

Chantilly ❖ Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes ❖ Oak Hill

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

OCTOBER 3-9, 2013

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Homecoming



Students ride on an "Under the Sea" float during Westfield High's Homecoming Parade on Friday, Sept. 27.



Westfield High School Principal Tim Thomas and bulldog mascot, Brutus.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 3.

Ready To Fight

Design public hearing on roundabout is Oct. 9 at Stone Middle.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

In the long-distant past, Civil War soldiers from the North and South fought in the Centreville area. And although the newest battle brewing on the horizon doesn't involve weapons, it's a bitter fight, nonetheless.

In it, Fairfax County is pitted against Loudoun County. The issue is the roundabout proposed for the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads — and an upcoming meeting about it promises to be anything but civil.

VDOT's holding a design public hearing Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 6-8 p.m., at Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive in Centreville. And in a show of strength for their position, proponents from both counties are vowing to bring as many people as possible to the event.

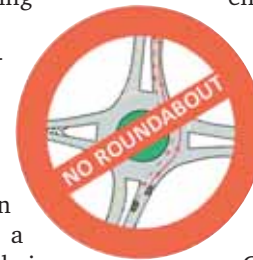
Although the project is located in Fairfax County, a good deal of Loudoun County money has gone into it. And it's no wonder, say many Centreville residents, because it will benefit Loudoun commuters to the detriment of Centreville motorists and residents alike.

"There'll be no break in traffic from Loudoun County," said Priscilla Knight of Centreville's Sully Station II community. "People won't be able to get out of their neighborhoods. We're strongly against that roundabout."

The Braddock/Pleasant Valley

roads intersection is beside Cox Farms in Centreville and near the Fairfax/Loudoun border. It regularly backs up at rush hour so, at Loudoun's urging, VDOT plans to build a 105-foot circle there to move vehicles through that spot quicker.

To date, Loudoun, VDOT and the Commonwealth Transportation Board have secured some \$2.8 million for the roundabout. But estimates for this project have risen to more than \$4 million, leaving a funding gap of about \$1.4 million, and Loudoun wants VDOT to make up the difference.



However, many Centreville residents living near that intersection — as well as those whose neighborhoods would be impacted by the increased flow of Loudoun County motorists the improvement would bring — are vehemently opposed to a roundabout. They also stress that the circle would skew dramatically in Loudoun's favor, with Fairfax drivers being mostly out of luck.

"Right now, the majority of the traffic comes from Loudoun and, once they're in the roundabout, no one else will be able to get in," said Judy Heisinger of Bull Run Estates. "I think there'll be accidents and people from Loudoun won't slow down."

Virginia Run's Ted Trosciancki also has a safety concern. "Just east of Braddock Road is the notorious S-curve," he said. "And improving that intersection puts more pres-

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Candidates Have Their Say

Hugo, Foltz, LeMunyon and Nguyen discuss the issues.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

With the general election just a month away, a Candidates Night was held last Wednesday, Sept. 25, in Chantilly. Presented by the Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and the League of Woman Voters of the Fairfax Area, it let residents meet local incumbents and challengers and hear their positions on various issues.

Among the participants were Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) and challenger Jerry Foltz, plus Del. Jim LeMunyon (R-67) and his opponent, Hung Nguyen. To begin, each one told something about himself.

FOLTZ

Foltz said he had organized a nonprofit, food co-op, worked with Habitat for Humanity, has lived in Centreville for 17 years and helped start Wellspring United Church of Christ here. "My experience working with congregations will help me in the General

Assembly because I've worked to build consensus with others in the community," he said.

He also noted how, a few years ago, he and his wife Alice joined with other churches and foundations to create the Centreville Labor Resource Center "to get [day laborers] off the streets and give them a place where they could get jobs and be paid fairly. It's an example of how people with good hearts can work together to solve problems."

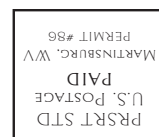
Foltz said he supports Virginia's recent bipartisan, transportation-funding bill and looks forward to "helping spend that money wisely and carefully." But, he added, "We also need to support public transportation — we need to look at the whole transportation picture."

Regarding education, he said his wife's a retired teacher and he believes "we need to reduce class size and support problem-solving and creative thinking in the schools, as well as PE., music and the arts."

HUGO

Hugo provides tax returns for low-income people and has served in the House for 10 years. "As a delegate, I try to focus on local issues," he said. He then

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Westfield's band.



Senior princesses.



London Towne Elementary.

Westfield High's Homecoming Parade

Westfield High's homecoming parade was Friday, Sept. 27, in Centreville.



Freshman Class "Atlantis" float.



Sophomore Class princesses.



JV cheerleaders.



Students dress as pirates to "sink the Fairfax High Rebels" in the Homecoming Football Game.



JV volleyball players.



From left are Senior Class President Ezra Solomon and brothers Brandon and Julian Sanchez.



Members of the Dance Team.



Theater students.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

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NEWS



Clifton's own Colin Thompson Band will entertain the crowd.

Almost Time for Clifton Day

**46th annual festival
is Sunday, Oct. 13.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring everything from a strolling bagpiper to a woman on a unicycle — plus handmade crafts, pony rides, Civil War re-enactors, live bands and food galore — the 46th annual Clifton Day is set for Sunday, Oct. 13, from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. (Rain date, Oct. 20).

"Clifton Day is a fun way for all ages to spend a fall day," said event Chairman Barbara Hutto. "What makes it special is that it's more of a community event than just a craft festival. Clifton Day is organized and run by volunteers who showcase local artisans, local talent and town businesses. Sitting in the beer garden with your friends listening to live music, it feels more like a block party."

Oddly enough, the Clifton Presbyterian Church's annual spaghetti dinner led to her heading up Clifton Day. She and her husband Kevin were there at the same time as previous chairman, Fred Ansick, and Clifton Betterment Association (CBA) President Michelle Stein.

"Over cannoli, I heard my husband volunteering me to be chairman," said Hutto. "[Then] Fred convinced me [it] would be more fun than work, and he was right. It's the dedicated group of volunteers who make it happen, and it's a great way to be involved with the community."

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

Admission is free; parking is \$5/car (\$10 on the floodplain), with proceeds going to charity — and Clifton Day is the largest fund-raiser for all the town's nonprofits.

The town park off Chapel Street will host an array of children's activities. JumpWorks will have inflatables and moonbounces there and a balloon artist will twist colorful balloons into fanciful shapes. Local Girl and Boy Scout troops will have booths in the park with games such as safe darts and

beanbag toss.

The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Academy will offer pony rides near the barn behind Acacia Lodge. It will also provide a pony for petting in the park. The renowned Unicycle Lady will perform mainly in the park, but will also do some stunts on Main Street. And the Banjo Man, Jim Haner, and bagpiper Michael Ahnell will perform while strolling through town.

The stage on Chapel Road will feature a variety of singers, dancers and musicians. At 11 a.m. will be the Boyle School of Irish Dance; 11:30 a.m., Lily's Lookout, an all-girl band playing a mix of classic rock, current hits and original music; and 12:15 p.m., Super NOVAs, local students from Sophia Music Studio's pop-rock workshops.

At 1:15 p.m., TheyCallMePiano, a female teen singer from Centreville, will perform; 2 p.m., Hot Buttered Nuggets, a Vintage Americana group; and 3 p.m., Colin Thompson Band, playing American roots music. In 2011, Thompson was listed at number 21 on The Alternate Roots list of top, roots-music guitar players.

Artisans on Main Street's Ayre Square will demonstrate crafts such as wood-carving, wool spinning, wine-making, weaving and pottery- and basket-making. And some 200 arts-and-crafts vendors will sell their wares throughout the town.

Items include jewelry, candles, plant hangers, glasswork, children's clothing, baskets, ceramics, woodworking products, furniture,

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TheyCallMePiano will perform at this year's Clifton Day.

