

CENTRE VIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

JUNE 28 - JULY 4, 2012

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



Summer Fun

Trying to beat the heat, Austin Pacheco takes a ride down a slide in the center of the pool on June 20 at Atlantis Waterpark, located at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. The waterpark boasts a 500-gallon dumping bucket, many slides and a sand pit. More photos, page 11.

PHOTO BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

A Resolution For Lanigan

School Board awards almost \$73,000 to teacher.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

As far as Sean Lanigan is concerned, the nearly \$73,000 settlement he was awarded last week by the Fairfax County School Board is too little, too late. But he's determined to put the past behind him, learn from it and move on.

The settlement concluded a two-and-a-half-year battle between FCPS and the former Centre Ridge Elementary P.E. teacher after he was accused of molesting a sixth-

grade girl, put on trial and found not guilty. He then fought the board for reimbursement of his legal fees.

Lanigan signed the settlement agreement last Thursday, June 21. That night, in closed session, the School Board approved it.

After fighting for so long, he said Tuesday morning, June 26, "I'm emotionally and physically drained. But I'm very happy it's over and glad to get this pressure off my life."

In January 2010, a 12-year-old
SEE BOARD, PAGE 2

'Never Off Duty'

Firefighter reports Centreville blaze, helps rescue woman.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Bill Moreland, a captain with the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department, didn't make it to a dinner date with his wife, last Friday. But he had a good excuse: He was busy helping save someone's life.

Department staff had held an Officer Leadership Academy, all last week, at GMU. Moreland, 37, left the June 22 graduation ceremony around 3:30 p.m. and was driving in his department car to meet his wife at Red Robin in Chantilly for an early supper.

He took Braddock Road to Route



Capt. Bill Moreland at his PIO desk in the Massey Building in Fairfax.

28 to Chantilly to avoid some traffic. But as he arrived in Centreville, he noticed a light column of smoke. He later discovered it was coming from a townhouse at 120

SEE YOU'RE NEVER, PAGE 2

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News

'You're Never Off Duty'

FROM PAGE 1

Hoskins Hollow Circle in Centreville's Singleton's Grove community.

"As I got closer, it got darker and thicker, and I thought something was going on there," said Moreland. "I pulled over, looked through the trees and saw that the entire back of the house was on fire."

Using his portable radio, he reported the incident to the 911 call center. "I'd assumed someone had already called 911, due to the amount of fire and the volume of smoke, but no one had," he said. "So I told them I had an active fire and would get a better address by going into the subdivision to see what street it was on."

But as Moreland pulled up to the townhouse with his vehicle's red lights flashing and siren on, he saw people outside flagging him down. Although he didn't have his breathing apparatus with him, he did have his gear, so he quickly donned his protective coat, pants and helmet.

"The citizens there told me there was a lady still inside the house," he said. "So I took a second look at how bad the fire was in the back of the house and then entered. The smoke and heat were getting worse, and I noticed a couple other people — two men and a woman — trying to get the lady out of bed and into a wheelchair. We finished getting her in the chair together, and then I told them, 'Hey, we've got to get out now.'"

After they escaped, Moreland made sure the elderly, wheelchair-bound woman was all right. "I asked her if she was hurt or had any difficulty breathing," he said. "Then I heard the medic crew arrive from Station 17 [in Centreville] and turned the patient over to them. I also checked with the citizens who'd been inside because they'd breathed in smoke."

The fire engines had not yet arrived, so Moreland continued assessing the severity of the fire and relayed the information to the incoming units from Stations 17, 38 (West Centreville), 15 (Chantilly) and 21 (Fair Oaks). "I told them where the fire hydrants were and that the patient was outside," he said. "They already knew the fire hydrant locations, but I confirmed it for them."

The firefighters arrived around 3:55 p.m. and quickly began battling the blaze. The structure was a quad style containing four, two-story townhouses, and the firefighters brought the flames under control in about 30 minutes. Several other townhouses also sustained fire damage, displacing eight adults and one child. Two women — including the one in



Capt. Bill Moreland is back at his desk at Fire Department headquarters after helping rescue a woman from a Centreville townhouse fire.

the wheelchair — were transported with non-life-threatening injuries to INOVA Fairfax Hospital.

The fire was mainly in the rear of the townhouse and the attic area, and fire officials estimate the damage at \$160,000. Investigators say the fire was accidental and started outside in a mulch bed "when an unidentified passerby improperly discarded smoking materials into the mulch near the structure." They advise people to completely douse cigarette butts and ashes with water before throwing them away.

As for Moreland, he's a 15-year veteran of the Fire Department with a variety of experience. He's worked at the department's training academy, was the aid to Deputy Fire Chief Mike Reilly for three years and, this past year, was a firefighter with Station 40 in Fairfax, filling in as its HAZMAT officer when needed. Two weeks ago, he began his current job as a Fire Department spokesman.

And although he wasn't expecting an emergency situation after work, last week, he plunged right in, without hesitating. "The way I look at it, you can say you're off duty, but you never are," explained Moreland. "You're trained to help people and you always do what you can. It's my job and, to me, it's just doing the right thing."

Last week, after firefighters arrived at the Centreville townhouse and Moreland had made sure everything was OK, he called his wife and told her he wasn't going to make it to dinner, after all. So she met him at the scene and they went home together.

"I also volunteer [for the fire department] where I live, in Stevens City/Winchester, so this is what I do," he said. "I'm just glad I was able to be at the right place at the right time and help out."

Board Awards Almost \$73,000 to Lanigan

FROM PAGE 1

Centre Ridge student told authorities Lanigan had touched her inappropriately at the school and lay on top of her. Police charged him with aggravated sexual battery and abduction by force and FCPS placed him on unpaid, administrative leave.

But at Lanigan's trial in Circuit Court, four months later, the jury didn't believe the girl's allegations — especially after a friend of hers testified that the sixth-grader told her she'd lied about what happened.

Under questioning on the witness stand, the accuser also admitted she was angry at Lanigan for saying he'd have her removed from her position as a bus patrol because of her bad behavior on the bus toward other students. After deliberating less than an hour, the jury acquitted him.

The P.E. teacher had worked at Centre Ridge since 1998 and was popular with and well-respected by his students and colleagues. Yet even after he was cleared of any wrongdoing and his record was expunged, then-Principal Jim Baldwin refused to reinstate him at the school.

Moreover, in July 2010, the board declined to pay the \$107,838 in legal fees and expenses Lanigan had incurred — although according to state law, he was entitled to it because he'd been found innocent. So he hired attorney Bill Reichhardt the following spring and, in August 2011, filed suit against the School Board.

Reichhardt negotiated with the board's attorneys to settle the case, to no avail. It was initially set for

SEE SCHOOL BOARD, PAGE 10

ROUNDUPS

Dykstra Sued for \$1.35 million

In July 2010, Centreville's Craig Dykstra, then 51, was convicted in court of unlawfully filming an 18-year-old girl in the nude, the previous month, while she changed after a pool party at his home. It was a misdemeanor offense for which he eventually served five days of a 10-day jail sentence.

Now the victim, Westfield High graduate Liesl Stach, has filed a civil suit against Dykstra in Fairfax County Circuit Court. Claiming "intentional infliction of emotional distress," the complaint details the events that occurred at his home that day and seeks a civil judgment against him for \$1 million in compensatory damages and \$350,000 in punitive damages. At press time, he'd not yet responded to the complaint.

Teens Charged with Felonies

After a weeklong investigation, Fairfax County police have charged two 16-year-old boys in connection with the June 15 pellet-gun shooting outside Rocky Run Middle School. Pellets struck a boy, 14, and a girl, 13, who were outside on the school grounds, around 10 a.m. They were taken to Inova Fair Oaks Hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Police responded and recovered the pellet gun believed to have been used in the incident. An investigation ensued and the 16-year-olds were arrested last Friday, June 22, and taken to the Juvenile Detention Center to await their hearings.

One boy was charged with two counts of malicious wounding and shooting into an occupied building. The other was charged with one count of malicious wounding and shooting into an occupied building.

Malicious wounding is a felony punishable by as much as 20 years in prison and a fine of up to \$100,000. Shooting into an occupied building is a felony, as well, also punishable by prison and fines.

Juvenile Charged in Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department investigators have charged a juvenile with intentionally setting a fire in a Centreville playground. The fire was reported last Friday, June 15, around 3:10 p.m., at 14095 Keepers Park, a common playground area in a housing development in Centreville's Centre Ridge community. Fire officials say mulch in the playground had been intentionally ignited. When firefighters arrived at the scene, the flames had already spread to the playground equipment and nearby bushes and trees. Firefighters quickly brought the fire under control and no one was injured. Damage was estimated at \$5,000.

On Saturday, June 23, fire investigators charged the juvenile with two felonies: destruction of property greater than \$200 and setting a fire capable of spreading.

Parkway Gets New Number

The Fairfax County Parkway has been changed from Route 7100 to Route 286. It's because the parkway was re-classified as a primary road, rather than a secondary road, in the state system. This way, it will be eligible for federal funding for repairs. Virginia also spends more money on primary-road maintenance than it does to maintain secondary roads.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) successfully had the Fairfax County Parkway re-designated. Road signs will include both numbers for at least a year and a full repaving will begin this summer. The \$19 million project will be done mainly at night and on weekends and will require lane closures and occasional detours. Work is slated to be finished in October.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections July 12, from 5-8:30 p.m., at the station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. No appointment is necessary. Residents should install the child safety seats themselves so technicians may inspect and adjust them.

Only the first 35 vehicles arriving on each date will be inspected.

