

**Julio Mendez (center) with his brother, Alexander, and their mom, Goldwyn Cabrera, on Marching Band Senior Night.**



## ‘I Want to Make a Difference’

**Centreville High senior receives scholarships from Harvard and HLA.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

**J**ulio Mendez has gone through tough times in his life. But through hard work and perseverance, he’s now standing on the threshold of a bright future. He’ll graduate from Centreville High on Friday, and, this fall, he’ll enter Harvard University on a scholarship.

Born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia, he came to the U.S. with his family in 2000 at age 4. But they lost their home in 2007, so Julio, his father and his younger brother and sister went back to Bolivia until 2009.

His mother, however, couldn’t come with them. “She stayed behind to work in housekeeping and as a nanny to a special-needs child,” said Mendez. Finally, though, his family was able to return and settled in Centreville.

“It was one of the best days of my life to be reunited with my mom,” he said. “I love my home country, but I feel like an American because I grew up here.”

Mendez, 18, attended Centreville all four years and flourished. He especially likes social studies

and math; and this year, he said, “I took economics, which merges the two in a really neat, practical way.” He also played bassoon in the concert band and was on the drumline in the Wildcat marching band.

He’s gotten straight A’s, the whole time he’s been there; and as a junior, he had the second-highest GPA — 4.438 — in the school. He applied to Harvard and made an impression. “They gave me \$58,000 for this year — which is amazing — and then they’ll recalculate the amount each year,” said Mendez. “When I found out, I couldn’t breathe; I was shouting to my mom.”



**Mendez**

He also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the Hispanic Leadership Alliance (HLA). Created in 1997 by a collection of FCPS teachers, it’s comprised of area residents dedicated to helping Hispanic students achieve their highest academic potential. HLA’s goal is to promote an understanding of Hispanic culture, provide Hispanic students with scholarships and challenge community members and businesses to action.

“The scholarship I got from the HLA is the Humberto Moore Cruz Memorial Scholarship,” said Mendez. “He died in 2009 and was the son of Jane and Ron Cruz, who are on the HLA Board and sponsor this scholarship together.”

Mendez and the other HLA recipients were honored recently at a banquet, where he met the

SEE ‘MAKE A DIFFERENCE,’ PAGE 9

## Ways To Foster Affordable Housing

**Northern Virginia jurisdictions use a variety of strategies to prevent homelessness.**

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE  
CENTRE VIEW

**A**drian Pineda is worried. Scribbling on an empty sheet of paper with an orange crayon, the first grade student at William Ramsay Elementary School said he does not want to lose all his friends. He’s lived in Alexandria all his life, and he doesn’t want to move. But his parents have warned him over and over again that they may not be able to afford to stay in Alexandria, where the city government recently approved a zoning change that will open the door to a developer demolishing their apartment complex and replace it with high-end housing his parents will not be able to afford.

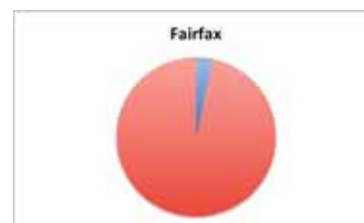
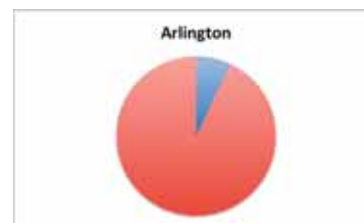
“I don’t understand,” said Adrian, who is 7-years old. “Why do we have to move?”

His father is a cook at a restaur-

ant, and his mother is a housekeeper. Together they earn about \$34,000 a year in a city where the median household income is \$84,000. That’s about 40 percent of the area median income, which means his family might be able to qualify for one of the 800 units of dedicated affordable housing members of the City Council included in the zoning change allowing the developer to move forward. But because the sprawling series of apartments that will be demolished have 2,500 market-rate affordable housing units, his parents feel the elected officials sold them out.

“They don’t care about us,” said Hector Pineda, a native of El Salvador who helped organize his neighbors in an unsuccessful effort to oppose the zoning change in 2012. “We work hard, and we make money for this city. But they don’t care.”

SEE HOMELESSNESS, PAGE 8



■ dedicated affordable housing units  
■ market-rate households

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# 'He's a Shining Star Amongst Our Staff'

## PFC Rick Cline is Sully District Station's Officer of the Month.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
CENTRE VIEW

PFC Richard J. "Rick" Cline is the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee's Officer of the Month for May. He was honored at the CAC's May 14 meeting following a report written about him by his supervisor, Lt. Brooke Wright.

"Most detectives will admit that the diligence and skill of patrol officers is instrumental in obtaining vital information needed to close their cases," she wrote. "Recently, several cases have been furthered and closed due to the persistence and expertise of one such officer."

For example, on Feb. 8, police from the Sully District Station were dispatched to a call for help in Centreville. There, a man was driving through a shopping center when a group of juveniles intentionally walked in front of his truck to make him stop. One of the teens then pulled out a gun and pointed it in the man's face.

When the man realized that the weapon was a pellet gun, he tried to grab it away. But the teen holding it punched the victim in the head several times and then struck him in the head with a skateboard. However, officers arrived quickly, took the juvenile into custody and recovered the pellet gun. The teen was transported to the Sully District Station for questioning and the incident was investigated further.

"Cline took the lead in this case," wrote Wright. "He exercised incredible patience and impressive interviewing skills. Shortly after beginning the interview, Cline obtained verbal consent from the arrested subject to search his phone."

"In doing so, Cline located a video depicting the suspect and other unknown juveniles committing a robbery against another unknown juvenile. PFC Cline returned to interviewing the suspect and obtained confessions on both the [weapon] brandishing and the assault on the man in the shopping center."

According to Wright, further discussion led to another confession in the robbery case recorded on the suspect's phone. Cline was able to obtain information regarding the robbery victim and other participants in the case. He then coordinated with the School Resource Officer at Westfield High and the



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Capt. Ed O'Carroll (left) congratulates PFC Rick Cline.**

CIS [Criminal Investigations Section] detective to confirm the identity of the others involved in the crime.

"Cline's efforts assisted in closing the robbery case which had been reported on Feb. 2," wrote Wright. "In addition, CIS determined the same suspects are involved in other cases being investigated."

She also noted another case that Cline was instrumental in solving. In this one, he came to the aid of a police officer from the Fair Oaks District Station. Over the radio, the officer let other police know that he was in pursuit of a vehicle.

Cline headed toward the area where they were and the suspect bailed out of the vehicle and fled into the Greenbriar Town

Center in Chantilly. He disappeared for awhile, but Cline didn't give up.

Instead, Cline stayed on the scene and waited for the suspect to emerge — which he eventually did, from a dumpster. Police arrested him immediately, and Cline was later commended by the Fair Oaks District supervisors for being so alert to cover a dumpster.

"PFC Cline believes in the value of the work we do as peacekeepers in the community we serve," wrote Wright. "He comes to work with a can-do attitude and displays a great work ethic as part of the team. Cline could easily move into the job of a detective, with his impressive interview techniques, report-writing skills and coordination efforts."

"However, he enjoys his duties as a patrol officer and his endeavors have proved to be very effective," continued Wright. "Because of the hard work and determination exhibited by PFC Cline, I recommend and submit him for Officer of the Month for the Sully District Station."

At the May 14 ceremony honoring Cline, that station's commander, Capt. Ed O'Carroll, praised his efforts in the Fair Oaks case. "His intuition led him to stay there and be patient," said O'Carroll. "He's a shining star amongst all our staff."

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## ROUNDUPS

### Eight Charged with DWI

Fairfax County police conducted a DWI checkpoint Saturday night, June 14, at Route 28 and Old Mill Road in Centreville to search for drunk drivers. Some 536 vehicles passed through the checkpoint, and police charged eight of them with DWI.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, June 19, from 5 p.m. to dusk, 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.

