

APRIL 12-18, 2012

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

## Virginia Tech Tragedy: Five Years Later

### Erin Peterson's family then and now.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

For Celeste and Grafton Peterson, on April 16, 2007, the world as they knew it changed forever. That was the day their daughter — and only child — Erin was killed in the massacre at Virginia Tech.

Five years have passed since then, but time hasn't dulled the pain or filled the holes in their hearts.

"Grief is forever," said Celeste Peterson. "When you lose a child, you never come out of it. You just flow in life's mainstream differently."

A 2006 graduate of Westfield High, Erin was just 18 and in her freshman year at VT when a friend of Peterson's who'd been watching the news on TV called her. Said Peterson: "She said, 'There's been a shooting at Virginia Tech — have you talked to Erin?'"

Both worried and scared, Peterson desperately tried reaching her daughter, to no avail. "I kept calling her and there was no answer," she said. Her friend later

called back and said the number of people shot had reached 20.

Before it was over, a mentally unstable student, Seung-Hui Cho, would kill 32 people and then take his own life. Most of the victims — including Erin and fellow Westfield grad Reema Samaha — were in Norris Hall. Erin and Reema were in French class there together.

"I had Erin's password to get onto her computer to see what class she was in," said Peterson. "I found out she was in Norris. I had a sinking feeling because I knew that, if Erin was all right, she would have called me or Grafton right away."



Erin Peterson

Peterson saw a message posted on the school Web site at 9:26 a.m. that there'd been a "shooting incident" there. She and her husband were both at work, but immediately left and headed for VT. "I was praying," said Peterson. "I

knew something was really wrong, though." When they arrived, the scene was chaotic. "They sent the parents to the Inn at Virginia Tech and said there'd be information about our children, but there wasn't any," said Peterson. "Then they sent us to two hospitals [in case Erin was there]."

Returning to the inn, she said, "We were quickly hustled into a room filled with sher

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### Reema Samaha's family still grieves

BY JOE SAMAHA  
SPECIAL TO CENTRE VIEW

A 2006 Westfield High grad, Reema Samaha was a talented dancer and actress. The daughter of Mona and Joe Samaha of Centreville, she was also one of the victims at Virginia Tech. Below, her father reflects on his feelings, five years after that tragic day.

On April 16, it will be 1,826 days since Reema was killed. There is not a day that goes by that I do not think about Reema, her fellow VT classmates, professors and survivors.

There is not a day that I do not think of what we can do better as a society to make our institutions better in preventing school and campus shootings. Mona calls it my other full-time job.

Ken Feinberg [the attorney who oversaw the U.S. government's Sept. 11 Victim Compensation Fund] called it "God's work." I say it's the least I can do to honor everyone we lost on that fateful day who cannot speak or advocate for themselves. I know that those great kids and educators who died on April 16 would be doing this work if they



Reema Samaha

had survived.

I know this because the survivors of April 16, 2007 have indeed dedicated their lives, in one way or another, to make this world a better place to live and honor the 32 [who died].

When I learned of the shootings at VT that morning, I heard the death toll on the radio. Two students killed. I immediately turned on the TV and, in a matter of minutes, the death toll was climbing. Eight, 10, possibly more. Reports of students being shot "execution style". Twelve, 18 — this can't be possible.

Oh wow, Norris Hall; it's in an engineering building. Reema couldn't be in an engineering building at 9-something in the morning. She has to be OK. So I called. No answer. That's OK; maybe she's in lockdown like she was the very first day of classes back in August 2006. A shooter who had killed two deputies was near the campus, and Reema had called me and told me that they were locking down the school and she was heading back to her dorm. I assumed she would be doing the same that day.

As the minutes passed and Reema was

SEE WORKING, PAGE 14

## Raising Money and Awareness of Kidney Disease

### Local resident, TV reporter participating in 2012 Kidney Walk.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

Chantilly resident Jummy Olabanji has the distinction of being an on-air reporter with WJLA, the local ABC TV affiliate; and in 2002, she was part of the first class to graduate from Westfield High.

She's also one of 26 million adults in the U.S. who've been diagnosed with kidney disease. And on Sunday, April 22, at 3 p.m., she'll participate in the National

Kidney Foundation's 2012 Kidney Walk at the Reston Town Center.

Normally, Olabanji doesn't seek the limelight herself or want to be the subject of the news. But for this event, she's stepping out and speaking up to help others.

Diabetes and high blood pressure are the two main causes of kidney disease. And the groups



Olabanji

most affected by it are African Americans, Hispanics, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans and senior citizens. So when Olabanji's blood pressure started rising, she didn't ignore it.

"I'd started to notice my blood pressure was higher than normal and I didn't know why," she said. "But being an African American and knowing my family has high cholesterol, kidney disease and high blood pressure, I've always been health-conscious."

So she saw her doctor and, in

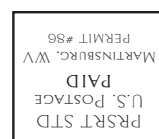
spring 2011, received her diagnosis. "My uncle is on dialysis and I've known other extended family members who have kidney disease," said Olabanji. "So you always know it's there, but don't know for certain it'll happen to you."

Luckily, she said, her case "isn't bad, at all. But because I carry the

gene and it affected my blood pressure, [the doctors] just wanted me to be more aware. I'm healthy, active and not overweight, but I've had to change my diet and add more exercises."

Before her diagnosis, Olabanji loved snacking on chips and would often salt her food. Now, she no

SEE KIDNEY WALK, PAGE 7



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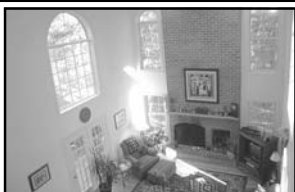
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## NEWS

# Gershwin Songs, Dazzling Dancing

## Westfield presents the musical, "Crazy for You."

By BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**F**eaturing a cast and crew of 50, Westfield High presents its Cappies entry, the George Gershwin musical, "Crazy for You."

Show times are Friday, April 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, April 21, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, April 22, at 2 p.m. at the school. Tickets are \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, for the general public, and \$10 for students with a valid student ID. Seating is reserved and tickets are available at [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com).

It's the story of a stage-struck, New York City playboy in a Nevada mining town chocked full of romance, mistaken identities and dazzling dances. It won three Tony Awards on Broadway, including Best Musical.

"This is more of a vaudeville-type production than any of our past musicals," said Director Susie Pike. "It's full of one-liners and silly humor and highlights the talents we have in this department."

Senior Colby Dezelick choreographed the show and plays the lead role of Bobby Child who loves dancing and wants to be in theater. But his mother wants him to work in a bank with her, so she sends him to Dead Rock, Nev., to foreclose on a property. He doesn't fit in there, but falls in love with Polly Baker, the only woman in town.

The property is an old theater, and Child decides to save it by putting on a show. Polly falls in love with him, too; but once she learns who he is, she thinks he's just tricking her. He then disguises himself and pretends to be a New York producer. There are also other love involvements and mix-ups in this romantic-comedy musical, but things eventually work out.

"Bobby's in his late 20s and all he wants to do is be on stage and dance," said Dezelick. "So it's funny to put the city boy into a small town in Nevada. He's friendly, energized and likes to have fun. He's never seen anyone like Polly before — full of gusto, instead of being prim and proper. I love this role and have always loved this show; it fits my personality because he wants to dance, sing, perform, help people and put on a show."

Dezelick's favorite number is "Slap that Bass" be-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY NELMS

**Top row, from left, are Bryan Pitt and Joey Biagini; (middle, from left) Colby Dezelick and Mitchell Buckley; and (front row, from left) Allie Koenigsberg and Madeleine Bloxam.**

cause "It's a really cool jazz piece that was a blast to choreograph. At one point, the girls become the bass that's being played." This show has some 10, big production numbers, and he's been choreographing them since last summer. Said Dezelick: "The closing song of Act I, 'I Got Rhythm,' has a seven-minute dance break that's high-energy and very entertaining, and the audience will love it."

He said the whole show is funny and all ages will enjoy it. "Younger people will like the dancing, costumes and sets," said Dezelick. "And older ones will like the classic, Gershwin music and will be humming the tunes when they leave."

Playing Polly Baker is junior Allie Koenigsberg. "She's tomboyish, growing up around men all her life," said Koenigsberg. "Her mom, a former stage performer, died when she was young, so she's very close with her dad. She's outgoing and treats the people in town like they're part of her family. And then along comes Bobby, someone new and different."

Koenigsberg's also enjoying her role because she sees a similarity between her and Polly. "She presents herself as having a hard exterior; but in reality, she's soft on the inside," said Koenigsberg. "She's such

SEE GERSHWIN SONGS, PAGE 4



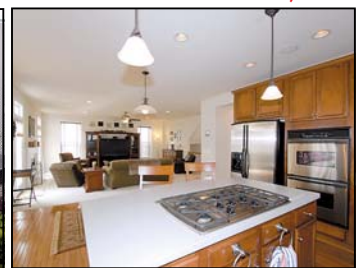
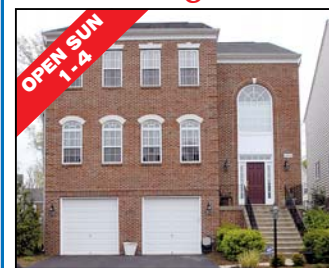
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## ROUNDUPS

### Parkway to be Repaved

Over the spring and summer, VDOT plans to repave 24 miles of the 32-mile, six-lane Fairfax County Parkway between Route 7 in Dranesville and Rolling Road in Springfield. The \$19 million maintenance project will take place mostly at night and on weekends and will require lane closures and occasional detours.

In advance of the work, VDOT will hold community meetings to discuss the work plan and schedule. Locally, one will be held Tuesday, April 24, at 7 p.m., at the VDOT District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive, (off West Ox Road, across from Costco) in Fairfax.

While work will begin in April and be completed in October, the heaviest traffic impacts will be scheduled from June until Labor Day, when schools are out for the summer. Parkway sections that won't be repaved include the construction work-zone area at the Fairfax Lakes Parkway and locations that were paved in the last five years.

### Become a CASA Volunteer

A new case of child abuse or neglect enters the Fairfax County Domestic & Juvenile Relations Court system once every 38 hours. These children need caring advocates to help ensure that they grow up in safe and permanent homes. Fairfax CASA trains volunteers to advocate for a child's best interests in Court.

To become a volunteer position with a serious purpose that can create real change, attend Fairfax CASA's upcoming information session at the Centreville Regional Library on Saturday, April 14, from 11 a.m.-12 noon. For reservations or information, contact Elisa Kosarin, associate director, Recruitment and Training, at 703-273-3526, ext. 22, or at [ekosarin@casafairfax.org](mailto:ekosarin@casafairfax.org), or visit [www.fairfaxcasa.org](http://www.fairfaxcasa.org).

### Free Income Tax Preparation

People who worked in 2011 and earned less than \$50,000 may qualify for free, income-tax preparation. It's available Saturdays, through April 14, from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. If married and filing a joint return, both spouses must be present. For a list of items participants must bring with them, go to [www.nvacash.org](http://www.nvacash.org) and click on "free tax preparation."

### WFCCA Quarterly Meeting

The West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) will hold its quarterly meeting Monday, April 16, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly. At that time, elections will be held for WFCCA president and Land-Use Committee members.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 19, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. But residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may properly inspect and adjust them, as needed.

However, because of time constraints, only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected. That way, inspectors may have enough time to properly instruct the caregiver on the correct use of the child seat. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

### Police Seeking Auxiliary Officers

The Fairfax County Police Department is seeking people to join its Auxiliary Police Officer (APO) program. An all-volunteer, civilian force comprised of 108 men and women, APO's play a role in supplementing the sworn personnel in essential, public-safety operations. They perform a myriad of duties such as staffing sobriety checkpoints and protecting the integrity of crime scenes; they may also be deployed to natural or manmade disasters at

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## NEWS



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Nearly the entire cast of Centreville High's production of "Radium Girls."

