

A Ticket to Hollywood

Centreville High senior Maddie Assel is on "American Idol."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Centreville High senior Maddie Assel is a bubbly, outgoing, 17-year-old. She's busy with school, friends, college visits and — oh, yes, she's also a contestant on "American Idol."

Viewers nationwide saw her on the popular, TV singing competition last Thursday, Jan. 24, as she belted out her own rendition of the Beatles's song, "Oh, Darling." She was auditioning for the show in Baton Rouge, La., and made such an impression on the judges that she got a ticket to Hollywood to compete further.

"I've watched 'American Idol' for so many seasons and have seen people holding a golden ticket," said Assel on Monday. "But it's one of those dreams you never think will happen to you."

Her name's pronounced "as-SELL," with the accent on the second syllable, and she lives in Little Rocky Run. She's also been singing since age 3, both at home and as a child doing errands with her parents, Teri and Allan, who both support her music endeavors.

Now, she's almost all grown up and even has her own YouTube account, youtube.com/therealmaddiesaith, where she did covers of The Weekend's "Wicked Games" and "Like Me" by 2 Chainz. "I haven't updated it lately," said Assel. "But I plan on adding songs weekly."

She's also gaining more exposure for her talents via "American Idol." Her friend Kara Perdue, plus her grandmother, Sylvia Assel of New Or-



"American Idol" host Ryan Seacrest poses with Centreville's Maddie Assel after she receives her golden ticket to Hollywood.

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

"I wasn't prepared because everything was happening so fast that I didn't have time to practice. But I got four 'yesses' from the judges."

— Maddie Assel

leans, nominated her for the show together.

"They know each other and had videos of me singing, so they sent one to 'American Idol' last summer," said Assel. "And I was one out of seven chosen from hundreds of thousands of nominations like this, in the whole country."

She came home from school one day, toward the end of October, and her parents told her she had to fly immediately to New Orleans to audition for LSU's music program. Since she'd been applying to that and other prestigious music schools, she was excited. "My mom and I flew together and were met by my grandma," said Assel. "Then we went out to dinner together at Café Du Monde and a band

program. Since she'd been applying to that and other prestigious music schools, she was excited.

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Economic Uncertainty Casts Shadow Here

Frey gives details in State of Sully talk.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) gave his State of Sully address last week, talking mainly about Fairfax County's economy and transportation issues. He spoke last Monday, Jan. 21, at the quarterly meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA).

Although many good things are on the horizon, he said, they're also tinged with uncertainty.

"We have a strong, educated workforce in Northern Virginia, so I'm optimistic that we'll have a bright future here," said Frey. "But no one knows how long it'll take to get here."

Basically, he said, "We're facing a lot of challenges — some we



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Michael Frey discusses Fairfax County's economic outlook.

control directly, but an awful lot we don't. The federal government is still figuring out where it wants to go."

Whether spending cuts or tax increases will come, "Everyone is still so reliant, in all their projections, on economic growth — and I wonder why they're so optimistic," said Frey. "All the people I talk

SEE FREY GIVES, PAGE 11

Growing Fairfax County Has Increasing Needs

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

In a county of more than a million people, the needs are many, but the dollars can stretch only so far. That's the message Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully) brought last week to local residents.

For years, Fairfax County has relied on residential property tax revenue to fuel a great part of its economy. But the economic downturn changed things drastically, leaving the country scrambling to

find other sources of money.

Owners of all county property zoned commercial/industrial currently pay an extra 11 cents on the property-tax rate. Frey said this practice generates an extra \$50 million/year, and "that's what we're looking at to make up the shortfall on Dulles Rail — and pretty much everything else."

"We don't expect any real growth in residential development, but it's still too early to say," he said. "So it's going to make another budget year tough."

SEE GROWING, PAGE 11



Choral Cabaret To Be Held Feb. 9 at Centreville High

Live entertainment, refreshments, gift baskets, a raffle, silent auction and an evening of fun are all in store for those attending Centreville High's Choral Cabaret.

The annual fundraiser for the school's choral program is set for Saturday, Feb. 9, at 7 p.m. Cost is \$10, adults; \$5, students. Students who buy tickets during lunch on Feb. 8 will get a free raffle ticket.

It's a coffee-house-style program that the choir presents in the school cafeteria. Some 20 student acts – including the a cappella group, Contempo – will sing popular and Broadway tunes. Student waiters will serve the audience dessert, coffee and tea.

This year, there'll be about 20, specially themed baskets in the silent auction. Some of the gift baskets will be titled, "Date Night," "Spa," "Chocolate," "Wine," "Sports" and "Year in Review."

The raffle will feature 18-24 prizes valued at \$10-\$15 each and including prizes such as restaurant gift cards and gift certificates to local businesses. There'll also be a 50/50 raffle at the end of the night. Raffle tickets are \$1.

The choral program is raising money to purchase additional sound equipment and microphones for the choir. The current equipment isn't designed for choirs and doesn't pick up the blended sound of the whole group singing, so proceeds from this event will help.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SALLY CUMMINGS-EWALT

— BONNIE HOBBS

The a cappella group, Contempo, performing at last year's Centreville High Choral Cabaret.

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ROUNDUPS

ATM Skimmer Suspect Arrested

Fairfax County police detectives on Monday arrested a man in connection with the skimming of ATM cards at bank machines at local hospitals. He is Ioan Cicio, 39, of George C. Marshall Drive in Falls Church.

Cicio was charged with three counts of possession of credit-card forgery devices (skimmers), three counts of credit-card theft, two counts of credit-card fraud and one count of money laundering. The investigation is ongoing and there may be more charges, plus additional arrests.

Police tracked down Cicio after he was allegedly identified in surveillance video linked to a compromised ATM card belonging to the Fairfax City Local 2702 Fire Association in September 2012. With help from detectives from the Fairfax City Police Department and the U.S. Postal Service, the card was tracked purchasing gift cards from a Home Depot in Falls Church and then used to buy custom-made carpeting and high-end faucets.

Detectives executed a search warrant at the suspect's home, Jan. 24, and recovered items including skimmer devices, cameras and computers. They then arrested Cicio, Jan. 28, around noon. Police had received reports from more than a dozen victims who may have had their bank cards compromised at hospital ATM machines in recent months.

Lt. Tony Matos, supervisor of the Fairfax County Police Financial Crimes Unit said financial crimes are on the rise. Last year, the public reported almost 3,000 cases over the agency's Financial Crimes electronic reporting site. The site's used to report cases of identity theft, embezzlement, credit card theft and fraud, plus construction and check fraud.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry urgently needs donations of spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, rice (2-lb. bags), canned pasta, peanut butter, canned tuna and meat, hot and cold cereal, fruit juice, and pancake mix and syrup.

Beginning Monday, Feb. 4, bring all items to WFCM's new food-pantry location at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place shopping center.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Feb. 14, 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.

Give Caregivers a Break

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

Meals on Wheels Volunteers

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



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

The post office in the Kid Junction "town" in New Jersey.

Recreation, Imaginative Play and Fun

Kid Junction plans to open site in Chantilly.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A place where children can engage in creative play and have birthday parties, too – that's Kid Junction. And Kreative Minds LLC – the three people who'd own what would be Kid Junction's first franchise in Virginia – hope to open it in Chantilly.

It would be a 9,300-square-foot facility within an existing building at Route 50 and Pleasant Valley Road in the Lafayette Center. But first, it needs to obtain a special permit from Fairfax County to have a commercial-recreation use there.

The owners and their architect came to the Jan. 15 meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee and explained their plans. And when they were done, the

panel voted unanimously to recommend approval to the county Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) which will have the final say.

