Chantilly ***** Fair Oaks ***** Fair Lakes ***** Oak Hill ENTRE

REAL ESTATE FOCUS **SUMMER 2013**

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JUNE 27 - JULY 3, 2013 25 CENTS Newsstand Price



Station 17 paramedics prepare to place an injured man inside an ambulance.

One Man Dead, Two Wounded

Police calling Chantilly tragedy "domestic in nature."

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

t's not yet known what touched off the fight among the three men, Tuesday morning, inside a Chantilly home used as a childcare center. And at press time, the victims' names hadn't been released.

What is known is the result: At least two of the men were stabbed and the third was pronounced dead at a hospital. Fairfax County police are still investigating and haven't shared much information beyond the fact that the incident was apparently "domestic in nature."

"It was contained inside the residence and we're not looking for anyone else," said police spokeswoman Shelley Broderick. "There were other adults inside the home at the time, plus two young children being cared for in the home. But they were not involved and were not injured."

Police were dispatched to a two-story, single-fam SEE POLICE CALLING, PAGE 4



vehicles and tape surround the house where the incident occurred.

10 Years Incarceration For Former Teacher

He was convicted of child-porn offenses.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

ittle more than a year ago, Oak Hill resident Robert C. Fenn was about to finish his first year of teaching at Poplar Tree Elementary, where he taught special-ed students in kindergarten through third grade.

But it all ended June 12, 2012, when Fairfax County police arrested him at the school on childpornography charges. Last Friday, June 21, the slight-built man with curly hair, thick glasses and wearing a green, jail jumpsuit, stood in federal court in Alexandria to learn his fate.

Although Fenn continued to proclaim his innocence, he'd had a jury trial, April 2-3, in U.S. District Court in Alexandria and was found guilty April 4 of one count each of

possession and receipt of child pornography. And on Friday, Judge James Cacheris sentenced him to 10 years in



Fenn

"Possession of child pornography is a serious offense," said Cacheris. "People watch it online and victimize the child again, causing more harm to that child."

Fenn had been a substitute teacher with Fairfax County Public Schools since 2009 and was hired full-time in the summer of 2011. His arrest culminated a week-long, joint investigation by members of the police department's Child Exploitation Unit and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents.

Police charged him with 10 counts of possession of child por

SEE FENN, PAGE 11

'His Life Mattered'

Westfield teacher, students raise money to honor Matt Peterson.

By Bonnie Hobbs Centre View

att Peterson was just 16 when his father inexplicably killed him, his mother and younger brother in their Herndon home before taking his own life.

It was September 2012 and Matt had just begun his sophomore year at Westfield High. The tragedy plunged the community into mourning, and no answers were ever given for the father's horrific

Nine months have passed since then, but Matt's teacher and fellow students in his Aerospace II class at school haven't forgotten him. Moreover, they're doing something special to honor his life and dreams.

SEE A WAY TO SAY, PAGE 11

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Sacred Threads: Quilt Exhibit with Meaning

esides being beautiful to look at, handmade quilts can convey powerful messages. Such are the quilts that will be on display during Sacred Threads 2013.

A national, juried exhibition of more than 200 quilts, it explores themes of spirituality, joy, inspiration, peace/brotherhood, grief and healing. The show runs July 10-28 at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, in Oak Hill.

Hours are daily, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Admission is \$5. A meet-the-artists reception will be held Saturday, July 13, from 1-4 p.m.

The quilts in the show present an artistic look at the deeper side of life. The profound ideas they express are addressed in visual stories by these artists. Some are pieces made as responses to the shootings at Sandy Hook, while others are about coping with a loved one's Alzheimer's or coming through an illness back to health.

There are quilts celebrating the beauty of the earth and of people's common humanity around the world. Other quilts are colorful expressions of spirituality and religious devotion reflecting a variety of faith traditions. A range of styles and techniques representing the variety of contemporary quiltmaking will also be represented.



"Passed This Way," by Candyce Grisham, was in the Expressions of Healing category in a previous display.



"Gotta Dance," by Susan Walen, was in the Expressions of Joy category in a previous show.

In its 10th year, this biennial exhibition offers a venue for the artwork of quilters^oof all faiths who use their work as a connection to the sacred and/or as an expression of their spiritual journey. These stories-in-

fabric of quiltmakers from all over the country offer a source of encouragement, healing, strength and connection.

One of the highlights will be Canadian quiltmaker Dominique Ehrmann who's par-

ticipating as an invited artist. Besides displaying her acclaimed quilt, "Come and Follow Me," she'll conduct workshops. For more information about the event, go to www.sacredthreadsquilts.com.

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Rocky Run Embraces Its Diversity

With the theme "Embrace Your Culture," Rocky Run Middle School held its International Night on May 31.

Photos by

Bonnie Hobbs

Centre View



Michelle Cao plays a Chinese piece on the piano.



Wearing their colorful, Indian outfits are (from left) Ashi Bhasin, Rachel Alexander, Akhil Bhasin, Divya Shan, Parvathy Haridas and Karthika Haridas. (Ashi and Karthika attend Centreville High; the others attend Rocky Run).



Divya Shan performs an Indian Bollywood dance.



Zulekha Tasheem (back) and Manu Rawal (front) danced an Indian medley.



Performing an Indian dance is Rashel Bajaj.



Nikhil Chintada (left) and Satish Venkatesan model Indian fashions.

ROUNDUPS -

Join the 'Extravacatza'

In hopes of encouraging people to adopt cats and kittens, the Fairfax County Animal Shelter has designated July as "Extravacatza." A d o p t i v e families will receive halfoff adoption



A playful kitten.

fees, plus free spay and neuter, on cats and kittens. Senior cat adopters will receive gift bags.

The shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road in Fairfax; on Wednesdays, it's open until 9 p.m. for evening adoptions. People already owning cats may come and receive advice on Saturdays, July 6, 13, 20 and 27, from a shelter cat expert. They may also learn proper cat-handling techniques and, on July 18, there's a so-

cial hour to talk about helping cats in Fairfax County.

For all July shelter events and classes, visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx.

Help Plan Centreville Day

The public is invited to join the fun and help plan the annual Centreville Day celebration. The event is slated for Oct. 19 in Centreville's Historic District and includes music, food, crafts vendors, children's games and activities for all ages. The Centreville Day Planning Committee will meet Monday, July 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly, and all community members are welcome to attend and participate.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Tuesday, July 9,

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.

Countywide Transit Network Study

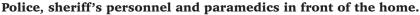
The Fairfax County Department of Transportation is conducting the Countywide Transit Network Study to determine the type of transit systems needed to accommodate forecasted growth throughout the county over the next several decades. The study has developed a proposed concept plan for where Metrorail should be extended, where light-rail systems are appropriate, and where dedicated lanes that allow buses to move faster could go. The study will also recommend how the system

can be phased in and funded over time.