More Than a Craft Festival

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mixed media, needlework, quilts, sculpture, metalwork, seasonal decorations and holiday items, sports memorabilia, toys, stained glass, and watercolor and oil paintings.

FOOD WILL BE AVAILABLE in several places. The Clifton Lions Club will offer hamburgers, hot dogs and barbecue; Clifton Presbyterian Church, crab-cake meals, bris-ket meals and corndogs; Cub Scout Packs 1861 and 1104, cotton candy, popcorn, lemonade, cookies, candy and apple cider; Acacia Lodge, pulled pork and Italian sausage.

As for commercial food vendors, Baja Fresh will sell burritos, quesadillas and chicken, fish and shrimp tacos. Also on Chapel Road will be The Barbecue Man offering pulled pork, chicken, sausage and peppers; the CBA will sell beer there, too.

Food vendors throughout the town will sell treats including kettle corn, funnel cakes and Sno-Cones. Also open for business will be the Clifton Café (crepes and more), Cupcaked (new cupcake shop), Main Street Pub (inside The Clifton Store), Trummer's on Main, plus Peterson's Ice Cream and Dog Pound. The town stores will also welcome visitors.

Antiques vendors will be behind Main Street. And for history buffs, Civil War reenactors Tony Meadows and the 49th Virginia Infantry will be encamped in the yard

across from the stage on Chapel Road.

Rite Aid's Wellness65+ will do wellness screenings and blood-pressure checks on Chapel Road. And the Inova Bloodmobile will be next to the Acacia Lodge; those donating a point of blood will be entered in a raffle for prizes.

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

Basically, said Hutto, "Clifton Day offers something for everyone. Whether you like shopping, listening to talented musicians or just being outdoors with friends and family in a picturesque setting, it's the perfect way to enjoy an autumn afternoon."

This year's event sponsors include Ourisman Fairfax Toyota; NVCT; Concise, LLC; Norfolk Southern; VRE; Keolis and Wellness65+, Rite Aid's customer loyalty program. And Stein's thankful for both them and the many local residents who volunteer their help to make the day a success.

"Clifton Day wouldn't be possible without the efforts of many volunteers who care about their community," she said. "The town is fortunate to have them and appreciates their dedication."



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Virginia's Easy Access to Guns

BY RUTH HOFFMAN

How do you respond to a 7-year-old when she comes home from school and says "we did our bad man drill today Mommy, but don't worry it was just for practice, no one really came into our school to shoot us"?

After the Sandy Hook Elementary school shooting on Dec. 14, 2012, I learned that this was a routine drill she had been doing since she started kindergarten in 2011. It was only after Sandy Hook that I had discovered that fact. So what else did I not know? As it turned out — plenty.

Like so many, I was horrified by what had happened in Newtown and as a mother of a 6-year- and 3-year-old, at the time, I wanted to do what any mother would do and find out what precautions my schools were taking. Certainly our schools in Fairfax were safer from gun violence than, say, the schools where I grew up in rural Brookville, Kansas where guns were prevalent. I embarked on this journey and made some startling discoveries.

First, I attended our PTO meeting in February and listened to our principal explain what they could and could not do — there were limitations and budget constraints, and that our school was at a greater risk of a shooting from a custody dispute or domestic violence than a mass shooting. While I acknowledged his comments, it was unsettling to learn he prepares for risks of gun violence stemming from custody disputes.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Soon after, I discovered that Virginia is among the states that allow open carry. When I was in my grocery store and saw a customer wearing a "I shoot to kill" t-shirt, I asked the manager if weapons were banned from the store. He replied that Virginia was an open carry state but he reassured me that patrons would have to openly display weapons if they carried them.

That led me to my third discovery and that was the facts around concealed weapon permits in Virginia. When I think of someone with a concealed weapon permit I think of someone with extensive training. But the threshold in Virginia was lowered in 2009. Virginia enacted a law allowing an applicant to demonstrate competence with a gun by participating in electronic, video, or online training. Essentially all that is needed is an internet connection, a printer, and small fee. Handling a gun is not a prerequisite.

I discovered these revelations about the time Congress failed to pass a background check, which brought me to my fourth discovery — Virginia does not require universal background checks.

The only thing more startling than learning of the low thresholds and deficiencies in background checks was the revelation that the trajectory over the past 10 years has been to weaken gun laws in Virginia.

I want complete and thorough background checks before someone purchases a gun in Virginia. Why would anyone not want that, espe-

cially in light of Virginia's existing laws allowing open carry and granting a low bar for concealed permits? I want to know that if I'm in my local grocery store shopping for milk and eggs that the customer next to me with a concealed weapon purchased the gun through a background check. I want to know that any risk stemming from a custody dispute or domestic violence, which could spill over into my school, has been mitigated by a law that requires a background check. And most importantly, I want to prevent dangerous weapons from falling into the hands of criminals, violent abusers, and the dangerously mentally ill.

I listened to the governor's debate on Sept. 25. In a post-Newtown and Navy Yard context, I welcomed Mr. McAuliffe's strong position for universal background checks. As a mother, my first priority is protecting my children. A candidate seeking the highest elected office in Virginia should have the wellbeing of all of our children among his highest priorities. Gun violence is a growing threat in this society with Virginia Tech, Tuscan, Aura, Newtown and the Navy Yard. For such a serious issue we need serious solutions from serious candidates not what the NRA is serving up which is a campaign of distraction to excuse the violence committed with guns.

As far as seeking the right words to respond to my daughter's declaration about their "bad man drills" — I haven't found the right words, I just hug her and thank God it was just a drill and she made it through the day safely.

Ruth Hoffman is a resident of McLean.

VTV Family Outreach Given Grant Money

Funds will be used to make schools safer.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

After the April, 16, 2007 massacre at Virginia Tech, the families and survivors joined together and created a nonprofit foundation dedicated to making America's schools safer and assisting victims of mass tragedies.

And last week, The VTV Family Outreach Foundation was awarded a \$496,000 grant to implement the campus-safety initiatives it advocates. With these funds, it will be able to develop a school resource officer (SRO) curriculum that will include the entity, Actively Caring for People (AC4P).

AC4P is a process for positive reinforcement created in the aftermath of the massacre by a Virginia Tech psychology professor and his students. These students distributed thousands of green, AC4P wristbands across the country to people they observed performing acts of kindness. The recipients were told to pay it forward when they saw others doing the same and then share their stories at AC4P.org.

The new curriculum would teach SROs the AC4P principles, and the SROs would have the AC4P wristbands with them when they inter-

act with students.

According to the plan, the SRO training curriculum would detail how the SRO's duties would coordinate with all aspects of school safety, including "physical security, emergency preparedness and crisis response, prevention and wellness promotion, overall school safety and climate, early identification and support for students at risk of harming themselves or others, mental health and service provision, and student, parent and community engagement."

U.S. Senators Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Tim Kaine (D-VA) made the announcement about the grant last Friday, Sept. 27. The money is part of nearly \$3.3 million in U.S. Department of Justice grants that Virginia will receive to fund more police officers in Arlington County and Newport News, as well as expand community-policing initiatives with a focus on programs designed to promote school safety.

Centreville's Joe Samaha, whose daughter Reema, a Virginia Tech freshman who was among the victims killed in the tragedy, wrote a note to the two senators to express his appreciation for their help.

"We are honored and humbled," he wrote. "Thanks for your timeless support and encouragement. Together we will do better and make a difference — promise." And he signed it, "In perpetual memory and honor of our 32 [victims] and survivors and the victims of other

senseless school and campus tragedies."

The funds will come via the federal, Community Policing Development (CPD) grant program. CPD funds are used to advance community policing through training and technical assistance, plus development of innovative community-policing strategies, applied research, guidebooks and best practices.

"We need to take every possible step to ensure that our kids are safe when they go to school," said Warner. "At a time of increased challenges and limited budgets, the top priority must be strategic investments that help strengthen key, law-enforcement capabilities."

