

## ‘How Far Should Science Push?’

Westfield High presents “Flowers for Algernon.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he past two years, Westfield High won a slew of Cappie awards with musicals. But this time, its Cappies show is “Flowers for Algernon,” a thought-provoking drama with a serious message.

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Feb. 15-16, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 17, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 in advance via [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com), and \$12, adults, and \$10, students, at the door. All seating is reserved.

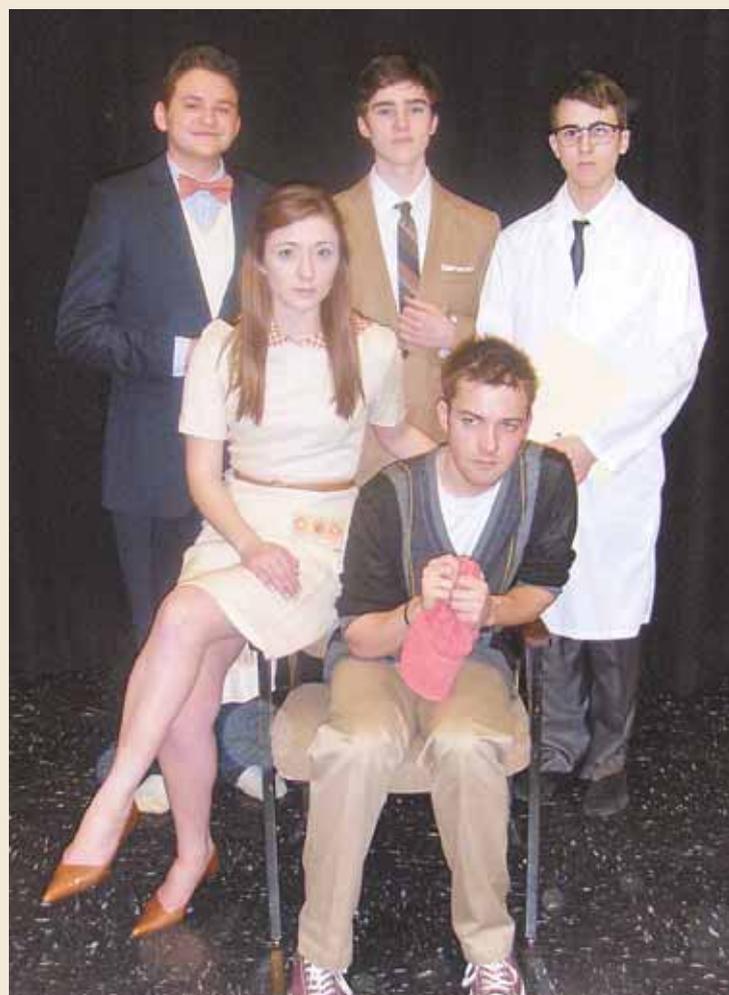
“The kids wanted to do a drama this year and I have really strong actors, so I wanted to highlight them,” said Director Susie Pike. “And I love this play’s message that there’s always hope, and we need to accept all people and look at everyone’s strengths and gifts.”

In the play, Charlie Gordon is a 32-year-old mentally challenged man with a 68 IQ. But he undergoes an experiment — previously only tested on mice — that raises his IQ to genius level. “The story’s also about his relationships with his teacher, parents and doctors, and what happens when he realizes he’s beginning to revert back,” said Pike. “It’s very poignant.”

There’s a cast and crew of 36 and, said Pike, “It’s beautiful for me to watch these young adults portraying such complex characters. And this play, as in all art, allows us to discuss major issues, such as, should we do experiments on people, and how far should science push?”

“We live in a time of exciting, medical advances and people surviving things they didn’t before, because of new treatments,” she continued. “But most of all, we have to respect human beings and who they are — and that’s what I want people to go home with. I also want them to say, ‘Wow, these kids are really fantastic and not afraid to tackle serious issues and complex characters with integrity.’”

The story takes place in 1965, so the actors are also having fun exploring the attitudes and cloth-



**In character for Westfield’s “Flowers for Algernon” are (back row, from left) Alex Mann and brothers Brandon and Julian Sanchez and (front, from left) Madeleine Bloxam and Mitchell Buckley**

ing of that time period. Student Zoe Hawryluk is the costume designer, and she scoured thrift shops to find appropriate items. “We’re lucky because a lot of the 1960s-inspired clothes are coming back into style today,” she said.

So the boys will wear skinny-lapel suits, narrow ties and flat-front pants. Girls will wear skirts, dresses, saddle shoes and pearls. “They wore more formal clothing then,” said Hawryluk. “People dressed up, men wore hats and girls rarely wore pants or shorts.”

Junior Brandon Sanchez designed the set; scenes will take place in a bakery, a doctor’s office, laboratory, two apartments and Charlie’s mother’s house.

“I tried to show people the inner workings of Charlie’s mind through the set,” said Sanchez. “For example, whenever Charlie has a flashback of his family, the set opens up to reveal a maze behind it. We’re also using period furniture, like couches and desks, to show the ’60s time period. It’s fun thinking of things and putting them on paper; and

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## CHS Advances To Regionals

Thespians win the VHSL One-Act Play District Competition.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**C**hantilly High’s Theater Department is on a roll; it captured first place in last week’s VHSL One-Act Play District Competition and is now headed to regionals.

The school’s theater director, Ed Monk, wrote and directed Chantilly’s entry, “At the Bottom of Lake Missoula,” and seniors Nicole Paladeau and Matt Calvert both received Outstanding Acting awards. The drama has a cast and crew of 40.

“It’s about a college girl whose family is killed in a tornado, what happens to her afterward and how she learns to cope with the tragedy,” said Monk. He’s more known for his comedies, and this is only the second drama he’s written. “It has a large cast and I had so many talented kids that it’s the only play I had that could fit them all,” he said.

The competition was held Monday, Jan. 28, at Herndon High, with Chantilly’s play beating Westfield’s, Robinson’s and Oakton’s. Both Chantilly and Oakton, which finished second, advanced to regionals, which will be held Feb. 16 at Lake Braddock against seven other schools in the Northern Region.

In the play, Paladeau portrayed



**Nicole Paladeau receives her Outstanding Actress award from the event host.**



**Matt Calvert receives the Outstanding Actor award from the district competition host.**

the girl and Calvert played a boy she meets at college. “I think they deserved to win their awards,” said Monk. “They both did a really good job — especially Nicole, because it’s a really difficult role to play. She had to go through so many emotions.”

SEE CHS WINS, PAGE 8

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## ROUNDUPS

### Help Improve School Safety

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sully District Police Station will host a program called "School Safety Starts With You." It's set for Wednesday, Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Parents curious about the measures and steps in place to protect their children at school are urged to attend and learn how safe their children are and what their role is in keeping them safe. Residents are encouraged to bring their comments, questions and concerns.

Said Capt. Ed O'Carroll, the station commander, "We want to further our commitment to school safety by educating parents about security awareness, as well as how they can assist us in keeping public and private schools safe."

School safety experts from the FCPS Office of School Safety and Security, and the Fairfax County Police Department's School Resource Officer (SRO) program, will be on hand to present information and answer questions. For more information, call Sully Station Crime Prevention Officer Tara Freucht at 703-814-7018.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 14, 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.

### Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, rice (2-lb. bags), canned pasta, peanut butter, canned tuna and meat, hot and cold cereal, fruit juice, and pancake mix and syrup.

Bring all items to WFCM'S new food-pantry location at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place shopping center.

The WFCM thrift store is slated to reopen Saturday, Feb. 16, at 13939 Metrotech Drive, near the Lotte Market, also in Sully Place. Store hours will remain the same -Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. But starting Tuesday, Feb. 19, donation hours for clothing, household goods and furniture will be Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

### Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy

Area residents wanting to learn more about the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department may now have the chance. They may participate in a nine-week program showing them what firefighters and paramedics do every day.

Applications to the first-ever Citizens Fire and Rescue Academy will be accepted until Feb. 18 or until the class of 25 is filled. The free program is open to those at least 18 years old. The academy will begin March 28, 2013, meeting for nine consecutive weeks, from 6-9 p.m., at various locations.

Each session will cover different aspects of the organization, providing an in-depth overview of it and its uniformed and civilian workforce. Program topics include fire suppression, emergency medical services, training, recruitment and special operations. Apply at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa).

