



25 CENTS Newsstand Price

MAY 3-9, 2012



Participants take off at the start of last year's Angel Kisses 5K in Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates.

Remembering Jeffrey by Helping Others

Reading, Writing and eCybermission

Angel Kisses 5K/2K is slated for Mother's Day.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

By Bonnie Hobbs

Centre View

effrey Virostek didn't get to grow up. He was just 4 in September 2003 when he succumbed to acute myelogenous leuke mia (AML). But his family loved him dearly, and members

of his Chantilly community took him into their

Rocky Run eighth-grade

team heading to nationals.

hearts. And every year on Mother's day, Poplar Tree Estates residents hold the Angel Kisses 5K run and 2K walk in his honor.

It's their way of remembering him in the most appropriate way possible — by raising money to help other children in their battles against cancer. This year's event is the ninth annual and, since its inception, Jeffrey's parents, Tasha and Stephen, have contributed more than \$150,000 to the Jeffrey Virostek Memorial Fund.

"It's a great cause — we're helping the precious children in our community," said Tasha Virostek.

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Get Ready for Chantilly Day

Area's first celebration is taking shape.

> By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

Promising fun for the whole family, the area's first-ever Chantilly Day will burst upon the scene Saturday, May 12, at the Sully Place Shopping Center, off Route 50 West. There'll be a parade, children's activities, a car show, live music, food and entertainment galore.

The festival will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the parking lot near Babies R Us, followed by a free concert from 4-6 p.m. Kicking things off at 9:30 a.m. will be a parade along Metrotech Drive.

The grand marshal will be Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), and both the Chantilly and Westfield high school marching bands will perform. There'll also be a color guard, fire engine from Chantilly Fire Station 15, a pet



A rock-climbing wall will be one of the activities for children.

parade, plus other business and community groups.

The parade is open to all area residents. People from Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks, Fair Lakes, Fairfax, South Riding, etc., are welcome to participate; just email the organizing team at

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This NASCAR racecar from Richard Childress Racing will be on display at Chantilly Day.

ot only did Rocky Run Middle School's eighth-grade eCybermission team win the Virginia state championship, it also captured first place in the Northeastern U.S. Regionals and will compete in nationals in June.

"These students worked so hard to achieve this honor," said their coach, Mary Erdeljon. "I am extremely proud of them and know they will do great things in the future."

The team members are Raghav Ramraj, Hitesh Yalamanchili, Jasper Treakle and Matthew Sun, and they each won a \$500 savings bond for winning states, plus \$1,000 each for U.S. regionals.

"These four will do some great things in life," said Principal Matt Eline. "We'll read about them later on in national magazines and will all go, 'Yeah, we knew them when.' And I'm the lucky, middle-school principal to have them in his school."

ECybermission is a science competition. "You do an experiment and research, but the most important part is reaching out to your community to help them," said Jasper. Added Matthew: "You find a problem in your community and use science to tackle it."

See Rocky Run, Page 3

РЕКМТ 57D Мактиазикс, WV РАЛD РЕКМТ #86

bands will perform. The be a color guard, fire eng Chantilly Fire Station 1

WHEN YOU GO IT ALONE, YOU CAN MISS THE MOST OBVIOUS DANGERS!



VIRGINIA RUN

VIRGINIA ROIN \$699,900 Gorgeous Newport Deluxe backing to treed common area. 5 BR, 3 full BA up. Gracious, well-appointed floor plan. Fabulous sunroom w/skylights. Gourmet Kit. w/hdwd floor, center island w/cooktop/griddle, breakfast room w/Atrium door to huge 2-tier deck. FR off kitchen w/FP. Formal LR & DR. Master suite w/walk-in closet & lux. MBA w/separate tub, shower & double vanity. 1x. MBA w/separate tub, shower & double vanity. Princess suite w/private BA, built-ins & back vel rec room & 1/2 BA



\$1,189,000 Elegance abounds in this breathaking home sited on 5 private wooded acres. Privacy with every convenience only minutes away 3 sides brick. 3-car side-load garage. Woldings & decorative columns throughout. Mn IvI library. Soaring 2-story great room w/brick FP Dramatic open upper hall. Fin bsmnt wfull BA, 5th BR, & rec rm. Rear deck & Much more! Sought-after school pyramid.



VIRGINIA RUN

\$599,900 Spacious Laurelwood model on over 1/3 acre lot w/treed backyard on cul-

de-sac street. Hardwood floors. Kitchen

w/granite counters & brkfst area. FR off kit. w/brick FP 4 upper lvl BR's incl Mstr Suite w/walk-in closet & full BA w/jetted

soak tub, separate shower & 3 vanities. Fin. walk-out basement w/full BA,

WOODGATE

VILLAGE

3 BR, 3 BA,

3-level end

backing to

area. 3-level

unit TH

common

ibrary & huge rec room w/wet ba





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News



Hundreds participated in last year's Clifton Caboose Twilight Run.

It's a Race and a Picnic **Clifton Caboose** Twilight 5K is May 12.

BY BONNIE HOBBS Centre View

nyone can hold a 5K race early in the morning, but the Town of Clifton does things differently. Its 15th annual Clifton Caboose Twilight Run is Saturday, May 12, with the 1-mile fun run/walk starting at 6 p.m., and the 5K, at 6:30 p.m. It'll happen rain or shine; and in this competition,

not only the winners receive prizes, but the last-place, or caboose, finisher also gets an award.

The course begins near the triangle intersection of Clifton and Newman Roads and Main Street and is popular with participants because of its scenic, country atmosphere. The route goes straight out Newman Road and back again; it's somewhat hilly and fairly challenging.

Last year's event attracted 378 participants - 99 in the 1-mile and 279 in the 5K - and race Chairman Gary Anderson expects even more this time. "This year, we'll have students from the running programs of two elementary schools, Fairview and Willow Springs," he said. "Both boys and girls, ages 8-10, will be in the 5K."

Registration is at www.signmeup.com/80841 until May 10. Entry fees are \$21 for the 5K and \$15 for the 1-mile; but they increase to \$24 and \$18, respectively, after May 9. Race-day registration is from 4-5:30 p.m. at the barn at 7139 Main St.

Packet pick-up is Friday, May 11, from 5-7 p.m., at the barn, or on race day, just prior to the event. Participants will also receive a commemorative, Clifton Caboose T-shirt designed by residents Bill and Sam Ferrence. "It's a really nice design," said Anderson. "It's simply train tracks on a moss-green shirt so people can wear it other places, too."

The race is sponsored by the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA), dedicated to improving the Town of Clifton. This year's proceeds will go toward rewiring the town barn with electricity.

Parking is available at the end of Chapel Street, in the floodplain and at Clifton Elementary. Water will

be provided along the course, and snacks such as fruit, cheese and rolls will be offered after the race. All children participating will receive Freeze Pops from The Clifton Store.

The Reston Runners Club manages the finish line and will record each runner's time via computer. Gift certificates and medals go to the top three male and female finishers. Medals are also awarded to the top two finishers in each age group. The top two CBAmember finishers receive medals, and a caboose award goes to the person coming in last. In the fun run/walk, all finishers are given ribbons.

But the good times won't end when the race is over, because everyone who attended may join the party afterward at the barn. Parents are encouraged to bring picnic suppers and beverages for children. The celebration also features music by a live band, the City-Dwelling Nature Seekers, which performs folk and rock music.

This year is Anderson's eighth as race chairman, with help from town residents Michelle Stein and Steve Bittner.

In January, they pick a race date and get onto local race calendars so runners may find and prepare for this event. In the spring, they alert businesses and residents along Newman Road that it'll be closed to traffic during the race. Also lending support are the volunteers and CBA, plus resident Fred Ansick, who helps mark the course and gets the VDOT permit for the road closure.

"Nobody officially asks me to be chairman, so I don't get an opportunity to say no," joked Anderson. "But it's a fun event and I just want to see it continue. Plus, I get help from everybody."

The race attracts participants from places including Maryland and North Carolina. And many contact Anderson afterward and tell him how much they enjoyed visiting Clifton and being in the Caboose Run. "One man e-mailed me to say, 'Who wants to get up early in the morning and run a race?" said Anderson. "And the party afterward makes it for a lot of people."

This will be the first time the twilight race will be held in May, instead of June. "We moved it because of conflicts with other June events, such as the Wine

> See Clifton Caboose, Page 9 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Remembering Jeffrey by Helping Others

From Page 1

"And it's a really fun event that has become a Chantilly, Mother's Day tradition, rain or shine."

This year's Angel Kisses event is Sunday, May 13, at 8 a.m. It starts and ends at the Poplar Tree Estates Swim and Racquet Club, 13516 Point Pleasant Drive. Capital Running will officiate the race, and a special tag attached to the participants' shoelaces will record the results. For more information and to register, go to www.AngelKisses-5k.org. Online registration is 5K, \$25; 2K, \$20, through May 10. Afterward, it's \$30 and \$25. (Online registration closes May 10). Walk-in registration and packet pickup are Friday, May 11, from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and race day, from 6:30-7:30 a.m., at the Poplar Tree Community Center.

"Last year, we had 852 participants and raised more than \$25,000," said Virostek. From the money raised, grants from Jeffrey's memorial fund are made to several nonprofit organizations that help children with cancer.



Jeffrey, 4, in a cowboy hat.