Pleased with the location, co-owner Alpa Sachde said, "Our feasibility study showed a high population of families with kids in Chantilly. And we could attract business there from both Fairfax and Loudoun counties."

Currently, Kid Junction has two facilities in New Jersey. It offers recreational entertainment, customized children's parties, plus general-admission open play for children ages 18 months to 9 years. There's a fully enclosed toddler play area, as well as a children's arcade including coin-operated ride-ons.

But what sets it apart from other play places is its interactive play areas. "This isn't just aimed at kids playing," said co-owner Srikanth Duddala. "Here, they'll get a chance to use their imaginations."

"Our Kid Junction Village is unique," said Sachde. "It's a role-playing area with a country-town feel where children can pretend to do real-life activities."

SEE KID JUNCTION, PAGE 7



The climbing area for older children.

'She Will Be Missed Every Day'

Family mourns Centreville icon, Marguerite Buckley, 94.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Marguerite Buckley lived a long, full life — but that doesn't mean her family was ready to say goodbye to her when she died Jan. 8, at age 94.

"Everybody took it pretty hard, especially the grandchildren," said daughter-in-law Kathy Buckley. "I don't think it's sunk in, yet, for me. When it's time to visit, that's when it hits you."

Although she was a Centreville resident for decades, in recent years Marguerite lived in the Fairmont, a retirement community in Manassas. She was in relatively good health and, said Kathy Buckley, "She had a driver's license until her mid-80s — and she fought us about relinquishing it."

But she fell in her apartment, developed pneumonia while undergoing physical therapy, was hospitalized and didn't respond to the medication. "It was pretty quick," said Buckley. "Her funeral was Jan. 15; she was buried at Stonewall Memory Gardens in Manassas, next to her husband, who died in 1992. It's been an emotional time for the whole family."

When Marguerite Sours Buckley celebrated her 90th birthday in November 2008, joining her were nearly 75 relatives and friends at the Centreville Volunteer Fire Department. The location was especially fitting because her late husband Woody joined the department shortly after it began in early 1950, and she was a charter member of its Woman's Auxiliary. They married on April 16, 1938. Woody served in the Navy during WWII and, when he returned, he built a house for them on Braddock Road in the late 1940s. "When we moved there, Braddock Road wasn't open in the western end," said Buckley at her party. "We attended the Old Stone Church and had to go to Shirley Gate Road and Fairfax to get there."

The Buckleys had four children; daughter Betty died, but sons Buddy and wife Shirley, and Jim and wife Kathy, still live in Centreville (in Country Club Manor and



Six siblings (from left): Lloyd Sours, Ruth Taylor, Marguerite Buckley, Frances Schindel, Thelma Jones and Hilda Schaeffer at Buckley's 90th birthday.

Newgate Forest, respectively). Son Joe lives in Woodbridge. Woody died of cancer in 1992, but Marguerite had lots of family around, including nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Jim's wife Kathy, administrative aide to Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey, said her husband traced his family's genealogy and discovered that the Buckleys have lived in the Centreville area since the Revolutionary War. In fact, the land on which the Buckley's Reserve community was built once belonged to the family. Centreville's Volunteer Fire Department (Station 17 on Old Centreville Road) played a major role in the Buckleys' lives. In the 1950s and early '60s, the center of the community was the firehouse, Hunter Hardware and a pharmacy where Alto Plaza now stands.

Woody and Marguerite worked Bingo at Station 17 twice a week for at least 35 years. He called numbers and she helped out in the kitchen with the food. "She and my father-in-law, Woody, were a

very special pair," said Kathy Buckley. "Their devotion to each other was apparent to everyone who knew them."

Marguerite also volunteered at Centreville United Methodist Church, helped at the polls on election days and belonged to the Centreville Elementary PTA when the school was in the building where Mountain View High School is now. She also helped organize Inova Fairfax Hospital's auxiliary and volunteered there, too.

"I will always remember Marguerite for her love of volunteering, her love of family and her special holiday dinners," said Kathy Buckley. "Every year she looked forward to the annual Sours family reunion with her sisters, brothers and their families."

And they looked forward to her potato salad. "She always told me leaving the jackets on the potatoes was the key to successful potato salad," said granddaughter Jennifer Spencer. "I'm now asked to bring my potato salad to every function I attend, and it's a hit."

But more importantly, she said, "I will always remember Grandma for her smile,



Marguerite Buckley at the Fairmont with some flowers.

no matter what was happening around her or to her. And she had such strength to deal with the loss of her husband and daughter."

Spencer recalled spending weekends as a child at her grandmother's home, the radio on top of the refrigerator playing non-stop, and their trips to Glen Echo, Md., for lottery tickets. And, she added, "I remember our Saturdays at the fire station, working in the kitchen and playing Bingo."

Holidays also remind her of her grandmother. "I remember her working tirelessly to prepare Christmas and Easter dinners," said Spencer. "All of us somehow fit into Grandma's living room, sitting on the stairs and on each other's laps as we opened our gifts. I never knew until I became a mother and a grandmother what the traditions that Grandma set in place would mean to me."

And each year as Spencer shopped for Easter dinner, she'd call her grandmother "to ask exactly what I needed to fix the country ham. She was delighted to get that call from me; I could hear the delight in her soft voice. And it was never just, 'I love you;' it was, 'I love you very, very much.' My life was changed because of the grandmother God gave me, and my life will forever be changed because of her loss."

Even after Buckley moved to the Fairmont, she remained active. Outspoken and mentally sharp, she ran Bingo games there, too, and even received a volunteer award. "Marguerite also loved nurturing plants and flowers and collecting owls," said Kathy Buckley. "She had a scooter chair and was able to get around. She was pretty spry; to be 94 and still independent, that's saying a lot. She will be missed every day."



Flanking Marguerite Buckley at her 90th birthday are past chiefs of the Centreville VFD, (from left) Pete Kirby, chief for 14 years, and Kenyon Davis, 13 years and the first chief.



At her 90th birthday, Marguerite Buckley blows out the candles on her birthday cake.



At her 90th birthday, Marguerite Buckley with sons (from left) Buddy, Jim and Joe.

Keep Gas Tax, Cut Meals Tax, Add 'Sausage'

Proposed changes to governor's transportation funding plan receive local support.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
CENTRE VIEW

After a week in which news from Richmond was dominated by partisan skirmishes, Northern Virginia Del. Dave Albo (R-41) joined with other lawmakers to refocus the legislature on the state's transportation funding crisis, presenting an alternative to a controversial plan proposed by Governor Robert McDonnell (R).

The day before the start of this year's legislative session, McDonnell unveiled a proposal to increase funds for transportation by up to \$500 million with a sales tax increase. But his plan completely eliminated the gas tax, which has been set at 17.5 cents per gallon since 1986 and currently funds about two-thirds of the state's transportation funding.

Many Democrats, and some Republicans, derided his plan as nonsensical.

The proposal put forward by Delegates Albo, Joe May (R-33) and Tom Rust (R-86), is more complex than the governor's plan, but also includes both tax increases and cuts.

"It's like trying to make a pizza. The Governor has given us a pizza with pepperoni and pineapple. But we don't like pineapple. We'd rather have sausage," Albo said, adding that McDonnell's plan offered a starting point, but it needed work. "Our bill takes off the pineapple (the elimination of the gas tax) and puts on the sausage (the elimination of the food tax)."

ALBO'S PLAN includes raising the sales tax by 1/2 cent per dollar, indexing the gas tax to inflation, and increasing charges on alternate fuel vehicles. Combined, these measures would increase state transportation funding by \$506 million, say its sponsors.

To soften the impact of these increases, the amendments would also eliminate the 2.5 percent food tax, which Albo said would net savings of \$99 a year for a family of four with an annual income of \$40,000.



