



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Ready, Set ... At the 1K starting line for the Rev3 Run Rogue 5K and 1K, Saturday, March 23, are brain-cancer patients Tara Sankner (pink shirt) and Fair Lakes's BethAnn Telford; behind them is Tara's mom, Tammy. Tara's a second-grader at Lees Corner Elementary.

MORE PHOTOS, PAGE 5.

Training Key In School Safety

FCPS security coordinator addresses citizens committee.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Keeping students safe is Jim McLain's job. After retiring as a Fairfax County police commander in 2001, he joined Fairfax County Public Schools; and for 12 years now, he's been one of its two security coordinators.

"We deal with intentional- and unintentional-harm issues," he said during a recent Sully District Citizens Advisory Committee meeting. "I'm the intentional-harm guy."

McLain said FCPS safety and security in the schools only works because of each school community. And it's a mammoth task because it deals with more than 181,000 students and 24,000 full-time employees in nearly 200 buildings, plus 900 modular units and 1,600 buses.

"We have inspectors dealing with all aspects of safety, even on playgrounds," he said. "We have a proprietary uniformed force in our schools during the day because SROs are at every one of our high

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'They're Not Bad Kids; They're Just Teenagers'

Westfield SRO talks about keeping students safe.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Authorities say children are safe in Fairfax County schools, but it requires continual vigilance to keep them that way. So the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee recently hosted a community meeting on the topic.

"School safety is important to me as a father of fifth- and 10th-graders, and as a police officer,"

said Capt. Ed O'Carroll, the station commander. "We have a great team of SROs [school resource officers], but we need the community as a partner. So if you see anything suspicious or out of the ordinary, say something."

"Our youth also have a part in this," he continued. "Our schools are safe; we identify issues early, recognize potential threats and act quickly and appropriately."

SEE SRO, PAGE 7

Rita's Fundraiser for Second-Grader

Contributions also accepted online.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Tara Sankner, an 8-year-old second-grader at Lees Corner Elementary was recently diagnosed with brain cancer, and the community is rallying 'round to show its support.

She and a fundraising and support team called "Pray for Tara" wore special, pink T-shirts and participated in last Saturday's, March 23, Rev3 Run Rogue 5K and 1K at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. Tara ran and walked in both events and also had a donation table there.

And on Monday, April 8, from 6-8 p.m., area residents can enjoy sweet treats while helping raise money to help with Tara's medical bills. During those hours, Rita's Italian Ice, at 10726 Fairfax Blvd., in Fairfax, will donate 20 percent off all sales to support Tara and her family.

SEE RITA'S FUNDRAISER, PAGE 7



BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

From left: Tara Sankner with fellow brain-cancer patient BethAnn Telford, Saturday morning, at the Rev3 Run Rogue 5K and 1K.



Governor's Award for Educational Excellence

Rocky Run Middle wins state honor for fourth time.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Rocky Run Middle School has just won the 2013 Governor's Award for Educational Excellence. But according to school Principal Matt Eline, "We were just doing what we do all the time."

It's one of just two schools in the state to win this award; the other one is Kemps Landing Magnet School in Virginia Beach. They'll both receive a banner to display, plus a signed resolution of commendation from Gov. Bob McDonnell.

"This is our fourth year in a row winning this award," said Eline. "But this year is extra-special because they've changed the standards so it's even harder to reach the criteria they've set."

To qualify for this award, schools must meet all state and federal achievement benchmarks for at least two consecutive years and achieve all applicable excellence goals for their grade levels. The 2013 award is based on student accomplishment and other performance indicators during the



Rocky Run Principal Matt Eline (in center) and some students stand by a mural in the school hallway. On the wall (at right) are pictures of two Rocky Run teachers who've received honors.

2011-12 school year.

McDonnell and the state Board of Education announced the winners March 13. "Excellence doesn't just happen; it is achieved through hard work and a commitment to continuous improvement and innovation," he said. "I congratulate the students for the

accomplishments these awards recognize and the outstanding teachers and other educators who prepared them to excel."

Eline said SOL proficiency, academics and meeting federal and state No Child Left Behind standards all figure into the award computation. "We also had to have a cer-

tain number of students taking algebra — and increase that number each year," he said.

Winning schools had to amass 80 base points in math, English, science and Social Studies and meet all state objectives "for increased achievement and expanded opportunity." And, said Eline, "They also look at how challenging and rigorous the classes are."

Delighted with Rocky Run's performance, he said, "We're really celebrating. We have wonderful, motivated students who want to learn and think it's fun and interesting. We also have a really supportive community of parents, plus incredibly hardworking teachers, truly dedicated to helping kids learn."

And that, said Eline, is the recipe for success — "Great students, supportive parents and a talented staff. You put it all together and you're going to win awards. School is cool at Rocky Run; I'm the luckiest principal in the county to work at a school like this. It really is fun to be here and interact with such great kids."

Eline's also delighted that Rocky Run was one of the two schools in all of Virginia to receive this recognition from the governor. "We're ecstatic," he said. "I'm so proud of everybody, and I think this is something the kids will be very proud of, too. We'll plan something special for them; we need to celebrate as a school and a community."

Mathcounts: First in Regionals, Second in States

Rocky Run's team has stellar year.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Rocky Run Middle School's MathCounts team didn't win the state championship this year. But it did capture second place, which is a big achievement, in itself.

"It's still pretty good," said eighth-grader Sydney Zheng. "I was honored that my team could come this far."

To reach the state competition, held March 16 in Richmond, she and her teammates, eighth-grader Dan Lee and seventh-graders William Li and Joshua Lee, won the regional championship, Feb. 2, at Lake Braddock Secondary School. In addition, out of 250 students in the Northern Virginia Region's Fairfax Chapter — containing some two dozen schools — Dan finished 17th; William, seventh; and Joshua, third.

Rocky Run's after-school MathCounts club meets twice weekly; but being on the team representing the school also required math-problem competitions. And Joshua, Dan, William and Sydney made the final cut.

"I picked these four for the team, and I could tell early on that they belonged on it," said math teacher and team coach Melanie Roller. "Josh was always the first one done, and I knew William was strong,

THE FACTS ABOUT MATHCOUNTS

Open to sixth-, seventh- and eighth-graders, MathCounts involves solving various types of complicated math problems. Its members vie against other teams in chapter, state and national competitions, and the problems they face are so challenging that the competitors are called "mathletes."

The contests consist of particular tests:

- ❖ Sprint round — 30 word problems to solve in 40 minutes without calculators;
- ❖ Target round — Four sets of two problems each. Students have 6 minutes per set and may use calculators. Each problem is usually a paragraph long and is much harder than the ones in the sprint round.
- ❖ Team round — After competing individually in the other two rounds, all four team members have 20 minutes to work together and solve 10 word problems.

quick and accurate. Sydney competed last year as an individual, and Dan was consistently a high-scorer — you could see the accuracy in what he did."