NEWS

CENTRE VIEW EDITOR STEVEN MAUREN
703-778-9415 OR CENTREVIEW@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

'How a Community Comes Together'

A progress report on Centreville Labor Resource Center.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

It still has a long way to go, but things are definitely looking up for the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC). The community's immigrants are finding jobs and less people are hiring them from streets outside the library and shopping centers.

The CLRC is run by the nonprofit Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF), and those involved with the center recently gave an update on its operations. After a slow start in December and January, more employers are now going there, which means more jobs for local residents.

"Our primary mission is to move the work negotiations from the street to the center," said CLRC Director Shani Moser. "And we've seen incremental growth in jobs."

In March, the center registered 52 new employers and had 14 repeat employers. This activity resulted in 96 jobs for 107 workers, so some employers hired more than one worker at a time.

In April, 157 workers were hired and there were 52 new employers registered. "There were also 44 repeat employers — which says a lot about their level of satisfaction

with the center and its workers," said Moser. "They have a positive feeling."

In May, the workers went on 152 jobs and there were 42 new employers registered, plus 41 repeat employers. Some 32 new workers also registered with the center. Furthermore, said Moser, "The job numbers don't include the number of workers picked up by employers at their homes. And the majority of the jobs had a pay rate of \$12/hour."

June job and volunteer statistics have not yet been compiled but, by the end of May, 73 volunteers helping the center had already given more than 1,100 hours of service since the center opened.

"We offer ESL classes and trade education, such as lessons in elec-

"We're not exploited like we were on the street."

— Luis Lucas, worker

trical work," said Moser. "And we give classes in topics such as personal-finance management and taxes. A dentist has checked the workers' teeth here and offered lower-cost care at his office, tax lawyers have come in to talk about the importance of income tax and health-care professionals have



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

CLRC Director Shani Moser discusses the center's operations.

asked how they could help us, too. So we're all learning about how a community comes together."

"Some of the workers are volunteering, as well," she continued. "We adopted a highway and did trash pickup, and the workers did publicity about the center. These things make them feel more a part of the community."

Moser said they've mainly been hired for landscaping and painting, with 67 percent of the jobs coming from homeowners and 33 percent from contractors. CIF member Bill Threlkeld said that was "roughly the same division" that the former, Herndon day-labor center had when he ran

SEE WE'RE LEARNING. PAGE 5

Dollars and Sense at Labor Center

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) board members Terry Angelotti and Ed Duggan recently presented a report on the financial status of the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC). They project the CIF to receive \$175,000 this year from a variety of sources to keep the center running.

"We expect \$60,000 from foundations," said Angelotti. "We already got \$20,000 from the Meyer Foundation and a \$15,000 Herb Block Foundation grant. So we still need \$25,000, and we've identified at least three foundations to apply to for the rest."

From corporations, the CIF is projecting to receive some \$39,000. "We've already received \$19,000 from A.J. Dwoskin [who owns the center's site] to cover utility and legal fees," said Angelotti. "So we need \$20,000 more."

The CIF anticipates \$30,000 in donations from the religious community. Said Angelotti: "So far, we just have \$2,000 because we've been focusing on other things."

Contributions from individuals are budgeted at \$40,000. To date, \$16,000 has been received or pledged. Also projected is a \$6,000 yield from spe-

cial events. In April, the labor-center workers held an international dance and music festival which brought in \$4,000, so just \$2,000 more is needed in this category.

"Each donation is important, whether it's \$10,000 or \$5," said Angelotti. "We thank everyone for their support." As for the government, she added, "We budgeted zero from it, we expect zero and we need zero." Duggan said the labor center's annual budget is \$231,000, including Dwoskin's in-kind donations of rent and utilities. "We spend \$13,000/month to operate the center, but we'd like to be able to do it without his help," said Duggan. "It would make our cost about \$20,000/month."

He said the CIF had \$91,000 before the center opened; and now, with the latest grants it's received, it has \$99,000. So, said Duggan, "As we apply for more grants, we're really good at showing our operating costs and where our money goes."

Meanwhile, lots more donations are needed to keep the center afloat; and since the CIF is a nonprofit organization, all contributions are tax-deductible. To donate;

❖ Go to www.virginia-organizing.org, click on "donate" and designate Centreville Immigration Forum; or

❖ Write a check payable to Virginia Organizing and mail it to CIF, Box 81, Centreville, VA 20122.

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NEWS

Replacing Walney Road Bridge

“Functionally obsolete and in critical condition.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Built in 1980, the Walney Road Bridge over Flatlick Branch in Chantilly carries more than 21,000 vehicles a day. Trouble is, it often floods, is disintegrating structurally and surpassed its life expectancy 15 years ago.

So VDOT plans to replace it with a wider, sturdier and safer bridge, and VDOT District Bridge Engineer Nick Roper says it’s definitely time.

“It’s a low-lying bridge, so it’s frequently inundated, trapping debris by the beams and promoting corrosion,” he explained. “It has steel beams, but a timber deck – which is the least durable. It usually lasts 15 years; so 30 years is pushing it.”

The bridge is about 500 feet from the Walney Road/ Westfields Boulevard intersection. And Roper presented details of the plan at a June 7 public meeting at the Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly.

Route 657 (Walney Road) Bridge Replacement
VDOT Project 0657-029-396 (UPC 82214)

Artist’s rendition of a widened, Walney Road Bridge, with inset photo of current bridge.

“Walney will be four-laned to Willard Road,” he said. “In addition, going north-south on Walney there’s a downhill curve. But under the new design,

SEE WALNEY ROAD BRIDGE, PAGE 7

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'We're Learning How a Community Comes Together'

FROM PAGE 1

it.

"We've also received many good testimonials from employers about the workers," said Moser. "They talked about the workers' expertise, how nice and pleasant they were and how they cleaned up after themselves, too. Some employers have come in and asked for the same workers [they hired previously], and it's so nice seeing those bonds starting to form."

Overall, she said, the CLRC benefits the community by the work it does and by removing most of the immigrant job-seekers from the streets. "Some contractors still come around there, and we need to break that," said Moser. "It's our biggest challenge. We want them all here in the center in a nice, safe community."

At a recent CIF meeting, worker Larry McIlwain said the center's a "great thing" for those who use it. "We're like family and we want to do something good," he said. "The people at the center make you believe in yourself and that you can do whatever you want to do, if you set your mind to it."

Agreeing, worker Luis Lucas said it's wonderful having the CLRC. "It's worked well and we feel safe here," he told the CIF members. "We're not exploited like we were on the street. Thank you for the opportunity, and may God bless you all and your efforts



Marcial Quinilla-Santos expresses his gratitude to the CIF for the labor resource center.

in making this a reality."

"Everybody here has helped my level of living," added worker Marcial Quinilla-Santos. "I'm very thankful to all of you."

Moser said the center has received many referrals from satisfied employers, but the lack of signs directing potential employers from Centreville's streets to the center is

"one of our biggest obstacles. We've distributed door flyers and are working now on signage to give us better visibility so people can find us."

She said the CLRC's skilled labor force makes it different from similar centers. And in May, the center began a specialized, peer-education project in which the more-skilled laborers share their knowledge and expertise with the less-skilled ones.

"We learned that, when our employees can't do something, they don't take the job," said Center Organizer Molly Maddra. "In April, we had to turn down some jobs needing more-skilled workers, so we started this project."

We're one of the few, suburban day-labor centers, so we have different dynamics and our workers are close to each other. They also realize that, the more skills they have, the more jobs will come."

So during the daytime, while waiting for jobs, workers needing to are learning things such as how to use power tools and cut and measure wood. Said Moser: "There's a good division of labor and abilities, with painters and carpenters showing each other what to do."

"We even have a tool-share closet because — [unlike in larger, more-urban labor centers] — we have a small pool of workers who know and are comfortable with each

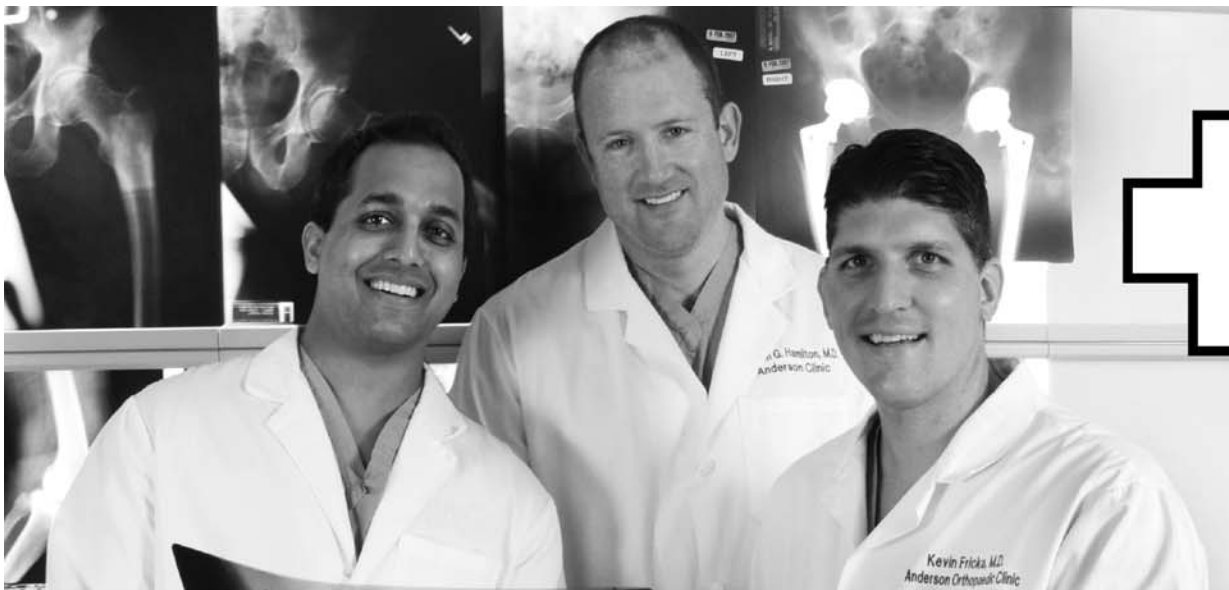


PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Center Organizer Molly Maddra speaks about the center's peer-education project.

other," said Maddra. "They're making sawhorses and sandwich boards for signs, plus workbenches that can also serve as seating in the center."

