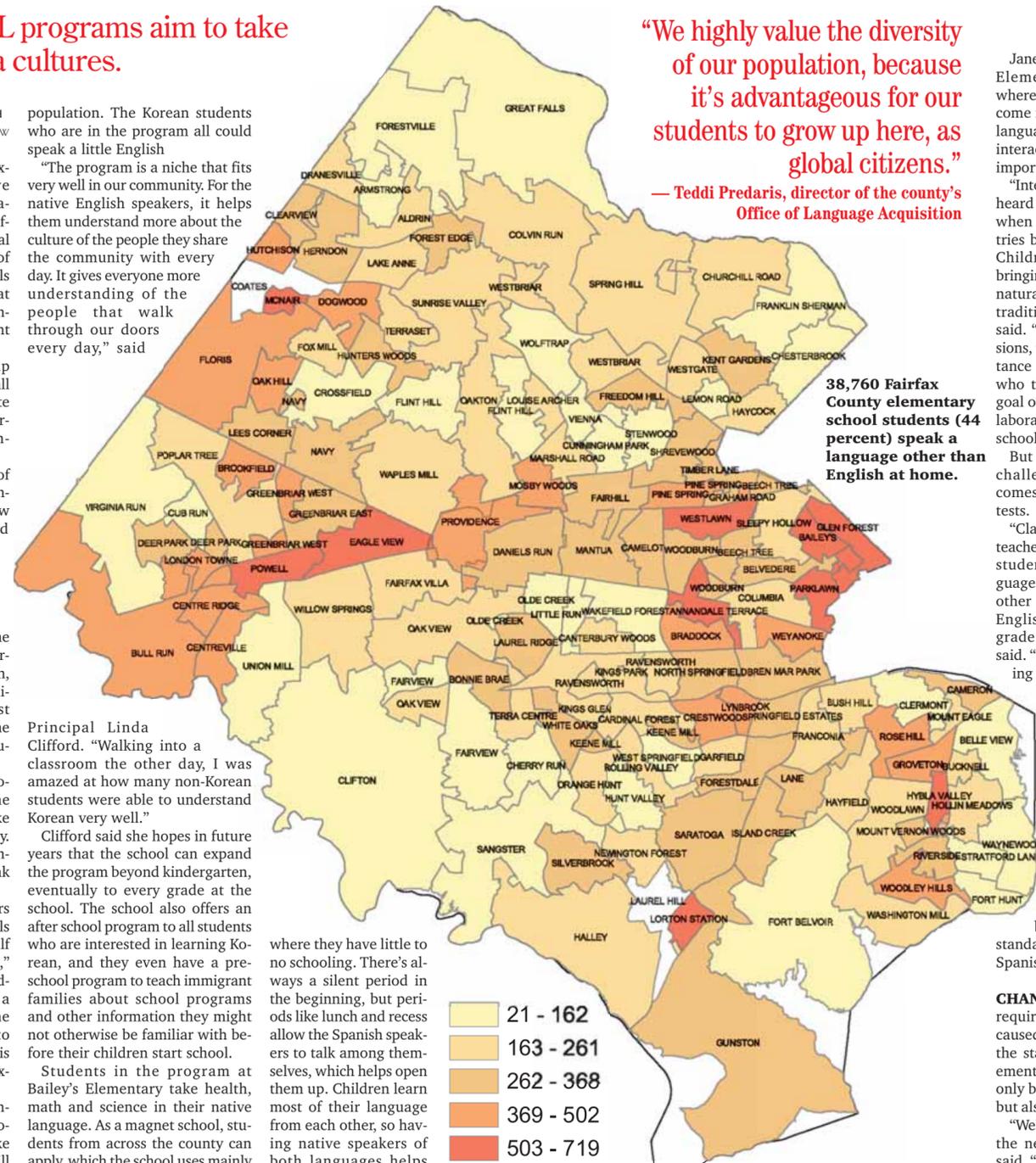
But with such diversity comes challenges, especially when it comes to Standards of Learning tests.