A VDOT crew member assesses damage to Lorton Road after Tropical Storm Lee in Sept. 2011, which destroyed three bridges on secondary roads, damaged pavement on dozens of roads and cost the state \$10 million in transportation funds. By law, Virginia must repair damaged roads before spending money to build new ones.

While the elimination of the food tax would reduce general fund revenues, which are distributed to local governments, the delegates say the shortfall will be made up with new taxes on out-of-state corporations who provide services in Virginia. They also plan to collect sales taxes on out-of-state retailers who sell to Virginia residents through the Internet.

The Internet sales tax collection is dependent upon the passage of the Marketplace Equity Act, currently pending before the U.S. Congress.

The Albo/May/Rust plan will also create an opt-in option for local governments where they can receive additional transportation funds via a 1/2 cent sales tax which will be raised and spent exclusively in that local area. Rust highlighted this point, stating that, "with this option, decisions will be made locally as to where is best to invest in transportation infrastructure."

Immediate reaction from state and local

elected officials was much more positive than to the governor's plan.

"I need to learn more, but I commend these guys for thinking outside the box," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34), who strongly opposed the governor's plan to make Virginia the first state in the nation to eliminate the gas tax. "I actually would favor a reduction in the meals tax if we can find the revenue elsewhere, since those taxes, in my opinion, do have an impact on local, small businesses."

"This is certainly an improvement over the governor's original plan," said Supervisor Jeff McKay (D-Lee), who was recently appointed chair of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC). McKay said the county was still analyzing the details, but "on its face this seems to be a more fair way to raise revenue. I think there is more to do, but this is a step closer to a bill that could be supported. We need action this session on transportation and I am glad the

dialogue continues."

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said Albo's amendments offered "truly new" source of revenue, and said it was a positive development for Fairfax County. "Giving Fairfax the opportunity to raise local funds to be spent totally in Fairfax is something I have advocated for some time," Cook said.

He added the amendment also "brings extra transportation revenue through the sales tax, and yet it gives homeowners a break by eliminating the sales tax on food while restoring the general fund by taxing out-of-state businesses."

HOWEVER, DEL. TIM HUGO (R-40) – a member of the legislature's Transportation Committee and chief co-patron of Governor McDonnell's bill – maintains that indexing and/or increasing the state gas sales tax are "short-term fixes" in addressing Virginia's significant transportation needs.

In 2017, Virginia faces its own "fiscal cliff," the year transportation officials forecast the state will run out of money to build new roads.

According to the Virginia Department of Transportation, the state needs billions of dollars to repair, maintain and expand its aging and overburdened transportation system. However, because of persistent revenue shortfalls, money intended for new highway construction has been used to pay for road-maintenance needs, which, by law, is the state's first funding priority.

"There is no question that funding for Virginia's transportation needs is sorely lacking," Hugo said in a statement supporting the governor's plan. "We need to think of innovative new means to fund transportation that do not gouge the taxpaying public."

Hugo said Tuesday that while he applauded "my fellow delegates for putting forth alternative proposals, the reality is that the gas tax is a diminishing form of revenue."

"The Governor's proposal will eliminate the gas tax and replace it with a revenue neutral sales tax that will 'stop the bleeding' on the transportation trust fund," Hugo said. "I look forward to working with all of my colleagues to create jobs and improve our quality of life in Virginia."



Winter Band Concert

Fifth and sixth grade Band students from Union Mill Elementary performed in their Winter Band Concert on Jan. 16. First-year band students performed "When the Saints Go Marching In," "Old MacDonald Had a Band," "Ode to Joy," and "Hard Rock Blues." The sixth grade band students performed "Bag 'O Blues," and several holiday pieces including "Frosty the Snowman," "Carol of the Bells," "Jingle Bell Rock," and "Let it Snow! Let it Snow! Let it Snow!" The Union Mill Band is led by Band Teacher Laura Seifried.



Extreme, But Brief, Volunteering

More than 150 volunteers needed to survey chronic homeless three days in February.

The real solution to homelessness is housing.

This week in Northern Virginia, a point-in-time survey will record all of the "literally homeless" individuals and families in the region. Last year, on Jan. 25, 2012, there were 1,534 people who were literally homeless in the Fairfax-Falls Church Community; 697 of them were single individuals and 837 were people in families. A third of the total number of homeless were children. Nearly 60 percent of the adult members of the homeless families were employed.

Later in February, the Fairfax-Falls Church Partnership to End Homelessness will embark on a new, intensive approach to identify the nearly 300 people who are chronically homeless, living on the street or in the woods around the county. This is part of a national effort, 100,000 Homes.

Volunteers will create a registry, including names, photographs and personal stories of all

individuals experiencing chronic homelessness in the area. The information gathered will identify particularly vulnerable people, and help prioritize housing and support resources. The county's goal is to get half of them in housing within three years.

EDITORIAL

The effort is not without precedent. Arlington's registry week was in October 2011, and identified 153 homeless individuals, with more than half at risk of dying on the streets. Since then, more than 30 homeless people identified as vulnerable have been placed in permanent housing. Arlington's campaign is on target to fulfill the goal of housing 100 people in three years.

The Fairfax effort, 100,000 Homes Fairfax, kicks off on Feb. 23 with Registry Week, a multi-day event where volunteers go out on the streets and gather information to create a name and photographic registry.

It will require the work of more than 150 volunteers countywide. Most will help conduct surveys with homeless individuals on the

streets for three days during registry week. Others will help with data entry and other support roles.

It's a big commitment but also an opportunity to be a part of real change for some of the area's most vulnerable people. Volunteer efforts on those days will most certainly lead to saving lives.

Survey volunteers make a four-day commitment, a half-day of training plus working three mornings (4-7 a.m.) in teams of four to interview homeless individuals for the registry. The same team of four must survey the assigned geographical area all three days. Survey volunteers will need to be available: Saturday, Feb. 23, overview and training, noon-4 p.m.; Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, Feb. 25, 26, 27, team survey, 4-7 a.m.

The Registry Week will wrap up with a presentation to the community on March 1.

Other volunteers will help set up for the volunteer training and/or assist at headquarters each survey morning by setting up food, helping with cleanup and answering volunteer questions. You can register online and learn more at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/100khomes/registry-week.htm>

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Power of Volunteers

To the Editor:

This past Saturday, more than 200 people gathered at Mount Olive Baptist Church in Centreville to volunteer their time to help children in our community. Centreville Elementary School's Backpack Program, which provides weekend meals for students in need, was in need of supplies to carry the program through the remainder of the 2012-2013 school-year.

Collaborating with the leadership at Mount Olive Baptist Church, specifically Jeannette Howard, Deacon Prince Howard, Pastor Johnson and Deacon Carpenter, the church generously donated all of the food and joined us in planning an event to prepare more than 1,200 weekend food bags that will support over 65 students on a weekly basis.

In the truest sense of community, volunteers from the church's congregation, Centreville High School's Key Club (led by President Esther Yoon), Centreville Elementary School's students, families and staff as well as many Centreville residents all came together to support our program. We are truly grateful to all of those who volunteered their time.

What was so impressive was how many youth turned out to support other youth. As research



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

has shown, those who experience volunteering as youth are more likely to volunteer as adults. While Centreville is so geographically, culturally and socioeconomically diverse, it was fantastic to see so many people come together as one to support our own.

As one volunteer asked, "When can we do this again?"

With great appreciation,

Esther Kang and Lee Kaiser

Centreville Elementary School Counselors

More than 200 volunteers helped with Centreville Elementary School's Backpack Program.



Approximately 1,200 weekend food bags will support more than 65 students on a weekly basis.