The public is invited to participate in the study's third public meeting and workshop to discuss the proposed High Quality Transit Network (HQTN) concept. It's slated for Wednesday, July 10, in rooms 4 and 5 of the Fairfax County Government Center. There'll be an openhouse format from 6-9 p.m., with a 20-minute presentation at 7 p.m.

The public meeting will present preliminary recommendations for the HQTN corridors and describe the network's benefits for the county and its residents. For information, more www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/ 2050transitstudy and join the conversation online via the IdeaScale discussion board www.fairfaxcountydot.ideascale.com/. The next steps in the study will be to respond to the commentary received on the proposed concept, consider and incorporate potential revisions and develop final study recommendations this







Paramedics wheel one of the injured men to an ambulance.

Police Calling Chantilly Tragedy 'Domestic in Nature'

From Page 1

ily home in the Rockland Village community, June 25, around 11:19 a.m. It's in the 4100 block of Travers Court. Upon arrival, officers found the three injured men, although police would not say where, specifically, in the house they were discovered.

They also declined to reveal what caused the dead man's injuries or on what parts of their bodies any of the men's wounds were sustained. Broderick said they were all transported from the scene by ambulance, but were taken to different hospitals.

She said all the victims seemed to be in critical condition, with "very significant injuries," and she was notified about 3:15 p.m. that one had died. "The medical examiner will identify the person who's dead and the manner of death," said Broderick.

Besides police, county sheriff's deputies plus ambulances from Centreville's Fire Station 17 responded to the scene. Police immediately cordoned off the street with yellow tape and then stayed at the home for several hours after the incident.

They couldn't go inside the house to search it until 3 p.m., or so, because they had to wait for a search warrant to be written and approved by a magistrate. Then they kept it under guard until the crime-

scene investigators were finished.

Next-door neighbor Terry Kang has lived there four years and said it's normally a peaceful neighborhood where "nothing much" ever happens. But it all changed Tuesday.

"I was coming back from playing soccer, around 11:30 a.m., when I saw about 30 police cars," he said. "There were SUVs, bikes, cruisers, even an armored vehicle. I was like, 'What happened? Is something

wrong?' Then I realized it was my next-door neighbors."

Vang asked a police officer what was go

Kang asked a police officer what was going on, but was told to go inside his house, so he did. But he kept watching the action and even saw police escort two little boys, 3 or 4 years old, from the home.

Then around noon, more police arrived, plus "two helicopters — one, fire department, and one, police," said Kang. "I saw firefighters doing CPR on one man in front

she runs a daycare center there. A detective eventually told him three men had been injured, but not how. "I saw them carry two rifles out of the house, but I didn't hear any shots," said Kang. "And then I heard on the news that they'd been stabbed."

"I never saw three men there, just the woman who took care of the kids," he continued. "I was shocked — they're my neighbors."

Misbah Basit, who's lived around the corner from that home since September 2009.

of the house. All three men were taken away

He said the home's occupants are a

woman and her son, in his early 20s, and

on stretchers."

Misbah Basit, who's lived around the corner from that home since September 2009, said the neighborhood is usually quiet — children play outside after school and neighbors help each other shovel snow. He said the woman and her son are "very nice, but didn't speak to anyone. I think they rented the basement; I saw two men go there."

As for the tragedy, he said, "This is a safe neighborhood. I never thought about something so terrible happening here."

Anyone with information about this incident or the people involved is asked to contact Crime solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org, text "TIP187" plus a message to CRIMES/274637 or call police at 703-691-2131.



Police officers head back to the house (in center) where the three men fought.

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Steiding Named Officer of Month

FC Adrian Steiding is the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Month for May. He was honored during his evening roll call. Lt. Rich Morvillo, assistant station commander, presented an example of Steiding's work illustrating why he was selected.

On July 29, 2012, Steiding responded to Pickets Post Road and Massaponax Place for a report of people who'd discharged a firearm near or on private property. "They were seen leaving a wooded area off of Bull Run Road where the gunshots had been heard," wrote Morvillo.

They were subsequently detained by Steiding and an off-duty officer. "Steiding recognized the driver as a known, convicted felon and drug user," wrote Morvillo.

"He identified the passenger and learned of a magazine and a single round of ammunition in plain view inside the vehicle."

After receiving their Miranda warnings, wrote Morvillo, the suspects admitted to shooting the gun in the wooded area nearby. "Steiding and our detectives conducted follow-up interviews and obtained additional, criminal-activity information regarding those arrested," he wrote. "Confessions were obtained regarding the purchase of a weapon for a con-



Lt. Rich Morvillo (left) presents a certificate to the Sully District Police Station's Officer of the Month for May, PFC Adrian Steiding.

victed felon who was restricted from owning a weapon, and lying on the ATF form to complete the purchase." All totaled, this case resulted in two misdemeanor charges, as well as six felonies — three of which will be heard in federal court, where the defendant will face a mandatory-minimum sentence of 20 years in prison. Added Morvillo: "This case is a great example of perseverance and teamwork between our officers and detectives."

BONNIE HOBBS



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OPINION

Ready for Your Pet's Close-up?

he Pet Centre View, a bi-annual themed edition, will publish July 24. We invite you to send us stories about your pets, photos of you and/or your family with your cats, dogs, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your home or yard with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a

Editorials

child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures. Can

your dog catch a Frisbee 10 feet in the air, or devour an entire pizza when you turn your back for less than a minute?

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Tell us about your experience.

You can also take this opportunity to memorialize a pet you have lost.

Send photos and identify everyone in the photo including the pets and tell us what is

happening in the photo, and include your address (we will only print the town name).

Submissions should arrive by July 18. Email editors@connectionnewspapers,com, or submit photos and stories directly on our website at www.connectionnewspapers.com/

Careful While Going Faster

If you have driven on the new 495 Express Lanes, you might wonder if the people who decided to raise the speed limit to 65 have driven on them. At the current prices, the Express Lanes are appealing whenever you really need to get somewhere and you have doubts about the flow of traffic.

But the first few times you drive on the Express Lanes, they are confusing. Which Tysons' exit do I take for the Ritz Carlton? Will it be on the left or the right? When I get off, will I have to deal with a stop light, a stop sign or a merge?

What on earth is the driver next to me doing? The express lanes are not attracting as many

drivers as predicted, so now there is the added incentive of being able to go faster in those lanes than on the rest of the Beltway where the speed limit is 55 even if there isn't backed up traffic on the other lanes.

Changes July 1

Many actions of the 2013 General Assembly go into effect July 1.

