

The Charger Cheerleaders participated in Chantilly High's Homecoming Parade last Friday. More photos, page 4.

# Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

## Chantilly Chargers On Parade

NEWS, PAGE 4

Attending German  
Immersion Academy

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Homecoming Parade  
For Westfield

NEWS, PAGE 8





# **2014 FCFT President's Award**

*for Outstanding Advocacy  
for the Employees of FCPS*



**Karen Garza Superintendent, FCPS**

**Ramona Morrow President, FCCPTA**

**Megan McLaughlin (Braddock District)**

**Elizabeth Schultz (Springfield District)**

**Pat Hynes (Hunter Mill District)**

**Patty Reed (Providence District)**

**Sandy Evans (Mason District)**

**Dan Storck (Mount Vernon District)**

**Tammy Derenak Kaufax (Lee District)**

**Ryan McElveen (At Large)**

**Janie Strauss (Dranesville District)**

**Ilryong Moon (At Large)**

The Fairfax County Federation of Teachers would like to thank all of the 2014 award winners listed above for their consistent advocacy, proactive communications, and support of our workforce over the past year. We publicly acknowledge their efforts to make a difference in the lives of FCPS employees. Thank you for caring about us; it matters and is appreciated.



## ROUNDUPS

### Fatal Crash in Chantilly

A car crash in Chantilly last week took the life of a 27-year-old Sterling man. Fairfax County police identified him as Jordan Douglas. The tragedy occurred last Wednesday, Oct. 15, shortly before 5 p.m.

Detectives from the Crash Reconstruction Unit responded, and initial investigation determined that Douglas was driving a 2013 Ford Escape west on Route 50 at the interchange with Route 28. For an unknown reason, the SUV left the road to the right, traveled in gravel and dirt and struck a street sign.

According to police, "The vehicle continued westbound, crossing over the asphalt ramp to southbound Route 28, into the grass, and then went airborne over a ravine and head-on into a tree. The Escape then apparently caught on fire after it came to rest. Douglas was found inside the vehicle and was pronounced dead at the scene."

Police say speed "appears to have been a factor" in the crash. It has not yet been determined if drugs or alcohol were involved.

### Learn Self-Defense Techniques

In light of recent, high-profile attacks on real estate agents, RE/MAX Gateway is hosting a free, safety workshop for all real estate agents in Northern Virginia this Thursday, Oct. 23, at the Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Featuring both instruction and hands-on self-defense, it'll be taught by Sully Police PFC Tara Gerhard, Crime Prevention Specialist, and the TopKick Martial Arts team.

### Meet with Del. David Bulova

Del. David Bulova (D-37th) will meet informally with residents Saturday, Oct. 25, from 9-11 a.m., at Jireh Bakery and Café, 13848 Lee Hwy. in Centreville. Constituents are invited to talk about issues of interest and ask questions about legislation affecting their community. The format is casual and no appointments are needed.

### Goblin Gallop is Sunday

The 21 annual Goblin Gallop is this Sunday, Oct. 26, at the Fairfax Corner Shopping Center. The fun includes a Halloween costume contest, music, face painting and a moonbounce. All proceeds go to the John Quadrino Foundation to Benefit Children with Cancer.

Rain or shine, the race begins in front of Coastal Flats restaurant. The 1K fun run is at 8:30 a.m.; the 5K race, at 9 a.m.; and the 5K walk, at 9:10 a.m. Entry fees through Oct. 23 are \$33 for the 5K run, \$25 for the 5K walk and \$18 for the 1K fun run. From Oct. 24 on, those fees, respectively, are \$35, \$30 and \$22. Register at [www.goblingallop.org](http://www.goblingallop.org) until race time.

### Guest Speaker at CIF Meeting

The Centreville Immigration Forum's annual meeting will feature attorney Virginia Diamond, a long-time supporter of workers' rights. It's set for Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., at Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Hwy. in Centreville, and the public is welcome.

Recent news reports have focused on the needs of immigrant children, and Diamond will speak about her firsthand experience working to support these children. There'll also be a report on CIF's progress as an independent nonprofit and the growth of jobs and training opportunities at the Centreville Labor Resource Center.

The CIF Board will recognize volunteers whose gifts make it possible for CIF to continue serving the community, and there'll be a short slide show of CIF/CLRC events for the year.

### Fair Oaks CAC to Meet

The Citizens Advisory Council of the Fair Oaks District Police Station will meet Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7 p.m., in the roll-call room

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

## NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KATE MEYER

A group photo at Kate Meyer's (back row, center) house at one of the academy's dances.

## 'An Awesome Experience'

### Chantilly High student attends Governor's German Immersion Academy.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION



Kate Meyer

Chantilly High senior Kate Meyer is such a fan of German culture and language that she spent three weeks of her summer immersed in it. She attended the Virginia Governor's German Immersion Academy at Washington and Lee University in Lexington.

While there, she and her classmates spoke only German, and Meyer couldn't have been happier. She even called it "one of the best experiences" of her life.

"I was surrounded by 44 other students my age that had the same passion and drive to learn the language, just like me," she said. "I was able to stay in a sorority house with 11 other girls, and it was so nice to be able to hang out and do normal teenage things

with them, but in German."

Meyer heard about it from Aaron Kunk, her German-language teacher at Chantilly. Since she was doing so well in class, he suggested she attend; so last November, she applied.

"I really wanted to become bilingual and learn a new language, so I thought immersing myself in German language for three weeks would be extremely helpful," she said. "Plus, I knew it would be an awesome experience and I'd get to meet a ton of new people from across the state."