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Kid Junction Plans To Open Site in Chantilly

FROM PAGE 3

Planned are a grocery store, pizzeria, animal hospital, post office, zoo and a costume shop where children can dress up. “We observed a Kid Junction in New Jersey and the kids have a blast playing there,” said Sachde. “The zoo has felt-covered, robotic animals that the children can ride.” In addition, there’ll be video karaoke, arcade games and a soft-play area with places for climbing and sliding.

There’s also a kitchen, but not for cooking – just for warming food. “We’re going to try to be a nut-free facility, so people won’t bring in their own snacks,” said Sachde. “And there’ll be birthday parties on the weekends.”

The cost is \$8.99/child for walk-in play, with discounts for siblings. The franchise dubs itself, “Kid Junction – the ultimate party experience,” and party prices vary according to the particular birthday-party package selected.

“Parents are free, but children can’t just walk in there alone,” said co-owner Parag Pujara. “And children and parents will be given the same hand stamp.” Seven employees will be on the scene at all times, and children will always be supervised by their parents.

The New Jersey sites have won awards for cleanliness, and Pujara said the one in



The veterinary room, complete with stuffed animal “patients.”

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Chantilly will be sanitized on a regular basis, as well as between parties.

Architect Mark Mittereder said there’ll be plenty of parking all around the building and safety will be a top priority. “The rear entrance is an emergency exit only, and it’s easy to see people entering through the front,” he said. Mittereder anticipated the hours of operation being Monday-Saturday,

10 a.m.-9 p.m., and Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m.

“I think you’ll meet a demand out here for birthday parties,” said WFCCA’s Chris Terpak-Malm. “I think it’s a great location.”

“We also like this [franchise] because it has a mixture of games that we haven’t seen in this area,” replied Pujara.

He said the party room holds 12-18 children, depending on their age. Parties last



two hours and include free tokens for the games; 90 minutes is planned for play and 30 minutes for birthday cake and presents.

“How long in advance would you have to reserve it for a party,” asked BZA member Jim Hart. “Usually 30 days in advance,” answered Pujara.

“All the activities are indoors?” asked Hart. And Pujara said yes.

In response to a question from the WFCCA, the co-owners said they’ll be doing background checks on their employees. Mittereder said the expected opening date is in May.

Now that the WFCCA has given the proposal a thumbs-up, its next stop is the BZA for a public hearing on Feb. 13. The WFCCA approved the project subject to a subsequent approval from county staff, and Hart said the BZA members “should get the staff report about a week before” the public hearing.

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Centreville High Senior Maddie Assel Is on 'American Idol'

FROM PAGE 1
started playing my favorite song, 'Sitting on the Dock of the Bay,' by Otis Redding. My grandma told me to get up and go sing with them, and I decided, 'Why not? I'm in the French Quarter and will never get this opportunity again,' so I did."

While she sang, people started recording her on cameras and cell phones. "I thought they were confused, but I kept on singing," said Assel. "Then all of a sudden, I heard a deep voice behind me saying, 'Yo, Maddie,' and I turned around and it was Randy Jackson."

"I was completely shocked; I had no idea what was going on," she continued. "So I started crying because I was so overwhelmed. Then Randy told me to sing for him, and I did. I sang, 'Oh, Darling,' and he said, 'I can't wait to hear you tomorrow at auditions.' He said it would be before him, Mariah Carey, Nicki Minaj and Keith Urban in Baton Rouge. It was just surreal."

Then Jackson told Assel who'd nominated her. "It was amazing," she said. "It opened my eyes to the fact that other people believed in me, too."

Still, she was nervous before her big performance.

"I wasn't prepared because everything was happening so fast that I didn't have time to practice," she said. "But I got four 'yesses' from the judges."

Walking into the room, said Assel, "I was just so excited to meet the judges. Everyone knows



Maddie Assel and mom Teri Assel wait for Maddie's "American Idol" audition in Baton Rouge.

Mariah Carey, and she and the others all have such talent and have made names for themselves in the industry. So getting to sing before them was just incredible."

She made it to Hollywood Week but, beyond that, she can't talk about how she did because those shows haven't aired, yet. So people will have to tune in to find out. But she enjoyed being a tourist, visiting Hollywood for the first time.

ful voice.

"I haven't heard anyone else who sounds like her," said Baucum. "She's folksy, jazzy and poppy, with a versatile range, and totally her own artist."

As for Maddie the person, Baucum calls her fun and sassy in a sweet way. "I like her a lot and I'm happy for her," she said. "I'm excited that she had this opportunity and is being noticed for it because she's talented and deserves the recognition."

Although Assel can sing rock, jazz and blues, she's leaning more toward performing pop music in college, en route to becoming a professional recording artist. Her favorite singers are Beyoncé and

Haley Reinhart, who finished third on "Idol," a couple years ago.

"I was especially influenced by Haley, who opened the door for girls with those big, rock voices," said Assel. And she was helped on "Idol" by voice coach, Sarah Pramstaller, a Chantilly High grad and veteran performer and choreographer of that school's annual Jazz & Pizzazz shows.

"I've always wanted to be on 'American Idol,' but I thought, 'No way I'd ever make it and sing on that stage,'" said Assel. "But I learned that everything you dream is a possibility and, if you work hard enough for something you really want, it can actually happen."



Local teen Maddie Assel performs on TV last week on "American Idol."

Assel's Former Teacher Sings Her Praises

It's always nice when a former student does well, so it's understandable how proud Liberty Middle School Theater Director Jody Scott is of Maddie Assel. The Centreville teen took Scott's Theatre Arts Appreciation and Advanced Theatre classes and was directed by her in the musical, "Annie Jr."

"As a seventh-grader, Maddie was a 'bird girl' in 'Seussical Jr.," singing and dancing," said Scott. "In eighth grade, she played the lead in 'Annie Jr.' and was perfect for the role; she had a powerful voice, even then. In both my classes and plays, Maddie was a true delight. She was eager to learn, came prepared to class and rehearsal, was willing to take direction and was super-enthusiastic about whatever role she had, small or large."

Scott called Assel "thoroughly entertaining onstage and a leader in class, helping other students with their acting assignments. In the eighth-grade talent show, I selected Maddie to be one of the three, lead singers for the finale, 'Dancing Queen' from 'Mamma Mia.' She was so much fun to watch."

"I believed she'd find success, but not while she was still in high school," continued Scott. "Being selected for 'American Idol' shows her strong commitment and work ethic to her passion."

Scott's delighted that Assel is continuing on in performing



Only Five Years Ago ... Maddie Assel (in red sweater in center) and the cast of Liberty Middle's spring 2009 production of "Annie Jr."

arts. "How wonderful that the rest of the world will get to see the singer/entertainer that we've seen in Maddie," said Scott. "She has a unique style, and I think she has an excellent chance of advancing to the finals. Interestingly enough, the final scene work she did in my Advanced Theater class was called 'Waiting for Glory.'"

— BONNIE HOBBS



From left are Maddie Assel, Luke Wilbur and Binta Barry in Liberty Middle's "Annie Jr.," when Assel was in eighth grade.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS CENTRE VIEW



Maddie Assel, with her mom Teri, reacts after being invited to audition for "American Idol."



A jubilant Maddie Assel celebrates at Café Du Monde with one of the employees.



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The exterior of WFCM's new food-pantry location in Chantilly's Sully Place shopping center.



Daniel Roca, WFCM assistant thrift store manager, helping restock shelves at the New Food Pantry.

Food Pantry, Thrift Store Moves to New Locations

WFCM is still on Metrotech Drive, but in two new spots.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) has moved – but not far. Its client services and food pantry are now at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place shopping center. And its thrift store is nearby at 13939 Metrotech Drive, near the Lotte Market, also in Sully Place.

