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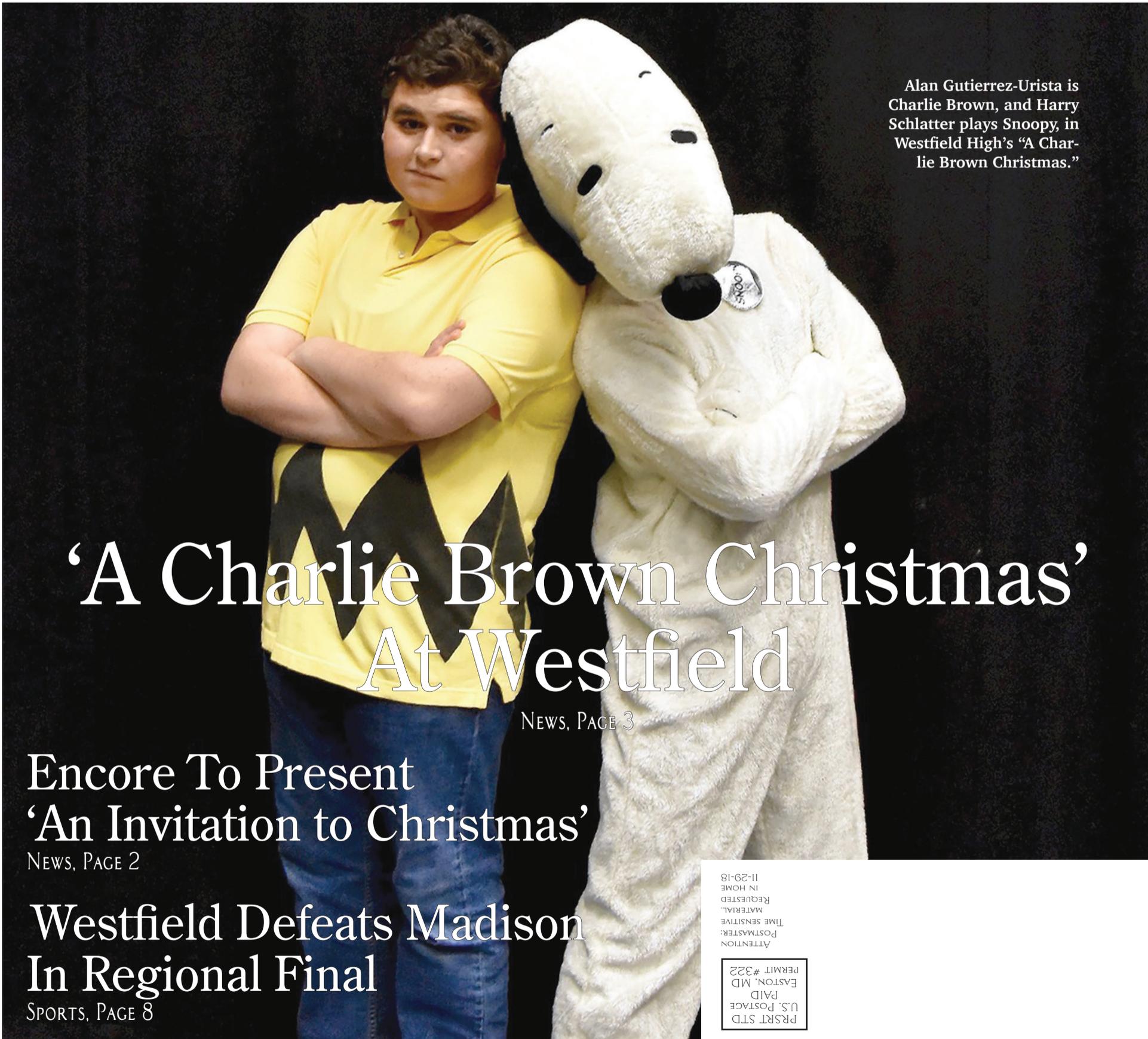
Centreville ❖ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT
PAGE 7

NOVEMBER 28 - DECEMBER 4, 2018

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



Alan Gutierrez-Urista is Charlie Brown, and Harry Schlatter plays Snoopy, in Westfield High's "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

'A Charlie Brown Christmas' At Westfield

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Westfield Defeats Madison In Regional Final

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PHOTO BY NATALIE LASSITER

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Multiple Santa Clauses will entertain during Encore's upcoming Christmas show.



From left: Faith Chin, Maya Tischler and Tiffanie Jones are among Encore's dancers.

'The Dance Numbers Are Spectacular'

Encore presents holiday show, "An Invitation to Christmas."

BY BONNIE HOBBS

The dancers of Encore Theatrical Arts Project are kicking up their heels with glee, getting ready for their upcoming, holiday extravaganza, "An Invitation to Christmas." The show runs Dec. 7-16 in the Richard Ernst Theater at NOVA's Annandale campus.

In the story, the elves at the North Pole are super-busy with so much work to do that they need extra help. So they send out invitations to children selected by Santa to attend Elf-Training School. However, one of the new recruits is a full-grown man, and his classmates wonder why he's there. He does, too, since he thought he was going on a job interview.

The cast of 24 dancers, plus adult guest performers Jack Stein and Allen McRae, have been rehearsing since August, and Director/Choreographer Raynor van der Merwe says things are coming along really well. "We had our first, dress rehearsal and, suddenly, the characters came to life," she said. "And many of the performers are triple threats — dancing, singing and acting."

"Besides being a visual feast for the eyes, the show is uplifting — from the story to the music," she continued. "We have lots of new numbers, plus some old favorites. I look for music that might be fa-

miliar, but not something people will hear over the radio. So I choose songs that move the story forward, put people in the holiday spirit and let them escape this busy season for two hours."

The scenes take place in New York City, Santa's workshop at the North Pole and

outdoors in a snow-covered, winter wonderland. And van der Merwe describes the costumes as both "colorful and glamorous."