William started doing MathCounts last year at Greenbriar West Elementary. "My brother Hans did it the last two years at Rocky Run and liked it," he said. Sydney also began in sixth grade.

"I joined Math Counts because it presented math in a way that wasn't normally taught in schools," she said. "It was in word problems, which required the solver to understand different concepts and use creative thinking to solve them. A problem could be solved by using a mix of probability and geometry, or algebra and number theory."

Brothers Dan and Joshua came to the U.S. from Korea in March 2012. "Before start-



From left are Rocky Run's MathCounts coach, Melanie Roller, with team members Dan and Joshua Lee (holding regionals trophy) and William Li. (Inset photo is Sydney Zheng, who designed the team's shirts).

ing the new school year, I saw MathCounts on a list of activities, so I researched it," said Dan. "I found out it contained contests, so I got into it." And Josh was excited about it after learning Rocky Run had won the 2012 MathCounts state championship.

Each member brings particular strengths to the team. "I'm usually slow at solving problems, but I'm accurate and get every-

thing right," said Daniel. Joshua and William solve things quickly and have time to check their work. And Sydney makes sure the team works together as a unit.

"As team captain, I formed the strategy when we worked together and organized the members, especially in the team round," she said. "I did best with algebra because

SEE MATHCOUNTS, PAGE 15

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ROUNDUPS

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 28, 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.

Ruby Tuesday's WFCM Fundraiser

To help raise money for its programs that help local families in need, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) is participating in Ruby Tuesday's GiveBack community program. From Friday-Sunday, March 29-31, customers presenting a flyer to their server will have 20 percent of their purchase cost donated to WFCM. (The flyers may be printed from www.wfcmva.org).

The effort is called "Take a Bite out of Hunger," and is being held at the Ruby Tuesday at 13915 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly. For directions to the restaurant or to view the menu, go to www.rubytuesday.com. To make reservations, call 703-818-3713.

"Financial support is vital to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries to help our neighbors in need achieve financial stability," said WFCM's Community Outreach Manager Jennie Bush. "We cannot administer our programs without community support, and we appreciate our community participating in this program."

Stringfellow Road Widening Meeting

VDOT will hold a meeting about the Stringfellow Road widening project on Wednesday, April 3, from 7-9 p.m., in the Chantilly High library, 4201 Stringfellow Road.

VDOT's increasing the road from two lanes to four lanes from Fair Lakes Boulevard to Route 50. The meeting will explain the project's scope and introduce the construction and contractor team members. After the presentation, Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully), Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) and VDOT representatives will answer questions.

Westfield High To Present International Night

Westfield High will hold its annual, International Night program on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m., in the school theater. Students representing a variety of countries and cultures will wear ethnic costumes and perform songs and dances.

Crime Victims 5K Walk

The first-ever 5K Walk dedicated to crime victims in Fairfax County will be held in honor of the 2013 National Crime Victims' Rights Week. This free event is slated for Sunday, April 21, at 4:30 p.m., at Fairfax Corner. It's hosted by the Victims Services Section of the county Police Department and the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation.

Area residents may join the professionals who support local victims of homicide, trauma, sexual and domestic violence, child physical and sexual abuse, stalking human trafficking and suicide as they walk together.

The event will feature a resource fair, plus live jazz, rhythm and blues by the E & ME Band. Also planned are opening remarks by Commonwealth Attorney Ray Morrogh, a candlelight vigil in honor of victims after the walk, and remarks from Lorraine Reed Whoberry, a homicide survivor and founder of the S.T.A.C.I.E. Foundation.

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NEWS

Sully District Station Honors Its Own

MPO Mary Hulse is Officer of the Month.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

MPO Mary Hulse is an example of a police officer doing her job and doing it well. And at the March 13 meeting of the Sully District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee, she was honored as that station's Officer of the Month.

In Hulse's performance review, her supervisor, 2nd Lt. Todd Kinkead, described a Feb. 25 arrest of hers that started with a traffic stop and ended up with a wanted man being charged with two felonies and a misdemeanor.

"This was another great example of doing routine enforcement and having a larger impact than first expected," wrote Kinkead. "I applaud her motivation and efforts. She is an inspiration to others [and] I commend her for the difference she is making every day."

In his letter nominating Hulse as the Officer of the Month, he detailed another of her arrests last month. Kinkead said she was operating stationary radar, the afternoon of Feb. 15, when she clocked a male driver doing 45 mph in a 30-mph zone. She made a traffic stop and began speaking with him.

She was immediately suspicious of the identity he was claiming, since he didn't produce a driver's license and told her he didn't have his wallet. So Hulse asked for his name and birth date. But when she checked DMV records, the information didn't return as valid — further deepening her suspicions that something was amiss.

At that point, PFC Virgil Swartz arrived to provide back-up and support to Hulse. She briefed him about the traffic stop and the driver's lack of verified identification. Meanwhile, wrote Kinkead, "The subject's behavior was becoming even more nervous as he was sitting on the curbside now. He was sweating profusely and fidgeting and [his] eyes were shifting about wildly."

Swartz asked for consent to search the vehicle and it was granted. But, wrote Kinkead, "As he entered



From left: Sully District Station Asst. Cmdr. Rich Morvillo presents the Officer of the Month award to MPO Mary Hulse, along with Station Cmdr. Ed O'Carroll.

the passenger side of the car, the subject stood up and ran." Swartz pursued him while yelling for him to stop.

Hulse joined the chase in her cruiser and was able to overtake the suspect and use her cruiser to block his forward progress. Doing so allowed Swartz to close the distance between him and the fleeing man and deploy his taser in an attempt to apprehend him. The taser darts struck the man's jacket and baggy pants, slowing him down enough for Swartz to stop him and place him under arrest.

Once handcuffed, wrote Kinkead, the driver explained that he ran because "he was wanted on outstanding warrants. A resident alien card was located in [his] sock, and the information returned a wanted hit for a burglary warrant from Prince William County."

The officers then searched his car more thoroughly and discovered items believed to be stolen property. Wrote Kinkead: "A book bag containing 15 watches and a nearly complete lower receiver for an AR-15 rifle were a few items of concern."

Later, Det. Steve Kitzerow from the Sully District Station's Criminal Investigations Section helped with the investigation and asked Det. Steve Augustine from the Fair Oaks CIS to join in, since they were

SEE HULSE, PAGE 13

Social Change Celebrates Anniversary

Founded by Julie Sussman of Centreville's Rocky Run community, Social Change was born in March 2011. Sussman's idea was to get people together in a fun and informal way to discuss their favorite causes, share food and wine, visit with old friends and make new ones.

The group is comprised of residents from Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Oakton and Fairfax. And each month, they gather to learn about and raise funds for various charities and endeavors.

Explained member Chio Stokes: "We have to realize that the world doesn't get any better unless we do something to help."