## 'It's a Genuine, Theatrical Gift'

### Centreville High School presents "Radium Girls."

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

In Orange, N.Y., from 1924 to the late 1930s, the U.S. Radium Corp. employed hundreds of women to paint the faces of watches and clocks. At that time, radium was heralded as a miracle cure for many diseases — and it glowed in the dark.

"But the workers were ingesting it because, after a few brush strokes, they re-pointed their brushes by putting them in their mouths," said Centreville High Theater Director Mike Hudson. "So they were exposed to massive amounts of deadly radiation and, over time, they got radium poisoning."

Some of the factory girls brought a lawsuit against the company, and it garnered major publicity in the press. The play, "Radium Girls," tells their story, and Centreville High is presenting it to local audiences over two weekends.

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, April 20-21; and Thursday-Friday-Saturday, April 26, 27, 28, at 7:30 p.m. each night. Tickets are \$10 at the door or via [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/232709](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/232709). Student tickets, April 26, with ID, are \$5. It's recommended for sixth-graders through adults because of the serious subject matter.

"This play examines man's arrogance and ignorance of the world around them," said Hudson. "At first, the corporation didn't know the harm radium did. Later, it denied knowledge of and accountability for the situation and tried to cover it up and stall the lawsuit."

"But thanks to the 'Radium Girls' and their success in bringing attention to the deplorable conditions in U.S. factories, industrial safety standards here were significantly tightened — sparing countless other girls

from similar fates. The extraordinary honesty achieved with this play will touch audiences. It's more than a story based on history — it's a genuine, theatrical gift."

There's a cast and crew of 27, and Hudson says rehearsals are going well. "The actors have really taken these parts personally, and that's helped them grow these characters," he said. "They'll wear 1930s-period costumes and makeup, and the multi-level set will show the factory interior and some of the workers' homes."

Hudson said the audience will enjoy some irreverent humor within the show's dark content, plus its fast pace. And, he added, "They should walk away with a more clear idea of their responsibility to their fellow man."

Senior Emily Dwornik plays watch-painter Grace Fryer, who goes from age 15 to her early 20s in the show. "She undergoes an incredible transformation, starting as an innocent girl who does what she's told," said Dwornik. "But as the radium poisoning progresses, she finds her voice and inner strength to finally stand up for herself. She's the perfect underdog."

Dwornik calls this part "the zenith of my career at Theatre Centreville — easily the most-demanding role I've ever had to play. There's so much historical context, and I'm trying to honestly portray someone who had such a horrible disease and was just squashed by this company."

She and the other actors all researched both that era and situation to better understand their characters. "The message is that, no matter how difficult the situation, it's important to stand up for yourself and the people you care about," she said. "I love this show — it's a great example of how you're never down and out."

Playing Diane Roeder, wife of the U.S. Radium Corp.'s president, is junior Binta Barry. Always concerned with her husband's welfare, "She's his equal

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# Gershwin Songs, Romance And Dazzling Dancing

FROM PAGE 2

a fun, charismatic, lively character to play. She marches to her own drum and is comfortable in her skin."

Koenigsberg especially likes the song, "Someone to Watch over Me." She sings it; and, she said, "It's the moment when Polly breaks her outer shell and the audience falls in love with her and starts rooting for her." She said the show is filled with so many different kinds of numbers and costumes and "the sets are amazing. This musical has so much to offer."

Senior Corinne Holland portrays Patsy, a ditzy showgirl from the follies in New York. "She's outgoing, but kind of in her own, little world," said Holland. "She's one of the dancers that help bring the show to life. She's a happy character and I'm happy, too, so playing her comes easily."

Holland's favorite number is "Entrance to Nevada." It's the first time the New York girls come to Nevada, and the males in town are excited to see other women. Said Holland: "It's a quick and upbeat song with a grand ending." She said the audience will also like the show's costumes. "Most of them are handmade, and a lot of work went into them," she said. "They look fabulous."

Playing Irene, Bobby's fiancé in New York,

is junior Madeleine Bloxam. "He doesn't love her, but she's convinced they're getting married, so she follows him to Nevada," said Bloxam. "She's a rich debutante — stuck up, self-centered and nasty. Even while being rude to people, she maintains her class."

Bloxam likes her role because she gets to be "kind of sultry toward the end and that's fun. But it's harder to get into character, so it's more challenging." She likes the song, "Naughty Baby," best because "it's where Irene changes and lets loose." She said the audience will like how the cast performs Gershwin's songs. "They'll bring back memories to a lot of the audience," said Bloxam. "It's special that they still have all their power today, 60 years after they first came out."

Marketing and Publicity is a new Cappies category this year, so she and senior Chaz Coffin took on that task, too. "We never knew it took so much work to publicize a show, but we enjoyed doing it," said Bloxam.

"It's great to show what we can do, not just as actors, but on the business side of the production," added Coffin. "I learned you need to plan and do everything ahead of time so everything goes smoothly."

Director Pike noted, as well, the "creativity, sense of style and research" that stu-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY NELMS

The follies girls pose with male leads (from left) Joey Biagini and Colby Dezelick in Westfield's "Crazy for You."

dent costume-designers Bayleigh Aschenbrenner and Zoe Hawryluk brought to their craft. Their adult mentors were parents Chris Hobbs, Patti Dezelick and Ginny McLaughlin. "The costumes are magnificent," said Pike. "They're bright, colorful and sparkly."

Yvonne Henry is choreography and props mentor; Carol Jones, music director; and Dolly Stevens, vocal director. Producer and assistant director is Lori Knickerbocker; stage manager is Olivia Witt, assisted by Ally

Engelbrecht and Shannon Douglass.

The sets show a New York theater and a Nevada saloon that'll revolve to show their interiors as well as exteriors. There's also an old theater that's become a post office.

"This show highlights our great dancers, and there are lots of wonderful character roles, too," said Pike. "And the Gershwin music is so appealing, widely recognized and memorable. People will go away happy, tapping their feet and impressed with our tremendous talent."

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# Centreville High School To Present 'Radium Girls'



From left: A society woman (Sarah Emsley) with Madame Curie (Binta Barry) at a news conference.

FROM PAGE 3

in their relationship and has a say in his plans and actions," said Barry. "She's challenging because she's in her 40s and married and a lot goes into developing this character. But I enjoy the challenge; this play's about something that happened in real life and it showcases the talent in our Theater Department."

Barry also portrays Madame Curie, who discovered how radium could be used medically to prolong people's lives. "It's interesting playing a character people know by name," she said. "She was down to earth and passionate about her work, and that's something I can relate to easily."

Senior Kelly Strauch plays a reporter for a New York newspaper. "She over-sensationalizes all the stories about the Radium Girls and makes sure people get angry about and interested in them," said Strauch. "It's fun because she's omniscient, but also interacts with the characters. So she's involved with the storyline and moves it forward, at the same time."

Strauch also plays Grace's mother. "She cares about her daughter, but Grace's drive to be in court and carry out the case is hard for her financially and emotionally," said Strauch. "She sees

her daughter going up against injustice; and even though she believes Grace is right, she doesn't think she can win."

Since the story's told via vignettes, said Strauch, "The audience gets to see it from different sides. And that mirrors the court case showing evidence from both points of view."

Portraying the corporation president, Arthur Roeder, is junior Daniel Lindgren. "He's 34 for most of the play and ages to 65 at the end," said Lindgren. "He's well-meaning, but has been put into a rough situation. He's been given conflicting information on the effects of radiation. He honestly believes it's OK because his plant supplies radium to put into drinking water because people believed it had invigorating properties."

By the time Roeder realizes it's harmful, it's too late. "So he's really a complicated character," said Lindgren. "Even when he does know, his board of directors, stockholders and lawyers tell him to just stay the path to keep the company in business, so he's conflicted. It's challenging playing this role, but exciting to get into all his motives to understand him. He's trying to be a good guy, but doesn't know what's best to do, so it's fun and a change for me to play such an ambiguous character."

Lindgren said the play's special effects and staging choices will add an eerie tone to the show. "The audience will like the story because it's very powerful," he said. "They'll really feel for the characters and their plight will hit home with them."

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

any time.

APO's come from a variety of backgrounds that enhance the FCPD with their unique sets of knowledge, skills and abilities. A blend of retirees and employed, APOs like to learn and have the time to commit. Once they pass a background check, they're required to undergo training at the Criminal Justice Academy in Chantilly. It runs two evenings a week and a few Saturdays a month during a 16-week academy slated to begin in January 2013.

Applications are not being accepted. To learn more about the APO program or request an application, call 703-280-0576 or e-mail [AuxiliaryPolice@FairfaxCounty.gov](mailto:AuxiliaryPolice@FairfaxCounty.gov).

## Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteersolutions.htm).

## WFCM Seeks Food, Volunteers

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of oil (48 oz. or smaller); flour (2-5 lb. bag); sugar (2-5 lb. bag); canned meats; salad dressing, jelly; jam; spaghetti sauce, canned fruit; canned beets, spinach, greens, potatoes and mixed vegetables; pancake mix and syrup; mayonnaise, baby food (stages 1 and 3); cocoa, coffee, ketchup and mustard. Also needed are laundry detergent, toothpaste and shampoo.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive (near Backyard Grill and Bar) in Chantilly. Volunteers are also needed:

**Thrift store:** Volunteers needed Mondays and Fridays, for two or three hours between 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Volunteers needed Tuesdays and Thursdays, for two or three hours between 1-6 p.m., as well as Saturdays, from 2-5 p.m. For more information, contact Volunteer Manager Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656.

**Food pantry:** Volunteers are needed Mondays and Wednesdays, from 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

**Furniture ministry:** One person is needed to help move furniture that will be given to clients in need.



Author Jarrett J. Krosoczka recently visited with students at Union Mill Elementary School and spoke about the writing process, how a book gets published, and what it takes to learn how to create and draw picture books. He also shared how important it is to be persistent when one really wants to accomplish something. Krosoczka is the author of more than 10 picture books as well as the graphic novel series, "The Lunch Lady." Krosoczka's "Lunch Lady" series was voted number one for 3rd and 4th grade students in 2010 and 2011 by the Children's Choice Book Awards.

# OPINION

## On Funding the Silver Line

Commonwealth will collect the dividends, but refuses to invest; Northern Virginia pays.

Northern Virginia localities should together commission a study now to determine how much growth is stimulated by the opening of the Metro stations in Tysons and along the toll road out to Dulles, how many new jobs created, quantify how much that growth leads to increased income and sales tax, and how much revenue (taxes) would get shipped off to Commonwealth coffers.

There should be a way to keep that money here in Northern Virginia.

Residents from around the region will pay for the majority of the construction of rail to Dulles via the Dulles Toll Road.

Virginia is all too happy to benefit from one of the biggest drivers of the Northern Virginia economic engine, Dulles Airport. Rail to Dulles, part of the plan for the airport since its conception, is a key part of supporting the expected volume growth in passengers and other commerce at the airport. But at every turn, the state has pushed paying for the rail line onto Northern Virginia, onto Fairfax and Loudoun county governments, onto property owners in the cor-

ridor and especially onto drivers on the Dulles Toll Road.

While Virginia had committed to contributing an additional \$150 million to the rail project, and at various points the governor and the General Assembly dangled \$200-300 million, it now appears that money will not be forthcoming. It was never enough.

This is one more example of the Commonwealth of Virginia happily collecting revenues, including income and sales taxes, generated from the economic vitality of Northern Virginia, then forcing Northern Virginia residents to pay for the infrastructure of that economic activity out of local funds and personal pockets.