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. (The inspection may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather). Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

### Safetypalooza for Children

A Safetypalooza for children will be held this Saturday, June 21, from 9 a.m.-noon, at the Sully District Police Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Children will rotate through various stations to learn about fire, bike and school-bus safety, plus stranger-danger. The event was designed by Westfield High sophomore Alex Battani as his Eagle Project for Boy Scout Troop 893 in Centreville.

### Strawberry Festival on Saturday

An old-fashioned strawberry festival will be held Saturday, June 21, from 1-3 p.m., at E.C. Lawrence Park, off Route 28 in Chantilly. The fun includes ice-cream making, badminton, croquet, crafts, people in 1890s costumes and a tour of the historic grounds.

### Fair Oaks CAC to Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, June 24, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

### Sully District Council Meeting

The Sully District Council of Citizens Associations and its Land-Use Committee will meet Wednesday, June 25, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Call Jeff Parnes, evenings, at 703-904-0131.

The topic is the proposed Arbors of Fairfax, a 48-unit assisted-living facility dedicated to serving senior citizens with Alzheimer's and other memory disorders. It's planned for construction at 13622 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, on the north side of Route 50 and east of Downs Drive.

### Help Fairfax County Succeed Economically

For the past year Fairfax County has been updating its vision for creating an environment conducive to continued economic success. County leadership and staff members have worked with the Board of Supervisors' Economic Advisory Commission (EAC) to develop "The Strategic Plan to Facilitate the Economic Success of Fairfax County," an update of the 2011 plan. The draft update includes four, main focuses – people, places, employment and governance.

But the plan also needs residents' and business owners' input, so two stakeholder-input sessions are slated. They're set for Wednesday, June 25, Session 1 – 8:30-11 a.m., Session 2 – 1:30-4 p.m.; and Thursday, June 26, Session 1 – 8:30-11 a.m., Session

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 4

## NEWS



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/CENTRE VIEW

**Meals Task Force Referendum co-chairs Kate Hanley and Tom Davis deliver a short presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday, June 17, on the final report of the 44-member task force.**

## Meals Tax: Tasty or Revolting?

### Supervisors digest task force's final report on hot-button issue.

BY VICTORIA ROSS  
CENTRE VIEW

**A**fter hours of simmering debate, the Meals Tax Referendum Task Force's presentation to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Tuesday was a mere amuse-bouche, whetting the appetite of board members for the group's 170-page multi-course written report.

For the past two months, top chefs Kate Hanley (D) and Tom Davis (R), both former chairmen of the board, led a 44-member task force through four highly-charged and heated meetings.

But the group failed to come to a consensus about whether the supervisors should serve up a referendum to voters on the meals tax; instead it provided the board with an exhaustive menu of pros and cons for the supervisors to consider.

Commissioned by Chairman Sharon Bulova (D-At-Large), the task force was convened in April to con-

sider whether Fairfax County should proceed with a referendum for a meals tax; if yes, what year should the referendum be held, and how should the revenue from the meals tax be used.

**THE LAST TIME** Fairfax County asked voters to approve a tax on restaurant meals, in 1992, the issue ignited a firestorm of protests, and threatened to melt down several political careers.

The reverberations of that epic failure — what many consider the third rail of county politics — continue to echo in the ears of county politicians.

Probably no local politician was more affected by the issue than Davis, the former Republican congressman who chaired the board during the last 1992 meals tax battle.

"It got pretty ugly," he said of the factions in the 1992 referendum crusade. The measure was defeated 58 percent to 42 percent with approximately 102,000 votes cast during a special April election.

During Tuesday's presentation, Davis and Hanley noted the task force learned from the 1992 referendum failure, and came to a swift consensus on two points:

❖ If the board decides to put the tax to a referendum

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 4

revenue generated from tourists is expected to be about \$25.3 million annually.

### Who else has a meals tax in Northern Virginia, and how much revenue does it raise?

❖ Alexandria has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$17.6 million in 2014.

❖ Arlington has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$34.7 million in 2014.

❖ Falls Church has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$2.7 million in 2014.

❖ Fairfax City has a 4 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$5.4 million in 2014.

❖ Herndon has a 2.5 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$2 million in 2014.

❖ Vienna has a 3 percent MTR (meals tax rate) that is expected to generate an estimated \$1.9 million in 2014.

❖ The District of Columbia has a 10 percent MTR that is expected to generate \$331.31 million in 2014.

### About a Meals Tax

#### What effect would the meals tax have on an average resident at a 4 percent tax rate?

- ❖ On a \$5 "fast food" meal, tax would be 20 cents
- ❖ On a \$50 meal at a "nice restaurant", tax would be \$2
- ❖ Who would pay the meals tax?
- ❖ County residents who choose to dine out.
- ❖ Commuters, travelers and tourists who visit Fairfax County

#### What about tourists? How much do tourists spend on dining out in Fairfax County?

- ❖ According to the Virginia Tourism Corporation, tourists spend an estimated \$631.4 million eating out in Fairfax County annually.
- ❖ Approximately 28 percent of meals expenditures in Fairfax County are generated by non-county residents.
- ❖ If Fairfax County voters approve a 4 percent meals tax,

## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

2 – 1:30-4 p.m.; in conference rooms 9/10 at the county Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

People will be able to tell the decision-makers what they need from the county to help them, their businesses and their community achieve economic success. To register for one of the sessions, email Charles.Suddith@fairfaxcounty.gov by June 20. Due to limited space, provide first and second session-choices in the email.

## CarFit Event June 27

The Sully District Police Station will host a CarFit event on Friday, June 27, from 1-3 p.m. It's a program designed to help older drivers find out how well they currently fit their vehicles. The program highlights actions they can take to improve their fit and greatly increase not only their safety, but the safety of others.

CarFit is voluntary and confidential, and CarFit staff won't make any changes to the vehicle, but might recommend some adjustments be made. No appointment is necessary, but the event will be cancelled in case of inclement weather exists. The Sully District Station is at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

## 2014 Fairfax 50+ Plan

Fairfax County projects a dramatic increase in its older population. Between 2005 and 2030, the county expects the 50-and-over population to increase by 40 percent and the 70-and-over population by 88 percent. "So the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, together with the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging and local residents, has been working with the community to create the 2014 Fairfax 50+ Plan.

What's proposed is at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/fairfax50plus.htm> under the topic headings of Safety & Health, Housing, Transportation, Community Engagement, Services for Older Adults & Caregivers, and Long-Range Planning & Trends Analysis. Comments may be emailed to [DFSCommunity@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSCommunity@fairfaxcounty.gov) until June 30.

## Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of canned vegetables (no green beans), vegetable oil; dry pasta, flour, canned fruit and meat, white or brown rice (1- or 2-lb. bags), cold cereal, pancake mix, powdered and evaporated milk. Also needed are toilet paper, diapers, shampoo and baby wipes.

Bring all items to WFCM'S food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center.

In addition, food-pantry volunteers are needed Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-2:30 p.m., and Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or [abosley@wfcmlva.org](mailto:abosley@wfcmlva.org).

## Girls: Explore Law-Enforcement

Rising 10<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls are invited to consider a career in law-enforcement by attending a week-long class this summer. A select group of young girls will learn firsthand about core police functions, such as patrol, K9 and crime-scene investigations. They'll also discover the importance of having leadership skills, will meet today's female law-enforcement leaders in Fairfax County and explore what it takes to become a police officer.

This unique opportunity is free but, to be selected, girls must first complete and submit an application and medical form by June 25. In return, they'll either receive an acceptance letter or be notified that they're on a wait list.

This class will be held Monday, Aug. 11, through Saturday, Aug. 16, at the Gatehouse Administration Building, 8115 Gatehouse Road in Falls Church. Participants are expected to attend the entire session. For more information, call 703-280-0713 or email [CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov). Download an application and medical form at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/topics/0522214fwlle.htm>.