CIF President Alice Foltz then thanked Moser and Maddra for "their energy and hospitality and all the things they do every day that help make the center what it is."



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Marsden Praises Centreville Immigration Forum

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

At a recent meeting of the Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF), state Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) listened to a progress report on the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) and was pleased by what he heard.

"This is such a great idea," he said. "In Herndon, the day laborers are back on the streets again. When you have a choice between order, chaos and estrangement vs. community, it's easy to make it."

Marsden told the CIF members, workers and CLRC staff that Centreville's labor center is successful because of all their efforts. "What's being created here will make Centreville a better community, bring people together and provide something positive," he said.

"People need an example of how they can

take care of each other, and I'm proud of how well this center is operating," he continued. Noting that Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) supported and championed the CLRC, Marsden said, "The success here will change people's views of what can happen."

"We're all humans, whether we've lived here 15 years or 15 minutes," said Marsden. "It's a bumpy road through life and it goes much smoother when people support each other."



State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37)

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Referring to the immigration issue on a state and national level, as well, he spoke about Gov. Bob McDonnell's signing of a law requiring Virginians to show ID before they can vote. "I think this will intimidate people so they won't come back to the polls with it and won't vote," said Marsden. "My view of immigration is that we need to let the federal government do its job as it sees fit. And here in our community, we need to look after each other and help each other."

"I think what you've done here is an example of that," he added. "When you take care of people, problems tend to go away. When you build walls and point fingers of

blame, you make things worse and don't solve anything. People in Richmond think that, because we have a large number of immigrants here, we must have a lot of crime. But Fairfax County is the safest county in the commonwealth."

Basically, said Marsden, "Simple solutions to complex problems just don't work. In Alabama, crops are rotting in the fields; and Prince William County scared off so many people, it hurt their housing market." As a result, he said, "Many people are returning to their home countries as their economies are improving."

He acknowledged that he "took a lot of grief" because he voted to allow immigrants in Virginia to have in-state tuition. But, he said, America needs to educate the young immigrants who are here and "give them hope." And locally, said Marsden, "I'm glad this county looks for solutions, instead of trying to put wedges and walls between people."

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Replacing Walney Road Bridge

FROM PAGE 4

it will be smoothed out significantly to make it descend gradually. The road will also be raised 10 feet higher in the area where it currently dips down [as drivers leave the bridge], for better sight distance.”

After inspecting the bridge Feb. 14, VDOT determined it to be “functionally obsolete” and in “critical condition” and recommended it for an immediate upgrade. And with the deterioration and corrosion underneath, said Roper, “Weight restrictions on the bridge would be coming unless something was done.”

The bridge needs to be widened, as well. That’s because VDOT expects the average number of daily trips on it to increase to 33,000 by 2036. But so does Walney Road, so VDOT will advertise its widening from two lanes to four, up to Willard Road, in conjunction with the bridge project.

“But we want to eventually four-lane it from Willard all the way to Route 50,” said Roper. “That way, Walney will be four lanes all the way from Westfields Boulevard to the closest commercial properties on Route 50.”

Meanwhile, he said the new bridge will be a better design with a flat bottom and will be made of concrete for improved durability. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors already approved funding for the project and it’s in VDOT’s Six-Year Plan.

Anticipated cost is approximately \$7 million, in-

cluding \$1 million for preliminary engineering; \$1.43 million, right-of-way acquisition; and construction, \$4.6 million.

The current bridge is 27 feet wide from curb to curb and almost 40 feet long. The new bridge will be 75 feet wide and 72 feet in length. It will have two, 12-foot-wide lanes in each direction; 5-foot-wide bike lanes on the northbound and southbound lanes; a 5-foot-wide sidewalk on the west side; and a 10-foot-wide shared-use path on the east side. Also planned is a 7-foot shoulder on each side.

Furthermore, said Roper, “The bridge will be eight feet higher at the stream than it is now. This project will dramatically change the bridge and the landscape. We hope to begin construction in summer 2014 and end in summer 2015. Right-of-way acquisition should start this fall.”

In response to audience concerns, he said VDOT would also consider adding one or two left-turn lanes, if necessary, to prevent an evening-rush backup from motorists on Walney coming from Willard to turn left on Westfields.

During construction, the bridge will be closed to traffic. Drivers will be detoured via Westfields Boulevard, Route 28 and Willard Road.

“The detour is relatively short,” said Roper. “And closing Walney Road to traffic during construction will save eight to 10 months [work] time and \$750,000 in construction cost.”

Public Meeting Set to Present 2012 Park Bond

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority will hold a joint public comment meeting on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. in Rooms 106/107 of the Herrity Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA. This meeting will provide an opportunity for residents to learn about plans for a bond referendum this fall and to comment on the bond program highlights.

In May, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized a \$75 million Park Bond referendum as part of the Fiscal Year 2013 through 2017 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). This referendum, if approved by voters this fall, would provide \$12 million for the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$63 million for the Fairfax County Park Authority.

The Fairfax County Park Authority has worked hard to create a balanced approach to capital improvements. Using the Needs Assessment 10-year capital plan, facility condition assessments, park master plans and stakeholder input as tools for project selection, the allocation of park bonds would fall into three categories: stewardship and land acquisition, facility renovations, and park development. The project list balances priority needs, reinvestment in aging facilities, advancement of phased projects and improving the park experience.

The Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority utilizes a similar approach to allocating park bond funds, taking into account user needs, the capital improvement program, the strategic plan and existing facility conditions.

At the July meeting, staff will present the categorical highlights of the bond and will take public comment. Individuals and groups are welcome to speak. Individuals may speak for three minutes and representatives from groups may testify for five minutes. To sign up to speak in advance or for more information, contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. You may also sign up to speak at the meeting. The public may also submit written comments to the Park Authority at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 Fairfax, VA 22035-1118 or at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

To submit comments to the Regional Park Authority write to 5400 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039 or pladev@nvrpa.org. All comments will be taken until August 10, 2012.



Northern Virginia
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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least ten working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354 703-324-8700 • ONLINE : www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

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OPINION

Case Closed. Why the Secrecy?

No reason for police to exercise “blanket” approach, shielding every document in every case.

Centre View readers know that we respect and appreciate our public safety professionals. Members of local police and fire and rescue departments are motivated by their deep commitment to serve and protect our local communities. We honor those with our coverage of valor awards, features on police efforts to curb drunk driving and distracted driving, and tragically sometimes a death in the line of duty.

While police earn and deserve a special consideration, police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold

“complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should. Police chiefs and prosecutors from across the commonwealth have spoken out against any effort to undermine their broad power of exemption.

EDITORIAL

Senate Bill 711, originally introduced in 2010 by state Sen. John Edwards (D-21) and up for discussion again this week, would limit the blanket withholding of information to ongoing investigations. This could allow for the public release of documents in closed cases such as the one conducted by the Arlington Police Department about the death of Hailu Brook. In December, 2008, Fairfax County police officers chased 19-year-old Hailu Brook across the county line into Arlington and shot him dead. Brook, a senior at Yorktown High

School, had reportedly robbed a BB&T in McLean.

The autopsy report, one of the few documents his parents were able to obtain, shows that the teen was shot 20-25 times by three officers with large caliber handguns. Baffled by what happened to their son, the parents sought access to police reports and documents, but even now that the case is closed, their requests have been denied.

Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and question, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Somewhere along the way, police leaders in Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have gone astray in their control of information.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



At a ceremony on June 18, Gary Oswald (center), wife Rosemary (to his left) and daughter Amber are surrounded by six of the seven civilians and some of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department firefighters that worked together to save his life on Feb. 24. The Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department presented Life Saving certificates to Mary Butler, Damian Hawkins, Min Huynh, Lori Jones, Nick Taktak, Sandy Weaver and Chuck Wright for their work as a “well-rehearsed team” to perform multiple and continuing lifesaving actions on Oswald.



Sandy Weaver, of Centreville, gives Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ed Brinkley a hug at the ceremony as she is presented a Life Saving certificate for her part in the seven-person effort to save a colleague's life on Feb. 24.

Firefighters Present Lifesaving Award

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Battalion Chief Ed Brinkley presented Life Saving certificates on June 18 to Mary Butler, Damian Hawkins, Nick Taktak, Sandy Weaver, Minh Huynh and Chuck Wright for their efforts to help save the life of fellow Fairfax County employee Gary Oswald on Feb. 24. A seventh person, Lori Jones, will also receive a certificate for her contribution to the life-saving effort that day.

“I feel very privileged to be here, and honored that people that I don't know would take an interest in me and help. It's very nice to meet them,” said Gary Oswald at the ceremony.

Oswald's heart stopped on that February morning and it was the coordinated efforts of the seven Wellness Center employees and patrons to administer CPR and use the facility's Automatic External Defibrillator to keep his blood circulating. In addition to calling 911

and administering first aid, the group also found Oswald's locker, cut the bolt to retrieve his wallet, contacted his family to tell them of the emergency and went to meet EMS at the front of the Fairfax County Government Center. Said Sharon Arndt, who at the time oversaw the operation of the Wellness Center, “They were really looking out for his welfare. This is an example of county employees taking care of county employees.”