### 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](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

## NEWS

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**Julie Kearns, A Forever Home Rescue Foundation volunteer, prepares to give one of the rescues to its foster home where it will await a permanent adopter.**



**A Forever Home Rescue Foundation volunteer receives a new collar for the rescue dog he will be looking after until a permanent adopter can be found.**

**Above, Julie Kearns, A Forever Home Rescue Foundation volunteer, surveys the arriving dogs who have just been rescued from a backyard breeder in rural Virginia on Saturday morning, Feb. 2. The 21 dogs were brought to the Greenbrier Shopping Center parking lot in Chantilly where some of them were taken to foster homes. In the days following the rescue, the dogs will be groomed and receive any medical care that they might need, which is estimated to cost between \$30,000-\$50,000.**



**Above, Joanna Kay, A Forever Home Rescue Foundation foster parent from Centreville, receives her rescue dog that she will take care of until a permanent adopter is found.**



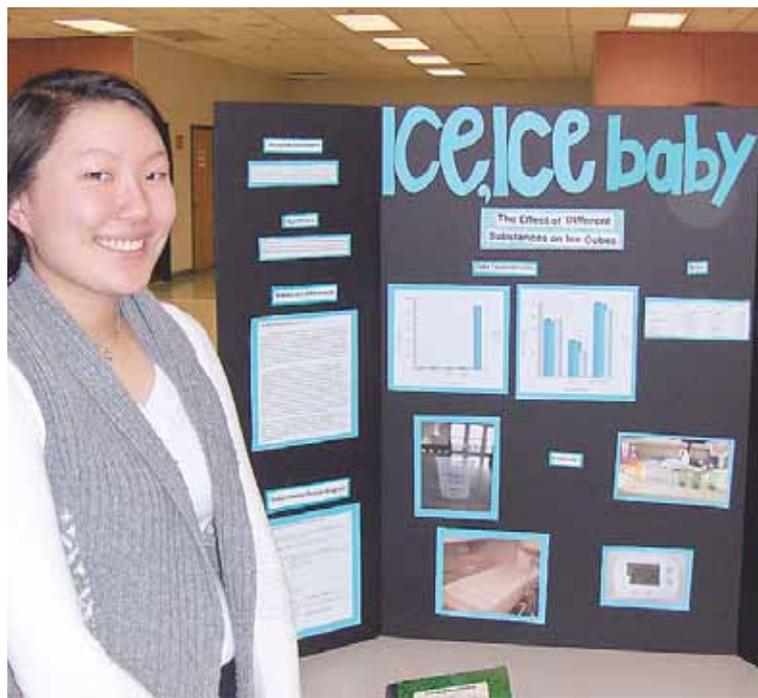
**Julie Kearns and Greg Brummett, A Forever Home Rescue Foundation volunteers, check to make sure each dog who is put in to foster care is carefully documented and accounted for.**

PHOTOS BY  
AARON THOMAS  
CENTRE VIEW

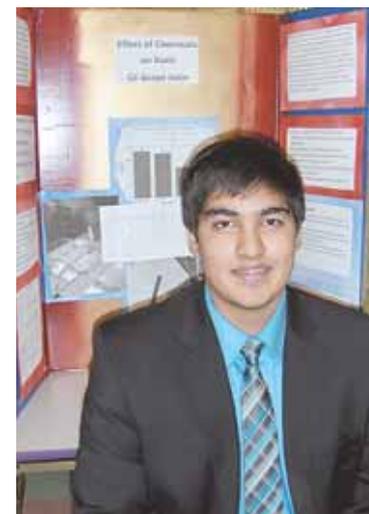
# SCHOOLS



Lauren Godfrey, a freshman, studied the effect of moisture on popcorn volume. “I like popcorn and I wanted to find out what kind of environment would make the most volume,” she said. “So I put the same amount of popcorn in a jar, with and without water, and also on a dry paper towel. I let it sit for five days and flipped the jars over to move the water around. Then I popped it all.” Her hypothesis was that the popcorn in the jar filled with water would yield the most popcorn because, said Godfrey, “Popcorn pops because of the moisture inside it.” But as things turned out, the two dry samples of popcorn popped just fine; however, the wet popcorn didn’t pop, at all.



Freshmen Elisa Kang and Callie Gay looked at the effect of different substances on ice cubes. “We were trying to see which substances would melt ice fastest — Windex, rubbing alcohol or laundry detergent,” said Kang. “We guessed alcohol would because it has certain chemicals in it that would act that way. And we were right — our experiment supported it.”



Freshman Abdul Shahid investigated the effects of various chemicals on a grape-juice stain. The goal was to find one, really good chemical in each of four laundry detergents and determine which worked best on the stain. “We tested acetone, coconut oil, isopropyl and white vinegar,” said Shahid. “Isopropyl worked best.”

## Chantilly Students Sparkle at Science Fair

Chantilly High’s 29th annual Science Fair was held Wednesday, Jan. 23. The event showcased 442 projects from nearly 600 students.

Chantilly High Principal Teresa Johnson (far left) with the winners of the school’s 29th annual Science Fair Competition.

PHOTOS BY  
BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW



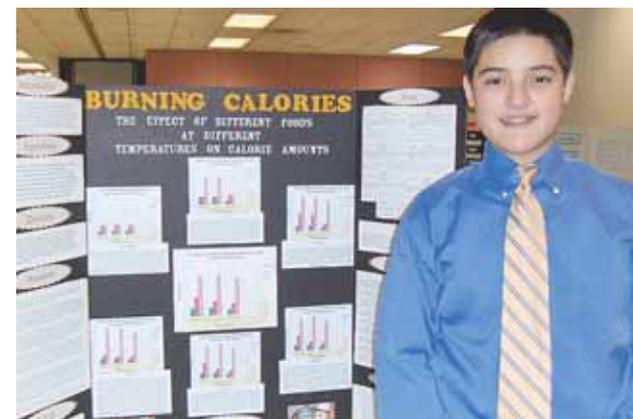
PHOTO COURTESY OF JEFF SPRING



Joey Scanlon, a sophomore, plays bass drum in Chantilly’s marching band so he investigated the effect of temperature on the pitch of a snare drum. “In marching band, when we start in August, it’s warmer,” he said. “But it’s colder in November, toward the end of our season, so we have to tune our drums differently. And I thought the temperature might be affecting the pitch.” So Scanlon exposed his drum to different temperatures; he put it in a 100-degree oven and also refrigerated it until it hit 40 degrees. “I thought the drum would have a higher pitch in cooler temperatures because colder weather causes the head of the drum to tighten,” he said. “And I was right.”



Sophomore Kelly Schuberg studied the effect of sunscreens on a bathing suit’s flammability. “I found an article about a man who put on a spray sunscreen and then barbecued immediately over an open flame and caught on fire,” she said. “So I wanted to test different sunscreens on a bathing suit because sunscreen often gets on your bathing suit when you apply it.” She figured an aerosol would burn easily because of the methyl alcohol in it, but was surprised that one of the sunscreen lotions also burned. Best, she said, was the Banana Boat brand, which didn’t burn, at all.



David Balcells, a freshman, tested various snack foods to see which contained the highest-calorie ingredients. Since their most common ingredients were carbohydrates, protein and sugar, he tested a piece of cereal for the carbohydrate, a peanut for protein and a sugar cube. “To calculate the amount of calories in each, I had to catch them on fire and keep them burning,” he said. “The sugar contained the most calories at room temperature. Carbohydrates had the least amount of calories, so they’d be best for people working at their desks all day to eat.”

## Mike Roberts Is Officer of Month

From left: Sully District Police Station Commander, Capt. Ed O'Carroll, presents an Officer of the Month certificate to police Officer Mike Roberts. He works in the station's Crime Scene section and recently received the Officer of the Month award for the second time. "We had a crime spree at the mosque [in Chantilly] and Mike lifted fingerprints and connected them to crimes," said O'Carroll. "He also did a fingerprint ID of a print found at some business burglaries to close those cases. That fingerprint led to an arrest, a search warrant and the recovery of a weapon. Mike's gotten the bad guys off the streets."



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

## Teens Charged in Fire Bomb Incident

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department investigators have charged 15 Herndon and Chantilly juveniles with the manufacture and use of fire bombs or other explosive devices. The charges stem from an incident on Dec. 14, 2012, around 9:15 p.m., on a neighborhood playground in the 3200 block of Kinross Circle, in Oak Hill.

Police, including the bomb squad, also responded to the incident. One of the unexploded devices was a plastic, two-liter bottle filled with a chemical liquid, but police were able to disable it and render it safe at the scene. The improvised explosive devices

(IEDs) caused no injuries or property damage. "A resident heard a boom or explosion of some sort, called 911 and we were dispatched," said Fire Department spokesman Dan Schmidt on Wednesday. "The teens had set off some of the IEDs, and we found evidence of that, so we called in the police."