These include D.C. Candlelighters, which provides emotional, educational and financial support to local families with children fighting cancer. Funds are contributed, as well, to Inova Health System's nonprofit program for pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Angel Kisses also contributes to HopeCam, which provides laptop computers, high-speed Internet connections and Web cameras to homebound and hospitalized youth to keep them connected to school and friends. So far it's connected more than 225 children with their buddies, classmates and families.

But that's not all. Grants are given to other worthy organizations, as well. Last year, for example, Jeffrey's fund donated to:

♦ Casey Cares, which provides ongoing, uplifting programs to critically ill children and their families. "It helps keep the normalcy in the child's life," said Virostek. "It throws pajama parties, takes the child to music concerts and baseball games and holds a movie night at home if the child can't leave the house."

◆ The Joe Casella Foundation, which offers financial assistance to the families of ill children in the Washington Metropolitan area. The funds allow these families to better focus on supporting their children in their time of need.

Camp Sunshine, which enables a child with cancer, and his or her family, to enjoy a weeklong retreat together in Maine.

And for all these reasons, Virostek keeps putting on the Angel Kisses 5K, year after year. "It's for the children in our area who keep being diagnosed every day with childhood cancer," she said. "Jeffrey always thought of other people so, in memory of his sweet and caring personality, we continue to do this.""It's hard to believe we've been doing this nine years and it continues to grow strong," said Virostek. "It's bittersweet, but we're already planning the 10th annual Angel Kisses because it helps keep us focused on all the good it does for so many. This event has had a really positive impact on the families and children who've benefited from the funds it's raised."

Having gone through the cancer journey with Jeffrey, she said her family knows firsthand how important it is "to stay connected with relatives and friends and do normal activities while your child is in treatment. There are a lot of good organizations out there, and it really does mean a lot to us that we're able to help them."

Those unable to be in this year's race, but wishing to make a donation, may do so at www.angelkisses-5k.org, or send checks payable to Angel Kisses 5K to: Capital Running Company, 15739 Crabbs Branch Way, Rockville, MD 20855-2634.

Rocky Run Eighth-Grade Team Heading to Nationals

From Page 1

"And we actually see some worldwide benefit," said Raghav. They asked people their opinions and knowledge of geothermal heating and cooling, and some of their surveys reached Australia, India and Europe.

Some of the boys began working together in sixth grade. "A couple years ago, we started researching toxins in plastics and figured out by heating them the different plastics in which BPA was present," said Raghav.

"We got a testing kit from Israel and determined that No. 7 plastic was one of the worst ones because it had the highest concentration of BPA," said Jasper.

This year, said Hitesh, "Our project was finding a more efficient way of heating and cooling houses, and we found geothermal heating and cooling to be best." To make it possible, said Matthew, "A pipe runs from the house into the ground, exchanges heat from the ground and brings it into the house to either cool or heat it." And that depends on what season it is, Raghav added.

"The startup costs are expensive – \$20,000-\$30,000/house," said Jasper. "But in 10 years, you'd save money." And, said Hitesh, "It's environmentally friendly because it doesn't hurt animals and insects that live underground."

Matthew noted, as well, that installing these pipes increases the firmness of a home's foundation. That's because "the hole dug for the pipe is filled with grout," said Raghav. "This makes it airtight so it can exchange heat the best," said Jasper.

They also examined the effectiveness of geothermal heating and cooling in different seasons. "We built a model in an aquarium, put in plastic piping connected www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



From left are eCybermission champions Raghav Ramraj, Hitesh Yalamanchili, Jasper Treakle and Matthew Sun with their coach, Mary Erdeljon.

to a water pool to simulate the home's temperature and poured in soil," said Matthew.

"Then to get the soil to simulate the earth's temperature, we poured either boiling or cold water on the soil to either heat or cool it," said Hitesh. Next, said Matthew, "We pumped water through the piping in the soil to change the water temperature as it came back from the soil, and we measured that temperature."

Jasper said they took the temperature every two minutes for 20 minutes to see the data trends and overall temperature change. "We concluded that the geothermal system is effective in both summer and winter, but it was more effective in summer because it cooled the temperature by 53.6 degrees," said Raghav. "In the winter, it was just 39.2 degrees."

It worked better in summer, said Hitesh, because "room temperature is about 70 degrees and the earth is at 55 degrees, so the house temperature only has to go down 15 degrees. But in winter, although the comfortable room temperature is still 70 degrees, the outdoor temperature could be about 30 degrees, which is a 40-degree difference. And the earth is constantly 55 degrees at 30 feet below thee ground."

So, added Matthew, "You'd have to use a heat pump to raise the room's temperature to 70 degrees."

Coach Erdeljon said eCybermission is sponsored by the U.S. Army to promote science, technology, engineering and math. Researching, building, testing, filling out information for their mission folder and analyzing the data took the team a few months. The actual experiment took two weeks.

"We wrote documents and took photos of what we did," said Jasper. "And we made experimental-design diagrams." The boys also had to answer questions from the judges during the competitions. Erdeljon said the judges focus on their teamwork, too.

Competing against more than 1,000 other middle-school teams in Virginia, they submitted their project online Feb. 24 and found out April 1 that they'd won the state championship.

Then on April 19, they competed in the Northeastern U.S. Regionals, and Raghav called it "exhilarating" vying at that level. "We presented our project, answered questions and submitted an abstract describing what we did," said Jasper.

Last Monday, April 23, they learned they were again champions and were thrilled with this victory, too, because it means they'll now compete in nationals in June in Washington, D.C.

"I was excited that all our hard work and reading paid off, and it's nice to know I'm doing something to help the community," said Jasper. Matthew, however, was particularly happy to win states.

"In sixth grade, we got second place in a different category, and third place in seventh grade," he explained. "So to finally get first is vindication and justification of our hard work every year. And I'm really happy to let our community know about geothermal heating and cooling."

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CHANTILLY DAY Get Ready for Chantilly Day

From Page 1

info@chantillyday.com. People with pets and children with decorated bikes, scooters, etc., are also invited to march in the parade. Staging will be behind Babies R Us. Brittani Poindexter will sing the National Anthem, and Roy Eppard will be the parade announcer.

Saharnaz Farivar is the coordinator of the Chantilly-Centreville Chamber of Commerce — an offshoot of the Dulles Chamber — and this organization and the Westfield Business Owners Association are jointly sponsoring Chantilly Day. Farivar is president of SF Design Group of Chantilly, and it was her idea to hold such an event.

Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce President Eileen Curtis has also been instru-

Main Stage Entertainment Schedule

10 a.m. – Deejay and introduction by Eileen Curtis and Saharnaz Farivar (including presentation to U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf)

10:15 a.m. – Marching band celebration 10:40 a.m. – Omei Wushu Center Tae Kwon Do

11 a.m. – Westfield High jazz band
11:30 a.m. – Awards and special presentation to representatives of Chantilly, France.
11:45 a.m. – Chantilly High jazz band
12:40 p.m. – They Call Me Piano, a teenage Centreville musician

1:35 p.m. – Highkicks Tae Kwon Do 2 p.m. – The Women's Club Zumba demonstration

2:45 p.m. – Chantilly High Junior AFROTC drill team

- 3:05 p.m. More announcements 3:15 p.m. – Music Loft, several teen
- musicians 4:10 p.m. – Merchants of Cool, rock music

mental in the planning of Chantilly Day, and she, too, is excited to see it come to fruition.

"We're delighted to be a part of such a fresh and exciting community development," said Curtis. "We look forward to making this a successful and anticipated event, both now and in years to come."

Thousands of people and more than 100 local businesses are expected to be at the festival. Local restaurants will offer some of their tastiest fare at the Taste of Chantilly, and the children's area will include activities such as a train ride and a rock-climbing wall.

There'll be onstage performances from 10:40 a.m.-4 p.m., with a deejay making announcements and playing music during breaks. Then from 4-6 p.m., The Merchants of Cool will give a free, rock concert.

A pet adoption will be held from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on the grassy area in the Babies R Us parking lot, and a variety of pets will be available to good homes. This event is sponsored by Northern Virginia Veterinary Associates and will be run by A Forever Home.

The car show will rev up from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. in the parking lot in front of K-mart. It'll feature an assortment of classic cars, with the showpiece being BB&T's NASCAR racecar, a Richard Childress Racing vehicle.

A Taste of Chantilly will be offered from 11 a.m. to 5:30 or 6 p.m. Several restaurants are participating, including Chick-Fil-A, WaBa Grill Teriyaki House, Don Churro Café, Hooters, Papa Murphy's Pizza and Creekside Bakery.

The children's fair will be surrounding the pet-adoption area. Children will be able to enjoy a rock wall, rides on a trackless train, moonbounces and other inflatables, games and a 60-foot obstacle course.

Awards for Educator of the Year, businesses and nonprofit groups will be pre SEE DAY OF FUN, PAGE 5 Day.



The Merchants of Cool will play rock music for the crowd.



A train similar to this one will give children rides during Chantilly Day.

In Her Own Words Chantilly Day creator, Saharnaz Farivar, speaks out.

Why did you want to have a Chantilly Day?

After becoming the chairwoman for the Chantilly-Centreville Chamber Committee, I had to take a proactive role in the wellbeing of our community. Monthly meetings and networking did not seem to generate the energy and stimulation for a better community and economy. Businesses thrive in a community with a strong sense of place and identity that leads while attracting bigger challenges.

Centreville already had a day for the last 19 years. I witnessed the hard work that went into its preparation last October. I was extremely pleased about its emphasis and references to many historical sites during this day and for this event. Event Chairman Cheryl Repetti had done a marvelous job.