"Classroom teachers and ESOL teachers work diligently to help the students learn the English language. Many of our students from other countries are still learning English and are reading below grade level expectations," Funk said. "These students receive reading instruction in the classroom setting and the ESOL classroom. They are receiving a 'double' dose of reading on a regularly scheduled basis. However, when it comes time to take the SOL tests, they are required to take the test on grade level in a language in which they are not proficient."

In Virginia, SOL tests must be taken in English, but in Texas, for example, standardized tests can be taken in Spanish.

CHANGES to the state's licensure requirements this year have also caused some difficulties. This year, the state required teachers in elementary school programs to not only be licensed in their language, but also for elementary education.

"We've struggled this year due to the new requirement," Charlton said. "We've had to use some long-term subs until as recently as two or three weeks ago before we had enough full time teachers that met qualifications. Now I think the universities are aware of the change, so it might be better in future years, but it can definitely make it difficult to find people."



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ELEMENTARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS
Students who speak a language other than English at home

Another area of growth has been the county's English for Speakers of Other Languages program, which started 35 years ago with 300 students. Since then it has seen a steady increase, with 15,000 in fiscal year 2001 and 31,000 this year.

immersion programs in Japanese, German and French at elementary and middle schools.



George C. Marshall High School has a student population representing more than 90 nations.

PHOTO BY DONNA MANZ / CENTRE VIEW

"Marshall has an international student body from all walks of life, from the four corners of the world ... We are the face of what Fairfax County is in 2012."

— George C. Marshall High School Principal Jay Pearson

Marshall High Is the Face of Fairfax County

Ninety-plus countries represented by student population.

VIEWPOINTS

By DONNA MANZ
CENTRE VIEW

The schools that feed into George C. Marshall High School are the academic home to children from all over the world. It's not surprising, then, that Marshall is an international community, a Tysons Corner United Nations, so to speak. Many of the students come from the prestigious I.B. (International Baccalaureate), but most are in the Marshall district, which embraces students from Vienna. From Italian to Swahili, there is a myriad of languages native to Marshall's students, who represent more than 90 nations.

"Marshall has an international student body from all walks of life, from the four corners of the world," said principal Jay Pearson. "Our kids cross so many boundaries. We don't refer to it as 'diversity,'" Pearson said. "For our students, this is the norm. These kids are very accustomed to moving between groups of students from everywhere, so, there aren't 'cliques.' "We are the face of what Fairfax County is in 2012."

FIVE INVITED STUDENTS gathered in a roundtable discussion at Marshall recently. What they agreed on is that American schools are less-intense academically, less-academically pressuring than schools outside the U.S. In other countries, it is

academics-only that define your future, a selected group of students said in the recent discussion with Pearson and an interviewer. In the U.S., the students said, you have extracurricular programs that enhance the total person. What the U.S. does not have, however, that international schools stress, is an emphasis on foreign language fluency.

English is a compulsory curriculum in many school systems the world over. Some students, such as Kasthury Paramiswaran, a Marshall senior from Malaysia, speak multiple languages, fluent in each. Kasthury's family moved around the world as part of her father's job, and Kasthury mastered four languages in her journeys. She said she still works very hard in her I.B. subjects, getting "A's in every one of her classes. She is applying to colleges in the United Kingdom and the Netherlands.

Jia Loh, a Malaysian native who has been in the U.S. for two years, said the transition to schools here was "hard," even though the academic environment is less intense than in Malaysia.

"I had to adjust to different cultures. It was hard to find friends who share my culture."

Dalila Ferrara's family moved around Italy; her father is in the military there. In the early 1990s, he was assigned to a U.S. base in Texas and his experience there was not a good one. "He warned me not to tell people I'm Italian," Dalila said. "He told me not to be proud

See CURRICULUM, PAGE 12

What was your biggest concern or fear when moving to U.S. schools?

—DONNA MANZ

Kasthury Paramiswaran, senior, Malaysia

"I had a close group of friends there and I didn't know anybody here," on leaving Malaysia when she had made friends in her native high school. "I still work very hard in my [I.B.] classes."



