It’s been a long time coming, but Ad Fontes Academy can finally be described as a school united. After having its student body physically separated in two, different locations, it’s finally together on the campus of Centreville Presbyterian Church. But it wouldn’t have happened without a great deal of hard work, dedication and a serious fundraising campaign. And the end result is a new, modular building for the school’s lower grades, now just a stone’s throw away from the upper-level students.

The whole thing called for a celebration and, on Oct. 16, Ad Fontes staff, students, parents, teachers, board members and all other stakeholders in the school’s future gathered to celebrate. They did so with tours of the building, speeches and a ribbon-cutting in front of the entire student population.

“This is a dream that started many years ago,” said Ad Fontes President Dean Luckenbaugh. “We give thanks for our partnership with Centreville Presbyterian; we planned to be here one year, and it’s been 10 years.”

Noting the school’s One Body campaign that raised more than $1 million, he said even the smallest donations were welcome and helped make a difference. “Many young people gave 50 cents, a dollar or birthday money,” said Luckenbaugh. “One student even donated the $7 he made selling pancakes door-to-door. And we believe those faithful gifts brought ‘A Blessing to Be in Our Own Building’.”

Ad Fontes Academy now united on one campus.

By Bonnie Hobbs
Centre View

Lending a Hand to Help Others
Packing up donations and representing Girl Scout Troop 1871 of Chantilly are Westfield High freshmen (from left) Brittany Cudd, Lauryn Bailey and Laurel Rubens. More photos, page 3.
REAL STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS LANES

“My daily commute to work used to take me over an hour. Now, it only takes me 20 minutes. Those extra minutes allow me to spend quality time with my children.”

- Jennifer G.
Alexandria, VA

Thanks to the 495 Express Lanes, Jennifer says she can balance being the mother of five young children and working at her job in Tysons. Traveling from Alexandria to Tysons Corner used to take her over an hour, but now it only takes 20 minutes. With those extra 40 minutes, Jennifer is able to eat breakfast with her kids and spend more time with them in the morning. She even has time to take her older children to school before heading to work—and now she can pick them up on the way home, too.

See more real stories from the Lanes at ExpressLanes.com

Jennifer’s story was one of our winning entries in our “Express Lanes Love Story” promotion.
Lending a Hand To Help Others

The annual Sully District Scouting for Food drive benefiting Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) was held Saturday, Nov. 14. Thanks to the generosity of the local community, Boy Scout troops collected some 60,000 pounds of nonperishable food and other items for the WFCM food pantry. The donations help local families in need. More than 900 Boy Scouts plus some 800 other volunteers — including adults, Girl Scouts and many other youth, school and church groups — participated. “I think this is a phenomenal achievement for a one-day collection, and we really appreciate the generosity of the people in our community,” said Michael Adere, heading the Boy Scouts’ efforts. “This will definitely benefit WFCM’s Food Pantry and those they serve in our local area.”

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Tuesday, Nov. 24, 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.

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.

Bilingual Volunteers Needed

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is collaborating with GMU’s school of Conflict Analysis and Resolution on a community assessment project. The CLRC is looking for bilingual volunteers to assist researchers with conducting interviews. Schedule varies depending on interview times. Contact Molly Maddra-Santiago at director@centrevillelrc.org if interested in this opportunity.

Lane Closures Ahead

Drivers can expect lane closures at Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Saturday, Nov. 21, according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Crews will be doing pipe work, grading and paving. This work is in addition to regular weekday closures Mondays through Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Construction began in late April to replace the existing four-way stop at the intersection with a one-lane roundabout in western Fairfax. The $5.8 million project is being administered in cooperation with Fairfax County and is expected to be completed in Spring 2016.

View more details on the project at: http://www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/braddock_and_pleasant_valley.asp

From Centreville High’s computer-programming class, junior Edd Dugbartey and senior Jailene Sandoval transport a load of donated food to tables for packaging.

Bilingual Volunteers Needed

Representing Girl Scout Troop 3327 of Chantilly are (from left) Ruth Moran, 9; Riley Weaver, 9; her brother Ryan, 7, and mom Cathy Weaver.