"Everybody's working hard and has clicked really well," she said. "It's a great unity and, when everything comes together, it's magic. And that's what I love about theater — the community of it. No one does it on their own; the script, choreography, sets and lighting are among the puzzle pieces that must fall into place to make something unique and special. And with a live audience, each performance is different."

Chantilly High sophomore Kate Persell portrays Jingles the elf, who supervises the children who've been invited to become elves. "She's really cute, but likes to stay organized," said Persell. "She's friendly with the kids, but snarky with the adult trainee. I enjoy acting, and it's fun to play someone different from my own personality."

She's danced with Encore since third grade and loves the many, different styles of dance. "I can get my energy out, it's a good form of exercise and I do it with all my favorite people," she said. Persell's favorite dance is the "Once-A-Year Day" number. "All the elves are doing a hectic dance, running around like crazy, getting ready for Christmas," she said. "There's no resting point, and I love rushing with adrenaline, the whole time. And when we do the final pose, it

To Go

Show times are: Dec. 7 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 8 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 9 at noon and 4 p.m.; Dec. 14 at 7:30 p.m.; Dec. 15 at noon, 4 and 7:30 p.m.; and Dec. 16 at noon and 4 p.m. Tickets range from \$19-\$26 via www.encoretap.org or 703-222-5511.

Location: Richard Ernst Theater, NOVA campus, 8333 Little River Turnpike in Annandale.

feels so good."

Persell said the audience will enjoy the storyline because "It's humorous, with the businessman in an elf costume that doesn't fit him. The children in the cast are super-cute and talented, and the dance numbers are spectacular."

High-schooler Bea Tremblay dances in the ensemble and portrays a mail carrier. "She delivers the invitations to the kids, as well as to the adult, George Parker," said Tremblay. "She's undercover from the North Pole, so she's in New York street clothes. I wear a U.S. Postal Service hoodie and hat, plus gray slacks. She's a little mischievous and jolly because she knows she's handing out invitations to a magical experience."

Tremblay enjoys taking her character in a humorous direction and working with the other actors and dancers. She especially likes the "Santas" number. "We wear big bellies, wigs, hats, boots and Santa costumes," she said. "It's a high-energy dance, and 26 of us are onstage; and it's so much fun that I'm smiling the whole time."

She's danced since age 10 and is in her fourth year with Encore's performing company. "The company creates a community, and the other girls and I support each other and have formed a family," said Tremblay. "And it's so nice dancing together without having to compete. We can concentrate on



From left: Ashleigh Wood, Kendra Walsh, Rithika Ashok, Tiffanie Jones and Myra Lawson strike a pose. Encore's Christmas show starts Dec. 7.

SEE ENCORE, PAGE 12

'Perfect Show for the Whole Family'

Westfield High presents "A Charlie Brown Christmas."

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Featuring a cast and crew of 45, Westfield High will usher in the holiday season by presenting "A Charlie Brown Christmas." Although geared for children, it's something the whole family will enjoy.

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Dec. 7-8, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$8 at the door and via www.westfieldtheatre.com. At the end, the cast will sing Christmas carols onstage, and a special guest will make a surprise appearance.

It's also a fundraiser for the nonprofit Fisher House, which builds homes where military members, veterans and their families may stay for free while their loved ones are in the hospital. There'll be a donation box in the school lobby, before and after the play.

"The show focuses on Charlie Brown's struggle to both understand the holidays and find joy in them," said Director Rachel Harrington. "Eventually, he learns that Christmas isn't about the presents and decorations — it's about the friends and family you share it with."

She said rehearsals are going really well, and the set built by the drama parents and students will show Charlie Brown's neighborhood and a winter wonderland. Scenes will also take place at school during the Christmas pageant and outside Snoopy's doghouse. And the actors will be dressed to look like the characters in the iconic, "Peanuts" comic strip and cartoons.

"My cast is a group of wonderfully energetic students, and they do a fantastic job of bringing this classic, Christmas story to life," said Harrington. "The show will appeal to everybody because of its sweet nature and holiday theme. It's a perfect show for the whole family." Playing Charlie Brown is junior Alan Gutierrez-Urista. "He's a 7-year-old experiencing a midlife crisis," said Gutierrez-Urista. "He's quirky and lacks social skills, and he claims to be depressed at a time of great joy. That's his struggle during the holiday season, but he gets a little more confident."

Gutierrez-Urista is having fun with this role because "Charlie Brown is an iconic character and has such a vast personality. He's so dynamic and goes through a dra-



Dressed as characters from "Peanuts" are (standing, from left) Jalin Dew, Anna Moritz, Alan Gutierrez-Urista, Paul Lee, Lauren LeVine and Faith Cho, with Harry Schlatter (on floor) as Snoopy.

matic conflict. It's cool to portray the perspective of a child and go through his issues — and he's also very funny."

He's also enjoying being in a children's show because of its "light innocence that we, as high-school actors, don't get to play as much. And it's fun to rediscover that and identify with these kids who have their whole lives in front of them. It's also important to give children a good, theatrical experience so they'll have an appreciation for it and might even want to pursue acting, themselves, someday."

Describing the show as "bright and happy-go-lucky," Gutierrez-Urista said audiences will like seeing recognizable scenes from the animated, "Peanuts" classics, "We'll paint a huge smile on everyone's faces," he said. "And I think everyone will leave happy."

Senior Harry Schlatter portrays Charlie Brown's dog, Snoopy. "He doesn't say much, but he's the life of the show," said Schlatter. "He always makes funny side remarks and quips without actually speaking. I use lots of big movements to show them; my audition was just pantomiming. Snoopy is witty, sarcastic at times and always there for Charlie Brown to lift his spirits."