Dalila Ferrara, junior, Italy

"Actually, I was really happy to move here. My only fear was that I wouldn't be accepted. That didn't happen. My biggest dream is to get an MBA from Harvard."



Millan Mbise, senior, Tanzania

"The cultural aspect. For example, in Tanzania there is little interaction with teachers. The teachers are strict, classes are very intense. It's not like that here. I played varsity soccer last year and that helped me a lot with the transition to Marshall.

"I figured out what I wanted to do with my life when I moved here. I want to be a pharmacist."



Jia Loh, senior, Malaysia

"My biggest fear was finding friends. Still find it hard



to join cliques. Most of my friends are international students. I'm still working on that part of the transition. My dream is to find a high-paying job I like, accounting or law."



Amber Holder, senior, Panama

"My biggest fear was that I wouldn't

have the same friends throughout my academic career. My dream is to establish a music education system that would produce more diverse, well-rounded musicians, not just musicians who are skilled in just one instrument."

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

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 or call 703-359-4633.



Wood by Michael Rawson



Leather by James Perry



Jewelry by Regina Ewer



Clothing by Jane Miller

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.

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.

Sugarloaf Craft Festival in Chantilly

More than 300 artisans will set up shop for the Sugarloaf Crafts Festival with an array of sculpture, glass, jewelry, fashion, wood, metal, furniture, home accessories, photography and fine art, all hand-crafted by American artists who have been jury selected. Master craftspeople will demonstrate their painstaking creative processes in iron forging, papermaking, stone sculpting and other media. With live music, children's entertainment and gourmet goodies from dozens of specialty food vendors. Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Friday, Dec. 7 and Saturday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 9, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Adults \$8 online; \$10 at the door. Children under 12 free. Visit www.sugarloafcrafts.com or call 800-210-9900.

SUNDAYS/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.

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 703-830-2223 or visit

Friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com.

Sweeney Todd at TJ. 7 p.m. For a bloody good time, attend Stephen Sondheim's classic tale of "Sweeney Todd - the Demon Barber of Fleet Street" about a vengeful London barber and his landlady's scrumptious but mysterious meat pies as performed by the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology's student choir along with the TJ faculty, parent and alumni choirs. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door on performance days at the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology at 6560 Braddock Road in Alexandria. Visit www.tjchoir.org.

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.

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.

Free Christmas Banquet & Concert. Dinner starts at 5 p.m., followed by a concert at 6 p.m. at Oakton Baptist Church located at 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. Call 703 631-1799. Free. Bring a can of food to help support local ministry. Love offering will be taken.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/DEC. 16-17

Renaissance Dinner. 6:30 p.m. An evening of food, music, and entertainment set in the Renaissance period. Members of the adult choir will act as the Royal Court to the Lord and Lady of the manor. The evening will include a four-course, catered dinner and entertainment by a Madrigal Choir, harp, brass quartet, vocal soloists, and dramatic vignettes. Tickets are \$30. At Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Call 703-830-2684, ext. 1869.

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OPEN HOUSES

SATURDAY/SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 & 2

When you visit one of these Open Houses, tell the Realtor you saw it in this Connection Newspaper. For more real estate listings and open houses, visit www.ConnectionNewspapers.com and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

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6100 Eagle Landing Rd.....\$635,000.....Sun 1-4..Carol Hermandorfer..Long & Foster..703-503-1812
 9750 Rehanek Ct.....\$550,000.....Sun 1-4.....Doris Crockett.....Weichert..703-615-8411
 9417 Ulysses Ct.....\$414,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
 12213 Wye Oak Commons Cir.....\$364,900.....Sat 1-3.....Kimberly Neff.....Avery-Hess..703-802-8200

Clifton

8209 Cub Den Ct.....\$1,125,000.....Sun 1-4.....John Cooney.....Fairfax..703-989-9969
 14018 Marleigh Ln.....\$595,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21 ..703-989-7735
 6324 Deepwood Farm Dr.....\$589,000.....Sun 1-4.....Ed Duggan.....Century 21 ..703-989-7735

