

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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Chantilly's Eric Latcheran and his mom, Gina, after Saturday's Knights of Columbus installation ceremony.

JULY 31 - AUGUST 6, 2014

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'Brothers, Neighbors, Friends:' The Knights of Columbus

Chantilly resident installed as officer with local Council.

By BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Eric Latcheran, 27, of Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates community, has Down syndrome. Yet his intellectual disabilities don't stop him from leading a full life.

He holds down two jobs, performs in bands, has close friends – including a girlfriend, and raises money for Best Buddies, which promotes friendships with and jobs for people with intellectual disabilities. And last Saturday, July 26, he was installed as an Outside Guard with the Knights of Columbus.

He belongs to the Father Nudd Knights Council of St. Timothy Catholic Church in Chantilly. And, while his proud family and friends beamed from the audience, that's where the installation ceremony was held after Saturday evening's Mass.

"Eric is very proud to be a Knight and to have made wonderful friends," said his mom, Gina Latcheran. "The Knights' missions of patriotism, charity, unity and fraternity have always been important to him, but now he has a Council of men to assist him in fulfilling those missions in their shared community."

The Chantilly High grad has been involved with the Knights of Columbus for quite awhile. And with their encouragement and support, he completed his first-, second- and third-degree training.

"Going to St Timothy for Mass and activities has evolved into a more meaningful community involvement for him," said Gina Latcheran. "Eric proudly displays his Knights badge, sits with his brother Knights on many occasions and greets his fellow parishioners while handing out the weekly bulletin at the end of Mass."



The newly installed Knights of Columbus officers, including the Rev. Gerald Weymes (back row, center) and Eric Latcheran (front row, far right).

charity, unity, fraternity and patriotism. These attributes are very meaningful to and for Eric and are reachable goals, now that he is a Knight."

His training at the FCPS Davis Center and now employment at Wildflour Deli and Catering in Chantilly, plus Piero's Corner Italian Restaurant in Franklin Farm, have provided him with the skills to help prepare and serve at the Council's famous pancake breakfasts and Lenten meals.

In addition, Eric Latcheran's long-time role as an ambassador for Best Buddies prepared him for greeting people and hosting St. Timothy's after-Mass refreshments. He next plans to volunteer in the church's food pantry and with its summer work camp for teens and would eventually like to do some public speaking on behalf of his Council. After all, he said, "The Knights are my brothers, my neighbors, my friends."

"Eric dresses for Mass every weekend in his Sunday best, with his badge proudly displayed on his shirt," said Gina Latcheran. "He's come to be to be recognized as a

Knight by his fellow parishioners and eagerly performs various Knightly duties alongside them. His actions speak louder than words – his respect, enthusiasm and hugs say it all."

Saturday evening, Eric Latcheran and his fellow Knights were formally installed in their new positions and recognized for the work they do to help others. As Outside Guard, he's responsible for maintaining order and security in the Council chamber. After the ceremony, Eric Latcheran said how happy he was to be a third-degree officer and that he's looking forward to a year from now when he'll "get to be a fourth-degree officer and wear a uniform."

Socially, Eric Latcheran has also discovered, much to his delight, that his Knights membership extends beyond his Council. Via the statewide organization, KOVAR, the Knights raise money to provide financial assistance for people with intellectual challenges.

KOVAR charities include Best Buddies, Special Olympics and the interPLAYcompany Band, in which Eric Latcheran performs at the Strathmore in Maryland. And, explained his mother, "That's what first attracted Eric to this fraternity of men in this parish."

Knight Brian Tumulty sponsored Eric Latcheran to join the Council. Since then,

he's been busy collecting donations through the KOVAR mission and participating in various Knights' functions.

Eric Latcheran was later nominated for the position of the Council's Inside Guard by the now new Grand Knight, Phil Bayer. And in May, he was honored as Knight of the Month within the Father Nudd Council and elected to the position of Outside Guard.

"Eric is an exemplary example of a Knight of Columbus," said past Grand Knight Jesus Cota at the ceremony. "Our mission is to serve, help and support the Parish of St Timothy Catholic Church, the local community, our nation and God through works of



Eric Latcheran (in center) collecting donations for KOVAR charities with two fellow Knights.



Knights of Columbus District 17 Deputy Bill Cinnamond (left) chats with Eric Latcheran after the ceremony while Eric's mom, Gina Latcheran, looks on.



Eric Latcheran (left) is honored as Knight of the Month by past Grand Knight Jesus Cota.

ROUNDUPS

Crime Solvers 5K Saturday

The second annual Crime Solvers 5K is set for this Saturday, Aug. 2, at 8 a.m., at the Fairfax County Government Center. The course is certified and chip-timed and is open to the public to participate. Register at <http://www.crimesolvers5k.com>. The event is a fundraiser for Fairfax County Crime Solvers, a nonprofit that's assisted local law enforcement for 35 years by providing an anonymous means for residents to report criminal information.

Celebrate with the CIF

The Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) will become a full-fledged nonprofit on Aug. 1. So it's inviting the community to attend its celebration this Thursday, July 31, from 6-7:30 p.m., at Coyote Grille in Centreville Plaza in Centreville.

There'll be a fajita-buffet dinner, music, a slide show and comments by local leaders. Make reservations by calling the Centreville Labor Resource Center, 703-543-6272, or emailing president@centrevillelrc.org. Tickets are also available at the center, 5956 Centreville Crest Lane in Centreville.

Also as part of the celebration, during the morning of Friday, Aug. 1, the first five new employers at the center will win one hour of free labor from the workers.

Farmers Market on Thursdays

Each Thursday, from 3-7 p.m., the Fairfax County Government Center hosts a farmers market in its parking lot. The Government Center is at 12000 Government Center Pkwy. in Fair Oaks, and the next markets are slated for July 31 and Aug. 7.

Stringfellow Road Lane Switch

As part of the Stringfellow Road widening project currently underway, VDOT plans to switch the existing traffic on Stringfellow Road onto the two, new southbound lanes from Fair Lakes Boulevard to Chantilly High this Friday, Aug. 1, weather permitting. So drivers are encouraged to find alternative routes on this date.

Motorists through this corridor on this day will encounter delays and temporary stoppages along Stringfellow as workmen transition traffic onto the new roadway. The whole project is scheduled to be completed in summer 2015.

Backpack Donations Needed

WFCM (Western Fairfax Christian Ministries) is collecting 2,000 new backpacks for children in need who attend schools in the Centreville, Chantilly and Westfield high school pyramids. But it needs the community's help to accomplish such a large task.

Especially needed are large backpacks. They should have at least two compartments to hold multiple books and binders and should be 18-19 inches tall, 13 inches wide and 8-10 inches deep.

The backpacks may be brought to WFCM at 13888 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (next to Papa John's Pizza), Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday, 4-7 p.m., until Aug. 13. For more information, go to www.WFCMVA.org or email jbush@wfcmlva.org.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, July 31, 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.

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NEWS



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left: Boy Scouts Skyler Chong, Alex Battani, Austin Huehn, Kyle Talley and Ian LaChapelle participated in the Safetypalooza.

Hosting Safetypalooza

Boy Scouts, professionals teach children how to avoid trouble.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to 15-year-old Boy Scout Alex Battani, several local children know more about bike, bus and fire safety, as well as avoiding strangers. A rising junior at Westfield High, he put on a Safetypalooza at the Sully District Police Station.

Also participating was police Crime Prevention Specialist Tara Gerhard, with that station, plus firefighters from the Springfield District Station and members of the Blue Suit Pacers Cycling Team.

Alex, a Life Scout with Troop 893 of Centreville



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY BATTANI

Alex Battani (on right) talks about fire safety with Fire Technician Shawn Crisp inside the Fire Department's smoke house.

United Methodist Church, plays JV football at Westfield and has a black belt in Tae Kwon Do from Highkicks in Centreville. He organized the Safetypalooza as his Eagle Scout project.