Chantilly required rebuilding its image and removing the stigma for being a fragmented and mostly industrial city. Creating a Chantilly Day with a higher purpose that is more than a community day was a ne-4 CENTRE VIEW NORTH A MAY 3-9, 2012 cessity. Chantilly Day had to be an annual festival to showcase the best of our minds in motion.

Its tagline, "Remember Yesterday, Celebrate Today, Embrace Tomorrow," captures every element that I wanted to be present in our daily lives and to be the focus of our festivity on Chantilly Day.

What is your goal for this event?

I believe Chantilly Day will create a sense of

place and a culture filled with humanity and accountability. It will help to build an amazing and sustainable Chantilly. Although it will be a day of festivity and celebration, it is also a day to recognize the best in our businesses, education, arts and sciences. That will be the main focus of Chantilly Day. We will strive to see innovations, inspire creative ideas, and witness high-caliber art performances and scientific Boy I hope Chantilly Day Will be the engine to take us to a healthier and wealthier community, where businesses, education, arts, humanity and sciences thrive.

I hope that it will bring all of us together and remind us about our vision. It is the day to showcase

our achievements that were better than the year before.

What do you hope this day will accomplish?

Chantilly Day will be the beginning of rebuilding Chantilly, physically and cultur-

ally. Chantilly will be a place to look up to and to keep up with. I also hope it will bring international recognition to our city.

I am also hoping that it will bring the attention needed to expedite building the Chantilly plazas which are part of my proposal to be implemented for rebuilding and creating an economically, culturally and environmentally sustainable Chantilly.

Chantilly plazas will be high-density, mixed-use developments. They will be pedestrian- and bike-friendly, connected to each other by carbon-free public transportation. Major performing arts and science centers which can attract international performers and visitors alike will be part of the development. We are also planning to create a large, public square to become the site for celebrating future Chantilly Days.

We have already started conceptualizing the first plaza and its connectivity with the other plazas through rail and RPT [personal rapid transit]. We are having a good mo SEE CHANTILLY DAY CREATOR, PAGE G

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CHANTILLY DAY

Day of Fun with Food, Music and a Parade

From Page 4

sented at 11:30 a.m. Farivar will honor student essay-contest winners, and a people's-choice award will be given to the favorite car in the show. There'll also be a special presentation to two representatives from the mayor's office in Chantilly, France. They're giving an award and will also have a booth where they'll talk about their city.

The theme for Chantilly Day is "Remember Yesterday, Celebrate Today, Embrace Tomorrow." Farivar wants residents to be able to know more about their community — past and present, appreciate what it has to offer and work toward an even brighter future.

Toward that end, people will also be encouraged to visit Sully Plantation and the National Air and Space Museum's Udvar-Hazy Center, and shuttles will be available that day to take them to and from the festival and Sully Plantation.

BOTH WESTFIELD AND Chantilly High will have tents in the business expo area.



Westfield is still finalizing the components it will highlight, but Chantilly will feature entities including its performing arts, Hispanic Leadership Club, athletic boosters and PTSA. Art Department students will sell their work and paint children's faces. The Chantilly Academy will also bring a large contingent to showcase its many offerings.

For example, cosmetology students will do hair braiding and extensions, carpentry students will show a picnic table and shed they constructed, and members of the robotics club will bring the basketball-shooting robot they built. The animal science class will let residents know they may bring their pets to them for grooming, and the auto tech class will display a car it repaired

that was then featured in the Washington, D.C., Car Show.

In addition, both the Westfield Jazz Band and Chantilly Jazz Band will per-

form onstage; and at 2:45 p.m., Chantilly's Junior Air Force ROTC drill team will entertain the crowd with its precision marching.

Sully Place Shopping Center owner, Beatty Management Co., donated the space for the day's festivities. Parking is in the Kmart, Lowe's and Lotte parking lots. Roads will only be closed for the parade from 9-



Saharnaz Farivar at the Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce's booth at Centreville Day.

10:45 a.m., and traffic will still be able to flow around most of Metrotech Drive.

Go to www.chantillyday.com for registration information, plus more ways to get involved. Anyone interested in marching in the parade, entering the car show, participating in the business expo or volunteering should contact the event organizers at info@chantillyday.com.



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CHANTILLY DAY

Chantilly Day Creator Saharnaz Farivar Describes Goals

From Page 4

mentum at this point. For other locations, I am considering to open it for an international competition.

What is Chantilly Day's importance to the community?

It will change our image. I believe it already has. It will help us to have bigger dreams and be leaders. It is a day that we have to work toward every day to showcase what we have accomplished the year before in business, education, arts and sciences. Every year we owe ourselves to do better for the next year.

It will create an inspiring environment for our younger generation. In this global village, we need to be aware and deliberately prepared to be the best and do the best.

We encourage businesses and organizations to sponsor the Chamber and support Chantilly Day by participating in the parade and business expo. The only exclusion is that no political, religious or military organizations may sponsor a specific event in this festival. It is essential to keep Chantilly Day completely neutral.

What does it mean to you to see this event finally come to fruition? It means a lot. As a chairwoman of our committee, a mother, an architect and planner who's had her firm in Chantilly since 2007, the changes this day will bring will have a large impact on me, our businesses and my community. We are going to see a new Chantilly that is inspiring and is setting new goals and trends.

Improving the human condition, our habitat and environment is my passion and my career. What I have done is just a natural extension of who I am and my core values. For Chantilly Day to come together has made me excited beyond words. I am ecstatic to see this community strive to reach its pinnacle, and I believe this event is the right step in that direction.

I am grateful for the incredible, positive response I have received from the people of Chantilly, our Chamber, our supervisor and the mayor of Chantilly, France.

Why should people come to this event?

It is our city's annual festival, and we have to support our city and help it to achieve our goals. Being proud of who we are as a community is very important. Working toward making it better is our duty and, simply, the right thing to do. Nurturing this event will be an ongoing task until it matures. We shall remain focused.

During the upcoming Chantilly Day, our

schools are showcasing their achievements and their talents in arts and sciences. Businesses will be recognized for their contributions. There will be performances by a variety of Chantilly music and dance studios, and my firm, SF Design Group, has created an essay contest for the students in Chantilly. I am extremely excited that the mayor of Chantilly, France, Eric Woerth, accepted my invitation to the first Chantilly Day. His representatives, Anne Peck from the town hall and Candice Nancel, president of American Friends of Chantilly, will be joining us. They will provide information about their city and its tourist attrac-

School Notes

The following art students at Chantilly High school won 2012 Regional Scholastic Art Awards. The ceremony was held Feb. 21 at the Ernst Cultural Center at the NOVA Annandale campus.

- Minjoo Han, Gold Key, grade 12; Andrew Kim, Gold Key, grade 11;
- Anne-Sophie Kim, Gold Key, grade 11; Caitline Kwon, Two Gold Keys, grade
- 11;
 Namrata Jacob, Silver Key, grade 11;
 Emma Richer, Silver Key, grade 11;
 Silvia Tangaro, Two Silver Keys, grade
- 12;

Andy Ceh, Certificate of Merit, grade 10;

tions. They are also bringing banners from their annual banner festival. There will be an exchange of banners between Chantilly High School and Chantilly, France. We are truly looking forward to creating a strong relationship and developing business, cultural and arts exchanges between our cities. To sum it up, Chantilly Day is a day to promote humanity and accountability. Chantilly Day is to live with purpose and awareness, with respect and understanding of one another. Chantilly Day is to remain informed, to recognize our achievements in business, arts, education and sciences while working toward a brighter future.

Susan Kim, Certificate of Merit, grade 12:

Jiayi Wang, Certificate of Merit, grade 12.

Jordan Johnson of Chantilly took third place in the PBL State Leadership Conference in Richmond. Johnson is a student in Bluefield College's chapter of Phi Beta Lambda, a national business student organization. Some 26 Bluefield College scholars competed against students from 12 other Virginia colleges.

Johnson's competed in the category, "Financial Concepts."



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Roundups

Centreville Man Is Assaulted

City of Fairfax police have charged a Fairfax resident with felony malicious wounding in connection with an April 24 assault on a 42-year-old Centreville man. Arrested was Chan Young Kim, 47, of Whitemore Place.

Police say that, on that date, the victim reported he'd been involved in a fight, around 11:30 a.m., with a man who'd allegedly "punched him repeatedly in the face, knocked him to the ground and kicked him." According to police, after a witness tried to intervene, the suspect reportedly "retrieved a golf club from his car and struck the victim several times."

The alleged incident occurred in the parking lot of the Korean BBQ at 4060 Jermantown Road in Fairfax. The suspect then fled in his vehicle. The victim declined transport to a hospital, and the suspect later met with an officer at the scene and was taken into custody. Kim was then ordered held without bond in the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He has a June 12 court date.

Shape Virginia's Transportation Future

The Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) will hold a public hearing on Virginia's Draft Six-Year Improvement Program, which allocates \$10.6 billion in funding to transportation improvements over the next six fiscal years, beginning July 1. Funding goes toward highway, rail, transit, bicycle, pedestrian and other transportation improvements across the state. The meeting is Thursday, May 3, at 5:30 p.m., at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office, 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. (Off West Ox Road, across from Costco).

The public may comment about rail, public transportation, bicycle, pedestrian and highway projects (except local/secondary roads), and these comments will be considered before the board adopts a final program in June.

