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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Centreville's Alan Rems
holds his book,
"South Pacific Cauldron."

SEPTEMBER 11-17, 2014

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



SORRY MOM Your Overwhelming Schedule **JUST GOT WORSE** Thanks to Supervisor Michael Frey

Fairfax school's half-day Mondays were stressful for parents:

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The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors was giving parents a break by funding full-day Mondays for students. But now Supervisor Michael Frey is saying he won't let full-day Mondays get "shoved down our throats."



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Check the Facts:

1. "Fairfax full-day Mondays meeting ends with tense exchange on funding," *Washington Post*, September 3, 2014

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ROUNDUPS

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 Sept. 11 and Sept. 18.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Sept. 11, 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.

WFCCA Land-Use Committee

An application for a home daycare is on tap for the next meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee. It's slated for Tuesday, Sept. 16, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., in Chantilly.

Helping 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.

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.

Meet the Congressional Candidates

A Congressional Candidates Night will be held Monday, Sept. 22, at 7:30 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. It's jointly sponsored by the Sully District Council of Citizen Associations, League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, AARP VA and Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia.

10th District

- ❖ Dianne Blais (IG) (Confirmed)
- ❖ Barbara Comstock (R) (Invited)
- ❖ Brad A. Eickholt (I) (Confirmed)
- ❖ John Foust (D) (Confirmed)
- ❖ William Redpath (L) (Confirmed)

11th District

- ❖ Gerry Connolly (D) (Will Send Proxy)
- ❖ Joe Galdo (G) (Confirmed)
- ❖ Marc Harrold (L) (Confirmed)
- ❖ Suzanne Scholte (R) (Confirmed)

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of canned vegetables (except for green beans), canned pasta and pasta sauces, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, peanut butter, canned and dry beans, and granola bars.

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. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

NEWS



PROPOSED MEMORY CARE HOME, THE ARBORS OF CHANTILLY, VIRGINIA

An artist's rendition of the assisted-living facility proposed for construction in Chantilly.

Assisted-living Facility Opposed

Issue heads to Planning Commission next week.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In general, assisted-living facilities for people with Alzheimer's and dementia are seen positively. But a proposal to build one in Chantilly has residents of the nearby neighborhood united in opposition.

They aired their concerns at a recent meeting of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association (WFCCA) Land-Use Committee. And they'll get to do so again next week when the county Planning Commission considers the issue on Sept. 18.

"We welcome them to the area, but we want their traffic to stay out of our neighborhood to get to the only stoplight to get onto Route 50," said Chantilly Estates resident Mark Lowe. "And there's no way they can guarantee that. It's an old-time neighborhood with narrow streets where only one car can pass at a time, including school buses."

Because of the growing need for a "memory-care home" as the number of senior citizens in the county continues to rise, Artisan Land Group LLC chose this area to build The Arbors of Chantilly.

It would be at 13622 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, off Downs Drive which runs alongside a gas station on Route 50 west. And since assisted-living facilities require a special-exception permit, Artisan's pursuing one from the county.

The six-and-one-half-acre site is zoned residential and is currently a vacant lot. Planned is a one-story, residential-looking building facing Route 50. Traffic counts for this 48-unit facility are projected to be less than if that site were developed with the 13 homes that could be constructed on it by right.

Attorney Scott Adams, representing the applicant, said there'd be 35 parking spaces and 20 staff members maximum on site at the same time. "There's an



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Attorney Scott Adams, representing the applicant, answers a question from Jim Hart.

existing bus stop across Route 50 with a crosswalk," he said. "So we're proposing an 8-10-foot-wide trail along the property's frontage from the bus stop to Downs Drive, a sidewalk along Downs and a pathway to the front entrance."

Regarding vehicle access to the site, there's a traffic signal at Chantilly Road, but VDOT won't allow a direct curb cut onto Route 50. "So to mitigate folks coming through the adjacent neighborhood, we've proposed a plan to direct employees and deliveries not to travel through there," said Adams. "People will be directed by a sign telling them to turn left out of the site, to Route 50, instead of right, through the neighborhood."

Overall, he said, "We think this facility's really going to be an asset to the community. Every 67 seconds in the U.S., someone's diagnosed with dementia."

WFCCA Land-Use Chairman Jim Katcham asked about the patient-to-staff ratio, and Artisan President

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Neighbors Opposed to Assisted-living Facility

FROM PAGE 3

and owner Sean Ambrose said there'd be six to eight patients per staff member. But, he added, "That'll fluctuate, according to the acuity of the patients' conditions and how many are there." He said there'd be no more than 54 patients.

"If somebody's coming [on Route 50] from Loudoun County, do they make a U-turn to get there?" asked At-Large Planning Commissioner Jim Hart. Adams said they'd turn left on Chantilly Road and use the service road, or come down to the median break and make a U-turn.

"Most people will come from a 5- or 6-mile radius, but some will come from 10-12 miles away," said Ambrose. He also noted that some of the patients will be people who've moved away, but returned because their children live here.

But these details didn't sit well with the Chantilly Estates residents. "Signs and calming things in the road won't be of any use to keep drivers out of there," said Mary Lowe, who lives on Chantilly Road.

"We're not trying to stop the project," said neighbor Michael Vita. "But we want assurances that the service trucks won't use our streets, because we have kids playing there all the time. There's no way a service truck could use the service road."

Adams said the applicant would make it

a development condition. "We're serious about keeping employees and service trucks out of your neighborhood," he said. "Otherwise, they'll lose their service contracts. You have our commitment in writing. And we'll ask VDOT to put up 'No through truck traffic' signs on Chantilly Road and Downs Drive."

Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger said he and Hart have both driven there and "what the residents are saying is 100-percent correct." He suggested that motorists violating the agreement not to drive in their neighborhood be fined. "We don't want trucks driving down there with kids playing," he said. "It's too dangerous."

Adams said they'd specify enforcement provisions in the paperwork. "Whether it's a trash truck, food-service vehicle or linen delivery, we could talk to their supervisors, if they don't listen," added Ambrose. "We want to be a good neighbor."

Alice Lowe asked how construction trucks would enter the site while the facility was being built. "We can control that," replied Ambrose. "They'll be required to come in and out of it through Route 50 west and turn right onto Downs Drive and directly onto the site."

But resident Cary Paley was still worried. "School buses can't pass each other on our streets, and they're coming through," he

said. "There's a long traffic light to get onto Route 50 and not enough space for drivers to back up on Chantilly Road."

Katcham asked about the anticipated traffic volume, and Ambrose said the facility will be very small. "None of the residents [patients] will drive and maybe 10 staff members will be driving," he said. "We'll do most of the laundry on site. The biggest deliveries are food, and they're box trucks."

Adams said staff traffic would be split up among three shifts and traffic volume would be very low, with "rush-hour counts in the teens."

But Vita said it would be double the current amount of neighborhood traffic. And with drivers going to and from the nearby gas station, added Mark Lowe, "That's a lot of traffic."

The WFCCA deferred its decision on the project that evening. But at its Aug. 19 meeting, the members voted to recommend approval to the Planning Commission, subject to an OK by Fairfax County staff. Additionally, said Katcham, "It was the view of the committee that such a facility will fill a significant need in the Sully District and Fairfax County."

Nonetheless, the nearby community is still upset at the prospect, and the residents also object to having the facility's entrance off of Downs Drive. "We have kids who catch the bus on corners without sidewalks," said

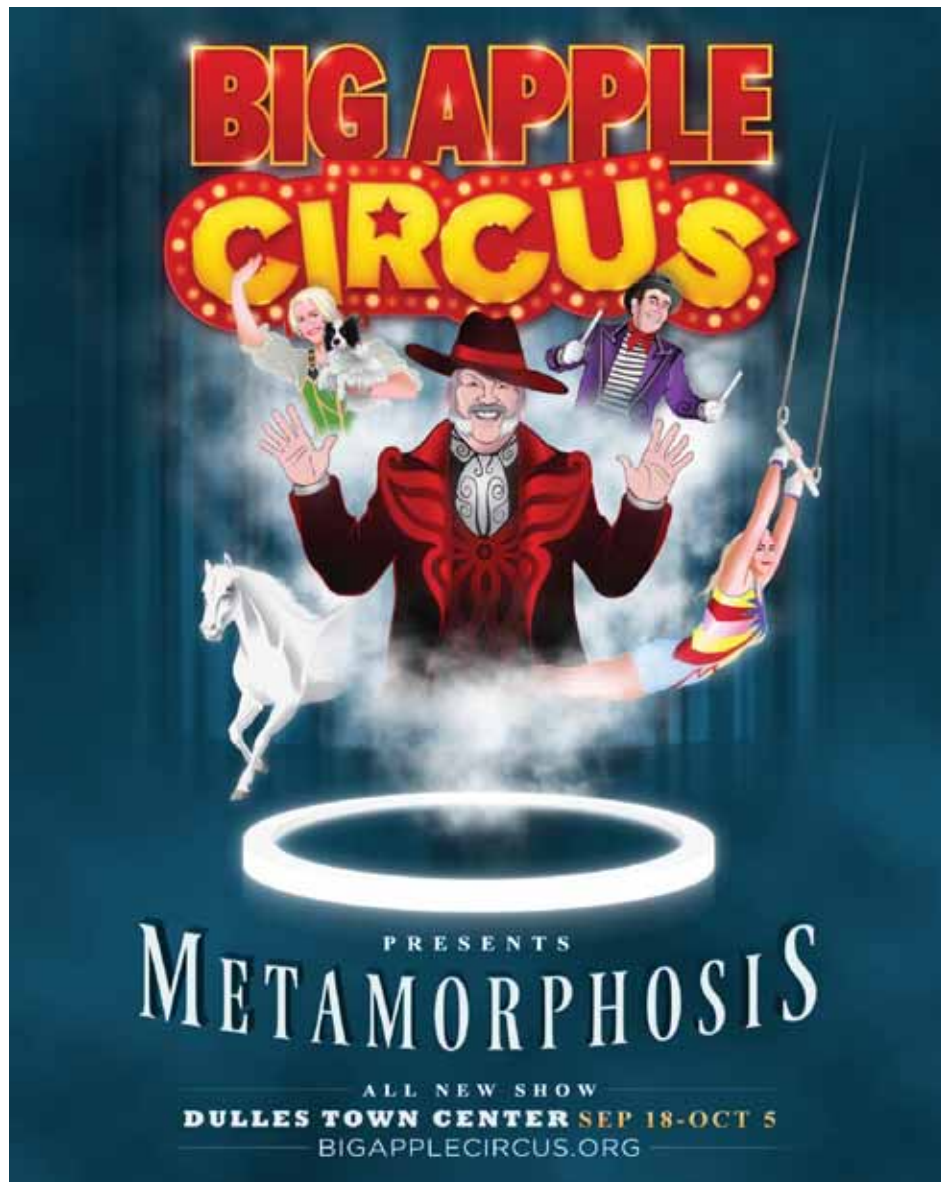
Lori Whetzel. "We have a man in a motorized wheelchair. While coming home [recently], I had to stop in a driveway so the UPS man could go around the corner."

With the memory-care home, she said, "We feel the driving situation is going to be quite a bit worse than we're being led to believe."

The community has 54 homes, and its residents have signed a petition opposing the project and its potential traffic implications for their neighborhood. "It's been signed by all homeowners except the neighbor who had a hand in brokering the deal for the property," said Whetzel.