Last Wednesday, March 20, though, was different. Members went to the banquet room of the new Coyote Grill restaurant in Centreville's Centewood Plaza where they enjoyed a meal and deeJay music in cel-



Julie Sussman

ebration of Social Change's second anniversary.

During the evening, new member Kevin Whalen told the group about the upcoming Police Unity Tour fundraising bike ride in which he participates. And member Celeste Peterson mentioned her April fundraiser for the Erin Peterson Scholarship Fund.

The group also presented gifts and a card to Sussman in appreciation for her creating Social Change, in the first place. "Thank you, Julie," said Mary Carson. "You've brought so much into

our lives; you're a God-given gift."

In response, Sussman said, "It's been an honor and a privilege for me to meet you all and learn about the causes near and dear to your hearts. Thank you for being so supportive of the mission of Social Change."

— BONNIE HOBBS

Clifton's Easter Egg Hunt

The Town of Clifton held its Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 23, in the town park thanks to the efforts of the Clifton, Fairfax and Fairfax Station au pairs with Cultural Care Au Pair.

Local coordinators Dariece Rau and CinziaPutzeys were glad that their groups of au pairs were willing to organize the event this year for the community.

More than 160 children showed up for the three separate hunt areas: toddlers – pre-school, kindergarten – second, and third – fourth grades. Following the hunt, each child had their picture taken with the Eas-

ter Bunny and then waited to see if they were going to win one of the raffle prizes donated by DGallery Photography, Au Pair coordinator Dariece Rau, state Sen. George L. Barker and Jane Barker, T & K Treasures, Anthony Reid and Associates, and La Bella Luce.

For more about the au pair program or future activities, contact Rau at 703-944-3907 or dariece.rau@lcc.culturalcare.com

Children place the brightly colored eggs in their bags.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



Caesar Palacios and daughter Mia, 3 and a half, holding a chocolate Easter egg.



The Easter Bunny waves hello to everyone.



Alice Hurley, 2, puts a pink egg in her bag.



Carolyn Rohr, left, and Kaitlyn Ellis, both 10, show the eggs they found.



From left: Luke Gingrich, 6, brother Noah, 3, and their mom, Erin, find the treats inside the plastic eggs.



Tammy Sarkhosh and son Savion, 2 and a half, snuggle after the Easter egg hunt.

NEWS



And they're off: Runners begin the Rev3 Run Rogue 5K race.

Racing to Help Others

Some 1,100 people participated in the Rev3 Run Rogue 5K and 1K, Saturday, March 23, at Fairfax Corner, raising an estimated \$10,000 each for Life with Cancer and Accelerated Brain Cancer Cure.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



From left are Roseann Dougherty and brain-cancer patients Anya Zvorsky and BethAnn Telford before the 1K event. Telford ran in Anya's honor.



Josef Tessema, 24, of Springfield won the 5K in 15:08. He coaches distance running at Lee High School and runs about 95 miles/week.



Manning the donation table for Tara Sankner and Accelerated Brain Cancer Cure are Billy Freesmeier and Sharon Ricciardi of Main Street Bank.

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More Obstacles to Transparency

General Assembly puts more information out of public reach, but other factors also limit access.

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.”

It doesn’t add, “except when we don’t want to,” although that provision does seem to be available in many cases. Individual government entities have a variety of ways of making it hard for the public to access public information.

One such way is simply to require that the information seeker file a “FOIA request,” a written request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. Most public information should be readily available, handed over on request. The written query allows the entity, a school system for example, to parse the request to provide as little information as possible. It is a method of foot-dragging, of just hoping that the requestor will give up.

A growing obstacle involves fees. Many government agencies respond to any request for public information with a bill, sometimes for thousands of dollars. The bills can cover staff time to calculate the answers, to locate the data. The staff time involved is already on the public payroll, and charging fees to provide

EDITORIAL

public information to the public when the public is already paying for the existence of the information is double dipping. Again, it’s a method designed to discourage access. And it is often effective. And while many citizen groups in our area can cough up \$3,000 or \$6,000 or more for access to the email correspondence of public officials on a decision that affects the public, for example, many cannot. It is inequitable to charge this sort of fee.

The existence of email correspondence between public officials is another concern, allowing for discussion that, while usually FOIA-able, takes place outside the public eye. Local governments could develop a public archive for email correspondence that would do much to enhance transparency and sunshine in the Commonwealth, and reduce embarrassment on the part of emailing officials because they would recognize in advance that their email is public.

The Virginia Freedom of Information Act includes an exception that allows police to withhold, without justification, “complaints, memoranda, correspondence, case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.” Police officials in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexan-

dria 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. But no public entity should be allowed blanket exemptions. Withholding public information, if it is allowed, should be on a case-by-case basis. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports and many other source documents without harm, documents that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

So with many systemic roadblocks to public access to public information, it is discouraging to say the least to see the General Assembly add significant new obstacles.

The Virginia Coalitions for Open Government reports that the General Assembly passed exemptions that “will limit access to some correspondence of legislative aides, to evacuation plans for hospitals operating under certificates of public need, to certain flight plans filed at regional government airports, to records and meetings of the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and to bank self-assessments. All concealed handgun permit applications will now be off-limits, too, thanks to a bill that was radically amended from its original purpose and reported from committee to House floor in less than 24 hours,” limiting public comment.

— MARY KIMM,

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COMMENTARY

Residents Can Craft Their Own County Budget

BY MICHAEL R. FREY
DISTRICT SUPERVISOR (R-SULLY)

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is in the process of developing the

FY 2014 budget and my colleague, Supervisor John Cook, came up with a great tool, a budget simulation that will assist you in creating your own proposed budget.

Here you have the budget pro-

posed by the County Executive, this is your chance to be a county supervisor and tell us what you would do in our shoes. Which service do you consider vital? What specific programs would you cut? Are you satisfied with the proposed tax rate?

Keep in mind the following which Supervisor Cook shared with us when distributing the budget simulation:

“You may find the rules constraining. That’s because in real life they are as well.” For example, larger changes in the budget would require more lead time (major restructuring, elimination or addition of large programs, etc.) so those items are not included. The details of the school budget cannot be changed, because the Board of Supervisors only appropriates school funds and the School Board determines spending. We hope this exercise will help you understand the budget process better, and provide the Board with some ideas on how we should approach this effort in real life.

“Please keep in mind that to

make this exercise a little more understandable, we made a few assumptions and estimations that wouldn’t work in real life. However, the changes are small and do not seriously alter the budget math.”