At Chantilly, Meyer runs cross country and is a member of the National Honor Society, German Honor Society, German Club and the theater honor society, the International Thespian Society. She was part of her school's Cappie-nominated props team for the play, "The Front Page," and loves eating German food, especially schnitzel. And when the opportunity arose to increase her German-language proficiency,

SEE 'AN AWESOME EXPERIENCE,' PAGE 15



Kate Meyer (standing, far right) with friends at a Fourth of July fair at VMI.





Kyler Zampiello and Keegan Kelly were the Homecoming King and Queen.



Members of Daisy Troop 697 make funny faces.



Homecoming King, Keegan Kelly, and his sister, Kathryn.

# Chantilly Chargers on Parade

Chantilly High's Homecoming Parade was Friday, Oct. 17, in Greenbriar.



Brownies on parade.



Fun times on the Class of 2017 float.



Senior Homecoming Court members Liz Marcone and Evan Hargreaves.



Chantilly High President Akin is escorted by his "secret service."



Members of the Hip Hop Club marching.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF  
KYLER ZAMPIELLO



## NEWS

# Walking Dead

Clifton residents put on a bigger, scarier Haunted Trail.

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

Julie Thompson isn't a voodoo priestess. But the stay-at-home mother and Clifton plays one, one night of the year, in a skit for Clifton's Haunted Trail.

"Voodoo draws from so many different religions; it freaks people out because you can't peg it," said skit leader Sara Holbrook. "Voodoo altars typically have a raised piece in the middle with statue of Virgin Mary, rum bottles all around, a rosary and voodoo dolls."

Holbrook and Thompson's skit will be more of an "authentic" installation piece than choreographed skit, due to Holbrook's extensive research.

"I want to make it as detail-oriented as possible," said Holbrook, "as visually layered and rich as possible. It's the same feeling set designers get. That's the part that appeals to me."

She doesn't mind the role-playing and exhilaration of scaring people, however.

"When you realize you've disguised yourself so effectively that people look at you and they're like 'Whoa, you get a reaction, that's really cool,'" said Holbrook, also a stay-at-home mom living in Clifton.



PHOTO BY ROBYN WITSCHKE

A Fairfax County urban legend, the "Bunnyman" has been known to appear during Clifton's Haunted Trail.

"I have no desire to act in my real life, but it's fun one night of the year."

Clifton's one-and-done "Haunted Trail" around the eight-acre Buckley Park has been an annual

SEE HAUNTED TRAIL, PAGE 13

**It's Time to Plant!**

Trees • Shrubs • Perennials • Mums • Pansies  
Bulbs • Sod • Ornamental Cabbage & Kale

**5th Annual Dog Halloween Costume Contest**  
Saturday, October 25 – Gainesville store  
Registration begins at noon - Contest at 1pm  
Grand prize \$100 Merrifield Gift Card  
Also prizes for most unique, funniest, scariest, best kisser and cutest!

Plus Pumpkins • Gourds • Cornstalks • Fall Decorating Ideas

**FREE SEMINARS**  
Saturday, October 25 at 10 am  
Merrifield: Fall Cleanup  
Gainesville: Gardening in Deer Country  
and at Fair Oaks:  
Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society Show  
Sat., Oct. 25, 2-5 pm and Sun., Oct. 26, 10 am - 3 pm

Look for pink tags for unadvertised specials on healthy, overstocked plants.

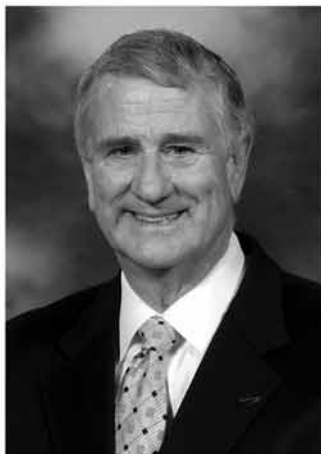
MERRIFIELD 703-560-6222	FAIR OAKS 703-968-9600	GAINESVILLE 703-368-1919
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Fall Hours: Daily 8 am – 7 pm

[merrifieldgardencenter.com](http://merrifieldgardencenter.com)

"Actions Speak **Louder** Than Words but Not Nearly as Often."

- Mark Twain



Thank you, Delegate Rust, for letting your actions speak louder than your words by supporting a pro-growth, pro-jobs agenda in the General Assembly. You have helped to strengthen Virginia's economic competitiveness. Thank you for your leadership.

**Tom Rust**  
Virginia House of Delegates

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CHAMBER  
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# OPINION

## Yes to Fairfax Transportation Bond

**\$84 million for pedestrian, bike and trail improvements.**

Of more than 75 projects included in the current proposal, on the ballot for Nov. 4, all but seven are designed to make Fairfax County safer and more inviting for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Voters will decide on Election Day whether to authorize \$100 million for:

- ❖ Spot road improvements to increase roadway capacity, reduce congestion, improve safety, and improve transit access (\$16 million)

- ❖ Pedestrian improvements to improve capacity, enhance safety and complete missing pedestrian links that connect neighborhoods, and improve access to schools, Metrorail stations and activity centers (\$78 million)

- ❖ Bicycle improvements that include developing new bicycle facilities, constructing trails, adding bicycle parking and enhancing accessibility (\$6 million)

Fairfax voters have a long history of approving bond questions for local transportation, schools and parks. This should be no exception.

### Vote

The importance of voting, and the difference just a few votes can make, is on display in Virginia, where close elections decided by a fraction of a percent of total voters have set the stage for some big changes.

Election Day is Tuesday, Nov. 4. But you don't have to wait until then.

In person absentee voting is underway at Fairfax County Governmental Center and seven satellite locations thru Nov. 1.

Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy, Conf. Rooms 2/3, Fairfax, 22035. Now - Oct. 31, Monday thru Friday - 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Saturdays, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Satellite Voting Locations:  
Franconia Governmental Center - 6121 Franconia Road, Alexandria, 22310  
Dolley Madison Library - 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean, 22101  
North County Human Services Bldg. - 1850 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, 20190

### EDITORIAL

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Vote 'Yes' on Transportation

To the Editor:

We are writing about the Nov. 4 voter referendum on transportation bonds for Fairfax County. The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax is a diverse coalition of individuals and public, community, and

business organizations that have joined forces to improve community health by mobilizing resources, increasing awareness, and promoting change.

The Partnership has identified investments in infrastructure that support physical activity as a major priority in its community health improvement plan.

Investments in facilities and

pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists benefit everyone through enhancing safety, providing active transportation options, providing opportunities for routine exercise, expanding access to recreational opportunities, and improving quality of life. Improvements funded by the bond will also permit more "Safe Routes to School," or opportunities for children to walk or bike to school.

The goals and objectives of both our plan and the transportation bond issue are aligned in encouraging a healthy lifestyle through physical activity and improving connectivity throughout the county.

Residents who are able to incorporate exercise in their daily lives will incur fewer health care costs and be more productive employees, thereby contributing to the county's economic success. Please support the bond by a "yes" vote on Nov. 4.

**Marlene Blum and Julie Knight**

Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax/Co-Chairs

## Moving Country Forward

To the Editor:

Barbara Comstock is the best candidate for the 10<sup>th</sup> District representative to the House of Repre-

West Springfield Governmental Center - 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield, 22152

Mason Governmental Center - 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale, 22003

Mount Vernon Governmental Center - 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria 22306

Sully District Governmental Center - 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly 20151

Monday - Friday, Through Oct. 31, 3:30 p.m. - 7 p.m.

Saturdays, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

For more information, call 703-222-0776 or visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/absentee.htm>

You'll need photo identification to vote either on Election Day or absentee. Any registered voter can apply for a free Virginia Voter Photo Identification from any general registrar's office in the Commonwealth. Voters applying for the Virginia Voter Photo ID Card will have to complete the Virginia Voter Photo Identification Card Application, have their picture taken, and sign the digital signature pad. Once the application is processed, the card will be mailed directly to the voter.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

sentatives in the United States Congress.

Her experience on Congressman Wolf's staff will serve the 10<sup>th</sup> District constituents very well considering the impending change coming to Capitol Hill.

According to numerous news sources, there is a 95 percent chance the Republicans will control the Senate after the national elections next month.

The Republicans are expected to retain control of the House as well. With a Democratic administration in the White House, this is exactly the same scenario as when Mrs. Comstock worked on Congressman Wolf's staff in the 1990s. During the 1990's she worked long and hard in exactly the same environment the country is about to enter.

By working together back then, the Congress and the White House were able to help the national economy develop very robustly. We will need this type of experience next year to try and get the national economy out of the stagnant condition left over from the deep recession.

Mrs. Comstock will not have the steep learning curve experienced by many other newcomers to Capitol Hill and will immediately be able to help get the country moving again.

**John Litzenberger**  
Centreville

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS



### Featured Artist

**Lorrie Herman's watercolor, "Le Fontaine Bleu," was on display, Oct. 3-5, at the Vale Schoolhouse in Oakton during ValeArts' 19<sup>th</sup> annual fall art show, "Transitions." Herman, of Chantilly's Poplar Tree Estates com-**

**munity, was also featured recently in the Virginia Watercolor Society's annual show at the Lynchburg Academy of Art. Her work was one of 100 paintings accepted out of 800 submitted for that show.**

## Chantilly CONNECTION

[www.ConnectionNewspapers.com](http://www.ConnectionNewspapers.com)

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## ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

of the police station. It's at 12300 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway in Chantilly.

### Westfield Haunted House And Carnival

The Westfield Theatre Boosters will present Westfield High's annual Haunted House and Carnival, Wednesday-Thursday, Oct. 29-30, from 6-8 p.m., at the school. Admission to all attractions is \$6; carnival only, \$3. Enter through door 13.

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 6, 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.

### Election Officers are Sought

Fairfax County needs 2,700 election officers, particularly bilingual citizens, for the Nov. 4 election. They must be registered voters in Virginia and complete required training and forms. People may choose to accept the \$175 payment for a full day or volunteer their time.

For more information, go to [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections) and click the "training and education" button or call 703-324-4735, TTY 711. Sign up at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm>.

# October is FREE WINDOWS MONTH at Renewal by Andersen.<sup>1</sup>



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# Homecoming Parade for Westfield

Westfield High's Homecoming Parade was Friday, Oct. 17, in Centreville.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TINA DEMPSEY

Westfield High theater students enjoy the parade.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEV BASHAM

Homecoming King Johnny Pace waves from a float.

From left are Homecoming Queen Samantha Strauss and Senior Court member Olivia Buckley.



Senior Court members Bela Davila and Mackenzie Kirkham.



Cub Run Elementary's mascot waves to the crowd.



The Bulldog flag girls march in the parade.



# NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF BEV BASHAM

Westfield High's Marching Band.



Celebrating "The Wizard of Oz's" 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.



The varsity volleyball team rides in a float decorated in the parade's Candyland theme.