Schlatter said it's "super fun" playing

Snoopy. "It's my first time doing such a physically based character, and it's cool to just use movement to tell your message," he said. "I'll portray him like a human character who just happens to be a dog."

He said the children in the audience will be able to relate to the children in the show, and the jokes are "directly for them. Our Charlie Brown is really great, delivering his lines and movements in a childlike way. And I think my costume's pretty fun to look at, too". Playing Lucy is junior Lauren LeVine. "Lucy is really assertive, sassy and a little mean sometimes because she's so blunt," said LeVine. "She and the others are all like little adults, characterized as children. She's a 'queen' and thinks she owns everything and should be given everything. She's spoiled, too, and takes herself seriously, even though some of what she says is so outlandish. Her dreams are really big."

Having a good time with her role, LeVine said, "It's fun because I'm definitely sassy and social, but I would never say some of the stuff she says. And because she's mean, I get to channel another kind of sassy. And I like it that she dreams big."

She said the show will remind adults of their childhood, while entertaining the chil-

dren. "The music is cute, and everyone will be left with a warm feeling, no matter what holiday they celebrate," said LeVine. "And there are good messages about being there for our friends and enjoying life."

Senior Paul Lee portrays Linus. "He's a loyal friend to Charlie Brown," said Lee. "And even though outwardly he has a childlike appearance, inside, he's very mature and has a lot of wisdom. He's smart and can interact with others his age, but he'd rather read than play, and he thinks about things logically."

"It's my second time playing him at Westfield, and I really enjoy it," continued Lee. "I feel like I embody him because he and I are both middle children, and we always turn the other cheek. He carries a really soft blanket, and I've now become attached to it, so I understand how it's become his form of security and comfort."

As for the show, said Lee, "I really believe it will give the audience a sense of nostalgia, since it's always been a cherished, Christmas tradition. And even if people don't have a deep, religious background in the Christian faith, I want them to have this moment of awe and be filled with the beauty of the spirit of Christmas."

ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully Dis-

trict Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Tuesday, Dec. 11, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should in-

stall 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.

Call for Submissions to Children's Edition 2018

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

During the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

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

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good friend?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.
- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.
- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

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

location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

To send flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2018.

You can see last year's editions by visiting www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scroll down to Children's Edition.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

For Arlington, Potomac, CentreView, Chantilly, Alexandria and Mount Vernon, email to Steven Mauren, smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

EDITORIAL

Bringing People in from the Cold

This year 36 churches will be host sites for the hypothermia program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

BY JOE FAY
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
FACETS



Fifteen years ago, two Fairfax men froze to death during the fall. At the time, FACETS was a non-profit that was primarily serving meals to the county's homeless in partnership with several churches. FACETS' leaders knew that feeding people only to send them back into the extreme cold was not a great answer for the growing number of people who were homeless in the community.

That winter FACETS responded by offering temporary shelter in conjunction with its partner churches, the Lamb Center, and Salvation Army to get people in from the cold. The first year, these hypothermia shelters rotated to several different churches and only opened when the temperatures dropped below freezing. Soon the centers were serving up to 60 people on cold nights.

The program has evolved as the region's population has grown. In 2006, FACETS worked on policies and procedures with the county and formally began managing central Fairfax's Hypothermia Prevention and Response Program. This

year 36 churches will be host sites for the program with more than 50 churches and other faith communities providing volunteers.

These faith community partners rotate when opening their doors to provide shelter. In anticipation, churches and temples are preparing their facilities to welcome people in need during the cold months ahead — cleaning, getting supplies, and preparing the space. Other volunteers are planning menus. Unique partnerships have formed as a result of the program as Christians, Muslims, Jews, and more join together to help the homeless and in the process learn about each other.

The effort also matured beyond just providing safe haven. Guests now receive life-changing case management. By interacting with guests at the shelters, FACETS' case managers are able to address their needs in a very personal way by gaining their trust and connecting them with housing solutions and critical services. They also receive a variety of services from the county.

Last year 283 guests were given shelter from the biting cold. More than 3,800 people volunteered



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1.

33,000 hours last season to care for these guests who are homeless. By the end of season, 41 of these people had left homelessness behind and were housed.

This year's Hypothermia Response and Prevention Program began the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend and runs seven nights a week through April 1. With the projected cold and forecasts of a very snowy winter season, demand is expected to grow.

The hypothermia program continues to adapt to the times to meet the needs of struggling neighbors. Through a coordinated effort that involves broad cross sections of this caring community, we are able to strengthen the community and save lives. To learn more, donate or volunteer, visit us at www.FACETSCares.org.

FACETS is a Fairfax-based nonprofit working to prevent and end homelessness.

Sperling Targets Herrity

Seeks Springfield District supervisor seat.

Linda Sperling is running to represent the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Sperling, a Democrat, will challenge Republican incumbent Pat Herrity in the Nov. 5, 2019 general election.



Sperling is a commissioner on Fairfax County's Transportation Advisory Commission and a trustee on the Little Rocky Run Board of Trustees. She is an ambassador for the Greater D.C. Diaper Bank and a member of Virginia's 10th Congressional District Democratic Committee. She is the former chair of Little Rocky Run's Community Activities Committee and the former treasurer of the MOMS Club of Clifton/Centreville.

Sperling has spent the past 20 years working in the field of marketing, and she is currently the director of marketing communications for Aspire Lifestyles. Former employers include Network Solutions, WorldCom subsidiary UUNET, the American Society of Association Executives (ASAE), and the American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS International). During her career, she has been responsible for brand development, marketing strategy, media relations, and corporate communications. Her areas of expertise include managing teams and budgets, maintaining client relationships, supporting new business development, and support provision for multiple mergers, acquisitions, and divestitures.