HELPING OUT ARE (FROM LEFT) KEN WOODS AND CHILDREN KIANA AND KENNEDY, OF GRACE COVENANT CHURCH IN CHANTILLY. MORE SCOUTING FOR FOOD PHOTOS, PAGE 7.
Help Our Neighbors Child Serve Families in Need

By Kelly Lavin

The weather outside is far from “frultful,” but the volunteers with Our Neighbor’s Child know that the holidays are just around the corner. In a few short weeks, children from nearly 800 local families in need will be among all children who dream of new toys, books, games or clothing. Since mid-September, counselors and social workers at elementary, middle and high schools in Centreville, Chantilly and Fairfax area have been meeting with parents from low-income families to gather information on their children’s wishes. This will be the 24th year that Our Neighbor’s Child has coordinated the community’s generous response to those requests.

To date, 376 families have indicated need for 3,185 children. Our Neighbor’s Child volunteers have been working to verify addresses, prevent duplication, and create wish lists that will soon be attached or ornaments that will be distributed to area Giving Trees.

The ability of Our Neighbor’s Child to serve these children rests solely with the community. When our area schools, churches and businesses join together to participate in this effort, it shows these families that they live among those who care. We are only a seasonal effort, but we take pride in our ability to consistently provide, year after year, for each struggling family who reaches out for holiday assistance. There are many communities across Fairfax County and the country that are forced to turn families away. We have the great fortune to live in a community that continually steps up to meet the need.

Students from Centreville, Westfield and Chantilly High Schools are preparing to serve in the dropped-off warehouse space to help receive and organize the gifts that arrive from local donation points. They will also be baking some of the 30,000 holiday cookies that are delivered along with the gifts.

Stone Middle School students have already produced several thousand ornaments needed for this effort and Stone’s National Junior Honor Society will host a “Panther Drop-Off” gift collection for the public at their school on Saturday, Dec. 5 from 9 a.m. to noon.

There are still many opportunities to help Our Neighbor’s Child. Volunteers are encouraged to visit its website at www.ournearighborschild.org. At the top of the home page are links to “Calendar,” “Volunteer Needs” or “Donate Now.”

Our Neighbor’s Child is a 501c3 organization that has no paid staff and uses no public donations for overhead. If you donate to ONC, every penny is used directly in the purchase of a holiday gift for a child. All necessary supplies are collected in the community or donated by ONC’s founding partners. Checks are very welcome and can be sent to the following address: Our Neighbor’s Child, PO. Box 276, Centreville, VA 20120 Attn: Karen Moore, Treasurer.

While there are some wonderful resources for recycled clothing in our area, the holiday season is a time to receive something “brand new.” ONC’s clothing coordinator, Stephanie Somers, is looking for volunteers willing to help purchase clothing wishes (one item or several) for the children in our area.

Email Clothing@ournearighborschild.org for more information. ONC would greatly appreciate hearing from organizations in the Centreville, Chantilly, Fairfax area who would like to help support the following critical needs: Bikes, Coats, Gift Cards and Book donation support.

Our Neighbor’s Child is blessed with an outstanding core group of volunteers and it has been a very good feeling. That’s a very good feeling.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can “E-cycle” at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only.

The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

DONATIONS

The student Auto Sales Program operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CWSF automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-302-5388 or by e-mail: lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of cell phone boxes that can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14213E

Support Group: Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers of older adults share experiences, gain support without information having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions.

Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dws/oldercare/supports/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

Volunteers Needed

Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918 or awowbrw@verizon.net or contact John Taylor at 703-239-2898 or jtp@verizon.net. For those and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oldercare and click on Volunteer Solutions.

The Sully Senior Center in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults.

Volunteers Needed

Shepherd’s Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918 or awowbrw@verizon.net or contact John Taylor at 703-239-2898 or jtp@verizon.net. For those and other volunteer opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oldercare and click on Volunteer Solutions.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 6
SCHOOLS

National Merit Breakfast

Twenty-two seniors were awarded National Merit Scholar certificates on Friday, Oct. 23 at Centreville High School. Two of the recipients are also National Merit Semifinalists. The National Merit Semifinalists are Emily Angeliotti and Grace Chung. The commended students are (in alphabetical order) Brent Bailey, David Bennett, Elizabeth Earls, Christian Gehman, William Holincheck, Christopher Hurt, Michael Kastanowski, Jedrick Kim, Joseph Kim, Yevin Kim, Seung Joo Lee, Michelle Nguyen, Rafael Olivas, Patrick Pankratz, Jarod Raedels, Katherine Ryan, Elizabeth Vanyan, Adam Waldmiller, Rebecca Yoo, and Daniel Zhang.