## NEWS

# Supervisors Digest Report

FROM PAGE 3

dum, the referendum should be held during a general election, not a special election.

❖ If the board decided to approve a referendum, the money should be dedicated, meaning that voters should know how the money will be spent.

Bulova has said that a four-percent tax on meals and beverages at the county's nearly 3,000 restaurants would generate approximately \$90 million in new revenue for schools, public safety, parks, libraries and human services.

After the short presentation by Hanley and Davis, Bulova made it clear to that she would "not entertain motions" on the report during Tuesday's meeting.

"The board just received the report, and we need time to digest it," she said, opening up the issue for brief comments and questions from the board.

"Is it persuasive to voters, in your opinion, that we are not treated as cities in our ability to raise revenue?" asked Supervisor Gerald Hyland (D-Mount Vernon). "Do you think we should raise the issue that this tax will get us away from the reliance of real estate tax? Will that be persuasive to voters?"

Hanley and Davis said the task force did not provide advice on how to sell the tax to voter.

"Many issues here continue to confuse voters," Hanley said.

Supervisor Cathy Hudgins (D-Hunter Mill) said she was concerned about the "enormous lack of information regarding what our constituents know about (our taxing authority)."

"Our legislative agenda has always been that we need the authority to tax in this situation. And that piece is not often discussed," Hudgins said.

Counties in Virginia are historically restricted in their authority to levy many local taxes, including a meals tax, without a referendum. Cities and towns, on the other hand, are given more leeway by the Virginia state code.

The City of Alexandria (1975), the City of Fairfax (1985), the City of Falls Church (1977), the Town of Herndon (2003), the City Manassas (1988) and the Town of Vienna (1989) have all enacted a meals tax by local ordinance. Meanwhile, Arlington County is one of the few counties that has received authority from the Virginia General Assembly to enact a meals tax by unanimous vote of its County Board.

That's something that won't happen in Fairfax County, said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who declared Tuesday there would be no "unanimous" decision when the Fairfax County board casts its vote on a meals tax referendum.

"It's a tax that targets a single industry," Herrity said in explaining why he would not consider voting to put a referendum on the ballot. "It would increase the tax on prepared foods by 67 percent, and Fairfax County residents will overwhelmingly shoulder this burden, the same county residents that have seen their homeowner taxes rise by 14 percent in the last three years alone."

Across the state, a meals tax has met with mixed reaction from voters. Loudoun and Prince William county officials recently rejected the idea of a meals tax after restaurant groups successfully argued the tax would unfairly target an industry that is facing pressure to increase the minimum wage while still struggling to recover from the 2008 recession.

But voters in Henrico County, which surrounds the City of Richmond, narrowly approved a 4 percent meals tax last November.

Political analysis's concluded the success of that



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS/CENTRE VIEW

**Meals Task Force Referendum co-chairs Kate Hanley (left) and Tom Davis (right) discuss talking points with James Parmelee (far right), with the Fairfax County Republican Committee and one of the 44 members of the task force.**

referendum was due, in large part, to an avid public awareness campaign that reminded voters funds generated from the tax — about \$18 million each year — were dedicated to Henrico County Public Schools.

While much has changed in Fairfax County since 1992, the mere mention of a meals tax still stirs up vehement reactions.

"I think it is a bit disingenuous to suggest libraries, schools and parks would be the primary beneficiaries of meals tax revenues," said Herndon resident Walter Hadlock in an email regarding the tax. "There are those of us, i.e., retirees, people with no children at home ... who don't get any direct benefit from the bulk of county services ...."

"The board has once again put off making a decision on whether to place this burden on our residents, caterers, grocery stores, and restaurants," Herrity said.

**ON THE OTHER SIDE** of the debate, Josh Israel of Fairfax said that, although he has no children, he would be "absolutely fine with paying more to make sure that our county has even better schools, sufficient funds for infrastructure, and is able to offer more programs to make our county a better place for everyone to live."

Therese and Bernard Martin of Reston agreed with Israel.

"Fairfax County has tried, without success, to find sources other than the property tax to pay for schools, public safety and other services desired by its citizens," the couple wrote in a June 6 email to the task force.

"I bet that the long lines of people waiting to get into restaurants at places like the Reston Town Center won't be tempted to get back in their cars and drive to Loudoun or Prince William County to save 4 cents on every dollar that they spend. I think the restaurant industry is 'crying wolf,'" Therese Martin said.

After the report by Hanley and Davis, Bulova thanked the task force but did not say when the board would vote on the report.

"What's missing (in the report) is how we discuss this with the community," added Hudgins.

"This is still in our lap and we have to decide what we want to do with it."

To view the report, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax/)

## SCHOOLS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



### Operation Feed the Need

On June 11, Union Mill Elementary sixth graders participated in their school's community service project, Operation Feed the Need, which helps provide meals to Fairfax County students who would otherwise not have enough food to eat on weekends. Throughout the school year at Union Mill, each grade level has taken its turn in holding a two-week food drive in which students and their families were asked to donate single-serving, child-friendly items such as macaroni and cheese, pasta, stew and soup microwavable cups, tuna salad kits, fruit cups, breakfast bars, oatmeal packets, and cheese and cracker sandwiches. At the end of each two-week food drive, the students put together packets of food, which are then ready to be distributed to students in need of weekend meals. Each of the packets contains enough breakfast, lunch, and dinner items for two weekend days, along with two snacks and two drinks. During the month of June, all Union Mill families were invited to participate in a school-wide food drive

in order to provide meal packets to children in Fairfax County who will be in need of meals during the summer break from school. On June 11, Union Mill sixth grade students, their teachers, and parent volunteers gathered in the cafeteria and assembled more than 560 packets of food. Operation Feed the Need is coordinated by Union Mill PTA co-chairs Kate Trussell and Diann Harrity.



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# OPINION

## More Affordable Housing Needed

**Anticipated job growth to exacerbate problem.**

In Northern Virginia, affordable housing means more than human services or helping those who are less fortunate. It means more than housing the chronically homeless, although that is not optional.

In Northern Virginia, having enough affordable housing is critical to economic health, based on housing the workers needed at a variety of income levels. It is also critical to traffic management. If workers on the lower end of the income scale can't afford to work near their jobs, those workers will have to drive longer distances, creating gridlock and air pollution.

Consider that in the Washington Metropolitan Region, the established median rent for a two-bedroom apartment, according to HUD, is \$1,589 monthly. To afford that rent, paying no more than 30 percent of gross income, requires an income of about \$60,000 annually. And it is obvious that rents in Northern Virginia are more expensive than the region.

Consider for example, that right now in Alexandria, there are more than 8,300 workers in the accommodations and food service industry who earn on average \$470 weekly, or less than \$25,000 a year. (Employment statistics from Virginia Employment Commis-

sion.)

In Arlington, there are more than 15,400 workers in accommodations and food service, with an average weekly wage of \$491, or \$25,500 annually.

In Fairfax County, in food service and accommodations, there are more than 48,400 workers with an average wage of \$426 weekly or an annual income of just over \$22,000.

These are people working full time in jobs that are important to our economy who cannot afford market rate rents, and rents are climbing.

The George Mason University School of Public Policy Center for Regional Analysis forecasts that, based on predicted job growth, over the next 20 years this region will need an additional 344,624 single-family units and 203,674 multi-family units.

From the report:

"The region's new housing must be priced so that it is affordable to these new workers. Based on the housing need forecasts, 44.1 percent of rental units will need to have rents of less than \$1,250 a month, while only 2.4 percent of the rental demand will be for units priced at \$2,250 a month or more. About 16.4 percent of the owner-occupied units forecasted need to be valued at less than \$200,000 and only 13.5 percent at over \$600,000."

For example, the report predicts adding more

than 71,000 health services workers with a median income of \$39,500; more than 45,000 hospitality workers with a median income of \$18,300; and 17,700 retail workers with a median income of \$22,500.