"The decisions made by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors affects the daily lives of all county residents. From where we can find a job and buy a home to the quality of our schools, the lengths of our commutes and the safety and security of our families, local government impacts the most important aspects of our lives," said Sperling in a press release. "I am running to represent the Springfield District on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors because we deserve representation by a leader who is driven by a desire to serve and improve the lives of others. Unfortunately, we have been represented for too long by someone who uses his political platform to further an ideological agenda, instead of serving the communities and constituents he was elected to represent."

Sperling and her husband Mike — a Fairfax County native who graduated from Robinson Secondary School and Virginia Commonwealth University — live in Clifton's Little Rocky Run community with their two sons and Linda Sperling's mother. For more information about Linda Sperling, visit her campaign website at <https://www.sperlingforsupervisor.com>, follow her campaign on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/SperlingForSupervisor> or follow her on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/LindaDSperling>.

Her family moved to Fairfax County in 1982, and she is raising her family here. Sperling attended Fairfax County Public Schools and graduated from George Mason University. She is a former professor of communications at both George Mason University and Northern Virginia Community College — Annandale Campus and has volunteered for a number local community organizations.

Fatal Pedestrian Crash in Centreville

The Fairfax County Police Department's Crash Reconstruction Unit is investigating after a pedestrian was hit and killed just before 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 26. Detectives have preliminarily determined that 33-year-old Rainer Montero Castillo, of Chantilly, was attempting to cross at the intersection of Westfields Boulevard and Sully Station Drive. The driver of a Nissan Murano trav-

elling northbound on Westfields Boulevard hit the man as he was walking in the road. There is no marked crosswalk at that intersection.

Montero Castillo was taken to a hospital and was pronounced dead. The driver remained at the scene and is cooperating with detectives. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors. At this point, no charges are expected.

NOVEC HELPS Collecting Toys

The Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative's group of employee volunteers, NOVEC HELPS, is collecting new toys for children and new gifts for teenagers for the Northern Virginia Family Service's Gifting for Families program and the United States Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots drive.

to 2,200 children in NVFS programs," said Sarah Crosley, Northern Virginia Family Service (NVFS) director of events. "Support from NOVEC and its employees truly brightens the holidays for these children and their families." Crosley suggests giving teens such gifts as science kits, sports equipment, and movie tickets.

New unwrapped toys and gifts may be dropped off 8:15 a.m.-5 p.m., Monday-Friday, until Friday, Dec. 7, at the NOVEC office at 10323 Lomond Drive, Manassas.

NOVEC, headquartered in Manassas, Virginia, is a not-for-profit corporation that provides electricity to more than 169,000 metered customers in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, and Clarke counties, the City of Manassas Park, and the Town of Clifton.

"Stocking our Gifting for Families toy closet with toys designed to foster creativity, learning and fun brings holiday cheer

Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE OF BUDGET AND WATER RATE PUBLIC HEARING

December 13, 2018 at 6:30 p.m.

At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 13, 2018, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2019, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,150 to \$4,260¹.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$13,420 to \$15,285.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,260 to \$1,300¹.
4. An increase in the Base Commodity Charge from \$2.94 to \$3.07 per 1,000 gallons of water.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge for meters larger than a standard 5/8" residential meter¹.
6. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$45 to \$48.
7. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge.
8. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$36 to \$38.

¹Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$183.2 million budget for calendar year 2019¹. Revenues are expected to be \$183.2 million in 2019. Water sales are expected to provide \$158.3 million. Approximately \$24.9 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-\$1,000s-	
	2018	2019
Personal Services and Employee Benefits	\$ 55,934	\$ 57,584
Power and Utilities	10,755	11,102
Chemicals	6,958	7,532
Purchased Water	7,810	7,155
Supplies and Materials	5,261	5,444
Insurance	955	1,075
Fuel	700	728
Postage	603	612
Contractual Services	12,481	12,974
Professional Services	1,001	1,065
Other	2,428	2,505
Sub-Total	104,886	107,776
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,248)	(10,380)
Total	\$ 94,638	\$ 97,396

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$42,988,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$31,337,000

¹ Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes to the rates can be viewed on our website at www.fairfaxwater.org/rates. A copy of the proposed budget can be found at www.fairfaxwater.org. Those wishing to speak or receive a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Eva Catlin at 703-289-6017.

Interested parties may submit written comments to PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water
Public Hearing Comments
8570 Executive Park Avenue
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on Wednesday, December 12, 2018, to be included in the record of the public hearing.

COMMUNITY

Join Effort To Fulfill Holiday Wishes

BY KELLY LAVIN
OUR NEIGHBOR'S CHILD

“So much time and so little to do. Wait a minute. Strike that. Reverse it.” — Willy Wonka Holiday assistance volunteers everywhere know what it means to have much to do and little time, and Our Neighbor's Child volunteers are no exception.

This year will mark the 27th holiday season that ONC has coordinated the collection and distribution of holiday gifts for more than 700 western Fairfax families. Planning begins in the summer and school counselors and social workers begin referring families in September, but the clock really starts once the intake ends in November.

Jen McGee's students from Stone Middle School are among the first to “report” for their ONC duties. Each year they have the important task of making more than 5,000 ornaments that will hold the label with a child's wish on it. “I've had a great group of kids this year, between 8-16 each week working hard to reach that goal of 5,000 ornaments. A 9th grader spent 7 hours over the weekend to make sure the last 350 were done.”

During that week, Nicole Rogers (ONC's leader of Data Management) scrambles to verify the last of the family referrals, checking for duplication with other local organizations and entering the wishes into the database. By the end of the week Virginia Run resident Lisa Rennyson hosts a “labeling party” where her son Jay and his friends make sure the labels are firmly attached and sorted into bags for over 50 ONC Giving Partners: local schools, churches and businesses who distribute them to the generous supporters who will donate the gifts.

Keeping in touch with the Giving Partners are Burke resident Kathleen McDonald (Businesses) and Haymarket resident Diane Church (Schools and Churches). Hundreds of emails go back and forth in just a few weeks in order to coordinate this giving ef-



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Karen Fiala with her “Ground Zero” team and preschool students from one of the six local preschools that help ONC collect toys each year.

fort.