Foundation Supports

CVHS Best Buddies Club

Tom Healy of the Elizabeth Ann Healy Foundation presents a $2,500 check to Centreville High School’s Best Buddies club at the end of half time during the Nov. 6, football game against Robinson Secondary School. Elizabeth Healy died from complications due to childhood cancer in October 2009. In her memory, her parents set up the foundation to give money to groups and families that support activities that were important to Elizabeth. Best Buddies is a non-profit club that promotes life-long friendships between students with developmental and/or intellectual disabilities and typically developing teens.

School Notes

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

Emily Angeliotti and Grace Chung of Centreville High School have been named 2016 National Merit Scholarship finalists.

Ian Van Pelt a senior majoring in microbiology in the College of Science at Virginia Tech (Blacksburg, Va.) will serve as the school’s Associate Chief Justice within the Undergraduate Honor System, providing student voice to the process for reviewing cases related to the university’s Honor Code.

Sean Jayachandran received his white coat at the White Coat Ceremony at Lincoln Memorial University-DeBakey College of Osteopathic Medicine (Harrogate, Tenn.).

Megan Bongardt has entered Quinnipiac University (Hamden, Conn.) as a freshman studying in Health Sciences.

Rachel Heacock has been named to the honors list at Mary Baldwin College (Staunton, Va.).

Rhonda Mowe has graduated from Troy University (Troy, Ala.) with the Master of Science in Management degree from the Sorrell College of Business.

Danny Flannery, a University of Dallas (Irving, Texas) student, was a member of the 2015 Charity Week Committee. Every fall semester, the junior class organizes Charity Week, campus wide events in which all proceeds go to charity.

Frank Healy was among cadets and students representing The Citadel (Charleston, S.C.) at U.S. Department of Transportation Beyond Traffic Workshop.
Holidays Are About Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families around us are in need.

T
he holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country, and many if not most of us go through our usual routines without encountering evidence of needy families among us. But more than 51,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to reenact, add a sub-sidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools.

In Arlington more than 31 percent of the stu-dents are poor enough to receive free or sub-sidized meals; that's 7,749 students at last count. In Alexandria, 8,664 students are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals. That's 59 percent of the 14,671 students en-rolled.

These are children who are living in fami-lies who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. These are chil-dren who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school. School holidays can bring uncertainty and hun-ger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thankgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

There are literally hundreds, probably thou-sands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again during the holiday season, so let us know what we have missed.

— Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com

Where to Give Locally in Fairfax County

❖ Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — food pantry at 13981 MetroTech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations, add a note saying “food basket program” and send them to: WFCM, PO. Box 228002, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.

❖ Alternative House — Abused and Home-less Children’s Refuge, 2100 Gallows Road, LINK, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, plus volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. 703-437-1776 www.linkagains t hunger.org.

❖ Northern Virginia Family Service. Mail check or Shoppers Food Warehouse gift card to Northern Virginia Family Service, ATTN: Operation Turkey, 10008 White Granite Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Giftsing for Fami-ly was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to 2,122 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations. More information or to sponsor a family, call Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Fairfax County.

❖ FACETS helps parents, their chil-dren and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FAC-ETS is always in need of volunteers, and of-fers a variety of one-time and ongoing oppor-tunities. Call 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030.

❖ Our Daily Bread in Fairfax expects to have 3,000 individuals and families on their list for the Holiday Program which helps those in need with food for the holidays and gifts for chil-dren. For more information on their holiday programs, including how to sponsor a family, go to www.odbfairfax.org/holiday.

❖ Fairfax City Area FISH (For Immediate Sympathetic Help), helps local people who are in temporary need of life’s basic necessities such as food, clothing, and financial assistance for rent, mortgage payments, utilities, and medical treatments. FISH also provides limited transportation for doctor appointments and food delivery. 703-222-0880 http://fairfaxfish.org/


❖ Food for Others distributed more than 2.4 million pounds of free food to families in need in Northern Virginia in the year ending June 30, 2012. The nonprofit provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emer-gencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173.