The units to house the current and future workforce will not materialize on their own. It will require a variety of incentives and interventions to make sure those units are part of new development.

As the Silver Line opens, it's important to remember that the coming years will bring the last great boom in building in Fairfax County. No matter what the immediate impediments, the local economy cannot thrive unless developing affordable housing is built into all of those development plans, current and future.

—MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

## Call for Pet Photos

The Pet Centre View, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish on July 23, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by July 16.

Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans. Identify everyone and give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish them, just your town name). Email to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com).

into a wish-list idea to extend the length of the elementary school day and combined the cost estimates making both look more expensive.

Abundant research on this topic is clear: When schools have delayed the start of the school day, students have shown improved physical and mental health, less depression, reduced car crashes and improved performance in the classroom and on the field. Schools also report reduced tardiness and sleeping in class, as well as improved attendance, graduation rates, and standardized test scores.

Thankfully, Fairfax County has also been able to find solutions that are less than a third of the cost of Montgomery County's plan, including more efficient bus routing that may reduce commute times for some students.

Multiple organizations have studied and support this change and community members who care about child health and safety as well as their own commutes should support this change as well by signing the petition at [sleepinfairfax.org](http://sleepinfairfax.org).

As Dr. Owens from Children's National Medical Center says, "To do nothing is to do harm." I firmly believe that.

**Phyllis Payne**  
Fairfax

### EDITORIALS

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Later Start Times Can Benefit Community

To the Editor:

To set the record straight, there is nothing worse for traffic than a car crash, and sleepy teen drivers are like drunk drivers in terms of performance behind the wheel. Later high school start times are safer for teens and also for the rest of us as they have been shown to significantly decrease car crashes in young drivers.

When you read letters opposing this effort, please ask yourself whether the letter-writer has a personal vested interest in retaining the status quo. Last week's letter, "Later Start Times Affect Commuters," was filled with misinformation and scare tactics.

The letter made it sound as if there are only a small number of children impacted by the morning start times that are among the earliest in the nation. Fairfax County high schools start classes at 7:20 a.m. Only 10 percent of schools in the nation start before 7:30 in the morning. Seventy-two of 95 counties in Virginia start high schools at 8 a.m. or later. Perhaps the letter writer would prefer that FCPS start school at 5 a.m. to ensure that our children are all out of the way before the morning commute? The reality is that Fairfax County Public Schools are a massive part of the traffic flow for the entire morn-

ing commute. It will remain that way with any of the new schedules as well.

The majority of FCPS high school students are sleep deficient. Only 15.5 percent of seniors get 8 hours of sleep per night on school nights and medical experts recommend about 9 hours for adolescents. In 10th grade, only 25 percent are getting at least 8 hours of sleep per night. The letter writer seems to be suggesting that 75 percent or more of our students pay for unnecessary medical tests and ask doctors to write medical excuses for a problem that is the norm, not the exception to the rule. Perhaps he is unaware that there is compelling medical and educational evidence that very early school start times are a problem and that the Virginia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics has a position in favor of later high school start times for students in Virginia as does the Medical Society of Virginia and the Medical Society of Northern Virginia.

For more than a year, FCPS has partnered with Children's National Medical Center and has met with stakeholder leaders from more than 45 different organizations, agencies, and community groups. Transportation experts and stake-

holder leaders studied about 20 scenarios before the School Board selected four potential scenarios to bring to the community for input. The School Board has been extremely slow and deliberate in this process. Children's National Medical Center has been working to include input from all stakeholders, including principals, social workers, leaders from the teacher organizations, PTAs, the athletic council, the Park Authority, School Aged Child Care providers, the middle school after school program, Safe Routes to School, and others. In July, there will be a work session with a report to the board. School Board members have suggested that the Blueprint for Change may be one of the four options or it may be a hybrid based on the community input.

Montgomery County's superintendent delayed implementation of any high school start time changes, but he will not be able to close the door on the need for later morning schedules because it is critical to his desire to close the achievement gap. Seventy-eight percent of the parents polled in Montgomery County supported the change despite what seems to be an inflated cost estimate. Dr. Starr made the mistake of wrapping the later start time proposal

## CENTREVIEW

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**To discuss ideas and concerns, Call:**  
**703-778-9410**  
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**[centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com)**

**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter, 703-778-9438  
[bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Jon Roetman**  
Sports Editor, 703-752-4013  
[jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com)  
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**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
703-778-9433  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@MaryKimm](https://twitter.com/MaryKimm)

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
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**Photography:**  
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel  
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Laurence Foong, John Heinly  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
703-778-9436  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
[@TheismannMedia](https://twitter.com/TheismannMedia)

**CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426**  
**Circulation Manager:**  
Linda Pecquex  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

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# Despite Low Unemployment, Veterans Need Assistance

“Supporting our Region’s Veterans” report identifies suggestions for improvement.

BY JANELLE GERMANOS  
CENTRE VIEW

**A**lthough veterans in Northern Virginia are more educated than those nationwide and are less likely to live below the poverty line and be unemployed, a new report has found that individual anecdotes from veterans in the area demonstrate that there are still areas that need improvement.

The report, released by the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, along with the United Way of the National Capital Area and Deloitte Consulting, found that some veterans face challenges navigating the services available to them.

According to the report, while findings at the macro-level show veterans in Northern Virginia doing much better than those nationwide, there are still issues at the micro-level that need to be improved.

**KEY FINDINGS** found that the Department of Veterans Affairs spends only 10.4 percent on medical care in Northern Virginia, while they spend 38 percent statewide. A previous study is also cited in the report that says veterans in Northern Virginia found that mental health services can be difficult to access in the region.



Eileen Ellsworth, president of the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia, Justin Obbagy and Kelly Waldron of Deloitte, and Rosie Allen-Herring of United Way pose after presenting “Supporting our Region’s Veterans,” a report looking at the needs of veterans in the area.

At an event presenting the report on June 13, Justin Obbagy of Deloitte Consulting said that many veterans face a stigma with facing care. The complicated system of services can often be confusing for veterans as well.

“The complex array of services can be difficult to navigate,” he said.

The report cites access, cultural competency, and stigma as barriers to existing ser-

vices.

Of the 743,000 veterans living in Virginia, 173,000 live in Northern Virginia, and 36,000 of these individuals are veterans of Afghanistan and Iraq.

Northern Virginia, especially the city of Alexandria and Prince William and Fairfax counties, have a higher concentration of female veterans than found nationwide. Veterans

in the region are also mostly white, more educated and less likely to live in poverty.

Nationwide, veterans between the ages of 18-34 face an unemployment rate of 13.7 percent, but in northern Virginia the unemployment rate is 3.7 percent.

From 2012 to 2013, the report states, homelessness among veterans decreased by 16 percent in Virginia. The report cites a 2010 Virginia Tech survey that says veter-

ans and providers found the high living cost in Northern Virginia can make it difficult for veterans to find housing.

The population of veterans in the region is expected to grow in the next couple of years, Obbagy said.

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder continues to be an issue, as data has found that PTSD and traumatic brain disorder is more common among veterans of post 9-11 conflicts.

**USING THIS DATA**, the Community Foundation, along with other supporters, is issuing a grant to help support better coordination of services in the area. The Community Foundation is also giving to military families through its membership in the Philanthropy-Joining Forces Impact Pledge.

“Northern Virginia is home to one of the most densely populated veteran communities in America. We are investing in an initiative that supports veterans and their families in a very direct way,” said Eileen Ellsworth, president of the Community Foundation. “By partnering with government and nonprofit organizations and collaborating with funders in the region, we are fostering relationships amongst service providers and helping veterans navigate the rich support services available to them in Northern Virginia.”

## CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

**BURGLARY**, 6300 block of Shirey Lane, June 11. A resident reported someone entered the residence and took property.

**LARCENIES**  
14400 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, merchandise from business  
5700 block of Union Mill Road, liquor from business  
4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center, merchandise from business  
13300 block of Lee Highway, merchandise from business  
14500 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, merchandise from business  
6300 block of Barnesdale Path, jewelry from residence  
14400 block of Black Horse Court, electronic device from residence  
6100 block of Early Autumn Drive, groceries from business  
2300 block of Field Point Road, cell phone from business  
6000 block of Rockton Court, property from vehicle  
5200 block of Sully Road, purse from vehicle  
5100 block of Westfields Boulevard, liquor from business  
13900 block of Woods Run Court, wallet from vehicle  
14100 block of Saint Germain Drive, GPS from vehicle  
5900 block of Trinity Parkway, cell phones from business  
7700 block of Bull Run Drive, property from residence  
14100 block of Saint Germain Drive, liquor from business

**STOLEN VEHICLES**  
5100 block of Travis Edward Way, Lexus  
6700 block of Cub Run Court, Chrysler Sebring

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# Multiple Strategies Address Homelessness

FROM PAGE 3

Affordable housing means different things to different people at different times. For government officials, it's a phrase that means that a family spends no more than 30 percent of its income on housing costs, including rent or mortgage as well as taxes and utilities. Sometimes that's a function of the free market, such as the rent paid by the Pineda family. Other times, residents live in dedicated affordable housing units that local governments set aside for limited periods of time to help offset the displacement created by gentrification and development. However affordable housing is calculated, it's clearly been vanishing from the region for some time — leading to a growing concern that the Northern Virginia is increasingly becoming an exclusive enclave for the wealthy. The Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance estimates that 25,000 rental units are in areas slated for revitalization, which puts more than 11,000 low-cost units at risk.

"When you look at the communities that are getting pushed out, it's the communities of the most vulnerable," said Ross Kane, associate rector at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Alexandria, who is trying to organize a faith-based response to the affordable housing crisis in Northern Virginia. "That affects the most marginalized people in society the most, and so to me that makes it a moral issue from a Christian perspective."

**ARLINGTON COUNTY** has been the most successful in creating dedicated affordable housing units over the last decade, increasing the stock by 30 percent over the last decade. Arlington now has almost 7,000 units of dedicated units, which represents 7 percent of the households in the county. By contrast, Alexandria has increased its stock of affordable housing units by only 7 percent over the last decade. That represents about 6 percent of households in the city. Although Fairfax County has increased its housing stock more than 30 percent over



the last decade, the county's dedicated affordable housing units represents less than 4 percent of households in the county.

"Fairfax County does have both their affordable dwelling unit ordinance and what's called their workforce policy ordinance, which says that if you are redeveloping there's a requirement that you develop housing for the workforce," said Michelle Krock, executive director of the Northern Virginia Affordable Housing Alliance. "The weakness I see in that is that these workforce units serve people from 80 percent to 120 percent of area median income, and that's a high level of income to be serving. We really need to be serving people at 60 percent of area median income."

Getting a dedicated unit is not easy, and local governments are struggling to deal with increasing demand as low-income residents find themselves living in an area where the cost of living is rising faster than their incomes. The lingering effects of the recession also make it difficult for those at the bottom end of the economic spectrum. In Fairfax County, for example, so many people have applied for federal Housing Choice vouchers administered by the public housing authority that the waiting list closed on March 1, 2007. It's been closed ever since, and more than 3,000 families are still waiting for help paying for housing.

"When an applicant's name comes to the

top of the list, approved applicants receive a voucher which entitles them to look for housing in the private market," said Thomas Fleetwood, associate director of the Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development. "Homeless families referred for vouchers do not have to be on the waiting list prior to receiving assistance."

**BACK IN 2004**, when the housing market was exploding and home values were skyrocketing, affordable housing was vanishing from Northern Virginia. Tenants were facing eviction as apartments were converted to condominiums and low-income people were being pushed to the out to the exurbs. Many people feared a sea change that would change the face of Northern Virginia forever. That's why the Arlington County Board started requiring developers to set aside at least 10 percent of their floor space for affordable housing. Developers sued, and the program was declared unconstitutional.

"The way Northern Virginia jurisdictions have gotten around this is by creating conditions for redevelopment," said Krock. "So if you come in for a rezoning, there are expectations that you will address certain community benefits, affordable housing being one of them."

The boom and bust of the housing market set the stage for the patchwork of approaches taken by jurisdictions in Northern Virginia, where elected officials and government leaders have taken a variety of strategies to work against losing its racial and ethnic diversity. Nowhere has the shift been more dramatic than Fairfax County. At the height of the bubble in 2005, members of the Board of Supervisors created a dedicated source of revenue for affordable housing — one penny out of the tax rate, essentially setting aside about \$20 million every year. But when the market came crashing down, they slashed the program in half to balance the budget. Critics say elected officials in Fairfax chose to prioritize redeveloping Tysons Corner over preserving affordable housing.

"The politics is huge," said Mel Jones, research associate at the Virginia Center for Housing Research at Virginia Tech. "If you can't get the politics behind doing this stuff, it's not going to happen."

Dedicated sources of revenue have been a controversial tool for raising money to pre-

serve affordable housing. In May 2005, members of the Alexandria City Council passed an ordinance dedicating one cent of the property tax value to develop and preserve affordable housing in the city. Since that time, the political will to maintain that funding has been steadily diminishing. Council members voted to reduce the dedicated source of funding to 0.7 cents in 2009, and then sliced it again to 0.6 cents in 2008. Last year, City Manager Rashad Young removed it altogether when the budget was adopted although several council members later said they didn't know that was part of the final budget agreement.

Council members later went back and added the dedicated source of funding back, restoring the 0.6 cents out of the tax rate for affordable housing. A few months later, the city manager found himself in the midst of yet another firestorm over affordable housing, this time when he waived a \$1 million contribution to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund to lure the National Science Foundation from Arlington. City Council members later said they didn't know the incentive was part of the package until it was too late.

**TAKING RESPONSIBILITY** for affordable housing has been a risky proposition in recent years. Since the global economic crisis brought home values crashing down in most of Northern Virginia, the political will to fund affordable housing programs has steadily diminished. When budgets got tight in Fairfax and Alexandria, leaders in both communities cut back on their dedicated source of revenue for affordable housing. And some elected officials in Alexandria are still calling for an end to setting aside any portion of the tax rate for affordable housing or any other priority. Advocates for affordable housing say that would undermine the concept of having a trust fund in the first place.

"If we commit an ongoing revenue source, then we can be creative and consistent in addressing those needs and it just fits better with how development happens," said Mary Brooks, director of the Center for Community Change.

Many affordable housing advocates in Northern Virginia see Arlington as a model that other local governments should emulate. Despite that fact that Arlington does not have a dedicated source of revenue for affordable housing, elected leaders there have shown a consistent willingness to invest in the Affordable Housing Investment Fund. Last week, County Manager Barbara Donnellan identified several county-owned parcels that could be considered for future affordable housing and public school developments within the next several years.

"Their political leadership has identified that as a strong priority just like the leadership in Alexandria has identified building a Metro station at Potomac Yard as a strong priority," said Krock. "The main answer is money, but the money flows from the priorities of the leadership and the vision of the leaders."

## Patchwork of Approaches

♦ The City of Alexandria has the Housing Opportunities Fund, which was created in 1992 and is administered by the Office of Housing. Most of the fund comes from developer contributions, although it also includes some money from the city's general fund as well as federal funds from the HOME Investment Partnership Program of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. City officials estimate that the fund will receive \$3.1 million in developer contributions over the next three years, which is expected to create or preserve about 25 units of affordable housing each year. In addition to money in the fund, the City Council also dedicates six-tenths of one cent of the tax rate for affordable housing. That produces about \$2.1 million a year, most of which is used to pay for debt service bonds. The remaining funds generate about 10 units each year.