Fairfax Station

7513 South Reach Dr.....\$849,950.....Sun 1-4..Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808

Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd.....\$829,000.....Sat/Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler..Keller Williams..703-405-6540
 7937 Freehollow Dr.....\$571,000.....Sun 1-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

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9529 Peniwill Dr.....\$989,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Manassas

9800 Grant Ave.....\$159,000.....Sun 1-4.....Veronica Kressel..Samson Props..703-819-9804

Springfield

6025 Queenston St.....\$429,500.....Sun 1-4.....Dilip Kimra.....DNK..301-515-0766
 7205 Layton Dr.....\$425,000.....Sun 1-4.....Trong Trinh.....TMT..703-237-6779
 8453 Millwood Pl.....\$409,900.....Sun 1-4.....Leland Lambert.....ERA..703-742-6900
 6505 Castine Ln.....\$405,000.....Sun 1-4.....Monica Adams.....RE/MAX..703-434-9400
 6207 Middlesex Ave.....\$390,000.....Sun 1-4.....Joni Koons.....Weichert..703-549-8700
 8518 Springfield Oaks Dr.....\$324,928.....Sun 1-3.....Darla Colletti.....RE/MAX..703-971-5555

Woodbridge

727 Harbor Side St.....\$416,000.....Sun 1-4.....Diane Lenahan.....Wolf Run..703-283-7328

To add your Realtor-represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call Karen Washburn at 703-778-9422 or E-mail the info to: kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com
 All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

'All I Want for Christmas'

FROM PAGE 3

have some fun numbers with props and special effects, a grand and colorful set, and a really enjoyable plot."

Teen Audra Avery, who's homeschooled, began dancing at 3 and joined Encore at age 6. She said van der Merwe taught her "how to show the audience with your expression how much you love to dance — which I do."

She plays an elf named Twinkle and, when the story starts, she's in charge of getting things ready for Christmas. But she's eventually infected with the flu, as well, which makes her want to keep all the presents for herself.

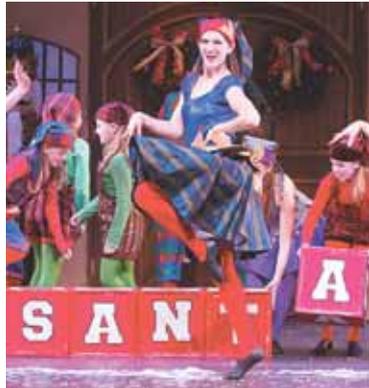
"I usually play the nice elf," she said. "But Twinkle's character changes, so it's like playing two parts. And I love the costume — it's a short blue, pixie-type dress; all the costumes in this show are really amazing. My favorite number is 'Reindeer;' we wear brown and have antlers, and the song has a lot of leaps and is really high-energy. I think the audience will also like our new, winter set for the North Pole and the storyline."

Performing with Encore since she was 4 is Alia Artieda of Centreville's Sully Station community. She loves dancing because, she said, "I can express myself about everything." In the show, she dances with the ensemble, and she especially likes the "Cool Yule" number because it's done with a smaller group and "it's bluesy, which is more my style."

Her favorite costume is worn during the Rockette number. "We're all in white leotards with ruffles in the back and long, white gloves," said Artieda. Describing the show as "good for all ages," she said, "There are a lot of new dances this year and the acting is really great." At Encore, she said van der Merwe's taught her how to manage her time and keep organized. And, added Artieda, "She gives us a lot of life lessons."

Chantilly High sophomore Renee Griese has been with Encore since the sixth grade. "Dancing is performing and it's an amazing feeling being up on stage and having people clap afterward," she said. "It gives you a really good sense of accomplishment. And at Encore, I learned how to be part of a team and help others."

She especially likes this show's doll costumes — plaid dresses and curly blond wigs. Her favorite song is "Don't be Late" because "it really encompasses New York life; you can't be late for things." Calling the show "kid-friendly," Griese said, "When the curtain goes up



Jessie Peltier performs the number, "Swinging at Santa's," during Encore's new show.

and you hear all the little kids, they think everything they see onstage is real and are totally entertained by it."