Here are three things to know that kick in July 1:

- ❖ Sales tax increases to 6 percent in Northern Virginia to help pay for transportation.
- ❖ Texting while driving becomes a primary offense, meaning that you can be pulled over if an officer sees you using your phone or thinks you are texting because you are looking down.
- ❖ Mandatory minimum sentence of one year in jail for those repeatedly convicted of driving (or boating) under the influence. (Repeatedly in this case means the third time.)

Letters to the Editor

Intersection Needs Improving

To the Editor:

The following is a response to an open letter by Ted Troscianeci published in June 13 issue of the Centre View.

This is in response to your letter ["Why Is Project Fast-Tracked?"] regarding the proposed improvement to the intersection of Pleasant Valley Road and Braddock Road. You have asked several questions which I will attempt to answer. However, this is not a Fairfax County project but a Virginia Department of Transportation initiative and some of your questions are better answered by VDOT.

I do understand the questions about the sudden availability of funds and the reappearance of this project. However, no one should be surprised about efforts to fix the intersection. I have received complaints for almost 20 years about this intersection, many from the Virginia Run community. It first met the warrants for a traffic signal in 2003, after numerous studies over several years.

Working with VDOT in 2005 the matter of a traffic circle was first presented. After a community meeting I held to present the idea, the Virginia Run Board sent me a letter supporting the improvement. Unfortunately the availability of state secondary road money dried up and the project had to be put on hold. And certainly traffic has not improved since then!

The project was put back on the from South Riding and other de-

front burner last summer by three state delegates and one state senator who convinced the Commonwealth Transportation Board to redirect funds to this improvement. They were also instrumental in convincing the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to use their local funds to match state revenue sharing funds for the project. With the CTB money there is approximately \$3 million available. Final costs are not yet known but I have made clear Fairfax County has no money to contribute to this improvement.

I am certainly well aware of the volume of traffic coming from Loudoun County, and I want to do all we can to encourage them to use Route 50. That's why I have worked so hard to move those improvements along as fast as possible. The \$100 million project now underway will widen Route 50 from South Riding all the way to Route 28 and improve all of its intersections. This will provide significant improvement. However, we all know the growth that is underway in Loudoun, and it is not going to stop. To do nothing to an intersection that has been failing for a decade in hopes that the Route 50 improvements will eliminate the need is not realistic.

I also understand the perception of some that this is solely a Loudoun County problem. If this were the case I would not have been hearing complaints from Sully residents for so long. This intersection was failing long before the growth in Loudoun County. Traffic from South Riding and other de-

velopments along Braddock Road has clearly made it worse.

But the delays caused by this intersection affect thousands of residents of western Fairfax County. Students wanting to go to Westfield High School, Virginia Run residents wanting to go north on Route 28, visitors to Cox Farm and emergency service to the entire area are all affected by these backups. And of course many people go out of their way to avoid this problem, thus burdening other roads like Stone Road.

There is still a very long way to go before any improvement is approved and actually under construction. There are still environmental reviews and studies of the impact on park land to be done. A decision on the final design — traffic circle or signal - and final engineering must be done. I have participated in two open public forums already, and am willing to do more if need be to make certain people have sufficient opportunity for input. But I must say that, while this is not a Fairfax County initiative, I am glad that the issue has been raised again. This has been a problem for so many years and it needs to be addressed.

Thank you for raising the issue of the funding sources. As you know VDOT has acknowledged the web site was incorrect and the federal funding source is the Regional Surface transportation Program (RSTP) and not the Highway Safety Improvement program (HSIP). They are correcting the web site.

I understand there are some who fear this transportation improvement will negatively affect their community and their quality of life. I have heard the same concerns from others about almost every single road improvement that has been put in to place since I have been on the board. I shudder to think where we would be if every project that had opposition was not done. Route 28, I-66, the 28/29 interchange, Centreville Road, West Ox Road, the Fairfax County Parkway — all had issues and concerns of local communities. We worked through them and completed those improvements. The worst case fears raised did not arise. I believe the same will happen here.

I see no logical reason why more traffic from Loudoun County will all of a sudden divert down Pleasant Valley Road through Virginia Run just because the backup at the intersection is reduced. Most of that traffic is trying to get to I-66. We have improved the Braddock/ 28 intersection and VDOT will start very soon additional improvements to the dual left turn lanes from Route 28 southbound onto east bound 66. These will certainly offer more incentive for drivers to follow that route rather than divert through Virginia Run.

As always I do appreciate your involvement and efforts on behalf of the community. Whether we ultimately agree or not your participation has always been a benefit to the community.

Michael R. Frey Sully District Supervisor



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Real Estate Focus: Summer 2013

Housing's Roaring Rebound?

Pent-up demand creates seller's market for Northern Virginia real estate.

> By Victoria Ross Centre View

n February, Patricia Stack, a broker with Weichert Realtors, held an open house for a single-family home for sale in Vienna just listed for \$739,000. Within three hours, more than 70 people toured the home. "The home went under contract sub-

stantially above list price," Stack said. "2013 "Buyers has started with a bang in Northern Virginia real esprefer tate. In fact, it appears to be a market more like new 2005-2006 than anything we've seen since," Stack homes "Buyers seem finally to over be realizing that prices resale, have bottomed out and the current combination but they

of low prices and historically low interest rates will likely not be repeated in our lifetimes," Stack said.

Alison Sherman, an agent with Keller-Will-

agent with Keller-Williams in McLean, is seeing the same trend. In the spring, she sold a home in Vienna in three days with

multiple offers.

— Realtor

Pat Stack

are not

easy to

find."

The 5-bedroom Colonial, built in 1976 on Ferol Drive, listed for just under \$1 million, and sold \$132,000 above list price.

"It's a great time to sell your home. Statistics show the average sales price is up and the average days on market are down," Sherman said.

Buoyed by low mortgage rates, low regional unemployment, growth in the number of households and rising consumer confidence, the residential realestate market in Fairfax County and the rest of Northern Virginia has rebounded in a big way.

Unlike the last five years, demand is up and supply is down. In fact, in some particularly desirable neighborhoods, the transition from a buyer's market to a seller's market is all but complete.

Call it the new "reality in realty."

"There is an oversupply of buyers and less inventory right now in the market," said Anil Khanna, a real estate broker with Champion Homes Realty in Chantilly. "I have seen it to be a seller's



Location, location. Pulte's new MetroWest development in Fairfax boasts location as a draw for buyers. The 50-plus townhome development is next to the Vienna Metro and "two minutes" from I-66. For more information, go to www.pulte.com/communities/va/fairfax/metrowest

market based on the number of offers I have seen with the properties that I have bid on for buyers."

Khanna added that low interest rates are beginning to rise, and that has created a sense of urgency with buyers.

According to Freddie Mac, the rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage rose to 3.54 percent in May from 3.45 percent in April.