CENTREVIEW

NORTHERN EDITION

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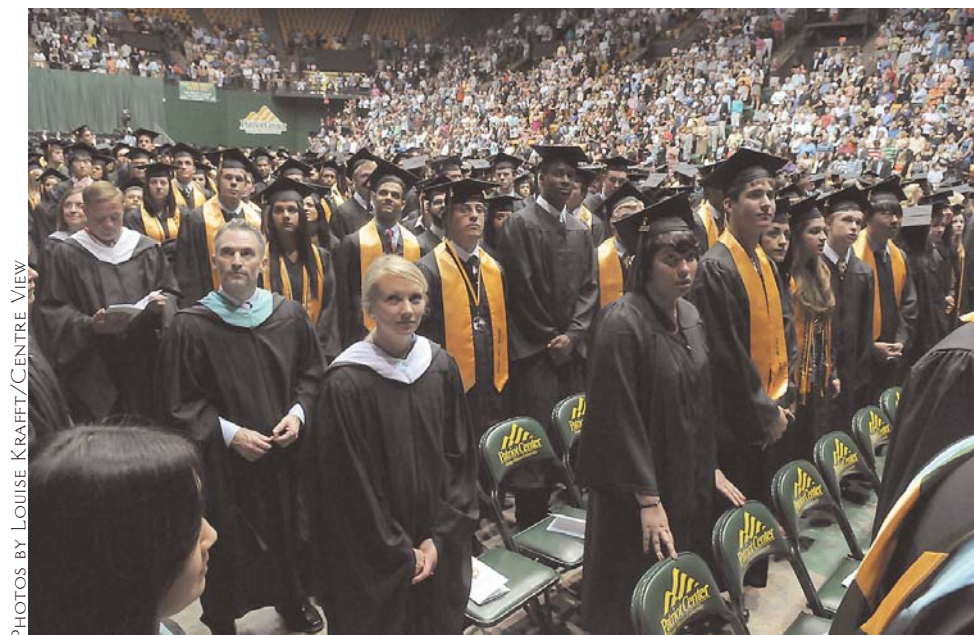
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GRADUATION '12



Members of the Class of 2012 take their places for the commencement exercises on June 18 at the Patriot Center.

PHOTOS BY LOUISE KRAFFT/CENTRE VIEW

Westfield Seniors Bid Farewell



Jessica Ehindr, Hannah Ehreth and Clint Edwards



Erik Skahn's family spots him in the procession and waves.



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School Board Awards Almost \$73,000 to Lanigan

FROM PAGE 1

May 1 of this year in Circuit Court and both sides were preparing to take depositions. But after spring break, said Lanigan, “The board’s attorney came back asking Bill, ‘What does your client want?’”

Lanigan, of Virginia Run, was teaching PE. at South Lakes High, but had asked to be transferred to Westfield High. His eldest daughter was already a freshman there and Lanigan’s other children will someday attend Westfield, as well.

He likes living in the same community where he teaches, so he’d hoped to teach PE. and coach soccer at the school. And his first year at South Lakes, he was in an over-staffed position, only teaching two or three days a week, alternating with lunch-detention duty.

“The board’s attorney was fine with it,” said Lanigan. He said both sides agreed that he’d get \$72,838 — his original demand, minus \$35,000 he’d already received from the Fairfax County Federation of Teachers union. “The case was then taken off the docket,” he said. “But on April 27, the school system said it wouldn’t transfer me to Westfield with my full seniority — only in an overstaffed position.”

The case was rescheduled for July 30 and six more weeks of negotiations followed. By the first week of June, Lanigan had decided to stay at South Lakes, take the money offered and “just end it and move forward with my life,” he said. “There was nothing else to fight for.”

FCPS spokesman John Torre said the board and Lanigan “reached a settlement on essentially the same terms that were offered to him last November.” But Lanigan said it “only offered this settlement since April 27, or so, before the May 1 court date.”

Overall, he estimates he’s spent between \$135,000 and \$145,000 between the criminal and civil cases so, even with the settle-

“I’m hoping my experience will open the School Board’s eyes to things that could be changed so something like this doesn’t happen to another teacher.”

— Sean Lanigan



Students gather around Sean Lanigan (in green T-shirt) to show their support in 2010 for him returning to Centre Ridge Elementary.

ment, the married father of three is still in a hole financially. “I’m frustrated about the amount of money I’ve lost and the time and energy I’ve spent on this case to get what rightfully should have been taken care of in July 2010,” said Lanigan. “But I wanted to see it through and make as much right as possible.”

He also decries the lack of a thorough investigation by the school system to verify whether the charge was credible. “Otherwise, they would have talked to people at Centre Ridge, discovered my evidence and found out my innocence,” said Lanigan. “They pinned me as guilty in the first two hours.”

“From day one, I never felt I had any backing or support from the school system,” he continued. But surprisingly, he said he harbors no hard feelings toward FCPS or the board. Said Lanigan: “I’m hoping my experience will open the School Board’s eyes to things that could be changed so something like this doesn’t happen to another teacher.”

He’s also enjoying his time at South Lakes and, last year, taught freshmen and sophomore PE. full time. “I’m in a great teaching environment, I love my job and I’m happy,” he said. “And I wrote a 60-page fitness curriculum for ninth- and 10th-graders, which FCPS now uses.” Lanigan also learned about health and got his driver’s-ed endorsement so he can teach both subjects to sophomores, and he’s vying for PE. Department chair.

“I like the people at South Lakes, the teachers are fantastic and the administration is supportive,” he said. “Coming from elementary school, it was a completely different world, at first. But I’m enjoying the challenge and have taken a leadership role there.” He’s also continuing to coach boys soccer at Herndon High, which he’s done since 1995.

“All in all, it’s still a great school system to work for,” added Lanigan. “I like learning, teaching and coaching.” But he admitted that the whole experience left a mark on him. “My first year at South Lakes, I was standoffish with everybody and on guard all the time,” he said. “This year, I was back

to normal.”

Still, said Lanigan, “You can never protect yourself from a kid’s lie. But you have to try. Now, if I go into an equipment room, I’m never alone with a kid. If I’m in a classroom alone and a girl walks in, I’ll walk out until more kids come in. I’m more self-conscious about things I never would have thought about before this whole ordeal.”

At the same time, he still laughs and jokes with the students and says he’s once again the same teacher that “people know and love. I’ve built that reputation at South Lakes already and have a great rapport with the students.”

Recently, said Lanigan, a woman in Costco told him her son still talks about the positive impact Lanigan had on him when he was a Centre Ridge student in 1999. “He’s now 24, and it’s a nice feeling to be a favorite teacher,” said Lanigan. “That makes teachers feel like what they do is worthwhile.”

All his trouble, he said, happened because he was falsely accused. “I’ve coached 20 years and taught 14 years,” said Lanigan. “It’s unbelievable that the word of a 12-year-old can do so much damage to someone’s life. But I’m not going to let this one, unfortunate ordeal ruin what I do and who I am.”

Lanigan’s Friends, Colleague Respond to Settlement

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Following news of the school system’s settlement to Sean Lanigan, a friend and neighbor of his, as well as a former Centre Ridge colleague gave their opinions of it to Centre View.

“It took two years to finally attempt to compensate an innocent man?” asked Virginia Run friend and neighbor, Beth Tweddle. “Sean’s requests were simple and he never gave up hope or the fight for what was right — an apology from the School Board (denied), the ability to teach in the

community he cares about, where his children attend school (denied) and to be made financially whole (partially achieved).”

“I admire his courage and resolve in taking on the School Board,” said Tweddle. “He’s an incredible teacher who’s suffered greatly in a case that never should have gotten past the first lie, two-and-a-half years ago.”

This could happen to any teacher. What confidence does the School Board instill in FCPS teachers, with the abhorrent mishandling of this situation?”

The whole thing saddened retired teacher Kathy Young, who taught at Centre Ridge

when Lanigan did. “I think of the arrest of an innocent man and picture him sitting in a jail cell for four days, knowing he had not done anything wrong, yet being treated like a criminal,” she recalled. “I remember feeling so helpless because it did not seem to make any difference what any of us on staff, or the students, tried to say about his innocence.”

“Sean Lanigan is a good man, and he deserved full compensation for his legal fees — and damages, on top of that,” continued Young. “For a school system to not support its teachers should give every single teacher in Fairfax County cause for alarm.”

There is much to this story that may never come out in public. But those of us who were there know that what they did to Sean is a crime.”

She said both the lie and its aftermath were “devastating to him and his family, parents, friends and community. The Ridge students did not see an example of justice being served and are fully aware of what the accuser got away with doing. Sean moves on, yet this will follow his footsteps for the rest of his life.”

When informed Tuesday what both women said, FCPS spokesman John Torre declined to comment.

SUMMER FUN

A Splashing Good Time



Elias Gilman of Centreville is a busy builder at the Atlantis Waterpark.



Bryce Gilman of Centreville digs away in the sand pit at the Atlantis Waterpark located at Bull Run Regional Park.