Agreeing, Kaine said, "There's no better investment than one that improves the safety of Virginia's schools and communities. "These important grants will give families across the commonwealth greater peace of mind with more cops on the beat and an increased focus on school safety."

"We are honored to work with the VTV Family Outreach Foundation to collaboratively provide a school safety model that aims to cultivate an Actively Caring for People (AC4P) culture in schools," said Dr. E. Scott Geller, Alumni-Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Virginia Tech. "Together, we can empower all stakeholders to develop a value of AC4P and use research-based strategies in order to reduce conflict and violence."



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NEWS

Offering Special Needs Training

Presbyterian Church holds autism workshops for lay people on Oct. 18-19.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

Christ Presbyterian Church is offering a free Special Needs Ministry Training Workshop Oct. 18-19, for Sunday School teachers, lay people, and volunteers who minister to children and youth with autism and other conditions. It features presentations from local ministry leaders, DVDs by experts, and training in classroom management. The workshops are at 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax.

"The goal is to bring awareness to the unique opportunity people have in ministering to families of special needs," said Pastor Geoff McLean, 40. "We're looking to build a cadre of folks to support each other in this kind of ministry."

McLean said a lot of people come to church and they find it an unwelcoming place if they have special needs. And because most folks are going through their own individual struggles, he wants to bring them together to be resources for each other. "So if they have an issue, they can talk to others and find ways to connect," he said.

The Christian-based workshop is organized with Sue Ferguson, 40, of Manassas Park, a stay-at-home mom who volunteers at the church. She wants to give tools to lay Sunday School teachers — unpaid volunteers who have no professional training in autism, Asperger's Syndrome, ADHD and intellectual disabilities.

Ferguson said the Friday night portion will be a general assessment. "We have two speakers sharing a personal story of their children — one positive and one negative."

Training will use DVDs on topics like autism, followed by a Q&A period, and two speakers. "We are hoping that the DVD will spark questions and they'll be able to ask a live person for tips," she said.

On Friday evening at 6:30 p.m., the program features two families speaking on their challenges and



Teachers at Christ Presbyterian Church lead Vacation Bible School with attention paid to ensure special needs families experience God's love.

successes. Local expert Jackie Mills-Fernald of Access Ministry at McLean Bible Church will join a panel discussion at 7:30 p.m.; followed by a Q&A at 8:15 p.m. Dinner is included. The program ends at 9 p.m.

On Saturday morning at 9 a.m., there's a breakfast followed by a DVD by Amy Fenton Lee, one of the leading voices in the special needs field. It offers strategies to deal with children with special needs in a ministry environment. Snacks are included.

TOPICS INCLUDE: "Surviving to Thriving: Successfully Including the Child with Special Needs" (Amy Fenton Lee, Orange); "Inclusion Tool Box: 52 Practical Ideas to Include Individuals with Disabilities" (Barbara Newman, CLC Network); and "Autism: A Christian Response" (Newman). An afternoon session from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. is for those who want to extend the discussion once the formal program has concluded.

"On Sunday morning, we hope to be a time of respite, caring, love," said McLean. "And this is intended to help us to do that." He

added: "The church of all places should be welcoming, hospitable, and if our Sunday school and other programs aren't, we're failing."

Christ Presbyterian Church is a small congregation serving about 120 worshippers weekly. It has a budget of \$350,000 to \$400,000 with 30 part-time staff serving 195 families — mostly Caucasians and Blacks with a wide range of world views. It offers a preschool for 180 children and is a member of the Presbyterian Church USA. Its pastor, Geoff McLean is originally from Wayne, N.J., and received a master's of divinity at Louisville Seminary in 1998.

The church's 24-member choir is directed by Barbara Stefan and performs at its Christmas Cantata and Easter Cantata. The church ministers to AIDS orphans through the Jamii International Outreach in Nairobi, Kenya, by offering the meal-a-day program. Locally, the church works closely with WFCM's projects as its main ministry partner.

For details and to register, email specialneeds@cpcfairfax.org or Susan.v.Ferguson@me.com. Or visit www.cpcfairfax.org.

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Fair Oaks Man Dies after Crash

Richard Walker, 32, of Fair Oaks, was killed last week after his car crashed into a tree on Popes Head Road. The tragedy occurred last Wednesday, Sept. 25, at 1:52 p.m., near the Fairfax County Parkway.

According to Fairfax County police, preliminary investigation indicates that he was driving a 2012 Mercedes sedan westbound on Popes Head Road “at an excessive speed” as he approached a curve. He was unable to negotiate the curve, ran off the road to the right and struck a tree.

Police say Walker was pronounced dead at the hospital that day, shortly after 2:30 p.m. Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives are continuing to investigate the crash; they believe he “was not wearing a safety belt.”

Immigration Advocate Summit

The Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) is one of the organizations sponsoring the fourth annual Immigration Summit. It will be held Friday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., at Annandale United Methodist Church, 6935 Columbia Pike in Annandale. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m.

Advocates from across the state, including leaders and members of some of the state’s most active immigrant organizations, will gather to discuss the current state of comprehensive immigration reform. They’ll review legislative priorities for the coming session of the Virginia General Assembly, including full implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

They’ll also plan and develop action steps to address the specific concerns of the immigrant community and mobilize advocates. Attendees may learn about topics such as accessing the new, health-insurance marketplace; implementation of the Affordable Care Act in Virginia; voting protection; and immigration fraud.

Help Plan Centreville Day

Local residents are invited to help plan the annual Centreville Day celebration slated for Oct. 19 in Centreville’s Historic District. Come to the Centreville Day Planning Committee meeting on Monday, Oct. 7, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

NTSB Chair at Woman’s Club

The GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club invites area women to meet Deborah A. P. Hersman, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. The Chantilly High grad will address the club Tuesday, Oct. 8, at 7 p.m., at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road.

Reservations are required; contact Mary Jane at 703-378-4250 or mjhasse331@verizon.net to reserve seating. The public is welcome to meet.

Hersman, hear about her experiences, meet the woman’s club members, learn about WFCWC activities and enjoy a dessert bar.

Tour of Dispatch Center

The Citizens Advisory Committee of the Sully District Police Station is offering a tour of the McConnell Public Safety and Transportation Operations Center (MPSTOC) – especially the dispatch center. It’s set for Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 7:30-9 p.m. Transportation will be provided from the police station to the facility on West Ox Road in Fairfax. For more information, call 703-814-7018 or e-mail fcpdsulcpo@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Oct. 10, 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.

Light the Night Walk on Oct. 5

Fundraiser for 4-year-old girl named ‘Ava B,’ a leukemia survivor.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

“Ava B” of Fairfax Corner was a typical 2-year-old when she fell ill with leukemia on Dec. 9, 2011. After having a fever for four days, her mom “Jeannie B” took to a doctor and ran a few tests. A hematologist then confirmed that she had Pre-B Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. (The family asked that their last name not be used.)

“Our family was devastated,” said Jeannie B, a stay-at-home mom married to husband Steve, a computer analyst. “We were heart-broken; our faith and spirit were shattered. We couldn’t understand why our daughter of 2 had leukemia.”

The treatment was immediately effective and Ava went into remission after eight days. Today, at age 4 1/2, the fearless Ava has completed 21 months of chemotherapy and is in the last phase of her treatment, which ends March 21, 2014, before her fifth birthday. Every three months, she has a spinal tap, and gets chemo injected into her spine four times a year.

Ava, who they call a “bubbly old soul,” loves her grandma Baba, and tries to be a normal pre-schooler. A “girly-girl,” she plays Barbies and dresses up like a princess, said her mom. “She does fashion shows for me all the time.”

Ava was delighted to be interviewed for this story. Asked what she enjoys doing, and she replied: “I like to watch ‘Sponge Bob’ and ‘Dora’ (The Explorer).” Plus playing with her girlfriends Sasha and Deana.