"Many buyers are trying to purchase something this year rather than next, due to the anticipated increase in interest rates," Khanna said.

Despite some similarities to the boom period in housing nearly a decade ago, market conditions that led to the housing bust are vastly different, according to national housing experts.

"The boom period was marked by easy credit and overbuilding, but today we have tight mortgage credit and widespread shortages of homes for sale," said Gary Thomas, president of the National Association of Realtors.

"The issue now is pent-up demand and

strong growth in the number of households, with buyer traffic 29 percent above a year ago," Thomas said.

Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said existing-home sales are at the highest level since November 2009, when the market jumped to 5.44 million as buyers took advantage of tax stimulus.^o

Sales have stayed above year-ago levels for 23 months, while the national median price shows 15 consecutive months of year-over-year increases.

"The housing numbers are overwhelmingly positive, especially in markets such as Northern Virginia, where employment is strong," Yun said.

New Construction Key Indicator of Housing Rebound

Adding to the good news about the housing market is the increasing number of infill

developments and new construction, "housing starts," in Fairfax County. According to real estate economists, housing starts are one of the leading predictors of overall economic stability and growth.

A June 6 report released by Metrostudy, a national housing data and consulting firm, reports that housing starts are up sharply in Fairfax County: This year, there were 386 starts in the first quarter of 2013 compared to 143 in the in the first quarter of 2012, a 170 percent increase.

In addition to housing starts, almost every other housing indicator has trended up from May 2012 to May 2013 in Fairfax County, according to Real Estate Building Intelligence (RBI) – a company that analyzes market trends and statistics from the Multiple Listing Service.

In Fairfax County in the past year:

- ❖ The total volume of homes sold jumped 32 percent, from \$729 million to more than \$950 million.
- ❖ The average price for a home increased nearly 10 percent, from \$469,000 to nearly \$550,000.
- ❖ Average days on market dropped a steep 30 percent from 39 days to 27 days.
- New "under contracts" jumped 31.56 percent, from 450 to 592.

"Buy Land. They Aren't Making Any More."

This famous quote could not be more apt for Fairfax County.

In the past decade, while new housing developments were being built in Prince William and Loudoun counties. Fairfax County was pretty much built out. If buyers wanted a newly-built home, they had to tear down an old one.

While land is still at a premium in Fairfax County, new infill developments have been springing up in unlikely areas such as Vienna, Oakton, Burke and the City of Fairfax.

"Demand for housing is up, and so are development applications," said Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock), who noticed the trend last year and formed a land use development advisory committee in his district in response to the rise in application.

"Fairfax County is pretty much 'built out' and infill projects are more challenging to execute," Cook said.

Any existing pockets of land are small, and homes are often shoehorned into tight spaces, and sometimes squeezed into existing neighborhoods. Storm water, setback, density, parking and other zoning issues become more challenging for builders.

"So, we are seeing more going on, but they are usually very difficult projects," Cook said.



ok said. See Housing Rebound, Page 10







Patricia Stack



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62 The Villages at Broadlands

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All listings due by Tuesday at 3 P.M.

Real Estate Focus: Summer 2013

Housing Rebound

FROM PAGE 7

Difficult, yes, but not impossible. The persistent demand for brand new housing, coupled with buyers willing to spend, has spurred high-end builders such as Pulte and Stanley Martin to create luxury townhomes and condominiums project throughout the county.

In January, Stanley Martin Homes announced the opening of 35 luxury townhomes in Oakton.

"Stanley Martin is reaffirming the old adage that in real estate it's all about 'location, location, location,' as it's tough to find a better Northern Virginia location than the charming and convenient town of Oakton," said Lauri Chastain, vice president of marketing for Stanley Martin.

Within weeks of news about the new Oakton East, there were more than 300 people on the "wait list" for the homes that range in price from \$600,000 to nearly \$800,000.

Targeting empty-nesters who are looking for less square footage and less yard, but larger than the typical townhome, Oakton East offers 3,700 – 3,800 square feet of finished living space, a 2-car garage and gourmet kitchens.

The homes "look and feel like single family homes – minus the yard work," Chastain said.

"Oakton is one of the premiere areas for brand new construction. Buyers prefer new homes over resale, but they are not easy to find," Realtor Pat Stack said

MetroWest in Fairfax, a Pulte development, is one of the largest luxury townhome, condominium and apartment communities in Fairfax County, with a total of 2,248 residential units slated for development on 56 acres near the Vienna/Fairfax Metro.

In addition, plans call for 300,000-plus square feet of office space and 125,000 square feet of retail, service, institutional and governmental space. MetroWest will also feature community parks, courtyards, a rec center and at least 30 percent will be preserved as green space. Sales of the \$600,000 and up homes have been brisk.

While townhomes, condos and apartments are typical for infill developments – both because of the

their small footprint and the higher price per square foot builders can charge – there are several new single-family infill developments in the county.

Local developer John Sekas has created Oakcrest Farms, located off Hunter Mill Road near Vale Road, a development of seven high-end single-family homes selling for more than \$1.5 million with at least 5,000 square feet.

The development is embedded in the original Oakcrest Farms community, which has 54 colonial-style homes built in the 1980s. Construction began last year, and already four of the seven homes are sold.

Grant Johnson, a real estate broker for Sekas, said he has seen two types of buyers for the homes, which feature gourmet kitchens, stone fireplaces and twostory family rooms, and optional media rooms.

"We have transfers, who are coming here for the high-paying tech jobs, and buyers who live in the area who want to move up," Johnson said. "This is an attractive location. The schools are great, we're near Wolf Trap and Tysons, and people like it here



Oakton East, a Stanley Martin townhome development, is billed as a "downsizer's dream." The 35 "large, luxury" townhomes begin at \$700,000 for 2,700 to 3,800 square feet of finished living space. On Friday, construction crews began work early on the development, which is almost sold out. For more information, go to www.stanleymartin.com

and don't want to leave."

Builders Are Optimistic

"Builders, I think they are as clued into the market as the rest of us. There is more confidence in the economy locally than we've seen in the past several years," said Stack.

A gauge of confidence among home builders

jumped in June, hitting the highest level since 2006, according to data released June 17.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing-market index rose to 52 in June — the first time the index has reached above a key reading of 50 since 2006 — from 44 in May. Readings above 50 signal that builders, generally, are optimistic about sales

trends.

National Association of Realtors

"The housing numbers are

especially in markets such

as Northern Virginia, where

— Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the

overwhelmingly positive,

employment is strong."

"Builders are seeing better market conditions as demand for new homes increases," said Rick Judson, NAHB's chairman in the news release. "With the low inventory of existing homes, an increasing number of buyers are gravitating toward new homes."

That confidence doesn't surprise Gerald Gordon, president and CEO of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA).