"We are excited to remain centrally located to our clients, many of whom live in Chantilly, Centreville and parts of Fairfax," said WFCM Executive Director Melissa Jansen. "We hope this move will mean more exposure for WFCM in the business community with which we hope to foster working partnerships to better serve our community."

The WFCM client-services and food-pantry phone number is still 703-988-9656, but the food pantry's hours of operation have changed to Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., plus two evenings a week. Clients shop for needed groceries by appointment.

Food donations will be accepted again, starting Feb. 4, Monday-Friday, 9-11 a.m. They should be brought to the rear of the food pantry via the access road behind Papa



Lillian Diaz, WFCM Thrift Store manager, contacting clients for recertification.

PHOTOS
COURTESY OF
JEANETTE NAGEL



Melissa Jansen, WFCM's executive director.

John's Pizza. For alternate donation times, contact Terri Kelly at tkelly@wfcmlva.org.

The thrift store is slated to reopen Saturday, Feb. 16. Store hours will remain the same – Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. But starting Tuesday, Feb. 19, donation hours for clothing, household goods and furniture will be Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The phone number is 703-956-6955. For more information about donations accepted at the thrift store, see www.wfcmlva.org. Through a renegotiation with Beatty Development Corp., WFCM was able to lease its two new spaces. "We're very happy that Mr. Beatty was able to keep us in two properties in the same shopping center," said WFCM's Jen Adkins. "We feel grateful and blessed. It'll

make it easier for our clients to find us and we'll still be centrally located."

On Dec. 27-28, WFCM staff and volunteers loaded several trucks with non-perishable food, shelving units, office furniture, clothing and other items and moved them from the organization's old location to the new food-pantry site. Thrift-store items went into storage until their new site became available. Jansen believes the new thrift-store site will prove to be a "high-traffic retail property. This is important to [its] continued success, which provides significant revenue for our ministry."

Agreeing, Adkins said, "The thrift store is in the former Catholic Store location and is a really awesome site. It's going to be a great space."

WFCM's history as a homelessness-prevention agency dates back 25 years to 1987 when it was founded by a coalition of 12 local churches concerned about the growing need for emergency assistance in Centreville, Clifton, Chantilly, Fair Oaks and Fairfax Station. Since then, WFCM has been committed to providing its clients' basic needs – food, clothing and financial assistance. In 2012, WFCM served 3,272 people with food, clothing, rent and utility assistance. "While the number of homeless individuals is decreasing in Fairfax County, the number of working poor is growing," said Jansen. "Now, more than ever, WFCM needs the support of churches, businesses and individuals to continue to serve those neediest in our community."

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Road, Centreville. Come tour the school and register for morning, afternoon or full-day preschool classes. Visit www.childrensacademy.com or 703-968-8455 to register for one of the open houses.

Registration Deadline. Register for Torah Tots, a program for children ages 2.5 through pre-k. \$90/member; \$120/non-member. Classes held on Sundays at 11 a.m.

Church, 4101 Elmwood St., Chantilly. Donate blood through the American Red Cross. Visit redcrossblood.org or 1-800-Red-CROSS to make an appointment or information.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Registration Open House. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton

THROUGH JAN. 31

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Blood Drive. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at Ox Hill Baptist

THURSDAY/FEB. 7

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 14

Frey Gives Economic Details in State of Sully Talk

FROM PAGE 1

to — except for those in Tysons — say, “Who are you kidding? No one’s investing.”

Still, he said, “Somebody in the federal government is assuming there’ll be huge growth over the next 10 years. But while we’re raising taxes by \$25 billion for next year, we just spent \$60 billion for [Hurricane] Sandy, so we’re not getting anywhere.”

Frey said all this economic uncertainty affects the state. As a result, he said, “We don’t know how much the state will expand Medicaid. Gov. McDonnell says no. I find it ironic that Virginia — so adamant about state’s rights — declined to set up its own state, health-care plan.”

So with so many unknowns, said Frey, “You look at the future of Northern Virginia and Fairfax County and you wonder what it’ll look like economically. I don’t think we’ll see a vibrant Tysons anytime soon, and the county’s \$67 million short to fund the Silver Line.”

“We’re also still \$150 million short, at least, on our obligation on Phase II of [Dulles] Rail,” he continued.

“They expect to award the contract in the spring, with construction starting in sum-

mer. Passenger service for Phase I is expected to start by the end of this year, and it will certainly change the face of this region.”

REGARDING VDOT’S I-66 Corridor Environmental Impact Study (EIS), Frey noted that Phase I is about extending I-66 from the Beltway to Route 15. “It doesn’t do an analysis of the I-66/Route 28 intersection [in Centreville] or of a rail line down the center,” said Frey. “These things will be done

“You look at the future of Northern Virginia and Fairfax County and you wonder what it’ll look like economically. I don’t think we’ll see a vibrant Tysons anytime soon, and the county’s \$67 million short to fund the Silver Line.”

— Sully Supervisor Michael R. Frey

in Phase II of that study. It won’t take as long to do the EIS in two phases, so this is a good step forward.”

He said the Board of Supervisors believes the next extension of rail should be in the I-66 Corridor. However, said Frey, “If the FBI moves to Springfield, it’ll cost us some money, so we’re looking to get ahead of the curve. But I’m concerned that we continue

to focus on other areas of the county, like Tysons and Springfield, when the congestion is here.”

Meanwhile, he said, some spot improvements will help drivers locally. “There’s a plan to have four lanes from Route 50 to the Dulles Toll Road and we’re moving ahead with some pieces of that,” said Frey. “We’re looking to do some of it with Route 28 Tax District money.”

One change already benefiting drivers here has been the extension of the merge lane onto Route 28 north from I-66 west. Now, motorists don’t have to turn at Walney and have another quarter mile to merge into traffic.

There’s also a plan to lengthen the turn lanes from Route 28 south to I-66 east. These lanes currently back up during both morning and evening rush hours. Frey said relief should be underway in the next few months.

“We also want to extend the right-turn-only lane from Route 28 south to Braddock Road and make it also a through lane to go west on I-66,” he said. “There are some right-of-way and drainage issues, but VDOT wants to build up that lane between Braddock and the I-66 ramp.”

AS FOR THE INTERSECTION of Braddock and Pleasant Valley roads (by Cox Farms), Frey acknowledged that “it’s been a problem for awhile — two, tiny, one-lane roads with no turning lanes. Because of poor drainage, it ices in winter and floods in spring. There’s not any room to separate turning lanes and put in a traffic signal, and a traffic circle would cost \$6 million-plus.”

Besides that, added WFCCA’s Judy Heisinger, “When they did the traffic counts for a traffic circle, the density was too high.” So Fairfax County tabled its plans to fix that intersection. And although Loudoun County ponied up some money of its own, got VDOT to do likewise and hopes to improve that intersection somehow, Fairfax has no money to contribute to the effort.

“But VDOT says its design analysis will be done in a few weeks,” said Frey. “I’d expect, sometime this spring, we’ll have a meeting about it. Virginia Run’s concerned that fixing the intersection will cause more traffic. It’s more congestion than is acceptable, so we’ve got to do something about it — but we still don’t have the money for it.”

He said only a “couple hundred” of Fairfax County’s nearly 1.1 million people responded to a survey about transportation-system improvements. “They said, ‘We want the improvements, but don’t use property-tax money for them,’” said Frey. “They said use hotel or rental-car taxes for them or have developers pay for them.”

Growing Fairfax County Has Increasing Needs

FROM PAGE 1

Noting that county schools are continuing to grow, Frey said it wasn’t too long ago that they contained 160,000 students, but now that number is about 183,000. “And that puts a lot of pressure on our budget,” he said.