The juveniles were charged Tuesday, Feb. 5, with the manufacture, possession and use of fire bombs or explosive materials or devices. Schmidt said all 15 were boys and all were teenagers.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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## Building Blocks for Success

### Fairfax Families4Kids: A community of hope.

BY MICHAEL FREY  
SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

When it comes to building buildings or fixing things, Fairfax County does a great job. Schools, fire stations, parks — the County has a proven track record of exemplary projects.

Building or fixing families and people — that's tougher to evaluate.

Fairfax is probably no better or worse than most local governments. Fixing people is hard. There is no plan that, if followed to the letter, results in a split family being made whole, or a person with mental illness or substance abuse issues being cured. People are different than buildings.

Maybe that's why I was so excited about the Fairfax Families 4 Kids program when I was introduced to it, and became such a huge supporter of it immediately.



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Kids in foster care really have the deck stacked against them. For whatever reason their family situation didn't work and someone — typically the courts — stepped in and forced change. They are left looking to total strangers to do what their family should have done but couldn't. That's a lot to ask. They are dependent on government programs to find them temporary housing, maybe a permanent foster home, and for some of the luckier kids, a family.

FF4Kids is a partnership between the county and a whole lot of people who really believe these kids in foster care deserve more help. The program offers the kind of opportunities and experiences that the county can't possibly provide by itself. Without the volunteers, who serve as mentors, friends, teachers and occasionally substitute parents, most of these kids would bounce from one temporary situation to the next, usually aging out of foster care with little skills, no love, and little chance for future success.

I have been so impressed with everyone I have met who is involved with the program. It has increased my sense of optimism about the chances that more of these kids will find for-

ever homes with adoptive families. Clearly, there is a positive effect on the kids when they see the mentors devoting so much time and effort to them. Many of these kids have never had the love and attention they get within this program. Certainly they have never had the life education they get, and for the first time many of them begin to believe in themselves. Self-confidence and optimism are not qualities you find in many foster children. A program that gives them those two things, in my mind, can't help but benefit them.

There have been success stories for kids in this program, including adoption of some of the children by some of the mentors. Of course, not every child has been so lucky. Some still age out of the system with no family back-up to catch them if they fall. But they do have the FF4Kids family, and that in itself is a confidence-builder. They also have life skills and social skills that they likely would not without the FF4Kids programs. There are no guarantees in life, but there is no doubt in my mind whether or not they find the adoptive family we all hope that they will, they will be much better prepared young adults.

As long as there are incredibly caring and dedicated people like the FF4Kids mentors and volunteers, I will be doing all I can to help support them.

## A Family Made Whole After a tragic loss, couple creates a family through adoption.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

The Granvilles look like a made-for-TV family. On a bright October afternoon, Chris, a computer engineer, is teasing his teenage son, Kenny, about what kind of pet to adopt, while Tiffany sits on a sofa, cradling Elijah, Kenny's baby brother, who has just woken up from an afternoon nap.

"Fish? No way," Kenny, 15, says. "They just go 'round and 'round in a bowl."

Kenny is lobbying hard for a dog or — at the very least — a guinea pig or hamster.

"What I'm saying is you start with the fish, OK, and then you move up to guinea pig or something else," Chris says.

"Can you tell we've been talking about this for just a little while?" Tiffany asks a visitor, rolling her eyes in mock exasperation.

It's quickly apparent the Granvilles are a close-knit family who like spending time together.

What is not so apparent is how this family came to be, and why an ordinary Sunday afternoon laughing with two children is a minor miracle for the Granvilles.

Chris and Tiffany, both in their 30s, were married in New York City on Christmas Eve, 2007. One of three children, Chris was raised in Queens. Both were very close to their parents and grandparents, whom they credit for inspiring their Christian faith.

**IN FEBRUARY 2008**, the couple moved to Reston, where they both had demanding careers as computer engineers. They also found



**A Granville family portrait, taken in February 2012. From left: Kenny; Tiffany holding baby brother Elijah, and Chris Granville.**

out that same month that Tiffany was pregnant.

"We were like 'wow.' We just got married, and now we're going to have baby. We were living the dream," Chris said.

Jamison Granville was born on Oct. 23, 2008. He was a healthy 8.6 pound baby, and the light of his parent's life. When Chris's mother was diagnosed with aggressive kidney cancer that spring, Jamison kept a smile on his grandmother's face as she went through grueling chemotherapy sessions.

"He was my mother's first grandchild. She and Jamison were tied at the hip," Chris said.

When Chris's mother died on July 4, 2009, both Chris and Tiffany were devastated by the loss, but they took comfort in Jamison's smile, their large network of friends and family and their faith.

Like many working parents, the Granvilles had carefully researched and selected a day care center for their child. It wasn't unusual to get a call from staff at the center if Jamison was sick, or if other minor issues cropped up.

But on Sept. 16, 2009, Tiffany received a call from the center's director. She said she sensed something was wrong immediately.

"I got a phone call about 3 p.m. The director said she needed to meet us at Reston hospital. She wouldn't give me any other information," Tiffany recalled, pausing. "Jamison was 10 months and 24 days old ..."

Chris said he got a message from a detective. "He said to call this doctor, and the doctor said you have to stop whatever you're doing and get here," Chris said. "I didn't know what was happening."

"I can't tell you how I got from my desk on the sixth floor to my car," Tiffany said. "When I got there, doctors were working on him, but I could tell he wasn't there anymore . . . You feel like you're in a movie, or a dream. You get through it, but you're not there."

Tiffany said the pain of losing Jamison was almost unbearable, and even her strong faith in God could not keep her from waking up some mornings and thinking there was nothing left to live for. "I have to be honest; there

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A Connection Newspaper

## PEOPLE

# Feeling Power of Love

FROM PAGE 6

were days I did not want to be here.”

But it was the couple’s strong faith in God that kept them moving forward.

“We became more involved in our church, but at that point, it’s just a day-by-day existence,” Chris said. Tiffany said she drew strength from her grandmother, who had also lost her firstborn son. Her grandmother went on to give birth to eight children, and adopted two more.

“I pulled from her strength. I thought to myself, this woman from Louisiana, with an eighth-grade education, through all this adversity, she was able to overcome it in a time when things were horrible for black folks,” Tiffany said. “I remember what a loving and patient person she was . . . I started to think about everybody I had here . . . I thought we all have to leave one day, so you have to make a positive impact while you’re here. We did not want what happened to us to define us.”

The couple, who had always talked about adopting a child, had maintained friendships with other couples who were foster parents, and they decided to explore that option.

“God works in mysterious ways. We actually used to go on outings with this couple and their foster children before Tiff and I were married,” he said. “We still had a lot of love to give.”

“That was the core of it, the love we had for each other,” Tiffany said. “You know, a lot of people say that when you lose a child, it tears a couple apart. Well, nothing could tear me away from him. He is my rock. His mental strength is astounding.”

**THEY CONNECTED** with a small agency in Fairfax County called FairfaxFamilies4Kids, a foster-mentoring program run by the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Created in 2005, the program’s mission is to build bonds between volunteers and foster children, a majority of whom are 14 years old or older.

According to Beverly Howard, Ph.D., coordinator of the program, every year in Fairfax County, as many as 20 teens in foster care leave the system without a family and are unable to return safely to their parents or relatives.

The children who wait are typically African-American, and are age 9 or older when they enter foster care. They have emotional, medical and educational needs. Many have lived in a series of foster homes or residential facilities.

Kenny was one of the children in the program when the Granvilles decided to become mentors.

Howard said volunteers who become mentors have a lot of flexibility, and there’s no specific amount of time mentors must spend with children. Some are assigned a particular child while others work with several children. Every month there are group activities for the participants and their mentors.

“We want people to know they can get involved without feeling too much pressure,” Howard said.

Mentors can attend as many group outings as they want, depending on their schedule.

Outings have included a Christmas Cruise on the Potomac; the DC Kite Festival; fundraising events for the homeless and a variety of sports events and clinics, from basketball to handball. Farm Day, held twice a year in Ashburn, is a favorite event for the children. Donated by a benefactor of the program, the event is held twice a year in Ashburn, and includes

horseback riding, bike-riding, games and a picnic.

Howard said all the activities are structured to allow “natural matches” to develop over time as the youth interact with the volunteers and actively help select their mentors. “Mentors see the value, the strengths and possibilities in the youth and the youth begin to form trusting relationships with the mentors,” she said.

Kenny met the Granvilles during Farm Day. He had just turned 13, and had been in a series of foster homes since he was 9 years old.

Before formal foster care, he was living sporadically with his biological mother from the time he was 3 years old.

Born in Dumfries, Kenny’s mother had substance abuse problems. When she could not care for him, he would stay with her friends for weekends — or weeks at a time. When he was placed in foster care full-time, he had no more contact with his biological mother.