Fairfax's Grace Cryblskey acts and dances in six numbers. "I play a little girl talking with her friends about Santa," she said. "She thinks Christmas is only about getting presents. I also play an elf named Jinkxie. At first, she's a regular elf and then she turns evil, and it's fun playing both characters."

Cryblskey's favorite number is "Winter Wonderland" because "it's

about how Christmas is a winter wonderland and it'll snow while we're dancing." She said the audience will enjoy the whole show because "the script is well-written, very funny and entertaining." She loves dancing because "you get to share your talents with others and make them happy."

Christina Mastracchio, 14, attends St. Veronica Catholic School in Chantilly's Franklin Farm community and is a 10-year member of Encore. "When I'm onstage, it's the most amazing feeling," she said. "I love performing and seeing people's reactions when I do something cool."

She especially likes the song, "Dolly," because "we get on a train and the sound effects are really good, and the tap dancing is very crisp." Overall, she said, "The audience will like the show because the dancing is professional, the singing is amazing and so is the acting — and everything just comes together."

"All the girls in this production want it to be great as much as I do," added van der Merwe. "It's a full cast focused on a common goal, and that's what makes it special."

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We Are the World, at Garfield

Teachers discuss challenges of teaching English as a Second Language.

BY MICHELLE KAIN
CENTRE VIEW

Garfield Elementary School in Springfield, like all of Fairfax County, has a population that reflects a wide range of backgrounds. With 33 languages spoken, the school's ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program has had to expand. The school has a first grade class of 60 students, 58 of whom are ESOL students ranging from levels one through four.

Jane Cofie-Raczko, who has been a teacher for the past 13 years, teaches one of three first grade classes in which all 20 of the students have English as a second language.

The majority of these students are from Hispanic or Middle Eastern backgrounds and common languages include Spanish, Arabic, Urdu, Farsi, Korean, Chinese and Vietnamese. The challenges involved with teaching these students depend on their proficiency with the English language.

"For students who speak almost no English, it can be difficult to communicate to the students that you want them to succeed and that you are there to help them. It can also be difficult to get the students to ask for help, mostly due to their lack of confidence in their speaking ability. For students with a better knowledge of the social language, it can be tough to give them a similarly strong academic language. Add the already difficult material to learning English for the first time and it can be very challenging," said Cofie-Raczko.

"The success of the students with the curriculum and their preparedness for middle and high school depends on the schooling they received in their home country as well as when they enrolled



Jane Cofie-Raczko gives her first grade class the details regarding their upcoming test.

at Garfield," said Rozi Khakpour, an ESOL teacher at Garfield Elementary.

Students who have attended Garfield from the start get the opportunity to develop oral language at an early age through programs such as Lunch and Bunch in which kindergartners with English as a second language meet twice a week to have lunch and practice this important skill.

The program, along with others, have proven to be successful as "students who have been at Garfield since kindergarten often exceed in high school and earn positions on the honor roll," Khakpour said.

"Another thing that has proven to be helpful," said Kirsten Howard, another first grade teacher, "is Garfield's social curriculum." This social curriculum, which concentrates on teaching students cooperation, assertion, responsibility, empathy, and self-control, has given students a greater awareness outside themselves and has helped them in middle in high school as demonstrated by their willingness to take on leadership positions.



Mariana Del Cid-Quintanilla, Spanish, Parents from El Salvador



Anmul Jan, Pashtu, Born in Pakistan



Michael Opuni, Akah, Parents from Ghana (Michael born in US)



Yusuf Ouanina, Arabic, Morocco



Tracy Huynh, Vietnamese, Vietnam



Mohammed (Jafar) Abdulridna, Arabic, Iraq

PHOTOS BY MICHELLE KAIN/CENTRE VIEW

FOCUS ON IMMIGRATION

'Hidden Curriculum'

FROM PAGE 8

of being Italian." Dalila carried that warning with her when she entered Marshall. The dire warning turned out to have no basis at her new school. "When I tell people here I'm Italian, they say, 'oh, I love Italy' and then, I'm so relieved. Yes, I am proud to say I'm Italian here."

In Italy, it was always school and studying through late evening, Dalila said. She had no social life there.