The petition also raises another concern, contending that such a use located right next to a busy, major highway such as Route 50 is "inappropriate, regardless of what the developers represent their safety mitigations [to] be." Noting that sometimes, mentally challenged people walk away from such facilities, it stated that this possibility so near a highway "should be a concern to all."

Several neighbors have already signed up to speak at the Sept. 18 Planning Commission meeting. And, said Whetzel, "We've met as a neighborhood and are in agreement that this [project] will directly affect the way we live and be a danger to the many people who walk or drive in our neighborhood."



A WWII Mystery Unveiled

Centreville man's book, "South Pacific Cauldron," published.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In his book, "South Pacific Cauldron," Centreville's Alan Rems details a cover-up of a Marine Corps general's death during World War II.

His article disclosing this bombshell was first published in "Naval History Magazine" and earned him the 2008 Author of the Year award from the U.S. Naval Institute. Yet his book is more than that.

"It's the only game in town, as far as a complete history of WWII in the South Pacific, including military operations by all branches of the service," said Rems. "Other historians have written parts of it, but nobody has put it all together in one book. And most have stopped in early 1944, but lots of interesting things were happening at the tail end of the war, as well."

The book's available on Amazon, in bookstores and in Fairfax County's public libraries. And next Tuesday, Sept. 16, from noon-1:15 p.m., he'll be discussing it during

GMU'S "Fall for the Book" event at the Sandy Spring Bank tent in Johnson Center Plaza.

"It's a prestigious showcase," said Rems, 77. "And to be selected to appear there is a signal honor."

However, the 24-year Virginia Run resident didn't set out to be a writer. He's a retired CPA who calls his second career a "pure fluke." He grew up during WWII, so he always had a special interest in it. Attending a friend's horticultural book talk in Fairfax in 2007, by chance he learned about a WWII general he'd never heard of before and became curious.

"I started researching him and discovered an autobiography of him in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax Library because he was from Northern Virginia," said Rems. "The details of his death intrigued me and led me to investigate further and question the official cause of his death and whether there was a cover-up."

Along the way, he became an accomplished writer. Between 2007-2013, he published seven articles and wrote two reviews of other people's books in "Naval History Magazine." His own book, published in May, contains 29 chapters, each one telling a complete story.

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Rems

NEWS

Crash Kills Man, 32

A car crash Monday night took the life of a 32-year-old Fairfax man. He was identified as Brener Omar Llamas Rivera, of Summit Manor Drive.

Fairfax County police rushed to the area of West Ox Road and Polo Drive in Fair Lakes shortly after 9 p.m. on Sept. 8 in response to a report of a pedestrian being hit by a vehicle. Officers began investigating and Crash Reconstruction detectives were summoned.

Police say preliminary investigation revealed that Rivera had allegedly walked eastbound from the grassy median onto the northbound lanes of West Ox Road and wasn't in a crosswalk. At that time, a

2011 Chevrolet Malibu driven by a 50-year-old Alexandria man was traveling northbound on West Ox Road just north of Polo Drive.

According to police, the Malibu struck the pedestrian as he walked into the roadway. The driver remained on the scene. Rivera was transported to Inova Fairfax Hospital and was pronounced dead a short time later.

Police say speed and alcohol "were not factors for the driver. It has not yet been determined if alcohol was a factor for the pedestrian." The investigation continues.

— BONNIE HOBBS



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John Kim, MD

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The free seminar will be held at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly.

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OPINION

Change Is Coming, Right?

Legislators on changing the culture of cash and gifts in Virginia: Crickets.

With former Gov. Bob McDonnell and his wife Maureen facing what could be decades in prison after their convictions for corruption, a reasonable person might reasonably expect that members of the General Assembly would be gearing up to make some big changes.

Under Virginia law, there was no barrier to the McDonnells taking tens of thousands of dollars in gifts from a single donor in search of help.

In addition to the gifts, the tens of thousands of dollars in contributions to campaign funds were not part of the corruption trial, but they were certainly part of seeking influence.

Virginia needs real change, but there is silence from members of the General Assembly on any real change.

It turns out that unlimited contributions and gifts is not good for government, not good for the public, especially not good for elected officials as the recent news demonstrates. It would be better for most businesses to have limits as well so as not to be subject to the expectation

of making huge donations.

The National Conference of State Legislatures www.ncsl.org summarizes how the 50 states regulate contributions: "States commonly place limits on contributions to candidates from various sources, and also on contributions to political action committees (PACs) and political parties. Just four states — Missouri, Oregon, Utah and Virginia — place no limits on contributions at all. Another seven states — Alabama, Indiana, Iowa, Mississippi, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, and Texas — have

minimal contribution limits. These states limit or prohibit contributions by corporations and unions to candidates, but leave contributions from all other sources unlimited. In the remaining 39 states, contributions to candidates from individuals, political parties, PACs, corporations and unions are typically limited or, in the case of corporations and unions, prohibited outright."

In Maryland, individuals can give \$4,000 to any one candidate and \$10,000 total, cumulatively to all candidates in a four-year election cycle. (These limits increase to \$6,000 and

\$24,000 in 2015.) In Maryland, corporations and CEOs are not giving \$100,000 and more in an election cycle.

Do we really want to be a state where the rules are so lax, that what barely raises an eyebrow here can send a former governor and his wife to prison for a long time?

The silence is bipartisan. The silence unites NoVa (Northern Virginia) and RoVa (the rest of Virginia). Every incumbent in Virginia thinks they are benefiting from the ability to collect so much cash.

They all know that they would not engage in the kind unseemly behavior that was recently on display in the McDonnell trial. They seem to think that the McDonnells were just an aberration.

