

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ❖ Fair Lakes

Arbors of Chantilly
Gets a Thumbs-Up

NEWS, PAGE 7

Stringfellow Road Work
Should Finish Early

NEWS, PAGE 10



Mary Kay Downes, holding last year's yearbook in her Chantilly High classroom, is in the Virginia High School Hall of Fame.

Up Where The Air Is Rare

NEWS, PAGE 4

Pumpkin Fantasy
For Halloween

NEWS, PAGE 3

CALENDAR, PAGE 16 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14 ❖ SPORTS, PAGE 12

PHOTO COURTESY OF KYLER ZAMPIELLO



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)
Ilyong Moon (At Large)
Ted Velkoff (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

Robbery in Centreville

Fairfax County police are looking for a Centreville robbery suspect. The incident occurred, last Tuesday, Oct. 21, at 3:27 p.m., in the 14100 block of Lee Highway. They say the victim was standing outside a business when a man approached him. The suspect displayed a handgun and demanded property and money. After taking the property, he fled. He was described as black, in his 20s and between 6 feet and 6 feet 2 inches tall.

Westfield Haunted House, Carnival

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

SoberRide Is Available

Those planning to celebrate Halloween with alcohol this weekend are urged to designate a sober driver. Toward that end, SoberRide is offering a free cab ride home (up to \$30) starting Friday, Oct. 31, at 10 p.m. thru Saturday, Nov. 1, at 4 a.m. People must be 21 or older to use this service. For more information, go to www.soberride.com.

Don't Drink and Drive

This Friday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m., seven police agencies from Northern Virginia will team up in all jurisdictions to conduct saturation patrols detecting and arresting drunk drivers on Halloween. Called "Extra Eyes for DWI's," the effort will involve police officers and resources from the City of Falls Church, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Town of Vienna, Fairfax County, City of Fairfax, U.S. Park Police and Virginia State Police.

WHS Needs Old Clothing

Westfield Theatre Boosters are holding a fundraising clothing drive, Saturday, Nov. 1, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. It lets people clear out their closets and support Westfield High's theater program at the same time. Donate old clothing, shoes, linens jewelry and accessories at the school's black box theater at Door 13.

There's no need to leave the car; people will be there to receive the donations as residents drive up. Receipts will be given for tax purposes; Westfield is at 4700 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Donations may also be dropped off at the school office or black-box theater during school hours prior to Nov. 1.

After all the donations are collected, Westfield will receive money from Savers based on the pounds of donations turned in. The funds will support the school's Theater Department and Savers will sell the donated items in their thrift stores. Anything unsold will be recycled or sent to developing countries.

Time to Fall Back

Daylight Saving Time ends this Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 a.m.; so before going to bed Saturday night, residents should turn back their clocks and watches one hour.

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.

NEWS



Anna from "Frozen."



Maleficent

A Pumpkin Fantasy for Halloween

Noel Dickover has been designing and carving Halloween pumpkins for 16 years, so it's no wonder his front yard is the place to be on Oct. 31. Each year, more than 1,000 people go to 14223 Hartwood Court in Centreville to see the fanciful array of fantasy pumpkins he and his family have created.

And this Friday, they'll display some 40 pumpkins depicting everything from cartoon characters for children to scary and intricate characters from science-fiction novels, movies and video games.

From Route 28 south, turn left on Compton Road, go down the hill and up again. Take the first left onto Hartwood Lane.

The third right is Hartwood Court, and the house is on the corner of Hartwood Lane and Hartwood Court.

Pictured here are some of the pumpkins that'll greet visitors on Halloween. To see more, go to <http://fantasypumpkins.com/pinterest-page-2014.htm>.