Sitting on a sofa at home, Kenny shows a visitor a book of photos from several outings. When asked if he remembers the first time he met

Chris and Tiffany, he smiles broadly, and mentions that he left his coat in their car so they would have a reason to seek him out again.

The Granvilles said they felt an immediate connection to Kenny, and they would have come back to see him, even if he hadn’t left his coat in their car.

“Oh yes, I definitely remember Farm Day,” Tiffany said.

“We had been going to different events as mentors, and then Farm Day came along,” she said, shaking her head and wiping away tears. “It was weird. There was this big gush of wind and this kid came out of nowhere. Literally, leaves are flying around, and I saw Kenny playing... I said to Chris ‘I feel like he’s going to be our child.’ I mean, we thought we would adopt a younger child, but we just jelled with him.”

“As soon as they walked in, I went up to talk to them,” Kenny said.

“There was just something about him. His smile, his sense of humor, something that tugged at our hearts,” Chris said.

Kenny began spending weekends with the couple, playing basketball with Chris, watching football games, and just being a “regular” kid with a family.

“Everything just fit,” Chris said, “It felt like it was meant to be.”

Tiffany and Chris said there’s no one “aha” moment they can point to when they decided to adopt Kenny. “It just seemed like the natural next step,” Chris said.

As the Granvilles spent more and more time with Kenny, they became determined to adopt him. And then the couple got a surprise that some might consider a “game-changer.”

She learned she was pregnant with Elijah.

“And no, we never thought about not adopting Kenny,” she said, laughing.

Kenny was formally adopted by the Granvilles when he turned 14. Elijah was just weeks old, but “we wanted him there to be with his big brother,” Chris said.

During the adoption proceeding, the judge asked Kenny if there was any reason not to go forward, and why he wanted to be adopted.

“Because I love them. And they love me,” Kenny said.

“There wasn’t a dry eye in that courtroom,” Tiffany said.

**“We did not want what happened to us to define us.”**

— Tiffany Granville

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# CHS Wins VHSL One-Act Play District Competition

FROM PAGE 1

Regarding Chantilly's victory, he said, "You can never be sure what the judges will do. You just hope the kids will give their best performance, and that's what they did. The judges complimented them about how involved they were in the story and in their parts. They also noted how well the members of the ensemble worked together, so I was glad to hear that."

Paladeau was excited about Chantilly's first-place finish because "we worked really hard on this play to make Mr. Monk proud. This is his show and he wrote it, and I was just happy we could perform it our best for him and show it to everyone else." It's her first acting award so, she said, "I was shocked to receive it. But I was happy because it validated our hard work."

Her character, Pam, is a college sophomore dealing with the aftermath of her family tragedy. "For most of the play, she's in shock and shuts the world out," said Paladeau. "She has all this emotion inside her, but doesn't spill her guts until toward the end of the play."

Paladeau really enjoyed her role. "I've never gotten to play something that intense before and I love dramatic acting," she said. "I really got into it, and it was cool to work



**We are the Champions: Chantilly High's victorious thespians rejoice after winning the VHSL One-Act Play District Competition.**

PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY JOHNSON

on something that I've never done before and explore those kinds of emotions."

But she attributes the play's success at the district competition to more than the acting. "I think the writing was so cool, and the staging and lighting was different," said Paladeau. "And it was written so beautifully

that I think it really captured the judges' attention."

Calvert said it felt great to win the competition. "Every time we go to one, we never know how we'll do," he said. "But this is the third year in a row, that I know of, that we've come in first in districts. Our play is

an absurdist-theater piece, very dramatic, with a strange and interesting stage set-up. Besides the actors, there are about 20 people behind six or seven panels, and they provide ambience and percussion sounds throughout the entire show."

His character, Jim, attends college with Pam. "He's your average nice guy, friendly and easygoing," said Calvert. "He's never had to face hardships. He gets assigned Pam as a lab partner, and he can usually make people feel better by telling a joke or talking to them. But in her situation, he can't do that. So he has absolutely no idea what to do or say to help her."

Calvert said his role is, by far, the hardest he's ever had to play. "I had to really dig deep inside myself to see how I'd, personally, feel about dealing with someone whose entire family was killed," he said. So he's pleased with his acting award because "many hours were spent trying to perfect this character. And it feels really good — for both Nicole and I — that all our hard work paid off."

As for how Chantilly will do at regionals, Calvert said, "It really depends on what the judges think and what other shows are being performed. But I think we'll do really well because we all really care about this show and we love doing it."

## Westfield High Presents 'Flowers for Algernon'

FROM PAGE 1

then seeing them come to life on build day is really special."

Playing Charlie is senior Mitchell Buckley. "At first, he's innocent and naïve because of his mental disabilities," said Buckley. "But he's essentially good, sweet and a nice guy who likes to help people; he just wants people to like him. As he becomes more intelligent, he becomes a little more cynical and less forgiving of people's faults."

Buckley said it's challenging to accurately portray Charlie's mental disabilities and then show him as a changed person. "It's a huge, character arc," he said. "So it's interesting playing someone so childlike as a grown man and then beginning to question his views of the world as he becomes more intelligent."

Buckley said the audience will see Charlie's goodness and will be sympathetic toward him. And, he added, "That'll make the play's events have a powerful effect on them."

Senior Madeleine Bloxam plays Alice Kinnian, a night-school teacher for mentally challenged adults, including Charlie. "She's sweet and has Charlie's

best interests at heart," said Bloxam. "She cares deeply for him as a student; and later, as their relationship grows, she falls in love with him."

Since their relationship has to change and blossom on stage, Kinnian changes along with Charlie. "But as he gets smarter, she's less confident about her own intellectual ability," said Bloxam. "And she realizes there's nothing more for her to teach him."

She said the audience will like the play's humanity. "It makes a statement that sometimes these experiments were unethical in the way the subjects were treated," said Bloxam. "And this show has so many themes — love, finding identity, family relationships — that it has a broad spectrum of concepts people can connect with."

Portraying Dr. Strauss, the main psychologist studying the aftermath of Charlie's operation, is Sanchez. "He's dedicated to his work because this is such an extraordinary experiment in psychology," said Sanchez. "He and Professor Nemur are both excited about it, but Strauss sees Charlie's more human aspect and is more sympathetic to him as a person. But still, his primary goal is to finish the experiment and show the scientific community its effects."

Sanchez is enjoying working with Alex

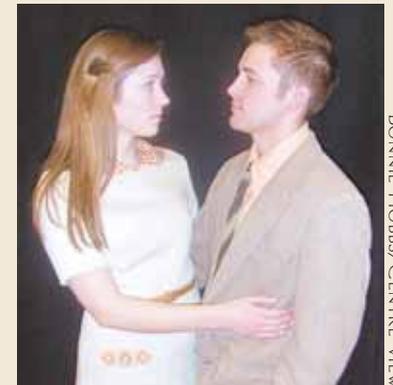
Mann, who plays Nemur, "because our characters are similar in some ways, so it's fun being part of a pair." He said the story will make people think about their views "toward people with mental issues and treat people more how they'd want to be treated."

Nemur's the doctor who operates on Charlie and follows his progress afterward. Mann, a senior, describes his character as focused on his work and wanting to be on science's cutting edge. "And that often gets in the way of his humanity," said Mann. "He's done this procedure on mice, so he doesn't know how to change his attitude toward Charlie and treats him as an object."

But, said Mann, "When Charlie develops mentally and emotionally, his eyes are opened to the doctor's treatment of him. You can feel Nemur's determination and ambition, and he rarely lets his emotions show. So when he does, it's much more effective."

He said the story's touching and, at points, "will leave the audience breathless. It's well-put-together and there's a lot to take away from it, depending on your point of view."

Junior Julian Sanchez portrays Burt Seldon, a college student and researcher working on his senior thesis. "He's the only one on the research staff who sees Charlie as a human being, rather than a test sub-



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

**Madeleine Bloxam and Mitchell Buckley rehearse a scene from Westfield's upcoming Cappies play, 'Flowers for Algernon.'**

ject," said Sanchez. "He's kind and caring and consistently argues with the older researchers over how to deal with Charlie. He's much less jaded than them."

"I love playing Burt because he plays a pivotal role in Charlie's life and becomes a guiding force for him throughout the play," continued Sanchez. "I think this is a timeless tale of acceptance and the limitlessness of hope. It's definitely resonant nowadays because of issues involving the mentally challenged and how we treat them."