The idea came about after Alex and his dad, Bob Battani, attended a Citizens Advisory Committee meeting last year which showcased the Police Department's bomb squad and bomb-sniffing dogs. For his Eagle project, Alex thought he might build something useful for the police, such as cabinets for equipment or obstacles for the K-9s.

He met a couple times with Gerhard and with Sully District Station Commander Ed O'Carroll, who were enthusiastic about helping him. After O'Carroll mentioned that safety training for children would be a good idea, Alex decided to hold a Safetypalooza.

Since Alex knew Scouts whose parents are firefighters or have connections with the FCPS Transportation Department, he was able to obtain the Fire Department's smoke house (used for training purposes), plus information about school-bus safety. And the county Law Enforcement Foundation helped him find a bicycle club to come teach bike safety.

"The Scout leaders were amazed when Alex presented his proposal and said it was one of the most aggressive Eagle Scout projects they'd seen," said Alex's father. "We feel it was a great success and thank Capt. O'Carroll and Officer Gerhard for helping it become a reality."

At the event, held Saturday, June 21, children ages 6-10 rotated through various safety stations. "For bike safety, we told them to wear a helmet and to clean their bike so it doesn't have rusty chains," said Alex. "We also talked to them about the importance of being seen clearly at night."

On buses, he said, children were told not to yell and distract the bus driver. "We told them to stay in their seats while the bus is moving and to keep the

SEE SAFETYPALOOZA, PAGE 15

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Creative Dance Center, Pat Mitchell Unite

Spotlight Theater Camp starts Aug. 4.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

There's a new, local theater program with a familiar face at the helm. Westfield High grad and theater alumnus Pat Mitchell is partnering with Creative Dance Center (CDC) to put on Spotlight Theater Camp.

The camp will run Aug. 4-8, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at CDC, 14155-E Sullyfield Circle in Chantilly. For more information and to register, go to www.cdctheater.com. Mitchell's excited about it and is hoping for a good turnout.

"It's open to anyone, anywhere, ages 5-18," he said. "The Fairfax County-run programs wrap up, the end of July, and so does Westfield Summer Stage. So we're hoping to pick up the kids still looking for something to do at the end of summer."

Mitchell, who teaches theater arts at Holmes Middle School, is CDC's program director. He's in charge of building and guiding its theater program, which is kicking off with the theater camp.

"Then, starting this fall, we'll spend several months working toward a production,"

he said. Selected for the inaugural one is an original, children's show, "Goldilocks on Trial," written by Chantilly High Theater Director Ed Monk.

After graduating from Westfield in 2002, Mitchell obtained a bachelor's in theater at GMU, followed in 2013 by a master's in educational psychology. He's currently working on his Ph.D in education leadership, also at GMU.

He taught in Arlington County for a year and has just finished his third year at Holmes Middle in Alexandria, where his students put on a fall play and a spring musical. Mitchell teaches sixth, seventh and eighth grades and, he said, "I get to go to work every day to do something I love."

Now, with CDC – which has run a successful dance program in Chantilly since 1986 – he'll continue his community-theater career. He's done assistant directing for The Alliance Theatre and was the technical director for Westfield Summer Stage's recent production of "How to Succeed in Business without Really Trying."

In addition, Mitchell was the production manager for Synetic Theater and Classika



Pat Mitchell



PHOTOS COURTESY OF PAT MITCHELL

"Aladdin," directed by Pat Mitchell.

Children's Theatre, both in Arlington. And he performed professionally in Washington, D.C., and in Ireland with the Keegan Theatre.

Although CDC's dance program is well-known throughout the area, it wanted to broaden its offerings. "One of my co-workers saw Holmes's show, 'Aladdin,' this spring

and put me in touch with CDC President/owner Ramona Batchelder," said Mitchell. "She was interested in starting a theater program, but needed someone who could pull people in from the community."

The two met in March and the idea started taking shape. "Given the fact that I'm from

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Finally, Marriage Rights Protected in Virginia

On July 28, 2014, in affirming that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, Circuit Judge Henry F. Floyd writes:

"We recognize that same-sex marriage makes some people deeply uncomfortable. However, inertia and apprehension are not legitimate bases for denying same-sex couples due process and equal protection of the laws. Civil marriage is one of the cornerstones of our way of life. It allows individuals to celebrate and publicly declare their intentions to form life-long partnerships, which provide unparalleled intimacy, companionship, emotional support and security. The choice of whether and whom to marry is an intensely personal decision that alters the course of an individual's life. Denying same-sex couples this choice prohibits them from participating fully in our society, which is precisely the type of segregation that the Fourteenth Amendment cannot countenance."

Judge Arenda Wright Allen, on Valentine's Day, 2014, ruled that Virginia's ban on same-sex marriage is unconstitutional, writing:

"A spirited and controversial debate is underway regarding who may enjoy the right to marry in the United States of America. America has pursued a journey to make and keep our citizens free. This journey has never been easy, and at times has been painful and poignant. The ultimate exercise of our freedom is choice."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Bee Safe Neighborhoods

To the Editor:

A "Bee Safe Neighborhood" is one in which a substantial number of homeowners have committed to never use neonicotinoid pesticides, thus creating a sanctuary for honeybees and all the other creatures that co-exist with us on our properties. The "environment" is not somewhere else – the environment is right here

Our Declaration of Independence recognizes that 'all men' are created equal. Surely this means all of us. While ever-vigilant for the wisdom that can come from the voices of our voting public, our courts have never long tolerated the perpetuation of laws rooted in unlawful prejudice. One of the judiciary's noblest endeavors is to scrutinize laws that emerge from such roots.

"Plaintiffs assert that the restriction on their freedom to choose to marry the person they love infringes on the rights to due process and equal protection guaranteed to them under the Fourteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution. These challenges are well-taken. ...

"The Court is compelled to conclude that Virginia's Marriage Laws unconstitutionally deny Virginia's gay and lesbian citizens the fundamental freedom to choose to marry."

Help with Newcomers And Community Guides

Our 2014 Insider's Edition Newcomers and Community Guides, will publish the last week of August.

What tips do you have for someone getting to know your community? What do you wish you had discovered sooner?

in Northern Virginia, and we all have the ability to make this a healthy local habitat for ourselves as well as for our non-human neighbors.

Is your yard full of life, with butterflies fluttering everywhere, and frogs and insects serenading you night and day? It used to be, and it can be again. But people all over the area are reporting an alarming decrease in the numbers of butterflies, bees, crickets, cicadas, and others. The hard winter may have had an effect, but we have seen hard winters before that were not followed by a silent summer. Our

We're hoping to share the special places, activities, events, organizations, volunteer opportunities and more that make each community what it is. Tell us your favorite park; let us know what events are not to be missed. Give a shout out to organizations that do a great job. Share your best volunteer experiences. Do you have tips for navigating your PTA or your school's front office? We'd love to have your photos to go along with your suggestions.

Faith organizations, nonprofit organizations, clubs, environmental groups, advocacy groups, youth sports teams and others who offer events open to the public are invited to send a paragraph about your organization and how to get involved.

We will publish a selection of local tips along with a plethora of information useful to newcomers and long-time residents alike, including our award-winning Insiders Guide to the Parks, information on how to vote and more.

See last year's community guides by going to www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/ and scrolling down to Newcomers.

Email tips and photos to editors@connectionnewspapers.com. Send in your Insider's Tips by Thursday, Aug. 14.

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— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

windows at night used to be covered with moths that were attracted to the lights, but those disappeared years ago. Approximately a third of the honeybees in Virginia have been dying every year, creating a very big threat to our food production.