The draft six-year program is online at http:// syip.virginiadot.org/Pages/ allProjects.aspx.

The Northern Virginia District draft is available at http:// syip.virginiadot.org/reports/192/ 06-FY13-DRAFT-NOVA.pdf.

Citizens may send their comments by May 18 to: Public Information Office, Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transpor-

tation, 600 E. Main St., Suite 2102, Richmond, VA 23219 or to drptpr@drpt.virginia.gov.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, May 3 and May 17, 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. Walney Marks 30 Years

The Fairfax County Park Authority Board invites the community to come celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Walney Visitor Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park in Chantilly. The festivities are this Saturday, May 5, from 10 a.m.-1 p.m., with a brief ceremony in the amphitheater at 10:30 a.m. The day's fun includes homemade ice cream, butter churning, farm animals, costumed interpreters, Colonial carpentry, and guided nature and history walks. The park is off Route 28 North at 5040 Walney Road. For information about the ceremony, call 703-324-8666.

Park Authority To Meet

The Fairfax County Park Author See Roundups, Page 24



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Centre View North & May 3-9, 2012 & 7

OPINION **Reminders to Press Ahead for Housing**

Spring discussion on hypothermia shelters could help preparations for winter.

n February, 2007, 59-year-old Robert Bruce Miller was found dead outdoors in Chantilly. Miller was homeless, known to businesses and residents in the area. He died of hypothermia, exposure to the cold. Since that time, houses of worship and nonprofit organizations have stepped into the gap, providing shelter from the storm on a "no-turnaway" basis from November to March.

In Fairfax County, about 35 houses of worship provide shelter to approximately 1,000 homeless men and women during the winter months. Each year, various churches, synagogues, mosques and temples take turns providing space to provide food and shelter for the homeless population during the winter months. Last year, there were no hypothermiarelated deaths reported. Similar programs operate in Arlington and Alexandria.

An alarm went up over the past month as some churches that have been providing hypothermia shelter heard that they could be barred from providing the service due to fire-

Editorial

code violations. While some faith leaders said they had heard as many as 18 would be unable to reopen, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said that just four might have insurmountable fire code violations for serving as emergency shelters. Obviously no one wants to put both church volunteers and those seeking shelter at risk.

"Fairfax County has a unique partnership with our faith communities and non-profits. We are committed to serving the homeless population in a way that is compassionate and ensures their safety," Bulova said.

It's important to recognize that providing shelter from life-threatening conditions is in fact a government function. Faith-based organizations and nonprofits are stepping in on this issue and many others to provide leadership, inspiration and services, saving local governments enormous sums of money.

The county should consider if it might be appropriate for firehouses with capacity might be open in rotation as hypothermia shelters,

staffed with church volunteers, if some churches cannot make the changes needed by fire code regulations.

More important is to recognize the need for hypothermia shelters as an indicator that we have not ended homelessness. Providing housing first to people who need a variety of services saves money and makes the most effective use of scarce resources.

Amanda Andere, head of FACETS, Catherine Hudgins, member of the Board of Supervisors, and others reminded the group concerned about the shelters that the real issue is housing.

"Shelter is a temporary solution. We need housing," Andere said.

It is telling that many services are provided to the homeless men and women who come to the hypothermia shelters.

Housing advocates continue to press for more affordable housing. It's a goal that is urgent to keep in mind as Fairfax County looks at what is likely to be its last massive growth in development, the increased density and building around the county's coming Metrorail stations.

> - MARY KIMM MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



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A Connection Newspaper

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Social Change Expands Charitable Giving fter hosting a 7th bake sale in two years

and raising over \$10,000 for Cookies for Kids Cancer, Centreville resident Julie Sussman decided that it was time to turn the table, so to speak, on her generous and loyal bake sale friends, and allow them to raise money for something they believed in.

"I knew that I wasn't the only one who had a charity near and dear to my heart and I thought it was only fair to give others the chance to raise money, too," said Sussman, the New York Times bestselling co-author of the "Dare to Repair" series of books for women. "I asked my dear friend, Marianne Cappa, a fellow Centreville resident, to help me get it started."

The charitable club, Social Change, launched its first event in March 2011 at Cappa's home.

Social Change is a charity-based, non-denominational club whose mission is to raise money and awareness for those in need, whether it's a national organization, or a neighbor next door. Like Bunco, Keno, and book clubs, Social Change meets once-a-month with a different volunteer hosting each time. To attend the event, members must bring a \$5 cash donation (no checks). The host collects the money and makes the donation to his/her charity of choice.

Social Change offers men and women the opportunity to learn about national and local non-profit organizations, as well as individuals who are facing financial challenges. It also offers members a chance to make new friends and possibly network for their careers.

Social Change was officially 1-year old in March. In that time, Social Change members have hosted fundraising events for Safechild.org; The Leukemia & Lymphoma

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Inaugural Social Change teen members include (front row) Rachel Harris, Julie Pociask, Maggie Hutzel, Christina Mirda, Bianca Blazquez, Lauren Stull, (back row) Matt Palermo, William Johnston, James Johnston, Christy Quetsch, Taylor Kolb (Teen Founder), Katie Schule, Jenna Scherbenske and Ashley Scherbenske.

Society; Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention; National Multiple Sclerosis Society; Roma Gypsies, Romania; Freedom Petals; Fight Like a Lyon Memorial; The Up Center; Dunn Loring Fire House/ToysforTots; DCCandlelighters.org;

Lupus Foundation of America & Go4theGoal; The Whole In Autism, and National Brain Tumor Society.

For more information contact Julie Sussman: julie@socialchange.us.com.

Clifton Celebrates Its 110th Birthday

Bench dedicated in couple's memory.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

ith balloons, two cakes and a bench-dedication, residents gathered Saturday after noon, April 21, in the town park to celebrate Clifton's 110th birthday. Attendees included state Sen. George Barker (D-39th); Peter Noonan, FCPS Assistant Superintendent, Instructional Services, and former town Mayor Jim Chesley, all of whom live in Clifton.

Kicking off the event was the dedication of a bench by the gazebo to longtime Clifton residents Paul and Louise Longerbeam. Louise died 23 years ago, and Paul died three years ago, but both left their mark on the town.

"They were neighbors of my mother-in-law's," said Quinn McGrael, who organized the dedication. "Louise's family has been in this area for well over 100 years. Paul came here in 1932 at age 13. He had to support his family after his father left, so he worked on local farms for a dollar a day."

Eventually, he and Louise met and fell in love and were married 40 years. "Paul was known by many in the 1950s and '60s as the best carpenter in Fairfax County," said McGrael. "He was also a selfless person. After working all week, he'd still help people and give them advice for free. He was also instrumental in the building of the original Clifton firehouse and recreation hall."

McGrael said Louise was also giving and charitable. "She baked pies and brought food to poor families in the area," he said. "She gave them presents at Christmastime, donated clothing to them and even gave them money to make ends meet."

Therefore, said McGrael, "I thought people should recognize all they did, and I wanted them to be remembered." So now they will be, by virtue of an inscribed plaque on the bench. People who knew the Longerbeams, as well as the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA), contributed the approximately \$900 that funded the bench's purchase and installation.

"Paul and Louise spent much of their lives helping others because they believed it was the right thing to do," said McGrael. "So we dedicate this bench to express Clifton's gratitude for their decades of public service and for the many lives that have been touched and improved by this most generous couple."



Residents enjoy birthday cake and lemonade in the Clifton Town Park.



Chilling on the newly dedicated bench are Quinn McGrael, daughter Abby, 7, and twin sons Aidan (on left) and Evan, 3. (Not pictured is mom Wendy.)

Hoping as many people as possible register for the

event, he said, "We raise more funds for the commu-

nity when we have more participants. And we also

Clifton Caboose Twilight 5K Is May 12

From Page 2

Festival," said Anderson. "And I'm hopeful that, because it's a little earlier, the weather this year will be on the cooler side."

CRIME REPORT

Activities reported by the Sully police department through April 27.

ASSAULT

Flagg Court/ Mason Dixon Drive. April 19, 8 p.m. The victim, a 42 year-old man, was found severely beaten. He was treated for his nonlife threatening injuries. A possible suspect was identified.

BURGLARY

5800 block of Watermark Circle, April 19, 8 p.m. The victim reported

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someone had entered their home and stolen a laptop computer and other electronics. It is believed entry was made through the garage door.

- 12100 Queens Bridge Drive, April 20, 5:30 p.m. The victim reported someone entered her home and stole jewelry. It appears entry was made through a rear garage door.
- 12700 block of Richards Lane, April 23, 8:30 a.m. The office manager reported someone entered the office and stole cash. Forced entry was made through a rear

window.

have more fun — the more, the merrier."

ROBBERY

14100 Lee Highway, April 23, 8 p.m. The victim reported a man entered ousiness, displayed a and demanded money. He fled with cash. There were no injuries.

LARCENIES

4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center. Handgun from business 15300 block of Jordans Journey Drive. GPS and books from vehicle.



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Celebrating Centreville's Diversity

he Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) held its third annual International Dance and Music Festival, on Friday night, April 27, at Centreville's Fire Station 17.

"This evening is a celebration of Centreville's diversity and the richness it brings to this community," said CIF President Alice Foltz. "Some of

he Centreville Immigration Forum tonight's performers are the laborers available for (CIF) held its third annual Interna- hire at the Centreville Labor Resource Center."