**SOUTH RUN ART & CRAFT SHOW**

**NVHG**  
Northern Virginia Handicrafters Guild

**SOUTH RUN RECENTER**  
7550 RESERVATION DR.  
SPRINGFIELD, VA

**SAT, NOV. 1, 9AM - 4PM**  
**SUN, NOV. 2, 11AM - 4PM**

**WWW.NVHG.ORG**    **\$3 ADMISSION**

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

## The Virginia Police Benevolent Association, Inc. The Fairfax County Chapter



Urges you to support strong, effective law enforcement by voting for the following candidate on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

# BARBARA COMSTOCK

US House of Representatives, 10th District



**VOTE TUESDAY**  
**November 4th**

Paid for by the Southern States PBA, Inc. PAC Fund. 2155 Hwy 42 S, McDonough, GA 30252. Chris Skinner, president; Dave Soderberg, senior vice president; Donald Scott, vice president; Joe Naia, secretary.

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# 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

**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.

**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](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org) for more.

**Cox Farms Fall Festival.** Through Tuesday, Nov. 4. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. (closing 5 p.m. in Nov.) Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Activities and seasonal food. Visit [www.coxfarms.com](http://www.coxfarms.com) for more.

**Fields of Fear.** 7:30-11 p.m. (last admission at 10 p.m. or earlier if sold out.) Friday and Saturday nights Sept. 26-Nov. 1. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Haunted Cornightmare trail, Dark Side Hayride: Zombie Zoo, Firegrounds hangout with six-lane slide, bonfires, food and games. Visit [www.fieldsoffear.com](http://www.fieldsoffear.com) for more.

## PET ADOPTIONS

**Halloween Adopt-a-thon.** Thursday, Oct. 30-Sunday, Nov. 2 at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax. Adoption fees for black and/or orange animals of any

kind will be waived and all adoption fees will be half-off. Treats for children and families will have a chance to give treats to dogs and small animals. Adopt-a-thon hours are noon-7 p.m. on Thursday and Friday and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalsshelter](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalsshelter) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 23

**Concert.** 10 p.m. at Bungalow Billiards, 13891 Metrotech Drive. North Carolina band Big Something will perform. Tickets \$8. Visit [www.bigsomething.net/shows](http://www.bigsomething.net/shows) for more.

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 24-26

**Library Used Book Sale.** Friday, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A large selection of books for children and adults, plus DVDs, CDs and audio books will be available for purchase. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/) events or call 703-502-388 for more.

## SATURDAY/OCT. 25

**Yard Sale.** 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at Deepwood Veterinary Clinic, 7300 Ordway

Road, Centreville. All yard sale proceeds go directly to medical care of abandoned and abused animals in need. Call 703-631-9133 for more.

**Air and Scare.** 2-7 p.m. Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Pkwy., Chantilly. See the spooky side of air and space at the annual Halloween event. Arrive in costume for safe indoor trick-or-treating, creepy crafts, spooky science experiments and other Halloween-themed activities. Visit [airandspace.si.edu/events/air-and-scare/](http://airandspace.si.edu/events/air-and-scare/).

**Aaron Shust and Embassy Worship in Concert.** 7 p.m. Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway, Centreville. All of the net proceeds benefit Meant 2 Live Foundation. Visit [www.meant2live.org](http://www.meant2live.org) for more.

**Clifton Haunted Trail.** 7-10 p.m. Chapel Road, Clifton. A terrifying annual event that winds through Clifton's Buckley Park. Visit [cliftonhauntedtrail.com](http://cliftonhauntedtrail.com).

**An Evening of Comedy with Annabelle Gurwitch.** 8 p.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Annabelle Gurwitch is a Jewish mother, a passionate environmentalist, a reluctant atheist and the author of the new book "I See You Made an Effort: Compliments, Indignities, and Survival Stories from the Edge of 50." Call 703-537-3000 or visit [www.jccnvarts.org](http://www.jccnvarts.org) for more information.

**Jiji Park in Concert.** 5 p.m. at Epiphany Episcopal Church, 3301 Hidden Meadow Drive, Oak Hill. Enjoy a night of classical music. Reception following performance. Call 703-466-5200 or visit [www.coe.org](http://www.coe.org) for more.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/OCT. 25-OCT. 26

**Old Dominion Chrysanthemum Society Show.** 2-5p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m.-3p.m. Sunday at Merrifield Gardens Fair Oaks, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. The public is welcome to see these beautiful chrysanthemums. Call 703-968-9600 or visit [merrifieldgardencenters.com](http://merrifieldgardencenters.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 26

**Fall Festival.** Noon-5 p.m. at Deepwood Veterinary Clinic, 7300 Ordway Road, Centreville. Enjoy pony rides, moon bounces, petting zoos, raffles and local vendors. Admission is free but donations are appreciated. Call 703-631-9133 for more.

**Neighborhood Fall Festival.** 5-8 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way. There will be a moon bounce, games, prizes, a maze, food, hot cider, s'mores, face painting, story time, crafts, a costume parade, raffles, pumpkin decorating and the event will end with trunk or treat. Contact Judi Cooper at 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or [jhange@kofk.org](mailto:jhange@kofk.org) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/OCT. 29

**Night Ride.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Families are invited to test their courage and challenge their fears and phobias as they meet and touch creatures in darkened rooms decorated for the season. This campfire program concludes with a wagon ride through a moonlit meadow and s'mores. Tickets \$10. Call 703-222-4664 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/) for more.

## THURSDAY/OCT. 30

**Book Signing.** 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Author Alan Rems, of Centreville's Virginia Run community, will discuss and sign his book, "South Pacific Cauldron." Enhancing his presentation with rarely seen photographs, he'll talk about the forgotten WWII battlefields of the South Pacific, especially Bougainville, where the Allies and Japan fought for nearly two years. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) for more.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 31

**Mall Trick or Treating.** 5-8 p.m. at Fair Oaks Mall, I-66 at route 50. Towering goblins and ghouls will hover over the courts as witches and wizards, pirates and princesses surprise trick or treaters at every turn in one of the largest indoor Halloween events. This event is free and open to the public. Visit [www.ShopFairOaksMall.com](http://www.ShopFairOaksMall.com) or call 703-359-8300 for more.