Having our legislative process, locally and at the state level, awash in cash and gifts from people with business before the legislative bodies is not good for any of us.

It's time for some real limits and some disclosure requirements with teeth.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Proven Track Record

To the Editor:

Del. Barbara Comstock has a proven record of leadership that we need to represent the 10th Congressional District of Virginia. As a delegate serving the Commonwealth, she has focused her efforts on several issues important to Northern Virginians, including creating a health economy, providing 21st century jobs, and expanding and promoting our technology community. She supported bills that provided tax relief to the middle class and small businesses and created jobs for Northern Virginia. She has also authored major pieces of legislation including Virginia's Competitive Bidding Law saving hundreds of millions of dollars, Virginia's first Lyme Disease legislation, and securing more in-state college spots for Virginia students.

Her proven track record dates back to her work as a trusted aide to Congressman Frank Wolf where she worked tirelessly on issues important to our community, such as federal employees, business, and transportation. Her work with Congressman Wolf led to passage of the child tax credit which is now valued at \$1,000 per child. As a working mother with three children, she understands the needs of families.

Her success as a legislator and as a businesswoman has earned her endorsements from numerous individuals and groups who support her efforts to strengthen the District. Congressman Wolf strongly endorses her, as well as numerous other Virginia leaders who represent local county school boards and governments, and businesses, such as the National and Virginia Realtors Association, the Virginia Credit Union League and the National Federation of Independent Business.

Delegate Comstock is an experienced leader who has a proven track record focusing on issues important to our area. She should be elected as the representative of the 10th Congressional District of Virginia this November.

Dave Blum
Clifton

Business Expertise

To the Editor:

On Wednesday, the candidates for the 10th Congressional District had their first debate before the Fairfax and Prince William Chambers and the Northern Virginia Technology Council. The contrast couldn't have been more stark.

In the hour and a half debate, Del. Barbara Comstock demonstrated that she had worked extensively with our business and technology community as a delegate, as a senior aide to Congressman Wolf and as an attorney and businesswoman in the private sector. Delegate Comstock mastered the business issues and had passed numerous bills that have enhanced our economic climate in Virginia. As chairman of the Science and Technology Committee, Comstock has led on important legislation such

as this year's Research and Development Tax Credit lauded even by Terry McAuliffe who signed the legislation. Comstock's Data Center legislation is helping this booming industry expand throughout the 10th District. Comstock also noted her past work with Congressman Wolf in advocating for the \$1,000 child tax credit that Comstock now wants to work to double to \$2,000 per child when she gets to Congress. We need someone who will get results in Congress, and not someone who needs on the job training, as Foust demonstrated he would need.

Time and again, John Foust demonstrated he had little familiarity with our business community or issues facing our tech and defense communities.

Devon Flynn
Centreville

Need Common Sense

To the Editor:

After seeing the recaps of the 10th District town hall I have yet to see John Foust point to anything that he has accomplished. He has told us nothing about what he has done as a member of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors, all we know is that he has just repeatedly raised taxes; property taxes — 7.25% just this year, supported the proposed \$80 million proposed meals tax, calls the ObamaCare and it's \$1 trillion in new taxes "clearly a good thing." He simply has no legislative achievements and no idea on what he would do in Congress other than be a rubber stamp for President Obama.

He has never worked on legislation to create jobs, and has not received any endorsement from any jobs creators.

In contrast, Barbara Comstock has received the endorsement of every major champion of creating jobs including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the NFIB. Not to mention the other businesses and community leaders who have backed Delegate Comstock — even including those who support Senator Mark Warner and Governor Terry McAuliffe.

We need a member of Congress who has a proven record of job creation, passing bipartisan legislation and will work for common sense results, not another rubber stamp for the President's failed policies that are hurting our defense, tech and jobs in the 10th District.

Wayne Abernathy/Fairfax

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‘Recession Ripple Persists’

Private sector job growth key to strengthening regional economy, housing demand.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

“There’s no question the primary economic driver of this region has always been Uncle Sam,” said David Versal, senior research associate at the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis. “That said, we’re not Detroit.”

That was a year ago, when Versal addressed members of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors at their economic summit held in George Mason University’s Mason Inn.

At this year’s summit, his past remarks came back to haunt him, if not the whole room. “In 2013, job growth ground to a halt,” he said at the event last Thursday. “July [2013] to July [2014], net was about 20,000 jobs in our region. Who do we come closest to?”

The stunned conference hall full of Realtors, seeing his slide, answered in unison: “Detroit.”

Versal was back again for 2014, along with discussion moderator Kenneth Harney, author of the syndicated column “The Nation’s Housing.”

New panelists included: James Dinegar, president and CEO for the Greater Washington Board of Trade; Dr. Michael Frantoni, chief economist and senior vice president of research and industry technology for the Mortgage Bankers Association, and Mitchel Kider, chairman and managing partner for Weiner Brodsky Kider PC.

THE THEME of this year’s summit was “Housing Hangover: Recession Ripple Persists in 2014: Jobs, Confidence, Mortgages (+ Aspirin) Fuel Recovery.”

Each panelist brought a different perspective to the central concept that no, the recession is not over, growth is slow and home sales are flat; but yes, the recovery is on and as long as home buyers, sellers and Realtors alike keep in front of the economic and regulatory changes taking place, things are looking up. We’re all still here.

Versal echoed his callout from last year, that since 2010 government spending cuts have decimated the Washington D.C. metro area. “We lost over \$11 billion in federal procurement,” he said, referencing the massive contracting industry, “just in 3 years; \$11 billion that was in our economy in 2010 that is no longer. This is on top of the 20,000 jobs we’ve removed.”