The event included a silent auction, plus a sale of art and clothing made by the workers. "Tonight's about fun," said Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey. "We cherish our diversity and enjoy learning about our different foods, cultures and music and also sharing our commonalities."

Photos by Bonnie Hobbs/Centre View



Doing the Guatemalan Dance of the Monkeys.



Miki Carrillo and Javier Vasquez, from Ixil, Guatemala, entertain as clowns.



Hilda Ventura and daughter Isabella perform a Mexican dance.



Jazmin Rocha did a dance from Jalisco, Mexico, with Arnoldo Borja (not pictured).



Centreville High's Amy Shin, Carina Kang, Grace Jung, Sallie Kim and Stella Kim (in no particular order) dance to two Korean pop songs.



People bid on silent-auction items.



Twin sisters Sanyuktha and Sanjana Srikanth of London Towne Elementary perform an Indian dance.



These Centreville residents originally from Ixil, Guatemala, did the Dance of the Monkeys which honors animals important to the Mayan culture.



Korean Central Presbyterian Church members sing and play songs on the harmonica and guitar.

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Schools

Chantilly Academy Students Excel at Conference

hantilly Academy students competed in various hands-on skill and leadership competitions at the SkillsUSA State Leadership and Skills Conference held in Hampton, Va. April 21.

SkillsUSA is a career and technical student organization that consists of a partnership of students, teachers and industry working together to ensure America has a skilled workforce.

Animal science student Alex Flevarakis and culinary arts student Sam Meono earned gold medals in their highly competi-

tive skilled events and proved to



Sam Meono

be best in the state of Virginia. Meono will attend the SkillsUSA National Championships held in Kansas City, Mo., June 23-27,



Alex Flevarakis

Place

10

10

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17

where more than 5,400 outstanding career and technical education students will compete.

Academy Class

Animal science Culinary Arts

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The following students were awarded at the state competition: Name Alex Flevar

	Name	Competition
	Alex Flevarakis	Animal Science
	Sam Meono	Culinary Arts
	Meredith Kernbach	Animal Science
	Rathna Muralidharan	Prepared Speech
	Mariah Neston	Commercial Baking
	Katie Gryncewicz	Employment Application
	Carrie Ceh & Angela Virostek	Occupational Scrapbool
	Ayana Teran	Culinary Arts
	Eliana Cervantes	Food & Beverage Servic
	Hayley Ake	Job Skills Demonstration
	Justin Krukowski	Collision Repair Techno
	William Carlin	Occupational Scrapbook
	Delaney Dreyer	Food & Beverage
	Emily Wood	Cosmetology
	Lauren Powell	Occupational Scrapbool
	Mihika Dhyani	Technical Math
	Jake Lisko	Carpentry
	Marshall Masson	Auto Refinishing
	Matt Nicholls	Job Skills Demo
	Brittiany Callahan	Occupational Scrapbool
	Richard Huynh, Megan Macheske,	
Κ	hooban Khan	Crime Scene Investigation
	Kyle Wright	Auto Refinishing
	Jason Alger	Collision Repair Techno
	Hannah Trikakis	Cosmetology
	Jake Kellogg	Collision Repair Techno
	Evan Horil	Carpentry
	Katherine Vargas & Elena Cifuentes	Nail Care
	Kieran Nelson	Auto Refinishing Techno
	Samira Wheeler & Kortney Chen	Nail Care
	Michelle Nguyen	Spelling

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Culinary Arts Animal Science Animal Science Culinary Arts Culinary Arts Animal Science Auto Collision Animal Science Culinary Arts Cosmetology Animal Science Carpentry Auto Collision Auto Technology Animal Science Criminal Justice Auto Collision Auto Collision Cosmetology

Auto Collision Carpentry Cosmetology Auto Technology Cosmetology Animal Science

Team 'Robowiz' Competes in Nationals

Rocky Run Middle School FIRST Lego League (FLL) Robotics team "Robowiz," is one of two teams invited to represent the VA/DC Region, at the 2012 FLL World Open Invitational Championship in Legoland, Fla. from May 3-6, hosted by the University of South Florida, All Saints' Academy, Legoland, Fla., and the technology sponsor AT&T Inc. (www.poly.usf.edu/robotsinparadise/).

FIRST LEGO League (FLL) is a collaboration between the LEGO Company and FIRST (an acronym that stands for, For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology), a non-profit organization founded by the inventor of the Segway, Dean Kamen.

The real-world challenge topic for the 2011-12 FLL Challenge was "Food Factor", which is to showcase how scientists, engineers, government agencies, and food producers work together to find solutions in keeping food safe.

Team Robowiz's topic for the challenge is called C.L.E.A.N. (Combat Lettuce-Ecoli Awesomely & Naturally) grocery bags. The patent-pending C.L.E.A.N. Grocery Bag solution kills foodborne bacteria like

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Ecoli on the surface of any produce like lettuce (bit.ly/vote4rrms). Leveraging research in an article in The Journal of Medical Microbiology that reported that oil extracted from coriander seeds (cilantro) can kill many foodborne disease causing bacteria like Ecoli, Salmonella enterica and MRSA, Robowiz's solution is to encapsulate coriander oil in a slow release, food-approved natural polymer, like pectin, and coat the grocery bag with this polymer. When a consumer loads the bag with any produce, the foodborne disease causing bacteria on the produce will be killed with the oil released from the polymer. The bag is made of reusable, organic, washable fabric and can be re-coated when the effect of the coriander oil is reduced. Existing solutions detect and discard contaminated food, but CLEAN grocery bags will prevent and kill foodborne pathogens. The team's solution is now a global semifinalist after it was voted second in the 2012 FLL Global Innovation Award competing with almost 250 Global Teams with patentable technology. See http:// fllinnovationaward.firstlegoleague.org/



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ENTERTAINMENT

THURSDAYS IN MAY

Story Time With Miss Elise. Every Thursday morning at 10 a.m. during May, the Caribou Coffee in Fairfax Corner is offering Story Time with Miss Elise, children's director at Fairfax Circle Church. The interactive event features props and puppets. On May 10, she'll be reading "Old Bear" by Jane Hissey; May 17, she'll read Eric Carle's "The Very Busy Spider." May 24 is "Giraffes Can't Dance" by Giles Andrae, and May 31 is "Little Bear's Dragon" by Jane Hissey.

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

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.

THURSDAY/MAY 3

Golf Tournament. At Pleasant Valley Golf Club. Proceeds will benefit the Chantilly High School Class of 2015. Visit http://www.fcps.edu/ChantillyHS/indexpdfs/GolfFlyer.pdf.

MAY 3, 4, 5, 6

Used Book Sale. Featuring 20,000 used books, fiction and nonfiction plus CDs and DVDs. Preview and presale on Thursday, May 3 from 6 to 8 p.m. for Friends of Centreville Library. Sale hours are Friday, May 4 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturday, May 5 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, May 6 from 1 to 3 p.m. At the Centreville Regional Library 14220 St. Germain Dr., Centreville. Call 703-830-2223 or visit Friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com.

FRIDAY/MAY 4

- Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. With Toast Big Band. 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.
- Musical Showcase. The Alliance Theatre will present a Musical Showcase. Friday at 7:30 p.m.; and Saturday at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. At Mountain View School, 5775 Spindle Court in Centreville. Tickets are \$15 at www.thealliancetheatre.org. For details about a special, pre-show event for Scouts, May 5, e-mail boxoffice@thealliancetheatre.org or call 703-220-8101.

SATURDAY/MAY 5

- Book Talk and Signing. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. With author Victoria Christopher Murray on her newly released novel, Sinners and Saints. Sponsored by the Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. At the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly.
- Fundraiser. 6:30 to 9 p.m. Cost is \$35/person. Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter fund raiser. All proceeds will benefit animals at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Features wine and beer tasting, hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. At Total Wine & More, Greenbriar Town Center, Chantilly. To register, visit www.ffcas.org
- Book Talk and Signing. 1 to 3 p.m. Free. The Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents author Victoria Christopher Murray on her newly released novel, Sinners and Saints. At Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly
- E.C. Lawrence Park Turns 30. From 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. The anniversary celebration will feature fun, family-friendly activities and historical demonstrations. Visitors can make and taste homemade ice cream and churn butter like the Machen family did in years past. Admission to the event is free. At 5040 Walney Road in Chantilly. Call 703-631-0013.
- Annual Plant Sale. 8 a.m. to noon. Perennials, annuals and herbs for sale by Centreville Garden Club. Proceeds help maintain planter boxes at Sully Government Center and Centreville Library. Held in front of Giant Food, 5615 Stone Rd., Sully Station, Centreville. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com or
- centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com. Call 703-830-2942. Book Talk. 1 to 3 p.m. Fairfax County Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents a Book Talk and Signing with Victoria Christopher Murray on her newly released novel "Sinners and Saints". At Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. R.S.V.P. to artsandletters@fcacdst.org. by April 30.

MAY 5 AND MAY 6

Train Displays. HO scale model trains and Lego model trains will be on display and running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum on Saturday, May 5 from noon - 5 p.m. and Sunday, May 6 from 1 - 4 p.m. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. For more info on shows, events, tours, community room rental as well as volunteer opportunities, visit www.fairfax-station.org or 703-425-9225. Cost is \$3 adults: \$1 children.