The most recent Virginia Department of Aviation report identifies at least \$17.5 billion in annual economic activity in Virginia from Dulles and Reagan National airports, with Dulles providing the majority of that. The number of jobs created and maintained by this activity is staggering, and in Virginia, the state collects 100 percent of the income tax; there is no local income tax.

The state collects the income tax from the good jobs generated here in Northern Virginia by the airports, by the high tech firms, by the business innovators, by proximity to the Pentagon and the federal government. Then the governor celebrates the result, that Virginia is top ranked as business friendly.

The Commonwealth collects much of the tax revenue that results from this activity, but would pay only three percent of the \$6.2 billion cost of rail to Dulles. This will force more than 80 percent of the costs of building rail to Dulles to local drivers and property owners. The toll road contribution is projected at 57 percent of the total.

Having major airports adequately served by rail and other transportation options is more than an amenity, it is part of sustaining the economic benefit that comes from major airports. The question is not whether we should be building rail to Dulles, but about who benefits and who pays.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Unnatural Selection State and local leaders clash over responsibility of secondary roads.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
CENTRE VIEW

Who is responsible for fixing potholes on Fairfax County roads? State leaders in Richmond want to hand over control to transportation officials at the Fairfax County Government Center. But Chairwoman Sharon Bulova is joining with leaders in Loudoun County and Prince William County to oppose the move. In a joint letter to the General Assembly, the local government leaders in the three Northern Virginia jurisdictions and Chesterfield say that they oppose the shift in responsibility as an unfunded mandate, one that would hurt taxpayers.

"To put it bluntly, devolution would require a local tax increase," the joint letter concluded.

State control of local roads dates back to the Great Depression, when leaders in Richmond stepped in to handle infrastructure needs that were going unmet because local governments were broke. Some say the system is outdated and ill-equipped for the modern era, especially because local governments can respond more effectively to needs in Fairfax County than state officials in the Virginia Department of Transportation headquarters on East Broad Street in Richmond.

"Listen, I'm a child of the '70s," said Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton, a former chairman of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors. "I'm a big fan of Devo, which was short for devolution."

Connaughton says Virginia is one of the only

states in the country where state officials have the responsibility of maintaining local roads. Cities and towns already take care of their own roads, and Arlington County has long maintained its own infrastructure. That's why the secretary and others want the three largest jurisdictions in Northern Virginia to assume an increased responsibility. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Gerald Hyland says the concept could work, but only if the state is willing to fork over enough cash to go along with the responsibility.

"It would be essential that the money follow

"Listen, I'm a child of the '70s. I'm a big fan of Devo, which was short for devolution."

— Transportation Secretary Sean Connaughton

the devolution," Hyland said. "Or else you are going to have revolution on the part of local governments."

**THE COALITION** of local government chairmen says that after years of neglect, Virginia's transportation funds are nearly depleted. The Virginia Department of Transportation estimates that 34 percent of secondary roads in Virginia are substandard, which means that state officials would be handing over substandard resources with little or no way to pay for improvements. Even if hundreds of millions could be earmarked to bring these roads up to standard, the local governments would be on the hook to pay for maintenance in the future.

"Our roads are in deplorable shape," the leaders wrote in the joint statement to the

General Assembly. "As the nation pulls from the constraints of recession, the risks associated with devolution pose an even greater threat to the vitality of Virginia."

Bulova likes to compare the process of devolution to ownership of a car that has failed all the inspections. All of the tires in Bulova's metaphor are flat. It needs a paintjob. Many repairs are needed. Like the state's system of secondary roads, which she says are "deplorable," the imaginary car is more of a burden than an asset.

"It's as though the state coasted it into the driveway of the county and said, 'Here, it's yours. Take it,'" Bulova said. "And now it's our responsibility to fix it up."

**ALTHOUGH LOCAL LEADERS** usually argue for more power, the debate over devolution turns the traditional paradigm on its head. The five chairmen acknowledged in the joint statement that responsibility of the commonwealth's secondary road system is an example of an instance where "constituency and economics of scale" point to state-level responsibility.

The stakes are high because if Connaughton is successful in shifting responsibility in Fairfax, Loudoun, Prince William and Chesterfield, more jurisdictions will be asked to step up in the future.

"Other counties in the commonwealth also recognize that devolution will not stop at our borders," the joint letter concludes. "In the coming years, proposals to devolve road maintenance to more and more localities would come before the General Assembly."

## CENTRE VIEW

SOUTHERN EDITION

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# Kidney Walk To Raise Funds, Awareness

FROM PAGE 1

longer uses table salt and asks restaurants not to put any additional salt on her meal. She also reads food labels to check out the sodium content because, she said, "Sodium isn't good for your heart and blood pressure."

In addition, she now does cardio exercises a couple times a week at a gym and checks her blood pressure at home. The 2006 Virginia Tech grad is also looking forward to participating in the upcoming Kidney Walk.

The nonprofit National Kidney Foundation is dedicated to preventing kidney disease and supporting people and families affected by it, while promoting the importance of organ donation. Funds from the 5K or 1-mile memorial walk will help it carry out its goals, and that's why Olabanji is taking part.

"I'm a busy, young professional who hesitated to say anything about my condition to anyone because lots of people are in worse shape than I am," she said. "I'm fine. I'm simply trying to shed light on the wonderful work the Kidney Foundation is doing to raise money and help people in the community with preventative care and early detection."

"They're able to offer free, kidney-disease screenings because of the money they raise," continued Olabanji. "So anything I can do to help them, I'm happy to do."

## Kidney Screening

A Kidney Early Evaluation Program screening will be held Sunday, April 29, from noon-4 p.m., at the Vienna Adventist Academy, 340 Courthouse Road S.W., in Vienna. It's free to people, 18 and over, with risk factors for kidney disease, diabetes or high blood pressure. To make an appointment, call 202-244-7900

She said she'll be pleased if she can encourage or help anyone who may be at risk to go to a screening and get checked for high blood pressure, diabetes or kidney disease. "You may be healthy, you may be fine," she said. "But it's better to get checked and know for sure."

Most people don't even know diabetes is the number-one cause of kidney failure, said Olabanji. "You hear so much about other diseases but, for many people, this is a silent killer — and they don't know anything's wrong until it's too late. Just recently, for example, [celebrity] Nick Cannon just collapsed and had no idea his kidneys were shutting down."

April is National Organ Donation Month and, at the Kidney Walk, she'll be walking in honor of her uncle Diran Idowu who suffers from kidney disease and is searching for a replacement kidney. That's why she says she's become "kidney smart" and truly realized there's no cure for kidney disease.

"There are thousands of people across this country, just like my uncle, in need of a new

kidney to live a longer, healthier life," said Olabanji. "So many people die every year, waiting for a kidney. But you only need one kidney to survive; so I hope some people will share their spare."

The April 22 walk falls on Olabanji's birthday, and she's delighted to spend it that way. Joining her in the 5K walk around the Reston Town Center will be nine of her close friends and family members. Their team name is Teal Team Six.

"I picked the name after I heard about the amazing heroism shown by the U.S. Navy's elite Seal Team Six squadron," she said. "They took down one of the world's most-feared terrorists, and my team is going to fight for awareness of kidney disease. Teal happens to be one of my favorite colors, as well." Olabanji hopes to raise \$1,000 for the event and has already collected \$745 in donations from friends, co-workers and relatives. Contributions to the Foundation may also be made at [http://donate.kidney.org/site/TR/Walk/NationalCapitalArea?pg=entry&fr\\_id=4311](http://donate.kidney.org/site/TR/Walk/NationalCapitalArea?pg=entry&fr_id=4311).

Usually, Olabanji does her talking on ABC-TV's "Good Morning, Washington" show. But this time, she said, "I'm using my voice and energy for those who can't. Come out and walk, bring the family, donate if you can — and support the Kidney Foundation and the great job they're doing in the Washington, D.C., area."

## Kidney Disease Facts

Chronic kidney disease is characterized by a gradual loss of kidney function over time. It increases the risk of heart and blood vessel disease. Early detection and treatment can often prevent it from getting worse. When kidney disease progresses, it can lead to kidney failure, requiring dialysis or a kidney transplant.

❖ There are 10,146 patients on dialysis in Virginia, 765 in Fairfax County and 49 in the City of Fairfax.

❖ The Washington, D.C., area leads the nation in kidney disease, with more than 700,000 cases.

❖ Each year, more than 87,000 Americans die from causes related to kidney failure.

❖ Of the more than 112,000 Americans currently awaiting organ transplants, nearly 90,000 are waiting for a kidney.

❖ In 2010, there were 16,901 kidney transplants performed in the U.S. — illustrating the gap between the number of people waiting for a kidney and the number actually receiving one.

❖ Every day, 18 people die while waiting for a transplant of a vital organ, such as a kidney, heart or lung.

❖ Kidney disease hits minorities disproportionately, with African Americans affected at three times the rate of Caucasians.

❖ Cardiovascular disease is the number one killer of people with CKD.

❖ Just one organ/tissue donor can save or improve the lives of up to 50 people.

## Symptoms

Most people may not have any severe symptoms until their kidney disease is advanced. However, they may notice that they have:

- ❖ trouble concentrating
- ❖ a poor appetite
- ❖ trouble sleeping
- ❖ nighttime muscle cramps
- ❖ swollen feet and ankles
- ❖ puffiness around the eyes, especially in the morning
- ❖ dry, itchy skin
- ❖ less energy and feel more tired
- ❖ the need to urinate more often, especially at night.

— Source: National Kidney Foundation

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## ENTERTAINMENT

### TUESDAYS IN APRIL

**Family Nights at Chick-fil-A.** Free. Tuesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. At Chick-fil-A at Chantilly Place.

- ❖ Tuesday, April 17 - Family Fitness Night with nZone and Balloon Art with Marsha G
- ❖ Tuesday, April 25 - Family Music Night with Mr. D; customers will also receive a free Kid's Grilled Nugget Meal (4-count) with the purchase of an adult meal.

### TUESDAY NIGHTS

**World-Class Jazz.** 6 to 9 p.m. Paul Langosch on bass and Rick Whitehead on guitar. At the Copper Canyon, 5815 Trinity Parkway, Centreville. Call 703-830-6600 for reservations.

### TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS

**Centreville Stitches** welcome adults who enjoy knitting, crocheting, or other needlework crafts and conversation. Join us at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Admission is free. Contact Jo at 703-803-0595 or email joknitter@verizon.net.

- ❖ Thursday, April 12 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m.
- ❖ Tuesday, April 24 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

### ZUMBA FITNESS CLASSES IN CHANTILLY

Latin-based dance fitness classes — no gym membership required. Mondays and Wednesdays 7 to 8 p.m. Go to [WWW.GOZUMBAFUN.COM](http://WWW.GOZUMBAFUN.COM).

### FRIDAY/APRIL 13

**An Evening with Kathryn Erskine.** 7:30 p.m. Meet National Book Award winner, Kathryn Erskine, author of Quaking, Mockingbird and The Absolute Value of Mike. Cosponsored by the Friends of the Chantilly Regional Library. Books available for sale and signing. Age 10 to adult. At the Chantilly Regional Library, Stringfellow Road, Chantilly.

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With the band, JP McDermott and Western Bop. Drop-in beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

**Country Dance Night.** 8 p.m. Cost is \$15. Choice of Two-Step or Line Dance Lesson taught by professional teachers. Attire is cowboy or cowgirl. Proceeds will benefit the Clifton Dance Academy. At Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Visit [www.CliftonDanceAcademy.com](http://www.CliftonDanceAcademy.com).