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

- Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.
- AARP Tax Assistance.** 1-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Preference given to older adults. Free. 703-830-2223.
- Mystery Book Discussion Group.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can call and ask for title. Free. 703-502-3883.
- Starlight Storytime.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. All ages can bring a stuffed animal and enjoy stories and fun. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 7

- Small Wonders.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 13-23 months can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.
- Book Group.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Teens in grades 7-8 can participate. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.
- Tax Assistance.** 6 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.
- English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 8

- Ready for School Storytime.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

## SATURDAY/FEB. 9

- Lunar New Year Festival.** From 1-6 p.m. celebrate the year of the snake during Fair Oaks Mall's 10th annual festival. Features traditional Chinese dragon dances, music, martial arts demonstrations, crafts and more. Free. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or 703-359-8300.
- Purple Tie Bash.** 6:30 p.m.-midnight at Westin at Washington Dulles. Chantilly High School presents an evening of fun with dinner, dancing silent and live auctions and more. Proceeds benefit the athletic programs at the high school. Visit [www.chantillysports.org](http://www.chantillysports.org) to buy



## Fair Oaks Mall Celebrates Lunar New Year

More than 300 performers will participate in Fair Oaks Mall's 10th annual Lunar New Year celebrations, representing such countries as China, Korea, India, Thailand, Vietnam, Mongolia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Tahiti and the state of Hawaii. The Lunar New Year celebrations will feature traditional Chinese dragon dances, music and dance performances, martial arts demonstrations, children's crafts, multi-cultural displays and a special lantern festival.

Fair Oaks' Lunar New Year festival is produced with the Washington Hai Hua Community Center, a nonprofit organization working as a bridge between new immigrants and American society since 1989.

One of the largest events of its kind in the country, Fair Oaks Mall's 10th annual Lunar New Year Festival is expected to once again attract close to 200,000 people to the award-winning retail center over the course of the two-day celebration on Saturday, Feb. 9 and Sunday, Feb. 10, 1-6 p.m.

The celebration is free and open to the public. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or call 703-359-8300.

- Choral Cabaret.** 7 p.m. at Centreville High School. Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to the choir perform. There will be a silent auction and raffle. \$10/adult; \$5/student. CVHS students who buy tickets during lunch will get a free raffle ticket.
- Tax Assistance.** 10 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.
- Kaleidoscope Storytime.** 10 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. All ages can enjoy a sensory storytime focusing on the strengths and adapting to children on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.
- Thriving Three to Fives.** 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.
- E-book Help.** 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow

- tickets.
- Road. Adults can get any questions about their eBook reader answered. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.
- English Conversation Group.** 3:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 10

- Lunar New Year Festival.** From 1-6 p.m. celebrate the year of the snake during Fair Oaks Mall's 10th annual festival. Features traditional Chinese dragon dances, music, martial arts demonstrations, crafts and more. Free. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or 703-359-8300.

## MONDAY/FEB. 11

- Storytime.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

### Valentine's Day at BACKYARD GRILL

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Saturday = 9am-5pm

## SCHOOLS

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

**Christopher Choi** of Oak Hill was named to the dean's list at Penn State Erie, The Behrend College, for the fall 2012 semester.

**Arrush Choudhary** of Chantilly High School was named a semifinalist in the 2013 Intel Science Talent Search with the project "A Novel Method to Increase the Lipid Yield of Chlorella vulgaris: An Exploration of the Role of Cofactors on the Inhibition of Starch Synthase (E.C. 2.4.1.21)."

**Robel Teffera** of Fairfax has been named to the fall 2012 dean's list at Quinnipiac University.

**Jordan Dawson** of Oak Hill was named to the dean's list for the fall semester of the 2012-2013 academic year at the University of New Hampshire.

The following James Madison University students have been named to the president's list for the fall 2012 semester: **Michael Farris** of Chantilly is a senior whose major is accounting. **Katherine Menzie** of Chantilly is a senior whose major is communication sciences and disorders. **Julia McDonald** of Oak Hill is a senior whose major is computer information systems. **Eileen Sechler** of Chantilly is a sophomore whose major is English. **Joshua Gordon** of Chantilly is a freshman whose major is finance. **Scott Stangeby** of Oak Hill is a senior whose major is finance. **Shelby Lemmon** is a sophomore whose major is hospitality management. **Caitlin Booe** is a senior whose major is interdisciplinary liberal studies. **Katherine Zumbo** is a senior whose major is interdisciplinary liberal studies. **John D'Amico** is a junior whose major is justice studies. **Keneth Huynh** is a junior whose major is psychology. **Stephanie English** is a senior whose major is writing, rhetoric and technical communications.

**Kim Weinberg** of Chantilly graduated with a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting from James Madison University during the Dec. 15 commencement exercises.

**Marilyn Peizer**, a resident of Fairfax, was named to the dean's list at Fairfield University.

**Charles Ohrnberger** a senior at James Madison University, presented research this week at the Energy and Sustainability Conference in Richmond. Ohrnberger, an engineering major, was part of a team presenting on a

sustainability assessment matrix to be used in the comparative analysis of poultry litter to energy technologies.

**Securis**, a local business that provides green alternatives to the electronic asset management dilemma and related security issues, has been recognized by the Council for Exceptional Children with its 2013 Business Award for its work with **Chantilly High School's** Work Awareness and Transition (WAT) and Education for Employment (EFE) classes. Chantilly High School is a Fairfax County public school.

The WAT and EFE classes prepare special education students for the world of work through on-the-job experience and social skill training. For the past eight years, Securis employees have worked closely with Chantilly High WAT and EFE students and teachers, designing training positions that meet the needs of the electronics-computer recycling industry while capitalizing on students' strengths and needs.

During the 2011-12 school year, six WAT and three EFE students worked at Securis, where they learned how to disassemble computers for recycling using a variety of tools. The staff members and students worked side-by-side, with staff members making the extra effort to help students feel they are part of the business community at the company.

Securis operations manager Andrew Portare holds weekly mini-seminars for WAT students, based on the program's curriculum and the students' individual needs and goals. The seminars cover information about the company, social skills, and business etiquette. Portare also helped prepare students for mock interviews, created a training video on the steps needed to disassemble computers, and was interviewed by the journalism class about the company. Securis also provides guest speakers, worksite field trips, and job shadowing for students.

The following James Madison University students have been named to the dean's list for the fall 2012 semester:

**Adnan Al-Karaghali** of Chantilly. Al-Karaghali is a junior whose major is health sciences.

**Catherine Barsanti** of Fairfax. Barsanti is a senior whose major is media arts and design.

**Sravanti Chaganti** of Chantilly. Chaganti is a senior whose major is international affairs.

**Sean Davidson** of Chantilly. Davidson is a junior whose major is economics.

**Amy Goffe** of Chantilly. Goffe is a freshman whose major is marketing.

**Jenna Goffe** of Chantilly. Goffe is a senior whose major is kinesiology.

**Jeanne Guillen** of Chantilly. Guillen is a junior whose major is geo-

graphic science.

**Kangni He** of Chantilly. He is a sophomore whose major is accounting.

**Caleb Koluder** of Fairfax. Koluder is a junior whose major is history.

**Adithi Krishnamoorthy** of Chantilly. Krishnamoorthy is a sophomore whose major is biology.

**Daniel Lauro** of Chantilly. Lauro is a junior whose major is justice studies.

**Ashley Manalel** of Chantilly. Manalel is a senior whose major is health sciences.

**Jessica Say** of Chantilly. Say is a senior whose major is public policy and administration.

**Candice Shedd-Thompson** of Chantilly. Shedd-Thompson is a senior whose major is theatre and dance.

**Stephanie Smith** of Chantilly. Smith is a senior whose major is psychology.

**Madeline Stanley** of Chantilly. Stanley is a sophomore whose major is art history.

**Amanda Stiefvater** of Chantilly. Stiefvater is a senior whose major is media arts and design.

**Melanie Vassallo** of Chantilly. Vassallo is a senior whose major is psychology.

**Lauren Wines** of Chantilly. Wines is a senior whose major is social work.

**Dong Hwui Eun**, an undecided major and a resident of Fairfax, was named to the dean's list at The University of Toledo.

**Lawrence Dick** of Oak Hill was named to the dean's list at Patrick Henry Community College.

**Scott Renner** was named to the honor roll at the University of Oklahoma Norman campus.

The following area students were named to the dean's list at University of Mary Washington: **William Boyle**, a junior from Fairfax; **Jonathan Brueneman**, a senior from Oak Hill; **Kristen Callahan**, a senior from Oak Hill; **Katherine Diemer**, a senior from Oak Hill; **Jessica Houck**, a senior from Chantilly; **Lauren Johnson**, a junior from Chantilly; **Christine LaPlaca**, a senior from Fairfax; **Shuang Li**, a sophomore from Fairfax; **Courtney Moore**, a senior from Oak Hill; **Erika Persil**, a junior from Oak Hill; **Audrey Ricks**, a freshman from Chantilly; **Elina Shirazi**, a freshman from Fairfax; and **Brittany Simmons**, a junior from Chantilly.