**Trunk or Treat.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Trunks of vehicles will be decorated in the parking lot, with free hot dogs, popcorn, candy and prizes for best decorated trunks and costumes. Call 703-383-117 or visit [www.jccag.org](http://www.jccag.org) for more.

## MONDAYS/SEPT. 29-NOV. 3

**Adventures in Learning.** 9:30 a.m.-2:45 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Road, Fairfax. This program is open to all adults age 50 or older. Registrants bring a bag lunch and stay for a full day of classes/activities and socializing, or pick and choose the classes that interest them the most. \$30. Call 703-323-4788 to register and for more.

## SATURDAY, NOV. 1

**Clothing Drive.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Donations of old clothing, shoes, linens jewelry and accessories are welcome and will benefit Westfield High's theatre program. Drop offs are at the school's black box theater at Door 13.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 1-2

**Pumpkin Madness.** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Drop, squish, smash and stomp pumpkins to recycle used jack-o'-lanterns. Visit [www.coxfarms.com](http://www.coxfarms.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/NOV. 2

**Meet the Author.** 2 p.m. at the Jewish Community Center, 8900 Little River Turnpike. Nate Hausmann, a young author and illustrator with autism, will share his first book, "ABC Animals." Call 703-323-0880 or visit [www.jccnvarts.com](http://www.jccnvarts.com) for more.

**Anniversary Party.** 4 p.m. at the Fair Lakes Hyatt, 12777 Fair Lakes Circle, Fairfax. The Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Tickets are \$65. Visit [www.CPMSAC.org](http://www.CPMSAC.org) for more.

**Fields of Fear.** 7:30-11 p.m. (last admission at 10 p.m. or earlier if sold out.) Cox Farms, 15621 Braddock Road, Centreville. Haunted Cornightmare trail, Dark Side Hayride: Zombie Zoo, Firegrounds hangout with six-lane slide, bonfires, food and games. Visit [www.fieldsoffear.com](http://www.fieldsoffear.com) for more.

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Email announcements to [chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto: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.

## THURSDAY-SATURDAY/OCT. 23-25

**Women's Conference.** At Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. The conference evening worship will take place Thursday and Friday, 7:30 p.m. Dynamic Conference Speakers will speak on Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Visit [www.mountolive-church.org](http://www.mountolive-church.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/OCT. 26

**Church Anniversary.** 10 a.m. at Mount Olive Baptist Church, 6600 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Guest Preacher: Rev. Dexter Cannon of the Good Samaritan Empowerment Baptist Church of Richmond will be speaking. Call 703-830-8769 for more.

## MONDAY/OCT. 27

**NARFE Dulles Chapter 1241 Luncheon meeting.** 11:30 a.m. at Amphora Diner, 1151 Elden St., Herndon. U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly (D-11) and Congressional Candidate John Foust (D-10) will speak. Tickets are \$18. Call 703-435-3523 for more.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 31

**Halloween SoberRide Program.** 10 p.m. Friday, Oct. 31-4 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 1. Washington Regional Alcohol Program is offering free cab rides home. During this six-hour period, area residents ages 21 and older celebrating with alcohol may call the toll-free SoberRide phone number (1-800-200-TAXI) and be afforded a no-cost (up to \$30), safe way home. SoberRide is offered in the District of Columbia; Montgomery and Prince George's counties; and throughout Northern Virginia. Visit [www.soberride.com](http://www.soberride.com) for more.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 1

**Michael and Son Jingle Singoff.** Registration ends Nov. 1, winners will be announced Nov. 15. The winning elementary school in each region within Michael and Son's service area will receive \$5,000. Email [jill.gorman@michaelandson.com](mailto:jill.gorman@michaelandson.com) or call 703-658-1152 for more.

## WEDNESDAY/NOV. 5

**An Evening with Cal Thomas.** 7 p.m. at Paul VI Catholic High School library, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Cal Thomas, a renowned columnist, will share an insightful and humorous presentation on the topic of government and private schools. Email [pvipto@paulvi.net](mailto:pvipto@paulvi.net) for more.

**Financial Aid Night.** 7 p.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. The audience will receive a complete overview of how to pay for a college education. Email [caleftwich@fcps.edu](mailto:caleftwich@fcps.edu) for more.

## THURSDAY/NOV. 6

**Power Mixer and Networking Event.** 5-8 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. National Fox News Reporter Kelly Wright and former NFL All Pro Ken Harvey will speak, addressing success secrets for business-minded professionals. Tickets are \$25. Visit [touchingheart.com/networking-power-mixer](http://touchingheart.com/networking-power-mixer) for more.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 8

**Leaders Conference.** 8 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at The Waterford, Springfield 6715 Commerce St., Springfield. This conference will help parents, school leaders, emerging minority leaders and community advocates in outreach to their diverse communities. All attendees will receive a \$10 gift card to a local restaurant. Visit [www.fccpta.org/fccpta-programs/emerging-minority-leadership.html](http://www.fccpta.org/fccpta-programs/emerging-minority-leadership.html) for more.

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# Centreville Goalkeeper LeBlanc Has Promising Future

Wildcat sophomore finishes season with 160 saves.

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**C**entreville goalkeeper Kylie LeBlanc has a bright future, finishing her sophomore season with 160 saves.