ONC has no paid staff and all public donations go directly to items delivered to a child in need. Any overhead (office space, copy paper, ink, etc.) are paid by ONC's founding partners. To make the best use of its donations, ONC leverages its non-profit status to benefit from programs like Helmetts R Us and Firstbook to purchase items at a discount. Fewer book purchases will be necessary again this year thanks to Barnes & Noble at Fair Lakes who have made Our Neighbor's Child the designated recipient of their holiday book drive for the second season in a row. Diane Church wears a second volunteer hat and coordinates the book giving for ONC. “We really appreciate the Barnes and Noble customers who contribute a book through this effort and we hope they appreciate knowing that the books will be delivered to deserving children from schools near the Fair Lakes store.”

How to Help

- ❖ Saturday, Dec. 8, from (9 a.m.-11): General gifts are being collected at Rocky Run Middle School outside Door 1. Ourisman Chantilly Toyota, 4135 Auto Park Circle in Chantilly, has also offered to serve as an ONC gift drop-off location, beginning Dec. 1.
- ❖ Sunday, Dec. 9: Set-Up Day - from noon-2 p.m.
- ❖ Thursday, Dec. 14, Packaging Day - in shifts starting at 9 a.m. and lasting all day.
- ❖ Sunday, Dec. 16, Delivery Day - from 1-4 p.m.

More details are available on the ONC website at www.ourneighborschild.org. Families wishing to support a local child's wish (and who aren't affiliated with ONC's local giving partners) can find them on ONC ornaments on trees at the Chantilly and Fair Lakes Walmart. ONC provides gifts for children enrolled in school, and the most requested gift for teens is clothes. But teens prefer to try on and choose things for themselves, so ONC is trying to provide as many gift cards as possible with the funds it raises. Anyone willing to sponsor a \$25 gift card for a teenager may click “Donate” on the ONC website for information on PayPal, Venmo and the mailing address for checks.

ONC accepts referrals from schools in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton and Fairfax (Fair Lakes).

Each year ONC leadership begins the season “homeless” in the sense that it must find a new empty warehouse building with owners who will agree to its temporary occupancy for the purpose of sorting and packaging the gifts for nearly 2,000 local chil-

dren. The location is provided to volunteers (and not published) as the location is only approved for staging and not a family pick-up location. Coach Kyle Simmons and his staff work alongside Westfield's football team as they help ONC unload tables, chairs and other equipment necessary to the effort. The next afternoon Coach Verbanic's
SEE HOLIDAY WISHES, PAGE 11



The Chantilly High School Lacrosse team helps with clean-up — never a popular “sign-up” choice but critical to ONC's ability to continue to serve. John O'Neill and the Receiving Team.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

THURSDAY/NOV. 29

Letter Writing: Make a Quill. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Bring homeschool students (ages 6-12) or group of students for hands-on learning designed to enrich understanding of Fairfax County history. Explore food production from garden to table, play historical games and make a toy. Bring a picnic lunch and stroll the park before or after the program. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Call for times, 703-631-0013 or visit online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY/DEC. 1

Deck the Halls. 2-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. This tour, for participants age 12-adult, focuses on the history, style and materials used in the seasonal decorations that adorn Sully for the holidays. As part of the program, create a wreath to take home using cuttings from the historic property. Then enjoy hot cider and cookies. \$20 per person. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Winter Wonder Campfire. 5:30-7 p.m. at the Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Bundle up and come discover how animals survive the chill of winter. At the "Winter Wonder Campfire," meet some exhibit animals and learn their strategies for battling the cold. End the evening with toasty s'mores. Designed for participants age 4-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

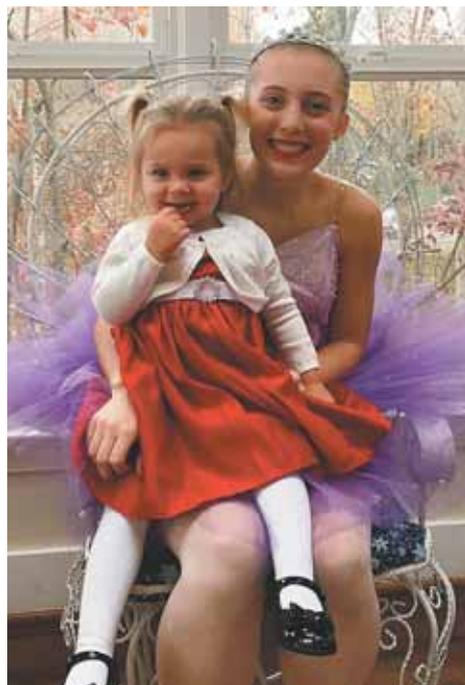
Joyful Music in Clifton. 4:30, 5:30, and 6:30 p.m. at Clifton Primitive Baptist Church, 7200 Main St., Clifton. Art Guild of Clifton presents Quest Singers in three holiday music programs, opening this festive season. Tickets not required. Free will donation sustaining Art Guild scholarship program appreciated. Horse parade at noon. Holiday Homes Tour, 4-7 p.m. Call 703-830-8466 or visit www.artguildofclifton.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 1-2

Holiday Train Show. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will host its 29th annual holiday train show with a multitude of model trains to include Z, N, HO, LEGO, S, O, Standard, and G scales. Bring broken locomotives to the "Train Doctor." Admire the antique cars visiting for this event, weather permitting. Visit the gift shop for holiday gift items and Santa may stop by to visit. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/DEC. 2

Artist Reception and Talk. After 10:15 a.m. worship at The Gallery at The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Road, Vienna. Featuring "Peace Like a River" art exhibit by Alice Nodine of mixed media paintings. The exhibit will be open during church office hours Monday-Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and on Sunday mornings from 9-noon. The exhibit also will be open during the church's Puppy Nativity event on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Nodine will donate a portion of the proceeds to Columbus County Disaster Response, for flood recovery efforts in North Carolina, where she grew up. Visit www.GoodShepherdVA.com for more.