## Chantilly Pyramid Dinner, Choral Concert

Dinner and a choral concert are on tap next week at Chantilly High. Students in the school's Culinary Arts program will make the meal, which will be followed by a concert. The Wednesday, Feb. 13, concert will feature Chantilly High, Rocky Run and Franklin middle school students. The Thursday, Feb. 14, concert will feature Chantilly's choirs plus the Chantilly Elementary Honors Choir.

The cafeteria doors open for dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m., and the meal will include meat, vegetarian and Alfredo pasta, salad, bread and dessert. Each concert will be at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Tickets are \$10 each and include dinner and the concert. Purchase tickets at [www.ChantillyChoral.org](http://www.ChantillyChoral.org).

## OPEN HOUSES SATURDAY/SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9 & 10

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](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com) and click on the "This Week in Real Estate" link. Call Specific Agents to Confirm Dates & Times

### Annandale

4241 Americana Dr #101...\$149,000...Sat/Sun 1-4...Christina Yoon...Weichert...703-357-5111

### Burke

9686 Britford Dr...\$697,500...Sun 12-3...Mark Goedde..Coldwell Banker..703-850-8129  
6010 Wilmington Dr...\$579,900...Sun 1-4...David Unterman...RE/MAX..703-869-1876  
10523 Reeds Landing Cir...\$369,900...Sun 1-4...Doris Crockett...Weichert...703-615-8411

### Centreville

6487 Trillium House Ln...\$999,900...Sun 10-4...Jean Marotta...Birch Haven..703-402-9471  
13837 Wakley Ct...\$339,900...Sun 1-4...Dan Mleziva...RE/MAX...703-380-9915

### Fairfax

6050 Colchester Rd...\$649,900...Sun 1-4...Carol Hermandorfer...Long & Foster..703-503-1812  
13403 Foxhole Dr...\$365,000...Sun 1-4...Jo Ann L. Proxiv...Long & Foster..703-966-3351

### Fairfax Station

11107 Hampton Rd...\$1,295,000...Sat 10-1...Franklin Mendoza...Weichert..703-282-2163  
8030 Woodland Hills Ln...\$1,100,000...Sun 2-4...Pat Fales...RE/MAX...703-503-4365

### Falls Church

3804 Munson Rd...\$829,000...Sun 1-4...Patrick M. Kessler...Keller Williams..703-405-6540  
3804 Munson Rd...\$829,000...Sun 1-4...Thomas Hilleary...Keller Williams..703-655-3100  
3324 Stoneybrae Dr...\$699,500...Sun 1-4...Dana LaFever...Weichert...703-609-3479

### Kingstowne/Alexandria

5408 Castle Bar Ln...\$618,500...Sat 1-3...Kathy Peters...Long & Foster..703-915-2165

### Springfield

7262 Linden Tree Ln...\$459,950...Sun 1-4...Kathleen Quintarelli...Weichert..703-862-8808

### Stafford

195 Tangwood Ln...\$210,000...Sun 1-4...Karen Paris...Keller Williams...571-220-7503

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](mailto:kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com)  
All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

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## WELLBEING

# February Is Heart Month

**Diet and fitness experts offer suggestions for maintaining a healthy heart.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

**W**hen Mary Elizabeth O'Conner enters a supermarket, she is careful to stay within the outer perimeters of the store. "Most grocery stores are designed so that the healthiest and non-processed food, like fresh vegetables and meat are kept on the outer edges," she said. She looks for heart-healthy foods like whole grains and fresh fruit.

O'Conner has two good reasons for being tuned in to nutrition: "Both of my parents died unexpectedly from heart attacks," she said. "My father died 15 years ago in February."

February is American Heart Month and health experts are encouraging diet and exercise changes that will lead to better heart health.

Joel Martin, Ph.D. an assistant professor of kinesiology at George Mason University in Fairfax, says the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) eating plan is often recommend for people who are at risk for heart disease.

"The diet has been proven by numerous research studies to lower blood pressure. High blood pressure is a major risk factor for serious heart problems, [like] heart attacks for example," he said. "The diet

emphasizes fruits, vegetables, whole grains and lower amounts of sweets, red meat, and sodium. It especially emphasizes lower amounts of sodium to decrease blood pressure."

Two good options are strawberries and blueberries. In fact, a study published last month in the Journal of the American Heart Association showed that eating three or more servings of the berries per week may help women cut their risk of a heart attack by as much as one-third.

Blueberries and strawberries contain high levels of flavonoids. The researchers reported that a specific sub-class of flavonoids, called anthocyanins, may help dilate arteries, counter the buildup of plaque and provide other cardiovascular benefits.

Martin added that consuming more Omega-3 fatty acids has also been shown to lower the risk of heart disease: "Foods high in Omega-3 fatty acids are fish, flaxseed, and nuts," he said. "Many people also choose to take an Omega-3 supplement."

"[Foods that are] bad for hearts include cholesterol rich foods, like foods from animals. The current recommendation is beef once per week with a serving size the size of a deck of cards," said Laura Evans, Assistant Professor, George Mason University School of Nursing.

Andrew Meade of the Reston-based National Association for Sports and Physical Education, said the average person can reduce the risk of heart disease by exercising for at least 30 minutes each day. "That is the only way to realize any heart-health benefit," he said. "Exercising for 30 minutes most days of the week builds your cardiovascular endurance."

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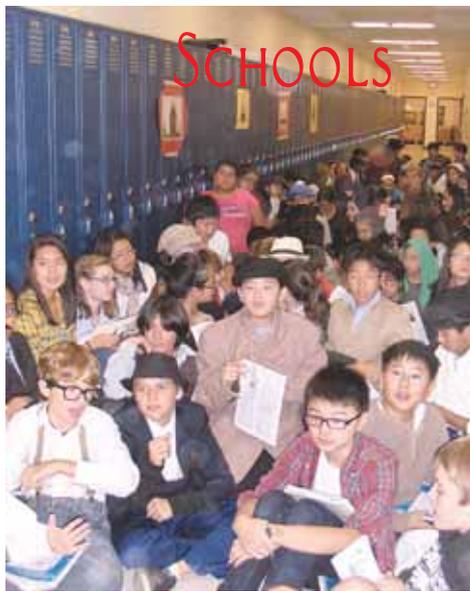
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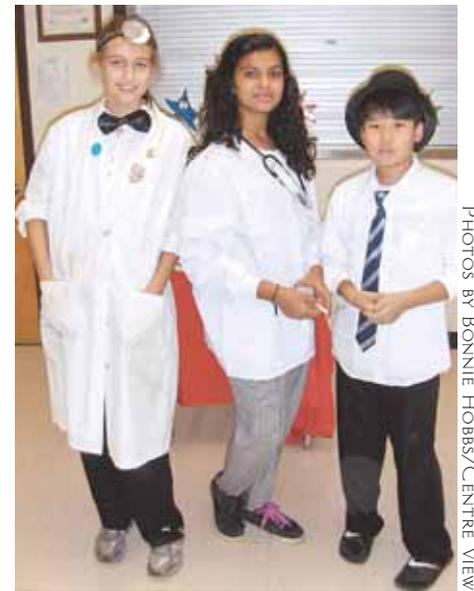
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**“Immigrants” are packed into a boat from Europe to America, while watching a video of the approach to New York Harbor.**



**Back row, from left, are history teacher Dan Vroman, “Scottish policeman” Ryan Morris and history teacher Jeanne Costello; (front row, from left) are “Greek immigrants” Annie Davis, Jared Brennan and Shaun Wu.**



**Portraying doctors at the medical station are (from left) Sarah Abourakty, Kyra Irani and Ryan Kim.**

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

## ‘They’re Coming to America’ Rocky Run students ‘become’ immigrants at Ellis Island.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Sitting on the floor, jammed together in a narrow locker area, the Rocky Run seventh-graders pretended they were immigrants packed into a boat from Europe to America. They watched a video of the approach to New York Harbor while listening to Neil Diamond sing, “Coming to America.”

Then the Statue of Liberty came to life before them, guiding their way to Ellis Island, where they found signs listing their countries of origin and waited for their names to be called. Participating in this recent exercise were all 20 seventh-grade classes and their teachers, Jamie Sawatsky, Dan Vroman, Maggie Brown, Susan Rowland and Jeanne Costello.

It was hands-on learning to give students a better idea of the immigrant experience. Before going on their journey, they each received personas, including their country, occupation and family details. Then their photos were taken for passports.