Harmful chemicals that we spread and spray are a major contributor to this wholesale slaughter. Insecticides that are intended for one type of "pest" cannot discriminate – they kill many other species as well. Nesting birds require hundreds of caterpillars per day for their babies, so if we try to protect our tomato plants with chemicals, we will be killing the birds indirectly. Spraying for mosquitoes – an unnecessary and futile exercise when all that was needed was to eliminate stagnant water – results in the wholesale death of important elements of the food chain. The worst of these chemicals are the neonicotinoids, systemic pesticides that permeate plants and turn their nectar and pollen into poison. So please do not use neonicotinoids. Ask your garden center whether they were used on the plants you plan to bring home. Better yet, don't use any type of poison outside, whether insecticide or herbicide, and plant native plants to provide food sources for invertebrates. You can read about Bee Safe Neighborhoods at <http://livingsystemsinst.org>. If you happen to live on the mid-section of Chapel Road or any of the roads that feed into it, contact takeouradvice@takeouradvice.org to indicate your commitment to avoiding neonicotinoids in the first official Bee Safe Neighborhood that is forming in Virginia.

Margaret Fisher
Clifton



By STEVEN C. ARTLEY

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Governor's Mansion, Confidential

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

When he takes the stand in his own defense, former Republican Gov. Bob McDonnell will read jurors an email that he wrote to his wife as their marriage was said to be crumbling. Describing the email to members of the jury in his opening statements, defense attorney John

Brownlee said it was written at a time when prosecutors say the couple were conspiring to sell power and influence to a wealthy Virginia businessman. Inside the Governor's Mansion, though, the two were barely on speaking terms.

"She said she hated him," said Brownlee. "She was angry that there was not enough money for their family, not enough time for her."

Defense in corruption case examines state of marriage of former Republican governor.

After a successful public career that culminated in the the governor making the short list to be a running mate for Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney in 2012, McDonnell has fallen very far very fast. He's now engaged in the fight of his life, but not on the campaign trail. This time he and his wife are facing a 14-count indictment from federal prosecutors who say the McDonnells were acting in secret to take

money and gifts in exchange for taking action to benefit Jonnie Williams, who was trying to obtain scientific testing from state officials for his nutritional supplement made from tobacco.

"This case is about the McDonnells lining their pockets with secret gifts and cash," said prosecutor Jessica Aber. "Bobs for Jobs — that's what he was supposed to do, just

SEE FORMER GOVERNOR. PAGE 8

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Creative Dance Center, Pat Mitchell Unite

FROM PAGE 5

this area, have strong ties here and believe in the abilities of the students here, it seems like a perfect fit,” said Mitchell. “We’re hoping to build this into not just theater, but a triple threat – an acting, singing and dancing group. I think there’s a high demand for this in this area.”

He plans both fall/winter and spring shows, besides the summer camp. “We want to build the students’ acting skills and confidence levels so they’ll feel comfortable getting up and performing before their peers,” he said. “They’ll focus on creating the main performance, but this program will give them more one-on-one training.”

Initially, said Mitchell, “We’ll concentrate on the base, their acting skills. My hope is that we’ll build toward doing musical performances.”

I’m really excited about it. It’s something I’m passionate about, but it’s daunting to start my own business. So I’m grateful for this opportunity with CDC and for someone putting their faith in me.”

He also emphasized that people of all ages



“Peter Pan,” directed by Pat Mitchell.

and acting levels are welcome to participate. “I feel adults in this area are underserved,” he said. “But we’ll take all comers. The more students we get, the more staff we’ll hire.”

And it’s something they’ll be able to continue, all year ’round. During the school year, classes will be held on Sundays: Ages 5-8, from 1-2:30 p.m.; ages 9-11, from 2:30-

What’s on Tap At Theater Camp

Ages 5-8: Young Actors Ensemble

Beginning Acting Techniques, Performance and Rehearsal Experience, Team Work, Communication Skills, Movement for the Actor. Bring two snacks, water and lunch. Week-long Rehearsal with Final Performance.

Ages 9-11: Junior Actors Ensemble

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Ages 12-18: Senior Actors Ensemble

Beginning, Intermediate, and Advanced Acting Techniques, Performance and Rehearsal Experience, Characterization for the Actor, Technical Theater Workshops including lighting, sound, costume, and set design, Voice and Movement for the Actor, Public Speaking Skills. Bring two snacks, water and lunch.

4 p.m.; ages 12-18, from 4:15-5:45 p.m.; and adults, from 5:45-7:15 p.m. For more information, see the Website or call 703-405-0868.

Former Governor’s Case Goes to Trial

FROM PAGE 7

not in exchange for money.”

THE CORRUPTION TRIAL of the former governor and his wife is unprecedented in Virginia politics, where commonwealth has enjoyed a reputation of relatively clean government. That is until recently. A grand jury is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the resignation of a Democratic state senator who was offered a job at the tobacco commission, the same organization that Williams was targeting in his effort to

promote Anatabloc. In his opening statement for Maureen McDonnell, defense attorney Bill Burck said the first lady of Virginia was a “true believer” in nutraceuticals and became a “favorite playmate” for Williams as her marriage fell apart.

“You will even hear evidence that she had a crush on Mr. Williams,” said Burck. “Jonnie Williams is very good at using people to get what he wants.”

If opening statements this week are any indication, Williams will be at the center of the trial as each side presents evidence to the jury. For prosecutors, he’s the star witness — the whistleblower who was given immunity from prosecution in exchange for exposing how the governor and his wife accepted \$150,000 in exchange for using the power and prestige of the Governor’s Mansion. For lawyers representing the

McDonnells he was a scheming manipulator who turned state’s evidence to keep himself out of jail.

“He thought of himself as a big fish,” said Burck. “But he knew Governor McDonnell was an even bigger fish.”

OPENING STATEMENTS offered each side an opportunity to make an initial impression with members of the jury, a way to establish a connection and make promises about evidence to come. It was also an opportunity for some moments of high

drama. The lawyer for McDonnell played two videos of the governor engaged in economic development and quoted from a book titled “Once an Eagle.” He outlined a case in which the governor’s defense will be that he was merely promoting Virginia products.

“He eats Virginia ham. He drinks Virginia wine,” said Brownlee, who once ran for attorney general. “My guess is that if he smoked, he would smoke Virginia cigarettes.”

The lawyer for Maureen McDonnell focused much of his opening statements to attacking Williams, who he said has changed his story several times. Burck compared it to an iPhone that keeps getting a new operating system. Version 1.0 was the original and unadulterated version, the one that denied wrongdoing and supposedly lied to prosecutors. Version 2.0 was when he struck a deal with prosecutors and told

“Opening statements are critical and the reason for that is it’s kind of like a first date. You only get one chance to get it right.”

— Rich Kelsey, assistant dean of the George Mason School of Law



Members of the media congregate outside the federal courthouse in Richmond.

PHOTO BY
MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

a different story. Even as the trial date approached, Burck said, Williams changed his story seven more times.

“That’s nine different versions, and each one keeps getting better for the government,” said Burck. “Which Jonnie Williams are you supposed to believe?”

PROSECUTORS SPENT their opening arguments laying out a timeline they say shows official actions were taken shortly after gifts were offered or loans were received.

In one dramatic moment, for example, Williams shows up at the Governor’s Mansion with a blank check. But Aber was also careful to manage expectations, acknowledging that prosecutors do not have one singular

piece of evidence that shows the sweep of the conspiracy case.

“No single witness will be able to tell you this entire story from soup to nuts,” said Aber. “The defendants are way too sophisticated for that.”

Legal experts say the opening statements play an important role in setting the tone for jurors and letting them know what to expect.

“Opening statements are critical and the reason for that is it’s kind of like a first date. You only get one chance to get it right,” said Rich Kelsey, assistant dean of the George Mason School of Law. “It’s about building a story that makes sense and answers their questions before they know they have questions.”

ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Art Gallery: Panolia. Through Aug. 2. 7 p.m.-midnight. at Epicure Cafe, 11104 Lee Highway, Fairfax. A collection of paintings and mixed media work by local artists, curated by The Bunnyman Bridge Collective. Free admission, one item purchase required. Visit www.epicurecafe.org or www.facebook.com/TheBunnymanBridgeCollective.