"The economic base of Fairfax County has been sufficiently diversified over the years that declining revenues in federal contracting will not be devastating to the economy as a whole," Gordon said. "Corporate additions to Fairfax County in recent years give us balance."

A Way To Say That 'His Life Mattered'

From Page 1

They're raising money to have his name inscribed on the National Aviation and Space Exploration Wall of Honor. It's a permanent memorial at the museum's Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly and acknowledges people with a passion for flight.

"Matt's death was just so stunning," said his teacher, Chuck Cowell. "His whole family's was killed, and that's what made it so heartbreaking. He was an outstanding boy, and so helpful — just a really good kid."

Matt was also in Cowell's Aerospace I class last year, learning basic engineering principals and space-systems engineering. "It's what a private pilot would learn," said Cowell. "And there were 25-26 students in Aerospace II."

He said Matt developed an interest in aviation and really enjoyed it. Matt also wanted to get a radio-controlled airplane. One or two Sundays a month, through the winter, the Northern Virginia Radio-Control Club — which has a partnership with Westfield — holds indoor, fun flies inside the school's gym.

"The planes are about 18 inches by 18 inches and Matt was really into them," said Cowell. "One day, he even brought his whole family to see them and his interest started growing."

Then in April 2012, when the Space Shuttle Discovery was going to fly into Dulles Airport to be towed to the Udvar-Hazy Center, the museum's education staff asked Cowell if some of his students wanted to help out with the welcoming ceremonies. Matt volunteered and liked it so much that



Westfield student Nick Romano on Saturday stands by the Wall of Honor outside the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly.

Matt Peterson

he started volunteering there that summer.

"He helped out at events and worked at the museum's Discovery Stations," said Cowell. "He helped visitors with hands-on activities and explained, for example, how things fly and how spacesuits work."

Matt enjoyed it a great deal and, after he died, Jenny McIntosh — the Discovery Stations program coordinator — contacted Cowell. "She told me her biggest memory of Matt was that, after an event, he shook hands with the museum staff and thanked them for allowing him to volunteer and help out there. And he wanted to keep doing it."

Cowell said the idea of putting Matt's name on the Wall of Honor came from his Aerospace II classmate, Nick Romano, who also volunteered at the Udvar-Hazy Center. And it was an immediate hit with Cowell and the entire class. (For more information, go to http://airandspace.si.edu/wallofhonor/).

"I felt so bad about Matt's death, beyond the normal tragedy, because he had no immediate family members to carry on his memory," said Cowell. "So after a few weeks went by, Nick suggested collecting money to be able to put Matt's name on the wall, which is a series of plaques on the walkway leading to the museum's main building."

So far, all the donations have come in via word-of-mouth, but the students are only halfway toward their goal, so they're hoping the community will pitch in and help, too. They need to raise \$1,000 and just have \$500.

"So I sent an e-mail about it to Westfield staff, and a teacher forwarded it to Katie Cloutier, a 2012 Westfield grad who lives in Matt's neighborhood," said Cowell. "She babysat both Matt and his brother when they were younger, so she's now canvassing the neighborhood for donations."

Anyone wishing to participate and help with the fundraising may make checks payable to Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center Wall of Honor and write "Matt Peterson Wall of Honor Fund" on the memo line. Send them to Westfield High School, c/o Chuck Cowell, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, VA 20151.

"Matt's death was just a complete shock for me, and this is a perfect link with his love of aviation," said Cowell. "I wanted to do something for him, and I'm appreciative of Nick for coming up with this idea. Years from now, we can go there and see his name on the wall. It's a way for our class to remember him and to say that his life mattered."

"Matt never had an opportunity to pursue his dreams, and it's just so tragic," continued Cowell. "So when a life's cut short, you want to let others know this kid touched our lives and he's not going to be forgotten."

Fenn Convicted of Child-Pornography Offenses

From Page 1

nography. Afterward, the school system suspended him without pay and assured parents that no images of students were found on his computer and no school computers were used.

Authorities said Fenn's online activity was uncovered after he accessed a particular, child-pornography Web site that was being investigated by Italian law-enforcement officials. His case was then taken over by the federal government for prosecution.

On Dec. 6, 2012, he was indicted by a grand jury in U.S. District Court in Alexandria on one count each of possession and receipt of child pornography. The indictment stated that he received this material between March 3, 2012 and May 6, 2012 and further possessed such pornography on June 12 of that year.

Then came his jury trial, this spring, with Fenn, now 27, returning to court last week to receive his punishment. At the outset, his attorney, William Rhyne, noted that the mother of a former student of Fenn's had written the judge a character reference on Fenn's behalf. Rhyne then asked Cacheris to depart downward from the state sentencing guidelines of as much as 11 years, 3 months and give his client no more than the five-year mandatory minimum sentence for his offenses. "He has no record," said

the attorney. "He was an autism, special-ed teacher, and he did nothing to connect his school, its children or equipment [with his personal behavior]."

"The 'victims' were victims in other cases," said Rhyne. "Their parents and step-parents took their photos. So [Fenn] should be treated individually, not as one of many who viewed these images."

Furthermore, said Rhyne, "He didn't intend to distribute them or solicit others to view them. Robert's life would already be ruined because he'll never be a teacher again, he'll be on the sex-offender registration, he'll receive substantial supervision and he'll have five years in prison."

But Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Alicia Yass disagreed with Rhyne's request for leniency. "The sentencing guidelines do take into account the fact that [Fenn] wasn't communicating with others," she said. "But the behavior was escalating to the point where he eventually could have become a danger to others."

Yass said Fenn had gone from doing one or two downloads of child pornography a month to several each month. So, she said, "A guidelines sentence is appropriate — particularly since this defendant hasn't accepted responsibility — so the behavior is unlikely to change. That's also why the government is requesting a lifetime of super-

vised release."

Before sentencing, Fenn again stated his innocence and said, if given another chance, "I'd avoid looking at pornography."

The judge then sentenced him to a decade behind bars on each charge, running the sentences concurrently for 10 years total. Cacheris also placed Fenn on 20 years supervision following his release from federal prison. But he warned Fenn that his freedom would be contingent upon his complying with a multitude of conditions, including:

Submit to polygraph testing and a sexoffender therapeutic program; undergo mental-health, psycho-sexual and sex-offender treatment; undergo a sexual-interest assessment; do not accept any paid or voluntary position involving children; do not possess child pornography or any pictures of children and have no unsupervised contact with children.

Fenn must also: Have no access to sexrelated phone or TV services or Web sites; register with the state as a sex offender and submit to a search of his person, property and electronic devices, with or without a warrant, by any law-enforcement officer who asks.

In addition, said Cacheris, Fenn must submit to "having computer-monitoring software to restrict and capture his keystrokes.