❖ 12 Ways of Giving: Fairfax County Office of Public Private Partnerships “12 Ways of Giv-ing” campaign is an annual event that show-cases many ways for meaningful, local giving during the holiday season, highlighting nonprofits in Fairfax County. www.fairfaxcountypartnerships.org

❖ Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer organization that clothes, feeds, educates and nurtures those in need focus of the neediest elementary schools. Volunteers and donors are always needed. Contact ALNorthernVA@ymail.com or see www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

❖ Comfort for America’s Uniformed Services (CAUSE) ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. www.cause.org.


❖ Homestretch is the largest provider of tran-sitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education, economic development. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; http://homestretchva.org/volun-teer.

❖ Pathway Homes focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full po-tential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Bou-levard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030 (703) 876-0390 info@pathwayhomes.org http://www.pathwayhomes.org http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/

❖ Shelter House provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to pro-mote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/

❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia, Offers structure, supervision, support and as-sistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of in-carceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in North-ern Virginia. One East Luray Avenue, Alexan-dria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072 info@friendsofguesthouse.org, http://friendsofguesthouse.org/

Adopt-a-family program.


❖ Shelter House provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to pro-mote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/

❖ Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia, Offers structure, supervision, support and as-sistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of in-carceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in North-ern Virginia. One East Luray Avenue, Alexan-dria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072 info@friendsofguesthouse.org, http://friendsofguesthouse.org/
Scouting for Food

As part of the annual food collection, Scouting for Food, orchestrated by Boy Scouts of America’s National Capital Area Council, Troop 577, Troop 717, Pack 717, Pack 1859, Pack 1579 and Pack 1860 collected and organized 6,203 pounds of food from Clifton and Centreville. Girl Scout Troops 3177, 6932, 2399, 440, and 1575 also participated in the collection.
Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event; phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

THROUGH DEC. 24
Fair Oaks Mall Celebrates with “Peanuts Gang.” Various times at Fair Oaks Mall, 11730 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. To celebrate the launch of The Peanuts Movie, guests will find Peanuts characters center stage within interactive Ice Palaces at the mall. The indoor holiday displays feature a 30-foot dome complete with falling snow, a light show and other activities. Free to attend. Visit www.shopfairoakmall.com/events.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18
Annual Veterans Celebration. 6 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4200 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Chantilly High School National Honor Society is hosting a Veterans Celebration with food and live entertainment. Admission is free, but registration is required. Registration closes on Nov. 11. Visit www.chantillynhs.com/veterans.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV. 19-20
“The Spirit of India.” 8 p.m. at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India present authentic Indian music. Tickets are $29-48 and half-price for children through the 12th grade. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 20-22
“The 39 Steps.” 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Westfield Theatre presents Alfred Hitchcock thriller “The 39 Steps.” Tickets are $12 at the door, $10 online, $5 for students. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com. “Almost Maine.” 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Centreville High School students perform “Almost Maine,” a play comprised of several small stories. Tickets are $10.

SATURDAY/NOV. 21
Pictures with Santa. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at The Learning Experience, 4150 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Reserve a specific time (10 minute slots) for your child or family. Bring your own camera. Free. Call 703-378-7391 for more.

A Bountiful Harvest. 1 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Learn how wheat and corn were used in the kitchen. Make a corn husk doll and a wheat ornament. Tickets are $10-12. Visit www.parktakes.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUNDAY/NOV. 22
Hands On Activities Day. 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, will host the 20th annual Holiday Model Train Show, Dec. 5-6. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, will host the 20th annual Holiday Model Train Show, Dec. 5-6. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.
MONDAY/NOV. 23
Gratitude Journaling Classes before Thanksgiving. 5-6:30 p.m. Eileen Wilkinson, WE/Arts founder/facilitator will lead a class in cultivating and expressing a grateful heart with two journaling workshops. The first half of the workshop (Nov. 16) will be strictly journaling while the second workshop will allow attendees to make a Thanksgiving banner or centerpiece will be constructed to encourage family members or visitors to share their gratitude list. Tickets are $20 per class or $30 for both. Call 703-385-7958 for more.