MONDAY, MAY 7

Cotillions Reception. 7:30 p.m. The National League of Junior Cotillions will hold a Parents' at the Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Junior Cotillion, a youth etiquette and ballroom dance program, invites parents of rising 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students to a Parents' Reception that will include demonstrations of the skills that are taught in the program and light refreshments. Established in 1978, NLJC has over 450 chapters in nearly 30 states. Contact Michelle Ly at 703-593-0931 or michelle.ly@thelygroup.net.

THURSDAY/MAY 10

- Liberty Republican Women's Club. 5:30 p.m. Meeting at the home of JoAnn Plitt, 13766 Cabells Mill Dr., Centreville. Guests will enjoy a BBQ dinner, followed by guest speaker Sabrina Schaeffer, executive director of International Women's Forum, a non-partisan research and educational institution who seek to cultivate support for principles of economical freedom and encourage women to be involved in returning our country to limited
- constitutional government. Contact 703-378-4190. **CVHS Spring Band Concert.** 7 p.m. Free. At the Centreville High School Auditorium. This will be the last chance to use
- your TAG from this year's Music Department fundraiser. FACETS Opening Doors Breakfast. 7 to 9 a.m. To inform the community about poverty and homelessness efforts in Fairfax. At the Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway. To register, visit www.FACETSCares.org or contact Stacy Boden at sboden@facetscares.org or 703-352-3268.

FRIDAY/MAY 11

Swing Dancing. 9 p.m. to midnight. Admission is \$15. Dropin beginner swing lesson from 8:30 to 9 p.m.; dancing from 9 p.m. to midnight. With the band, The Joker's Wild. At the Hilton Washington Dulles Airport, 13869 Park Center Road, Herndon.

SATURDAY/MAY 12

- **Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.** 8 p.m. George Mason University Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. With pianist Adam Golka. Britten's Sinfonia da Requiem, Debussy's La Mer, Ravel's Concerto for the Left Hand, and Elgar's Enigma Variations. Free pre-concert discussion for ticketholders at 7 p.m. Tickets \$25-\$55. info@fairfaxsymphony.org.
- Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. 6 p.m. Register now at www.signmeup.com/80841
- Chantilly Day Festival. 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Featuring a parade, a "Taste of Chantilly" food and drink expo, a children's carnival, performance stage, classic car show, business fair, awards ceremony, sunset concert and more. This free event will support a number of organizations, including Chantilly High School and Westfield High School, that will be gearing up for a Battle of the Bands. The event expects to draw 20,000 attendees and over 100 community businesses participants. At the Sully Place Shopping Center in Chantilly.
- The festival parade will begin at 9:30am and is open to all community groups who wish to participate. The main festival activities will go from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (followed by a sunset concert), taking place in the parking lots near Babies R Us, K-Mart and Lotte. The detailed schedule of events for Chantilly Day is as follows: • Parade (9:30 a.m.)
- Business Fair (10 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- Taste of Chantilly (11 a.m.-4 p.m.)
- Car Show (11 a.m.-3 p.m. with awards at 3 p.m.)
- Children's Carnival (11 a.m. 4 p.m.)
 Main Stage entertainment (11 a.m. 4 p.m.)
- Other Performances (11 a.m. 4 p.m.) • Sunset Concert (4-6 p.m.)
- Chantilly-Centreville Chamber of Commerce Awards (12 noon)
- Any individuals interested in entering the car show, marching in the parade, providing a silent auction item or asking any questions should contact the event organizers at info@chantillyday.com. The event website also has registration information at www.chantillyday.com.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 16

Talk on Rheumatoid Arthritis. 7 to 8:30 p.m. At the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. The seminar is part of its free Spring 2012 Seminars for Family Caregivers series. Register online (go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices and link to caregiver series), email caregiver@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call 703-324-5205, TTY 711.

THURSDAY/MAY 17

Clifton Charity Homes Tour. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The Clifton Community Woman's Club (CCWC) presents its 40th Annual Charity Homes Tour, Marketplace and Silent Auction Fundraiser in the surroundings of historic Clifton. Visitors will enjoy diverse homes situated around the area. Culminating the event will be the "Wine Down" from 3 to 6 p.m., featuring live music and the Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Paradise Spring Winery. Advance Tickets \$25; Day of Tour Tickets \$30; Single Home Admission \$10. Lunch will be available at Clifton eateries. The Paradise Springs Winery will also be offering box lunches with a prior RSVP by calling 703-830-9463. For location of ticket sales, visit www.cliftoncwc.org. Or contact Chairperson JoAnne Gallo (jgallo.jbg@verizon.net) or Co-Chairperson Diane Smith (mds727@cox.net)

14 & Centre View North & May 3-9, 2012

'Glimmer of Hope for the Future'

Local man in May 5 VisionWalk.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

entreville's John McKeown has never seen his children's faces and he always pictures his wife as being 28. That's because retinitis pigmentosa (RP) — a genetic condition causing degeneration of the retina and eventual vision loss — caused him to go blind.

But buoyed by recent advances in this field, he hopes there'll someday be a cure for him and others. And toward this end, he and his wife are co-chairing the seventh annual Northern Virginia VisionWalk, this Saturday, May 5. It's at the Lake Newport Swim Club at Brown's Chapel Park, 11601 Lake Newport Road in Reston. Registration is at 8:45 a.m.; the walk starts at 10 a.m. Or register or donate at www.VisionWalk.org.

This free, family-friendly, 5K walk-a-thon also includes children's activities, a moonbounce, refreshments and entertainment. Participants may form teams or walk independently, and dogs and strollers are welcome.

Hosted by the nonprofit Foundation Fighting Blindness, the event's goal is to raise \$160,000 for research leading to the prevention, treatment and cure of all retinal-degenerative diseases. They currently affect more than 10 million Americans — people of all ages, races and ethnicities.

Since it began in 2006, VisionWalk has raised more than \$20 million to fund sight-saving research, and McKeown, 50, of the Rocky Run community, is eager to do his part.

"I want to help out and raise awareness," he said. "The developments and clinical trials in just the last 18 months are really breathtaking. A boy in Philadelphia was treated for a form of RP at age 9, and doctors were successful in reversing it bit — and that's never happened before. So there's a lot of excitement about that in the RP community, and the

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From left are Jenna, John, Linda and Anna McKeown.

key is the funding for the research and clinical trials."

RP is hereditary, passed on through a recessive gene, and it first surfaced in McKeown's family when his older brother was 4 or 5. "He had trouble seeing at night and was then diagnosed," said McKeown. "Back then, there was no research going on for this. They just told my parents he was going to go blind. Today he's married and works in Denver for the Treasury Department."

The same thing later happened to McKeown. "But fortunately, growing up, my vision was good enough that I could still read and keep my condition hidden from most people." At college, he had a hard time seeing the blackboard and it took him longer to do his work that it did other people. But he graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in mechanical engineering.

He's worked for GTSI, a government contracting company, for 25 years. As a data architect, he turns data into usable information. He telecommutes a couple days a week and, the other days, his wife drives him to and from the office.

SEE VISION WALK, PAGE 17



The McKeowns' 2011 Vision Walk team; John and Linda are to the right of man in "Bill McKeown" T-shirt.



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Wellbeing

Safety Net Clinics Seek Doctors

Specialty care physicians and other medical professionals needed to serve low income, uninsured patients.

> By MARILYN CAMPBELL Centre View

hen Marie Markey of Alexandria retired from U.S. Air Force as a physical therapist, she rolled up her sleeves and went to work helping those in need. Markey works as a volunteer twice each week at the Arlington Free Clinic, offering physical therapy to the clinic's low income and uninsured patients.

"The clinic fills a huge gap," said Markey. "We have people who walk in who don't have access to medical care for basic illnesses like high blood pressure and diabetes."

Markey is motivated by a sense of responsibility to give back to the community. "If everyone did their part, the world would be better place," she said. "I had a patient once who was a construction worker. He'd had back surgery and needed physical therapy to recover fully. He didn't have insurance and couldn't afford to pay for therapy. If he hadn't received free therapeutic services to help him recover, he would have lost his job."

NOVA SPECIALTY ACCESS, a project of the Northern Virginia Health Services Coalition is looking for more volunteers like Markey to provide medical services to low-income, uninsured patients from local "safety-net" clinics. The project matches patients with

Volunteers Needed

"Head to Toe" Specialty Clinic for low income, uninsured

- Crossroads 6196 Arlington Blvd, Falls Church Saturday , June 30: Prince William Area Free Clinic, St. Margaret's Clinic, (also for patients of the Family Health Connection) 13900 Church Hill Drive, Woodbridge
- Two volunteer shifts: 8:30 a.m. noon and 11 a.m. 2:30 p.m. Volunteers needed to fill the following slots: Registration Volunteers
- ✤ Translators
- AudiologistsNursing Volunteers
- Podiatrists
- Ophthalmologist/Optometrists
- Volunteers must be 16 years or older. For medical professional roles, volunteers will need a valid Virginia license. On-site orientation provided. To volunteer, email manager@novaspecialtyaccess.org or call 571- 235-3577



snapshots of you with your Mom and Centre View will publish them in our Mother's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail digital photos, send to:

centreview@connectionnewspapers.com Or to mail photo prints, send to: Centre View, "Me and My Mom Photo Gallery," 1606 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314 Photo prints will be returned to you if you include a stamped, selfaddressed envelope, but please don't send us anything irreplaceable



Alexandria resident Marie Markey volunteers her time to low-income, uninsured patients at the Arlington Free Clinic. Local safety-net clinics are looking for volunteers, particularly specialty care doctors and nurses.

local medical specialists who volunteer their services.