On Monday, however, it was Robinson goalkeeper Caroline Freeman who walked off the field with a clean sheet and an opportunity to play another day.

The Robinson field hockey team defeated the Centreville Wildcats 3-0 in the win-or-go-home quarterfinal round of the Conference 5 tournament on Oct. 20 at Robinson Secondary School. Both Freeman and LeBlanc entered the contest in the top five for saves in the Washington, D.C.-metro area, according to stats from the Washington Post's allmetsports.com. The Rams and Wildcats were locked in a scoreless tie in the second half before Robinson scored three goals in a span of five minutes, including two against LeBlanc.

Robinson's Addie Walsh scored the game's first goal with 20:35 remaining in the second half. Katie O'Loughlin found the back of the cage less than two minutes later, and Charlotte Clark put the finishing touches on the 3-0 win.

"I think once we got that first goal," Rams head coach Lindsay Arnsmeier said, "they just calmed down."

LeBlanc tallied four saves and finished the season with 160, the third-best total in the area.

"She's aggressive," Centreville head coach Demby Banbury said. "She is not afraid. And if you look at her, she's constantly ready. Even if the ball is [at the other end of the field], she's never just standing there. She's always focused and she's only a sopho-



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

**Centreville goalkeeper Kylie LeBlanc goes after the ball during the Wildcats' 3-0 loss to Robinson in the Conference 5 tournament quarterfinals on Oct. 20.**

more."

Freeman, a senior, had three saves and sits in fifth with a 114 and an opportunity to add to her total.

"[Freeman has] been amazing," Arnsmeier said. "She is one of my key players on defense. She's explosive. I think she's the top goalie in the area."

Freeman, a soccer player at the time, became a field hockey goalie her freshman year. Her comfort level grew after a couple seasons and now she wants to play field hockey at the collegiate level.

"I was just sort of thrown into the position," Freeman said. "... I was a soccer goalie and my teammates needed a [field hockey] goalie for freshman year because

they didn't have one. They said it's just like [playing] soccer goalie. It wasn't. It was a new thing. I got more comfortable in the pads to the point where soccer goalie became hard to play because I wasn't comfortable without pads."

Arnsmeier said Freeman has taken control during her senior season.

"Last year, she was a little timid with some of the things that she did," Arnsmeier said. "She wouldn't come out as much. Now, she just commands the circle. It's her circle and she doesn't want anyone to be in it. She makes sure all her teammates are being aware of what's going on, too.

"... Her communication at the beginning of last season was terrible and that was the main thing that we focused on, that she needs to be talking the whole time. Now, you can always hear her."

LeBlanc, who started playing field hockey in the third grade, was a field player until the eighth grade.

"My SYA team needed a goalie and my coach asked if anyone wanted to try it," LeBlanc wrote in an email. "I always thought it would be a fun position to play so I volunteered to try it."

How long did it take LeBlanc to get comfortable playing goalkeeper?

"About two months," she wrote. "I had two great goalie coaches, Jen and Steph Wisniewski, at Rampage (club) that took me under their wings and really helped me understand and develop skills in the position."

LeBlanc saw limited playing time as a freshman before stepping into a starting role as a sophomore.

Banbury called LeBlanc a "tough cookie."

"I'm very fortunate to have her," Banbury said. "She just gets better and better and better. [She's very good at] reading the angles. I think she's very agile in the cage. She's a good field general for me in terms of reading the defense and telling the girls when they need to play post, when they've got to mark up, if they need to come back, watch the middle [and she has] great eyes back there."

The victory advanced Robinson (14-3) to the conference tournament semifinals and earned the Rams a berth in the 6A North region tournament. Centreville's season ended with a 4-11-2 record.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Westfield Football Wins Fourth Straight

The Westfield football team defeated previously unbeaten Robinson 31-14 on Oct. 17.

The Bulldogs improved to 6-1 and have won four straight since losing to Lake Braddock.

Westfield will travel to face Herndon at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24.

### Centreville Football Blanks Oakton

The Centreville football team defeated Oakton 21-0 on Oct. 17, improving its record to 4-2.

The Wildcats' two losses came against private school Gonzaga, and a double-overtime road loss to Westfield.

Centreville will host Washington-Lee at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24.

### Chantilly Falls To Herndon

The Chantilly football team lost to Herndon 22-20 on Oct. 17.

The Chargers' record dropped to 4-3, while the Hornets improved to 4-3 with their first Concorde District win since 2009, snapping a streak of 24 straight district losses.

Chantilly will host Yorktown at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 24.

## K-9 Krawl Raises Awareness

In observance of October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month, Fairfax County Police personnel from the agency's Victim Services Unit hosted the 8th Annual K-9 Krawl; a 5K Walk with 307 registered walkers held at the Fairfax County Government Center on Saturday, Oct. 18. The event was created to highlight the link between domestic violence and the link to animal cruelty. In 2013, the police department received more than 11,000 domestic violence calls for service; an average of 928 per month. There were more than 1,600 assaults on family members and 293 violations of protective orders. More than 1,900 people were arrested for offenses relating to domestic violence.

— STEVE HIBBARD



STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

**Tim Roessler of Centreville with George.**



# Haunted Trail Features Skits

FROM PAGE 5

fundraiser for the historic town since 2001.

"It was Civil War-era town," said Thompson. "A lot of people have said these historic homes, residences are thought to be haunted. We thought this was something cool to embellish."

The first year included just five skits, performed as visitors are lead around the tiki torch-lit park trail, but over the years the trail has ballooned to nearly two dozen skits for the 2014 fright fest. Each skit includes six to seven people. They span the gruesome gamut. There's also appearances from a gang of hidden chainsaw operators, a botched (we can't say how) electric chair execution and periodic appearances from Fairfax County's own urban legend the Bunnyman.