“The school system’s CIP [Capital Improvement Program] is calling for a new elementary school [in this area] and a new high school somewhere between Westfield and Herndon high schools.”

Additionally, said Frey, “Situations like Newtown make us focus on mental-health services and the funding for it, so I expect

us to continue to see an increased demand for these services.”

Regarding public safety, he said, “The more people we get, the more police and fire personnel we’re going to need. And we have a lot of fire stations that haven’t been renovated in a long time. We hope to be done with the Fair Oaks Fire Station renovation by spring; some of the new pumpers and ladder trucks didn’t fit into the old building.”

Other factors will also affect the county budget. For example, the General Assembly is now requiring all jurisdictions to develop new, stormwater-management sys-

tems. “The hard part is understanding the relationships between it and the other local, state and federal stormwater requirements,” said Frey.

Nonetheless, he said, “We hope to have something by the end of the year for the board to act on — and it’s going to be a huge expense.

Right now, residents pay a penny for this; but to meet the new federal and state requirements in the next five to eight years, it’ll be 10 cents — and we don’t have a choice.”

There are other needs, as well. “We were able to restore some of the library hours,

but it’ll be a challenge to keep them,” said Frey. “We have more demand for trails and ballfields for kids. And they should be turf fields because you get about 60-percent more play out of them than out of grass fields.”

He’d also like to do additional historic preservation. “Level Green in Chantilly is probably one of the three oldest houses in Fairfax County,” he said. “I’d hate to lose it, but historic preservation is very expensive. We’d also like to do more in the Centreville Historic District; but it depends on a healthy economy which, for the most part, is largely out of our hands.”

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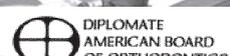
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Chantilly Boys' Team Snaps 3-Game Losing Skid

Three Chargers score in double figures against Yorktown.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

The Chantilly boys' basketball team trailed the Yorktown Patriots late in the first quarter on Jan. 24 when senior guard DeAndre Harris drove to the basket and scored.

Liking what he saw, head coach Jim Smith yelled "all day" from the Chargers bench.

"Tonight, we came out [and] we shot a lot of jump shots early," Smith said. "Finally, [Harris] puts it on the floor and gets to the rim. It was 'all day,' both to communicate that he could do that, but also to get our kids to know we need to start attacking the basket more and not to be so quick to settle for jump shots."

Harris finished with 13 points, including a pair of penetration-created field goals in the fourth quarter, and Chantilly snapped a three-game losing streak with a 52-46 victory at Yorktown High School.

Harris also showed his perimeter range by burying a deep 3-pointer in the second quarter.

"He's quick, he can blow by you, but then if you play off, he has the ability to knock down 3s. That's a tough matchup," Smith said about Harris. "His biggest enemy over the years has just been his confidence. Now he's confident, he believes in himself. Last year, if he missed a couple shots, he'd back away from the game. Now he just keeps playing."

Chantilly led by three with 21.2 seconds remaining in the contest when Harris went to the free-throw line and knocked down a pair to give the Chargers a two-possession lead at 48-43.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERNUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

"I always try to get started early," Harris said. "I always try to make sure my first shot is a good shot. I try not to take tough shots too early so I can get in a rhythm and eventually start [hitting] more shots later in the game."

Harris was one of three Chargers to reach double figures. Senior guard Brian Sydnor led the way with 15 points and senior forward Sean Huelskamp finished with 12 points.

The victory snapped a three-game skid for

the Chargers. Chantilly also beat Oakton 63-48 on Jan. 29, improving its record to 14-4 after starting the season 12-1. Chantilly won its first nine games before losing to Mountain View in the semifinals of the Pohanka Chantilly Classic holiday tournament. The Chargers bounced back with a win against South County and Concorde District victories against Westfield and Oakton. That's when Chantilly hit a rough spot, losing district games against Herndon, Robinson and Centreville.

Smith said the Chargers' recent struggles should have kept the team from overlooking Thursday's non-district opponent.

"We desperately needed a win one way or another," Smith said. "We were, I think, battling ourselves and our confidence as much as we were battling Yorktown."

"[Beating Yorktown] makes us feel a lot better," Sydnor said.

Yorktown trailed for most of the night but remained within striking distance. The Chargers led 27-19 at halftime, but the Patriots opened the third quarter with an 11-3 run, tying the score at 30-30 on a bucket by senior post Nick Yore with 3:02 remaining in the period. A jumper by Yorktown's Ben Criswell tied the score at 36-36 with 6:02 remaining in the fourth, but Chantilly's Harris answered with a bucket 15 seconds later and the Chargers led for the remainder of the contest.

"I'm definitely pleased," Yore said, "we were able to play with them."

Yore and junior forward Matt Pietropaoli each finished with 11 points for the Patriots. Senior guard Ben Criswell scored eight points and junior guard Zack Esherick had six.

Head coach Rich Avila said he wasn't pleased with the Patriots' decision making in the first half or their execution at the end of the fourth quarter.

Chantilly's Jan. 25 game against Westfield as rescheduled to Wednesday, after Centre View's deadline, due to inclement weather. The Chargers will travel to face Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 1.

SPORTS BRIEFS

CVHS Swim and Dive

The Centreville swim and dive team competed against Herndon on Jan. 18.

Centreville first-place finishers included: Rachel Anderson, Logan Ross, Abby McCranie, Kylie Cuomo (200 medley relay), Rachel Anderson (200 free), Brooke Worley (50 free), Paul Baumgartner (diving), Rachel Anderson, Kylie Cuomo, Brooke Worley, Abby McCranie (200 free relay), and Abby McCranie, Brooke Worley, Kyle Cuomo, Rachel Anderson (400 free relay).

Second-place finishers were: Alex Aguilera, Tae Hyun Jung, Matthew Rice, David Weisbrodt (200 medley relay), Abby McCranie (200 IM), Tyler Kurowski (diving), Tae Hyun Jung (100 free), Mackenzie Cripe (500 free), Andy Balberde, Won Jae Lee, Matthew Rice, Ryan Boll (200 free relay), Logan Ross (100 breast), and Andy Balberde, Ryan Boll, Won Jae Lee, Tae Hyun

Jung (400 free relay).

Third-place finishers were: Logan Ross (50 free), McKenzie Islin (diving), Matthew Rice (100 fly), Andy Balberde (100 free), Kelsey Daily (100 free), Tea Leitch, Esther Lee, Katie Schwindt, Shannon O'Donnell (200 free relay), Sarah Clark (100 back), Sarah Hessler (100 breast), and Mackenzie Cripe, Logan Ross, Kelsey Daily, Esther Lee (400 free relay).

Fourth-place finishers were: Brooke Worley, Sarah Hessler, Katie Schwindt, Shannon O'Donnell (200 medley relay), Won Jae Lee (200 free), McKenzie Cripe (200 IM), Andy Balberde (50 free), Sarah Hessler (diving), Kylie Cuomo (100 fly), Shannon O'Donnell (100 free), Tae Hyun Jung, Mark Mahoney, Alex Aguilera, David Weisbrodt (200 free Relay) and Shannon O'Donnell (100 breast).

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SATURDAY/FEB. 2

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THURSDAY/FEB. 7

Program Information. Learn about Lifetime Leadership Program at 11 a.m. at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Second Saturday. 9 a.m. at Marriott Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Professionals speak towards educating spouses about separation and divorce process in order to encourage them to be civil and reasonable for their pocketbooks, emotional health and children. RSVP to clapham@beankinney.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Scholarship Deadline. High school seniors must submit their application form online to be eligible for a scholarship from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Educational Scholarship Foundation. Detailed information is available at www.vmdaec.com or 804-968-7153.