"When I came here, it was such a relief," she said. "I was so happy I finally had time for myself."

Millan Mbise, from Tanzania, was pleasantly surprised by the degree of interaction between students and teachers. Teachers are less approachable than in the U.S. Millan, whose native language is Swahili, grew up speaking English,

up their native language.

"Studies show that bilingual students do better academically."

Bloom said the school helps newly-immigrated students to transition by embracing the families as they enter the school. Relationship-building is how he refers to the partnership. "When you establish that relationship with new families from other countries, you get rid of a lot of hurdles. When you do that, the families feel valued and a part of the Freedom Hill family. We have students learning from one another simply from their exposure to each other."

The children of Freedom Hill Elementary School are so accustomed to establishing relationships within the classroom, they don't recognize barriers, Bloom said. "It's a representation of the world."

Bloom refers to the school's di-

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together."

— Scott Bloom, Freedom Hill principal

as well. English is compulsory in the schools, and, Millan calls it the "unofficial" language of Tanzania.

Millan is bused from Marshall daily to Falls Church High School for a class in "pharmacy technology." He learned what he wanted to do with his life while living here and attending an American school. He wants to be a pharmacist some day.

FREEDOM HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL feeds into the Marshall pyramid. Like Marshall, Freedom Hill is the world in microcosm. There are more than 42 languages spoken in the students' homes and the children of Freedom Hill represent more than 53 countries. Some Freedom Hill students are from diplomatic families, already bilingual or multilingual with English exposure. Others are new to English. The school, through its many ESOL levels, works with these students to help them adapt to English.

"Within the realm of school, the kids are held accountable to communicate in the English language," said first-year Freedom Hill principal Scott Bloom. As the kids interact with their peers, they pick up English.

"I like to think we also recognize the importance of kids having that dual-language skill," Bloom said. "We want them to learn English, but, we don't want them to give

versity as a "hidden curriculum."

"There's so much value in having a school where children from all over the world can come together," Bloom said. "You set the stage for the children to share their history, backgrounds, culture, and experiences. "There's so much power in bringing all these different cultures together that I think it's justified to call it a hidden curriculum."

"The kids don't even know they're learning from this diversity."

Marshall's roundtable students eager to discuss their new lives all said that school life is more pressured in their native countries with little opportunities within the school system to learn nonacademic things. Schools do not promote extracurricular activities as they do here.

"Students are pushed by their parents to excel academically in Malaysia," Kasthury said. "Many of these kids commit suicide. They're told, 'if you're not the best, you'll never succeed.'"

Amber Holder has found a multitude of extracurricular activities to engage in. In Panama, there was only a single option. Here, she said, she's involved with the marching band, the literary magazine and other programs. "In Panama, you have to find one place to fit in. But, here, you can fit in in many places."

Four Northern Virginia Harriers Heading to Nationals

Chantilly's McGorty sets course record at Foot Locker South.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty and Lake Braddock senior Sophie Chase were the best in Virginia this year, each winning a VHSL AAA cross country championship on Nov. 10.

Two weeks after capturing state titles at Great Meadow, McGorty and Chase took their running show on the road to compete at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C. They experienced familiar results.

McGorty won the seeded boys' race with a course-record time and Chase won the seeded girls' race, earning each a spot at nationals on Dec. 8 in San Diego. McGorty, who is committed to Stanford University, finished with a personal-best time of 14:28, and Chase recorded a time of 17:05 at McAlpine Greenway Park. McGorty's effort broke the record of 14:32, set in 2004 by Andrew Bumbalough of Brentwood, Tenn.

"My performance was all I could have hoped for," McGorty wrote in an email. "To run that fast on the course was amazing and I couldn't be happier with my performance. ... My time was a course record and this means so much to me. The course has such history and to hold the record there is truly an awesome feeling. I went out pretty hard so I knew that I had a chance at the record, but I really thought I had it in the last 200 meters."