One true gainer in jobs over the same period, he said, has been hospitality — specifically restaurant jobs. However even though those jobs help pad the not-Detroit figure, they don’t exactly help a housing market that’s light on top-end inventory and lacking any semblance of a middle.

“Ask yourselves as Realtors: Are people buying \$6-7-800,000 houses in this region people who work in restaurants? Unless they own the restaurant probably not,” said Versal.

According to Versal, Northern Virginia isn’t creating enough jobs paying in the \$40- to \$70,000 range to stimulate growth in the market’s midsection.

But that’s not all: Another factor — and a continuation from 2013’s remarks — keeping the market from balancing out is the lack of adequate housing construction.

Or rather, construction of homes for purchase. Versal said half of what’s being built is rental property, which doesn’t produce sales and doesn’t help the sagging middle.

But the regional analyst did point out a few bright spots, looking forward. In the next three to four years, Versal predicts, the D.C. metro region will be creating 50-60,000 jobs again, like it was 10 years ago — which should drive demand for housing. However this growth, he stressed, will be borne by the private sector, not the federal government.

James Dinegar of the Greater Washington Board of Trade took that optimism and ran with it, giving a speech that hyped the many “cool factors” of the D.C. metro region.

He cited Forbes magazine recently voting that area “America’s Coolest City.”

He cited things like Bao Bao the infant panda at the National Zoo, Robert Griffin III, Maryland joining the Big Ten major college football conference (and more importantly the Big Ten Network) and capital bike-sharing program that leads the nation in users per capita.

He cited things like numerous top tier universities, the juggernaut of cyber job-creating — NSA at Fort Meade — and being the hospitality capital of the world. Things that, presumably, should be drawing young, family-oriented and financially stable professionals to the area, or keeping them here.

“You have to get your head around the Big Ten,” Dinegar gave an example. “The BTN reaches 52 million households. We’re not exposed to the Midwest the way we have been in the ACC. We’re on radar screens now we haven’t ever been on.”

According to Dr. Michael Frantoni of the Mortgage Bankers Association, having a greater overall pull would be helpful to attract fresh capital to the nation’s capital. The national trend, he said, is decreased mobility: Recent census data shows that aside from family-related moves, people are staying put more than they used to. “Moving to a better neighborhood? If anything, people are moving to save money. But they’re not aspirational movers,” he said.

Or maybe they are aspirational movers, but are saving money by living with their parents. That group would be the mercurial, hard to put a finger on, mid-20s to mid-30s bracket referred to as “millennials.” And they’re a key group, being well situated with academic and professional experience to fill the \$40-\$70,000 a year private sector jobs Versal said should be driving the regional economy going forward.

However, said Frantoni, “They’re different in all kinds of ways. They get married later, have children later, come home later. Everything is later. We don’t know why.”

A MILLENNIAL’S HESITANCY to buy property probably doesn’t have much to do with the projected rise in interest rates from 4.3 percent for a 30-year fixed mortgage rate in 2013 up to 5 percent in 2015. But it may have something to do with the fact that student loan debt has ballooned in the last decade from \$200 billion to over \$1 trillion, according to Frantoni.

None of the panelists expects dramatic changes in the next several years. We’re off the roller coaster, they all concurred. We’re still here.



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FRIENDS OF HOMELESS ANIMALS

Chantilly's McGorty Wins Boys' Race at Monroe Parker

Chantilly senior Hawvermale places second in girls' race.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

After taking part in some much-needed hydration, Ryan McGorty stood in the sweltering heat and humidity at Burke Lake Park and shared his pre-race concern about the elements.

"I was concerned about the heat," McGorty said, "because this week at practice I've been pushing myself pretty hard and I've been feeling it and almost passing out a couple times."

McGorty did not pass out during Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational. The Chantilly senior did, however, pass the rest of the field en route to his first victory at the annual event.

McGorty placed first in the boys' varsity race with a time of 15:02, finishing 20 seconds ahead of his nearest competitor. Lake Braddock's Kevin Monogue placed second with a time of 15:24, followed by Bruin teammate Alex Corbett (third, 15:25) and Westfield's Johnny Pace (fourth, 15:41).

"I was very happy about it," said McGorty, a Chantilly team captain.

McGorty's older brother, Stanford sophomore Sean McGorty, won the 2012 VHSL AAA state title and finished runner-up in 2011. Ryan McGorty has been part of two Chantilly team state championships and placed third as an individual in 2013, but was in search of his first invitational victory.



Chantilly senior captain Ryan McGorty won the boys' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Saturday.

"Fantastic," is how Chantilly head coach Matt Gilchrist described McGorty's performance at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational. "We had talked beforehand about what his goals were for the meet. He wanted a big performance to build his own confidence going into the season. He wanted either a fast time or the win and he ended up getting both. He might not admit it, but he's sort of been aching for a win the last couple of years."

The two-time defending state champion Chantilly boys' team placed sixth at Saturday's meet with a score of 231. Lake Braddock won the event with a score of 58, followed by West Springfield (second, 190), Robinson (third, 197), Patriot (fourth, 201) and Thomas Jefferson (fourth, 201).

Sophomore Brandon McGorty, Sean's younger brother, finished 35th with a time of 16:35. Senior Evan Compton finished 55th with a time of 16:59. Senior captain Nicholas Marotta took 64th (17:04) and junior Christopher Wigle was 86th (17:25).

"We've talked about pressure," Gilchrist said. "They realize the last two years have set the bar really high."

We don't lower the bar just because we graduate people. They're expected to come in and do the work ... and they're supposed to perform, but I'm a realist. You can't just take young kids, stick them in varsity spots and assume they're state-quality runners."

The Chantilly girls' team finished ninth, led by senior captain Xaveria Hawvermale,



Chantilly senior captain Xaveria Hawvermale placed second in the girls' varsity race at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park.

who placed second with a time of 18:10.