And, said the judge, "The defendant shall not remove or tamper with it. He shall also not possess a video or console system that would enable him access to child pornography."

Cacheris said he'd recommend Fenn be sent to Massachusettes for incarceration in Federal Correctional Institution Devens, which has a treatment program for sex offenders.

Rhyne told Cacheris he'd file an appeal on his client's behalf, but won't handle it. So the judge said that, since Fenn had to forfeit all his assets, his appeal would be done by a court-appointed lawyer.

Speaking directly to Fenn, Cacheris said the former special-education teacher exhibits signs of autism and Asperger's, himself. "You admitted you have a preference for girls, especially those ages 9-12," he said. Cacheris also noted that more than 500 pornographic images of children were found on Fenn's electronic devices.

"People convicted of child pornography need to be sentenced to punish them and to deter others from engaging in such behavior," he said. "And this sentence and prison provide you with the treatment you need. You apparently were an excellent teacher and molested no children in your care. But you appear to be in denial as to your use of child pornography."

SPORTS

Sully Station SSTs Open Season

The Sully Station SSTs kicked off the 2013 NVSL season Saturday, June 22, travelling to an "A" meet, facing off against life-long SST and former coach, CJ Fiala, and his Pinecrest Piranhas. After an exciting meet full of animated, friendly competition and 50 spirited races, the SSTs fell, 238-182.

The SSTs fought hard on Saturday and it showed. Sixty percent of all swims resulted in personal-best marks. Of those, 51 percent were achieved by those placing first, second and third, demonstrating that improvement spanned the entire team with 49 percent of all improvements earned by those who did not finish in the top three. Several swimmers bettered their times significantly, including Cambria Johnson, dropping 6.21 seconds in the girls' 25m freestyle, 12-year-old Nora Talley swimming up an age group in the girls' 13-14 50m backstroke resulting in a 4.53-second improvement, Lucas Boettcher in the boys' 25m breaststroke by 10.16 seconds, and Sophie Wilson and Grace Robinson, who beat their best times in the girls' 13-14 50m butterfly by 7.98 seconds and 4.3 seconds respectively.

Two age groups of both boys and girls swam especially well. The 8u boys brought home six points in their first two events. Tyler Whitacre secured the win in freestyle with a 1.23-second improvement, followed by Jonathan Kronimus in third. Nate Hamluk triumphed in backstroke, while Lucas Boettcher shaved 5.6 seconds, finishing third. The girls earned three points in each of these events. Natalya Hamluk finished second in freestyle with a decrease in time of .13 seconds and Parker Brooks landed second in backstroke, improving her time by 1.83 seconds. Breaststroke had similar results with Kronimus placing second and Jakob Huse grabbing the third-place spot, trimming 4.09 off his previous time. Leah Mozeleski won for the girls, with teammate, Loris Thomas, placing third in her debut SST meet.

But the youngest competitors kept on getting better with the boys sweeping the 25m butterfly. Nate Hamluk scored the win followed by Whitacre in second and Huse in third, just one second between them. All three boys scored personal-best marks, Hamluk taking off 1.94 seconds, Whitacre 1.15 seconds and Huse crushing his previous time by 12.11 seconds. For the girls, Mozeleski again won, beating her nearest competitor by more than four seconds, while Natalya Hamluk placed third, earning another personal best of 7.27 seconds. Both the 8u boys and girls brought home wins in the 8u 100m freestyle relays, each besting Pinecrest by more than three seconds.

The 15-18 boys and girls were outstanding with Danial Okhovvatgilani prevailing in the 50m freestyle and Anirwin Sridhar finishing third. Logan Coulson Moore and Megan Hickey amassed eight points for the girls with Coulson Moore the winner and Hickey placing second. The boys again rose



Poplar Tree Pirates 13-14 boys' record breaking relay team, from left, Jonathan Wen, Jack David, Fletcher Madsen and Marcelo Coray.



Megan Hickey wins the 15-18 50m Butterfly event for Sully Station on Saturday, June 22.

to the challenge in the backstroke event, sweeping the Piranhas with Brandon Fiala reducing his time by .93 seconds for the win followed by Okhovvatgilani in second with a personal best of .69 seconds and Michael McPherson grabbing the third spot. Fiala broke his own 2011 team record by nearly half a second, with a time of 27.14 seconds. Coulson Moore took second place for the girls and Allie Humphrey captured third. Improving his time by 1.79 seconds, Fiala was again the victor in the boys' 50m breaststroke. Amy Layne was the winner for the girls while Madison Stulga came in third. In butterfly, Sridhar swam to victory, beating his previous best time by .08 seconds. Michael McPherson walked away with third. In the girls' event, Hickey cut .11 seconds from her time and secured the win. Layne brought home third place. Not to be out-done by their 8u counter parts, the 15-18s dominated in the boys' and girls' 200m medley relays, with the boys overwhelming Pinecrest by more than 14 seconds and the girls by almost 11 seconds.

At press time, Sully Station hosted Virginia Run in the first WFDL "B" meet of the summer season. The SSTs travel to Mosby Woods for an "A" meet on Saturday, June 29 and host Poplar Tree for a "B" meet on Monday, July 1.

Sully Station II Falls in Opener

The Sully Station II Piranhas kicked off their 20th anniversary season on June 22 in a Division 4 home meet against Langley. The team demonstrated a competitive spirit and posted several record-breaking swims but ultimately lost 235.5-184.5.

Piranha records were shattered by Faith Alston in 9-10 breaststroke (42.75 seconds), Angela Cai in 8U butterfly (20.27), and the 18U girls' freestyle mixed age relay of Karenna Hall, Alston, Georgia Stamper, and Erin Schulte (2:04.14). These records all stood for a decade or more, so it was an incredibly fast way to start the season.

Six swimmers notched double individual wins, including Kellen Campbell in free (32.82) and back (36.51), Nick Campbell in free (25.84) and back (29.55), Stamper

in back (36.07) and breast (39.09), Alston in free (33.59) and breast, Cai in breast (22.38) and fly, and Flynn Crisci in breast (39.57) and fly (36.40).

Single event winners included 8U Caroline Li in freestyle (18.71), 9-10 breaststroker Aidan Crisci (48.39), 13-14 standouts Jack Jiang in backstroke (36.09), Nick Jiang in fly (33.56) and Lily Li in fly (34.69), and 15-18 swimmers Madisyn Graham in back (34.11), Erin Schulte in free (29.27), and Austen Bundy in fly (28.88).

Exciting relays finished off the morning with inspiring swims by the 11-12 boys (K. Campbell, F. Crisci, B. Campbell and Max Morris), 13-14 girls (Lauren Peters, Stamper, Li and Lily Harkes), and 15-18 boys (N. Campbell, Connor Pangman, Bundy and Ben Wu).