On Saturday, Oct. 5, a “Light the Night Walk” will be held in Reston Town Center to raise money and awareness for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS). Walkers who walk around Reston Town Center will enjoy live music, food and beverages, and family activities. It takes about 20 minutes to complete.

Two other walks will be held locally — Oct. 12 at the Rockville Town Square in Rockville, Md.; and Oct. 19 at Freedom Plaza in the District. The goal is to

raise \$2.5 million for research and patient services.

This year, Ava is an Honored Hero — a survivor of blood cancer who provides inspiration and support for others. So far, 20 people have pledged about \$6,000. Last year, Team Ava raised \$8,700. People can also write checks or send cash. If a team raises \$5,000, they get a table at the walk; if they raise \$10,000, they get their own tent.

“It’s beautiful because they have illuminated balloons,” said Jeannie B. of the nighttime walk.

“The Light the Night Walks provide inspiration and hope for our patients and their families, showing them they are not alone in their fight, while remembering those that have lost their battle,” said Beth Gorman, executive director of LLS’s National Capital Area Chapter.

Each Honored Hero team has its own website and donations can be made at Ava’s fundraising page: <http://pages.lightthenight.org/nca/Reston13/TeamAva>.

Or visit www.teamava.com or www.lightthenight.org/nca.

The 2013 Honored Heroes include: leukemia survivor Aracelis Vicente of Silver Spring; Manassas resident and lymphoma survivor Richard Zavadowski; Arlington leukemia survivor Moira Hogan; 4-year-old leukemia survivor Logan Taliaferro of Upper Marlboro, and leukemia patient Billind Taib of Centreville.

Because Ava is an Honored Hero, her mom spoke about LLS at the Microsoft Store in

Pentagon City to help raise awareness. Last year the Microsoft Team raised close to \$30,000 for Light the Night, and have committed another \$75,000 to LLS in 2013.

“We hope that no other child and family has to experience what we’re going through,” said Jeannie B. “We need to find better cures; it’s so important because if anybody’s going to find a cure, it’s going to be them.”

ClearChannel & WTTG will serve as media partners at this year’s Light the Night Walks. The Northern Virginia walk will be led by 98.7 WMZQ’s Boxer of “The Boxer Show” (“Today’s Country Music”). For more information on forming a team, visit www.lightthenight.org/nca or call 703-399-2941.

LLS has 59 U.S. chapters, and the National Capital Area Chapter is one of the highest revenue-generating chapters in the nation.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

“Ava B” of Fairfax Corner is in remission from leukemia.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Erica Jiwon Hwang of Chantilly graduated cum laude from James Madison University with a degree in biology.

The following students graduated from James Madison University: **Golshan Jalali** of Herndon with a degree in political science; **Rayna Margolis** of Chantilly with a degree in health services administration; **Shruti Mitra** of Herndon with a degree in health services administration; **Derek Chipman** of Oak Hill with a degree in finance; **Nicholas Kralles** of Chantilly with a degree in computer science; **Jeremy Montes** of Herndon with a degree

in computer info systems; and **Adrian Knoth** of Chantilly with a degree in biotechnology.

The following high school seniors from Chantilly High School were named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program: **Prudvi Arabandi**, **Julie Estrada**, **Kays Ishaq**, **Megan Lieu**, **Praati Rohra** and **Andrew Wang**.

Will Hill-Pensamiento is a member of the Fall 2013 Varsity Football Team at Stevenson University. Will is a graduate of Chantilly High School.

Lawrence Dick of Oak Hill is among students named to the dean’s list for Spring 2013 at Patrick Henry Com-

munity College.

Emily Sakowitz, of Chantilly, will perform this fall in “Sinternet!,” part of Muhlenberg College’s New Voices festival of world-premiere one-act plays. A member of Muhlenberg’s Class of ’17, Emily Sakowitz will be performing in Ensemble. New Voices runs from Oct. 2-6.

The following students were named 2014 National Achievement Scholarship program semifinalists are: Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology: **Comfort Sampong** and Westfield High School: **Shalisa James**, **Alexander Moses**, **John Nicholas O’Connell**, and **Tolunimi Oyeleye**.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Officer Pete Masood (left) and Kevin Clarke show off the newest members of the Fairfax County Police K9 unit, Bolt (left) and Sy, 14-week-old bloodhounds that the two handlers will train to be tracking dogs for the unit.

Hot on the Trail

Finding people is fun for new, police bloodhound pups.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The newest members of the Fairfax County Police Department don't wear badges or carry guns. But they're officers, just the same — and they're awfully cute.

They're Bolt and Silas (Sy, for short) and they're 14-week-old bloodhound puppies being trained to track and find people by scent. They were introduced to the public recently by their partners, MPO Pete



The 14-week-old bloodhound Sy already demonstrates rapt attention to scents he finds in the ground as he is introduced as one of the newest members of the Fairfax County Police K9 unit.

Masood and PFC Kevin Clarke, respectively.

"They've got thousands of years of instinct using their noses in trailing and tracking," said Clarke. "They have the capability to run a very old trail, which is a forte of bloodhounds. They won't do narcotics or criminal apprehension; they'll only learn one discipline — tracking."

The pups will be used to follow clues in homicide investigations and find missing adults, such as Alzheimer's patients, and lost children. And when they locate the object of their search, they won't bite.

Instead, said Clarke, "They're friendly and non-aggressive. All they want to do is be around people. So they'll love [whoever they've found]. They'll jump on them, lick their faces and give them hugs and kisses. Then they'll be ready for their reward from us — which is the love we give them."

First, though, the warm-brown puppies with tender, expressive eyes have to be trained. Last Wednesday, Sept. 18, outside the police K-9 Training Facility in Chantilly, the pair of puppies — who are brothers — stayed close to each other and to their partners.

Since the facility is next to the police firing range, multiple shots often rang out while the pups stood on the grass. And each time, the puppies startled. But it's just one of the many sounds and surfaces they'll have to get used to.

"We'll get them out here and acclimate them to the noises — gunfire, [vehicle] brakes and birds," said Masood. They'll also be exposed to airplanes, wind, rain, heat, car horns honking, plus obstacles such as fences. And they'll learn how it feels on their paws to walk in the woods, through brush, on cement, carpet, tile floors, etc.

That way, said Clarke, "When they get out on the street, when they're almost a year old, they'll be ready."

The police got the purebred puppies from Huntsville, Ala., for \$600 each, when they were just 7 weeks. But, added Clarke, "A fully trained bloodhound

SEE HOT ON THE TRAIL, PAGE 13

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Mostly wooded, Tract 6 has a house with lots of potential but needs work and can be renovated. There are also several barns & outbuildings in addition to 4-car garage & small pond.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left: Jerry Foltz, Tim Hugo and Hung Nguyen listen while Jim LeMunyon answers a question.



40th District delegate challenger Jerry Foltz (left) makes a point while incumbent Del. Tim Hugo listens.

Hugo, Foltz, LeMunyon and Nguyen Discuss Issues

FROM PAGE 1

cited examples of how he'd helped the Virginia Run and Gate Post Estates communities, plus the Mulford School, solve problems they had.

Referring to the roundabout proposed for the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads in Centreville, he said, "We're going to take the fight to Loudoun. A traffic circle in that area will be problematic for all the people who live there."

Hugo also noted how hard he's worked to bring a bill on autism to the floor of the General Assembly, plus his battle against sex-trafficking. He said this practice "is happening in Virginia and it's happening in Centreville. [Working together, Virginia] Democrats and Republicans now have some of the best laws in the nation on this."

In his reelection campaign, said Hugo, he's supported by many organizations, including the Virginia Education Assn., the Chamber of Commerce, Northern Virginia Technology Assn. and credit unions. And, he added, "The state firefighters endorsed me today."