### SATURDAY/APRIL 14

**Spring Upscale Resale.** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free admission. The Salvation Army Fairfax Corps will host a gigantic sale of personal treasures and sundries donated from their members and several estates. At the Salvation Army Fairfax Corps, 4915 Ox Road in Fairfax. Call 703-893-1113 or 703-356-4058.

**School Clean-Up.** 9 a.m. to noon. Help serve your community at the annual Colin Powell Elementary Community Clean-Up. Staff, students, parents, and community members are invited to help clean up the school and its surrounding community. It is suggested that participants wear long pants, long sleeved shirts, and bring work gloves. Trash bags will be provided by the school, along with water and snacks. Contact [CMABt@fcps.edu](mailto:CMABt@fcps.edu).

**Westfield High School Mulch Sale.** Cost is \$2 per bag. To place an order, go to <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/mulch-order-form.html> and place your order online. Delivery is scheduled for April 14. Proceeds will go toward the All-Night Grad Party. For questions, contact [bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org](mailto:bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org).

**3-D Art Work.** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cox Communications hosts interactive event at Fair Oaks Mall featuring 3-D Work by world-renowned artist, Kurt Wenner. Visitors can also enjoy free face-painting, win prizes and learn about Cox Communications products and services. Artwork will be on display until May 13. At Fair Oaks Mall Grand Court, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax.

### SUNDAY/APRIL 15

**N Gauge Train Display.** 1 to 4 p.m. The Northern Virginia NTRACK members will have a display and N Gauge trains running. Cost is \$3/adults; \$1/children. At the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) phone 703-425-9225.

### MONDAY/APRIL 16

**Strawberry & Literary Festival.** 7 p.m. Hosted by the Centreville Garden Club Meeting. Members share favorite books and magazines that have a garden-related focus. Strawberry celebration & desserts. At Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Meetings generally 3rd Monday each month. Learn more at [centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com](http://centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com) or [centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com](mailto:centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com). Visitors welcome. Call 703-830-2942.

**Republican Women of Clifton.** 7:30 p.m. Guest Chet Nagle, author of the book Iran Covenant. Talk will focus on the military options the U.S. and Israel face regarding Iran's nuclear weapons program. Meeting at Centreville High School Media Center, Union Mill Road, Clifton.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 17

**DASH at Famous Dave's.** 5 to 9 p.m. Dating Abuse Stops Here invites you to a fundraiser commemorating the 3rd Anniversary of Siobhan Russell in whose memory the organization was founded. At Famous Dave's, 14452 Chantilly Crossing Lane, Chantilly. Visit

[www.datingabusestopshere.com](http://www.datingabusestopshere.com).

### APRIL 17 TO 19

**Space Shuttle Discovery Arrival and Welcome.** On Tuesday, April 17, the space shuttle Discovery is expected to fly low over Dulles Airport around 10 a.m. and land. On Thursday, April 19 at 11 a.m. is the ceremony to receive the shuttle at the Museum. To be held at the National Air and Space Museum's Steven F. Udvar Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Parkway, Chantilly. The ceremony is open to the public, free of charge. There will be standing space for thousands of people. There is a \$15 parking fee. Visit <http://www.nasm.si.edu/udvarhazy>.

### FRIDAY/APRIL 20

**Swing Dancing.** 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Boogie Woogie Hall of Famer Carl Sonny Leyland. 8:30-9 p.m. drop-in beginner swing lesson; 9 p.m.-12 midnight dance. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

### SATURDAY/APRIL 21

**Gospell Concert.** 6 p.m. Featuring All4Hym Bluegrass Gospel Band from Front Royal. At Oakton Baptist Church, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. The church is located on Route 50, 1/5 mile east of the Route 28 overpass on the corner of Route 50 and Sullyfield Circle. Call 703 631-1799.

**Clifton Turns 110.** At 2 p.m. Celebrate the Town of Clifton's birthday at the Gazebo in the Clifton Town Park. Cake, beverages and singing. There will also be a bench dedication in honor of Paul and Louise Longbeam.

**Fire and Rescue Family Fest.** 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Free. The event will feature an appearance by the children's music group, Silly Bus, a 2009 Mom's Choice Award winner. For a \$10 donation, attendees will receive a raffle ticket and a Mini-Moo and a Pev's Paintball Pass. A fundraiser for the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation. At Bull Run Regional Park Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville.

**Roots & Shoots Earth Day Event.** 9 a.m. to noon. Participants will interact with nature and learn about the environment and endangered species. Activities include planting, weeding, mulching, trash clean-up, and crafts for kids. Participants must be at least five years old (ages 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult) and should bring a water bottle, sunscreen, hat garden gloves, and insect repellent. At Cub Run RECenter, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Contact Debbie Lodato, volunteer manager at 703-817-9423, or [deborah.lodato@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:deborah.lodato@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Global Youth Service Day.** More than a dozen nonprofits are offering volunteer projects throughout Fairfax County. To view a project near you and reserve a spot, visit [www.volunteerfairfax.org](http://www.volunteerfairfax.org). For questions, contact Elaine Lydick at 703-246-3533 or [elydick@volunteerfairfax.org](mailto:elydick@volunteerfairfax.org).

### SUNDAY/APRIL 22

**Going Green in Your Rose Garden.** 2 p.m. Free. Arlington Rose Foundation presents speaker, LeeAnn Seeley, a self-described "Earth Angel". Learn about organic and low risk pesticides. Door prizes. Upstairs at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks location. Contact 703-371-9351.

**Fair Lakes Community Clean-Up.** The Ed Lang Team of Re/Max Premier will provide all the clean-up supplies that are needed on the day of the clean-up. Volunteers will receive a VDOT orange trash bag, a pair of latex gloves, and a designated location to clean! At the end of the clean-up, every volunteer will get to enjoy free pizza provided by Tony's New York Pizza in Fair Lakes Shopping Center. Drop by the Re/Max Office at 13135 Lee Jackson Hwy #115, Fairfax, and pick up your free Earth Day clean-up supply kit. Free kits will be available throughout the month of April, Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. For details or to sign up as a volunteer, visit: [www.GoFairLakesEarthDay.com](http://www.GoFairLakesEarthDay.com)

**2012 Holocaust Commemoration.** 2 to 5:30 p.m. Includes survivor-teen dialogues (2-4pm), name readings (2-4pm), art exhibits, presentation of the Youth Tolerance Project award and a commemoration in song, readings & remembrances (4:5-5:30pm). At the Geshur Jewish Day School, 4800 Mattie Moore Court, Fairfax.

### MONDAY/APRIL 23

**Kindergarten Orientation.** Cub Run Elementary will conduct a kindergarten orientation/registration. Parents will receive an overview of the curriculum and meet the teachers. Last names beginning with A-L are from 1:30-2:30 p.m. and M-Z are from 2:30-3:30 p.m. Kindergarten students will visit the classrooms while parents are registering. Parents need to bring with them an original birth certificate, proof of residency (lease or deed) and physical/immunization records. Call 703-633-7500.

### TUESDAY/APRIL 24

**Tea and Shakespeare.** 2 to 3:30 p.m. Cost is \$25. Celebrate Shakespeare Day with a traditional English Tea of sweets and savories. Hear how tea has impacted history since William Shakespeare's day. Listen to dramatic readings of the Bard's work and try your hand at composing your own sonnet. At Sully Historic Site. Call 703-437-1794.

### WEDNESDAY/APRIL 25

**Understanding Medicare, Medigap and Medicare Part D.** 3 to 4:30 p.m. Part of the 2012 Seminars for Family Caregivers series. At the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. [Caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov), or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)



## Public's Help Sought in Exposure Cases

**F**airfax County Crime Solvers is asking for the public's assistance in identifying the men responsible for at least nine, reported indecent exposures in the Sully Police District. Each of these incidents occurred on the trails of the Cub Run Stream Valley Park between Cub Stream Drive and Cranoke Street in Centreville. Seven happened last year and two, this year.

### 2011 INCIDENTS

**Tuesday, March 1**, around 3:30 p.m., near Cub Stream Drive;  
**Thursday, May 26**, around 3:52 p.m., near Sully Park Drive;  
**Sunday, June 5**, around 1:30 a.m., near Wetherburn Drive;  
**Saturday, July 16**, around 12:15 p.m., near Deer Pond Court;  
**Wednesday, July 27**, around 3:30 p.m., near Stone Crossing Court;  
**Monday, Sept. 5**, around 9:30 a.m., in Cub Run Stream Valley Park;  
 Saturday, Nov. 19, around 11:48 a.m., in Cub Run Stream Valley Park.

### 2012 incidents

**Saturday, Jan. 7**, around 10:50 a.m., near Cub Stream Drive; **Wednesday, March 14**, around 1:30 p.m., near Cranoke Street.

The victims have ranged between 3 and 50 years old and have encountered the suspect(s) while walking along the trails. Detectives believe there may be more than one suspect in these exposures, each acting individually.

## County Shelter Receives Awards

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter received accolades from the Metropolitan Council of Governments for two programs and a large-scale animal rescue in 2010 - 2011.

The Fairfax County Animal Services Division won the Council of Governments' Animal Rescue Story of 2010 - 2011 award for a case that involved the rescue of more than 160 cats. These cats were found in a single family home in which animal control officers worked for several days to remove. Shelter staff and volunteers provided care and treatment for the cats throughout a five-month period to get many of the cats adopted or transferred to rescue organizations.

The shelter also received the Community Impact Award for its spay/neuter program which provides high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter for citizens' animals and free trap, neuter and return (TNR) for feral cats. To date, more than 4,200 animals have been spayed or neutered with feral cats comprising nearly 45 percent of the total animals going to the low-cost clinic.

Shelter volunteer Theresa Baker also received the council's Humane Education Award for her efforts with the shelter's pit bull adoption program. Baker fosters pit bulls providing training to ready them for adoption.

The shelter's partner, the Shenandoah Valley Spay/Neuter Clinic, received the council's Veterinarian Award for their staff's role in providing low-cost spay/neuter to two COG jurisdictions. The clinic has provided high-quality, affordable spay/neuter to more than 85,000 animals since it opened its doors in 2005.

Generally, the suspect(s) have been described as possibly white, with a light to medium complexion. They're usually in a secluded area of the trails and sometimes cover their faces. The suspect(s) may be 20-60 years old, 5 feet 7 inches to 6 feet 2 inches and 150-200 pounds.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by

phone at 1-866-411-TIPS(8477), e-mail tips by visiting [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus the message to CRIMES(274637). A \$100 to \$1,000 cash reward will be paid for information leading to an arrest. As always, callers never have to give their names or appear in court. Tipsters may remain anonymous.

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+ **Group Piano: 1A (7-12 yrs)**  
Wednesdays 5:30-6:30  
May 2-June 27, no class June 6

+ **Beginning Guitar I (7-15 yrs)**  
Saturdays 1:30-2:30 PM  
April 21-June 16, no class May 26

+ **Beginning Guitar II (7-15 yrs)**  
Saturdays 2:30-3:30 PM  
April 21-June 16, no class May 26

+ **Jam Camp (9-17 yrs)**  
Bass, Drums, Guitar, Keys and Voice  
Sundays 1:00 - 2:30 PM  
April 15 - June 10, no class May 20

**ONGOING EVENTS**

\* **Acoustic Jam:** Every Other Fri, 6:30-9:00 PM Free

\* **Community Choir:** Every Other Sat 10-11:15 AM

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## Fixtures For Sale

### New Mark Downs Taken!

Mae's Dress Boutique, the premier After 5 store you've trusted for over 35 years, is closing the doors forever. Beginning Wednesday, we've taken new mark downs on hundreds of items throughout the store. Hurry in for the best assortment while we still have stock and sizes available.

- **Take ONE THIRD OFF** our entire stock of cocktail dresses!
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## Wall-To-Wall...Nothing Held Back!