Sully Station II will swim at Riverside Gardens on June 29.

Poplar Tree Dominates

BY ELIZABETH HALL

On Saturday, June 22, the Poplar Tree Pirates hosted the Holmes Run Acres Hurricanes of Falls Church in their NVSL Division 7 season opener.

From the very first event forward, the Pirates never once trailed in score. Adrian Coray set the pace by taking first in the 8U boys, followed by a first-second-third sweep in the 8U girls by Neha Balaji, Maddie David and Lauren Radcliffe, respectively. Matthew Rickard and Kai Taft continued the winning streak into the 9-10 age group by placing first and second, while Sara Radcliffe took the win on the girls side. The freestyle wins continued through the 11-12 age group with Nick David snatching first in a close race, followed by Haley Alderman and Julia Young earning first and second place for the girls. Marcelo Coray took after his brother's earlier win in the 13-14 age group, while Evan Baker and Lauren Hensley both earned first place in the 15-18 age bracket. At the conclusion of the freestyle events, the Pirates were doubling the score of the Hurricanes 60-30 from winning nine out of 10

Continuing the lead into the backstroke

events, Nick Chernisky clinched the 8U boys while Elena Benson, Marissa Prem, and JoJo Ellis swept all the points away from the Hurricanes by finishing first-second-third, respectively. Sara Radcliffe won her second event of the day in the 9-10 backstroke with Natalie Farello finishing right behind her in second place. In true winning fashion, Ted Ellis and Sam Puxley shared the first-place title for the Pirates on the boys' side while the talented twins Julia Young and Lauren Young placed first and second for the girls, both in the 11-12 age group. Jonathan Wen took the win by a five-second margin for the 13-14 category and at the conclusion of the backstroke events the Pirates were

In the breaststroke events, Neha Balaji earned her second win of the day for the 8U girls, followed by Vanessa Scola snatching the win in the 9-10 age group. Mary Kominski easily dominated the 11-12 age category by a five-second margin. Jonathan Wen and Fletcher Madsen earned first and second place in the 13-14 age group, respectively, while Corinne Kominski and Julia Brunner did the same on the girls' side. At the end of the breaststroke events, the Pirates led the Hurricanes 156-114.

The meet only got more exciting during the butterfly and relay events as four new team records were set. Kai Taft took the win for the 9-10 boys while Nick David won the 11-12 boys' 50 fly by breaking the team record, previously set last year, with a time of 31.31 seconds. The 11-12 girls swept the points from the Hurricanes with Haley Alderman, Lauren Young, and Mary Kominski receiving first, second and third place with ease. Marcelo Coray and Fletcher Madsen took first and second place in the 13-14 boys' fly, while Corinne Kominski and Briley Rickard followed suit on the girls' side. Evan Baker received second place in the boys' 15-18 butterfly by breaking a team record previously set in 2009 with a time of 27.52 seconds. Lauren Hensley won the fly on the 15-18 girls' side and the Pirates had a 62point lead going into the relays with a score

Needing only 60 points to win the meet, the Pirates had already won the meet before the relays had begun, but that didn't

SEE SWIMMING, PAGE 13

Sports

Swimming

stop their impressive winning streak. The 8U girls' freestyle relay of Maddie David, Lauren Radcliffe, Elena Benson and Neha Balaji, and the 9-10 girls' medley relay of Sara Radcliffe, Natalie Farello, Vanessa Scola, and Analiese de Leon both took first place. The 11-12 girls' relay of Julia Young, Mary Kominski, Haley Alderman and Lauren Young shattered the team record previously set last year with a winning time of

In the next event, the 13-14 boys' relay of Jonathan Wen, Fletcher Madsen, Marcelo Coray and Jack David destroyed the team record previously set in 2009 with a winning time of 59.28 seconds. The Pirates won the last three events of the meet with the 15-18 girls' medley relay of Lauren Hensley, Katie Dingman, Brianna Fridy, and Hannah Warnick taking a close win in addition to both the boys' mixed age relay of Nick David, Kai Taft, Marcelo Coray, and Evan Baker and girls' mixed age of Haley Alderman, Sara Radcliffe, Corinne Kominski, and Lauren Hensley cruising to victory. The Pirates won the meet by 74 points with a final score of 247-173 and will head to Falls Church Saturday, June 29 to take on the Sleepy Hollow Bath Seals.

Single individual event winners: Adrian Coray (8U free), Matthew Rickard (9-10 free), Evan Baker (15-18 free), Nick Chernisky (8U back), Elena Benson (8U back), Ted Ellis (11-12 back), Sam Puxley (11-12 back), Julia Young (11-12 back), Vanessa Scole (9-10 breast), Mary Kominski (11-12 breast) and Kai Taft (9-10 fly).

Double individual event winners: Neha Balaji (8U free and breast), Sara Radcliffe (9-10 free and back), Nick David (11-12 free and fly), Haley Alderman (11-12 free and fly), Marcelo Coray (13-14 free and fly), Lauren Hensley (15-18 free and fly), Jonathan Wen (13-14 back and breast) and Corinne Kominski (13-14 breast and fly).

Good Opening Day For Sequoia Farms

On the first day of the new Colonial Swim League season,

the Sequoia Farms Stingrays enjoyed an almost perfect day of weather with an almost perfect meet against the Glen Cove Pirates. As the larger and more developed team, the Stingrays proved unstoppable in every age group. Outstanding performances were the order of the day as numerous Sequoia Farms swimmers turned in first-, second- and third-place perfor-

Sequoia Farms girls' winners and place finishes: Julia Barrett (1,2,3); Lucy Blazquez (1,2,3); Kristen Blee (1,1,3); Nadia Boggs (1,3); Marissa Cassens (1,1,2); Lauren Chin (2,3); Hannah Clardy (1,2,3); Kate Croxton (1,1,1); Lillianne Fish (1,1); Sydney Fish (1,1,2); Avery Gegg (2,2); Molly Hammer (2,3); Julia Hilburger (3); Emma Loper (3); Sydney Loper (2,2,2); Bridget O'Malley (1,1,1); Kathleen O'Malley (3,3); Meghan O'Malley (3); Caroline Santini (1,2,3); Ella Santini (1,2,3); and Jennifer Steinhilber (1,1,2).

Boys' winners and place-finishers were: Ryan Bechtol (1,2,3); Matthew Bentley (1,1,3); Travis Blee (1,1,1); Jesse Cerisano (3); Brian Chapman (1,1,1); Ian Clardy (1,1,2); Diego Cromwell (1,2,2); Connor Croxton (1,1); Blake Feichtl (1,2,2); Avery Harris (1,2,2); Brice Harris (1,1,2); Samuel Kirkpatrick (1,2); Daniel Morris (2,3,3); Ryan Morris (2,2); Bobby Nevarez (3,3); Liam Santilli (3); Anson Stevie (3,3); Andrew Watson (2,2,3); Daniel Williams (2,2,3); James Williams (1).