Cara Patrick, a Centreville High School senior, will perform as the Sugar Plum Fairy.

'The Nutcracker'

Enjoy this holiday classic with the Mia Saunders School of Ballet and support local dancers and CVHS students. Proceeds for this annual tradition will benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 8-9, 3 p.m. in the Centreville High School Theater, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Tickets are \$12. Tickets available at the door and presale at mbs.nutcracker.tickets@gmail.com. Visit www.miasaundersballet.com/ for more.

AYDO & AYSE in Concert. 2-3 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. American Youth Debut Orchestra and American Youth String Ensemble present "Italian Holiday," featuring music by Vivaldi, Longfield, Puccini and Billy Joel. \$10. Visit www.aypo.org/18-19-season/ for more.

AYCO & AYSO in Concert. 5-7 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. American Youth Concert Orchestra presents music by Von Suppe, Bizet, Vaughn Williams, and more. American Youth Symphonic Orchestra presents music by Herbert, Vivaldi, Tchaikovsky and Tchaikovsky/Ellington. \$10. Visit www.aypo.org/18-19-season/ for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-9

"The Diary of Anne Frank." Thursday, 3 p.m.; Friday, 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 3 p.m. at Ormond Stone Middle School, 5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville. The Stone Players present "The Diary of Anne Frank." \$7. See www.itickets.com/events/408118.html.

SATURDAY/DEC. 8

Holidays at Walney Farm. 1-2:30 p.m. at the Walney Visitor Center in Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Turn the clock back in time and celebrate the season with the Machen family at Walney Farm. Learn about gifts and foods from an 1850s farm, create a historic holiday ornament, take a wagon ride along the trails and enjoy hot apple cider and treats around the campfire. Designed for participants age 3-adult. \$10 per person. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SUNDAY/DEC. 9

Holiday Craft Day. Noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Holiday crafts, some featuring train related themes, will be on the agenda. Craft supplies are included with admission. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

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Westfield Defeats Madison in Regional Final

BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Westfield Bulldogs (12-0) hosted and won the Virginia 6D Regional Final in Chantilly against Madison Warhawks (10-2) on Nov. 24. The two teams played earlier in the year in a conference matchup in which Westfield prevailed 17-15. Heavy rains and freezing temperatures would have an impact on the game.

After deferring the opening kickoff to Westfield, Westfield's Saadiq Hinton bobbled the opening kickoff, which was recovered by Madison deep inside Westfield territory. Moments later Brandon Walker rushed in for the game's opening points on a 22-yard run. After a successful extra point by David Louden, Madison led 7-0.

In the second quarter both teams fought the adverse weather conditions and were unable to put any points on the board. Westfield did have a possession in the final minute of the half, but Westfield Coach Kyle Simmons elected to take a knee and regroup in the locker room for the second half.

Just prior to Westfield kicking off to Madison. Westfield's Joe Clancy shouted out to teammates on the sideline, "8 points wins this. Madison will not score this half." Madison received the second half kick. Moments later during Westfield's next possession, Taylor Morin was inserted in the Wildcat

formation, which seemed to ignite the Bulldogs, with Eugene Asante and Morin running the ball. But it was Asante, the defensive player of the year in the Concorde District, who was inserted in the backfield, who burst towards the end zone before being stopped inside the 5-yard line. Asante would then rush in from 4 yards out, giving Westfield their first score with 9:50 to play in the third quarter. A successful extra point by Riley Nugent deadlocked the score at 7-7. Later in the third quarter, Madison was able to stop a Bulldogs drive resulting in Westfield senior Riley Nugent's 21-yard field goal to give the Bulldogs a 10-7 advantage under deteriorating conditions.

Then in the fourth quarter, Asante again came up big running in from 1 yard out, essentially closing the door on any Madison late game heroics. Asante finished the game with 114 yards and two touchdowns on 17 carries. Riley Nugent was again successful on the extra point, giving Westfield a 17-7 victory.

Westfield improved to (13-0) and their 37th consecutive win. They advance to play in the state semifinal game on Dec. 1 at 1 p.m., against Freedom-Woodbridge (12-1), who were winners over WT Woodson (11-2). For Madison (10-3) a valiant effort came up just short.

Clancy was correct about holding Madison scoreless in the sec-



The Westfield Bulldogs celebrate as the 6D regional champions after a 17-7 win over Madison.

Westfield's Maximus Wysocki #36 looks to bring down Isaiah Daniel #23.



ond half but may have underestimated his team would score 17 second half points.



Madison QB Patrick Berry has the attention of Westfield's Dylan Gepford #11, Joe Clancy #6, and Aron Dishun #9.



John Finney II #13 hits Westfield's Joe Clancy #6 after Clancy's reception.

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The ceremony opened with the presentation of flags by a four-person color guard from the Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution costumed in 18th century uniforms.

Girl Scouts Restore Cemetery

Twin sisters earn Silver Award.

A small celebration was held Saturday, Oct. 20, in the Gate Post Estates community, away from the crowds of Centreville Day, but still commemorating an important piece of the town's history. Senior Girl Scouts Lauren and Elizabeth Bradshaw coordinated and emceed a rededication ceremony for a Revolutionary War-era family cemetery that is the final resting place of one of the founders of Centreville and Patriot, John Orr, and his family.

As part of their Girl Scout Silver Award, the 13-year-old twin sisters coordinated the effort to clean out and preserve the Orr Family cemetery which is located in their neighborhood. Their completed project was commemorated with a half-hour ceremony attended by 52 friends and neighbors.