**Directions:** NORTH on the Beltway take Exit 46B onto Rt. 123N.-McLean. Go 3 miles- Turn right onto Old Dominion Dr. (Rt. 309). Go 1/2 mile thru two traffic lights. We are on the right next to Shell Gas. SOUTH from Md.- Cross over the Amer. Legion Bridge.- Take the VERY first right Exit 43-44 to VA 193 toward Langley - Go 1/2 mile and turn right onto Balls Hill Rd. Go .9th mile - Turn left onto Old Dominion Drive - Go thru 3 traffic lights - We are on the right next to Shell Gas. We are less than 5 minutes from the Bridge.

## COUPON GREAT PRIZES

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These prizes to be awarded

1. **Samsung** 40" LCD TV, \$549 Value.
2. **Canon** PowerShot Camera, \$400.
3. **Saeco** Espresso Maker, \$350.
4. **Canon** Camcorder, \$290.
5. **DeLonghi** Food Processor, \$250.
6. **Garmin** GPS System, \$160.
7. **Keurig** Coffee System, \$160.
8. **Frigidaire** Toaster Oven, \$150.
9. **Kick** Sound System, \$115.
10. **Tiger** Rice Cooker, \$100.

Game Ends 6/16/2012

No Purchase Necessary

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

# Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

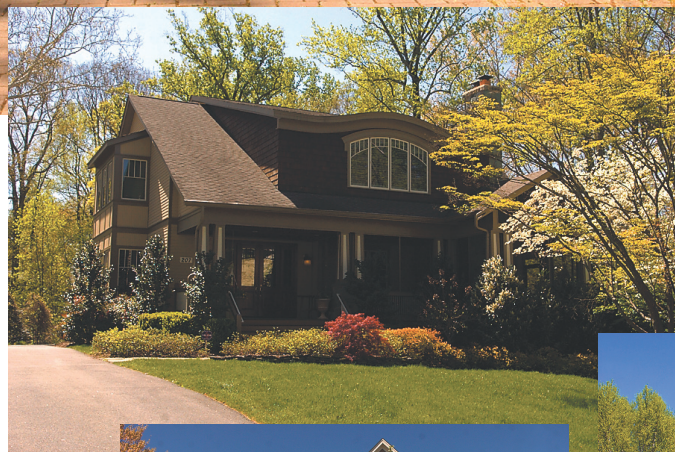
## Top Sales by Town in February, 2012



**1** 701 Goldman Lane,  
Great Falls — \$3,650,000



**2** 1880 Massachusetts Avenue, McLean — \$2,400,000



**8** 207 McHenry Street Southeast,  
Vienna — \$1,550,000



**14** 11660 Preference Way,  
Herndon — \$1,250,000



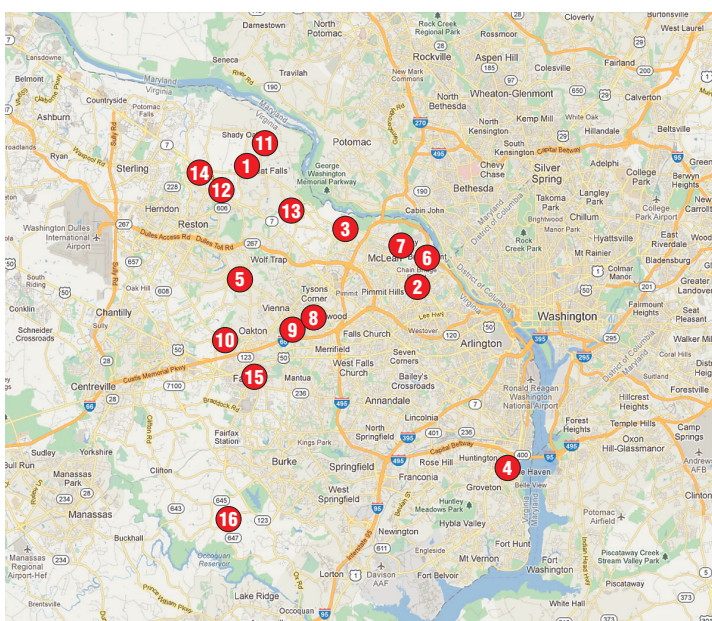
**10** 3359 V Lane,  
Oakton — \$1,500,000



**16** 7951 Kelly Ann Court,  
Fairfax Station — \$1,075,000



**15** 3813 Daniel's Run Court,  
Fairfax — \$1,120,000



Address	BR	FB	HB	Postal	City	Sold Price	Type	Lot AC	Postal Code	Subdivision	Date Sold	
1 701 GOULDMAN LN	5	..	7	..	2	GREAT FALLS	\$3,650,000	Detached	5.39	22066	GOULDMAN ACRES	02/09/12
2 1880 MASSACHUSETTS AVE	5	..	5	..	2	MCLEAN	\$2,400,000	Detached	0.57	22101	FRANKLIN PARK	02/28/12
3 7820 LOUGHRAN RD	4	..	3	..	2	MCLEAN	\$2,300,000	Detached	1.17	22102	GARFIELD PARK	02/17/12
4 6238 RADCLIFF RD	7	..	6	..	2	ALEXANDRIA	\$1,865,000	Detached	0.26	22307	BELLE HAVEN	02/29/12
5 1671 HUNTING CREST WAY	5	..	5	..	1	VIENNA	\$1,786,175	Detached	1.81	22182	BACHMAN PROPERTY	02/29/12
6 6000 CLAIBORNE DR	7	..	7	..	0	MCLEAN	\$1,700,000	Detached	0.45	22101	POTOMAC HILLS	02/15/12
7 6507 RIDGE ST	6	..	5	..	1	MCLEAN	\$1,600,000	Detached	0.34	22101	LANGLEY FARMS	02/13/12
8 207 MCHENRY ST SE	5	..	5	..	2	VIENNA	\$1,550,000	Detached	0.46	22180	MCHENRY HEIGHTS	02/21/12
9 122 KINGSLEY RD NE	5	..	4	..	1	VIENNA	\$1,528,705	Detached	0.63	22180	VIENNA ACRES	02/28/12
10 3359 V LN	6	..	5	..	1	OAKTON	\$1,500,000	Detached	0.83	22124	WESTOAKS	02/19/12
11 405 WALKER RD	5	..	4	..	1	GREAT FALLS	\$1,450,000	Detached	1.73	22066	RIVER BEND WALK	02/16/12
12 1155 FIELDVIEW DR	5	..	4	..	1	RESTON	\$1,365,000	Detached	0.58	20194	ESTATES AT WYNDHAM HILLS	02/15/12
13 1036 LEIGH MILL RD	5	..	6	..	2	GREAT FALLS	\$1,275,000	Detached	5.64	22066	COLD STREAM FARMS	02/07/12
14 11660 PREFERENCE WAY	5	..	5	..	2	HERNDON	\$1,250,000	Detached	0.86	20170	CARIS GLENNE	02/16/12
15 3813 DANIEL'S RUN CT	5	..	5	..	1	FAIRFAX	\$1,120,000	Detached	0.20	22030	FARRCROFT	02/03/12
16 7951 KELLY ANN CT	5	..	5	..	0	FAIRFAX STATION	\$1,075,000	Detached	5.00	22039	BRIARLYNN ESTATES	02/22/12

SOURCE: MRIS, INC. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON MRIS, VISIT WWW.MRIS.COM

## Creating a Dream Bathroom Local pros share the latest design trends for this essential space.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

Updating or renovating a bathroom can be a daunting project. From selecting tile and fixtures to choosing a tub and vanity, options are overwhelmingly plentiful. One source of inspiration when transforming a boring bath into a luxurious, spa-inspired retreat is the newly released National Kitchen and Bathroom Association's annual design trend survey. The 2012 list offers a snapshot of the latest in bathroom decor. Local designers and association members discuss the list and share their ideas for making stunning visual statement in this essential space.

**FREESTANDING TUBS.** The focal point of any bathroom is the tub. Local designers say a freestanding tub can transform a bathroom into serene sanctuary. "It is like your master bathroom is like a hotel," said designer Megan Padilla of Aidan Design. "We're seeing the emergence of the bathroom as a retreat or spa experience."

**POLISHED CHROME.** Bathroom accessories are increasingly bright and shiny as polished nickel and chrome finishes gain popularity. "Polished chrome tends to work especially well with grays, blues and white. It is also an easy choice if you are budget-conscious," said Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling. "Another choice is polished nickel. It has nice brown undertones that can pair



PHOTO COURTESY OF CASE DESIGN/REMODELING

April Case Underwood used a freestanding tub and large tile to create a spa bathroom in this Reston home.

well when you're going outside the traditional white and grey tones."

Some designers say that brushed metal finishes are still a practical choice for many homeowners. "Many people prefer brushed nickel because it shows fewer water spots and looks cleaner," said David Doughton, kitchen and bathroom designer at the

Kitchen and Bath Factory in Arlington.

**WATER CLOSETS.** Designer April Case Underwood of Case Design/Remodeling has seen a spike in the demand for bathrooms with a separate room for the toilet. "If the bathroom is large enough, a lot of people like to add water closets. Even though they

are sharing a bathroom with a spouse or partner, water closets give them the opportunity to be a little bit more private when they are using the toilet."

**MEDICINE CABINETS.** As homeowners look for effective ways to add additional  
SEE BATHROOM DESIGN, PAGE 13

## From Home to Dream Home: Split Foyer to French Colonial

Sun Design Remodeling's design solution for Mulligan home tops category in "Contractor of the Year" Awards.

BY JOHN BYRD  
SPECIAL TO THE CONNECTION

Tastes change; so, too, an owner's requirements of their home. In the early 1960s, for instance, no floor plan concept seemed better suited to the demands of modern life than the split level — which deployed half-levels to apportion interior space into sleeping zones, family gathering rooms and service areas.

Carrying the social engineering a step further, designers next introduced the "split foyer" which directs traffic up and down from a locale between two floors — giving equal value to kitchen and bedrooms above;



The biggest challenge to re-designing a split foyer is the mid-level front door. Raising the entry half a level and introducing a wrap-around elevation porch is logical and an appropriate choice for the home's wooded setting.

family recreation and laundry below. But such schemes aren't for everyone and, more to the point, after years of application, restrictive rules — like walls — can wear thin.

Consider, for instance, the case of Gini and Bob Mulligan, 25-year occupants of a circa-1960s split-foyer situated on a wooded setting in Fairfax.

"We were really attracted to the extraordinary country setting when we bought this house in 1988," Gini Mulligan said. "It's very private, wooded acreage that really brings your attention to the beauty of nature. We were less attracted to the house itself, but thought, well ... we can make some changes once we're settled in."

Fast-forward a couple of decades, and the re-thinking process is still underway. "We solicited ideas from a lot of remodelers, but modifications to a split foyer that worked for us weren't easy to come by. In the end, we decided that our surroundings called for a farmhouse with a big welcoming porch.