NGUYEN

Saying he's been a community activist all his life, Nguyen said transportation, education and the economy are his issues. "I live at Route 50 and Stringfellow Road, so I always encounter traffic," he said. "The widening of Stringfellow has been going on for so long; it needs to get done already."

Nguyen also said the state needs to "fully

fund our priorities. Not doing this for education is putting our families and children at risk."

He's served on the Consumer Protection Commission and is vice-chairman of that organization, and is currently a member of the Virginia Asian Advisory Board, as well. He also stressed that Asians comprise 21 percent of the residents of the 67th House District.

Overall, said Nguyen, "I believe people of color, minorities and women should get their fair share. [Being a state delegate] is about getting things done."

LEMUNYON

LeMunyon works in marketing and sales for an Internet trade association in Washington, D.C., and is running for his third term in office. "I've had 24 bills become law, and they were all bipartisan," he said. "My focus is on transportation and education."

He believes in synchronizing traffic and land-use changes. "VDOT can now comment on changes to Comprehensive Plans and whether they create more or less congestion," said LeMunyon.

Noting that the Virginia General Assembly last year got a record amount of money for Fairfax County Public Schools for this school year, he said he's been endorsed by the Virginia Education Association and was designated a "Legislative Champion" by that body for his support of public education.

LeMunyon said he is also a proponent of ethics reform in the state government. And he believes in keeping an eye on the effec-

tiveness of new legislation. "We've got to make sure the transportation and education bills we pass are monitored to see if they get their intended results."

In addition, he says tax reform can be a vital tool in improving Virginia's economy. Said LeMunyon: "Tax reform is the biggest, untapped area to make businesses want to move here and to help existing businesses grow."

THE ISSUES

Next, audience members asked the candidates their thoughts on various issues. Regarding Obamacare, Foltz said he's in favor of it. "I know too many times that people with no health care waited until too late to get medical attention," he explained. "And it'll create 38,000 new jobs in the medical field." Foltz also said he's for the expansion of Medicare.

Hugo, however, said he's a fan of "incremental change" and not something that would "introduce instability into the market. [Obamacare] will pay 100 percent initially but, later, we'll have to pick up the rest. People are upset because their premiums are being jacked up. It'll hurt businesses and union employees. So we should take its implementation slowly — think it through."

Nguyen said, "We need to take care of the poorest of our community [first] and work out the finer points later on. If we don't, we'll all pay for it later when they get sick."

But, warned Hugo, "People will have to decide which programs to cut and which

taxes to raise, if we implement it."

Al Francese of Little Rocky Run asked a transportation question. "I-66 is congested," he said. "Any specific ideas to reduce the number of cars on it?"

Hugo said more people should be encouraged to telework. "The Route 28/I-66 project is our top project in the Northern Virginia area," he said. "It impacts traffic from Arlington to Fauquier County, so money should go toward traffic mitigation."

He also alerted residents that the situation is going to get worse. When Prince William County closes Route 29 through the Manassas National Battlefield Park, said Hugo, "Thousands more cars will go onto I-66."

Foltz then told the crowd that "Hugo voted against the bipartisan transportation bill. I'm glad it got passed." Not certain that the Route 29 road closure would really affect I-66, Foltz said he'd like to learn more about this project before taking a stand on it.

LeMunyon said there are 10 options for improving I-66. "There's also rail, additional lanes, plus the extension of VRE [Virginia Railway Express] to Manassas and Haymarket, to get cars off the road," he said. And he noted the Active Traffic Management program that's already funded.

"In early 2014, there'll be new signs and sensors monitoring traffic and speeds on I-66 from Gainesville to the Potomac River," said LeMunyon. "So [extra] lanes will be opened whenever I-66 traffic gets congested."

Virginia Run's Ted Trosciancki then sought an answer from him regarding the roundabout. "Ninety-one percent of your constituents are Fairfax County residents," said Trosciancki. "How can you support it?"

As things stand now, with a four-way stop at that intersection, replied LeMunyon, "People sit in traffic 15 minutes in a mile-long backup. If the roundabout isn't the solution, then we need to find another answer."

It's a VDOT project that many Centreville residents say will give an unfair advantage to Loudoun motorists since more of them use that intersection than do Fairfax County residents. However, said Nguyen, "I don't necessarily trust VDOT to make the best decisions [for us]."

Crash Kills Man and Causes Baby's Death

A car crash early Sunday morning on the Fairfax County Parkway killed a Manassas man and caused a pregnant woman to deliver her baby early. Authorities say the newborn did not survive. The incident happened Sept. 29, at 1:40 a.m., just north of Braddock Road.

Fairfax County police say preliminary investigation indicates that Abraham Aragon, 44, of Manassas "was driving his 1993 Mazda MX3 Coupe northbound in the southbound lanes of the [parkway]. Some vehicles were able avoid impact by veer-

ing away from the oncoming car, but the Mazda struck a 2002 Toyota Avalon head-on."

Aragon was pronounced dead at the scene. The Toyota's driver, 30, and his pregnant wife, 29, from Camp Hill, Pa., were transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

But because of the woman's injuries sustained in the crash, their baby daughter was delivered prematurely and died that night, shortly after 8 p.m. According to police, the

pregnancy was 6 months along.

The crash is under investigation by Crash Reconstruction Unit detectives; they're determining whether alcohol was a factor in the crash. All people in both vehicles were wearing seat belts.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.

— BONNIE HOBBS

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Air Racers" and "The Dream is Alive". Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule.

Super Science Saturdays. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. the second Saturday of each month at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy>.

FALL FESTIVAL SCHEDULE

Festival is Back. Fall Festival at Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Enjoy going down the faster, 144-foot slide, multiple slides, children's activities, food and more are available. The festival will be open Saturday, Sept. 28 through Tuesday, Nov. 5 from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (closing at 5 p.m. in November.) Pumpkin Madness will be Nov. 2-3 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Visit www.coxfarms.com for more.

FIELDS OF FEAR SCHEDULE

Get Scared. Fields of Fear at Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville is back. Go through a haunted corn maze, take a hayride or go down a slide. Runs Friday and Saturday nights, Sept. 27 through Nov. 2 with a bonus night on Sunday, Oct. 13. Hours are 7:30-11:30 p.m.

with last admission at 10 p.m. (earlier if sold out.) Visit www.fieldsoffear.com for tickets, map and more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 4

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.

SATURDAY/OCT. 5

Star Wars Reads Day. 10 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 6-9 can celebrate reading and all things Star Wars. Special guest appearances by Star Wars characters. Free. 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.

Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at individual residences in Virginia Run. Treasure maps will be given out on the corner of Pleasant Valley and Wetherburn Drive. Contact Paula Ferrara-Garcia at 703-216-6730 or Helaine Newman at 703-02-3134.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Encore's Fall Fun Fest. 12:30-4 p.m. at 4299 Henninger Court, Chantilly. Enjoy games, food, silent auction,

prizes, karaoke and more. Free.

MONDAY/OCT. 7

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 a.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. 11:30 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.

Frying Pan Farm. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Meet local animals, enjoy a story and take home a craft. For children in grades K-6. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Uno, Dos, Tres con Andres. 3 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. All ages can sing and move with music and dance from Latin America. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

Night of Hope Fundraiser. 5-10 p.m. at Dolce Veloce Wine Bar, 10826 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. BethAnn Telford, who has been fighting brain cancer since 2005, is donating 100 percent of the \$20 door fee, cash tips and a percentage of the food and drinks to the cause. There will be guest bartenders and raffle prizes.

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.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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21st Annual Centreville Day

October 19, 2013 10am-5pm
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5K Zombie Slouch Fun Run 9am
 Be a Ghoul for Good, help the DC Candlelighters Foundation support families facing childhood cancer.

American Legion Parade at NOON

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3rd Annual Jeans Day: Putting the ZIP on Homelessness

Friday, October 18, 2013

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www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless

THE CONNECTION
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jeansday2013-eorg.eventbrite.com



Chantilly running back David Kerns scored three touchdowns against Langley on Sept. 27.