WEDNESDAY/NOV. 25
Community Thanksgiving Worship. 7:30 p.m. at The St. John’s Episcopal Church, 5649 Mount Gilead Road, Centreville. Free. Contact Rev. Carol Hancock at 703-803-7505 or stjohnsinterim@aol.com.

NOV. 25-JAN. 31
Santa Through the Ages. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, except Tuesdays, at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. This exhibit of Santa figures depicts the Jolly Old Elf through different time periods. Tickets are $7 for adults, $6 for students, and $5 for seniors and children. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 28-29
“The Nutcracker.” 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. on Sunday at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Members of the Fairfax Ballet Company, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists will perform this holiday classic with new choreography and special effects including angels, Spanish chocolate, Chinese tea, and Dutch Mirlitons. Tickets are $25-28. Visit www.fairfaxballet.com.

DEC. 2-28
Christmas at Sully Historic Site. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. daily, except Tuesdays, at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. The Sully Plantation will be decorated as it would have been in the 18th century. Tickets are $7 for adults, $6 for students, and $5 for seniors and children. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 5
Panther Pick-Up. 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville. Volunteers will collect gifts for local children in need. Email Kathleen Schroeder at mshoerner@fps.edu.

Christmas Treasure Hunt, Santa, & Fun. 1-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Go on a treasure hunt and earn a prize. Make ornaments for your “critter friends” and yourself, and relax with refreshments. Weather permitting, take a ride on the Santa Express Trackers Train. Admission is $10-12 for children, $5-7 for adults, $3 additional for a train ride. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 6-5
6th Annual Holiday Model Train Show, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, 12-4 p.m. on Sunday at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax. Model and toy trains displays in G, Standard, O, S, Lego, HO, N, and Z Gauges. The “Train Doctor” will be available to fix or create on broken models. Weather permitting, antique autos will be on the Museum grounds. Admission for museum members is free, $5 for adults and $2 for children. Visit www.fairfax-station.org for more.

MONDAY/DEC. 7
Evening in December. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 33690 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Listen to music by Point of Grace, and a message from Ellie. $4. Register at www.fairfax-station.org for more.

SUNDAY/DEC. 8
Victorian Candlelight Tour. 4:45-8 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Experience a Civil War Christmas as Confederate soldiers cook dinner in the field and fire the Christmas guns. Enjoy music by Evergreen Shade, make a 19th century holiday decoration, sample hot cider and homemade cookies. House tour is 45 minutes. Tickets are $10-12. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Christmas Paloosa at the nZone. 5-7:15 p.m. at The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. Have breakfast for dinner at this Christmas event for crafts, cookie decorating, carolers, moonbounces and more. Santa will visit. Visit www.newlife.church/santa.

SATURDAY/DEC. 12
Civil War by Candlelight. 4:45-8 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Experience a Civil War Christmas as Confederate soldiers cook dinner in the field and fire the Christmas guns. Enjoy music by Evergreen Shade, make a 19th century holiday decoration, sample hot cider and homemade cookies. House tour is 45 minutes. Tickets are $10-12. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

Christmas in the Time of Jane Austen. 4:45-8 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See how the traditional 12 days of Christmas were celebrated and the turn of the 19th century. Tickets are $10. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 15
Photo with Santa at the nZone. 6-8 p.m. at The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. Take a keepsake photo with Santa. Free. Visit www.newlife4me.com.

THURSDAY/DEC. 17
Photo with Santa at the nZone. 6-8 p.m. at The nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly. Take a keepsake photo with Santa. Free. Visit www.newlife4me.com.

SATURDAY/DEC. 19
Victorian Candlelight Tour. 4:45-8 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Celebrate Christmas traditions from the Victorian era. Hear a reading of “A Visit from St. Nicholas,” see the Christmas tree decorated as it would have been in 1883, and make a decoration based on a Victorian original. Tickets are $10. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.
‘It’s a Blessing to Be in Our Own Building’

From Page 1

A private, nonprofit Christian school, Ad Fontes teaches students in grades JK (junior kindergarten, for 4-5-year-olds) through six in what it calls its lower school, and grades 7-12 in its upper school.

And although Centreville Presbyterian has hosted Ad Fontes for a decade, there wasn’t enough space for the younger children.