This was McGorty's fourth year competing at the Foot Locker regional meet and his third year running in the seeded boys' race. As a sophomore in 2010, he finished 35th. McGorty placed sixth as a junior last season, earning him a trip to nationals. The top 10 finishers advance to the national championship meet. McGorty went on to place 10th at nationals in 2011.

CHASE COMPETED in the girls' seeded race at Foot Locker regionals each of her four years of high school. She placed 41st as a freshman, eighth as a sophomore and second as a junior. At nationals, Chase finished 38th as a sophomore and 11th as a junior.

Chase wasn't the only girls' harrier from Northern Virginia to advance to nationals. West Springfield junior Caroline Alcorta placed eighth (17:19) and Oakton sophomore Allie Klimkiewicz finished ninth (17:29), securing their places in San Diego.

Alcorta's time was a personal best.

"It's unbelievably exciting and nerve-wracking all at once," Alcorta wrote in an email. "Making it to Foot Locker Finals has been one of my goals ever since the beginning of the season and I can't believe it's actually happening! It's like a dream come true!"



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly senior Sean McGorty, seen at states on Nov. 10, won the seeded boys' race at the Foot Locker Cross Country Championships South Regional on Nov. 24 in Charlotte, N.C.

Alcorta knew about 2/3 of the way through she had a chance to crack the top 10.

"Somewhere around the two-mile mark, I realized that there was only seven us in the pack," she wrote. "I was shocked there was only seven (later I was caught by another girl), but I came to the realization that we were all going to make it. We had all worked and pushed ourselves so hard that we were able pull away from the rest of the field, and after that I decided I was not going to let this opportunity just slip by, I had come too far to lose it."

Alcorta placed 23rd at last year's Foot Locker South meet with a time of 17:52. She remembers the experience.

"Last year, I didn't really have any goals in mind except to try and finish top 30 (top 30 is considered to be 'All South'), and felt like I was running just to run and maybe even PR," she wrote. "I remember during the race the top 10 girls just flying away from me and thinking, 'Off they go!' After that, I knew I'd have to stick to that group the next and upcoming year if I had ever wanted a chance to try and qualify for the Finals. This year, I feel like I knew what to expect and knew what I needed to do in order to have a shot at making top 10."

Lake Braddock senior Nick Tuck finished 14th in the Foot Locker South seeded boys' race with a time of 15:15. In the girls' race, Robinson junior Macey Schweikert finished 21st with a time of 18:00. West Springfield senior Maddie Wittich was 22nd with a time of 18:01.

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21 Announcements

21 Announcements

OBITUARY



Mike Wilder of Centreville, Virginia passed away on November 12, 2012 on his 48th birthday. Mike was born in Knoxville, TN. He grew up in Lake Ridge, VA and graduated from Woodbridge Senior HS in 1982.

Mike attended George Mason University and later Marymount University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Communications while working at AT&T part-time. Through a program offered by AT&T, Mike got his Master's degree in Human Resource Development from American University. Mike met his wife Sonja at AT&T in 1988. They were married in 1992. They have two daughters, Rachel and Erica.

Mike continued to work at AT&T until he transferred to Concert. He later joined Nextel Communications and was working as a Senior Manager when his illness occurred.

Mike was diagnosed with a brain tumor in August 2002. He had surgery to remove the tumor on August 15, 2002. Through the years, he never fully recovered from the initial surgery and as a result of his injuries never worked again. He had several recurrences of the brain tumor. In June 2012, the tumor returned and was nearly as large as the initial tumor. The doctors determined that the only treatments they could offer this time were palliative.

Mike's mom passed away in 2001. His dad passed away in 2008. His brother, Dave, lives in Lake Ridge, VA with his wife, Jane, and daughter Kristi.

Mike touched many people's lives before and after his illness. He was adored by friends, co-workers, and caregivers. He had a quick wit and made funny comments right up until his last day.

A funeral Mass will be held at St. Timothy Catholic Church, 13807 Poplar Road, Chantilly, Virginia 20151 on Friday, November 30, 2012 at 2 p.m.