PHOTOS BY DEB COBB/CENTRE VIEW

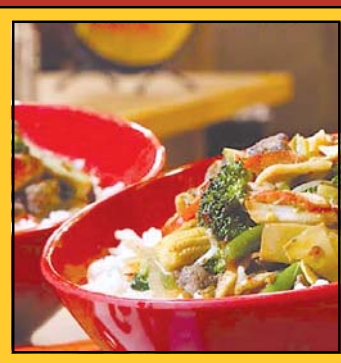
The crowd at Atlantis Waterpark, located at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville, hearing the dingy bell race to stand underneath the 500-gallon dumping bucket on June 20, one of the many features of the waterpark. The splash pad offers water cannons, showers, sprinklers, buckets and more. In addition the pool has a 230-foot open slide and a 170-ride in an enclosed slide as well as a large wading pool and sand pit.

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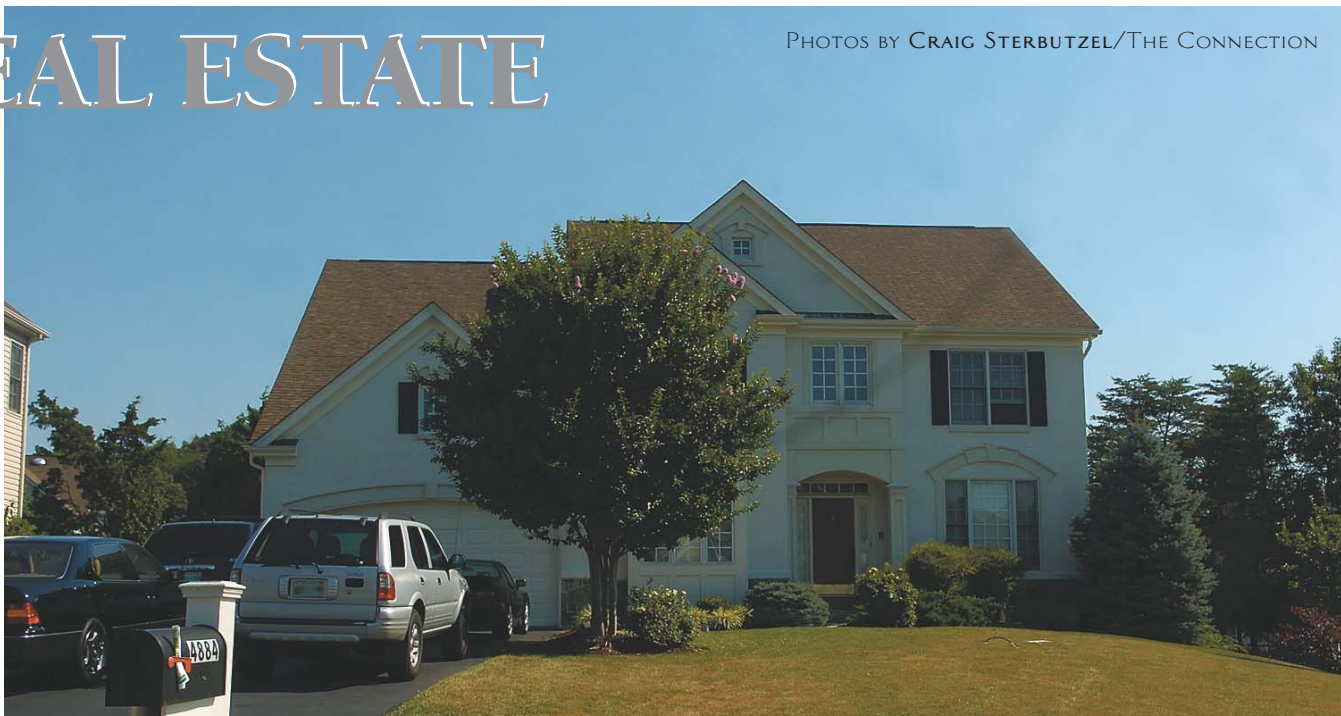
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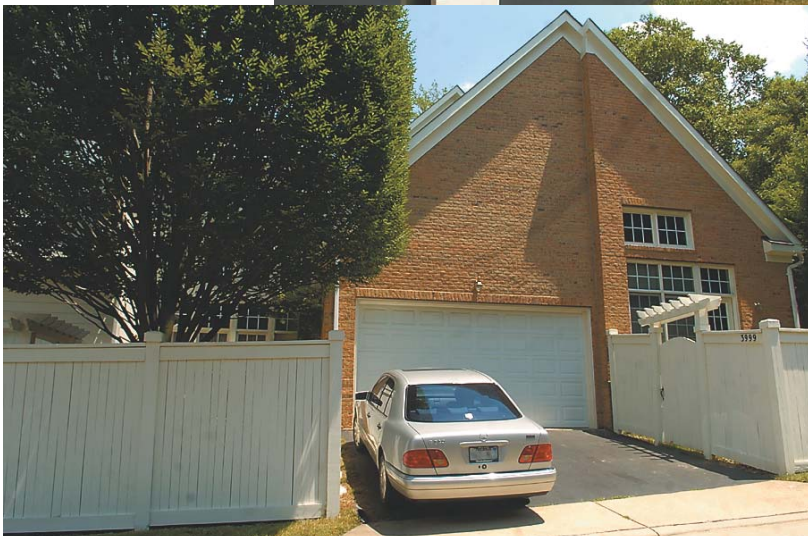
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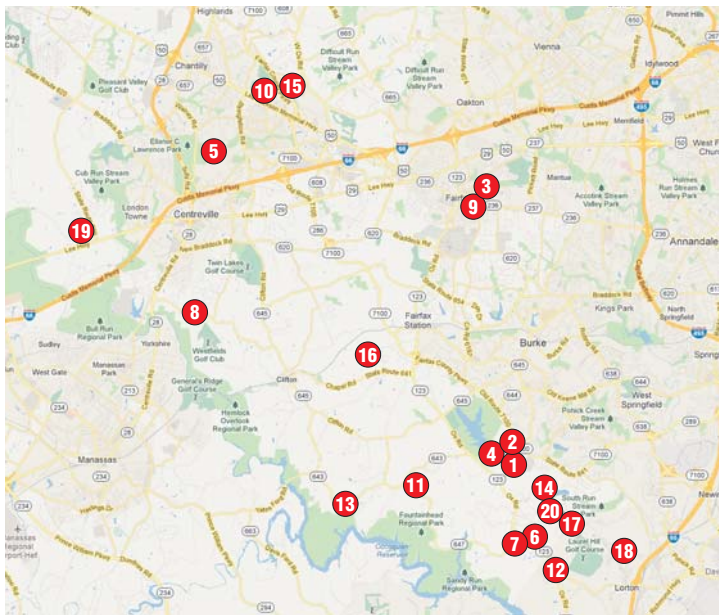


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20 8304 CROSSPOINTE DR	4	..	2	..	1	FAIRFAX STATION	\$700,000	Detached	..	0.24	CROSSPOINTE	05/14/12

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SCHOOLS

Mountain View Celebrates Success

Mountain View High School held awards assembly June 13 for graduating seniors.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF KEN BURTON



Daniela Pimental (on left) receives the Jessica Farthing Memorial Scholarship from Jane Farthing.



Erick Orellana receives the Centreville Presbyterian Church Community Service Scholarship from Cathy Sly (on left) and Cindy Roberts.



Catherine Read (on left) presents the Centreville Rotary Club Scholarship to Sarah Khaliq.



The Closet of Herndon Scholarship is given by Jennifer Teale (on right) to Maria Hernandez.



Erick Orellana is presented The Closet of Herndon Scholarship by Jennifer Teale.



Ahmad Samin Noor Ahmad receives The Closet of Herndon Scholarship from Jennifer Teale.



Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce STEM Scholarship is given by Eileen Curtis (on right) to Ahmad Samin Noor Ahmad.



Charlie McCullough (on left) receives the ExxonMobil Education Alliance/Uppy's Store No. 82 Scholarship from Jim Crawford.

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SCHOOLS

Mountain View's Department Awards

ATTENDANCE

Jessica Elaine Comstock
Rafael De Leon Marcos
Daniel Vigeant DeVuyst

ENGLISH

Ruben Zambrana Cespedes

ELECTIVES

PE
Jeremy Oliver Gillom
Claudia Villafuerte Pineda
Ana Munoz Lopez
EFE (Education for Employment)
Nathanael Jordan Blackmon
ART
Charles McCullough

BUSINESS AND INFO SYSTEMS

Maria Hernandez
Ali Raza Aslam

ESOL

Level 1
Victor Mendez Velasquez
Herson Alfaro Yanes
Level 2
Assim Shammo
Level 3
Maria Vega Vasquez
Cesar Chavez Martinez
Level 4
Maritza Kristhel Sequeiros
Veronica Quintanilla Iglesias

SOCIAL STUDIES

US/VA Government
Alexander Gevirtz
US/VA History
Karen Yvette Trejos
World History I
Sandra Villanueva Portillo
World History II
Nofa Hussein Elias

SCIENCE

Active Physics
Luis Asencio Guevara
Cesar Chavez Martinez
Geosystems
Farhia Ahmed Ali
Chemistry
Eugenia Belen Ratto
Claudia Villafuerte Pineda

MATHEMATICS

Individual Math
Nore Khalaf Hasan
Assim Shammo
Algebra 1, Part 1:
Luis Asencio Guevara
Algebra 1
Jeremy Oliver Gillom
Marquayle Raheem Henderson
David Adonay Hernandez
Geometry
Claudia Villafuerte Pineda
Algebra 2
Pablo Mauricio Alvarado



Michelle Vargas receives the Jaeschke Family Foundation Book Scholarship from Rex Jaeschke.



Rex Jaeschke (on right) gives the Jaeschke Family Foundation Book Scholarship to Charlie McCullough.



Maria Hernandez is given the Jaeschke Family Foundation Book Scholarship by Rex Jaeschke.