While on board ship, teachers told them what the conditions were like there for the immigrants — the heat, bad food, nausea and diseases. But as Staten Island came into view, the students/immigrants became ex-

cited to start their new lives in the U.S.

“At Ellis Island, 500 students go through literacy and medical stations,” said Sawatsky. “Then they have to answer questions about themselves — where they’re from and why they’re coming to America. Some are alone and others travel in groups. Some of the kids really get into it and dress up.”

Student Annie Norris portrayed a mentally insane Italian immigrant. “I held sock puppets and talked to them,” she said. “I said they were my best friends, Paco and Julian. I also got thrown in jail, but broke out. It was fun — people gave me some weird looks.”

Annie learned “how hard it was to get to America and how many different types of people came here. It was cool to feel like a person going back in time and really experiencing it.”

Shreyas Angara was an 8-year-old Polish boy named Adolph Lowski, traveling with his parents and brother, 10. They journeyed to the U.S. for a new life and better jobs. “They wanted to get land in the Homestead Act and start farming,” said Shreyas. “And Adolph was looking forward to having an adventure.”

“I learned it wasn’t easy to get into America,” he continued. “You had to go through many tests. If we’d just learned about this by textbook and reading notes, we wouldn’t have realized how important it was. But after we went through Ellis Island, we learned how the immigrants there actually felt.”

Playing a Greek girl, 15, traveling with her sister and brother, was Nihal Guennouni. “We were looking for jobs to earn some money, but I didn’t make it past the passport checkpoint because I had a fake passport. They also asked how much money you had, if you were married or single and if you were ever in jail. She said a doctor also examined the immigrants to see if they were strong and healthy enough to live in America.

“It was fun because, when we were on the boat immigrating, the teachers sprayed us with water from squirt bottles to simu-



**Liz Calvert, Rocky Run’s director of student services, portrays the Statue of Liberty.**

late the waves,” said Nihal. “And we were really crowded and uncomfortable, but that’s how it was on the ships. I learned that they were strict about the immigrants they let in and they yelled at them the whole time. It would have been really tough.”

Besides that, she said, “You had to wait a long time at Ellis Island and answer lots of questions. And some people were confused because you had to read and follow directions about what to do, in English — which would have been hard for the immigrants because it wasn’t their primary language.” Nihal’s usually bored reading textbooks. But, she said, “When you’re doing hands-on learning, it’s more interesting and intriguing and stays in your mind longer.”

Matthew Rodriguez portrayed a Russian man, 20, looking for work. “He had an eye disease, but made it through,” said Matthew. “I liked going through all the stations because it was like real life. I learned that it took forever and they were quarantined and asked all these questions. It helps you learn what it was like, and it was fun because we got to do stuff and act it out.”

Meanwhile, Gabrielle Kelly was an 87-year-old German woman trying to join relatives in the U.S. “I didn’t have the proper paperwork, so I was going to bribe an inspector to get into America,” she said. “But instead, I married a 74-year-old man and we entered together. I learned it was easier

for a woman to come to America if she had a man to watch over her.”

History teacher Jeanne Costello played an immigration official. “I asked what occupation they’d have in America and if they had any special skills,” she said. “I also needed their destination address.”

Ryan Morris portrayed a police officer, 25, who’d left Scotland for better pay in the U.S. Toughest, he said, was learning all the different rules in a new country. “Some people were rejected because they had certain issues, mostly medical,” he said. “This was a good activity because, when you participate in something, it makes it more fun and interesting.”

Playing an Austrian man, 21, was Cole Grinnell. “I wished to be a stockbroker in America,” he said. “But I had mental problems and was jailed for being a detriment to society, but I was later released. It’s a fun thing to do because you get to pretend to be other people. And it’s neat to get an idea of what they went through when they came to America.”

Emigrating from Greece with his 15-year-old twin brother was Jonathan Morales. “This is kind of strange,” he said. “I’ve never had so many people scream at me. And the boat voyage was hard — 23 long nights sleeping on a bunk bed. But it’s really interesting knowing about the history of America. We’ll always remember the day we did this.”



**Filling out forms to see if they could read English are (from left) Jonathan Morales and Cole Grinnell, “Greek and Austrian immigrants,” respectively.**



**From left: “Greek grandfather” Kaleb Thompson immigrates with his “grandchildren,” Alex Marquess, Sarah Loza and Kelly Peters.**

# SPORTS

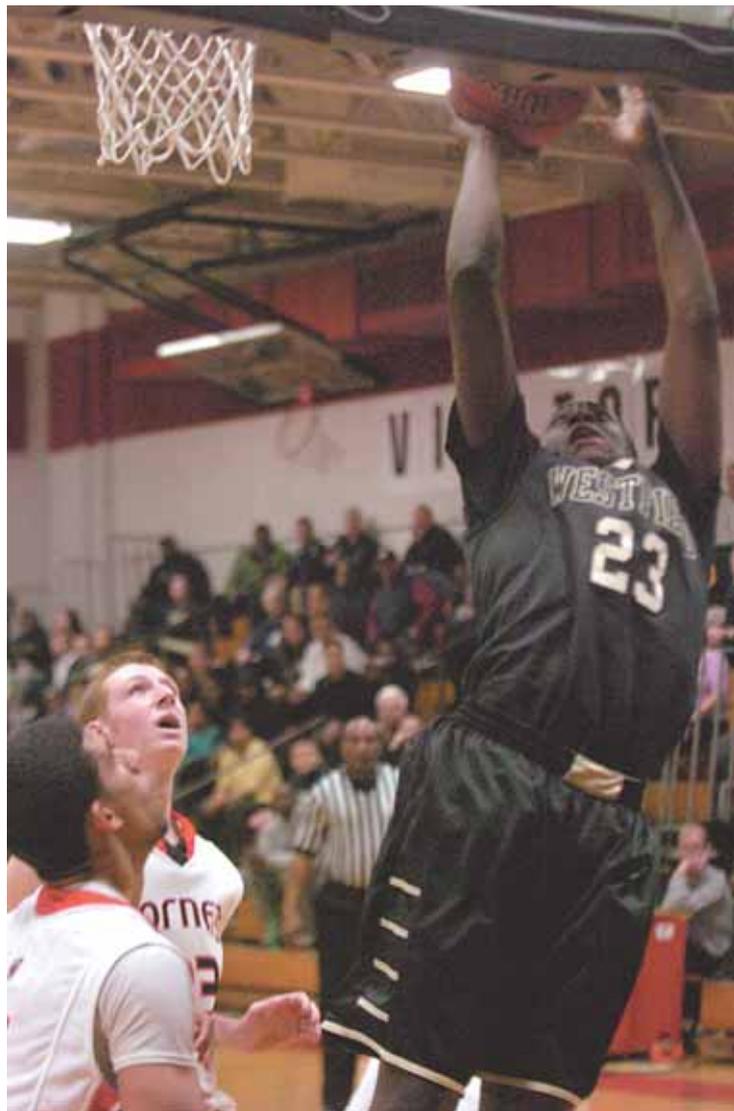
## Westfield Boys' Basketball Falls to Herndon

The Westfield boys' basketball team lost to Herndon 89-72 on Tuesday.

According to stats from the Washington Post's Web site, C.J. Hill led Westfield with 21 points. Tre'Von Walton scored 18 points, Chris Mullins had 13 and Chauncey Beckett had 10.

Will Ferguson led Herndon with 33 points and Dorian Johnson had 20.

Westfield will close the regular season with a road game against Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8. As of Wednesday morning, Westfield and Oakton are tied for second in the district standings and could also be tied with Robinson, if the Rams beat Centreville on Wednesday night. The No. 2 seed in the Concorde District tournament receives an automatic regional tournament berth.



Westfield senior guard C.J. Hill shoots against Herndon on Feb. 5.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

## Centreville Girls' Basketball Beats Oakton

In a rematch of the top two girls' basketball team in the Concorde District, Centreville defeated Oakton 49-38 on Feb. 5 at Centreville High School. Jenna Green led the Wildcats with 22 points. Tori Collar, Clara Logsdon and Caroline Wakefield each had seven.

Oakton beat Centreville 65-48 in the season's first meeting on Jan. 18 at Oakton High School.

With the win, Centreville improved to 18-2 overall and 7-1 in the district. The Wildcats hosted Robinson on Wednesday, after Centre View's deadline. Centreville will close the regular season at Chantilly at 5:45 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 8.