Fine Arts Open Exhibition. Through Aug. 19. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. The Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia will be opening its annual art exhibition to highlight the work of new members, staff and the community. All media will be represented, from drawing to ceramics. Entry fee is \$10 for members and \$18 for nonmembers. Contact 703 323-0880 or visit www.jccnvarts.org.

Evenings on the Ellipse Summer Concert Series. Thursdays through Aug. 28. 5:30-7:30 p.m. Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Whether you like jazz, big band, bluegrass, or Latin pop, there is sure to be something for everyone. Rain or shine. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/ellipse.htm for more.

Fairways-Fore-FREEdom. Through Sept. 1. 3 p.m. at Westfields Golf Club, 13940 Balmoral Greens Ave., Clifton. Military golf program in honor of the armed forces. Only for those with valid with military ID. \$29 - \$69. Visit www.marriottgolf.com, or call 703-631-3300.

Registration for 2014 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics. Online registration for the 2014 Northern Virginia Senior Olympics is open now. Events will take place Sept. 13-24 at 19 different venues throughout Northern Virginia. Registration forms are available at senior centers, community centers and senior residences or by calling 703 228-4721. Deadline to register is Aug. 29 by mail and Sept. 5 online. Adults 50 years of age by Dec. 30, 2014, residing in a sponsoring jurisdiction, are eligible to compete. Fee is \$12. Visit www.nvso.us for more.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

D-Day: Normandy 1944. at the Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. A movie about D-Day and those who gave their lives. Free. Visit www.si.edu/lmax/Movie/133.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

Blue Star Museums. Through Sept. 1. at more than 2,000 locations. The program provides families an opportunity to enjoy the nation's cultural heritage and learn more about their new communities after a military move. Free for Military families. Visit <http://arts.gov/national/blue-star-museums>.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Sizzlin' Sully Summer Workouts.

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7:30-8:30 a.m. and 9:45-10:45 a.m. Sully Community Center Parking lot, 5101 Sequoia Farms Drive, Centreville. A total body conditioning workout. \$10 Drop in fee, or \$90 for 10 classes. Visit www.benefitfitness.us/ for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

Fairy Tale Writing Workshop. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Learn to write a fairy tale, for children in grades 3 and 4. Call 703-502-3883.

Spectacular Science. 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science. 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 "Hare and Tortoise Race to the Moon," presented by Oliver Corwin. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center/things-to-do/story-times.cfm>.

Ask an Expert. 12:30-1 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. A discussion about "The Caudron G.4." presented by Christopher Moore. Meet at the nose of the SR-71 in the Boeing Aviation Hangar. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/ask-an-expert/#hazy> for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 31-SUNDAY/AUG. 3

4-H Fair and Carnival. Thursday and Friday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. The 66th annual 4-H fair and carnival. Thursday and Friday only, advance sales, \$18; same day sales, \$25, for unlimited carnival rides. \$1 per ride ticket, \$20 for 24 ride tickets. \$7 parking fee. call 703-437-9101 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/fryingpanpark/4-h-fair.htm for more.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

Ready for School Storytime. 2 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime program for children ready to be on their own without caregivers or siblings. Age 4-5. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 1-3

Musical Theater. Several showtimes. at The Alliance Theater, Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A production of "Shrek: The Musical." \$16. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org/ for showtimes.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

Crime Solvers 5K. 8 a.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, Fairfax. The 2nd Crime Solvers 5K race and free kids run. \$25 through July 4, \$30 after, \$35 the morning of the event. To register visit www.crimesolvers5k.com.

Plant Clinic. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Master gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice to home gardeners. 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.

Drive-in Movie. Food and children's activities 6-8 p.m., movie begins at dark. Starlight Cinema, 5860 Trinity Parkway. "Casablanca" plays at the drive-in. Watch from your car or bring blankets to lounge on. Bring a radio to listen outdoors. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance or call 703-324-8662.

SUNDAY/AUG. 3

Science Program. 1-4 p.m. at Grand Court West, Fair Oaks Mall, Lee Jackson Memorial Parkway, Fairfax. Performances and talks by Billy B., Samuel Ramsay and Pat Britz. Free. Visit www.ShopFairOaksMall.com for more.

Udvar-Hazy Center Summer Concert Series. 6-7 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. The United States Air Force Band will play a concert. Free. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/events/calendar/?month=7&year=2014> for more.

MONDAY/AUG. 4

Circus in a Suitcase. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Ringmaster Harold Wood becomes a magician, juggler, clown and more. Register each adult and child separately. Call 703-502-3883.

Writers of Chantilly. 6:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Share work and give and receive feedback in a supportive setting. Call 703-502-3883.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

A Bailar. 10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain

Drive. Latin dance and music for the whole family with Cantaré, Latin American Music. Register each adult and child separately. Call 703-830-2223.

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.

Storytime. 1:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy program with stories and activities for children age 3-5 with adult. Call 703-502-3883.

Teen Book Club. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Book discussion group for teens. Call 703-502-3883 for title.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

Books: The Magic Is Real. 10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Magician Joe Romano brings books to life. For ages 6-12. Call 703-502-3883.

Mystery Book Club. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Mystery book discussion group, call or ask for title. Call 703-502-3883.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

Small Wonders. 11 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities for children 12-23 months with adult. Call 703-830-2223.

Lego Block Party. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos provided; come show off building skills. For children in grades 3-6. Call 703-502-3883.

Music and Dance Workshop. 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library,

14200 St. Germain Drive. Learn about singing, dancing, performing, stage presence and microphone technique with the Sock Rockerz. Door prize drawing. For teens. Call 703-830-2223.

FRIDAY/AUG. 8

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.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/AUG. 8-9

TechQuest: Eye in the Sky Game. 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. A new alternate reality game that puts visitors in the role of intelligence analyst as they follow a Cold War scenario. Admission is free; parking is \$15. Visit <http://airandspace.si.edu/visit/udvar-hazy-center> for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 8-10

Musical Theater. Several showtimes. at The Alliance Theater, Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A production of "Shrek: The Musical." \$16. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org.

SATURDAY/AUG. 9

Summer Concert Series. 10-11 a.m.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

DRIVE - IN

Aug. 2 "CASABLANCA"
 Aug. 9 "DESPICABLE ME 2"
 Aug. 16 "CLOUDY WITH A CHANCE OF MEATBALLS 2"
 Aug. 23 "FROZEN"
 Aug. 30 "THE LEGO MOVIE"

Sully District Starlight Cinema
FREE! Saturday Nights in August

Gates Open at 6 p.m.
 Movie starts at dark.
 Enjoy children's games and entertainment.
 Bring a date or the whole family and watch movies on the BIG SCREEN from the comfort of your car, or outside.

5860 Trinity Parkway, Centreville, VA 20120
 For information/rain cancellation, call 703-324-SHOW (7469)
 Presented by Fairfax County Park Authority, Sully District Supervisor.
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 703-324-8563
 TTY 703-803-3354

Fairfax County Park Authority



Alan McKenzie, the Baltimore Aquarium guide for the event, leads a group through the Australia exhibit, including Boys and Girls Club members Sandra Achia, Hanny Bushura, Paola Zavala, Edwin Garcia, Eliseo Valenzuela and Mercy Grace Francisco.



The group poses outside the aquarium's STEM labs. Pictured among the hanging colorful "jelly fish" are Eliseo Valenzuela, Mercy Grace Francisco, Monica Baker, Yohana Cruz, Moises Zavala, Wonhee Kang, Paola Zavala, Brenda Zavala, Brian Delcid, Sandra Achia, Edwin Garcia, Hanny Bushura and the tour guide Alan McKenzie.

A Night at the Aquarium for Fairfax Youth

Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington members take a private overnight tour of Baltimore's National Aquarium.