So for the past 10 years, grades K through four were taught at St. John’s Episcopal Church. But as enrollment grew, said lower school Principal Janet Cooper, “We didn’t have room for fifth or sixth grades there, the past two years. So we moved them to the upper school at Centreville Presbyterian.”

Now, though, in time for Ad Fontes’s 20th-anniversary year, the lower-school children are ensconced in their new facility directly behind their older classmates inside Centreville Presbyterian Church.

Total school enrollment is 214 students, 124 of them in the lower grades. But having the new building will enable Ad Fontes to someday house as many as 275 students.

Students began using it Sept. 1, when the school year began. It contains eight classrooms that can each hold 20 students, bathrooms, a large multipurpose room, offices, a reception area, a conference room, a small library and a Discovery Learning Center — where students with formally diagnosed learning difficulties receive educational therapy from an expert in this field.

“We love it,” said Cooper. “It’s a blessing to be here in our own building, and we have plenty of space in the classrooms for more activities.”

“And on occasion, we can have lunches, recesses, picnics or celebrations together for the whole school,” added Advancement Director Laura Harders. “Before, we had to bring everyone together in cars.”

Cooper’s pleased to have a library in the building and is also happy that all the lower-school children are now on one level. At St. John’s, they were taught on two, different stories of the building. And, said Cooper, “I have an
Ad Fontes students cut the ribbon on the new building with Lower School Office Manager Joan Drussell.

 opcion nivel para el año pasado
Westfield Football Beats W-L in Opening Round

**Bulldogs will host South Lakes in quarterfinals.**

*By Will Palenscar For Centre View*

**I**t was Friday the 13th and if visiting Washington-Lee was to have a big upset, it would need more than superstition. A quick score on its first possession to gain momentum against Westfield would do wonders.

Fate, however, would not go the Generals’ way.

No. 3 seed Westfield defeated No. 14 Washington-Lee 44-20 on Nov. 13 in the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs. The Bulldogs will host No. 6 South Lakes at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20 in the quarterfinals.

Twice in the first quarter, Westfield cornerback Joe Caron intercepted a W-L pass. After Caron’s first interception, teammate Tim Beard would rush in from 6 yards out to put Westfield up 7-0 with 9:33 left in the first quarter. After a Brian Delaney kickoff resulted in a touchback, Washington-Lee quarterback Andrew Malone was again intercepted by Caron. Caron would take the ball 24 yards, for Westfield’s second touchdown in 11 seconds. Westfield would go up 15-0 after a Terrell Monticue two-point conversion. After Washington-Lee punted, Westfield added six more points when quarterback Tyler Scanlon rushed in from 7 yards out with 5:32 remaining in the first quarter. In the second quarter after both teams turned the ball over on downs, Washington-Lee would take over inside Westfield territory. Ceneca Espinoza, Jr. would run in from 10 yards out and the deficit was now 22-7.

After a Westfield turnover, Washington-Lee looked to close out the quarter with more points and much-needed momentum. Westfield’s Jose Paredes had other thoughts as he knocked the ball from the Washington-Lee quarterback and Westfield’s Santana Kanu picked the ball up and dashed into the end zone with 8 seconds to go until halftime.

In the third quarter, with Westfield leading 29-7, Scanlon connected with wide receiver Rehan Johnson from 34 yards with 1:22 left in the period. Westfield’s Cole Huling ran in the two-point-conversion and Westfield now was up 37-7. Huling would also account for his second interception in as many games earlier in the second quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Westfield’s Tim Beard would run for his final touchdown of the game to go along with his 20 carries and 140 yards rushing. Washington-Lee’s Espinoza would also rush for his second touchdown of the game. Henry Casey’s touchdown with just under a minute to go in the game for Washington-Lee provided the final score of 44-20. Washington-Lee concluded their season at 5-6.

Chantilly Upsets Madison in Football Playoffs

The Concorde District/Conference 5 annually produces some of the top high school football teams in Northern Virginia.

On Nov. 13, a battle-tested Chantilly team from Conference 5 entered the postseason as an underdog from a seeding standpoint, but the Chargers possessed the confidence to pull off the biggest upset of the opening round of the 6A North region playoffs.