WINTER FUN

Indoor Winter Fun with Children

Ideas for entertainment when Jack Frost appears.

By MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Winter weather often means limited open air playtime for some children. "It is very important for children to get as much outdoor activity as possible, but there are times when it is not safe for them to be outside for an extended length of time, or any time at all, because it is too cold," said Shannon Melideo, chair of the Education Department at Marymount University in Arlington. "There are many other things that children can do besides sledding and ice skating."

While experts say many parents fear that too much time spent inside can lead to cabin fever, they add that there are a myriad of ways to have winter fun without leaving the warmth of your home. "There are numerous creative opportunities for children to express themselves indoors. Parents can sneak in educational experiences when the children don't know it," said Melideo, who lives in Reston.

Paula Keyes Kun, spokeswoman for the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance (AAHPERD) and the National Association for Sport and Physical Education (NASPE) offers activity ideas that are geared for outdoor play, but that can easily be adapted for indoors. "Pretend you are at a zoo. Identify an animal: Move and sound like that animal. Pretend to be a growing flower: First you are a tiny seed in the ground, and then grow into a big flower."

Other imaginative indoor play ideas Kun offered include asking children to pretend to be a balloon, first without air, then being blown up, floating around and finally being popped. Asking a child to pretend to move like different foods, such as melting like a popsicle or popping like popcorn, is also fun and creative.

Put a pen to paper, say experts. "Because of texting and email, many children don't spend time writing 'snail mail,'" said Christie Westermann, a fourth grade teacher at Norwood Elementary School in Potomac, Md. "Children can decorate blank postcards, learn how to properly address a piece of snail mail and write special notes to friends and relatives."

Melideo agrees that writing can be a fun and edu-

cational indoor activity, and suggests writing thank-you notes for holiday gifts as well as making Valentine's Day cards for family and friends. She says this is an ideal way to incorporate writing skills with fun: "You have to ask yourself what your child can do developmentally," she said. "If they can write their name, then they can make the rest of the card with stickers. Children can make two or three each day and they will have something they are proud of, and family members always need to be told they are loved."

Fourth grade teacher Alysha Akbar, a graduate student in the education program at George Mason University in Fairfax, adds, "While the winter weather has prevented my fourth graders from enjoying outdoor recess, the cold has not kept their hands idle," she said. "Many of my students enjoy making beautiful, three-dimensional snowflakes. We hang them from the ceiling and they are very simple to make. The children also keep busy indoors playing with Lego blocks, drawing and, of course, reading."

Melideo says that creating a family photo album where children get to create the captions or playing a game of charades are also great indoor pastimes. "Play charades with a theme, where maybe one person comes up with clues, throws them into a hat around a theme like the holidays or a family experience. Children are using creativity, memory, connecting in a fun way and getting excited expressing themselves."

Westermann adds that students can practice math skills while whetting their taste buds by choosing a favorite dish to prepare: "Have your children dream up something yummy to eat [like] cookies, brownies or cinnamon rolls, then look online for a kid-friendly recipe," she said. "Children can hone their math skills through measuring. Monkey bread is a fun, easy and yummy recipe for children."

Using modern technology to connect with family members who live in other parts of the country is another indoor pastime, say experts. "Call, Skype or Facetime and read to grandparents or other family members," said Melideo. "Children practicing reading before for an audience helps them develop fluency. Parents should encourage them to rehearse beforehand. They can also read a poem or something that they wrote. This is also a self-esteem boosting exercise because they get positive feedback from the grandparents or relatives."

Melideo concludes by suggesting scavenger and treasure hunts: "You can even start with an outdoor hunt where the treasure brings them back inside to find hot cocoa and cookies."

VIEWPOINTS

What Do You Do for Winter Fun? — ANAGHA SRIKANTH/ CENTRE VIEW

Avanti Shirke, 17, senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Chantilly

"I like cozying up at local Starbucks with a hot vanilla latte and a good book. It's a warm and homey atmosphere that makes the cold NOVA weather bearable. It's especially nice to look out the windows when it's snowing; it's almost like you're in a snow globe."



Jolene Mafnas,

17, senior at Robinson Secondary School, Chantilly

"I like to go to Reston Towne Center with my friend because there's a lot to do and it's all in one place. There's a movie theater that's designed like those old-style theaters from the '50s and an ice skating rink in the winter. There are also a lot of good restaurants, from Vapiano's to Big Bowl, that are perfect to get hot food on a cold day. There are so many different options, it fits whatever mood you're in."

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Burke
9519 Vandola Ct.....\$575,000.....Sun 1-4.....Helen Grozbean.....Keller Williams..571-233-4287

Centreville
14364 Round Lick Ln.....\$565,000.....Sat 1-4.....Kelly Thomas.....Jobin..703-405-2222

Fair Lakes
5102 Juglan Ct.....TBA.....Sun 12-3.....Ed Lang Team.....RE/MAX..703-932-5753

Fairfax
6050 Colchester Rd.....\$649,900.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
4615 Village Dr.....\$449,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812
387 University Dr.....\$448,000.....Sun 1-4.....Carol Hermandorfer.....Long & Foster..703-503-1812

Fairfax Station
7513 South Reach Dr.....\$839,950.....Sun 1-4.....Kathleen Quintarelli.....Weichert..703-862-8808
6321 Youngs Branch Dr.....\$719,000.....Sun 2-4.....Christine Shevock.....RE/MAX..703-475-3986

Falls Church
3804 Munson Rd.....\$829,000.....Sun 1-4.....Patrick Kessler.....Keller Williams..703-405-6540

Kingstowne/Alexandria
7151 Barry Rd.....\$829,900.....Sun 1-4.....Bill Halloran.....Acquire..703-932-9683
4904 Apple Tree Dr.....\$739,000.....Sat/Sun 1-4.....Michael Fogarty.....HomeFirst..703-971-1800
5806 Wescott Hills Way.....\$299,950.....Sun 1-4.....Tom & Cindy & Assoc.....Long & Foster..703-822-0207

Leesburg
543 Edmonton Terr NE.....\$359,900.....Sun 2-4.....Pat Fales.....RE/MAX..703-503-4365

Lorton
6830 Tiddle Way.....\$699,000.....Sun 1-4.....Beckie Owen.....Long & Foster..703-328-4129
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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Program Information. Learn about Lifetime Leadership Program at 11 a.m. at Leadership Fairfax, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Second Saturday. 9 a.m. at Marriott Courtyard, 11220 Lee-Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Professionals speak towards educating spouses about separation and divorce process in order to encourage them to be civil and reasonable for their pocketbooks, emotional health and children. RSVP to clapham@beankinney.com.

FRIDAY/MARCH 8

Scholarship Deadline. High school seniors must submit their application form online to be eligible for a scholarship from the Virginia, Maryland & Delaware Association of Electric Cooperatives Educational Scholarship Foundation. Detailed information is available at www.vmdaec.com or 804-968-7153.

TUESDAY/MARCH 12

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. at Cabell's Mill in Centreville. Lt. Col. Bill Hewitt will discuss the Gettysburg Campaign and July 1 battle. Donation of \$5 will be accepted for Sully Historic Site. Reservations required, 703-437-1794.

MONDAY/MARCH 18

Scholarship Application Deadline. High school seniors can apply for \$1,500 scholarship from Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative. Visit www.novec.com/community/index.cfm and select "scholarships" or contact Donna Snellings at dsnellings@novec.com or 703-392-1511.

SATURDAY/MARCH 23

Art and Silent Auction. 7 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive. Tickets are \$25 online or \$30 at the door, with discounts for multiple tickets. Held by Homeless Animals Rescue Team. Visit www.hart90.org for more.