"It was the best race she's run in her career," Gilchrist said. "I think she had an awesome summer. Spring track helped build her confidence. ... I felt like she had taken a step in terms of her ability to compete."

Chantilly's Christine Murray finished 27th with a time of 19:46. Ana Morris took 58th with a time of 20:36, Hannah Lull finished 71st (20:48) and Bianca San was 76th (21:06).

Madison's Amanda Swaak finished first among individuals with a time of 18:06.

Madison won the team title with a score of 75. Lake Braddock finished runner-up with a score of 99, followed by Patriot (third, 140) and Washington-Lee (fourth, 178).

Westfield XC Produces Pair of Top-5 Finishers



The Westfield cross country teams each produced at top-five finisher at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational. On the boys' side, Johnny Pace placed fourth with a time of 15:41, helping the Bulldogs finish 20th out of 30 teams. Chantilly's Ryan McGorty won the race with a time of 15:02, followed by Lake Braddock's Kevin Monogue (15:24) and Alex Corbett (15:25).

Lake Braddock won the team title with a score of 58, followed by West Springfield (190), Robinson (197), Patriot (201) and Thomas Jefferson (201).

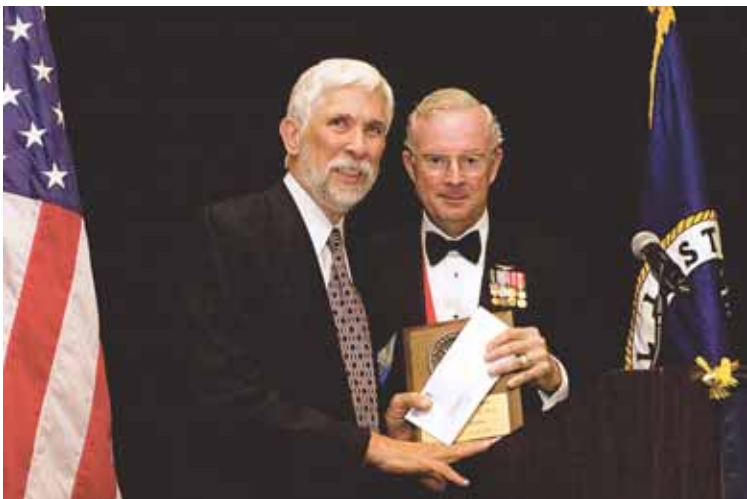
In the girls' race, Westfield's Sara Freix placed fifth with a time of 18:44, leading the Bulldogs to an 11th-place finish out of 28 teams. Madison's Amanda Swaak placed first with a time of 18:06, followed by Chantilly's Xaveria Hawvermale (18:10), Robinson's Lauren Berman (18:29) and Osbourn Park's Jillian Everly (18:43). Centreville's Jackie O'Shea placed 15th (19:22).

Madison won the team title with a score of 75, followed by Lake Braddock (99), Patriot (140) and Washington-Lee (178).

Westfield's Johnny Pace placed fourth in the boys' varsity race at Saturday's Monroe Parker Invitational at Burke Lake Park.

Westfield's Sara Freix finished fifth in the girls' varsity race at the Monroe Parker Invitational on Saturday at Burke Lake Park.





Alan Rems (on left) receives the 2008 Author of the Year award, plus a \$5,000 prize, from Marine Maj. Gen. Thomas L. Wilkerson, former CEO of the U.S. Naval Institute.

A WWII Mystery Unveiled

FROM PAGE 4

"I think it's because I wrote those articles for 'Naval History Magazine' that I got accustomed to working that way," said Rems. "I was also getting wonderfully juicy quotes when I was doing the research and I made sure each chapter was built around one."

The most pertinent quote of all, he said, is in Chapter 10, "Halsey Knows the Straight Story." Calling it the book's "most remarkable chapter," Rems said it was based mostly on his own, independent research and "on the most amazing letters in the Marine Corps archives in Quantico that had never been seen before by anyone other than the correspondents."

Initially, he'd planned to write a book about the Bougainville campaign in the Solomon Islands. "But this startling, new information about the general was a prelude to it," he said. "And when I realized nobody had done a complete history of WWII in the South Pacific, I saw a great opportunity to do so."

Those who've read "South Pacific Cauldron" have praised his writing style and, said Rems, "People who know their military history have weighed in on what a good book it is. But I wrote it to be read especially by veterans and their families. It's serious history, but with more than enough of interest to attract the average, intelligent reader."

Knowing that career military personnel and mili-

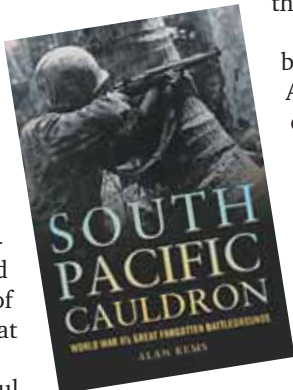
tary-history buffs would be among his readers, he felt "a serious obligation to tell this story with sufficient detail and adequate authority. This was a war of many, small-scale actions that added up, so I had to tell the story in that detail. I didn't want to broad-brush history."

Another element making this book special, said Rems, is the attention he gives to the Australian military. "If there's anything we don't know about, it's their critical contribution to the war in New Guinea before enough American troops could get there," he said.

He's spoken about his book at various bookstores, on talk radio, at Arlington's Army-Navy Club and at the National Archives in Washington, D.C. He's also slated to discuss it at the Centreville Regional Library on Oct. 30, at 7 p.m.

Rems began writing it in late 2009 and finished in mid-2013. Hardest, he said, was the preface, explaining its contents and why people should care about it. His greatest satisfaction was bringing to light "an important piece of WWII history, in Chapter 10, because of the insight it provides into Admiral [William] Halsey, one of our leading WWII figures."