The ceremony opened with the presentation of flags by a four-person color guard from the Fairfax Resolves chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution costumed in 18th century uniforms. Remarks were given at the ceremony by Del. Tim Hugo (R-40) along with Lidia Soto-Harmon, the CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital. Mary Lipsey from the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, addressed the group, and the Rev. Carol Hancock, Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, delivered an invocation.

The Orr Family cemetery is located in Gate Post Estates on a land that is owned by the homeowners' association, but it had fallen into disrepair and become overgrown in the last 30 years. Clean-out of the cemetery involved clearing weeds, vines, and undergrowth, cutting saplings and dead trees, removing trash and branches, and raking and bagging eighty bags of leaf litter and debris.

Working in conjunction with Lipsey, the girls located field stone head stones and foot stones from the 1790s and identified 28 graves. To preserve the grave area, stone markers were encircled with pea gravel to delineate them, and 3,000 periwinkle ground cover plants were planted. Volunteers placed seven tons of gravel to create a walking path through



Lidia Soto-Harmon, the CEO of the Girl Scout Council of the Nation's Capital, with Senior Girl Scouts Lauren and Elizabeth Bradshaw.

the cemetery, and the area was spruced up with 12 truck loads of mulch. Kline Memorials of Manassas, owned by Chris and Rick Burroughs of Gate Post Estates, donated a granite marker at the entrance to the small cemetery.

Lauren and Elizabeth began work on this project over the summer when they contacted and gave presentations to numerous historic and civic groups in the area to raise awareness and funds for the project. Clean-out began in mid-July, and over the weekends involved more than 300 man-hours of work by 50 volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 3327, the Alpha Rho Chapter of Eta Sigma Alpha: the National Homeschool Honor Society, Gate Post Estates neighbors, and other friends.

Lauren and Elizabeth presented their project on the main stage at Centreville Day and then were awarded a Young Historians' Grant by the Friends of Historic Centreville. In their remarks, the Girl Scouts thanks local businesses who contributed to their project: Kline Memorials, RulyScapes, Davey Tree, Luck Stone, Village Landscapes, Home Depot, and Lowes, in addition to monetary donors: Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association, Fairfax Resolves Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, Del. Tim Hugo, Anthony Cascio of Centreville, and Jim and Carline Grove of Kennesaw, Ga. The Silver Award is the second highest award Girl Scouts can earn.

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COMMUNITY

Holiday Wishes

FROM PAGE 6

football team from Flint Hill in Oakton helps move the equipment into place and help with other needed set-up while a group from Westfield's Interact Club kicks off the decorating. Students from Westfield, Chantilly and Centreville High School make up the warehouse "labor" force year after year.

Leadership students from all three schools' Student Government classes fill various roles within the warehouse as the gifts begin to arrive. They help unload the gifts from the Giving Partners and take them to Braddock Ridge's Karen Fiala and her team at "Ground Zero." Gifts are checked and tags are secured before they go to "Receiving" where ONC's John O'Neill leads a team equipped with scanners to record each gift's arrival. O'Neill is the architect of ONC's custom software that has made it possible to continue running an assistance operation on this scale with so many personalized wish details.

There are opportunities for members of the community to join in Set-Up Day (Sunday, Dec. 9 from 12-2 p.m.) Packaging Day (Thursday, Dec. 14 in shifts starting at 9 a.m. and lasting all day) and Delivery (Sunday, Dec. 16) from 1-4 p.m. More details are available on the ONC website (www.ourneighborschild.org).

Families wishing to support a local child's wish (and aren't affiliated with one our local Giving Partners) can find ONC ornaments on trees at the Chantilly and Fair Lakes Walmart. General gifts are being collected at Rocky Run Middle School on Saturday, Dec. 8, from 9-11 a.m. Ourisman Chantilly Toyota has also offered to serve as an ONC Gift Drop Off location beginning Dec. 1.

ONC provides gifts for children as long as they are enrolled in school, and the most requested gift for teens is clothes. Recognizing that the best gift for a teen is the opportunity to try on and choose that gift themselves, ONC is trying to provide as many gift cards as they can with the funds they raise. Anyone willing to sponsor a \$25 gift card for a grateful teen can click Donate on the ONC website for information on PayPal, Venmo and the mailing address for checks.

ONC has seen a slight reduction in the number of families requesting assistance in the last two years, but there are still some very dire circumstances among those on this year's list. Several homeless families are hoping to have a permanent address before we deliver, and a family with a child with a brain tumor diagnosis and, beyond the emotional impact, the financial impact is looming. Many families on the ONC list are making ends meet on a monthly basis, but struggle with the added expenses of the holiday season. ONC volunteers are grateful for the opportunity to provide a little stress relief for the parents and holiday joy for their children. It's a big job in a small amount of time, but something our caring community has succeeded in doing for 26 years. We are looking forward to another great season and we can get it done. We just need a little help from "our neighbors."

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Mow, Mow, Mow Your Grass ...



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

... Not gently by the stream, and not by yours truly, either. Yet another task that seems beyond this homeowner's ability.

Which is fine by me because the older I get, it seems the less capable I become, and the less inclined I am to risk life and limb in the pursuit of that which that doesn't make me happy. Throw in a lung cancer diagnosis and the last thing my re-wired (figuratively speaking) brain will allow me to do is anything which doesn't put a smile on my face and a bounce in my step. And avoiding yard work ranks up there with most household tasks that a typical able-bodied homeowner takes pride in doing him or herself.

It's not so much that I take pride in avoiding it, it's just that I know my limitations, unlike Hal Holbrook in "Magnum Force."

Sharp objects, mechanical objects and/or electrical/spinning/rotating objects, objects with multiple doohickies (or a reasonable facsimile thereof), objects which require assembly/reading instructions are all challenging for me. Moreover, none of it fascinates me in the least.