Marisol Quintanilla (on left) receives the Kris Hall Memorial Scholarship from Sandy Valenzuela.



Laura Leydon (on right) gives the Merritt Family Memorial Scholarship to Felicia Kcludis.



The Mountain View Scholarship is given by Art Steffen (on right) to Santos Rivera.



Art Steffen (on right) presents the Mountain View Scholarship to Andrea Padeway.



Receiving one of three Mountain View Scholarships from Art Steffen is Delmy Perez.



The New Directions Scholarship is given by Pete Garvey to Maria Hernandez.



The Northwest Federal Credit Union Education Foundation Book Scholarship is given to Erick Orellana by Linda Rogus.



Chris Allen (on right) gives the Parent Community Connection Scholarship to Michelle Vargas.



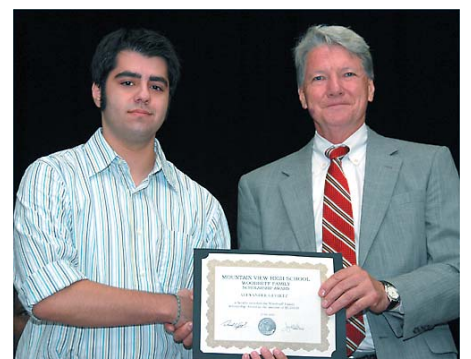
Matt Ketner receives the Terry Studt Memorial Scholarship from Becca Ferrick.



Tom Troy (on right) presents the VFW Post 5412-Burke Scholarship to Stephanie Abbott. Troy also gave the Troy Family Scholarship to Hannah Hall (not pictured).



Sarah Khaliq (on left) receives the Wade Jordan Memorial Scholarship from Jennifer Jordan.



Chuck Woodruff (on right) presents the Woodruff Family Scholarship to Alex Gevirtz.

Despite Victories Poplar Tree Pirates Fall in Opener

At Poplar Tree for the first dual meet of the season, the visiting Riverside Gardens Tsunami defeated the Poplar Tree Pirates, 239.5-180.5, in Div. 6 Northern Virginia Swimming League (NVSL) action on Saturday, June 23.

Kai Taft led off against the Tsunami with the first Pirate victory in the 8-under boys freestyle. Marcelo Coray and Lauren Young claimed victory in the 11-12 boys and girls freestyle events.

The Pirates battled on in the backstroke events. Marcelo Coray streaked to a win in the 11-12 boys race. Haley Alderman, Julia Young and Katie Colonna combined to sweep in the 11-12 girls event. Hannah Warnick won the 13-14 girls backstroke and Evan Baker rounded out the Pirate backstroke victories in the 15-18 boys event.

The Pirates did much better in the breaststroke events, winning six out of 10 events. Mary Kominski won the 9-10 girls event, breaking a Pirate team record with her time of 41.53. Following suit, also breaking a Pirate team record, Fletcher Madsen won in the 11-12 boys' event with a time of 39.63. Corinne Kominski and Lauren Young combined to take first and second place for the 11-12 girls. Jonathan Wen won the 13-14 boys and Nicole Baker and Julia Brunner finished one and two in the 13-14 girls event. David Stewart wrapped up the wins in breaststroke in the 15-18 boys event.

The Pirates continued to do well in the butterfly, winning five of 10 events. Kai Taft led off with a victory in the 8-under boys and Mary Kominski won the 9-10 girls event. With a winning time of 32.66 in the boys' 11-12 event, Fletcher Madsen broke his second Pirate team record of the day. Haley Alderman and Katie Colonna combined to take first and second in the 11-12 girls event. To round out the butterfly action, Lauren Hensley and Brianna Fridy were first and second place in the 15-18 girls fly.

The Pirate girls' 9-10 medley relay tied in a heated start to the relay events. The Pirates took four of the remaining 11 relay events to conclude the meet with Riverside Gardens. Winning relay teams included the 11-12 boys and girls' medley, 13-14 boys medley, and the girls mixed age freestyle relays.

Double individual event winners for the Pirates included Kai Taft (8-under free and fly), Mary Kominski (9-10 breaststroke and fly), Haley Alderman (11-12 back and fly), Marcelo Coray (11-12 free and back), and Fletcher Madsen (11-12 breaststroke and fly).

Single individual event winners for Poplar Tree were,



Leading the Poplar Tree Pirates this year are assistant coaches Preston Rhodes and Katie Dingman; head coach Elizabeth Hall; and assistant head coach Susie Dixon.



The Poplar Tree Pirates boys 8-under freestyle relay team of Kai Taft, Nathan Warnick, Adrian Coray, and Nicholas Martin.

Lauren Young (11-12 free), Hannah Warnick (13-14 back), Evan Baker (15-18 back), Corinne Kominski (11-12 breaststroke), Jonathan Wen (13-14 breaststroke), Nicole Baker (13-14 breaststroke), David Stewart (15-18 breaststroke), and Lauren Hensley (15-18 fly).

— CRISTIN KOMINSKI

Sequoia Farms Disappointed in Home Opener

In the opening swim meet of the summer season, the Sequoia Farms Stingrays suffered a disappointing loss in their own pool. The Stingrays simply could not overcome the power and the depth of the Countryside Waves.

Congratulations go out to Kate Croxton, who broke a 13-year-old Sequoia Farms record in backstroke and finished first in free, back, breaststroke and fly events.

Keeping Sequoia Farms competitive as well as improving their times were: Adam Bechtol (third place, breaststroke); Travis Blee (first in breaststroke, second in freestyle, third in back); Samantha Caiazza (first in back); Marissa Cassens (third in free and back); Jamie Cerisano (third in free and back); Jesse Cerisano (first in back and fly, second in free); Brian Chapman (third in free and fly); Lauren Chin (third in breaststroke); Ian Clardy (first in back, third in free); Matthew Cohen (third in back); Connor Croxton (third in fly); Blake Feichtl (third in breaststroke); Lillianne Fish (second in back, third in free); Sydney Fish (third in fly); Brady Gallagher (second in free); Will Hadermann (third in fly); Avery Harris (first in free and fly); Brice Harris (second in fly, third in free and back); Jessie Heise (first in back); Julia Hilburger (second in

SEE SEQUOIA FARMS, PAGE 20



Diane Sellars, Nicole Williams, Lillianne Fish, Julia Hilburger, Sydney Fish, Anson Stevie and Kate Croxton cheer on their teammates.



Pleasant Valley Piranha Nyssa King, 11, congratulates her younger brother, Isaac, 8, after a successful swim.

Chantilly Piranhas Set Multiple Records in Season Home Opener

Pleasant Valley's Piranhas plunged into their 2013 swim season with style garnering a multiple record-setting victory over their visiting NVSL Division 16 competitor, the Lincolnia Park Lazars. Chantilly's Piranhas showed depth across the pool notching victories in virtually every age division.

Bryce Person led the way as he smashed an 8 year old pool record in the Boys 9-10-year-old 25 meter Butterfly, posting a time of 18.14 seconds. The Piranhas have assembled an exciting

relay team of 9-10-year-old girls in the 100 meter IM medley with Ainsley Miller, Rachel Jacobs, Lara Zanotti, and Madison Dill.

In their first outing together, the girls shattered a 1999 pool record with their combined time of 1:25.28 These girls promise to be a group to watch in the seasons to come.

The Piranhas will try to make it two victories in a row as they welcome division rival, Hollin Hills to Chantilly on Saturday morning, June 13.

Soccer Champs



The SFL/SYA U16 Boys All-Star team won the Championship in the FPYC Father's Day tournament June 16 and 17.

Wallace Selected for Lax Academy

Mackenzie Wallace has been selected to play in the 2012 Brine National All-Star Lacrosse Academy and Brine National Lacrosse Classic.

Mackenzie, daughter of Bill and Doreen Wallace, a 7th grader at Franklin Middle School, has been named as a 2012 Brine National All-Star and has been selected to represent the DMV in the 2012

Brine National National All-Star Lacrosse Academy and National Lacrosse Classic to be held in Boyds, Maryland June 30-July 3, 2012.

The Brine National All-Star Lacrosse Academy brings the top 160 middle school lacrosse players in the country to one venue, where eight regional teams will compete to be 2012 National Champions.

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SPORTS

Sully Station SSTs Exceed Expectations

The Sully Station SSTs couldn't have asked for a better way to start the 2012 NVSL swim season — partly cloudy and 80 degrees. But Saturday, June 23, the SSTs' expectations for this year's first 'A' meet were far exceeded. Hosting Waynewood, the SSTs amassed wins in 34 events, earning their first victory of the season.

Sweeping two events, the SSTs, brought home six wins in freestyle. Leading the way was 8-year-old Madison Moon and 7-year-old Leah Mozeleski in the girls 8-under 25-meters event. Ten year olds Brian Patten and Allison Hickey placed first in the 50, with Hickey beating her nearest competitor by more than five seconds. The 13-14 boys — Anirwin Sridhar, Collin Fiala and Dominic Huffman — swept their 50 race along with the 15-18 girls — Logan Coulson Moore, Zoe Hemmer and Grace McKnight. The 15-18 boys also won their event, with Daniel Okhovvatgiliani grabbing the top spot.