The coalition has reserved several days in May and June for medical professionals, such as specialty care doctors, nurses, and nurse practitioners, to volunteer at Head to Toe Specialty Clinics. The clinics will give patients enrolled at area safety-net clinics an opportunity to receive specialty health care services, including diabetic eye screening, foot care, diabetic nutrition counseling and audiology testing.

"The event is ... an important initiative where community members have the opportunity to get the health screenings they need," said Sterling resident Karen Rudat, nurse manager for Fairfax Community Health Care Network.

Project officials say their most urgent shortage is of physicians: "Our greatest volunteer needs are for audiologists, podiatrists and ophthalmologists," said Ulrich. "If there are other specialists that come forward, we would add other services as well. The program is ongoing and we're hoping to generate interest even if it is not on these specific dates.'

Health care professionals must hold a Virginia license and volunteer in an area that is consistent with their licensure.

VOLUNTEERS ARE CRITICAL to the mission of the clinics.

"We work with a fantastic group of volunteer physicians, mostly specialists. We are so grateful for their generosity as they give their time and talent to increase the quality and access to care," said Dr. Jean Glossa, medical director, Community Health Care Network of Fairfax County and Molina Healthcare "Without them, I don't know how some of our most vulnerable patients would be able to get the specialty care they need when they need it the most."



www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

VisionWalk Raises Funds for Eye Disease Research

From Page 15

"GTSI's been very supportive and provided me with specialized, adaptive equipment," said McKeown. "I use software that's really cool and reads what's on the screen to me. So I can use the Internet and do what I need to do for

my job; it's

fabulous tech-

He and his

said

wife Linda, a

nology."

up,'

"RP is not my identity — it's just something I have."

travel agent, married when he was 34. "She's an exce p t i o n a l woman; I definitely married

McKeown. "She knew what she was getting into and still said yes." Two years later, he started not being able to recognize faces; and in November 1998, his RP had progressed to the point where he started using a white cane.

Still, the disease hasn't stopped him from living or enjoying his life to the fullest. "My parents always encouraged me to give things a try," he said.



Linda and John McKeown with (from left) daughters Anna and Jenna last summer in Sorrento, Italy.

"RP is not my identity — it's just something I have." And despite it all, he considers himself fortunate. "I don't have ALS [Lou Gehrig's disease] or terminal cancer," said McKeown. "And I'm able to work at my job and provide for my family."

Now married 16 years, he and Linda are the parents of two daughters, Jenna, 13, an eighth-grader at Rocky Run Middle, and Anna, 10, a Bull Run Elementary fourthgrader. He's active in their lives and activities and, last summer, they vacationed in Europe together.

McKeown loves reading and listens to books via a digital download on a specialized player. He also plays guitar and piano. "I took lessons on both and have enough knowledge of music theory that I can hear what a song should sound like and figure out the keys," he said.

But he's far from a couch potato; in fact, he's pretty adventurous. He's ridden a snowmobile driven by Linda through Yellowstone National Park, skied in Colorado (with a guide) at the National Sports Center for the Disabled and engaged in aerial dogfighting as a passenger in a combat plane. Since his condition prevents him from earning a private pilot's license, he instead wrote software simulating air traffic at Dulles International Airport.

See Glimmer of Hope, Page 19



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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

'Glimmer of Hope for the Future'

From Page 17

At last year's VisionWalk, McKeown's wife surprised him for his 50th birthday by inviting his relatives and high-school and college friends from eight different states to participate along with their family.

"About 50 people came," he said. "I'm so blessed."

This time, their \$5K Challengers team hopes to raise \$5,000. About 35 teams are participating at Reston; to donate to his team, go to www.fightingblindness.org/ novavisionwalk.

"When one of my girls was little, I talked to someone on the phone and said, 'See you later,'" said McKeown. "She asked why I said that, and I said I didn't know. But in the past few years, I've really begun to believe there's a good chance in my lifetime that it may be true someday. I might go from 'See you later' to 'See you soon' to 'It's nice to see you."

"I've never let myself entertain that idea before," he continued. "But lately, with some of these breakthroughs, I'm allowing myself to dream. It's fun to see my kids catch that spirit, too. And maybe in a few years, I'll be able to see them."

But even if it doesn't come to pass, McKeown will still consider himself lucky. "Life's been good to me," he said. "My family and I are some of the most fortunate people I've ever met."

Agreeing, Linda calls her husband a great guy. "He's never let his vision get in the way of doing what he wants to do," she said. "He's always confident, and that's pretty much how we live our lives."

They also said yes when the Foundation asked them to co-chair the walk. "If we could make a small difference to make this year's walk a success, we wanted to do it," she said. She also said John's blindness is just a normal part of their lives.

"He makes people feel comfortable around him because he doesn't dwell on it," said Linda. "And they go out of their way to speak with him because they like him so much. He also tells me how beautiful I am, and he truly believes it and means it. I'm constantly amazed by John, and I think our children are more compassionate people because of him."

She said they've both learned a great deal through his condition. "You think how devastating it can be for parents to have their young child diagnosed with [RP]," said Linda. "But if we can show them www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



John McKeown

what a normal life John has had, it can give them encouragement and a glimmer of hope for their

child's future. You just have to believe in yourself and that there's a way to get through it."



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Sports

Chantilly Boys Break Into Soccer Win Column

Chargers get victories over Westfield and Mount Vernon.

By Rich Sanders Centre View

he Chantilly High boys' soccer team, following a 0-8 start to the season, won consecutive games last week. The Chargers, in a Concorde District outing at Westfield High last Thursday, April 26, defeated the Bulldogs, 4-0, for their first win of the season. And earlier this week on Monday, April 30, Chantilly, in overtime, won a non-district home game over Mount Vernon, 4-3.

Chantilly (2-8-1) is not scheduled to play again until Monday, May 7 when it meets visiting district rival Centreville for a 7 p.m. contest.

Chantilly's lone-tie game this spring, 1-1, came in its season opener versus non-Northern Region guest Broad Run (Dulles District) back on March 13.

In last Thursday's win over Westfield, Chantilly scored two first half goals to take a 2-0 lead into the intermission. The first Chargers' score came from Nick Ullom, who found the net on a header shot, off an assist from Irvin Perez, five minutes into the contest.

Chantilly scored again, with 23 minutes remaining in the half, on a goal by Billy Germain, who dribbled past a few Bulldogs and ripped a shot into the left lower

corner. Assists on the score were credited to Dusty Peltola and Mannaan Umar.

Chantilly also found the net twice in the second half.

Umar, with 22 minutes left in the second half, scored his first goal of the season, shooting a high ball over the keeper and just under the cross bar, to make it 3-0. Ullom got the assist on that score.

Chantilly's final goal came on a Ben Fedenisn score, off a Germain assist, with 14 minutes left. On the scoring sequence, Germain dribbled the ball down the right side, turned the corner, and crossed the ball to the feet of Fedenisn, who put it away for his first goal.

Great goal keeping in the win came from Chargers' netminder Mitchell Lagos, who came up with some big saves throughout the contest as the Bulldogs tried to get onto the scoreboard.

ON MONDAY, in the win over Mount Vernon earlier this week, Chantilly opened the game's scoring five minutes into the start of play on an Evan Ragland head shot, off a corner kick assist from Bruno Zambrana. Mount Vernon, however, scored

two goals late in the first half and the Majors held a 2-1 halftime lead.

Mount Vernon scored again to

Sports Notes

Registration is open for the 5th Annual Erin Peterson Fund Golf Tournament set to take place Thursday, June 14 at Westfields Golf Club, located at 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Along with having a fun golf outing, participants will also be helping a worthy cause. Past donations and participation in the benefit event have resulted in the giving away of \$85,000 in scholarships and grants. For information and a registration packet, go to: www.erinpetersonfund.org. Click on the Golf Info icon at the top or click on the Golfer on the right. For questions, email erinpetersonfund@yahoo.com.

The Centreville High varsity baseball team will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Washington, D.C., chapter of Operation Homefront during its home game on Tuesday, May 8 against Concorde District rival Oakton. This will mark the second straight year in which the Wildcats will have held a fundraiser to benefit U.S. military personnel who were injured while serving overseas. Last year, the team raised more than \$1,500 for the Wounded Warrior Project during a home game versus Herndon High School.

The Centreville team, as it did a year ago, will wear camouflage jerseys during the game with Oakton. A donation box will be located at the front gate. Admission will be waived for the contest.

Several local businesses have become involved with the high school baseball event, which the Wildcats hope will draw a large crowd of students, parents, and community members throughout both the Centreville and Oakton localities. Several wounded soldiers are also expected to be in attendance and will be honored prior to the game.

For more information on how to get involved in the event, contact Richard Fite at Richard.Fite@NDU.EDU or call 904-718-6828.

The Westfield High School Ath

See Notes, Page 21



Photo by Bill Bowers

Chantilly sophomore Nick Ullom, in the air, scores on a header shot to give the Chargers an early 1-0 lead over Westfield. Chantilly, in the Concorde District game played on April 26 at Westfield, went on to win 4-0. No. 22 for Chantilly is senior midfielder Anton LeKang.

take a 3-1 lead about nine minutes into the second half — a score by Simond Kargbo. But the Chargers continued to work for chances and hit pay dirt with 28 minutes, 35 minutes left in the half when Umar, after a long shot by teammate Anton Lekang was blocked by a Mount Vernon player, was there to put the ball into the back of the net to get the Chargers within 3-2.