BY VERONICA BRUNO
THE CONNECTION

Ten students from the Fairfax branch (Murraygate chapter) of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington got a sneak peak of Shark Week by spending the night among them at the Baltimore Aquarium at the seaport in Baltimore. They spent a "night at the museum" as part of the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) program sponsored by COX Communications last Friday, July 25. They explored the National Aquarium without the crowds and toured several behind-the-scenes labs and STEM classrooms, watched a fun 4D movie, and participated in question and answer sessions with the aquarium guides. Perhaps the biggest highlight was

viewing the sharks in the viewing tank from above.

COX Virginia funded the trip as part of its partnership with the Discovery Channel, a program that provides a preview episode of Shark Week to local children each year. The curriculum was designed to combat the academic setbacks that many students suffer when not involved with education programs over the summer. According to the National Summer Learning Association, children who are exposed to quality educational and development programs and opportunities over the summer are better prepared to return to school in the fall.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Washington provides a safe haven for youth after school and when the schools are not open. The club provides opportunities and fun activities for the students as well as mentorship programs.



Alan McKenzie, the Baltimore Aquarium guide for the event, showed the group several shark jaws and teeth in the STEM lab of the aquarium. Sandra Achia, Hanny Bushura, Monica Baker and Moises Zavala observe McKenzie's demonstration.

PHOTOS BY VERONICA BRUNO/
THE CONNECTION



Alan McKenzie points out the many hazards to fish found in the ocean. Also pictured are Moises Zavala, Yohana Cruz and Hanny Bushura.



The group also experienced a movie in 4D about salmon migration and life cycle. Seated in the front row are Moises, Brenda and Paola Zavala, Yohana Cruz, Mercy Grace Francisco, Edwin Garcia, and Eliseo Valenzuela. Seated behind them are Monica Baker, Sandra Achia and Hanny Bushura.

PEOPLE

Old Dominion Cotillion



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Debutantes and cadets gather for the Old Dominion Cotillion on Saturday, July 19, in the Washingtonian Room of the Westfields Marriott in Chantilly. This was the signature annual event of the ODC, in which debutantes officially make their entrance into Virginia society. The ODC, a philanthropic organization, was developed to promote social responsibilities and graces within the education of young women. The cadets were from Fishburne Military School in Waynesboro, Va. The school, founded in 1879, is the oldest continually operating military school in Virginia.



Debutantes and cadets dance during the Old Dominion Cotillion.



Debutantes from the Old Dominion Cotillion were escorted by military cadets in their traditional uniforms. The young women volunteered over 200 hours of service time last year to the Katherine E. Hanley Family Shelter. ODC's motto calls for "Volunteerism, Dedication, Integrity and Leadership."

Community's Help Needed for Immigrant Children

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is collecting donations for the 70 immigrant children and 15 young mothers being housed at a secure facility in Bristow while awaiting hearings. The children need health and hygiene supplies, clothing and bedding. Donations may be brought to CLRC, 5956 Centreville Crest Lane in Centreville.

Items may also be delivered during the CIF celebration at Coyote Grille on July 31, from 6-7:30 p.m. "The CIF Board encourages generosity toward the children, many of whom have fled desperate situations in their home countries," said CIF President

Alice Foltz.

Especially needed are clothing and underwear for both boys and girls, ages 7-17; white towels, twin-sized blankets, sheets and bedspreads; new pillows and personal-hygiene products including shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, lotion, deodorant, hair brushes, tooth paste and toothbrushes.

For more information call CLRC Director Roberto Fernández at 703-543-6272, Monday through Saturday, 6 a.m.-noon, or Foltz at 703-346-6030.

— BONNIE HOBBS



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY STACHYRA LOPEZ

Mary Stachyra Lopez signs copies of "Centreville and Chantilly" at the Fair Lakes Barnes and Noble on July 6.

Past and Present

Mary Stachyra Lopez's pictorial history shows area's past.

BY ELIZABETH SCHNEIDER
THE CONNECTION

When Arcadia Publishing asked journalist Mary Stachyra Lopez to compile a pictorial history of Centreville and Chantilly, Stachyra Lopez jumped on the opportunity. Arcadia Publishing had been "looking for someone to write [the book.] The main reason they probably reached out to me, they probably figured I would know people. I guess in reporting you get to know people. As it happened, I was interested in local history," said Stachyra Lopez.

"Centreville and Chantilly" connects Centreville's and Chantilly's past with the present primarily through photographs, but also through choice of contributors. Eric Cox and Gina Richards, owners and founders of Cox Farms, wrote the book's foreword at Stachyra Lopez' request as she thought they were in a unique position to "connect Centreville and Chantilly's farming past, provide a link to present day."

Due to the photographic focus of the book, the book begins with the Civil War. Centreville and Chantilly both had beginnings before the war, when "photography wasn't common."

The photos were obtained from a variety of sources including local personal collections, as well as Fairfax County Public Library and Library of Congress collections. The majority of Stachyra Lopez' time was spent looking for pictures in the Library of Congress' Digital Archives and "many, many hours" were spent at Fairfax County Public Library.

There were times when Stachyra Lopez had difficulties with the project. For one, Stachyra Lopez found she couldn't include many of the pictures she found due to issues concerning rights and file sizes.

There were other difficulties too: "There were definitely some periods where ... I was like, oh my gosh, this is the hardest things I've ever done. There were definitely points where I may have even wished I hadn't signed up to do it," said Stachyra Lopez. "It's the kind of thing where you

just have to get over the hump."

As a professional writer, graduate of City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism and graduate of Benedictine College, getting over "the hump" is a fairly familiar process for Stachyra Lopez. Even while Stachyra Lopez was growing up in Essex, Ill.,

Stachyra Lopez had dreams of becoming a writer, an actress or the president. The first dream came true.

While Stachyra Lopez was in high school, she would often write short stories and get "frustrated" about finishing them.

Susan Mitchell, one of Stachyra Lopez's high school teachers, helped fine-tune her writing skills. "[Ms. Mitchell] pushed me really hard ... She had almost completed her PhD in English ... [she was] keen on grammar, fleshing out paragraphs," Stachyra Lopez said. She added that Mitchell gave "the dose of confidence that a high school student needs. I

definitely think that influenced me."

Nowadays, between work and family, Stachyra Lopez keeps herself busy. Stachyra Lopez is married to Mauricio Lopez, and has a flat-coated retriever named Molly. She works with the Catholic Herald and Awwproject.

"Centreville and Chantilly" is available for purchase through several retailers including Arcadia Publishing, Amazon, Barnes and Noble and local Walgreens. Mary Stachyra Lopez will be signing copies of her book on Saturday, Aug. 2 from 1-3 p.m. at the Chantilly Costco, 14390 Chantilly Crossing Lane.



Pictured are the Virginia Run all-stars: (bottom) Skyla Davidson, Sarah Boyle, Didi Pace, Mia Newkirk, Leo Wang, Geoffrey Eisenhart, Anthony Arcomona, (top) Coach Darwin, Maddie Whitton, Olivia Masterson, Jason Cheifetz, and Charles Beamon.

Virginia Run Hosts Divisionals

The morning was cool, but the pool at Virginia Run yielded sizzling hot performances as the top swimmers of the six teams in NVSL Division 6 set 27 team records and three NVSL records at the divisionals meet July 26.

The traffic along Route 29 and Pleasant Valley was heavier than usual as more than 350 swimmers, their families, and coaches traveled to Centreville from all corners of Fairfax County to finish their summer swim season.

Virginia Run was represented by 64 swimmers who posted 76 personal bests, and set seven Riptide records. Geoffrey Eisenhart (13-14) broke a 15-year-old record for the freestyle with a 27.30. Mia Newkirk (15-18) broke her own backstroke record with a 30.32 and an 11-year-old record for the individual medley at 1:07.42. Olivia Masterson (11-12) broke

her breaststroke record for the second week in a row with a 37.34. Leo Wang (13-14) also broke his own breaststroke record with a blistering 30.90 and at the same time set a new NVSL record. Anthony Arcomona (11-12) broke both the fly and IM marks he already held with a 30.16 and 1:10.12 respectively.