The SSTs' backstrokers were on fire with a total of seven wins, also sweeping two events. Both the boys and girls seized the first and thirds spots of the 8-under 25 events. Finishing first were 8-year-olds Bryce Brown and Brooke Patten, while their 7-year-old teammates, Jakob Huse and Avery Moon, made strong third place showings. Winning the 9-10 girls 50-backstroke, 10-year-old Jessica Dickinson squeezed out her competition by a margin of more than five seconds. Ten-year-old Elise Mozeleski swam for the 11-12 girls, capturing the top spot and setting a new 9-10 record of 36 seconds. The SST boys stepped it up a notch, sweeping the 13-14 and 15-18, 50-events. Collin Fiala led the



PHOTOS COURTESY OF STACEY HUSE

Helene O'Brien, 8, took home the win for the Sully Station SSTs, swimming the 25-meters butterfly event on Saturday, June 23 versus Waynewood.

way, followed by Matthew McPherson and Dominic Huffman. Richard Xue took top honors for the older boys, with Michael McPherson coming in second and Samuel Wilson grabbing the third spot. Logan Coulson Moore prevailed for the 15-18 girls.

The Sully girls dominated the breaststroke races, securing the top spot in all five events. In the 8-under 25-meter, Brooke Patten was again the victor, while Allison Hickey, Payton Moore, Lauren McDermott and Amy Layne bested the competition in the 50 events. The 13-14 boys also placed nicely in

SEE SULLY STATION, PAGE 20

Sully Station II Outscored in Season Opener

The Sully Station II Piranhas kicked off their summer swim season on June 23 against fierce competition in Northern Virginia Swim League's Div. 3, their highest seeding in team history. The Piranhas gave a valiant effort against Hamlet, winning 10 of 12 races that were decided within half a second, but were ultimately outscored 241-178. The loss snapped a 19-meet win streak spanning the past four years, but still demonstrated Sully II's team spirit and competitiveness.

Three Sully II team records were broken in the first meet of the season, including 12-year-old Georgia Stamper taking down a record that stood for a decade in 11-12 girls breaststroke with a time of 39.75.

Nick Campbell lowered his own record from last summer in 15-18 boys backstroke with a swift 29.28. The 15-18 girls medley squad of Madisyn Graham, Erin Schulte, Carli Molano, and Kenzie Elliott closed out the meet with speed by dropping an 11-year-old record with a time of 2:15.26.

The Piranhas had three double event winners in the meet, including seven-year old Angela Cai in 8-under free (18.98) and breaststroke (24.48); 9-year-old Faith Alston in 9-10 girls back (41.24) and breaststroke (45.39); and 10-year-old Delaney Kennedy in 9-10 girls free (36.97) and fly (18.42).

Outstanding single event winners included freestylers Harrison St. Germain (19.10) and John Henry Stamper (37.82) and breaststrokers Georgia Stamper and Michael Jiang (37.44). In the backstroke, Lauren Peters led a sweep



PHOTO COURTESY OF SULLY STATION II

Three Sully Station II records were shattered in the first meet of the season. Record-setting Piranha swimmers included, from left: Kenzie Elliott, Carli Molano, Erin Schulte, Nick Campbell and Georgia Stamper.

of the 11-12 girls with a time of 37.83, followed by teammates Karenn Hall (41.56) and Carly Logan (42.33). The team cheered on the awesome 8-under swimmers in their inaugural fly event at a dual meet, with boys Ben Wiemann (34.67) and Harrison St. Germain (35.23) capturing first and second and Callie Ver Planck earning second in the girls event with a fast 25.20. Fly victories were also secured by Caitlin Campbell (37.26) and Carli Molano (31.83).

The Sully II Piranhas will square off against Crosspointe at their first home meet on June 30.

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Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2013 Budget and New Schools Opening

New School Buildings Opening in September

Students in three Fairfax County communities are eagerly anticipating the first day of school on September 4. Two new schools, Mason Crest Elementary School in Annandale and South County Middle School in Lorton, will open their doors for the first time. Graham Road Elementary School will move students from the old school location to a redesigned building previously used as an administrative building. All three projects were funded by bonds approved by Fairfax County voters.

Mason Crest Elementary School

Mason Crest Elementary is located at the site of the old Lacey Instructional Center at 3705 Crest Drive in Annandale. Members of the community participated in naming the school which combines the name of the old Masonville school and the Broyhill Crest neighborhood.

"We are excited to already be working with our parents and our community," said Brian Butler, principal at Mason Crest. "Our mission is to ensure high levels of learning for all our students and it will take all of us, parents, teachers, and the community, working together to honor every student."

More than 470 students in grades K-5 are expected to attend Mason Crest. The school will

host programs and services including a Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP/Headstart), advanced academic local level IV services, special education preschool and School-Aged Child Care (SACC).

The two-story building was designed with sustainable and environmentally friendly features including a ground source heat pump, the first one installed in a Fairfax County Public School. The heat pump uses 96 geothermal wells buried 400 feet under the ground to exchange heat to or from water in pipes as it travels to and from the building. Electricity helps move the heat back and forth, but the pump does not burn fossil fuel. This process helps reduce the school's carbon footprint because there are no harmful emissions to the environment.

South County Middle School

South County Middle School was built in one of the fastest growing areas of Fairfax County. It sits on 40 acres of land located at 8700 Laurel Crest Drive in Lorton and was constructed on property obtained from Fairfax County Park Authority.

Many of the students attending the new middle school previously attended South County Secondary School (SCSS), which is adjacent to

the new school property.

"We look forward to keeping many of our SCSS traditions as we create a new identity as a separate middle school," said Marsha Manning, principal of South County Middle School.

The middle school is a two-story building with more than 176,000 square feet. It will have 40 general education classrooms and additional elective rooms for students in grades 7 and 8. By obtaining land from the park authority and using the same design as was used for Glasgow Middle School, FCPS was able to achieve cost savings for the development and design of the project.

The new middle school will be home to state-of-the-art technology and facilities and host an Advanced Academic Level IV Center Program and a program for intellectually disabled students.

"We're thrilled to move into a new building that we will make into our home," said Manning. "We will strive to make every student feel capable, connected, and a contributor at South County Middle School."

Graham Road Elementary School

Graham Road Elementary is moving to a new location that will increase the school's capacity for more students and provide improved athletic fields and playground facilities. The new location will be at 2831 Graham Road in Falls Church.

In 2008, the Fairfax County School Board decided it would be less disruptive to renovate the administrative center than to renovate the elementary school since students would not be on the campus during the renovation. The new site also offered less traffic congestion, better traffic flow, and an opportunity to keep the Head Start-Family and Early Childhood Education Program (FECEP) together with the K-6 students in one building.

"The opening of our new school building is very exciting for our students, parents, and staff," said Terry Dade, principal at Graham Road. "We are eagerly anticipating the day when the doors officially open and the students' faces light up as they enter a building that is bright and inviting and provides the latest technology and resources to enhance their learning. We sincerely appreciate the community support during this process and we're really looking forward to the first day of school in September."

The renovated building has been transformed with all new interior and exterior finishes, energy efficient windows, and a new roof. In addition, a new HVAC system has been installed along with a new fire alarm and other life safety systems.



Getting To Know Us

IT Operations Cathy Sells

As you watch a building being constructed over time, you notice the concrete being poured, the roof being built, and the windows installed. Each person working on the school building plays a significant role in the process and is relied upon by the whole team.

Opening a new school building requires coordination by a team of skilled professionals, from the areas of design and construction, transportation, food service, human resources, information technology, safety and security, instructional services, special services and many others.

Behind the scenes there is much going on that may not be visible or noticeable. Cathy Sells, director of operations for information technology (IT) at FCPS, works with the entire IT department to ensure that the technology required for a school building is available when and where it is needed.

"Technologies such as network connectivity, voice services, wireless access, data storage, computer equipment, printers, and copiers ensure a contemporary learning environment for 21st century instruction," said Sells.

"Our IT team works very closely with the school principal on the technology plan for the school. Our mission is to provide technology leadership and services to ensure a safe and secure environment for 24/7 learning.

"It is really fascinating to see the coordination of the people involved when we build a new school," she said. "Everyone works together to ensure that the new site will be the best possible place for the students and staff in that community. We all rely on each other and it's one of the best things we do as an organization."



Fairfax County School Board Adopts FY 2013 Approved Budget

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the Fairfax County Public Schools 2012-13 school year (FY 2013) Approved Budget of \$2.4 billion that includes:

- compensation increases for employees.
- the elimination of student athletic fees.
- more than 700 new positions to address enrollment growth.
- extended learning time for at-risk students.
- the expansion of the World Languages program in elementary schools.
- a phase in of mandated employee contributions to the Virginia Retirement System (VRS).

The FY 2013 Approved Budget is an 8.2 percent increase over the FY 2012 Approved Budget. For more information visit www.fcps.edu and click on FY 2013 Budget.

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MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS

Zumba. 7-8 p.m. Latin-based dance fitness classes — no gym membership required. Visit www.gozumbafun.com.

THROUGH AUG. 31

Summer Camp. For ages 3 to rising 9th graders. Teen Camp for rising 10th graders to rising 12th graders. At Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville.

SATURDAY/JULY 7

The Great Zucchini. 10 a.m. Free. Children's show at E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, Centreville.

MONDAY/JULY 9

Vacation Bible School. 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Free. Explore the

Amazing Wonders Aviation in a one week adventure kid's encounter God's awesome power through Bible Stories, Craft, motivating music and games. Oakton Baptist Church of Chantilly. Located at the corner of Sullyfield Circle and Route 50 in Chantilly. Call 703-631-1799

SATURDAY/JULY 14

Obon Festival. 5:30 p.m. Ekoji Buddhist Temple is celebrating its 31st Obon Festival with a full-evening of activities including traditional Japanese folk dancing, a memorial candle ceremony, children's games and a taiko performance by Nen Daiko. On Sunday, July 15, a joint service will be held at 11 a.m. and will be officiated by Rev. Brian Nagata, of Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai — America (BDK) visiting from Berkeley, Calif., who will also serve as the guest speaker. Contact information@ekoji.org or www.ekoji.org.