The relays proved to be just as productive, as Sequoia delivered first-place swims in the boys' 8 medley relay (Samuel Kirkpatrick, Ryan Bechtol, Ian Clardy, Brady Gallagher); girls' 8U medley relay (Nadia Boggs, Ella Santini, Lillianne Fish, Avery Gegg); boys' 9-10 medley relay (Andrew Watson, Liam Santilli, Diego Cromwell, Connor Croxton); girls' 9-10 medley relay (Kristen Blee, Julia Barrett, Sydney Fish, Lucy Blazquez); boys' 11-12 medley relay (Travis Blee, William Kirkpatrick, Avery Harris, Daniel Morris); girls' 11-12 medley relay (Sydney Loper, Caroline Santini, Kate Croxton, Molly Hammer); boys' 13-14 medley relay (Matthew Bentley, Daniel Williams, Brice Harris, Bobby Nevarez); girls' 13-14 medley relay (Josephine Walker, Bridget O'Malley, Hannah Clardy, Kathleen O'Malley); boys' 15-18 medley relay (Brian Chapman, Blake Feichtl, Anson Stevie, Bobby Nevarez); girls' 15-18 medley relay (Marissa Cassens, Lauren Chin, Jennifer Steinhilber, Meghan O'Malley) and boys' 5-18 free relay (Brian Chapman, Diego Cromwell, Avery Harris, Matthew



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No Shame in Crying



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Nor is it a crying shame. But something has changed, dare I say affected my tear duct production. I can't say with certainty or even specify a particular moment in time for sure – when the tears began to flow more easily, but I'll guess the change occurred sometime on or around February 27, 2009, the day I first met my oncologist; the day I was diagnosed with a terminal disease, stage IV non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), "prognosed" to live 13 months to two years. If that kind of shocking, terminal-type news doesn't upset your apple cart – permanently, "You're a better man than I am, Gunga Din." And so it has, as reflected in my frequent "salty discharge" (to quote Jerry Seinfeld).

How this "upset" has manifested itself has been in my emotional reactions to things. On a wide range of subjects, when discussions conjure any kind of heartfelt, semi emotional connection/reaction, my voice weakens, quivers, shakes, cracks and then becomes almost inaudible as I try to string together the words in my brain that I'm trying to vocalize through my mouth. Invariably the words get out, but in a halting type of hesitation rather than the firm kind of expression with which I'm accustomed. I used to be confident in what I said; now I've become confident in what I can't sav.

Moreover, if the circumstances described in the previous paragraph occur in a semi private place, or where I feel a bit more at ease, my eyes will begin to water and tears will form. I can usually prevent my cheeks from getting wet by rubbing my eyes and clearing my throat, but at that point, the damage is already done: I have been walloped emotionally, almost unexpectedly, given the usually unrelated-to-my life story line mentioned. Once again however, the cancer – in my opinion, has reared its ugly, figurative

It's not exactly as if I'm crying over spilled milk, but I seem to be crying over and about thoughts, memories, expressions, references, etc., not necessarily relating to cancer and rarely connecting to me. It's as if my reaction stabilizer (as if there is such a thing) has been compromised somehow. (You think?) I can't control or even prevent these very public displays of being affected. Apparently, my immune system is so focused on fighting/fending off the cancer - internally/physically, that it has lost its ability to thwart off the external. It seems that the words I see, hear and feel upset me more than the metastatic tumors I know I have in my lungs do. I'm definitely different now. I can't

always keep my feelings to myself. The tears give me away. It's not embarrassing to me. It's nothing about which I'm ashamed. It is however, something for which I have no off switch. And though I may have thought – about myself, going into this cancer life, that I was fairly sturdy and together emotionally, perhaps these tears are evidence to the contrary. Or maybe it's simply my body's way of coping with an extremely demanding and hostile intruder: cancer.

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

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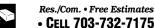
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"Extrava-cat-za" at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road. In the month of July, the

Fairfax County Animal Shelter will offer half-off adoption fees on cats and kittens, free spay and neuter of cats and kittens and gift bags for all adopters of senior cats. For current cat owners, experts and classes will be available throughout the month. The shelter is open Tuesday-Friday, noon-7 p.m. and Saturday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ calendar/ShowCalendar.aspx

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Summer Workshop. Children in rising grades 3-8 can enjoy a workshop at Mountain View School, 5775 Spindle Court, 6:30-9 p.m. \$400. Children can learn more about acting, improvisation, musical

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Krav Maga for Fitness and Self-

Defense. 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Teens age 12-18 can get fit and sharpen martial arts skills. Wear comfortable clothes and sneakers. Free. Registration required, 703-8302223

Lego Block Party. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 8-12 can build. Free. Call for this month's theme. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/JUNE 28

Yoga Storytime. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children ages 6-9 can enjoy story time that incorporates basic yoga moves. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Master Gardeners. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get tips, information and advice on their home gardens. Free. 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/JULY 1

One Man Band. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. All ages can clap, sing and dance to music performed by Peter McCory. 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-

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

TUESDAY/JULY 2

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 Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Children ages2-3 can enjoy stories and activities. Free. 703-830-2223. **Bouncin' Babies.** 11:30 a.m. at

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

WEDNESDAY/JULY 3

Storytime. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children age 3-5 can enjoy stories and more. Free. Registration required. 703-502-3883.

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

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/JULY 4-5

Public libraries closed.

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Master Gardeners. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults can get tips, information and advice on home

gardens. Free. 703-502-3883. **Lego Mania.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in grades K-2 can build. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

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 dog. They can read from a library book or already owned one. Free. Registration required, 703-502-3883.

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Centreville Community Church... 703-580-5226

Christian Life Center...703-754-9600 Clear River Community Church... 703-881-7443

Covenant Christian Center...703-631-5340 Fair Oaks Church...703-631-1112 New Life...703-222-8836 Tree of Life Bible Church...703-830-4563

PENTECOSTAL

Capital Worship Center...703-530-8100 Church of the Blessed Trinity... 703-803-3007

ORTHODOX

Holy Trinity Orthodox Church... 703-818-8372 The Greek Orthodox Parish of Loudoun County...703-421-7515 St. Raphael Orthodox Church... 703-303-3047

PRESBYTERIAN

Centreville Presbyterian Church... 703-830-0098 Chantilly Presbyterian Church... 703-449-1354 Clifton Presbyterian Church...703-830-3175

Young Saeng Korean Presbyterian Church... 703-818-9200

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Wellspring United Church of Christ.. 703-257-4111