Thank you for participating! Please share your results with me, I want your feedback on your budget priorities! There are several ways you can send your completed budget simulation:

Email: Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov

Mail:

Sully District Supervisor’s Office
Sully Governmental Center
4900 Stonecroft Blvd.
Chantilly, VA 20151

And begin:

FY 2014 Budget Simulation

Supporting Documents:

Reductions taken: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2014/advised/fy2014-reductions.pdf

Reductions not taken: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2014/advised/cex-memo-bos-reductions-not-taken.pdf



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Stations of the Cross

Each year 8th graders in the St. Timothy Catholic School National Junior Honor Society perform a play reenacting the Stations of the Cross, the final steps that Jesus took on his journey to the crucifixion. This year’s play was directed by 8th graders Kelly Nguyen and Lucas Tauscher, costumes were made by Kelsey Hamer, and Jesus was played by Ethan Zavacky.

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A Connection Newspaper

FCPS Security Coordinator Discusses School Safety

FROM PAGE 1

schools and middle schools, plus two police officers at the secondary schools.”

McLain said a county police commander works in the office next to him and there’s also a security director, assistant and staff there. “It’s a wonderful, boots-on-the-ground operation,” he said.

Regarding building safety, he said every elementary and middle school has electronic door access and “we’re now piloting it in the high schools.” Furthermore, many schools are using the automated visitor-management system and can check people against a list of registered sex offenders.

“We also have good, outside lighting around the schools,” said McLain. “If you think a school needs more lighting, call me. And we have an elaborate alarm system. We do as much as we can, with the resources we have, to keep the schools safe.”

He said every school has an emergency plan and it’s reviewed and updated by his officers each year. “We ask questions such as, ‘Is there a better place to be during an emergency? Should people shelter in place or go elsewhere?’” said McLain.

They also discuss securing the building, which McLain said was a new concept for him. “As young officers, when we were chasing a bad guy on the street, the last thing that came into our minds was the schools,” he said. “But now we automatically think about them because we don’t want [a criminal] trying to seek shelter in one of our schools and making the situation even more



Jim McLain talks about school safety while police Capt. Ed O’Carroll (on right) listens.

dangerous.”

McLain noted that every school has mandatory drills for fires, tornadoes and lockdowns. “In an emergency, you always resort to your training,” he said. “We’ve actually had children evacuate a school on fire successfully — and not know it was on fire — because they were just doing what they always did.”

Adults learn these things, too, he said. “We put the school crisis-management team through exercises and scenarios,” said McLain. “And we critique what they’ve done and they learn how to improve it.”

In every classroom, there’s a guide telling teachers what to do in case of emergencies. “There’s also an orange vest which each teacher will wear,” said McLain. “People with yellow vests and two-way radios are who the teachers are reporting to; so when fire and police personnel arrive, they know who’s who.”

Bus drivers and custodial staff also help, and McLain said all this advance planning is critically important. “You have to have the training, plus the best information to and from us, to better control and mitigate chaos,” he said.

His office hears police calls and, said McLain, “If we hear a police call go out near a school, we’re there. And every school has a public-safety radio so they can call us, even if they lose their other communications.

They also have two-way radios so they can talk with their staffs.”

He said cameras and security equipment help provide safety, but people are better. “Intervention and prevention are key,” said McLain. “Call us if you hear or see anything suspicious,” he said. “We can’t help you if we don’t know what’s happening.”

With “targeted violence,” said McLain,

“People exhibit specific behaviors. If you report it, we can prevent it. We’ve established a tip line, 703-658-3636; it’s anonymous and I have an entire staff that answers it any time of day. We’re all in this together; the value of the empowerment of you all being involved is priceless.”

A resident asked him if there are any plans to put a chain lock or bar on classroom doors to keep classrooms safe. “No, it’s a fire-code issue,” answered McLain. “And if you lock out the bad guy, you also lock out the good guy [trying to help].”

Another man asked about emergency training for substitute teachers. “My wife is an FCPS substitute teacher and has no idea what to do in an emergency,” he said.

McLain advised him to have her ask the school about it so either school personnel or his staff could train her. “There’s still that gap,” he acknowledged. “But if the other teachers know what to do, the substitutes can follow their lead. And if you see a school not following adequate security procedures, call us.”

Police Capt. Ed O’Carroll, commander of the Sully District Station, said another way to help keep children safe is by participating in Neighborhood Watch and having parents look out for their neighbors’ latchkey children. “So get to know your neighbors and be mindful of suspicious people, cars and packages,” he told the audience. “And have the confidence to call us if you think something is wrong.”

SRO Talks about Keeping Students Safe

FROM PAGE 1

Westfield High SRO Lou Muñoz, a 21-year police officer, is in his eighth year at the school, and he told the audience how he does his job. Since it’s such a large school with 2,800 students, he does his best to get to know as many students as possible.

“I coach JV baseball there and an informal basketball team of football players,” he said. “It breaks down barriers and makes them more likely to come to me [for advice or information].”

Muñoz said the main problem at Westfield is thefts of iPhones, iPods and other valuables — “\$400 and \$500 items left unattended.” He also said the use of social media — mostly Twitter — can lead to bullying, rumor-spreading, harassment and threats that often end up as a fight at school. So he often makes students get off of Twitter so they won’t have to deal with the problems coming from it.

“Most things I can handle informally in my office,” he said. “I don’t want to get the students in trouble; but if they come back a second time, I will.” He also handles as-



Westfield High SRO Lou Muñoz gives advice to parents.

saults, plus incidents involving alcohol use and marijuana possession. And if he finds out about big parties involving 100 or so teens, he tries to stop them to prevent potential thefts from the homes hosting them.

“I talk to classes about gangs, driving, drugs and alcohol,” said Muñoz. “I also talk to freshmen about sexting, bullying, cyberbullying and thefts and give them the tools to deal with these things.”

Basically, he makes a connection with the students. “I work at school events, too, allowing me to become part of the school and make friends with parents, teachers, administrators, counselors and students,” he said. “Because of it, they tell me things on a daily basis.”

A big part of his job, said Muñoz, is “getting to know the kids and showing them respect so they’ll want to comply [with the rules] and not disappoint me. And I’m a great counselor now from doing it all the time.”

In addition, he sometimes gets information about teen crimes in the community from other teens. “I refer them to the po-

lice department and, often, I can identify the kids involved,” he said.

Muñoz also advised parents how to keep their children safe. “Get involved,” he said. “Know who they hang out with and where they live; find out about their parents. They’re not bad kids; they’re just teenagers. Ask your kids what’s going on and keep plugging away. Don’t rely on the school to do it for you.”

To parents worried that their children might be using drugs, he said, “Teens have no privacy rights — search their room, cell phone and car. Get them drug-tested and stay on top of it.”

Muñoz warned parents that teens are more social-media savvy than they are, but it can lead to trouble. So, he said, “They’re up late at night communicating with their friends — maybe even sexting — so take away their technology from them at night.”

Most of all, he said, “Don’t ever give up; utilize all resources to keep your kids safe.” As one of 54 SROs countywide, he added, “SROs are on the front lines and see this stuff every day. So if you’ve got a question, ask them.”