No. 13 seed Chantilly defeated No. 4 Madison 27-19 on Friday night in Vienna. The Chargers trailed by 12 points in the second half but came back to secure a spot in the quarterfinals. Chantilly will travel to face Conference 5 foe Robinson at 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 20.

Chantilly entered the postseason with a 5-5 record, including 2-3 in the conference, and on a three-game losing streak. Meanwhile, Madison, the Conference 6 champion, was 9-1 and riding a nine-game win streak.

Records didn’t matter as Chantilly pulled out the victory.

“Playing in our Concorde District, we get used to playing really good teams, like a Madison, so I think the kids were confident we could come in and compete,” Chantilly head coach Mike Lalli said. "We didn’t focus on us being a 13 seed and them being a 4 seed.”

Chantilly quarterback David Tammaro, a first-team all-conference selection, threw three touchdown passes against the Warhawks. Korben Sparks, Garret Snedeker and Trevon Montgomery each had a touchdown reception for the Chargers.

“I’m really pleased with my players’ [effort],” Lalli said. “When you go 5-5 and you lose the last three, you can just decide to cash it in and not really try, but they came out ready to compete in the playoffs.”

Next up for Chantilly is a road game against Robinson. The Rams defeated the Chargers 24-14 on Oct. 1.

Lalli said the regular-season meeting with Robinson should help his players “understand how big and physical [Robinson’s] running backs are and how aggressive they are on the defensive side. At least we won’t be surprised.”

— Jon Roetman

Sixth at Girls’ State Meet

Westfield senior Sara Freix placed fifth at the 6A girls’ state cross country meet on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow, finishing with a time of 18:56. Lake Braddock junior Kate Murphy won the title with a time of 18:20. The Bruins won the team championship with a score of 44, followed by Oakton (76) and Madison (89).

Sixth at Boys’ State Meet

Chantilly junior Brandon McGorty (194) placed sixth at the 6A boys’ state cross country meet on Nov. 13 at Great Meadow. McGorty finished with a time of 16:13. Cox senior Jonathan Lomogda’s time of 15:34 was good for first place. Lake Braddock won the team championship with a score of 46, followed by Madison (106) and Cosby (127).
Crafting Perfect Admissions Essays

Local educators offer advice on how to write effective independent school admissions essays.

By Marilyn Campbell
Centre View

I nger Wilner spent almost every morning last month hovering over her MacBook Pro, at a window seat in Starbucks, scouring a series of essays. She was looking for fatal mistakes. Errors ranging from comma splices to illogical arguments could torpedo weeks of late-nights spent in front of a computer. The words weren’t hers, though. They were those of her 13-year-old daughter, who is in the midst of applying for a slot at one of the Washington-region’s independent schools.

“I haven’t spent this much time proofreading since I was in college,” said Wilner, an Arlington mother of two. “She’s a good writer and put a lot of effort into these essays. But that’s probably true of the other type-A students who are applying to these schools, too.”

That’s right: “Tis the season for independent school admissions. Families are scrambling to meet the application deadlines for local private schools. In addition to school tours, open houses, applicant interviews and standardized tests, many independent schools require prospective students to demonstrate their writing and critical thinking abilities in the form of an essay.

“It … gives the applicant another opportunity, beyond the interview, to share more about their passions, interests, character and creativity,” said Lisa Knight, director of admissions and financial aid at Flint Hill School in Oakton.

The essay is a chance for the applicant to give the admissions committee a glimpse of the qualities that distinguish them from hundreds or even thousands of other students who seek one of a handful of slots at a school.

“We hope that the students will reveal something about themselves,” said Clare M. Dame, director of enrollment management at Randolph-Macon Academy in Front Royal. “We want to get to know them and what motivates them to come to a college-prep, Air Force JROTC school.”

Applicants should use specific examples that show they understand the school’s culture and environment and how they would fit into it. “In writing why they want to come to Randolph-Macon Academy, they need to be able to talk about the school itself so that we understand that it is an essay written specific to our programs, and not just a generic essay generated for all the schools that they might be considering,” said Dame.

Admissions officers can spot essays for which applicants have received an abundance of help. Such assistance can become particularly apparent when a student’s application includes a writing sample from a standardized test, such as the Secondary School Admission Test (SSAT), which requires students to organize and write essays in a limited amount of time without help.