Chantilly quarterback David Sydnor throws a pass against Langley on Sept. 27.

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

West, Casso Lead Langley Football Past Chantilly

Saxons outscore Chargers 28-0 in second half.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

One week after the Langley football team lost five fumbles during a loss to T.C. Williams, Saxons running back Tyler West made sure to keep two hands on the ball during Friday's contest against Chantilly.

Even when West was running in the open field, the junior often stressed ball security with a two-handed protective grip that head coach John Howerton would later deem excessive.

"A little bit of an overstress job," Howerton said after the game.

While West might have been overly cautious in his approach, the Langley running back's fear of fumbling didn't prevent him from being overly productive.

West carried 22 times for 259 yards and two touchdowns as the Saxons overcame a seven-point halftime deficit to beat Chantilly 42-21 on Sept. 27 at Langley High School. The Saxons outscored the Chargers 28-0 in the second half to improve their record to 2-2.

"After the halftime talks, everyone got more motivated," West said, "and we just started hitting the holes harder and [the offensive line started] making bigger holes."

What was the deal with the cautious approach?

"I was just trying," West said, "to keep it steady as much as I could."

Friday's performance was a bounce-back

effort for West, who had fumbling problems during the Saxons' 13-7 loss to T.C. Williams.

"Nobody wants to fumble or make mistakes," Howerton said. "He didn't have his best day last week. The pouring-down rain probably didn't help things and it just kind of snowballed on us. ... He's very talented. He's still young and he's still trying to figure out the offense. ... He's got to get his confidence up each week. The talent is there."

Langley quarterback Nick Casso also had a big night on the ground, carrying 19 times for 155 yards and four touchdowns. A lot of Casso's success came from keeping the ball on the read-option.

"It's hours [of work] and hundreds of times of just reps in practice," Casso said of the Saxons' success running the read-option. "... If you do it to muscle memory, that's what practice is for right there and you've got it down."

Casso also completed 5 of 15 passes for 74 yards. Wide receiver Garrett Collier had three catches for 33 yards.

Langley scored on two of its first three drives and led 14-0 late in the first quarter. After losing a fumble on their first possession, the Saxon offense responded with a nine-play, 90-yard scoring drive that ended with a 19-yard touchdown run by West.

Langley started its third possession at the Chantilly 29 thanks to a 44-yard punt return by Collier. Three plays later, Casso scored from 2 yards to give the Saxons a two-touchdown advantage.

Chantilly, which entered the game averaging 48 points per contest, came to life in the second quarter, when the Chargers outscored the Saxons 21-0. Running back David Kerns scored on runs of 8, 15 and 3 yards to give the Chargers a 21-14 halftime lead.

While the teams traded blows in the first half, Langley dominated the remainder of the contest. Chantilly drove inside the Langley 10 on the opening possession of the second half, but Saxons defensive back Scott Rosener intercepted Chantilly quarterback David Sydnor to end the threat. Three plays later, West scored on a 47-yard run to tie the score at 21-all.

Chantilly's next possession ended when Langley defensive lineman Alex Kolencik took the ball away from a Charger and raced 30 yards down to the 10. Three plays later, Casso scored from 2 yards, giving the Saxons a 28-21 lead they would not relinquish.

Casso also scored on runs of 33 and 4 yards in the fourth quarter.

What did the Saxons' performance on the ground say about the team's offensive line?

"It says that we can run over people," Casso said. "We can control the line of scrimmage. When you've got those big guys in the middle and then support on the outside at tackle, we're good to go."

Kolencik (6-1, 235) is the Langley center. Brooks Norris (6-4, 295) and Bennett Molster (6-2, 270) are the guards, and Ben

Culmer (6-5, 275) and Connor Halm (6-6, 260) are the tackles.

Rosener finished with two interceptions.

Chantilly running back Kerns carried 16 times for 40 yards. Mark Aanstoos had five carries for 60 yards.

Quarterback David Sydnor completed 17 of 35 passes for 253 yards and three interceptions. Raeshawn Smith caught six passes for 78 yards, Eric Tram had six receptions for 86 yards and tight end Javin Re had five receptions for 89 yards.

Chantilly's record dropped to 3-1. The Chargers had scored at least 41 points in victories against Lee (61-22), Madison (41-17) and South County (42-34) prior to Friday's game.

"It's going to be one of the bigger wins Langley's had," Howerton said. "This team is very capable. We have some good players. We've got a couple linemen that other teams don't have, we've got a very good quarterback and a running back [and] we've got ... one of the best wideouts around."

Langley will travel to face Marshall at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4. Chantilly will host Centreville.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Centreville Football Remains Undefeated

The Centreville football team crushed West Springfield 63-0 on Sept. 27, improving its record to 4-0.

The Wildcats have outscored West Potomac, T.C. Williams, Hayfield and West Springfield by a combined total of 202-30. Centreville has scored at least 44 points in each game.

Centreville will travel to face Chantilly (3-1) at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

Westfield Football Bounces Back

The Westfield football team responded to its first regular-season loss since 2010 with a 41-0 victory against Fairfax on Sept. 27.

The Bulldogs lost to Lake Braddock 28-24 on Sept. 20. Westfield went undefeated during the 2011 and 2012 regular seasons.

The Bulldogs (3-1) will host Stone Bridge at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 4.

Hot on the Trail

FROM PAGE 9

goes for \$15,000-\$20,000 because of the training they've received."

Masood said police have had success with this bloodline, as these pups are the second pair from the Alabama site. They'll eventually be 90-100 pounds but, said Masood, "If they're leaner, they'll have less hip problems and more endurance. We want to be able to work them long hours. It's also easier on us, lifting them up over obstacles, if they're not so heavy."

Bolt and Sy are eating specially designed, high-protein, dry dog food. "But they eat a lot of it — and anything else they can get a hold of — children's toys, hardware," said Clarke. "Officer Masood's dog is named Bolt because, after a week home, he removed a bolt from his crate and ingested it."

"He worked the bolt loose overnight," said Masood. "I found the nut, the next day, and took him to the vet, who X-rayed him, saw the bolt still in his stomach and got it out."

As for Clarke's puppy, he said, "My kids named him Silas after Uncle Sy on [the TV show] 'Duck Dynasty,' and I think it's a fitting bloodhound name."

The department has 15 patrol K-9 officers, including current bloodhounds Shnoz and Cody. Masood

and Clarke also each work with a patrol dog, trained to apprehend criminal suspects. And usually two or three dogs a night are on the job.

"I've been in this section 12 years, working with German Shepherds, and have worked with Shnoz since 2008," said Masood. "Officer Clarke has worked with Shepherds five years, but this is his first bloodhound. Officer Marshal Thielen works with Cody."

Ideally, police would like the dogs to work for 10 years; but sometimes, health problems force them to be retired early. So they want to get Sy and Bolt up and running as soon as possible because they'll eventually replace Shnoz and Cody.

The bond between the K-9s and their partners is critically important. "They want to please us — that's their reward — so the dogs come home with us and our families," said Clarke. "They're with us 24/7; we have safe and secure backyard kennels at our houses."

"My wife used to be a vet," said Masood. "And she and our 4-year-old daughter both love Bolt."

Colt, Clarke's German Shepherd, and Sy are part of a team now, as are Shnoz and Bolt, where the more-experienced bloodhound teaches the newcomer. "If Sy sees Colt do something, he does it, too," said Clarke. "The same is true of Shnoz and Bolt."

The bloodhound pups will train 30 hours/month and, once they're done, Clarke expects they'll be requested for help throughout the region and even across state lines. "Most regions have patrol dogs," he said. "Bloodhounds are rare be-

cause of the time, energy and expense to train them. They're smart and obedient, but stubborn, because they think with their nose first and their brain second."