A father then asked Muñoz what he’d do to make the schools safer, if he had a blank check. “I’d have police officers in all the schools,” he replied. “But with the money situation, it’s not realistic.”

Rita’s Fundraiser

FROM PAGE 1

Tara is being treated at Children’s National Medical Center in Washington, D.C., for an astrocytoma. She had her first chemotherapy treatment on March 13 and her second, March 20.

“Day one of chemo is good, but day two is always bad,” said her mother, Tammy Sankner. “And Tara’s tired and sick, two days after treatment.”

So Sankner was both pleased and surprised that her daughter was able to complete the 5K event Saturday morning. “Yesterday [Friday], she was so worn out from the chemo, she could hardly walk,” said Sankner.

When she’s feeling good, Tara enjoys doing arts and crafts and reading. Her mother says Tara’s normally a bubbly person who loves helping people do anything they need.

As for the upcoming event at Rita’s, Sankner said, “I think it’s great. I’m just beyond words about all the people who are helping us out. And I’m just so thrilled that Rita’s has given us the opportunity to do a fundraiser there.”

Those unable to attend the April 8 event may also contribute to Tara online. Go to www.airbanking.com/tools/; where it says to pick a charity, click and scroll down to Pray for Tara.

SPRING FUN

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Photos welcome.

ONGOING

The Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Space Junk," and "Jack the Giant Slayer" through May 23. "Jack the Giant Slayer" last show is April 10. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy/> or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule.

REGISTER NOW

Young Actors' Workshop. June 24-28 from 9 a.m.-noon at Westfield High School. Students in grades 3-6 can discover the artist inside themselves through games, acting exercises and more. \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com for an enrollment form or call 703-488-6439. Register early as space is limited and camp sells out.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

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

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.

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

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can talk with others learning English. Free. 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

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

Easter Egg Hunt. 1 p.m. at Lord of Life, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. Children 10 and under can enjoy a hunt. Bring a basket. Free. Visit www.lordoflifeva.org or 703-323-9500.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Easter Eggstravaganza Egg Roll. 1-3 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway. Children up to age 11 can enjoy the egg roll. There will be a moon bounce, games, face painting, door prizes and more. Free. Visit www.jccag.org or 703-383-1170.

MONDAY/APRIL 1

Bouncin' Babies. 10:30 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.

Small Wonders. 11:30 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.

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.

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/APRIL 2

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.

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.



Easter Bunny Visits Fair Oaks

Through Saturday, March 30 during all shopping hours, families will have the opportunity for photos with the Easter Bunny. This year, the Easter Bunny's home moves to the Fair Oaks Grand Court. Every child will receive a special gift just for visiting the Easter Bunny. Fair Oaks Mall will be closed on Easter Sunday, March 31.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 3

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. 703-830-2223.

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

THURSDAY/APRIL 4

Concert. 7 p.m. at CVHS theater. Hear Russian choir Vita in Canto perform with conductor Yuly Kopkin. Free.

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 5-12 can meet and read to a trained therapy. They can read from a library book or already owned one. 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.

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.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

English Conversation Group. 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults can practice with other students. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Trivia Night. 8:30 p.m. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia. Register a table or individually. Prizes include gift card, tickets to Theater J and more. \$22/individual; \$144/table of 8. Register at jccnvtivia.brownpapertickets.com or 703-323-0880.

Kaleidoscope Storytime. 10:15 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.

Grounds Cleanup. 1 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Wear clothes that can get dirty. Service hours available for teens. All ages welcome.

Paws for Reading. 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 5-12 can meet and read to a trained therapy. They can read from a library book or already owned one. Free.

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.

MONDAY/APRIL 8

Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow

Road. Children ages 3-5 can enjoy stories and activities. Free.

Book Group. 2:15 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades 3 and 4 can participate. Call for title. Free.

Afternoon Adventures. 3 p.m. at Centreville Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 6-12 can make rod puppets and act out "Goldilocks and the Three Bears." Bring a shoebox if you have one. Free. Registration required. 703-830-2223.

Writers of Chantilly. 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can share their work and receive feedback. Free.. 703-502-3883.

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

TUESDAY/APRIL 9

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can practice with other students.

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.

Wheeeel. 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages 3-5 with adult can enjoy stories and activities. Free.

FAIRS & FESTIVALS

April

FRIDAY-MONDAY/APRIL 19-MAY 6

Spotlight on the Arts Festival. Dedicated to showcasing the very best of the visual and performing arts in the City of Fairfax. At a variety of venues in and around the city. Visit www.visitfairfax.com/category/spotlight.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27

Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day at Springfest 2013. This event is free fun for family at the Workplace Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Enjoy pony rides, games, farmers market, environmental workshops and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/earthday/ for more events.

May

SATURDAY/MAY 4

Chantilly Day. At Sully Center on Metro Tech Drive. The chamber has created a community day to highlight the wonderful faces of Chantilly with fun for families. The Business Expo will take place in the KMart parking lot bordering Metrotech Drive in Chantilly and runs from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.chantillyday.com.

Pet Fiesta. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Reston Town Center. The Pet Fiesta draws local businesses, rescue groups and thousands of pet owners for a day of interactive activities, demonstrations, exhibitions and animals galore Visit www.petfiesta.org.

THURSDAY/MAY 16

Clifton Charity Homes Tour. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. The Clifton Community Woman's Club presents its 41st Annual Clifton Charity Homes Tour, Marketplace and Silent Auction. Culminating the event will be the "Wine Down" from 3-6 p.m. featuring live music and the Silent Auction Fundraiser at the Paradise Spring Winery, which also hosts the Marketplace and Silent Auction until 5 p.m. Advance tickets \$25, day of tour tickets

\$30, single home admission \$10. Admission is free to the Marketplace activities. Lunch available at Clifton eateries, and the Paradise Springs Winery will offer lunches with a prior RSVP at 703-830-9463. Visit www.cliftoncwc.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 17-19

Northern Virginia Fine Arts Festival. At Reston Town Center, the three-day event attracts more than 50,000 patrons and provides an interactive experience to view, purchase, and experience art directly from the artists who have created it. Visit <http://northernvirginiainfineartsfestival.org>.

SATURDAY-MONDAY/MAY 25-27

ViVa! Vienna! Vienna's largest festival, ViVa! Vienna!, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Greater Vienna, returns to the historic Church Street corridor for three days of family fun, including carnival rides, diverse food, live entertainment for children and adults and more than 300 vendors selling crafts, services, jewelry, children's toys and books, novelties. Admission to the festival is free, rides are not. Visit www.vivavienna.org.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-JUNE 2

Herndon Festival. The Town of Herndon's Parks and Recreation Department hosts the annual Herndon Festival. There is no admission fee to enter the Herndon Festival. Visit www.herndonfestival.net.