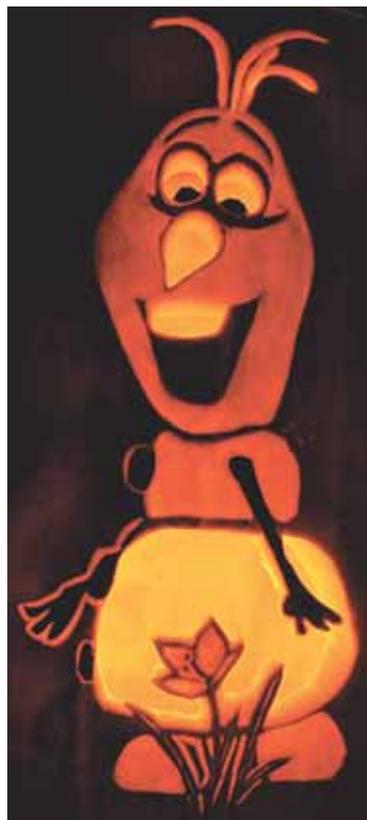
— BONNIE HOBBS



Predator vs. Alien



Toothless



Olaf from "Frozen."



Iggles



Tearaway



White Walker, "Game of Thrones."

Up Where the Air Is Rare

Chantilly yearbook adviser is in Virginia High School Hall of Fame.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Mary Kay Downes has won her share of awards over the years; but now, she's seemingly reached the pinnacle. On Oct. 15 in Charlottesville, she was inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame.

"I was pretty excited, as most inductees over the past 25 years have been coaches or athletes," she said. "And it's very rare for someone still working to get in."

"It's the history book and the keeper of memories."

— Mary Kay Downes, Chantilly High yearbook adviser

and, during that time, it's won more than 50 state and national awards.

She's also chairman of the English Department and teaches senior English classes, plus photo journalism — which is the yearbook-production class. "I was always involved in journalism," she said. Downes worked on her high-school newspaper and magazine in Albany, N.Y., and was on the yearbook, newspaper and literary-magazine staff at Nazareth College in Rochester, N.Y.



Mary Kay Downes (top, right) with the Class of 2014 Hall of Fame inductees.

She first advised a high-school yearbook class in Maryland when she began teaching in 1965. "My husband was in the Army, so we moved all over," said Downes. "I taught college-level in Missouri and adult education to soldiers at Fort Bragg, N.C., and also taught at Department of Defense schools in Germany."

But, said Downes, "I didn't get involved in hard-core journalism and yearbook until I came to Chantilly and became involved in the National Journalism Education Association (JEA) and Columbia Scholastic Press Association and really saw the potential of what participation in a yearbook program could mean to students."

Looking back over the past 25 years and seeing what her former students have accomplished, she said, "What makes me proud is that among them are editors, graphic designers, journalists and authors. And they all say that being in the yearbook program taught them time management and how to deal with others in a constructive way."

It's because she lets her students take the lead, said Downes. She has 55 total in her

two yearbook classes and, she said, "I teach them how to run the program and, foremost, communication skills through writing, photography and design — real-life experiences."

A yearbook's important, she said, because "It preserves the story of the year — it's the history book and the keeper of memories. It's a tangible thing that people don't realize how much they'll appreciate 25 or 30 years later, when they want that story."

But Downes said it's also wonderful "to see the students' faces when they receive it. The giggles, excitement and squeals of delight are the immediate, sheer pleasure of the yearbook. The long-term pleasure is to see what the skills they've learned in yearbook class have done for them as adults."

Chantilly's yearbook includes numerous personal profiles because, said Downes, "We feel one person's story is the story of many. Students answer open-ended survey questions and the editors choose stories they didn't know about and that are unique. And these stories, plus ones about other elements of high-school life, are told from the students' perspectives."

The yearbook students also make a particular effort to make sure the stories are specific to that year. That way, said Downes, "The facts, dates and details are almost time-stamped and couldn't be used, for example, two years before or later."

They do it by interviewing as many people as possible, including coaches, athletes, parents, administrators, etc. They also try to get as many photos and captions on each page as they can. "The students really enjoy that, so we're changing our design this year to add even more," said Downes.