He was also pleased to highlight the Australians' important contribution to the war in the South Pacific and to "at last be able to construct a cohesive history of this critical battleground of WWII." Basically, added Rems, "It's a damn good book and an exciting story."




PEOPLE NOTES

Email announcements to chantilly@connectionnews.com. Photos welcome.

The Fairfax Library Foundation awarded three Continuing Education Scholarships to Fairfax County Public Library employees and volunteers. Fairfax Library Foundation offers these scholarships to help underwrite the costs of conferences, classes, courses and events that foster the professional development of the library team. **Gail Wellock**, youth services information assistant at Chantilly Library, was awarded a scholarship to help pay for two classes with the American Library Association.

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Time Sensitive

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



As much as I don't want to be cognizant of date, time and place, relative to February 27, 2009 when Team Lourie first received the stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis on yours truly, I am (a terminal diagnosis will do that to you). Moreover, as often as I write about the need to live forward, rather than die backward (if you know what I mean), I still struggle with the application. Not that I want to be preoccupied with it, but every day, every date presents opportunities, shall we say: anniversaries, birthdays, ages I thought I'd never be, appointments, scans, pills; constant reminders I am not in Kansas any more (in fact, I'm in Indiana as I write this column). Unfortunately, out of town doesn't put cancer out of mind. Though it may obfuscate its effect a little bit, I kind of feel like Al Pacino – as Michael Corleone in "Godfather III" (1990) – when frustrated by his attempts to legitimize the family business, he said: "Just when I thought I was out...they pull me back in again." And it's not as if I'm ever very far from my cancer reality anyway. The prospect of getting out (finding a cure) is probably less likely than the Corleone family going legit. Nevertheless, as I'm fond of admitting: it sure beats the alternative. So far, so good. Five and a half years and still counting.

Thankfully, life goes on and still I hope. And beholden to that hope is the recognition of the underlying facts: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer is, as my oncologist said, "a terminal disease;" he could "treat me but he couldn't cure me." Meaning, at least to me, at that time: that a normal life expectancy had just left the building, especially since the prognosis I received from him was "13 months to two years." Now let me ask you this: how does one bury that statement of presumptive medical fact and go about your business/life as if everything is hunky dory? You don't, and as often and as consistently as I have attempted to bury that lead, the reality is, there are circumstances at nearly every turn, backwards and forwards, up and down, which make it nearly impossible to live as if I'm cancer-free. As much as I'd like to forget and live life as if the world were my oyster and that I had everything to gain and nothing to lose, the truth is, it's much easier said and written than actually done. And just like "Gold Hat" (portrayed by Alfonso Bedoya) didn't "need no stinkin' badges" in the 1948 film "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre," neither do I need any reminders, "stinkin'" or otherwise, that I have cancer.

Most of the time, I can overcome them. Sometimes I can't, though. No one said this cancer experience was going to be easy; in fact a close friend and fellow cancer survivor told me quite the opposite: that this would be the hardest thing I've ever done, and of course, she was 100-percent correct; and I'm reminded of that reality every single day, whether I want to be or not.

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

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SCHOOLS

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Northern Virginia Community College has welcomed 19 incoming Honors Scholars for the start of the 2014-2015 academic year, which began Aug. 20. The scholarship covers full in-state tuition for one degree at NOVA, the cost of books and supplies and the cost of enrichment opportunities. This is the second class of NOVA Honors Scholars.

This year's scholarship recipients include: **Sarah Besharat**, a graduate of Chantilly High School, will attend the Manassas campus; **Thienmy Tran**, a graduate of Centreville High School, will attend the Annandale campus.

While at NOVA, the Scholars must be enrolled full-time, maintain a GPA of 3.2, serve in a leadership capacity in a campus club or organization, and serve as ambassadors to their alma mater high schools for NOVA.

James Madison University welcomes members of the class of 2018 to campus this month, including: **Thomas Vance**, **Brenna Ellison**, **Theodore Mondloch**, **Kristine Cleofe**, **Steven Koskulitz**, **Antonio Ribeiro**, **Nathan Lalonde**, **Collin Cahoon**, and **Odalys Alfaro**.

Sarah E. Dickenson has been awarded a four-year Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps scholarship. Scholarships are awarded on a merit system based on test scores, academic achievement, extracurricular activities, physical fitness, leadership abilities, and personal interviews. Scholarship recipients are enrolled as members of the ROTC Corps of Cadets. Dickenson, a 2014 graduate of Westfield High School, plans to attend Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, Va.

MILITARY NOTES

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

John Paul K. Cook is an Army ROTC cadet involved in the Cadet Language and Cultural Immersion Training. After a week-long training session, the selected cadets are deployed to partner nations where they are immersed in the local cultures and languages. The selected cadets will spend three weeks assisting with current Army missions such as teaching English to local children. Cook is a student at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and a 2012 graduate of Chantilly High School.

Army Pfc. Jack A. Melton of Clifton has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Jackson, Columbia, S.C.

Remso W. Martinez has enrolled in the Army ROTC Early Commissioning Program.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@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.

WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENT SALE

The Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling **2014 White House Christmas ornaments** in honor of the 29th President Warren G. Harding. This two piece train ornament is a reminder of Harding's use of trains during his campaign and White House years. Ornaments cost \$20 and proceeds benefit charity. Order by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216.

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 for more.

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Adopt a Dog. Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org.

Experience Peru. Through Thursday, Sept. 18 at 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. If Machu Picchu, one of the New Seven Wonders of the World, is on your must-see list, take a side trip to Fair Oaks Mall for an interactive glimpse of Peru. The centerpiece of the interactive exhibit will feature a 20 x 30 foot exhibit of fabled Machu Picchu for shoppers to visit, photograph and enjoy. Free and open to the public during Fair Oaks business hours. Visit shopfairoaksmall.com for more.

THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

Civil War Lecture. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Sheridan at Opequon Creek, Sept. 1864 by author and historian Scott Patchen. Adults plus school age and up. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/

Behind-the-Scenes Visit at the Farm. 4-5 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Lend a hand as the farmer takes on many farm chores such as milking the cows, feeding the animals and shelling corn. Call 703-437-9101. To register for program visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes

FRIDAY/SEPT. 12

Ready for School Storytime. 2 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Early literacy storytime program for children ready to be on their own without caregivers or siblings. Age 4-5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

5K/10K Run/Walk. At Lake Fairfax, Reston. 500 runners and 500 winter coats for local homeless veterans. All donations go directly to support projects and programs. Visit Americasadoptasoldier.org to register or call 703-278-3718 for more.

Fabulous Fall Container Gardens. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Whether it's flower pots, hanging baskets or window boxes, container gardens are beautiful, easy and rewarding. Learn how to create a dazzling display with fall-peaking perennials and cold-tolerant annuals. Call 703-968-9600 or visit merrifieldgardencenter.com.

Master Gardeners. 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A neighborhood plant clinic. Master Gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice for home gardeners. Adults. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

Nature Hike During The Farm Animal Safari. 11 a.m.-noon or 1-2 p.m. Frying Pan Farm Park, 2709 West Ox Road, Herndon. Go on a leisurely nature hike. Call 703-437-9101. To register for program, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/

parktakes.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 14

5th Annual Northern Virginia Cycle Fest Ride. 7:30 a.m. at Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Ride is open to all experienced riders who are comfortable riding on roads with traffic, minimum age of 12. Four ride options. Registration begins at 7 a.m. Visit www.active.com or e-mail paula.cole@jccnv.org or 703-323-0880.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

Golf Tournament. at Osprey Golf Course, 401 Belmont Bay Dr, Woodbridge, Va. Join former major league baseball player Michael "Pags" Pagliarulo as he hosts the Americas Adopt A Soldier 4th Annual Golf Tournament at Osprey Golf Course. Visit Americasadoptasoldier.org to register or call 703-278-3718.

Thriving Three to Fives. 11 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/

Afternoon Adventures: Animal Adaptations. 4 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Hands-on activities will help children explore different animal adaptations and discover some of their own. Children experiment to see which work best. Ages 6-12. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/

TUESDAY/SEPT. 16

Storytime for Three to Fives. 1:30

p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Early literacy program with stories and activities. Age 3-5 with caregiver. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

THURSDAY/SEPT. 18

Lunch 'N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For people 50 or older. The program will feature Brian Van de Graaff, ABC Channel 7 - WJLA TV weather team and meteorologist. For reservations, call Faye Quesenberry, 703-620-0161, by Sept. 12. \$10. Call 703-323-4788 for transportation. Visit www.scfbva.org for more.

The End (Or Is It?) Book Group. 7:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Book discussion for 5th and 6th grade students. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

SATURDAY/SEPT. 20

Beautiful Displays with Bulbs & Perennials. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Now is the time to plant bulbs for bright, beautiful color next spring. Peg and Stephanie will demonstrate how to combine bulbs and perennials for long-lasting displays of color and interest. Call 703-968-9600 or visit merrifieldgardencenter.com for more.

Art Guild of Clifton Art Walk. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Along Chapel Road, Clifton. Fine art, jewelry, photography, artists and demos. Along the way you will also see unique shops for gifts, home accessories, paper craft, cupcakes and wine. artguildofclifton@gmail.com

Thriving Three to Fives: Birds

Take Flight! 10:30 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/

Civil War Wig-Wag in Fairfax.

10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Learn a secret method of communication via flags that was used in Fairfax County during the Civil War. Age 6-12. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

Master Gardeners. 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A neighborhood plant clinic. Master gardeners provide horticultural tips, information, techniques and advice for home gardeners. Adults. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/

Cheers to 10 Years. 3-6 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Rd., Clifton. Join the Assistance League of Northern Virginia in celebrating many accomplishments of helping those in need in the community, and learn how to help in the future. \$25, includes heavy appetizers and two glasses of wine. Contact Darlene Cooke 703-848-0623 or visit northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org.

SUNDAY/SEPT. 21

PJ Library Book Buddies. 1 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Children who love books are welcome to join for stories and fun that relate to Jewish culture. Age 2.5-5 with caregiver. Siblings welcome. Email jennifer.deangelis@jccnv.org.

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THURSDAY/SEPT. 11

English Classes. 10 a.m.-noon at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway, Centreville. Beginner classes meet weekly through December. Childcare available. Classes are \$5 per semester, textbook is \$15. Register at first class. 703-830-3333 or www.cbcva.org

Community Patriot's Day Prayer Walk. 6 p.m. at Woody's Ice Cream, 10435 North St., Fairfax. Co-sponsored by Woody's Ice Cream and Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax. Free ice cream after. Visit www.jccag.org or 703-383-1170.

English Conversation Group. 7 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Practice English with other students. Adults. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 13

Church Anniversary. 8 a.m.-noon at Grace Covenant Church, 4600 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Chantilly. Celebrate Grace Covenant Church's 32nd Anniversary with WalkFit Fun Walk and Live Well Expo. Contact Evelyn Spain at evelynss328@yahoo.com.

eBook Help. 2 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Get your eBook questions answered. Please bring your tablet or eReader and library card. Adults. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ for more.

MONDAY/SEPT. 15

Register for ESL Classes. 7 p.m. Register for ESL classes by Sept. 15. Call 703-323-9500 or visit www.lordoflifeva.org for more.