June

SATURDAY/JUNE 8

Relay for Life. 3 p.m. Centreville and Chantilly Relay for Life will take place at the nZone, 14550 Lee Road in Chantilly. Call 703-937-1903 or email Brandi.Steward@cancer.org.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

Clifton Wine Festival. 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. in Children's Park in historic Clifton, with wine, food, music and arts and crafts. Rain or shine. Visit www.cliftonwine.com.

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Fairfax County REAL ESTATE

2013 Assessments by Zip Code Areas

Hunter Mill Supervisor **Cathy Hudgins (D)**
saw her assessment went up 0.94%
from \$570,520 in 2012 to \$575,910 in 2013.



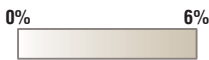
Dranesville District Supervisor **John Foust (D)**
saw a 2.00% gain in his property value when compared to 2011.
The county valued Foust's house at
\$3,048,110 last year and \$3,109,050 this year.



Sully Supervisor **Michael Frey (R)**
saw a 5.28% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Frey's home was assessed at
\$214,490 in 2012 and \$225,820 in 2013.



Providence Supervisor **Linda Smyth (D)**
saw a 11.99% increase in the value of
her house when compared to last year.
Smyth's home was valued at
\$494,880 in 2012 and \$554,220 in 2013.



2013 County Average (Percent Change)
Single Family Detached **\$550,609 (3.13%)**
Townhouse **\$337,817 (4.50%)**
Condos **\$222,722 (5.42%)**

ZIP CODE AREA	2012 MEAN	2013 MEAN	PERCENT CHANGE
Alexandria	367,955	380,715	2.91
Annandale	366,264	380,881	3.99
Burke	382,480	395,274	3.35
Centreville	330,259	340,642	3.14
Chantilly	390,658	405,494	3.80
Clifton	609,373	619,250	1.62
Fairfax	418,712	432,009	3.18
Fairfax Station	587,881	601,818	2.37
Falls Church	369,629	383,559	3.77
Great Falls	930,477	971,014	4.36
Herndon	406,751	428,013	5.23
Lorton	332,476	349,150	5.02
McLean	762,002	786,105	3.16
Oakton	624,911	639,551	2.34
Reston	362,028	379,812	4.91
Springfield	361,529	373,874	3.41
Vienna	586,948	610,521	4.02

Springfield Supervisor **Patrick Herrity (R)**
saw a 6.47% gain in his property value
when compared to 2012.
Last year, his home was worth \$520,120 and
this year it is valued at \$553,770.



Fairfax County Chairman **Sharon Bulova (D)**
saw her home value went up 4.35%
from \$591,990 in 2012 to \$617,750 in 2013.



Lee Supervisor **Jeff McKay (D)**
saw an increase of 0.96%
in his home assessment in 2013.
Last year, his home was worth \$703,450 and
this year it is valued at \$710,220.



Braddock Supervisor **John Cook (R)**
saw a 5.26% increase in
the value of his home over the last year.
Cook's home was assessed at
\$556,920 in 2012 and \$586,220 in 2013.

SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY

SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Chantilly is State Forensics Champ

In a close competition, the Chantilly Forensics team won the Virginia AAA title on Saturday, March 23. The members are (from left) Roshni Gorur, Hattie Clougherty, Greg Baker, Chloe Vasquez, John Downey, Justine Clougherty and Diego Encarnacion. (Inset photo: Matt Calvert). "I am really proud of the students and their achievements," said their coach, Barbara Clougherty. "But I am mostly proud of how well the students worked together as a team, supporting and encouraging each other – and how well they behaved as competitors, supporting and encouraging students from other teams from our region and beyond. It was great to see."



SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos are welcome.

The following students at Virginia Tech were named to the dean's list for the fall semester: **Cammy C. Truong** is a junior majoring in geography in the College of Natural Resources and Environment. **Amy N. Wang** is a senior majoring in chemical engineering in the College of Engineering. **Qiuchan Wang** is a sophomore majoring in environmental science in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences. **Ryan D. Willard** is a sophomore majoring in university studies. **John H. Yu** is a sophomore majoring in university studies. **Daniel H. Im** is a freshman majoring in university studies. **Daniel F. Morgado** is a junior majoring in computer science in the College of Engineering. **Michael X. Ngo** is a freshman majoring in biochemistry in the College of Science. **Ellen Y. Pak** is a freshman majoring in classical studies

in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences. **Taylor A. Poe** is a freshman majoring in psychology in the College of Science.

Andrew Criminski, the son of Scott and Charmain Criminski of Oak Hill, and Therese Criminski of San Diego, was named to the dean's list at Randolph-Macon Academy. Drew is a senior.

More than 300 JMU students embarked on 30 spring break trips around the country and world. The students spent the week living simply, focused on service in their destination community but also on teamwork and reflection within their group. The following stu-

dents participated in alternative spring break: **Lauren Wines**, **Jamie Gorman** and **Emma Stewart**

Twenty Fairfax County Public Schools students have received 21 national medals for their entries in the 2013 Scholastic Art Awards sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Seven students earned 8 Gold Awards; 13 students earned Silver Medals. **Ksenia Muzyka** of Westfield High School won a gold award for drawing.

Evan Johnson of Chantilly was named to the dean's list for fall semester at Virginia Tech. Evan is a freshman majoring in business in the Pamplin College of Business.

OPEN HOUSE LISTINGS Will Return Next Week



To add your Realtor represented Open House to these weekly listings, please call 703-778-9410

CORRECTION

In the coverage of the Lees Corner basketball game ["Putting Fun in Fundraiser," Centre View North, March 21], the opposing team was misidentified. Lees Corner Elementary School teams played against Oak Hill Elementary School teams.

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For more information on the event, item donations and pre-registration, visit: www.fairfaxbgcgw.org

SCHOOLS



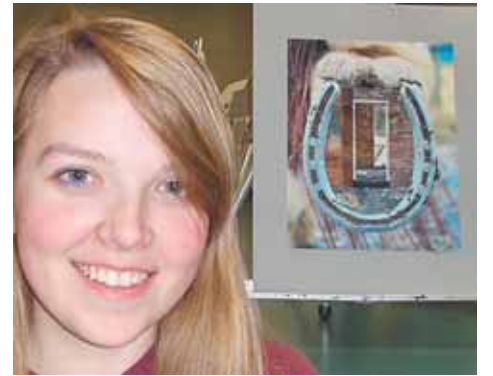
Seon Woo Cho, Greenbriar West Elementary, 6th grade (bottom drawing).



Katelyn Myers, Poplar Tree Elementary, 3rd grade.



Camila Gelabert, Chantilly junior.



Megan Grimes, Chantilly junior.

Artistic Achievements in Chantilly

Students displayed their creative talents, Thursday, March 21, in the Chantilly Pyramid Art Show at Chantilly High.



Morgyn Childs, Greenbriar East, 3rd grade.