♦ Arlington has the Affordable Housing Investment Fund, which was created in 1988 and is administered by the Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development. The fund is made up of local and federal money as well as loan repayments and developer contributions, all of which totaled about \$20 million in 2013. Since it was created, the fund has produced about 6,500 affordable rental units and more than \$200 million

in loans have been granted. In conjunction with the county's Affordable Housing Ordinance, the revolving loan fund provides incentives for developers through low-interest, secondary loans for new construction, acquisition and rehabilitation of affordable housing. For every \$1 of public funds, \$3 in private funds are invested.

♦ Fairfax County has the Penny for Affordable Housing Fund, created in 2005 to replace the Housing Flexibility Fund, which was created in 1990. The fund, which is administered by the Department of Housing and Community Development, is composed of county contributions, developer contributions and federal funding. In 2005, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors adopted a budget that dedicated one penny of the real estate tax to preserving existing affordable housing, which produced about \$20 million a year. The fund raised \$80 million and preserved 2,500 units of affordable housing until 2009. When the global economic crisis created a scramble for money, the Board of Supervisors voted to reduce funding to the program by 50 percent. Since that time, the fund has provided \$154 million for affordable housing in Fairfax County. On average, for every \$1 of Housing Trust Fund money, \$7 is leveraged from outside sources to create and preserve affordable housing.

# Join in 5K Ice Cream Race at Bull Run

Event on June 28  
to partially benefit  
Special Olympics.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he first annual 5K Ice Cream Race will be held Saturday, June 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville. The event includes a chocolate syrup water slide, a whipped cream foam machine, a cherry juice pit, and limber limbo. In addition, there will be traditional obstacles like steeple chases, climbing walls and hills made of tires. Costumed people will line the race route dressed as ice cream cones, cherries and bananas; they will be throwing cherry bomb water balloons and other goodies at the runners. All runners will receive ice cream and a T-shirt.

For added fun, there will be an ice-cream eating competition, DJ Dance party and Zumba as well as a beer garden and food trucks. The ice cream, which includes flavors of vanilla, chocolate and sorbet, and sprinkles, will be provided by Scoops2U.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The Ice Cream Race will include climbing walls and steeple chases.**

"There's really nothing like it. We just think it's a perfect time for an ice cream race, this being the first week of summer

when school is out," said race founder Max Bawarski, 31, of Manassas. Bawarski is a P.E. teacher at Providence Elementary in the

City of Fairfax. He organized two Blood and Guts Runs during Halloween that had 5,000 attendees, and he is planning his third Blood and Guts Run scheduled for Oct. 25.

In addition to the race, there will be a costume contest, with prizes for the best costume for individuals and wildest team, as well as the muddiest runner. "It's entertaining," said Bawarski. "It adds to the ambiance of the race."

He added that while most obstacle races are geared to hard-core athletes, this one is family oriented and fun as opposed to challenging. "We want people to have fun," he said. "We're going for anybody who likes fitness who wants to have a good time."

The first-annual Ice Cream Race will be held Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The non-timed races will begin every 30 minutes starting at 9 a.m., 9:30 a.m., 10 a.m., etc., with 400-500 people in each segment. Cost of \$79 expires on June 28. Proceeds will partially benefit the Special Olympics of Northern Virginia.

The venue is at Bull Run Regional Park, Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville, VA 20121. For more details, go to [www.theicecreamrace.com](http://www.theicecreamrace.com) or email [support@theicecreamrace.com](mailto:support@theicecreamrace.com) or call Max Bawarski at 703-593-3173.

## 'I Want to Make a Difference'

FROM PAGE 1

Cruzes. "I just want to say thank you to them," he said. "I was really touched and humbled when they told me I exhibited some of their son's qualities and said I reminded them of him. They're really nice people, and I'm glad I got a chance to meet them and that they thought I stood out."

He was also pleased to receive an HLA scholarship. "Every bit helps," he said. "I'll be the first in my family in the U.S. to attend college." At Harvard, he plans to major in economics and minor in international relations.

"I realize I've been able to be successful because,

growing up in Fairfax County, I've had access to a wealth of academic and economic opportunities," Mendez said. "But many people in my home country and across the world don't. So through my education, I could be in a position to facilitate and foster these opportunities for others."

As a result, he's considering a career as a diplomat or working for a nongovernmental organization — or as president of Bolivia. "I really want to make a difference because I don't think it's fair that, just because of where you were born, you don't get a chance to be successful," he said. "And I've always been cognizant of the fact that I've had the chance to do something [with my life] because I've been here."



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## CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

**Girls Basketball Camp.** Centreville High School will host summer basketball camp for girls age 8-16 July 14-17 from 6-9 p.m. The camp will emphasize teaching players how to understand the game, skills development, defense fundamentals and more. Takes place at the Centreville High School gym. \$120 before July 1 and \$150 after. Call 703-815-3362.

**Young Actors Workshop.** For elementary students in rising grades 2-6 to learn about theatre arts. Runs July 21-25, 9 a.m.-noon at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Tuition is \$125. Includes theatre games, improvisation, acting exercises, songs and dances and culminates with a show from musical comedy classics. Sponsored by Westfield Theatre Boosters and led by Westfield Theatre alumni and current students. Visit [www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com](http://www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com) or call 703-488-6439.

**Boys Basketball Camp.** Centreville and Westfield High School work

together to offer three sessions of basketball camp for ages 7-15. Session I runs from July 7-11, session II July 14-18 and session III July 28-Aug. 1, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. daily. Cost is \$160 per session for June registrants and \$170 in July. Discounts available. Contact coach Doug Ewell at 703-488-6406 or [DPEwell@fcps.edu](mailto:DPEwell@fcps.edu) or Coach Patrick Hally at [patrickthally@gmail.com](mailto:patrickthally@gmail.com).

### Girls Field Hockey Camp.

Centreville High School will host field hockey camp for girls going into 4th-9th grade. Runs June 26-27 from 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the new Centreville High School practice field/hockey turf field. \$100 per camper. Participants should bring a field hockey stick, shin guards, mouth guard, turf appropriate shoes, snack, and own water bottle each day. Visit [www.wearecville.com/camps/field\\_hockey\\_camp\\_flyer.pdf](http://www.wearecville.com/camps/field_hockey_camp_flyer.pdf).

**Girls Lacrosse Camp.** Centreville High School will host a girls lacrosse camp July 7-9 from 9 a.m.-noon for players age 8-17. Held at the Centreville High School athletic fields. \$100 per player. Participants should bring a lacrosse stick, mouth guard, cleats or tennis shoes, goggles and a water bottle. Free equipment rental is also available. Visit <http://cvhsboyslacrosse.weebly.com> or contact Coach Griel at 703-915-2068 or [cvhsglax33@gmail.com](mailto:cvhsglax33@gmail.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 20

**Opera Performance.** 7:30 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Umberto Giordano's Andrea Chénier, set in the late 18th century. Riverbend Opera's production has more than 35 singers, accompanied by a small orchestra, with projected English surtitles. \$25, \$15 students. Visit <http://riverbendopera.com>.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 21

**Plant Clinic.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Master gardeners with provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. Call 703-502-3883.

**Book Signings of Aviation and Space Related Books.** 12-5 p.m. at Boeing Aviation Hangar Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly. Author Col. Wolfgang Samuel signing "German Boy." Admission is free, parking is \$15. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/book-signings> for more.

**Lego Mania.** 12:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Children in kindergarten through second grade can show off their Lego-building skills. Call 703-502-3883.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and

activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

## SUNDAY/JUNE 22

**Book Signings of Aviation and Space Related Books.** 12-5 p.m. at Boeing Aviation Hangar Udvar-Hazy Center in Chantilly. Admission is free, parking is \$15. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/book-signings> for more.

**Art Guild of Clifton.** 4:30-7 p.m. at Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane. Art Guild of Clifton presents the completed works of artists who painted outdoors, on location, this weekend. Enjoy their diverse impressions of our unique town and bid in the silent auction. Visit [www.artguildofclifton.org](http://www.artguildofclifton.org).