## Centreville Swim and Dive

The following Centreville athletes competed in the Concorde District meet and qualified for regionals: Rachel Anderson (100 fly, 200 IM, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay), Andy Balberde (200 free relay, 400 free relay), Paul Baumgartner (diving), Ryan Boll (200 free relay, 400 free relay), Jonathan Clark (200 medley relay, 200 free relay), Mackenzie Cripe (400 free relay), Kylie Cuomo (50 free, 100 free, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay), Kelsey Daily (400 free relay), Tae Hyun Jung (200 medley relay, 400 free relay), Tyler Kurowski (diving), Kyle Marshall (100 back, 200 medley relay, 400 free relay), Abby McCranie (50 free, 100 free, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay), Matthew Rice (200 medley relay, 200 free relay), Logan Ross (100 breast, 200 medley relay, 400 free relay) and Brooke Worley (200 free, 500 free, 200 free relay, 400 free relay).

## Centreville Gymnastics

At the Concorde District gymnastics meet, Ciara



Westfield senior guard Chauncey Becket drives to the basket against Herndon on Feb. 5.

Hoernke placed second on vault, fifth on bars, third on beam, fourth on floor and third in the all-around. She earned a trip to the regional meet on Feb. 6.

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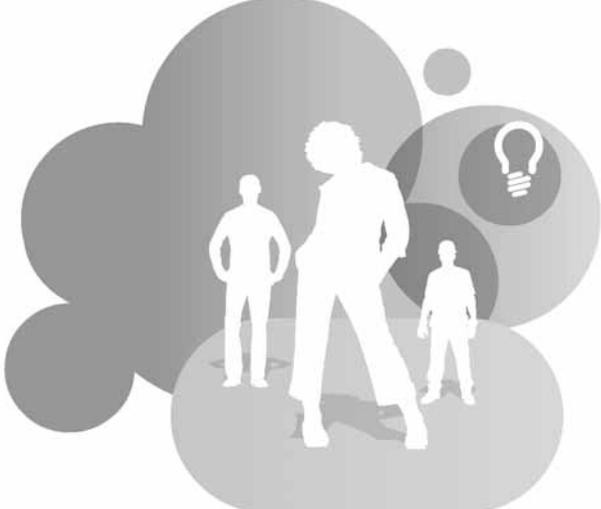
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## A Complicated Answer



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

And a further explanation and corollary to last week's column: "A Simple Question," which attempted to sort through my reactions to being asked an extremely innocent, appropriate, well-intended and always appreciated courtesy: "How are you?" and the problem that it sometimes causes me. That problem being: a question which had it not been asked would then not require an answer. An answer that I'll always give, but not before I've given it some thought, which if I hadn't thought about, wouldn't have bothered me in the least. And in the most, it doesn't really bother me, but after four years, a sort of cancer-fatigue has set in. I'm tired of talking about it. "Not that there's anything wrong with that"; being asked the obvious question. Still, if I'm going to keep pretending that my coast is semi-clear, I'd rather not be reminded that five hundred years ago, that coast/that horizon represented the end of the world.

This first paragraph was yet another attempt by yours truly to offer some insight into the thought process of a cancer survivor (OK, maybe just this cancer survivor; or a person with some issues, although I would deny that). The related point being that there are the obvious problems being a cancer patient (need I elaborate?) and then there are the less-than-obvious, almost subliminal-type problems which can just as easily ruin your day – and night, as much if not more than a chemo-cocktail infused straight into your body for six hours every three weeks can.

And just like the Philadelphia-born comedian, David Brenner, used to joke about mosquitoes: "It's not the ones you hear you should worry about, it's the ones you can't hear." So too with cancer. There's plenty to worry about that you know – or think you know or have heard about, or maybe have even anticipated: lab work, diagnostic scans, biopsies, surgery, chemotherapy, radiation, doctor's appointments, etc. But it's the down time, the private time alone and away from all the people, places and things with which you've grown familiar and dare I admit, accustomed, that becomes cherished. Then, when you least expect it, a courtesy question inquiring about your overall health, not even one particularly cancer-centric. Still, the question takes you (at least it does to me), right back to cancer central. The one place – for me, I try to avoid. The one place I never imagined I'd be, and now that I'm there often, the one place where I'd rather not be reminded that I semi-reside.

Four years post diagnosis, I realize this jackpot I find myself in is hardly a winning hand, and it's more than a bad dream. It's a reality. Yet avoiding the nightmare directly – and indirectly, as often as possible, has been my M.O. I can't say I've been particularly successful doing so, but I've had my moments and have made my peace. However, it's the random nature of the spoken and written word that occasionally has undercut my emotional foundation. A foundation built on a lifetime living and learning, trying not to make a bad situation worse; and one striving to not be irrational, unreasonable, illogical and ill-prepared for all that life throws at you. I ceded control four years ago and now when I'm asked, "How I'm doing?", I'm always reminded how fragile and unpredictable life can be; "the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune," as Cerphe used to say back in the day, on the original WHFS.

I know – and appreciate – that you have to ask. Please understand that sometimes, I might not feel like answering.

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

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-Werner Heisenberg

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# ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Book Group.** 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3 and 4 can participate. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Writers of Chantilly.** 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share their work and receive feedback. Free. 703-502-3883.  
**ESL Book Club.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Ask for title. 703-830-2223.

## TUESDAY/FEB. 12

**English Conversation Group.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Thriving Three to Fives.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.  
**Bouncin' Babies.** 11:30 a.m. at



**Cabaret 2012**

Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Storytime.** 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**AARP Tax Assistance.** 4-8 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Preference given to older adults. Free. 703-830-2223.  
**Toddlin' Twos.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free.

## Choral Cabaret

Centreville High School's Choral Program annual fundraising event, Choral Cabaret, is Saturday, Feb. 9 at 7 pm. This is a "Coffee House" style program that the choir presents in the school cafeteria. Have an evening out listening to students sing while the audience enjoys dessert, coffee and tea. There will also be a silent auction and a raffle for prizes like restaurant gift cards. Entrance fee is \$10 for adults and \$5 for students.

Registration required. 703-502-3883.

## WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

**Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 a.m. or 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**AARP Tax Assistance.** 1-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Preference given to older adults. Free. 703-830-2223.  
**Bouncin' Babies.** 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and

more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Small Wonders.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**E-book Help.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get any questions about their eBook reader answered. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.  
**Chantilly Book Discussion Group.** 7:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can call and ask for title. Free. 703-502-3883.  
**Tax Assistance.** 6 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 14

**Civil War Lecture.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults and school age children can call for lecture title. Free. 703-830-2223.  
**English Conversation Group.** 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

## BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 31

**Registration Open House.** 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Come tour the school and register for morning, afternoon or full-day preschool classes. Visit [www.childrensacademy.com](http://www.childrensacademy.com) or 703-968-8455 to register for one of the open houses.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 7

**Program Information.** Learn about Lifetime Leadership Program at 11 a.m. at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna.  
**Program.** 11 a.m.-noon at Leadership Fairfax offices, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna. Learn how to use accumulated skills and leadership to make a difference in the community. For more information or to RSVP for one of the information sessions, contact Moniek by email [Moniek@leadershipfairfax.org](mailto:Moniek@leadershipfairfax.org) or by phone 703-752-7504. For additional information about Leadership Fairfax, visit [www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleaders](http://www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleaders).

## SATURDAY/FEB. 9

**Second Saturday.** 9 a.m. at Marriott Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Professionals speak towards educating spouses about separation and divorce process in order to encourage them to be civil and reasonable for their pocketbooks, emotional health and children. RSVP to [clapham@beankinney.com](mailto:clapham@beankinney.com).

## SUNDAY/FEB. 10

**Learn about Fragrances.** 2-4 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn about roses, botanicals and herbs. Free. Rose bouquets as door prizes. 703-371-9351.

## THROUGH FEB. 15

**Singing Valentines.** 9 a.m.-9 p.m. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus will serenade a loved one at work or at home with a special message. \$50 from Feb. 9-13; \$70 on Feb. 14-15. Price includes two songs sung in person, a rose and chocolates and a card. \$30 for a telephoned singing Valentine delivered anywhere, includes two songs and a greeting. Purchase at [www.fairfaxjubilaires.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org).

## MONDAY/FEB. 18

**Garden Club.** 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Learn how to increase home grown produce. Free. Visit [centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com](http://centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com) for more.

## THROUGH FEB. 18

**Application Deadline.** Applications are due for the inaugural Citizens Fire & Rescue Academy. Learn what firefighters and paramedics do every day. Must be at least 18 and apply online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cfa).

## TUESDAY/FEB. 19

**Presentation.** 7 p.m. at Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. GFWC-Western Fairfax County Woman's Club presents "Infection Control: Not Just for Hospitals." Free. 703-631-7093.

# Communities of Worship

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

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9:15 AM CELEBRATION SERVICE  
 11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

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15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120  
 703-830-3333 [www.cbvva.org](http://www.cbvva.org)