Olivia Schmalz (left) and Sophia Pavlech, Poplar Tree, 4th grade.



Logan Javage, Chantilly senior, going to Skills USA States in photography.



Sarah Walowsky, Lees Corner Elementary, 3rd grade.



Naol Andarge, Greenbriar East Elementary, 3rd grade.



Joaquin Patino, Brookfield Elementary, 4th grade.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
CENTRE VIEW

Grace Ko, Greenbriar West.



Animal Shelter Is Seeking Senior Citizen Volunteers

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is looking for people with spare time who'd like to help improve the quality of life for homeless animals here. Currently, the shelter has around 100 volunteers, but it's trying to double that number by attracting senior citizens to lend a hand.

Walking dogs, greeting shelter visitors and helping with community outreach, animal socialization and the fostering programs are some of the many tasks available to volunteers. The shelter is at

4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax.

"Fairfax County seniors have so much to offer in the way of business, communication and animal care skills and experience," said Community Outreach Program Manager Kristen Auerbach. "They're a wealth of information and support for shelter staff and animals."

Shelter staff members also offer tours for senior groups, plus outreach programs in senior communities and centers. "We've found that animals have such a strong im-

pact on the quality of life," said Auerbach. "Bringing them into senior centers and offering tours of the shelter are great ways to share the incredible animals we have."

A new adoption program, Pets for Seniors, will be launched later in the month and will offer incentives to senior citizens adopting shelter pets. "Older animals make such wonderful companions," said shelter Director Tawny Hammond. "They're usually housebroken and past the stage of destroying personal property by chewing or claw-

ing. They're looking for a warm and loving home to spend the golden years of their lives."

A senior orientation and information session for potential volunteers and foster parents will be held Sunday, March 31, at 2 p.m., followed by a shelter tour for at 3 p.m. For more information regarding shelter tours, volunteering, programs and adoptions or to RSVP for March 31, call 703-324-0208 or email kristen.auerbach@fairfaxcounty.gov.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

'Pope Francis Puppets'

Students from Jennifer Tauscher's first grade at Saint Timothy Catholic School in Chantilly take a break to celebrate the announcement of the Pope Francis in Rome earlier this month. They pose with their "Pope Francis Puppets," in front of the school.

Hulse is Officer of the Month

FROM PAGE 3

both investigating some recent burglaries. According to Kinhead, "Some of the [confiscated] property was positively identified as stolen from two burglaries that occurred on Feb. 14."

The driver was taken to Fairfax County's Adult Detention Center where he was served with the Prince William County burglary warrant. He was also charged with driving while his license was suspended, speeding, unlawful name change, and escape.

"This case grew from a simple traffic violation," wrote Kinhead. "It was the keen observations and experience of MPO Hulse that resulted in capturing a wanted subject from Prince William County and solving several other burglaries in our county. [It] spawned a team effort and one of mutual support to maximize the returns."

Saying Hulse's "great work" merited a light shone on "a very worthy officer," Kinhead wrote that efforts like hers "make the job of police work even more rewarding."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm. Learn more about the FCPD Victim Services Unit at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/victim-services.htm>.

Food Donations Needed for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' 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. 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.

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

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.

Women's Self Defense Program

The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation is partnering with the Fairfax County Police Department to offer the Women's Self Defense Training program. It's based on the SAFE program formerly provided by the Police Department, but now being taught by C&J Security Corp.

The program is a two-day class that will meet on consecutive Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:15-9:30 p.m. It's currently offered free and all class materials are included. Program funding is provided through the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation. The course is offered to females, age 13 and older. A female guardian must accompany girls 13-18. No men other than the instructors are permitted to be present during a class. Call 703-246-7806, or go to www.fairfaxfoundation.org.

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-Werner Heisenberg

The future comes one day at a time.

-Dean Acheson

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

21 Announcements



Memoriam

Today, March 12th, 2013, marks one year since the tragic and sudden passing of loving father and husband Dana Brian Simonsen. Brian is survived by his daughter Danaka, wife Barbara, and countless friends and family. Brian served his country proudly as a Marine and toured overseas for 9 months. He was a seriously dedicated and hard worker, but most importantly a dedicated and truly loving father. His laugh would make you smile, his smile would make you laugh, and his heart made everyone feel welcomed and loved. Please take a moment to remember a man we all aspire to be, Dana Brian Simonsen.

ABC LICENSE

Little Red Pepper, Inc trading as Red Pepper, 13075 Fair Lakes Shopping Center, Fairfax, VA 22033. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a wine and beer on Premise license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Jeff Lee President

NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

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14.8 Percent



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

That is the percentage of diagnosed lung cancer patients who survive beyond five years, according to The National Cancer Institute's SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1975-2009, in a graph published in the February 26, 2013 Washington Post's weekly Health & Science section. As a non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivor beginning his fifth year post-diagnosis, charting my prospects in such a cold and impersonal manner is both chilling and arguable. "Chilling" in that facts speak for themselves and are hardly made up of whole cloth, to invoke one of the late Jack Kent Cooke's more famous quotes. And "arguable" in that charts, statistics, etc. may very well measure the mean, but it sure doesn't measure the man (this man, anyway). Meaning, from my perspective: sure, the chart is scary as hell, but I'm not sure I'm on it, if you know what I mean? (I know you know what I hope.)

Now whether you believe it or not matters not to me, rather what I believe matters most. And I believe in the individuality of individuals and of the immeasurable characteristics that don't show up on two-dimensional graphs. Since I live in a three-dimensional world, I'm loathe – and quite hesitant, to think that I'm just another terminal patient/number. Now, I don't dismiss such statistics out of hand, obviously, but nor do I take them to heart to determine how I intend on living my life. Certainly I'm not going to ignore them; I'm not a blockhead. But neither do I expect them to affect my thinking, my judgment, my preparation and my attitude. I still believe anything is possible and I'd like to think – and continue to think: "I've lived this long. Certainly I can live a little bit longer" (updated daily).

I have to admit though, that reading articles and seeing charts which offer improving but still extremely discouraging life expectancies, particularly for lung cancer patients (12.3 percent was the previous five-year survival rate, the lowest for all cancers charted in this particular graph) doesn't exactly make my day – or night, for that matter. Somehow, I have to find a way to disassociate myself from that population despite being immersed in its culture every minute of every day. Which when you consider that I have my oncologist's phone number programmed on my speed dial and that the chemotherapy-induced neuropathy in my feet offers constant reminders that I'm not in Kansas anymore (if I were in Kansas, I'm sure the neuropathy would be just as bad), the likelihood of my not feeling the effects of my diagnosis, physical, mental or emotional is somewhere between slim and none. Coping is what it's all about and not taking anything too personally, even though this is all very personal. And though I am keenly aware of my circumstances – as most of you regular readers are, finding a way to not let it define me and/or control me totally, is the challenge with which I am most familiar.