“We really value the essay from the SSAT because you’re seeing their thought process and how they express themselves in a first draft,” said Terri Collins, director of admissions, Oakcrest School in McLean.

Applicants should not eschew all assistance, however. In fact, school officials encourage applicants to get help proofreading their essays. Many families actually seek guidance from an independent educational consultant.

“We follow a strict code of ethics, so we don’t help them write the essays or help them pretend to be someone else,” said Leigh Ann Cahill of Independent School Options, an educational consulting firm in Alexandria. “But we show them how to present their best selves.”
One of the greatest challenges – for me, in having cancer, is trying to live a "normal" life. And by "normal" I mean: emotionally. Obviously, having chemotherapy every three weeks – with its week-long side effects, diagnostic scans every three months – with its associated anxiety, fear for results, regular lab work, recurring appointments with my oncologist, the change in diet, the pills, the non-Western alterations that I have semi embraced into my routine, the many well-meaning (and much appreciated) occasional fatigue and ongoing food/taste issues, the neuropathy in my feet which makes walking and even sleeping difficult, the planning of my comings and goings and what else I might be doing in the future ALWAYS being contingent on my infusion schedule, and a few other effects I’m probably forgetting because of another effect I’m not remembering: "chemo brain," (now a documented side effect), complicates living that "normal" life style. However, if I don’t find a path of least resistance somehow and get to where I want to be, I risk getting lost in a cycle of anxiety which no doubt will upstep me from my figurative apple cart.

The problem is, sometimes you become who you don’t want to be (or at least who I don’t want to be); a self-indulgent victim of circumstance. As I shone on about in the opening paragraph, there are ample reasons for me not to be who I want to be; and whenever I find myself crossing that line of caring about myself at the expense of caring about others, I worry that I’ve allowed the cancer to do more than just invade my body, that now I’ve allowed it to invade my mind. Somehow, I have to remain true to myself in order to keep the cancer from doing what cancer so often does. I need to maintain my sense of humor and sunny disposition; I need to look more into the future and preoccupy less with the past or even the present – too much, anyhow. I need to live my life like I’m living, not like I’m dying – despite the lyrics of a recently popular Country song; and most importantly, somehow, I need to maintain an interest in things outside of me, myself and I. Way back when, I remember being told by a person outside of me, myself and I. Way back when, I remember being told by a person who’s opinion I value and whom I consider an expert in cancer experience predated mine: “It’s all about you, Kenny.” And though I often took that advice to heart and even employed it a few times, it was more a coping/ temporary mechanism than it was a permanent/live-your-life mechanism.

Living life has to be more than just about me; how boring! I don’t want to live inside. What matters most is the planning of my comings and goings and even my infusion schedule, complicates living that "normal" life style. However, if I don’t find a path of least resistance somehow and get to where I want to be, I risk getting lost in a cycle of anxiety which no doubt will upstep me from my figurative apple cart.

The physical damage doesn’t need to be reflected in your newly found emotional damage. Maintaining one’s personality and not getting emotionally by your disease is the goal. Fighting back against this killer is more than just hop- ping and propping, "do something," "prolong your survival;" it’s about dignity and determination. I am determined to not become someone I’m not and when I am (like this past week), I feel as if I’ve been made worse for the experience. I don’t know if I’ll ever beat cancer, but I do want to feel like it beat me.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT
PLANNING COMMISSION
November 30, 2015
Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 30, 2015 at 7:00 P.M. at the Arecia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of the Clifton Café, located at 7144 Main Street, to include an expansion of the use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an increase in parking; additions of a consulting room; increase of the hours of operation in employees. The application for the proposed amendment to the Clifton Café’s special use permit is available for review and downloading on the Town’s website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton Café’s special use permit.

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From Page 3
Food Donations
For WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries’ food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice, canned fruit (all types), canned pastas, canned meats (tuna, ham, chicken), cold and hot cereals, spaghetti and sauces, peanut butter, canned vegetables (including spinach, collar greens, beans) and cooking oil.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM’s food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotrec Drive, near Papa John’s Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly’s Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

Dec. 14 – Crisis Negotiations Team, 11 a.m. at the Criminal Justice Academy https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcpd-crisis-negotiations-team-tickets-15374274870

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

Long-Term Care Advocates

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in September. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Give Caregivers A Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

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