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

Civil War Discussion. 7 p.m. at Sully Historic Site. Angie Atkinson will discuss the second day of the battle at Gettysburg, including Little Round Top and Devil's Den. Donation of \$5 will be accepted for Sully Historic Site. Reservations required, 703-437-1794.

TUESDAY/MAY 14

Civil War Discussion. 7 p.m. at Sully Historic Site. Matt Atkinson will discuss the final day of the battle at Gettysburg. Donation of \$5 will be accepted for Sully Historic Site. Reservations required, 703-437-1794.

TUESDAYS AND/OR THURSDAYS

Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles in order to prevent injuries and falls. At The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Dr. Registrations are required. Call 703-667-9800 to register as space is limited. Cost is \$10 per class.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Respite Care Volunteers. Give a family caregiver of a frail, older adult a break so they can go shopping, attend a doctor's appointment or have coffee with a friend. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods in Fairfax County. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

The Stuart-Mosby Civil War Cavalry Museum at 13938 Braddock Road. is now open, Saturdays and Mondays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Docents and additional volunteers needed, plus people willing to donate or loan artifacts. Call Don Hakenson at 703-971-4984.

A Simple Question



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't quite know how to start this column so I'll begin with its ending: "I'm fine." I am asked as much, if not more, than the next person how I am doing. It's a standard courtesy offered up every day between many unsuspecting askers and most often provides answers an opportunity to nonchalantly move the conversation along without too many fits and starts. For a cancer patient like myself, however, whose status, situation and story is likely known in advance (generally speaking) of most casual meetings that occur, the question/greeting, though well-intended, doesn't exactly fall on deaf ears, and certainly does not conjure nonchalance; at least not in my head, and that's where this problem really starts.

Of course, I want people interested in my health. Of course, I want people to be courteous and respectful to me. Of course, I want people to engage me and treat me like the non-terminal patient I'm not. I aspire to be normal so I want to be treated normally, and normally, being treated as such wouldn't bother me. And it doesn't bother me, really. What it does do however, is jump-start/remind my brain of my less-than-ideal health circumstances: stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Hardly the cross I wanted to bear beginning at age 54 and a half - after a life of not smoking, with no immediate-family history of cancer.

And given the fact that I semi pay attention to my surroundings and take notice of what I see and hear, when asked a question of health-related substance - sincerely, I am loathe to answer the question "monosyllabically." If I do control my responses and don't burden the questioner with a brief but humorous accounting of my most recent cancer-related anecdote, in my head I will have already gone there and done that: meaning, just because I don't say anything, don't presume for a second that my brain hasn't already considered how in fact I am doing and reviewed all the gory details. So whether anybody intended it - and I'm not sure anybody did, when I'm asked this most innocent of questions, my reaction is anything but. My reaction is a non-verbal, instantaneous re-living of the past four years, beginning with my visit to the Emergency Room on January 1, 2009. And as much as I think about my circumstances - on my own, what few breaks I allow myself are invariably cut short when someone, anyone has the good nature to inquire how I'm doing.

Still, being ignored is no good. Being treated with kid gloves is no good. Being cautious is no good. Being super-sensitive is no good. Being over-reactive is no good. Being pitied is no good. Being alone is no good. Moreover, being diagnosed with a terminal form of cancer is absolutely no good. As much as I want to live long and prosper and consider all the hope the future has to offer, cancer controls from within, often subconsciously. That's what I hate the most; the changes it causes in your head: your reactions, your assessments, your sense of proportion, your sense of self, etc. It's all different. I can live with it, but it does cause me to sometimes make mountains out of molehills and molehills out of mountains; with very little consideration of the mole.

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

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THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Storytime. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities about groundhogs. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.

THROUGH FEB. 1

Art Exhibit. Paintings by Rosemary Gallick celebrate the second inauguration of President Barack Obama. See 23 portraits of President Obama, Michelle Obama, Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton and more. The

exhibition is free and located at the Woodbridge campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 15200 Neabsco Mills Road.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Animal Program. 1:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Participants 3 years and older can learn about this animal and the story behind Groundhog Day. \$5/person. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes with code #2741879701. Call 703-631-0013.

Paws for Reading. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 5-12 can read aloud for 15-minute sessions with a therapy dog. Bring a book or choose one from the library. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Storytime. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities about groundhogs. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/FEB. 4

Frying Pan Farm. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Meet and learn about small farm animals, hear a story and take home a craft. For children in grades K-6. Free. Registration required, 703-502-

3883.

Afternoon Adventures: American Girl Doll Tea. 3 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 6-12 can bring dolls to play and interpret history. Free. Registration required, 703-830-2223.

Kids Knit. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3 and up can meet new friends, learn to knit or get help on a project. Beginners welcome. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Ask for title. 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

IHOP's National Pancake Day. Participating local IHOPs celebrate by giving away one free short stack of pancakes to all who dine throughout the day. All proceeds that day benefit the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's National Capital Area Chapter, with the hopes that patrons will make a donation to LLS in lieu of payment for pancakes. Visit www.lls.org.

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000

Stringfellow Road. Children ages 12-23 months can enjoy rhymes, songs and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Time for Tots. 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 2-3 with adult. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

Bouncin' Babies. 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Babies up to 11 months can enjoy rhymes, songs, stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

AARP Tax Assistance. 4-8 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Preference given to older adults. Free. 703-830-2223.

Mr. Skip. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. All ages can enjoy music, movement and fun. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 6

Toddlin' Twos. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 2 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

AARP Tax Assistance. 1-5 p.m. at

Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Preference given to older adults. Free. 703-830-2223.

Mystery Book Discussion. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can call and ask for title. Free. 703-502-3883.

Starlight Storytime. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. All ages can bring a stuffed animal and enjoy stories and fun. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

THURSDAY/FEB. 7

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 13-23 months can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

Book Group. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Teens in grades 7-8 can participate. Call for title. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Tax Assistance. 6 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Ready for School Storytime. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 4-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Purple Tie Bash. 6:30 p.m.-midnight at Westin at Washington Dulles. Chantilly High School presents an evening of fun with dinner, dancing silent and live auctions and more. Proceeds benefit the athletic programs at the high school. Visit www.chantillysports.org to buy tickets.

Choral Cabaret. 7 p.m. at Centreville High School. Enjoy dessert, coffee and tea while listening to the choir perform. There will be a silent auction and raffle. \$10/adult; \$5/student. CVHS students who buy tickets during lunch will get a free raffle ticket.

Tax Assistance. 10 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get help from IRS-certified volunteers. Free.

Kaleidoscope Storytime. 10 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. All ages can enjoy a sensory storytime focusing on the strengths and adapting to children on the autism spectrum and with other developmental disabilities. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

Thriving Three to Fives. 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

E-book Help. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get any questions about their eBook reader answered. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/FEB. 9-10

Lunar New Year Festival. From 1-6 p.m. celebrate the year of the snake during Fair Oaks Mall's 10th annual festival. Features traditional Chinese dragon dances, music, martial arts demonstrations, crafts and more. Free. Call 703-359-8300 or visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com.

Communities of Worship

To highlight your faith community, call Karen at 703-917-6468

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Loving Christ



Loving People



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with Sunday School
at 10:00am

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Centreville
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CENTREVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

9:15 AM CELEBRATION SERVICE
11:00 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Sundays at 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 am
Nursery through Elementary, Youth, College Age,
Singles, Men, Women, Choir, Awana,
GoGo (Older adults), Bible Study Fellowship,
MOPS (Mothers of Preschoolers), English Language
Classes and Spanish Speaking Ministry

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