## MONDAY/JUNE 23

**Imagination Day.** 9 a.m.-1:15 p.m. at Laurel Hill Elementary School, 8390 Laurel Crest Drive. Sessions throughout the school day will introduce students to new hobbies and activities, sparking new passions in their imaginations. Contact Heather Hitz at [hahitz@fcps.edu](mailto:hahitz@fcps.edu).

**Bouncin' Babies.** 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000

Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Sully Book Club.** 1 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. "The Art Forger" by Barbara A. Shapiro. Call 703-830-2223.

## TUESDAY/JUNE 24

**Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with stories, songs and activities. Age 2 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Time for Tots.** 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for ages 2-3 with adult. Call 703-830-2223.

**"Flights of Fancy" — Stories for Children.** 11 a.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center/things-to-do/story-times.cfm> for more.

**Diggers.** 2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Tracey Eldridge presents an interactive musical celebration of the creatures who sleep under our feet. Please register each adult and child separately. Call 703-502-3883.

## WEDNESDAY/JUNE 25

**"Flights of Fancy" — Stories for Children.** 11 a.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center/things-to-do/story-times.cfm> for more.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**A Novel Society.** 7 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. "A Thousand White Women" by Jim Fergus. Call 703-830-2223.

## THURSDAY/JUNE 26

**Reptiles Alive.** 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. See how these animals cling, climb and chase in the wild. Presented by Reptiles Alive. For ages 6-12. Call 703-830-2223.

**"Flights of Fancy" — Stories for Children.** 11 a.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. A reading from "Astronaut Handbook," presented by Megan McCarthy. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center/things-to-do/story-times.cfm> for more.

## FRIDAY/JUNE 27

**Bouncin' Babies.** 3 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for babies up to 11 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 28

**The Ice Cream Race 5k.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. The Ice Cream Race 5k is a family fun run that includes an obstacle course. \$69 registration. Visit [www.theicecreamrace.com](http://www.theicecreamrace.com) for more.

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# PEOPLE

## Swartz, Clark Engaged

Joe and Lynne Swartz of Centreville are happy to announce the engagement of their son, Michael, to Natalie Clark, daughter of Ron and Laurie Clark.

Michael graduated from Westfield High School in 2004 and earned a bachelor's degree and MBA at Oklahoma State finishing in 2010. He lives in Dallas and is employed at VetScience LLC as an operations manager.

Natalie graduated from Oklahoma State in 2009 with a major in elementary education. She is employed at Urban Park Elementary as a kindergarten teacher.

The wedding will be held at St. Andrews Episcopal Church, Kansas City, on Aug. 9, 2014. The couple plans to reside in Dallas.



Natalie Clark and Michael Swartz

## ME & MY DAD



Chris Stine, Jr. with son Jace Stine and daughter Daisha Stine of Herndon and son Chris Thomas-Stine of Centreville.



Daddy's little girl, daughter Brianna Thomas-Stine and son Chris Thomas-Stine of Centreville.

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# Westfield Girls' Lacrosse Wins State Championship

**Bulldogs beat Cougars in 6A state final.**

BY DAVID BALICK  
CENTRE VIEW

**T**he Westfield girls' lacrosse team was playing the Oakton Cougars for the third time in the past three weeks. The first two games were for the Conference 5 and 6A North region championships, and the Cougars came out victorious.

But in the biggest game of the year, the Westfield Bulldogs came out firing and brought home the program's first state championship with a 13-11 victory on June 15 at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

Oakton came into the game with a 15-2 record. The Cougars were experienced winners with 11 seniors who had already won a state championship in 2012. But Westfield would not be intimidated.

Off the opening faceoff, senior Grace Horgan stormed down the field and scored the first goal of the game 13 seconds in.

Oakton responded a few minutes later with a goal, but then senior Meghan Heck scored three of her five goals on the day in a 5-minute span. Combined with another goal from Horgan, Westfield now had a 5-1 lead.

"Without our seniors this year, we never could have made it this far," Westfield head coach Katie Ruch said. "They were everything we needed tonight."

Following this spurt, Oakton head coach Jean Counts took a timeout in an effort to inspire her players, and they responded.

Oakton went on a 5-1 run of its own in the final 10 minutes of the half to tie the game at 6 heading into halftime.

The question coming out of the half was who would come out with momentum to start? Heck answered this question with a goal immediately off the opening faceoff, giving Westfield the lead. This goal took only 8 seconds to materialize.

However, Oakton refused to take a back seat to the Bulldogs and continued to fight. The game was tied at 10 with 13 minutes left. But then senior captain Molly O'Sullivan gave Westfield the lead for good.

Down the stretch, freshman goalie Abby Smith came up with save after save to preserve the victory.

"We had lost to them twice in title games



The Westfield girls' lacrosse team won the 6A state championship on June 15.



Westfield girls' lacrosse coach Katie Ruch, left, receives a celebratory bath after the Bulldogs won the 6A state championship on June 15.

this season," Ruch said, "so we had nothing to lose tonight."

Westfield dominated possession throughout the game. Heck played well in the final game of her career, scoring five goals and rallying her team to victory. Grace Horgan and O'Sullivan also added three goals of their own for the Bulldogs.



Members of the Westfield girls' lacrosse team celebrate winning the 6A state championship on June 15.

Westfield finished the season with a 15-3 record. The Bulldogs came into the season with one goal in mind. They beat the de-

fending champions from Madison in the semifinals and finished the season off with the taste of victory on Sunday night.

## Centreville Girls' Soccer Finishes State Runner-Up

**J**enna Green, a two-sport star during her time at Centreville High School, will play basketball next year at the College of William & Mary. On June 14, however, Green used her athletic ability to help the Centreville girls' soccer team reach the state championship match for the first time since 2004.

Green scored a pair of goals against Cosby

in the 6A state semifinals, leading the Wildcats to a 2-1 victory over the previously unbeaten Titans at Robinson Secondary School.

"This is the end of my soccer career, I wanted to do something," Green said. "I want people to remember this team, so I'm



Centreville senior Jenna Green, right, scored two goals against Cosby in the 6A state semifinals on June 14.

CRAIG STERBUTZEL/  
CENTRE VIEW

SEE GIRLS' SOCCER, PAGE 15

# Avoiding Awkward Conversations

**Suggestions for conversation starters for talking to new graduates.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
CENTRE VIEW

Lisa and Erik Brown beamed with pride after their oldest son graduated from high school in Northern Virginia. They hosted a post-ceremony soiree and invited a host of family and friends. The celebration was dampened somewhat, however, when a family member made an innocent, but still critical remark about the college their son had chosen.

"He's the first person in our family to go to college," said Erik Brown. "It was rude and disrespectful for them to talk badly about the college he's chosen, especially in front of our other guests."

While graduation is a time of excitement and celebration, it can also be a time of not only change but stress for many graduates and their parents. Innocent questions and comments like the Browns' relative's can cause embarrassment or frustration for recent graduates. Local mental health professionals offer suggestions for avoiding such a post-graduation faux pas while still expressing excitement and pride.

"When talking to a graduate, focus on their accomplishment," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., a professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington. "They should be proud of having earned a degree, especially a college degree."

Instead of commenting on the college they selected or the major they chose, offer support and encouragement. "Rather than saying, 'What are you going to do with that art history degree?'" said Gulyn, "an adult can offer to be a source of networking and support. They can say, 'Best of luck. Let me know how I can support you.'"

Conversations with graduates can be adapted based on whether the person is graduating from high school, college or graduate school. "Most high school graduates know what their plans are in terms of going to college, taking a gap year or getting a job," said Karen Prince, a Bethesda, Md., based licensed clinical social worker. "It is always good to focus on the positive and the current situation, which is a huge milestone."