THURSDAY/JULY 19

John McCutcheon. 7:30 p.m. Folk musician at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon.

SUNDAY/JULY 22

Music of the Civil War. 7:30 p.m.

Sully Historic Site and Frying Pan Farm Park join together to host a concert of period music in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the Civil War. The 97th Regimental String Band recreates an actual string band of the Civil War Era singing a wide variety of traditional American songs in authentic, "living history" style. At Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Call 703-437-1794.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4

"The Muppets." 6 p.m. At the Starlight Cinema Drive-in Movies at Trinity Centre in Centreville.

SATURDAY/AUG. 4-SUNDAY/AUG. 5

Expo. Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax, will present a Women and Children's Expo for professional women in the Grand Court of the center. The Fair Oaks Women and Children's Expo will feature such showcased services as continuing education, women's health care and career opportunities for women, along with enrichment programs for children including private schools, private preschools, martial arts, gymnastics, and arts and performance schools. Free and open to the public. Call 703-359-8302 or visit www.ShopFair.Oaks.Mall.com.

Named One of Top 10 in Nation

Chantilly's Creative Dance Center Competition Team was named one of the "Top Ten Dance Studios in the Nation" by Star Systems Talent Competition, an industry leader in its 25th year in the talent business. The designation was awarded to 10 studios in the U.S. who received the highest composite scores on their top five advanced dance entries in small groups, large groups and lines/productions during Regional Competition. At Star Systems Regional Qualifier in Basking Ridge, NJ, Creative Dance Center's Competition Team was given the designation "Super Star Studio Award" for having the highest score when the top five CDC*CT dance scores were added together. The team will travel to Nationals in Myrtle Beach, S.C., in July to compete on a national stage.



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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

A GAP In My Thinking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently, due to circumstances beyond my control, I was forced to buy a new car (in this instance, "new" means different, not a current model year). Estimated repairs at 137,000 miles that could have escalated into the unknown – and unaffordable – thousands compelled me to fish so I wouldn't have my bait cut (and I don't even like to fish). As a result of this unexpected commitment, the light at the end of the financing tunnel has all but disappeared (I had one year left on our previous car). Where once I was nearly right-side up, I am now upside down, inside out and no longer counting the months until my final payment. Now, I am counting the days until my second month's payment (there's too many months remaining to count months). All that I had anticipated as being old is once again new: the bank/lien holder, the payment amount/terms and the inch-thick payment booklet. Seventy-two months can really stack up.

But I really didn't have a choice, unfortunately. In fact, I was dealing from a position of weakness (my car was undriveable). The dealership, after examining the car's engine, sort of knew that fixing my car, given its age and mileage, was probably unlikely, so they made me an offer – as a trade toward the purchase of one of their vehicles. It wasn't ideal by any means, but given the mechanical troubles, I didn't feel as if I had any practical options (I wasn't going to tow my car to various dealerships for offers, was I?) so I swallowed hard and tried not to bite the hand of the seller as the deal (and I use that term loosely) was presented to me. I accepted. And so the damage/I mean deal was done. I wasn't happy about it, although I did receive fancy, and expensive, floor mats for free. However, I wasn't quite finished.

As any car-purchaser knows, the deal isn't really done until, as they say, the paperwork is finished. And "paperwork" means sitting down with the finance manager to sign and seal that "deal." Only after doing so will you know what your "new" car is actually going to cost (with miscellaneous "add-ons" like undercoating). For me, my monthly payment increased by nearly \$100: extended warranties, prepaid service contract and tire replacement insurance, all of which sounded like a good idea – and prudent, at the time. Now I'm not so sure, but what's done is done and the less said about it the better. I really do have other things to worry about, as you regular readers know.

One of the offers the finance manager made to me, which I had no regrets refusing, was GAP insurance. My understanding now is that GAP Insurance pays off the balance of the outstanding loan in the event an accident "totals" the car, far exceeding the settlement offered by standard coverage, often suggested/encouraged/required when a low down payment is made and the borrower is approved for a significant percentage of the cost of the vehicle. Given the other add-on commitments I had already made and my impatience at considering additional dollars, I passed and so we finalized the paperwork.

Maybe I was too hasty. Incorrectly, I thought GAP Insurance had more to do with the balance of the loan being paid off in the event of death and/or disability. Since I'm already disabled and have sufficient life insurance – and don't want to think about death, if possible, I declined. I never even gave the finance manager an opportunity to explain or to give me a quote. For all I know, the price might have been right. I should have at least listened since, as an a cancer patient, still undergoing treatment, I'll never be able to buy insurance any other way. Had I listened, I would have learned of my misunderstanding, and considering what I now know to be the meaning/purpose of GAP Insurance, I might have considered it.

But it's too late; I called, and now I'll never know if the benefit was worth the cost. But that's what happens when you're terminal; there's only so much you can worry about. It's somewhere between picking your spots, being mentally overwhelmed and self-preservation. It's a regular three-ring circus – without the clowns. I hope I live to regret my decision – and never need to fill the gap caused by my "hasty" decision.

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

SPORTS

Brookfield Breakers Kick Off Season at Villa Aquatic

The Brookfield Breakers traveled to Villa Aquatic on June 23 and launched their NSVL Div. 10 swim season with a successful start. Even though they lost the meet to the Villa Gorillas by a score of 173-247, many of the Brookfield swimmers dropped substantial time in their individual events. Many of the races were so close they had to be decided at the wall.

Double first place wins for the Breakers: Simon Condemi (8-under back and fly), Benjamin Condemi (9-10 back and fly), Jordan Greenlee (9-10 back and fly), Anna Kenna (11-12 back and fly), Claire Kenna (13-14 free and breaststroke), and William Schulte (15-18 free and back).

Also getting hold of first place triumphs were Alexa Conti, Franky Doyle, James Laing, Mikayla Lynn, and Daniel Richter. Serving the team with second place finishes were Samantha Avery, Grace Boland, Alexa Conti, Franky Doyle, Anne Ettare, Kelly Guerrero, RJ Kenna, Christopher Laing, Amalia Mack, Charles Mack, Caitlin Mowry, Kieran Nelson, Casey Trahan, and Jack Trahan.

The Breaker girls dominated in relays with first place wins in four of their six relays: mixed age 200-free (Anna Kenna, Samantha Avery, Claire Kenna, and Kelly Guerrero); 9-10, 100-medley (Jordan Greenlee, Caitlin Mowry, Amalia Mack and Samantha Avery); 11-12, 100-medley (Martina Conti, Anne Ettare, Anna Kenna, Cara Conti); and 13-14, 100-medley (Alexa Conti, Claire Kenna, Claire Doyle, and Paige Shervanick).

The Breakers are optimistic about a win when they travel to Cottontail on June 30.

— SANDI MITCHELL



Simon Condemi exhibits a strong takeoff in his 8-under backstroke race.

PHOTO COURTESY OF LAURI HILBURGER

Sequoia Farms Disappointed

FROM PAGE 15

breaststroke); Sydney Loper (first in fly, second in free and back); Megan Marco (second in back, third in free); Ryan Morris (first in back); Meghan O'Malley (third in fly); Nicholas Saied (third in fly); Caroline Santilli (second in breaststroke); Ella Santilli (first in free); Liam Santilli (second in back, breaststroke, and fly); Diane Sellars (first in fly, second in free and breaststroke); Jennifer Steinhilber (third in fly and breaststroke); Russ Steinhilber (first in breaststroke, sec-

ond in free, third in fly); Will Steinhilber (first in fly and breaststroke, second in free); and Nicole Williams (third in free).

There were additional outstanding performances turned in by winning Sequoia Farms relay teams: boys 8-under 100 Medley (James Williams, Jesse Cerisano, Liam Santilli, Ian Clardy); boys 15-18, 200-medley (Carlo Paraggio, Blake Feichtl, Will Steinhilber, Brian Chapman); girls 15-18, 200-medley (Jessie Heise, Jennifer Steinhilber, Marissa Cassens, Katie O'Brien).

Sully Station SSTs Triumph

FROM PAGE 16

the 50-breaststroke with Stephen Bak clinching the win and Matthew McPherson taking third place.

Again triumphing in seven out of 10 events, the SSTs seized control of the butterfly races at the start. Lorenzo Olan Lopez, Helene O'Brien and Mitchell Basham finished first in the 25-meter, while Harrison White, Anirwin Sridhar and Richard Xue prevailed in the 50. Swimming up an age group in her second event of the day, Elise Mozeleski also won in the 11-12 girls 50-butterfly.

If there were an MVP of the meet, it would have to be Richard Xue. At 18 and a 2012 graduate of Westfield High School, Saturday marked Richard's final meet with the SSTs. Instead of finishing out the summer season, Richard will begin Boot Camp before he commences his years at West Point U. S. Military Academy. At the culmination of his SST

career, Richard scored four wins for his team. Not only did he sail into first in the 15-18, 50-backstroke, but he broke his own team record in the 50-butterfly. As the lead in the boys 15-18 medley relay, Richard set up his team for a more than eight second team victory. In his last swim for the Sully Station SSTs, the boys 18-under, 200-freestyle mixed-age relay, Richard held fast to the lead given to him by his teammates, bringing home the win by nearly eight seconds.

The SSTs then celebrated all graduating seniors, honoring Richard in the Senior Walk of Fame as well as Waynewood's Aileen Fagan and Dale Lescher, who also swam their last meets on Saturday. Fagan will attend the United States Coast Guard Academy while Lescher will be going to the United States Naval Academy.

Sully Station will travel to Mansion House for their next A meet, Saturday June 30.



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