SEE DESIGN WINS, PAGE 12



## Design with Children in Mind BOWA Builders share tips for design that works for the whole family.

BY JOSHUA BAKER  
SPECIAL TO CENTRE VIEW

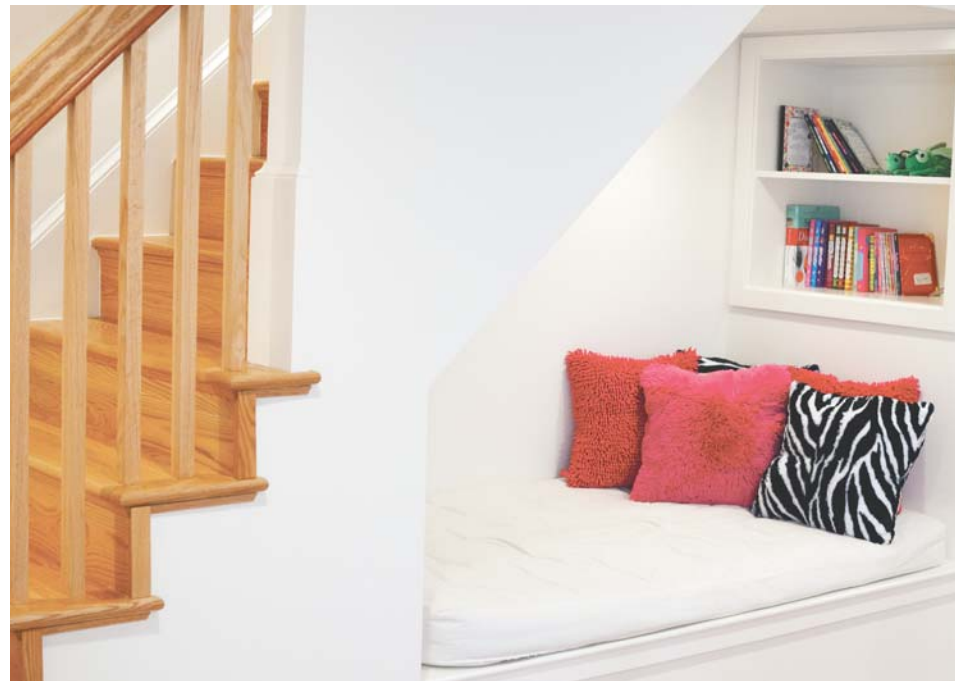
**W**hether it's a closet, the kitchen or a study area, there are numerous ways to incorporate child-friendly design into any space, and children today are becoming more and more involved in the process. Even if the child is toddler-aged, simple tasks, such as picking colors, themes or bedding, can help them feel that they are part of the process. Besides being used more frequently, greater input in the planning stage should result in more pride in the space later and a desire to keep it neat and tidy.

**STUDY SPACES.** A well-designed study area can be invaluable when it comes to helping a child stay focused and motivated. The kitchen is a popular choice for such a designated area, as parents are readily available to answer questions, keep their young scholar on task, and supervise internet usage. Have a wide hallway or nook elsewhere in the home that doesn't receive a lot of traffic? As another option, consider transforming this unused space by placing a desk against the wall, adding wall cabinets or shelving above it for holding supplies, and providing the area with adequate lighting.

A recent project in Vienna features a whimsical study that was built in one of the turrets of the house. The study opens up from the bedroom into an octagonal room, and includes a storage bench for additional seating, lots of windows streaming in natural light, and a high ceiling with three-dimensional hanging stars.

In another recent project, a reading nook was carved out under the stairs. This little hideaway features a daybed with big, comfy pillows and built-in shelving for holding the children's favorite books.

**STORAGE SPACES.** Children have stuff.



**McLean basement renovation by BOWA features children's reading nook under the stairs.**

Lots and lots of stuff. Books, toys, clothing, sports, hobby and school stuff. The question is: where to put it all? Collecting it as soon as it comes through the door can help to avoid it being strewn all over the place, as children (and their clutter) come home in a whirlwind of excitement from school, games and play dates.

Individual cubbies for each child in a foyer or mudroom can help to keep family members organized and prevent any mix-ups of belongings. A closet that features built-ins with plenty of drawers, cubbies, hooks and shelving will help encourage independence by giving children the ability to grab what they need and easily tidy up too. Some parents choose to remove the doors to make a closet even more inviting for their little ones to use. Hanging a set of curtains or draping fabric from a rod can add color and complement the overall design scheme, while hid-

ing the contents at the same time.

**KITCHEN DESIGN FOR THE SOUS CHEF.** There are a number of things to do to help a future chef feel at home in the kitchen. If it's time for a kitchen renovation, consider creating a set of counters at a lower, child-friendly height so they can help with the cooking. As children grow, this area will continue to come in handy when baking and doing other tasks. Also consider placing light-switches at lower heights for a youngster's easy reach, or installing light-switches with automatic sensors to avoid bumps in the dark. Worried about a little one climbing on the countertop? Providing children with their own set of dishes in a base cabinet will eliminate the need for them to reach those items on high shelves.

In addition, placing the microwave at a lower height allows for easier accessibility



**BOWA kitchen remodel features child-friendly seating at the end of the island.**

and can help foster an earlier sense of autonomy for one's loved one. Consider having a pull-out drawer-style microwave installed for easy access. A designated "kid's drawer" in the refrigerator is a great way for them to conveniently grab snacks without risking spillage from a high shelf or pestering mom and dad. And throughout the home, soft-close drawers and door dampers will help avoid pinched fingers.

Designing for children requires creativity, innovation and the input of an experienced remodeler, as the space should be fun and functional. Whatever the space is, and whether remodeling existing space or creating an addition, a residential design build contractor can help in figuring out the best options for a family's needs, budget and lifestyle.

*Josh Baker is founder of BOWA, learn more at [www.bowa.com](http://www.bowa.com).*

## Latest in Bathroom Design

FROM PAGE 12

storage space, shelving and cabinetry in the bathroom, the time-tested medicine cabinet is making a re-emergence after a decline in popularity. "In [the Washington, D.C. area] where bathrooms are small, every inch of space is premium," said Doughton. "Medicine cabinets are definitely a must in this area. I've even made units that are 60 inches tall that go behind a door to give people the ample amount of storage space."

Another option is a furniture-style vanity cabinet. "They are different from traditional cabinets because they look like a piece of furniture and can add a

'wow' factor to a bathroom," added Doughton.

**SOLID SURFACES.** When it comes to vanity tops, granite, quartz and marble are the top choices. "Quartz vanity tops are low maintenance, but some people want the natural look of granite," said Doughton.

As an alternative, Mann suggests an engineered stone known as Cambria. "It is man-made and is a good solid surface," said Mann. "It is not a porous material and does not require a lot of maintenance."

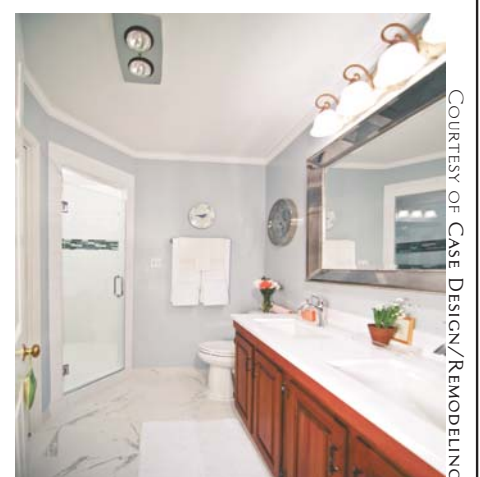
A National Kitchen and Bathroom Association survey found that another trend is the use of glass vanity tops. "It gives a bit of flair," said Mann. "It adds a little bit of interest to the space and gives it a little bit

of charm and personality."

**SHADES OF GRAY.** While whites and off-whites continue to be the most popular color for bathrooms, gray is gaining ground as a versatile option. When used skillfully, gray color schemes can provide a distinguished backdrop without overpowering a design.

"What's nice about gray finishes is that it can accent just about any palette, especially blues or greens," said Doughton.

Mann used gray paint and white marble to turn an Arlington bathroom into a tranquil sanctuary "Gray is pleasing and calming," she said. "It has become the new neutral. [Designers] say it has become the new beige."



**Falls Church-based designer Allie Mann incorporated several 2012 design trends, including polished chrome fixtures, gray paint and large tile in the bathroom of this Arlington home.**

# Blessed with Faith and Community

FROM PAGE 1

iffs and clergy. I think I saw Joe Samaha [Reema's father] in another room or across the hall. They still didn't have any information. My husband was focused on finding out where Erin was. I didn't say anything to him, but I still hadn't heard from her — and I knew."

Erin had just gotten into a coed honors fraternity, Phi Sigma Pi, and her big brother from it stayed with the Petersons while they waited in the inn's lobby with the other parents. At midnight, they were told the coroners wouldn't be identifying any more bodies that night. "I wouldn't have stopped," said Peterson. "I would have worked all night, knowing parents were waiting to hear whether their children were dead or alive."

The next morning, a state trooper who had a friend in common with Erin's dad was there. "Grafton gave him a picture of Erin and said, 'This is my baby; can you find her?'" said Peterson. "He came back after awhile, with some other

**"You have to be rooted and grounded in Christ before you get to a tragic situation."**

people, and said the news wasn't good. They told Grafton first and then came up to our room and told me."

For her husband, it was the second time he'd lost a child. His first daughter died of cancer at age 8.

Peterson said what happened after they learned of Erin's death is still foggy. She remembers people calling her from all over — and the bitter reality that her daughter was gone. Then came overwhelming sorrow that she discovered couldn't be tempered by sharing it with her husband.

"Grief, to me, is individual," she said. "You're really inside your mind. Erin was our everything. And even though Grafton and I had loved the same child, we each grieved differently."

Peterson couldn't do shared grief counseling, either. "It's too much pain in the room for me," she said. "I couldn't comfort others because I couldn't comfort myself. I didn't even find help in grief books; the best help was when I saw a therapist. I still see her once a month. Talking to her validated what I was feeling."

She asked the therapist questions such as, "How long will this



**Erin Peterson**

pain last?" There was no real answer to that one but, said Peterson, "She was motherly and made me feel comfortable. The first time, she hugged me afterward and it felt so good. You just wanted to have someone tell you it was going to be all right."

For a long time after Erin's death, said Peterson, "I didn't know how I could go on. I wanted to be invisible. But people were here to help me, and I still have friends who stay pretty close. I could call them day or night and they'd listen to me — one friend especially; we cried together."

Still, she said, "People desperately want me to say I'm all right. They want you back to you so that they can be better, too. When we lost Erin, it was like a bomb went off — and now we're picking up the pieces, bit by bit. The shrapnel hurts other people, as well; but at first, you don't realize that."

Through it all, said Peterson, "Grafton and I leaned on each other for comfort. And not a day goes by that we don't talk about Erin. We feel that she's still here with us, but has just gone on the path we all have to go, ahead of us." And that's where faith comes in.

"You have to be rooted and grounded in Christ before you get to a tragic situation," said Peterson. Then, if the worst happens, she said, "You're part of a good church family that's praying for you while you can't pray for yourself."

She also spoke to God in an effort to make some kind of sense out of something incomprehensible. "I didn't understand what was going on," she said. "Did I not do those things He'd asked me to? You have a frank conversation, like a disagreement with your best friend."

Peterson also considers herself blessed to have had her church,

Mount Olive Baptist, plus her community, family, friends, neighbors and co-workers to help her work through her feelings and just be there to offer support. And she needed them all.

"In the beginning, the day-to-day living was hard," she said. "But eventually, the holidays became the hardest, particularly Mother's Day, Christmas and Thanksgiving. They meant a lot to Erin because our celebrations were a legacy she could pass on to her own children someday."

Both thanksgiving and Christmas were shared with Erin's extended family and, for the latter, the Petersons adorned their home with beautifully wrapped presents, Christmas trees and decorations in every room.

"It was really over the top," said Peterson. "But we don't put up a Christmas tree or decorations anymore. I threw all that stuff away."

Also difficult for her, she said, is back-to-school time and "seeing commercials of kids getting packages from their parents, because that's what we did for Erin. I can't stand to watch them now." Meanwhile, she prays and talks to God regularly.

"I believe he puts the right people in my life at exactly the right time," said Peterson. "My faith is the most important thing that's gotten me through. The world is a big bully, so you need to talk to someone bigger. When I ask God what His plan was [when Erin died], I hear Him ask me, 'Where were you when I put the stars in the sky and created man?'"