Eleven swimmers from the Riptide posted times that qualified them to swim at the upcoming NVSL all-star meet. Charles Beamon (8U), Jason Cheifetz (9-10), Maddie Whitton (9-10), Anthony Arcomona (11-12), Olivia Masterson (11-12), Geoffrey Eisenhart (13-14), Leo Wang (13-14), Sarah Boyle (13-14), Didi Pace (13-14), Skyla Davidson (15-18), and Mia Newkirk (15-18) will join the elite swimmers of Northern Virginia as they compete at Annandale Pool on Saturday, Aug. 2.

The Riptide received the Division 6 championship trophy at Saturday's divisional meet and celebrated their memorable, undefeated season at the team banquet luncheon on Sunday.

Introducing Fall SYA Volleyball

BY DAVID LACEY
SYA VOLLEYBALL COMMISSIONER

SYA Volleyball completed its 17th year this past June. In those 17 years it has provided volleyball in the spring (March-June) to boys and girls in the 4th-12th grades in the western part of Fairfax County (Centreville, Clifton and Chantilly areas). Over those years it has continued to provide its House League play in the spring and has expanded that play to include a higher level travel league drawing teams from throughout Northern Virginia. About 10 years ago it added a club program for the highest skill level players. The club teams participate from late November to early June.

In its years of providing volleyball it has seen numerous SYA players go on to play for their high schools and colleges.

However, the focus of the program will always be to introduce children to the sport and try and make it one that they will enjoy for their whole life.

We rely a great deal on high school age coaches coaching younger players/teams during our spring league. This gives them a chance to teach others a sport they truly love and at the same time the younger players relate better to someone close to their age. Over

the years numerous former players, who have gone on to college and come back to the area, are now volunteering to coach a team or a clinic that we offer. It truly shows that the program is achieving its goal of providing a sport that the player will enjoy and hopefully give back to others.

The program provides an annual scholarship in memory of Courtney Richard. She was a former student and volleyball player who attended Chantilly High School and regrettably passed away in her Junior Year. She played for SYA Volleyball for several years.

The scholarship has been given to a graduating high school senior who has demonstrated a love of the sport, school service and community service.

This year's recipient is Meghan Pollard of Centreville High School.

Over the 17 years of its existence the program has not only provided a spring league, but clinics/camps throughout the rest of the year. These clinics/camps have been well attended since they have been designed to do two things.

One is to introduce those children who have never played the sport the opportunity to learn enough skills to see if they would enjoy playing the sport in the spring season, as well as, enhancing the skill of those players who want to make their high school and club teams when they have their tryouts.

Over the years we have had hundreds of players attend these clinics/camps to learn the sport and go on to play for their high school and club teams.

Over the years, players and parents have asked SYA Volleyball; why don't you have a fall league? It took us 17 years, but we finally did hear you and this fall (September-November) we are offering a fall league level. The fall league is planned to be on the same format as the spring league. No weekend play and one practice night and one game night during the week. You can find more information about the fall league at syasports.org and click on volleyball.

SYA Volleyball has made numerous changes to its program over the years and will continue to do so to make it better for both the players and parents. Its hope is that the fall league will be just another change that continues to meet what the players and parents are asking it to do.

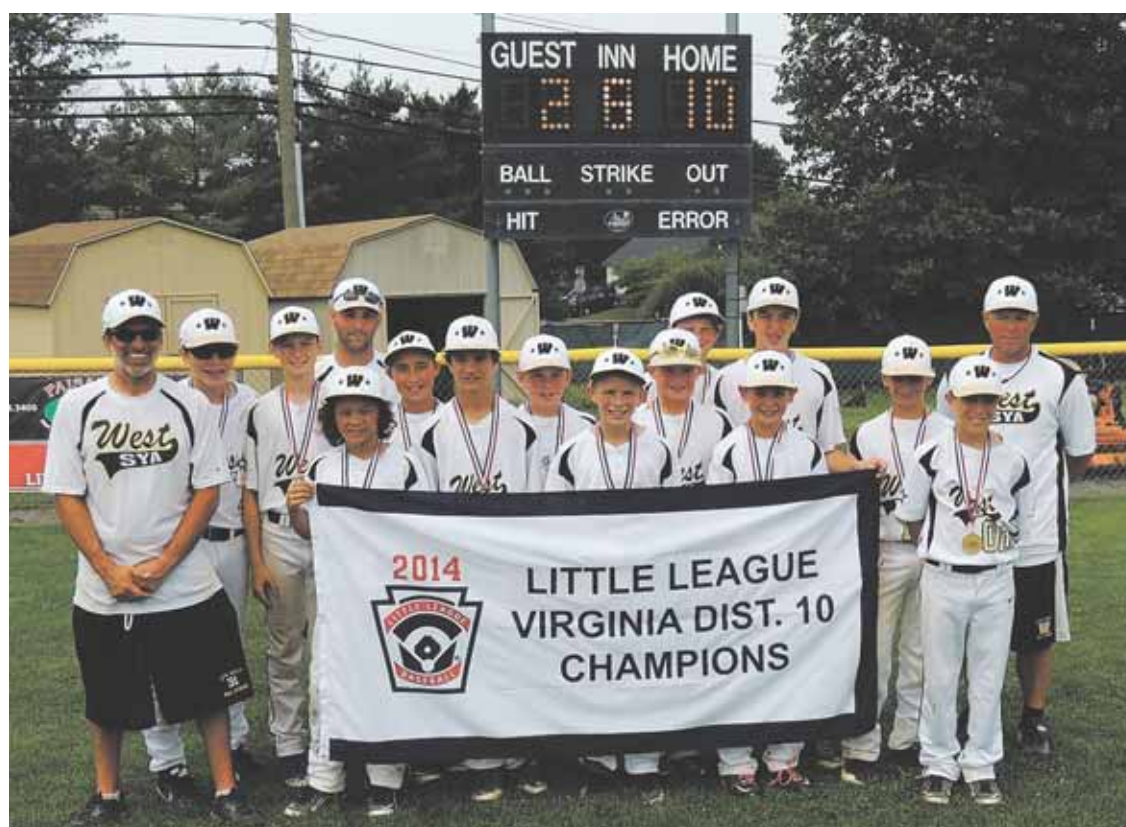


PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

District 10 Crown

The SYA West Little League 11/12 year old All-Stars captured the District 10 crown after a 10-2 victory against SYA East in the championship game. SYA West went 4-0 in pool play and then went on to beat Chantilly National in the semi-finals 17-0 before winning the championship against SYA East on Monday, July 14, at Cub Run Elementary. SYA West is managed by John Leo, with assistant coaches Seth Blee and Steve Hoad.



Martin Stefanov on his way to work at a neighborhood pool from the apartment he shares with other lifeguards in Kingstowne.



PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Victoria Tshacheva and Martin Stefanov from Bulgaria with bikes supplied by Continental Pools, their sponsor company.

Foreign Nationals Immersed in Local Lifeguarding

For some, it starts out on two wheels.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Every day, Vasyl Smolii uses two different routes when he bikes to and from work at the Belle View pool in Alexandria. Coming down the hill on Belle View Boulevard is an easy ride in the morning but going back up in the evening is not as easy on the bicycle Smolii rents from his sponsor High Sierra Pools, an Arlington-based pool management company.

"I must buy this bike for the summer," said 19-year-old Smolii from Ukraine.

For Martin Stefanov and Victoria Tshacheva, the bikes are their transportation this summer as well. In the evenings, six bikes are parked on the first floor patio of the apartment they share in Kingstowne with other lifeguards who are also from Europe.