Upwards of 200 volunteer actors and hospitality crew from Clifton, South County and Centreville High Schools and Robinson Secondary School will put on this year's event from 7-10pm on Oct. 25. Project manager Steve Bitner said they're expecting several thousand visitors to come through the town and trail.

Bitner said the one to two-mile circular loop trail should take about half an hour to traverse. Afterwards, and for children too young (they don't recommend much below 12 years old) to walk the trail, the Trail team will be showing spooky movies and serving concessions, including food from Clifton's Italian restaurant Trattoria Villagio.

Tickets for adults are \$15 and children under 12 are \$10. In case of inclement weather, the one planned rain date is Oct. 26.

# Teaming Up To Help Needy

The holidays are almost here, with all the joy of family gatherings and tasty meals around the table. But for many local families, the holidays are a time of hunger. So the Sully District Police Station, Westfields Business Owners Association and Western Fairfax Christian Ministries have teamed up to help feed them, but they need help from the community. They're asking people to bring non-perishable food items to the Sully police station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly, between now and Sunday, Nov. 9. Once the food is gathered, volunteers will create and deliver food baskets to these families in need throughout Centreville, Chantilly,

Clifton and Fairfax Station.

Non-perishable food items include, but aren't limited to: canned vegetables, canned fruit, gravy, soup, bagged/canned beans, tuna, salmon, chicken, rice, instant potatoes, peanut butter, jelly, pasta, spaghetti sauce, flour, sugar, oil, macaroni and cheese, cereal, oatmeal, brownie mix, cookie mix, cake mix, frosting, pancake mix, syrup and canned cranberries.

The Fairfax County Police Department cannot accept gift cards or money donations.

Those wishing to donate a gift card or money, should contact Jennie Bush at [jbush@wfcma.org](mailto:jbush@wfcma.org).

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**NOVEMBER**

Election Day is Tuesday, November 4.  
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HomeLifeStyle.....11/12/14  
Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I.....11/19/14  
A+.....11/25/14  
Thanksgiving is November 27.

**DECEMBER**

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- Vienna/Oakton Connection







# 'An Awesome Experience'

FROM PAGE 3



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATE MEYER

**Kate Meyer (left) and friend Hannah work together on a banner for Austria in their arts-and-crafts class at the academy.**

ciency and knowledge of German life, she jumped at the chance.

"Foreign countries and their lifestyles are super interesting to me, and many of the teachers at the academy have lived in German-speaking countries for a number of years," said Meyer. "So I figured they'd be able to provide me with many stories and facts about the culture."

In April, she found out she'd been accepted. "I'm just so thankful the academy saw my language skills and willingness to learn, out of all the applicants in the state," she said. About 600 students from throughout Virginia applied for all three academies – French, German and Spanish – and only 45 per academy were selected.

Sponsored by the Virginia Department of Education, Meyer's school ran June 21-July 12. At the outset, students pledged in front of their parents to speak German exclusively. And instead of learning the language in the usual way, with textbooks and CDs, they used it at all times – in the cafeteria, dorm, classroom and even while playing sports.

Each morning, including Saturdays, they attended creative classes to encourage them to take a more active role in their learning. They were also introduced to a second foreign language, taught via German. Afternoon activities included cooking, soccer, art, volleyball and dancing, plus German games and crafts.

The students' writing and photography skills were honed by keeping daily journals and creating memory DVDs, weekly videos, newspapers and blogs. All activities were hands-on and in real-life situations to make the teens' language acquisition practical and lasting.

And Meyer was thrilled to participate. "This academy helped me learn new words, as well as really improve my vocabulary and

quick-thinking skills," she said. "The best part was definitely the people and being able to learn as much as I did. We took three, different classes – Fairy Tales, Russian and Adventure Germany – and in all of them, I learned history, culture and, of course, more German."

Besides that, said Meyer, "I loved all the teachers and counselors that helped us throughout the German Academy experience. Since they know the language much better than us, they were able to provide help when we struggled with words. Also, since the counselors were in college, they were able to relate to us and get to know us on a more personal level, which really helped everyone in the academy feel like part of one, giant family."

Overall, she said, her German-language abilities improved so much that, even after the academy ended, she still found herself thinking in German and translating words into it in her head. There's also another benefit. "I still hang out with and talk to the friends I made there," said Meyer. "And we make sure to speak and write in German to continue to improve."

## 18-24-Year-Olds Needed for Survey

To meet its grant requirement for a Virginia Strategic Prevention Framework-State Incentive Grant, the Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County (UPC) needs to gather at least 300 surveys in a 30-day time frame that ends Nov. 15.

So it's hoping that people, ages 18-24, will take an anonymous survey on youth and young adult drinking-and-driving prevention. The survey only takes minutes and may be found at <http://healthy.gmu.edu/Survey.aspx?surveyId=1132>.

People taking it may be college students attending school outside Fairfax County, as long as their primary residence is their home in this county. And if that's the case, they should use their Fairfax County ZIP code on the survey.

Prepared in conjunction with GMU's Center for the Advancement of Public Health, the survey aims to help understand attitudes

and perceptions surrounding youth and young adult decisions and behavior regarding drinking and driving. The results will be used to prepare strategies to reduce this behavior in Fairfax County.

UPC interviewers will also be administering the survey at various locations, and those who take the survey in person will receive incentives ranging from \$5 gift cards to restaurant coupons and other treats. The locations and dates are as follows:

### CENTREVILLE/CLIFTON:

Cox Farms in Centreville: Oct. 24, 7-10 p.m.  
Clifton Haunted Trail: Oct. 25, 6:30 -10 p.m.