Because God created man with free will, and not perfect, she said, "There's been some evil. I believe what was unleashed that day happened because of free will. But God didn't want it to happen — I know He wept, too."

Still, Peterson sees God as the "benevolent father" and wants Him to use her to help others. "God sacrificed his only child and He's able to still stand," she said. "It's because of Him that I can, too. I just hope Erin's proud of me; I sometimes wish God would allow a phone call."

But it eases her mind to picture Erin walking alongside her. "I feel her pressing up against me and I listen for her voice," said Peterson. "And it's comforting to know I'll see her again in heaven."

She said the tragedy seems like it happened yesterday, and the anniversary of her daughter's death isn't any worse than any other day. "Grafton and I buried our only child," said Peterson. "I can't imagine anything tougher."



**From left are Reema Samaha, her cousin Adrienne Fadoul and her sister Randa Samaha in November 2006.**

## Working on Campus Safety

FROM PAGE 1

not responding to my calls, texts and e-mails, I decided to track her down through her friends and hall mates. Her roommate was doing a semester abroad. I also called our nephew, also attending VT, to search for Reema. He thought the same thing I did: She couldn't possibly be in Norris Hall. With each unanswered call I got more anxious.

I recalled that Reema had two morning classes and one on Monday was French. I called the French Department at VT and asked one of Reema's teachers if by chance there were any French classes in the morning? Her reply was yes, at 9 and 11.

My next question to her was, "Were there French classes given in Norris Hall?" "Yes," was her response. My heart dropped. I called Mona [who teaches] at Herndon Elementary School, and I told my children, Omar and Randa, that they had to come home. We were headed to VT to see if we could find Reema.

Our 90 mph journey on I-81 to find out Reema's fate began at 3 p.m. My heart was hopeful, but my mind was preparing me for the worst while keeping Mona, Omar and Randa encouraged. I knew deep inside that the news in Blacksburg was not going to be good.

[Now, five years later], I reflect on the victims' search for truth, accountability, apology and, ultimately, forgiveness. I reflect on broken bodies, broken hearts, broken minds from the tragedy and broken laws and institutions that must be addressed.

So as victims we can do one of two things: We can succumb to our grief or we can take action in it. Since June 10, 2007, many of the families of the survivors and survivors decided to choose the lat-

ter.

The Angel Fund was formed by my family to educate our community and Virginians about the "whys" and the "whats" of the causes of the April 16 tragedy and how we can address them. Safer schools and Safer Communities has been our motto.

Besides the Angel Fund, the families and survivors formed VTV Family Outreach Foundation, a 501c3 [nonprofit]; see [www.vtvfamilyfoundation.org](http://www.vtvfamilyfoundation.org). The mission of VTV is to advocate for school and campus safety nationwide, as well as for outreach and help for victims of campus shootings and violent crime.

We are now creating, with the best school-safety minds in the country, a national program called 32 NCSI [National Campus Safety Index]. It is our trademarked, national program that will be launched sometime this year and will establish a standard for campus safety and security. Students and parents will want to review it when making their college choices.

It's a tall order. But then again, those we lost on April 16, 2007 deserve nothing less as their living legacy.

I have never looked back on the choices I made after [that] April 16. Though the daily hurt will never go away, Mona, Omar, Randa and I have always felt Reema is not far away. In fact, I feel she and the other [victims] guide us in what we do.

They, in a way, participate, and we keep their tremendous spirits involved. It's no longer about "us." It's about everyone else and what we can do to help them. It's about preventing another young person from being killed at school and another parent not having to shed a tear. There is no "self" any

SEE REEMA, PAGE 15

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# Reema

FROM PAGE 14

longer. There is the mission. I guess you can say this has been my therapy.

Mona and I handled the loss of Reema differently, as did our other children. Omar has been a public-safety advocate for some time now, and a Realtor, and is also enrolled in the MA [masters] Real Estate Program at Georgetown University. Randa is an RN2 at INOVA Fairfax in the PICU [Prenatal Intensive Care Unit] and was just accepted to do her nurse-practitioner studies at George Washington University. We have learned that we can address the loss of a child or sibling by taking different roads — either through advocacy, spirituality, activism or resilience. But you should always hold hands throughout the journey and never let go. I will tell any other family that you should not and can not go through such a loss without the support of family, friends, your community and their love. We are blessed to have had our Centreville/Chantilly/Herndon communities to lean on over these past 1,826 days.

# Interest in Budget Slows as Economy Picks Up

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

**R**ising property values, a relatively low unemployment rate, and the lack of hot-button issues — such as full-day kindergarten — have reduced public involvement in Fairfax County's proposed \$6.7 billion budget compared to recent years, according to county leaders.

During last year's budget cycle, Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-at-large) said she heard from nearly 1,000 constituents advocating for their portion of the pie. This year, that number plummeted to 30.

"At budget time, I clear the decks to see as many people as possible," Bulova said. "My dance card is full."

Attendance at town hall meetings on the budget has also been low, according to several supervisors.

"The number of people who have signed up to speak is way down from last year," said Supervisor John Cook, (R-Braddock). "There is no one issue that's got people riled up. People are not scared. Things have stabilized. We're in a flat spot after several years of cuts."

Next week, the public will have the opportunity to weigh in on County Executive Anthony Griffin's proposed \$6.7 billion budget for the county's 1.1 million residents.

And supervisors want residents to know that their voice matters.

"Often testimony has caused us to adopt changes to the advertised budget," Bulova said. "It is critical that the community is engaged and at the table with us as we consider changes to what has been advertised."

**IN HIS FINAL YEAR** as county executive, Griffin has proposed a budget based on the current property tax rate of \$1.07 for every \$100 of assessed value, which means the

average homeowner, will pay \$4,801 in property taxes, \$33.85 more than last year, and \$45.36 less than in fiscal year 2007.

The proposed General Fund total is \$3.5 billion, up \$143 million over fiscal year 2012. More than half of the budget (52.5 percent or \$1.85 billion) is earmarked for the school system.

To mitigate the potential shortfalls, the board voted to advertise a 1-cent tax increase to \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value. Supervisor Linda Smyth (D-Providence) called the one-penny increase an "insurance policy" against any funding shortfalls.

In addition to allowing the rise in property taxes, Griffin's budget also imposes several new fees, including a storm water fee would increase from 1.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value to 2.5 cents for every \$100 of assessed value.

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## Look What I Saw, Really



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

A male patient sitting directly across from me being infused with his unique chemotherapy cocktail, a bit too far for a conversation, but certainly close enough for a knowing/empathetic glance. He didn't look too well; jaundice in the face, a baseball cap covering up a chemotherapy-affected hair line (as I can similarly attest) and a thin physique exuding the type of stress commonly found in cancer patients being infused. Dressed casually in blue jeans and a long sleeve cotton shirt; with his sneakers pointing toward the ceiling resting on the elevated foot support of the Barcalounger as the I.V. continues its drip. Accompanied by his wife, as I overheard her described, sitting supportively to his left.

Though I had never seen this man during my three-plus years of regular (every month, basically) infusions, he looked eerily familiar, or at least his circumstances and appearance did. The more I thought about it, more so after I had left the facility, the more obvious it became: he looked like me, or rather, I looked like him. It wasn't quite like looking in the mirror, but it was a bit like seeing the truth (of my appearance). Whatever I thought I looked like (see 3/7/2012 column titled "Look What She Saw, Really") or denied what I actually looked like, it became ever more apparent and clear the longer the two of us sat across from one another. Then the clincher: I found out from my oncology nurse that this man and I were approximately the same age. Which was extremely distressing because, by looking at his gaunt and frail appearance, I would have guessed that he was much older than me. Finding out that we were close in age was in fact was unsettling. Unsettling because this revelation came on top of my observation that he and I looked similar. And if I thought he looked much older than me, then maybe I too looked much older – and less healthy than I thought I did. If so, then maybe the woman in the supermarket whom I wrote about in my March 7th column had every reason to stare at me the way she did that day.

Seeing my fellow patient for what he and I apparently are, was not exactly like seeing a ghost, but it wasn't like seeing George Clooney, either. Whatever I think in my head about how I feel/how I look; presumably, if looks could kill, I'd be dead already. And since I don't want, nor think that I am dead already, considering now that my appearance might actually reflect the severity of my underlying diagnosis – in spite of how I think I feel and in spite of how people say I look, would be (A) news to me and (B) news that isn't very good.

The question is, whether it's news with which I can live. I have always tried to take this cancer diagnosis in stride and not let it effect my demeanor. Part of that strategy has involved a bit of denial to the seriousness/inevitability of it all. Seeing this fellow cancer patient sitting across from me, however, looking so familiar – and similar to me, caused not my life to pass before me, but rather my death. It's not what I had in mind when I went to the Center that day and it's rarely how I want to begin my day. Nevertheless, his image and its reality is in my head now. No wonder I felt the need to write about it.

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

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-Dean Acheson

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# Centreville Softball in Winning Mode Under Dutton

**Wildcats sport winning record going into Friday's Concorde home game with Herndon.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
CENTRE VIEW

All things considered, coming off a three-win season in 2012, being under a new head coach, and playing a tough schedule over the season's first half, the Centreville High girls' softball squad has been quite impressive thus far this spring.

The Wildcats entered this season with a new head coach, Donnie Dutton, who was taking over a Centreville program which struggled with a 3-13 record last spring. Dutton, a Westfield High softball assistant over the past seven years before being hired to lead the Centreville program this past September, realized he and his new players would have their work cut out to win more games and improve overall as a team.

"This is a rebuilding year for the program after finishing 3-13 last year," said Dutton. "We expect to continue to get better and to be competitive through the rest of the year."

The Wildcats have certainly been competitive over their first 11 games and have built a 6-5 record, particularly impressive considering some of the elite teams the lo-



PHOTO COURTESY LYNNE WILSON

**The Centreville High girls' softball team was awarded the second place team trophy during informal ceremonies following the Wildcats' finals game at the Madison High Spring Break Tournament.**

cals have gone up against over the first month of the regular season.

Centreville, a member of the Concorde District, has played two games apiece versus renowned Northern Virginia stalwart programs Madison High (Liberty District) and Briar Woods (Dulles District). Both the Warhawks and Falcons have fielded teams in recent years which qualified for the Virginia State playoffs and continue to be among the best programs around.

Centreville, following a season-opening 7-0 win over visiting Yorktown (National District) on March 13, lost a road game the following day in Ashburn to Briar Woods, 3-0.

That was not a bad loss for the Wildcats, who held the talented Falcons to just the three runs. However, in its next game on March 16, Centreville lost a lopsided 13-1 affair to Madison, a team just two years removed from capturing the Northern Region crown.

A 9-4 road loss at Lake Braddock (Patriot District) followed on March 19 before the Wildcats, in a second meeting against Briar Woods on March 21, lost at home to the Falcons, 5-1. That setback was hardly a lopsided contest but it was the fourth consecutive loss for a Centreville team which was trying its best to get back into the win column for the first time since its season-opener victory over the Patriots of Yorktown eight days earlier. Centreville snapped the losing skid with a decisive 19-1 win at Lee on March 24.

**OVER THE SPRING BREAK**, the Wildcats enjoyed an outstanding week away from the classroom by reaching the finals of the Madison High Spring Break Tournament. In the title game, they, not surprisingly, were matched up against the tournament host team, the Warhawks. Madison, in the game played on the last day of March, defeated Dutton's feisty outfit, 8-2.

Centreville did win three games over the spring break week, defeating Patriot District member West Potomac, 9-7, as well as two National District opponents, Edison, 21-5, and Annandale, 10-0, both in convincing fashion.