This is Stefanov's second year lifeguarding; Tshacheva heard about his adventures last year while they were attending Sofia University in Sofia, Bulgaria. Tshacheva is studying public relations.

"This country is much different, you can see different cultures, a lot of people from the whole world, you can learn a lot of stuff," she said. Riding bikes to work was one of those things she is learning. Biking in Bulgaria "is not so popular," she said, but she may continue when she goes back. "I will ride the bike in my country, I think so," she said.

At the EOS Twenty One apartment complex in the Landmark area of Alexandria there are two pools, one manned by a pair of 20-somethings from Poland, and the other by twin sisters Irina and Olha Shemchuk, also from Ukraine. These lifeguards, who went through U.S. Aquatics for

their summer jobs, don't ride bikes to work. The pair from Poland are staying in an apartment with three other lifeguards close enough to EOS to walk to work, and for the Shumchuk sisters, "our driver picks us up every day," said Irina Shemchuk.

Transportation is one of the concerns of Doug Winkler, owner of Winkler Pool Management Inc., with an office in Springfield. They employed 260 lifeguards from various countries this year, such as Ukraine, Serbia, Turkey, Jordan, Bulgaria, Azerbaijan, Dominican Republic, China, Slovakia, Russia, Poland, Egypt and Kazakhstan. The Winkler lifeguards either walk, use public transportation, have drivers like the Shemchuk sisters, or use bikes that Winkler supplies for a deposit.

Winkler, who lifeguarded when he was a teen, remembered his years on the lifeguard chair as a "great job," but noted that "the desire is not there in American kids anymore, they don't want to work." Lifeguards from overseas want to travel and experience the United States as well as earn some money.

All of the lifeguards get training in their home countries and another course here before starting. According to High Sierra Pools, which has job fairs in the U.S. and internationally, "All of our representatives are former lifeguards to give you the inside scoop," on the job, according to its website. "High Sierra works with U.S. visa sponsors to promote our jobs with the help of partner agencies worldwide."

Communicating in English is key. For EOS lifeguards Weronica Mikoljczyk and Agnieszka Kaczmarek from Poland, this is their second summer lifeguarding in the U.S. Before starting, they were interviewed via Skype to get a sample of their dialect, and "the tests are in English," said Kaczmarek. Smolii's English has improved since Memorial Day, but "when I arrived, I had very bad English," he said.

Kaczmarek was a swimming coach in Poland, so she gives some of the children at



Victoria Horbenko from Ukraine holds on to a float and scans the pool in Fairfax.

EOS swimming lessons "before it opens," in the morning. Mikoljczyk was a lifeguard on a lake close to Poznan, a city in Poland, and both know synchronized swimming which they also share with the children at the pool. "I love kids," said Kaczmarek, and the "kids love us," added Mikoljczyk.

Over at Belle View, Smolii had to rely on his training early on this summer, rescuing a resident in distress. "My first week, a woman at Belle View was swimming and got a cramp. I jumped in with my rescue tube, take her shoulder," he said, reenacting the procedure. Smolii is with High Sierra, and they check his lifeguarding skills every month, he said.

ALTHOUGH MOST of the lifeguards work long days that stretches to more than 40 hours a week, they do find time to enjoy their American experience. Smolii went to Ocean City, Md. with another lifeguard and experienced the ocean and eating crabs for

the first time. The craballet techniques was tough to master at first and he ending up splattering crab all over him until "waiters showed us the correct way," he said.

Stefanov took a day trip to New York City for a fellow lifeguard's birthday. "It was amazing," he said.

For another Ukrainian, Victoria Horbenko, a lifeguard in Ellipse at Government Center off Lee Highway, her summer at poolside is "like a student exchange, to get new experience," she said.

The lifeguards are hot and cold to American food. Stefanov and Tshacheva in Kingstowne try to eat healthy and "cook a lot in our apartment," said Tshacheva, noting that her father in Bulgaria "cooks, it's the most delicious food," she said. She's familiar with the obesity trend in this country. For the twin sisters, the "food here is very bad," said Olha Shemchuk, "too many sweets." Her sister Irina is not a fan of American bread. "Your bread is not bread," she said.

There are still community pools that only hire teenagers from the neighborhood for the lifeguard positions such as Hunt Valley pool in Springfield. According to manager Lauren Blackburn, "We all live right here."

Hunt Valley lifeguard Luke Chapman, 17, went to a class to become a pool operator and noticed "they were all Eastern European," he said.

Winkler noted that being in the community they grow up in has advantages, as when he was a teen and "many evenings, some of the pool patrons would bring me dinner." On the other hand, being in charge is a hard sell to friends. "It's tough for them to be disciplinary," he said.

The summer abroad is making an impression on Tshacheva. "Here we are so separate from our life in Bulgaria. It will be so different when we go back," she said.

For Olha Shemchuk, 19, she might give it another summer, after she turns 21 so she can go dancing and clubbing. "We are young," she said.

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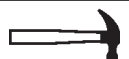
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"CanSir"

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



When it comes to being a cancer patient, even more so a multi-year cancer survivor, I have always erred on the side of caution. And by caution, I mean being respectful to the disease, courteous of its comings and goings, mindful of its potential damage and afraid of its intangibles. And by intangibles, I mean the unexplained and the inexplicable, and most fearfully, its power and unpredictability. Therefore, my behavior toward it has been intended to be as polite as possible; never to be perceived – in any way imaginable – as arrogant, presumptuous, in control, all-knowing and most especially, victorious.

My philosophy has been to remain as positive as I could, never buying into the generally unfavorable statistical models, while taking any success I've had as much in stride as humanly possible. Moreover, to the extent these successes have prolonged my life – and of course they have, considering the original "13 month to 2 year" prognosis I was given back in late February, 2009 – I still want to maintain a low profile and never boast or speak loudly, and never confidently, about the amazing good fortune I've experienced since I was diagnosed as "terminal" five years and exactly five-months-to-the-day ago (27th of the month). I've always worried that the reason I've survived is that somebody (some entity) somewhere made a mistake in their accounting and skipped over my name, sort of like a reverse typo. Irrational I suppose; nevertheless, I see no advantage in rocking the boat and/or bringing any attention to the fact that yours truly is still very much alive; flying under the radar is my preferred route.

Granted, I do write about this fact and I do bring attention to it, but not out of any need for self-aggrandizement. I do it because if I didn't, I'd probably be much less able to endure under my circumstances. Apparently, the need to express myself publicly is too overwhelming to deny. And thanks to my Publisher, Mary Kimm, I have had and continue to have the means, motivation and opportunity to do so/share my feelings about life as a cancer patient/survivor; hardly a crime. But never have I written any words because I matter in the discussion; rather because the subject (cancer) matters. And since I've been able to do so in a relatively quiet, honest and positive manner – never intending to be the story, only the storyteller – my life, my pursuit has continued.

Certainly I realize, as an originally-characterized-as-terminal cancer patient, that I'm up against an immovable object, generally speaking; still, statistics do have a margin of error, and human beings do have an immeasurable desire to live. Yet living to one's ripe old age is hardly guaranteed, as I've learned all too well. Accordingly, as you regular readers know, I've made many changes in my life, incorporating a variety of anti-cancer remedies into my daily routine, and so far, so great. What you may not have known, however, is how I've actually lived my life while changing. I have done so by always being grateful for the gift of life I have received and reverential to the powers that be. What I've done, I could not have done alone and elevating myself would seem to be the definition of counter-productive.

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

Safetypalooza Held at Sully Station

FROM PAGE 4

aisle clear," said Alex. "We said, 'Don't run to the bus stop, and make sure the bus driver can see you when you cross in front of the bus.'"