### FAIR OAKS/FAIRFAX:

Fairfax Corner Goblin Gallop: Oct. 26, 7-11 a.m.  
Merrifield Festival: Oct. 26, 10:30 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Buffalo Wing University: 3950 University Drive, Fairfax, Oct. 28 and Nov. 4, 4-7 p.m.

### VIENNA:

Jammin' Java: Oct. 25 and Nov. 1, 9-11:30 p.m.  
Vienna Inn: Nov. 7 and Nov. 14, 9-11:30 p.m.

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**PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON ZONING ORDINANCE, PROPOSED ADDITION OF CHAPTER 13, STORMWATER MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE**  
**JOINT PUBLIC HEARING**  
**TOWN OF CLIFTON TOWN COUNCIL AND TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION**  
**NOVEMBER 4, 2014**

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Town Council and the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a joint Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at the Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the Town of Clifton's Zoning Ordinance, resulting from the requirements of the Virginia Stormwater Management Program Regulations, to adopt Fairfax County's Chapter 124 of the Code of the County of Fairfax, Stormwater Management Ordinance, into the Town Code, as Chapter 13 of the Town of Clifton Code. The proposed revision to the Town Code by the addition of Chapter 13 of the Zoning Ordinance is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at [www.cliftonva.us](http://www.cliftonva.us) and a hard copy of the proposed Chapter 13, Stormwater Management Ordinance Zoning Ordinance may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the proposed adoption of Chapter 13 to the Town of Clifton Zoning Ordinance of the Stormwater Management Ordinance.

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## SCHOOLS

# Cotman Honored as Middle School Counselor of Year

BY STEVE HIBBARD

**L**iberty Middle School counselor Paula Cotman of Fairfax was named Middle School Counselor of the Year for Fairfax County Public Schools on Aug. 20 — from a roster of about 15 counselors nominated for the award. There are roughly 580 counselors in the county; and about 100 or so work in middle schools.

“It’s a huge accomplishment,” said Cotman who said it took a while before the news resonated with her. “I think it’s certainly something that I never dreamed of receiving. I think it’s a milestone that’s been reached; it shows the work that I’ve done.”

A counselor at Liberty since it opened in 2002, Cotman lives by these simple words: “Add value to life,” “Have a mutual respect,” and “Live with intention.”

Former Liberty Principal Audra Sydnor said she felt fortunate to have Cotman on her team from the start. “The director of guidance and I made a wise decision in selecting Paula because the counseling department came together like a ‘grand symphony’ because of her skill in working with multiple stakeholders, her ability to move an idea from conception to implementation, her ingenuity in building bridges for teachers and students, and her willingness to pull together parental partnerships.”

Current Liberty Principal Catherine

Cipperly said Cotman is good at building relationships with students and parents. “She finds leadership opportunities for students and is very good at helping students find a place and purpose in school,” she said.

“For example, last year she helped interested students become the morning news show anchors, and she worked with identified students to access programs such as the College Partnership Program.”

She added: “She is dedicated to working with students in every capacity. She has a gift in her ability to communicate with everyone and makes them feel at ease.”

Rich Crowley, the former director of student services for Robinson Secondary, who first hired Cotman into FCPS many years ago, said: “She was available to everyone, adult or student alike ... Ms. Cotman usually was able to get students, parents and faculty on board to work together to create better behavior and habits. I think that it was the confluence of intangibles, charisma and intelligence that makes her as effective as she is.”

According to parent Sue Sanders, whose children benefitted from Cotman’s guid-



Paula Cotman of

ance, the most challenging time for parenting was the middle school years. “It’s caring people like Paula Cotman that pulled us through,” she said. “I was most impressed with her listening skills and her identifying, suggesting and promoting the teen and the parent working towards the same goal just as a team would.”

She added: “She had an open door policy for both the student and the parent and she is a master at follow-through. If we could clone this lady, Fairfax County Schools would be an even better place to educate our children.”

**BORN IN** the small town of Mullins, S.C., Cotman worked as a sharecropper on her grandfather’s tobacco fields at the age of 5. She comes from a family of educators — her dad, Paul Glen was the first black principal in Union, S.C.; her stepdad Charlie Rogers was a principal in Warrenton, Va.; and her mom Cora Rogers was an elementary school reading specialist.

“Because of my love for children, when I was a young kid, I would teach school in my back yard,” said Cotman. “Back in my time, as an African American, you could be a teacher or a nurse; the majority went into the teaching profession.”

She added: “Growing up in an impoverished community, it was an inherent goal in our family to get a good education and give back by assisting others.”

As a teenager, she worked part-time as a youth counselor, tutor, and coach for underprivileged youth. “Working with people, especially children, gives me an opportunity to make a positive impact on the lives of those with whom I come in contact,” she said.

**SHE EARNED** her B.S. in health and PE., and a master’s degree in counseling from Virginia State University in Petersburg. She also received an educational specialist degree from UVA. She began her career in Fauquier County as a PE. and health teacher, basketball and softball coach, and department chair for 11 years.

“My first personal and professional aspirations were being a physical education teacher and coach,” she said. “From those experiences, others often sought my confidence. As a result, I yearned to empower, assist, and arm others with more than my common wisdom. That led to me into the field of counseling.”

Cotman moved to Fairfax County where she became a counselor at Robinson Secondary School for 10 years and supervised the summer school program at Longfellow Middle and Liberty Middle Schools. She has a daughter, Chelsea, who is 23.

While counseling students, her motto is to be fair, open and transparent. “I value their opinions; I value who they are ... People just tend to navigate towards me.”

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