In their most recent game since spring break, the Wildcats, in their Concorde District opener, bested visiting Robinson, 5-4, earlier this week on Tuesday, April 10. Centreville will be at home this Friday night at 6:30 for a district meeting against Herndon.

Centreville's team leaders this season include seniors Kara Love, Lexi Murdock, and Courtney Burke.

# New Life as a Texas Ranger for Snyder

**Former Westfield baseball star is no longer part of Orioles' organization.**

BY RICH SANDERS  
CENTRE VIEW

Westfield High graduate Brandon Snyder, the first round baseball selection of the Baltimore Orioles in the 2005 first year player draft, made the 25-member Texas Rangers roster which broke spring training camp to begin the new season last week.

Snyder, a first baseman with the Orioles who spent seven years in the Baltimore minor league system with only a handful of call ups to the parent major league club, was sent to the Rangers, the defending American League champions, this past offseason.

Over spring training in March, Snyder, who was the Washington area's High School Player of the Year while at Westfield back in the spring of 2005, impressed the Rang-

ers coaches with his versatility and ability to play multiple positions.

"We know he can play third base, first base, catch a little bit [behind the plate], and I want to see him more in the outfield," said Rangers Manager Ron Washington, in an interview on the Texas Rangers' Official Website. "He's a right-handed batter and sees the ball well. We want to see the type of versatility he can show us and see if he can play left field."

Through Texas's first four games, including the Rangers' 11-5 home win over Seattle on Monday in Arlington, the 26-year old Snyder, who made his big league debut with Baltimore on Sept. 10, 2010, had not seen any game action.

Snyder, during the interview on the Rangers' site, appeared somewhat excited, in his own toned down way, about having made the Texas roster. His comments came just a day or so prior to Opening Day last week.

"I just want to go out and play each position as well as I can," said the 6-foot-2 inch Snyder, who both bats and throws right-handed. "It's been great that they've given me an opportunity. I can play some third base and first base, outfield, and catcher. I'm just working hard to get better at each

position. It's fun for me to play different positions and to use a different glove every day. It keeps me mentally ready to play."

Snyder grew up playing the hot corner position at third base. While in the Orioles system he spent most of his time at first base.

"I really enjoy playing third base," he said. "It's something I grew up doing. The last couple of years with the Orioles I played mostly first base."

**AT TRIPLE-A NORFOLK** last year in the Orioles' chain, Snyder played 86 games at first, 16 at third, one in the outfield, and one behind the plate. For the season in Norfolk, Snyder batted .261 with a career-high 14 home runs and 71 RBI. He also rapped 21 doubles. He usually batted in the No. 3, clean-up, or No. 5 slots in the Tide batting order.

Snyder had two short stints with Baltimore in 2011: May 18-24 and June 10-11. He made four starts at first base for the Orioles. In his brief time in the big leagues over the past two seasons (2010, 2011), Snyder, in 16 games, has nine hits in 33 at-bats for a .273 average. He is hoping for much more big league time this season with Texas, although playing time

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ORIOLES

**Brandon Snyder was predominantly a first baseman in recent years in the Baltimore organization. Now with Texas, the 26-year old could help the Rangers at a number of positions this season.**

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# SPORTS

## Snyder Makes Texas Rangers Roster

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will be tough to come by in the Rangers' talent-laden line-up.

Snyder said he approaches each at-bat he has as an opportunity to do something positive for his team.

"I try to get quality at-bats, move base runners over and get guys [across home plate]," he said.

He said he has felt at home in the Rangers' system this spring, Snyder's first professional experience away from the Orioles.

"It's been such a welcoming feeling," he said. "It's a great clubhouse and the manager [Ron Washington] has been great. It starts at the top with [team president] Nolan Ryan

and [general manager] Jon Daniels. It's been an awesome atmosphere to be a part of."

Snyder will hope for some playing time as Texas plays home games this week against the Mariners through Thursday before starting a weekend series in Minnesota.

### CENTREVILLE HIGH SPORTS NOTEBOOK

#### Track and Field

BY MONIQUE KING

**Outdoor Track Season Opener:** The Centreville High track and field teams opened their season in a tri-meet at Oakton High against division rivals Oakton and Chantilly on March 28. Wildcat coach Givon Holmes used the meet for an opportunity to look at the talent of new team personnel, as many athletes were participating in events for the first time. The highlights for the Wildcats included first place finishes from: Sara Emsley and Nathan Milton in the discus; Chris Jones in the triple jump; and Xavier Nickens in the long jump. Second place finishers included Amber Assadi in the 400 and Kris Watson in the girl's triple jump. Seo Hee Im and Maria Cowen finished third in the 100 and triple jump events, respectively. Third place finishers for the boys were Calvin Jones in the 400 and Mikael Mantis in the triple jump. The teams' next tri-meet was scheduled for this week on Wednesday, April 11 at home.

**Centreville Relays:** On Saturday, March 31, the track team hosted the 2nd annual Centreville Relays. The Wildcats represented themselves outstandingly, while competing against a combination of Maryland and Virginia public and private high schools. There were several freshman-only races and Centreville athletes excelled in that division, with the freshman boys' team placing first and the girl's third.

Some of the highlights for Centreville were: a first place finish by McKinsey Smith (freshman girls 1600); first place by the Wildcats in the girls shuttle hurdle relay, made up of Sydney Evans, Hawa Koroma, Rachel Lee, and Lisa Dinschel; first place outing by the freshman boys 4x400 relay team of Freddy Meny, Rizky Said, Rizwan Said, and Michael Bishop; and a first place finish by the boys distance medley relay team of Chris Jones, Dan Molina, Chan Young Lee and Alex Marmol.

Second place showings came from: the girls distance medley relay team of Isabella Medina, Kylie Cuomo, McKinsey Smith and Natalie King; Bobby Dunn in the freshman boys 1600; and Mikeal Mantis and Zach Burton in boys' triple jump relay.

Philip Christophe and Kris Watson-Echevarria earned third place in the boys' long jump relay, with Christophe taking second place overall.

**Leslie Sherman Invitational:** Over spring break week, the Wildcats competed in the Leslie Sherman Invitational at West Springfield High School. Among the meet highlights were some outstanding performances in the discus event. Senior Sara Emsley won the girl's event and senior Nathan Milton was third in the boy's event. Other top finishers included: Chan Young Lee (second place in the 3200); Chris Jones (third in the 1600); and a third place finish by the 4x800 relay team of Chan Young Lee, Brandon Kim, Tony Dahbura and Kevin Nguyen. The boys' team secured an eighth place finish at the meet.

#### Softball

The Lady Wildcats' softball team participated in Madison High School's Spring Break tournament, playing games on March 24, 31 and April 2. The Wildcats dominated all games except the championship match against the tournament host as they secured second place overall for the event. The Wildcats resumed Concorde District play earlier this week on Tuesday, April 10 with a game at Robinson. They are scheduled to host district opponent Herndon High this Friday night, April 13 at 6:30.

#### Boys Varsity Lacrosse

BY EILEEN BALBERDE

Centreville High varsity boys lacrosse concluded a stretch of four away games from March 19-23. Through the duration the Wildcats continued their unbeaten status. On Tuesday, March 20, Centreville played T.C. Williams, beating the Titans 12-4. Junior attack Nathan Marks was the leading scorer with four goals for the night. Other Wildcats adding to the 12 point total were: Zack Sikora (3 goals), Andy Balberde (2), Tyler Vennergrund with (2), and Kevin Hagan (1). Assists were given by Zack Sikora, Andy Balberde, Kevin Hagan and Matt DeVera. Defenders Jake Hyde, Antonio Choi and Kevin Brawner were standouts during the game and helped goalie Kent Roy limit the Titans to a meager four points.

The Wildcats traveled to West Springfield High two days later on March 22 and beat the Spartans in a closer match, 14-10. Although West Springfield scored first, Wildcat Zack Sikora quickly answered with a Centreville goal and the Wildcats remained in control for the rest of the game. Once again, Centreville's goals were shared among this year's strong offensive lines. Attack Nathan Marks had five goals for the evening; midfielder Zack Sikora had four; Andy Balberde had two; and Kevin Hagan, Matt DeVera, and Tyler Vennergrund each had one. Assists were given by David Weisbrodt, Chase Heiner, Kevin Hagan, Andy Balberde and Zack Sikora. Centreville had a strong defensive showing with solid performances by Antonio Choi, Jake Hyde and goalie Kent Roy.

With barely 24 hours to rest up, the boys' varsity participated in the Mount Vernon High School Lacrosse Tournament on Friday night, March 23. During the first round of competition, the Wildcats played Marshall High and won decisively in a 16-7 match. Midfielders Andy Balberde and Zack Sikora, along with attack Nathan Marks, led the Wildcats in scoring with three goals each. Also contributing points to the scoreboard were midfielders Kevin Hagan (2 goals) and Chase Heiner (1). Attack scorers were Tyler Vennergrund (2 goals), along with Danny Meador and Andrew Belloli (1 each). Assisting the various goals for the evening were: Tyler Vennergrund (3 assists); Nathan Marks and Andy Balberde (2 each); and Kevin

Hagan, Chase Heiner, Sean Doyle and David Weisbrodt with an assist each. Great goalie work came from junior Andrew Kelsey and junior Pat Prosser, who was loudly welcomed back from shoulder surgery and recuperation. Freshman Kainoa O'Connor showed strong defensive skills playing the long stick middle position. Junior John Clements and sophomore Kevin Hagan provided the Wildcats with consistent faceoff wins throughout the game.

The Saturday rain and drizzle on March 24 was not a problem for the Wildcats varsity lacrosse team during the tournament's championship game against Lake Braddock Secondary. Despite the slippery and muddy conditions, the Wildcats defeated the Bruins, 12-5. Zack Sikora led the scoring with four goals; attack David Weisbrodt scored a hat trick with three goals; Kevin Hagan had a pair of scores; and Andy Balberde, Nathan Marks and Carson McEver each scored one goal for the Wildcats. Providing assists on the scores were Zack Sikora with five; Andy Balberde and Nathan Marks with two each; and David Weisbrodt with one. The Centreville team showed especially strong on 'man down' play throughout the game. Defensive standouts were Kevin Brawner, Antonio Choi and Nick Ziegler. John Clements had another successful day winning face-offs.

#### Boys Varsity Soccer

BY COACH STEVE LEE

On Monday, March 19, the Centreville boys beat T.C. Williams, 3-1. Wildcat goals came from Louis Navarro, Brendan Miller, and Fernando Muzo. Connor, meanwhile, had a nice game with three assists, and Kurt Michaels had 16 saves in the net.

On Friday, March 23, Centreville played a 2-2 tie versus West Springfield High. Goals for the locals came from Brendan Miller and Andreas Garcia. Credited with assists were Andreas Garcia and Louis Navarro. Jason Hoerneke came up with 14 saves.

#### Girls Varsity Tennis

BY COACH LESLIE O'CONNOR

On Thursday, March 22, the Lady Wildcats' tennis team won their Concorde District match versus Herndon, 7-2. At No. 1 singles, Jamie Schoshinski played against a seasoned Hornet player, losing 10-5. Centreville singles victories came from No. 2 Sarah Alberstein (a 10-7 win); No. 3 Sapna Rao, who won 10-1; No. 4 Tanya Kumar, a 10-5 decision; and No. 5 Jessica Jassal, who took her match 10-3. At No. 6 singles, Esther Yoon came from behind to win in a tie-breaker, 11-10.

In doubles play, Centreville's top seeded duo of Jamie and Sarah came close but lost 11-9. Both the Wildcats' No. 2 (Sapna and Esther) and No. 3 (Sue Jung and Sierra Dimmer) doubles teams won their matches, both by 10-5 scores.

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