The Scouts were able to use the smoke house because Scout Austin Huehn's father is a firefighter at the Springfield fire station. "It simulates smoke inside of a house, and two firefighters taught the kids how to get out of it safely," said Alex. "They also learned not to touch anything hot, like door handles, to try to climb through a window and to stop, drop and roll." Gerhard taught them about stranger-danger. "She told the kids not to accept things from people they don't know, without asking their parents," said Alex. "Don't talk to strangers and know who your trusted adults are, such as parents, relatives and neighbors." She taught the children not to go anywhere, such as an alleyway, that doesn't seem safe, and never to get into a car with a stranger. "They also learned what to say when a stranger confronts them," said Alex. "They should say no, walk away and tell a trusted adult."

Overall, he said, the event "really went well. It was a good way for kids to get this information all in one place and in a couple hours."

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 4

Enjoy Sully's Starlight Cinema

The 10th year of Sully District Starlight Cinema is about to kick off with five, free, family-friendly, drive-in movies. They'll be presented on Saturday evenings in August at 5860 Trinity Parkway in Centreville. Gates open at 6 p.m.

The evening will begin with music, food and children's activities provided by New Life Christian Church. Then, at dark, the movies will start.

People may watch movies on the big screen from the comfort of their cars; or if they want a canopy of stars overhead, they may sit in a designated area in front of the screen.

The schedule is as follows: Aug. 2, "Casablanca;" Aug. 9, "Despicable Me 2;" Aug. 16, "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs 2;" Aug. 23, "Frozen," and Aug. 30, "The Lego Movie."

If there's a threat of bad weather, call 703-324-SHOW after 6 p.m. for cancellation updates. For more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances.

Host a WFCM Food Drive

WFCM needs the community's help over the summer months when it has a critical shortage of food.

"For instance, of the 24 schools that we serve, one has over 900 students who count on free and reduced lunches during the school year," said WFCM Community Out-

reach Manager Jennie Bush. "This creates a financial strain on families looking for food help."

But she said local residents can make a tremendous difference by hosting a food drive with their sports team, camp, swim team or place of employment. To arrange a food drive for WFCM, contact the organization's summer intern, Annie Cecil, at intern@wfcma.org.

How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home remodeling or maintenance project. And local residents who'd like to hire a worker from the CLRC may do so easily. Either call 703-543-6272 or go to www.centrevilleLRC.org and click on the "How to Hire" link. Tell what kind of work is required, how many workers are needed and when.

The CLRC will match the needs to its registered workers' skills and set up the job. The price for work will be negotiated. After the job is completed, employers are encouraged to provide the CLRC with feedback to ensure that the work was done well and to their satisfaction and to make sure the workers are fairly paid.

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. (WFCM clients cannot purchase toiletries with food stamps).

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. 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@wfcma.org.

Citizens Police Academy

People interested in law enforcement and who'd like to learn about the Fairfax County Police Department and meet many of those who serve in it may now do so. They may apply to join the Sept. 11-Nov. 15 session of the Citizens Police Academy. It's a free, 10-week program put on by the Police Department and is open to people who live or work in this county.

Participants complete some 40 hours of learning to gain a better understanding of and appreciation for police via a combination of lectures, tours and hands-on activities. Topics covered include the 911 Call Center, patrol, traffic stops, Adult Detention Center, gangs, financial crimes and SWAT team.

To apply, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/citizens-police-academy.htm> or email CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov.



Group shot of Safetypalooza attendees, Scouts and Fairfax County fire and police personnel.

PHOTO COURTESY OF KATHY BATTANI

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

VIRGINIA TAX HOLIDAY

Families in Virginia will get a **sales tax break** on clothes and supplies for school when the state holds its annual Virginia tax holiday, Aug. 1-3. To be eligible for the tax break, school supply items must be priced at \$20 or less, and clothing and footwear must be priced at \$100 or less. Visit www.tax.virginia.gov/ for a complete list of eligible school supplies and clothing items.

SUMMER MEALS FOR CHILDREN

Fairfax County Public Schools will participate in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's summer food service program for children who qualify for free and reduced lunches during the school year. Free meals that meet federal nutrition guidelines will be provided to children at approved sites throughout Fairfax County. To find a location, contact the FCPS Office of Food and Nutrition Services at 703-813-4800.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents can now "e-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/

recycling/electric-sunday.htm.

THURSDAY/JULY 31

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/AUG. 1

Panther Pints Blood Drive. 2:30-7 p.m. at Apostle Catholic Church, 6720 Union Mill Rd., Clifton. Photo ID required. Visit inova.org/donateblood to register. Use sponsor code 8044. Call 1-866-BLOODSAVES for more.

Pet Calendar. Submit a photo of a pet to us.petvalu.com for a chance to have its picture in the 2015 calendar. Resolution must be 2200 pixels wide at 72 dpi. Minimum file size is 1MB. Photos must be horizontal, in color and in .jpg format. Calendars on sale in mid October for \$5. All proceeds go to support groups that help put a stop to animal cruelty. Visit us.petvalu.com for more.

SATURDAY/AUG. 2

eBook Help. 2 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/AUG. 4

Special Needs Workshop. 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, The HUB - Building 56, Fairfax. For brothers and sisters of children with special needs: Unique Concerns, Unique Opportunities. Free. Visit

fcps.edu/cco/prc/resources/events.
ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/AUG. 5

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 6

Transportation Job Fair. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Stonecroft Transportation Center, 4641 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Fairfax County Public Schools is hosting a job fair to recruit new bus drivers. Starting pay is \$18.52 per hour plus benefits. Call 571-423-3023 for information about the fair or visit www.fcps.edu/hr/employment/jobs to apply for a position as a bus driver.

THURSDAY/AUG. 7

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

SATURDAY/AUG. 9

ESL Book Club. 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call 703-502-3883.

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. at the Centreville Regional

Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

MONDAY/AUG. 11

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/AUG. 12

English Conversation Group. 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

THURSDAY/AUG. 14

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with other students. Call 703-502-3883.

eBook Help. 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Get eBook questions answered. Bring a tablet or digital reader and library card. Call 703-502-3883.

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. "Battle of the Crater/Petersburg, July 1864" by NPS Ranger Emmanuel Dabney. Call 703-830-2223.

MONDAY/AUG. 18

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call 703-830-2223.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

at E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. The band Rocknoceros provides family fun for children of all ages. Free. Call 703-631-0013 for more.

Kaleidoscope Adaptive Storytime.

10:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories, songs and movement in a welcoming atmosphere for children of all ages on the autism spectrum and with other developmental challenges. Call 703-502-3883.

Plant Clinic.

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

Thriving Three to Fives.

10:30 a.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories and activities for children ages 3-5 with adult. Call 703-830-2223.

Drive-in Movie.

Food and children's activities 6-8 p.m., movie begins at dark. Starlight Cinema, 5860 Trinity Parkway. "Despicable Me 2" plays at the drive-in. Watch from your car or bring blankets to lounge on. Bring a radio to listen outdoors. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances or call 703-324-8662.

MONDAY/AUG. 11

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.

American Giants of Science. 2:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet America's most famous inventors and see them come to life onstage with Bright Star Theatre. Ages 6-12. Call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/AUG. 12

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.

Spectacular Science. 2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Explore the secrets of fireworks, bubbles and more with Mad Science. For ages 6-12. Call 703-502-3883.

Magic and Mayhem. 4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Sci-fi and fantasy book discussion group for students in grades 6-8. Call 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/AUG. 13

Read, Build, Play Duplo Storytime. 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Duplo play storytime to help develop early literacy skills. Age 18-35 months with adult. 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.

Book Discussion Group. 7:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. For adults, call for title. Call 703-502-3883.

CENTREVILLE

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

The Anglican Church of the Ascension



Traditional Anglican Services
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1940 Hymnal

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many peoples, one body

We invite YOU to come connect with God this Sunday.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES
9:15 am Celebration Service
11:00 am Contemporary Service

COMMUNITY GROUPS
Sundays at 8:00, 9:15 & 11:00 am

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Centreville
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