"They can be given a piece of clothing and they'll stay with that scent, despite other, different odors in an area," continued Clarke. "And they can follow a scent even a week later. For example, they could find a person missing in a park, although hundreds of other people were hiking there."

He said one of the "biggest perks" of having bloodhounds is their scent-specific training. Said Clarke: "A dog can also be trained to identify someone — almost like in a lineup — by putting his paws on the chest of the person whose scent he tracked."

"Each track always yields positive, successful leads for the detectives," he added. "Even if the dog can't find the subject, he could, for example, find the bus stop where the subject last was. Or he could tell us where the scent stopped by just circling around that spot."

Police dogs are also considered law-enforcement officers. "They're working dogs," said Masood. "And if someone assaults them, that person can be charged."

Currently, Bolt and Sy are focusing on bonding with Masood and Clarke. But within a month or two,

they'll begin short tracks. "We'll then stretch out the time and distance to teach them to eventually run three- and four-day tracks," said Clarke. "Tracking is in their blood; they're one of the oldest tracking dogs in the world — we're just harnessing it."

Actually, he said, "It's a game to these dogs. So when it becomes real, it's still fun for them."

"Their natural instinct is to hunt animals," added Masood. "We just train them to hunt humans."

The puppies are first trained by someone showing them food and then running away with it, and they have to find it. "They'll learn the game through repetition," said Clarke. "And at the end, there's a party — verbal and physical praise, plus a food reward."

Eventually, said Masood, they'll receive scent articles to track. That's because, said Clarke, "It's what they're bred to do — and they love it."



PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

Paw on foot represents the close tie that has already been established between 14-week-old bloodhound Sy and his handler Officer Kevin Clarke, members of the Fairfax County Police K9 unit.

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"Mor-Tality" Or Less



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Meaning, in my head anyway, the future and what there is left of it. More specifically, I mean life expectancy. When you're given a "13-month to two-year" prognosis – at age 54 and a half, by a cancer doctor, your cancer doctor, the timeline between where you are and where you thought you'd be – and when, becomes as clear as mud. Yet not planning for the future, a future that previous to your diagnosis was thought to be guaranteed (based on family/patient history) creates a negative when all health care professionals advise being positive. Anecdotal evidence suggests that acting like you have a future helps in some unexplainable way in you/the patient having one.

Over the last month, I've had some time-sensitive and planning-for-the-future-type decisions/expenditures that on paper at least – given my terminal diagnosis, could be construed as money poorly spent. Nevertheless, since it is my life – and I'm trying to live it, I went ahead and signed up and paid to have these future benefits in place (starting at the present), and I'm not talking funeral arrangements, either. What I'm referring to are everyday/ordinary expenses where your dollars guarantee years ahead rather than years behind: one-year anti-virus coverage for my computer – until September 14, 2014; two-year coverage until September 30, 2015, for my Life & Health Insurance from the Maryland State Insurance Administration (I used to be an active agent in my previous career); and finally, six-years renewal (although one has no choice, really) until September 30, 2019, for my new Maryland Driver's License.

Certainly, in my mind and experience, these renewals are sort of necessary, perhaps more so for the present than the future, but since I can't know for sure, I felt as if hedging my bets was the prudent course of action. And though not renewing these three obligations was not really practical, given the realities of my life and its related responsibilities, the planning-for and purchase-of them did give me pause to consider my future and my expectations for it. Having terminal cancer will do that to you: stop you in your tracks and cause you to measure (almost literally) every step you take. It's not exactly fun, but it is a living, and I'm particularly happy to be the one doing the living.

And during these past few weeks, I did stop, and I hemmed and hawed too and decided to pay it (and my life) forward; to invoke and rework a concept made famous by a movie of the same name starring Haley Joel Osment. So I'm now officially paid up – for a few years. If I think too much about what's happened to me (stage IV non-small cell lung cancer) and why, I fear it will weaken my resolve. A resolve which is short on facts but really long on feelings. Feelings which I've become accustomed to having and believing.

I have to believe in something, and believing I have a future is the best way I know how to turn these feelings into facts.

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

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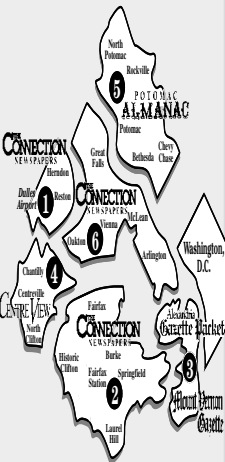
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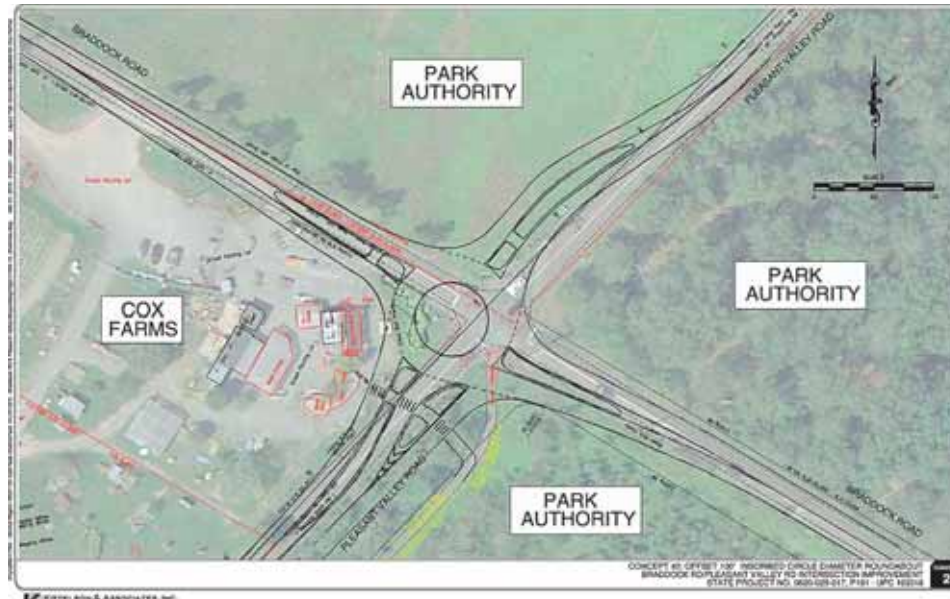
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A diagram of the roundabout proposed for the intersection of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads in Centreville.

Intersection Controversy Intensifies for Hearing

FROM PAGE 1

sure on the other substandard roads there, as well as on the S-curve.”

He also brought up this matter during the Sept. 25 Political Candidates’ Night at the Sully District Council meeting. “We’re spending \$100 million to widen Route 50 so Loudoun residents can get to work more easily,” said Trosciancki. “So we need to do nothing about the roundabout until we see if Route 50 solves their problem.”

Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) — whose constituents live in the vicinity of this intersection — said he, too, is “adamantly opposed to that roundabout. A year ago, Loudoun said, ‘We’re not going to move this project quickly; we want to see what happens to Route 50 first.’ Then last week, they said they were expediting the roundabout. But I think, once Route 50 is done, the traffic problem for Loudoun will be lessened and the roundabout won’t be needed.”

In addition, an environmental group is also becoming involved in the controversy. It’s raising several issues that it says are of critical importance and must be addressed before the project moves forward.

In a Sept. 23 letter to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Stella Koch, chairman of the county’s Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC), said the group’s been watching this issue with interest. She also noted that a roundabout would affect the Rock Hill District Park, Mountain Road District Park and Elklick Preserve.

Koch said EQAC’s concerns regard “the unique ecological nature of the parks and the transition of a semi-rural road into a commuter road.” She pointed out that wetlands are present in all three parks and that Rock Hill Park has a globally rare forested wetland community, plus two rare plant species that could be adversely affected by the project.

Furthermore, wrote Koch, “There is a receiving stream south of the proposed project

that could be negatively impacted by increased flows — and no studies have been done to date to consider those impacts. Any VDOT proposal for this intersection must protect these state rare plants and the globally rare forested upland swamp community.”