As Popeye the Sailor Man so famously said: "I yam what I yam." And so am I. I'm Kenny-with-cancer. So what else is new?

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

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NEWS

Mathcounts

FROM PAGE 2

it's the most logical." Sydney enjoys Math Counts because "it turns math into something that involves creative thinking and problem solving. It makes it challenging to find the solution."

Dan likes math and has fun going to contests and winning prizes, as does his brother. "I really feel proud if I win for the school," said Joshua. "So when we won the chapter competition, I was proud of myself and my team."

Actually, he's had a flair for math since age 2 or 3. "My parents said I finished an addition book in no time," said Joshua. "I did the same in multiplication; in kindergarten, I memorized a poster of the multiplication chart, from 1x1 to 19x19."

At regionals, he said, "Two people worked on five problems together and we'd solve them in about 12-13 minutes. William and I did the odd numbers and Dan and Sydney partnered. Then we'd check each other's work."

Whenever they faced an especially difficult problem, they worked on it together, explaining how they'd reached their answers. If all the answers were different, they'd focus on finding their mistakes.

The most challenging questions, said William, involved making "a long list of numbers. It takes more time, for example, to find the sum of all the prime numbers less than 50."

Joshua, however, said the easiest questions confused him most. "The first five questions of the sprint round can be the trickiest," he said.

Sydney said having to work quickly is toughest for her. "I can usually solve any problem if I have enough time, but MathCounts didn't present that luxury," she said. "To do well, I had to understand concepts thoroughly and memorize several shortcuts." Agreeing, Dan said he didn't always have time to check his answers for any mistakes.

The best part of regionals, said William, was "just having fun solving problems." Dan, though, liked "the award part where we won first place."

For Joshua, the high point was "when they said second was Nysmith, so we knew we'd won."

Roller said Rocky Run's victory came in the team round where the members collaborate on 10 questions in 20 minutes. That's because they'd prepared for those types of questions before the competition. To do so, said Dan, "We tried solving questions from previous years that were in states and nationals."

Happy they won regionals, Joshua said, "I wasn't expecting it because there were a lot of high scorers." Dan and William were both excited and proud, as was Sydney, who was "amazed at how well our team worked together to obtain that award."

Roller was proud, as well. "At one point, they weren't sure how they were doing, so I kept encouraging them and saying, 'We can do this.' And when we won, we were all thrilled. They did a great job preparing and then worked hard readying for states. And they had fun with it because math is fun."

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday at noon. Photos welcome.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

Information Session. 2 p.m. at Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Learn how to become a volunteer or foster parents. RSVP to kristen.auerbach@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-0208.

TUESDAY/APRIL 2

Bullying Prevention 101 Facilitator Training. 1-4:30 p.m. at Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Register at www.fairfaxyouth.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 5-7

Weekend Conference. General sessions aimed at people in grade 7 through adult; student sessions and more at Centreville Baptist Church. Nursery for ages 0-4 available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visit www.cbcva.org/aig.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

Clean Up. 9 a.m.-noon at Colin Powell Elementary School, 13340 Leland Road. Help clean up the area around the school. Trash bags will be

provided. Heavy work gloves suggested.

Prom Dress Giveaway and Fashion Show.

3 p.m. at Mott Community Center, 12111 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Watch "Night Under the Stars" fashion show, get a hair and make-up consultation and more. For high school juniors and seniors. Must bring school ID.

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.

WEDNESDAY/APRIL 10

Kindergarten Registration. 8:45 a.m. at Deer Park Elementary. Parents can learn about the program and then complete the paperwork. To receive a packet in advance, 703-802-5000.

MONDAY/APRIL 15

Kindergarten Registration. Prospective parents of children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept.

30 should call Brookfield Elementary School at 703-814-8700 to make a registration appointment.

Program. 7 p.m. at Greenbriar Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road. WFCWC hosts "Aging with Flair." Free. Learn strategies for being an active participant in a healthy future. 703-631-7093.

Centreville Toastmasters. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Overcome your fear of public speaking in a proven program that has helped thousands over the past 89 years.

SUNDAY/APRIL 21

5k Walk. 4:30 p.m. at Fairfax Corner. Enjoy a resource fair, live music and more. Hosted by the Victims Services Section of the Fairfax County Police Department and the Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation. Register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/survey/crimevictimsrights.htm.

MONDAY/APRIL 22

Kindergarten Registration. 2-4 p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School. Visit www.fcps.edu/start/kindergarten.htm for forms and information.

MONDAY/APRIL 29

Kindergarten Orientation/Registration. 2 p.m. at Greenbriar East Elementary. 703-633-6400. **Kindergarten Orientation.** 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Cub Run Elementary. Parents will meet teachers and kindergarten students will visit the classroom. Call 703-633-7500 for forms.

FRIDAY/MAY 3

Kindergarten Orientation. 9:15-10:15 a.m. at Poplar Tree Elementary. Children who will be 5 before Sept. 30 can register. 703-633-7400 for information.

MONDAY/MAY 6

Kindergarten Orientation. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Cub Run Elementary. Parents will meet teachers and kindergarten students will visit the classroom. Call 703-633-7500 for forms. **Centreville Toastmasters.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Overcome your fear of public speaking in a proven program that has helped thousands over the past 89 years.

MONDAY/MAY 13

Kindergarten Orientation. 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Cub Run Elementary. Parents will meet teachers and kindergarten students will visit the classroom. Call 703-633-7500 for forms.

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.

MONDAY/MAY 20

Kindergarten Orientation. 2:30-3:45 p.m. at Greenbriar West Elementary School. 703-633-6700. **Kindergarten Orientation.** 2-3 p.m. at Union Mill Elementary. Visit www.fcps.edu/parents/index.shtml or the school office to pick up registration forms; call the school for an appointment to drop off the filled out forms. 703-322-8500 for appointments or questions.


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Centreville Assembly of God...703-830-1841

BAHA'I

Baha'i Faith...1-800-22-UNITE

BAPTIST

Centreville Baptist Church...703-830-3333
Chantilly Baptist Church...703-378-6880

Clifton Baptist Church...703-263-1161
Second Baptist Church...703-830-1850

Mount Olive Baptist Church...703-830-8769
Ox Hill Baptist Church...703-378-5555

BIBLE

Chantilly Bible Church...703-263-1188
Community Bible Church...703-222-7737

CATHOLIC

St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church...
703-817-1770

St. Clare of Assisi Catholic Church...
703-266-1310

St. Paul Chung Catholic Church...
703-968-3010

St. Timothy Catholic Church...703-378-7461
St. Veronica Catholic Church...703-773-2000

EPISCOPAL

Church of the Epiphany...703-715-6070
St. John's Episcopal Church...703-803-7500

JEWISH

Congregation Yad Shalom...703-802-8901
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LUTHERAN

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