Dialogue with a recent college graduates can be more complicated, however, because some already feel pressured to have a plan in place. "It is more loaded for college," said Prince. "It is best to ask questions that are easy to answer, like 'What classes did you



PHOTO COURTESY OF LISA BROWN

**Erik, Jason, Lisa and Jamie Brown celebrate Jason's high school graduation. This rite of passage can be a time of excitement, but also a source of stress for some.**

enjoy most in college? Did you know in high school that you wanted to choose that major? What made you decide on that major? Those questions are easy to answer because they've already accomplished it."

Gulyn said to focus on the current accomplishment, not future expectations: "It's good to say, 'That sounds like a really interesting major. I wish I'd taken more art history classes. You must have learned about history, art and life. Liberal arts degrees can open a student's mind and teach them to write well.'"

Gulyn adds that it is acceptable and even normal for recent graduates to be uncertain about their future plans.

"I talk to my college students all the time and ask them, 'How many of you are sick and tired of hearing now that you're graduating what you are you going to do?' They all raise their hands. It's OK for a recent graduate to have no idea about what they want to do with their future. This is a time to explore. Saying 'I have no idea' is the right answer at this state in their lives."

Finally, Gulyn discourages conversations that pressure college graduates to make immediate decisions about graduate school. "Students should give themselves a couple of years to

make sure they are committed to getting a graduate degree," she said. "If I had to do it over again, I would have waited until I was committed and saved money for graduate school."

**"When talking to a graduate, focus on their accomplishment. They should be proud of having earned a degree, especially a college degree."**

**— Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington**

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## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE TOWN OF CLIFTON JULY 1, 2014

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 1, 2014 at 7:30 p.m. in the Clifton Community Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. The purpose is to consider amendment and revision of the Signs regulations within the Zoning Ordinance, found in Chapter 9, Article 2 General Regulations, Section 9-14 of the Code of Town of Clifton, Virginia.

The proposed revision is available for review on the Town website <http://clifton-va.com> under the Town Council - News from the Council drop-down menu.

A hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton, Virginia. All interested parties are encouraged to attend the Public Hearing to express their views with respect to the proposed amendment and revision of the Signs section of the Zoning Ordinance.

21 Announcements

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## A Dream Come True, Sort Of

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



(Not a cancer column, by the way.)

Growing up in the 60s, if you loved sports, as I did/still do, you spent hours listening to games on a transistor radio. There certainly wasn't "Cable" television back then; heck, there wasn't even color television, let alone "HD," "interactive," or whatever else television technology has evolved into. And of course, there were no "big screen" television sets either. We had a 19" Zenith black and white television and we received three channels: 4, 5 and 7 (in Boston), and as much as sports was/is important in Boston/New England, viewing options, given the limited VHF/UHF band frequencies, meant listening to games on radio - AM radio. Games were regularly televised on weekends, more so if the home team was playing on the road.

As the decades have passed, so too have transistor radios, black and white televisions and limited viewing on only three channels. Between "Cable," computers, and more recently, the introduction of hand-held devices, access to and familiarity with sports has grown exponentially. Add in the explosion of sports-talk radio and the abundance of sports-themed content on television (regardless of whether the games are at home or on the road) and one could be in his "man cave" for hours on end "channeling" his - or her - passion, for any team, in any city, at almost any time.

I don't have a "man cave," but I do have a passion. Annually, I buy the MLB Baseball package so I can watch my beloved Boston red Sox whenever and wherever they play. It is not the bane of my existence, it is quite the opposite; it is my *raison d'être*, if truth be told. And instinctively, whenever I'm in the car driving somewhere, if the Orioles or Nationals are playing, I am listening to them on radio, as a long-time habit. It conjures images, memories and dreams of a lifetime (adolescence, really) stretching back over 50 years: Curt Gowdy, Ned Martin and Ken Coleman on radio for the Red Sox, the legendary Johnny Most for the Celtics and Fred Cusick and Bob Wilson for the Bruins. I hung on their every word nightly during the week, and afternoons on weekends; typically when their games were played. What I heard affected my life - to this day. As a result (partially), I am a "sports" guy. Not a "tool" guy. Not a "car" guy. Not a "do-it-yourself/fixer-upper" guy. Nor am I any other category of "guy" you know of or can think of. "I yam what I yam." Though I've never been a sailor man, either.

And as a "sports" guy, my dream was to play in the Major Leagues for the Boston Red Sox. As much as I practiced, it didn't happen (although I did play for the Little League Red Sox from 1964-67, ages 9-12). But through the staying power of radio - and the frequency of baseball games (162-game schedule) - I have realized my dream of playing in the Major Leagues, or at least hearing my last name called during Major League games.

There is a player for the Toronto Blue Jays named Brett Lawrie, an infielder, third baseman, mostly. When the announcers call his last name, it sounds nearly identical to mine, Lourie. And when I hear his name called on radio by Oriole's radio voices, Joe Angel and Jim Hunter (the Blue Jays were in town this past weekend for a four-game series), it almost brings a tear to my eyes. Obviously it's not me they're "calling," but it sure sounds like it. And for that moment, my dream seems like a reality.

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

## SPORTS

### Girls' Soccer

FROM PAGE 12

glad that we're advancing [at] states."

Green's first goal came in the 15th minute, giving Centreville a 1-0 advantage. Late in the second half, Alexandra Littlefield served in a free kick, which Green eventually put in the back of the net, giving the Wildcats a two-goal lead.

Cosby scored a goal with 1 minute remaining, but it was too little, too late.

"[Green] played well, but it's not impressive because we expect it," Centreville head coach Gary Malebranche said. "It's not like, wow, where did that come from? She played well, she's a great athlete. If she had played soccer full time, I think we're talking about her as one of the best players in the area."

The following evening, Centreville lost to undefeated Battlefield 0-0 (4-3) in a penalty-kick shootout in the state championship match.

The Wildcats reached the state final despite a less-than-stellar regular season. Centreville was 3-7 late in the regular season and entered the Conference 5 tournament with a 4-7 record. The Wildcats defeated Oakton 3-2 in overtime in the conference quarterfinals on May 16, earning a spot in the 6A North region tournament.

Centreville went on to beat Washington-Lee, Woodson and Osbourn Park during the regional tournament, earning a state berth. The Wildcats lost to Battlefield 2-0 in the region final on June 5.

After beating Cosby in the state semifinals, Centreville fell short in a rematch with Battlefield and finished state runner-up.

— JON ROETMAN

## SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos are welcome.

Students at **Mountain View Alternative High** have spent this school year engaged in a school-wide service learning project in which they studied the challenge of hunger in the metropolitan area and solutions to the problem, which they put into action. They held food drives for multiple shelters, spent time each week making meals for the homeless, worked with Centreville Elementary to provide food for a local homeless shelter.

**Omar I. Aminzay**, a senior from Centreville, was named to the president's list at the University of Mary Washington for the 2013-2014 academic year.

Cadets **Ryan Branch** and **Frank Healy** made the dean's list at The Citadel.

Two Fairfax County Public Schools high school students received the Cliff Hardison Youth Leadership Award, presented by the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. West Potomac High School senior **Mary Hill** and Westfield High School junior **Carolina Sosa** were recognized by UPC president Lisa Adler for their leadership roles in establishing the UPC Youth Council.

**Israel Rodriguez** has been named to the Wilkes University dean's list for the spring 2014 semester.

**Sam White** received top prize for his literary performance at the 2014 Randolph-Macon Academy Poetry Slam held on April 30, 2014.

**Valeria Diaz** was named to the dean's list at the University of New Haven for the spring 2014 semester.

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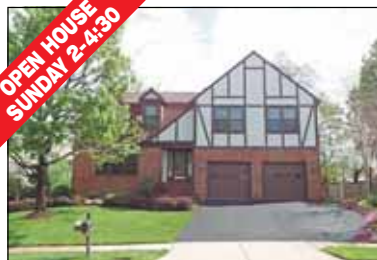


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