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Pay Now, Bye Later



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Contrary to last week's column, if I do pay for it now (things I can't afford), then I'll be so in debt later that I may end up saying "bye" anyway – from the stress of it. And if that were to happen; dying with a smile on my face, so to speak, would I be truly better off now anticipating that later was not going to be my problem? Do I want to be a modern day version of George Raft, the American actor from the 1930s and 40s best known for his portrayals of mobsters, who said about his Hollywood money: "I must have gone through \$10 million during my career. Part of the loot went for gambling, part for horses and part for women. The rest I spent foolishly."

My problem is that I don't want to spend my money foolishly, just in case I continue to outlive my original prognosis. There's plenty of things I can afford to do without, but money unfortunately is not one of them. The real question, to me, is: do I want to take responsibility for my own actions (lifestyle choices, purchases, miscellaneous financial commitments) and live within my means, or do I want to spend selfishly, live my life and let the chips – or rather bills, fall where they may? After all, eventually (if you know what I mean?), payment may be difficult to collect. And given the fact that as a stage IV lung cancer patient, I am considered "terminal," which means my best years may be behind me, don't I have enough problems at present whereby I shouldn't worry too much about what happens later (somebody else's problem by then)? Then again, if I do pay now, surely there would be a sense of satisfaction/sense of accomplishment, but would paying for any of it (or all of it) now compromise my future? Need I be overly concerned about later when the ship I'm presently steering is listing and taking on water?

Stress hardly provides aid and comfort when imposed on a cancer patient and more so than on an able-bodied, non-terminal man or woman. Finding that balance between what I need today to get me to tomorrow, versus what I need tomorrow to get me through today, is the axis on which that bane of my existence turns. Do I indulge myself? Do I deprive myself? Do I live like there are plenty of tomorrows? Or do I live like tomorrows are in short supply? Do I reach for the brass ring (on the Merry-go-round of life, metaphorically speaking) or do I saddle a real horse and ride off into the sunset? Is time on my side or is it running down my leg?

Unfortunately, there's nothing that I can do today to guarantee me a tomorrow. I have cancer. However, living recklessly, irresponsibly, selfishly may in an awkward way get me through today easier than if I towed the typical Kenny-type line (I'm funny, but I'm not fun). Nevertheless, I keep coming back to an emotional instinct I have: I don't want to give up on myself or my future and paying now assures that I won't. I do plenty of pretending but I'm not going to pretend that I'm the reincarnation of George Raft (besides, he was also an excellent dancer, which I'm not). He may have known what he was doing; I'm not really sure I do.

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

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

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.

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.

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 or Nancy at 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, located at 14315 Compton Road in Centreville. Call 703-968-8455. Registration information is available at www.childrensacademy.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Community Feast. The Mount Olive Baptist Church is kicking off this season of giving with a free festive family-style dinner for its neighbors in the community from 12-4 p.m. in its banquet hall at 6600 Old Centreville Road. While the Community Feast is open to all, outreach will include neighbors in need.

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. For volunteer opportunities or to make a monetary donation, visit 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

ASL Signing Santa and Mrs. Claus

In celebration of the "Ice Age: Continental Drift" Blu-ray featuring first-time sign-language interpretation of a feature film, Fair Oaks will host ASL Signing Santa Day on Thursday, Dec. 6 from 10-11 a.m. Special-guest children who are deaf and/or hard-of-hearing will be welcomed for a walk through the multi-sensory Ice Palace, Ice Age treats and souvenirs, signed dance performances by Hulala, performances by members of the Washington, D.C. deaf community, a visit with Signing Santa and Signing Mrs. Claus and complimentary Santa photos. The event will be signed by a guest interpreter.

ASL Signing Santa and Signing Mrs. Claus will remain in the Ice Palace throughout the day Thursday, Dec. 6 through 9:30 p.m. to welcome all shoppers. Free and open to the public. Visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com or call 703-279-2708.

calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments.

ReStore Anniversary Event. The main goal of the ReStore (4262 Entree Court, Chantilly) is to fund Habitat for Humanity. Donations are accepted and can be made by individuals as well as companies. In many cases, if the items were not donated, they would go straight to landfills. To donate, call 703-360-6700 or visit 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 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.

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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)	