Later, with just less than 14 min-

utes remaining in regulation, Zambrana passed the ball up to Fedenisn, who went on to score the game-tying goal for a 3-3 score.

The game ultimately went into overtime play with two, five-minute sessions. Incredibly, both teams, Chantilly and then Mount Vernon, had goals called back — the Chargers' score being negated by a penalty call, and the Majors' goal being nullified by an offsides call. But Chantilly, with less than two minutes left, got the goal that counted and proved to be the game-winner when Germain, off a beautiful pass across the goal area by Umar, put the ball away for the score.

Lagos earned the win in net for the Chargers.

The loss was the first of the season for Mount Vernon (8-1-2), which competes within the National District.



Chantilly High junior defenseman Jake Dansey (right) stays right with Robinson's Chapman Jasien during last Friday evening's Concorde District boys' lacrosse game between the Chargers and Rams. Chantilly, playing at home, won 6-5 to improve to 12-1 on the season. The Chargers played their final regular season game this past Monday versus Herndon and will host a district tournament semi-finals game next Tuesday, May 8.

20 & Centre View North & May 3-9, 2012

Sports

Westfield Working to Regain Winning Form

Bulldogs set to host Concorde and local softball rival Centreville this Friday.

By Rich Sanders Centre View

he Westfield High girls' softball team, over the final few weeks of the regular season, will be looking to get back into the winning mode that was such a prominent characteristic of its season through mid-April.

The Bulldogs, an annual Northern Region power and last year's region champion, went into this spring season less heralded than usual. Westfield had lost numerous key players from last year's Concorde District and region title team to graduation and, naturally, was not expected to be the same high-level outfit.

But Westfield was 7-3 and playing good, solid ball through 10 games. In Concorde District play, the team was 3-0. Head coach Dean Ferington was pleased with the Bulldogs' strong showing through the spring season's first month.

But three straight district losses have put Westfield at 7-6 overall and 4-3 in the district. The tough three-game stretch began with a 7-3 loss at upstart Herndon on April 20, followed by a home loss to Oakton, 5-2, four days later. Then last Friday night, the Bulldogs lost at Chantilly, 3-0.

Westfield was looking to get back into the winning groove this week with district games at Robinson on Tuesday, May 1 and home versus Centreville this Friday night, May 4 at 6:30 p.m.

Westfield won at Centreville, 7-4, in the first season meeting between the local rival teams on April 17, the Bulldogs last win before the three straight losses.

WESTFIELD has received good seasons from its three seniors — catcher Lexi Scoville, outfielder Kayleen Bell, and first baseman Carrie Otroba. Last year, the trio looked up to the 2011 team's senior leaders. This season, they are the leaders.

"They are playing extremely well," said coach Ferington, earlier this month. "It has been different for them in that they are doing the pulling of the young [ones] instead of being pullled. I have expected a lot out of them and am very pleased in their play, leadership and maturity."

Westfield has been hit by the injury bug with junior pitchers Keona Gaines and Meaghan Heinecke being sidelined for extended periods of time. Caitlyn Rudy, another 11th grader, has done a good job on



Westfield won the region softball title last year with a finals win over McLean.

the mound in their absences.

Westfield will wrap up its regular season schedule next week with district games versus Herndon (at home, 6 p.m. on Tuesday, May 8) and Oakton (away, 6:30 p.m. Friday, May 11). Westfield will celebrate its Senior Night against Herndon.

The six-team Concorde District tournament is set to begin with first round games on Wednesday, May 16.

Sports Notes

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letic Booster Club (WABC) is accepting nominations for the executive board for the 2012-2013 school year. The following positions are up for nomination: President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Correspondence Secretary, and Treasurer. To nominate someone for a position on the board, or for additional information, contact one of the following members of the nominating committee: Robin Angle at anglehome@att.net; Karen Duncan at Wkduncan@aol.com or 703-222-4382; or Frank Giancola at fjgpcnv@aol.com or 703-830-4921. Volunteers are always welcome and other committee opportunities are available. The elections will be held at the Monday night, June 4 meeting at 7 p.m. in the school library. The mission of the WABC is to support all athletic programs at Westfield. This is an active, rewarding board. Be involved and support the Bulldogs.

The Chantilly Class of 2015 is hosting its first annual golf Tournament. The event will be held at Pleasant Valley Golf Club on Thursday, May 3. Proceeds will benefit the class of 2015. For more details on registration, go to www.fcps.edu/ C h a n t i l l y H S / i n d e x p d f s / golftournamententrysheet.pdf. **Fairfax Adult Softball (FAS)** is currently accepting applications for adult softball teams. Men's, Coed, Corporate Coed, Senior's (age 50plus), and Master's (age 35-plus) leagues are available. Don't miss the opportunity to enjoy one of the nation's top adult team sports. Contact FAS before June 1 to ensure your team's summer evenings being filled with fun, camaraderie, and a spirit of competitive challenges every game night.

Applications are accessible via the FAS home page at

www.playsoftballnow.com.



5K Run To Benefit

10). Walk-in registration and packet pickup are Friday, May 11, from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, May 12, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., and race day, from 6:30-7:30 a.m., at the Poplar Tree Community Center. Proceeds go to the Jeffrey Virostek Memorial Fund to aid other families battling cancer.





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News That's Fit To Print



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As our Publisher and fellow cancer survivor, Mary Kimm, e-mailed back to me last week: "Who knew 'stable' could be so exciting?"

Yes, 'stable,' as in the results of my most recent diagnostic scan after four heavy-duty chemotherapy infusions; even though I have been diagnosed with stage IV (meaning metastatic, meaning: moved already) lung cancer, nothing much is happening. For the moment, and that moment has now lasted three-plus years, I continue to be, fortunately for me, an anomaly: alive and reasonably well. Can I hear an "Amen?!"

Though I've tried, repeatedly, since June '09 when I first went public, column-wise, and confirmed my diagnosis/prognosis in print, it still remains nearly impossible to articulate exactly what bounces around in the head (figuratively speaking) of an otherwise healthy, then 54-year-old male (now 57), non-smoker, with no immediate-family history of cancer - or of even having ever smoked cigarettes, to be diagnosed with advanced-stage (IV; there is no V) "terminal" lung cancer. However, I continue to try, as you regular readers know. And thanks to the varied feedback I receive: cards, letters, emails, books, inclusions on prayer lists, and the expressions of encouragement and support typically contained, I am relatively healthy, in no small measure I believe, to the words and prayers - of hope and faith, directed to me.

Though I didn't start writing these "cancer columns," as I call them, for any greater good – it was simply what interested me, given my circumstances – they have evolved into a kind of cathartic exercise that perhaps has enabled me to still write them, if you know what I mean? If I didn't have this outlet (space) to indulge myself (thank you again, Mary Kimm), and subject you readers to the rigors – both physically and emotionally, of the ongoing struggles of a cancer patient living day by day, and writing about it week by week, I don't suppose I would be so proud of what I've accomplished/what I've endured.

That is not to imply that I have suffered any more than any other cancer patient and/or any other diagnosed-as-terminal patient; in fact, comparatively speaking, I think I've had it pretty easy (other than the reality of it all). Nevertheless, being diagnosed with cancer is all it's cracked up to be, despite one's relative good fortune in managing to outlive their prognosis ("13 months to two years"). I still can't get the characterization "incurable disease" as initially used by my oncologist, out of my head. As such, as good a result as what I recently received, it's still a temporary result, albeit it an amazing/great/miraculous one, but one subject to change, from what I understand. And as much as I want to receive and hear a permanent you're-cured-type of assessment from my doctor, apparently the chances are fairly unlikely. Still, I have to remain satisfied with the "stable" because the "stable" is all it's cracked up to be. And for a terminal patient, when you're no longer stable, generally speaking, you're no longer an anomaly.

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



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ity will meet Wednesday, May 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 900 in Fairfax. Call Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8662.

Join the Parade at Chantilly Day

The First Annual Chantilly Day is set for Saturday, May 12. A parade starting at 9:30 a.m. on Metrotech Drive will feature the Chantilly and Westfield high school marching bands. However, many parade openings are still available for anyone in any community wishing to participate. Children with decorated bikes, scooters, etc., are welcome. E-mail the organizing team at info@chantillyday.com.

The family festival will run from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. in the parking lot of the Sully Place Shopping Center, followed by a free con-

cert from 4-6 p.m.

Visit www.chantillyday.com for more ways to get involved. Major sponsors are the Chantilly-Centreville Chamber of Commerce and the Westfield Business Owners Assn.

Relay For Life Meeting

Local residents are invited to attend a Relay Rally planning meeting, Thursday, May 17, at 7 p.m., at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road in Chantilly. It's to present details about the upcoming Relay for Life walk, which raises money for the American Cancer Society. People may form a team of walkers, serve on the planning committee or volunteer at the June 9 Relay at the nZone. more information, For visit www.CentrevilleRelay.org or contact Brandi Steward of the American Cancer Society at brandi.steward@cancer.org

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/ olderadultservices/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); rice (2 lb. bags); canned meats; salad dressing, jelly; jam; spaghetti sauce, canned fruit; canned beets, spinach, greens, potatoes and mixed vegetables; canned garbanzo, lima, butter and northern beans; pancake mix and syrup; mayonnaise, baby food (stages 1 and 3); cocoa, coffee, ketchup and mustard. Also needed are laundry detergent, toothpaste, shampoo, toilet paper and baby wifes. 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.



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