What fascinates me more is the level of interest and passion with which so many of my brethren are engaged in the process; from start to finish.

I just don't get it. Nor have I ever gotten it, and neither do I expect to get it in the future.

Perhaps this total lack of interest comes from the experience of being a life-long renter. Never during my pre-college daze was my family ever responsible for yard work, home repairs (inside or out), or had much of a need for tools, other than the most rudimentary: hammer, screwdriver, pliers, etc.

No power tools. Nothing electrical that required a plug/proximity to an outlet. No plumbing, and of course, nothing like a chainsaw.

My parents were children of the Depression and all they had time for was school, play and some work; yes, even as children. And living in tenement/multi-level housing hardly lent itself to anything but doing what was necessary to survive.

But as my parents so often said: everyone else they knew was experiencing similar hardships so they didn't really realize what they were missing. Tools? Repairs? Amenities? Conveniences? Hardly. Toilet paper was a Sears catalogue cut into squares and hung on a nail in the bathroom down the hall – outside of their apartment.

They didn't have money or time for any of it. What money they earned was for food, rent, utilities and clothes; the most basic of basics.

It is through these experiences that my parents passed on their instincts and priorities to the their two Baby Boomer-era sons. There was ample love, affection and importance of family but not so much time and/or energy for interior and exterior home repairs, yard work, tools and what to do with them/how to use them as well as a variety of other homeowner-type tasks.

As a family of renters, it was never our responsibility. I suppose that was a match made in Depression-era heaven because very little in our family's past prepared us for this new future.

When my father returned from his service in World War II (working in Washington, D.C., actually), he had, unlike Liam Neeson, no unique set of skills. He had to find some vocation/avocation that would provide for his family – which he did, as a salesman.

After living in Dorchester, Mass. for their entire lives (since their parents immigrated to America in the early 20th century), in 1958, my parents moved the family to Newton Centre, Mass. – for the schools. We spent the next 15 years as renters and other than taking out the trash and the rubbish, I did very little to hone my homeowner-type skills.

I wouldn't say I've been stigmatized by this experience, but I learned very little that became useful in the maintenance and upkeep of the 275-year-old home, my wife Dina and I have occupied for the past 25+ years. Other than knowing how to ask for help that is.

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

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Encore's dancers always perform a Rockettes-themed number during their shows.

Encore Presents Holiday Show

FROM PAGE 2

the art and performance quality.” Calling the show “fun-loving and happy,” she said, “We have lots of little kids acting, too, and they’re really doing a great job. We’ve got bright and beautiful costumes, and the set puts you in the Christmas spirit as soon as you see it. We also have cool props, neat vocal numbers and a lot of actors who make it what it is.”

High-schooler Becca Perron plays Digits the elf. “She works in the mailroom and is very serious,” said Perron. “She doesn’t like her supervisor, Dally, because she bosses her around. Digits also thinks Dally is lazy and she should have her job. She’s fun to play because she’s not like me, and being an elf is just the best time. I get to be over-the-top and really let myself go.”

It’s Perron’s ninth year with Encore and sixth with its performing company. She likes the “Rag Dolls” number because, she said, “We get to make really funny faces and expressions as Raggedy Anns and Andys. And we especially like it when the kids in the audience laugh.”

“As a group, we put so much passion and love into

our shows,” she continued. “So when we see a big audience, it’s just the greatest feeling. We’re well-known for our professional sets and performances that set us apart from other dance groups.”

High-schooler Faith Chun plays an elf named Cookie. “She loves baking treats and has an energetic personality,” said Chun. “She gets excited after making cookies and other baked goods, but is disappointed when they’re all gone. It’s fun playing her because of her energy, and I’m sometimes that way, too.”

Chun’s favorite dance is “Rockettes,” during which the dancers wear white leotards with white fluff in back and have their hair in high ponytails. “I like that style of dance, with the kickline, and the number has both fast and slow parts,” she said. “We have sharp poses, so we have to really be in synch.”

Dancing since age 3, it’s her seventh year with Encore. “Dancing is always my passion,” said Chun. “It makes me happy and is my favorite thing to do. It takes me away from my stress and schoolwork, and I really enjoy doing it.” Regarding the show, she said audiences will like “the storyline and the dance styles. It will allow them to connect to Christmas in a different way and is enjoyable to watch.”

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

BURGLARY: 14330 Green Trails Boulevard (Centreville Elementary School), Nov. 23, 6:36 p.m. Officers responded to a school alarm and discovered two windows broken near one of the entrances. Once inside, additional damage was found throughout several areas of the school.

BRANDISHING: 13000 block of Braddock Road, Nov. 19, 5:31 p.m. A 32-year-old man from Manassas was involved in a traffic altercation with another motorist. The man reportedly pointed a firearm at the other driver. Officers stopped him and found a loaded handgun hidden in the car. He was charged with brandishing a firearm.

ROBBERY: 6400 block of Selby Court, Nov. 17, 11:37 p.m. The victim agreed online to meet a man outside the townhomes at this location to sell him shoes. After handing the suspect one of the shoes so that he could inspect it, the man then demanded the victim hand him the other shoe. The victim complied, and the suspect ran away with the shoes to the rear of the townhouses. A witness directed officers to the home into which the suspect ran. They arrested an 18-year-old man from Manassas, inside the home along with another teenager at the same location whom he was working with to set up the robbery. Both suspects were interviewed by detectives and the man was charged with robbery. Petitions are pending for

the juvenile.

BURGLARY: 6000 block of Skylemar Trail, Nov. 15, between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. The victim arrived home to find his basement window smashed and the home rummaged through. Several guns were stolen from the home.

NOV. 27 LARCENIES
14900 block of Braddock, purse from vehicle

13900 block of Gothic Drive, bicycle from residence

14500 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, merchandise from business

NOV. 26 LARCENIES
5700 block of Bent Tree Lane, package from residence

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