Calling the Braddock/Pleasant Valley roads intersection “the back door to the South Riding community in Loudoun County,” Koch stated that many of those residents use the intersection to get to jobs in the Route 28 Corridor of Fairfax County.

Yet, she added, “The preferred route from South Riding to Fairfax County is via Route 50, which is designed for commuter traffic. The proposed enhancement [roundabout] would open an alternative route that is not designed for continuously increasing levels of traffic.”

Koch also noted that the supply of commuters from suburban communities in Loudoun County would eventually “consume” the roundabout’s new vehicle capacity. Therefore, she wrote, “EQAC suggests that alternatives be explored that encourage utilization of high-capacity roads as the first choice.”

Agreeing with EQAC’s concerns, Virginia Run’s Jim Hart said it’s important that VDOT not skip over the environmental steps involved in this project. And, he wondered, “If the wetlands are not delineated, how can anyone critique the design intelligently or understand the impact on the forested wetlands [or] endangered plants?”

Besides that, added Trosciancki, “It’s the last bastion of open space in western Fairfax County.”

Anyone unable to attend the Oct. 9 meeting, but wishing to comment on the project may write to: Leonard “Bud” Siegel, P.E., VDOT District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or e-mail meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov. Write “Braddock and Pleasant Valley Roundabout” in the subject line.

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Braddock Road, Centreville. Visit www.ascension-acc.org for more.

Meeting. Lane's Mill Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) members will meet at 5501 Sully Park Drive, Centreville. Prospective members are welcome to attend and should contact haynes2va@yahoo.com for more information.

SUNDAY/OCT. 6

Celebration. 8 a.m. or 11 a.m. at Greater Little Zion Baptist Church, 10185 Zion Drive, Fairfax. A reception will follow the 11 a.m. service. Free.

Joint Candidate's Forum. 4-6 p.m. at Northern Virginia Community

College, Annandale Campus, Ernst Cultural Center, 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale. This multi-chamber event provides an opportunity for all six of the statewide candidates to meet leaders from the minority business communities in Northern Virginia. All six major-party candidates are confirmed, including: Ken Cuccinelli (R) and Terry McAuliffe (D) for Governor; Ralph Northan (D) and E.W. Jackson (R) for Lieutenant Governor; Mark Herring (D) and Mark Obenshain (R) for Attorney General; and Robert Sarvis, Independent candidate for Governor, is also invited. This collaboration brings together members of the

Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the Asian American Chamber of Commerce, and the Northern Virginia Black Chamber of Commerce, as well as the Northern Virginia community, to hear what the candidates plan to do to foster economic growth. Free. Due to space limitations advance registration is required. Visit <http://novacandidateforum.com/> to register.

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

Meeting. GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club invites area women to meet Deborah A. P. Hersman, chairman of the National

Transportation Safety Board. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Hear about Hersman's journey from a graduate of Chantilly High School to a wife and mother of three while leading an independent federal agency. Free, but reservations are required. Contact Mary Jane at 703-378-4250 or mjhasse331@verizon.net to reserve seating. Visit wfcwc.org.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

Public Hearing. 6-8 p.m. at Ormond Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive. Listen to ideas on Braddock/Pleasant Valley. Free. Contact meeting_comments@vdot.virginia.gov.

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE II

TUESDAY/OCT. 8

Middle School Book Club Interest

Meeting. 7 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Students in grades 7-9 can share ideas with what books and discussions should be in the group. Free. 703-830-2223.

WEDNESDAY/OCT. 9

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.

THURSDAY/OCT. 10

Lego Block Party.

7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3-6 can build. Free. Call for this month's theme. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Civil War Lecture.

7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults and school age children can hear "Battle of Bristoe Station, Virginia, October 14, 1863," by author and historian Bradley Gottfried. Free. 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY/OCT. 12

Step Out Walk.

7 a.m.-2 p.m. at Fairfax Corner. The Walk will benefit the American Diabetes Association. RSVP to Michelle Iyem at mplyem@diabetes.org or 202-331-8303 ext. 4514.

Peaceful Paws.

10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children on the autism spectrum or with other developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog Dakota, a gentle giant Bernese Mountain dog. Reading is not required, but can read from a library book or already owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Hidden Pond.

2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-6 can take a hands-on approach to find out how nature prepares for winter. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

SUNDAY/OCT. 13

Clifton Day.

9 a.m.-5 p.m. in Clifton. Enjoy food, live music, vendors, demonstrations and more. A Civil War re-enactment will be showcased. Donate blood through an Inova bloodmobile. Visit cliftonday.com for directions and more.

TUESDAY/OCT. 15

Lego Mania.

2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-2 can build. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

Communities of Worship

CENTREVILLE

The Anglican Church of the Ascension

Traditional Anglican Services
1928 Book of Common Prayer
1940 Hymnal

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

13941 Braddock Road, (north off Rte. 29) Centreville, VA
703-830-3176 • www.ascension-acc.org

CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
9:15 AM CELEBRATION SERVICE
11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

COMMUNITY GROUPS
Sundays at 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 am

Nursery through Elementary, Youth, College Age, Singles, Men, Women, Choir, Awana, GoGo (Older adults), Bible Study Fellowship, MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), English Language Classes and Spanish Speaking Ministry

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

Centreville PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship
8:45 and 11am

15450 Lee Highway
Centreville, VA 20120
703.830.0098

www.CentrevillePres.com

JEWISH

Congregation Yad Shalom...703-802-8901
Temple Beth Torah...703-263-2252

LUTHERAN

King of Kings Lutheran Church...703-378-7272
Lord of Life Lutheran Church...703-323-9500
St. Andrew Lutheran Church...703-830-2768

METHODIST

Centreville United Methodist...703-830-2684
Pender United Methodist Church...703-278-8023
Pleasant Valley United Methodist...703-327-4461

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

Centreville Community Church...703-580-5226
Christian Life Center...703-754-9600
Clear River Community Church...703-881-7443
Covenant Christian Center...703-631-5340

Fair Oaks Church...703-631-1112
New Life...703-222-8836
Tree of Life Bible Church...703-830-4563

PENTECOSTAL

Capital Worship Center...703-530-8100
Church of the Blessed Trinity...703-803-3007

ORTHODOX

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church...703-818-8372
The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County...703-421-7515
St. Raphael Orthodox Church...703-303-3047

PRESBYTERIAN

Centreville Presbyterian Church...703-830-0098
Chantilly Presbyterian Church...703-449-1354
Clifton Presbyterian Church...703-830-3175
Young Saeng Korean Presbyterian Church...703-818-9200

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wellspring United Church of Christ...703-257-4111

<p style="text-align: center;">ANGLICAN</p> <p>Church of the Epiphany...703-481-8601 Christ the Redeemer...703-502-1732</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASSEMBLY OF GOD</p> <p>Centreville Assembly of God...703-830-1841</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BAHA'I</p> <p>Baha'i Faith...1-800-22-UNITE</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BAPTIST</p> <p>Centreville Baptist Church...703-830-3333 Chantilly Baptist Church...703-378-6880 Clifton Baptist Church...703-263-1161 Second Baptist Church...703-830-1850 Mount Olive Baptist Church...703-830-8769 Ox Hill Baptist Church...703-378-5555</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">BIBLE</p> <p>Chantilly Bible Church...703-263-1188 Community Bible Church...703-222-7737</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CATHOLIC</p> <p>St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church...703-817-1770 St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church...703-266-1310 St. Paul Chung Catholic Church...703-968-3010 St. Timothy Catholic Church...703-378-7461 St. Veronica Catholic Church...703-773-2000</p> <p style="text-align: center;">EPISCOPAL</p> <p>Church of the Epiphany...703-715-6070 St. John's Episcopal Church...703-803-7500</p>
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