Every year, the students brainstorm and decide on a theme. "It grounds them so the story of the year won't be too broad, but is specific," she said. "For example, last year's was 'We'll Show You,' with lots of bold pictures and really vivid color-packages and designs. It was a pride-in-school theme."

This year's is "Chantilly 360," with emphasis on telling all sides of every story — including things people wouldn't think of —



Mary Kay Downes and daughter-in-law Ali Downes at the ceremony.



From left are Chantilly High Principal Teresa Johnson and yearbook adviser Mary Kay Downes.

via the yearbook's design. And experience isn't necessary to be on the yearbook staff.

"The designers and photographers tend to develop toward those areas, but the writers do need to have some writing ability," said Downes. "The students teach one another how to use the computer programs, and I'm the guiding force and problem-solver. There's no direct, classroom instruction — it's a real, hands-on work experience."

In addition, she takes about 11 students to a yearbook camp each summer, and many attend yearbook conventions in New York and other cities. "I also have them see examples of good writing in yearbooks," said Downes. "And I have experts in writing and photography come and speak to them."

Toughest part about producing the yearbook is "making the deadlines, because it's a 386-page book and very detail-oriented," she said. "Deadlines run from October on, and we send 40-90 pages at a time electronically to the printer." Best, said Downes, is seeing everything flow together and the students work well together and develop leadership and management skills.

Regarding her induction into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame, she didn't learn about it until June — and it was a complete surprise to her. She was nominated by the JEA state director and got letters of support by Chantilly High Principal Teresa Johnson and others.

"I was flattered, humbled and delighted," said Downes. "I actually squealed when I got the letter in the mailbox." She was one of eight people inducted this year. Most were retired coaches, plus one principal and one other journalism adviser from Halifax County.

"I'm so grateful and thankful that it's spurred me on to keep doing what I'm doing," she said. "I'm never going to retire. To me, it also recognizes my students' accomplishments, so I accepted it for them, too." Actually, added Downes, "This is the first time two journalism advisers have been inducted in the same year. The other one has been retired for 12 years, but I guess they couldn't wait me out."



Enjoying the induction-ceremony dinner at the Charlottesville Doubletree are (from left) Mary Kay and husband Linus Downes, Teresa Johnson and the Downes family: son John and wife Kate Downes, plus son-in-law John Shoreman and wife Kathy.

Downes: A Woman of Many Letters

Throughout her career as a teacher and high-school yearbook adviser, Chantilly High's Mary Kay Downes has left her mark. Below is a brief listing of the organizations in which she's involved and some of the acclaim she's received:

Downes has taught journalism for more than 40 years, 25 of them as adviser to Chantilly's award-winning yearbook, Odyssey. During her tenure there, Odyssey has earned 21 Virginia High School League (VHSL) Trophy Class distinctions, 18 National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA) Pacemaker awards and 10 Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA) Crown awards. Odyssey also earned four VHSL Charles E. Savedge Awards for Sustained Excellence in Scholastic Journalism, Yearbook Category.

Downes is founder and past-president of the Association of Fairfax Professional Educators (AFPE) and past-president of Columbia Scholastic Press Advisers Association. She's currently on the board of the Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers (VAJTA) and on the executive board of the Southern Interscholastic Press Association (SIPA).

She's served as a yearbook judge for NSPA, CSPA and state associations and provides on-spot critiques at CSPA and the Journalism Education Association (JEA) national conventions. In addition, she presents at and accompanies students to four journalism conventions each year. Downes has written many articles

printed in state and national journalism publications and has served as a mentor to seven, new, FCPS publication advisers.

Her numerous awards include the Virginia Association of Journalism Teachers and Advisers (VAJTA) Douglas Freeman Award and Thomas Jefferson Award; the CSPA Gold Key award; the NSPA Pioneer Award; the Herndon-Dulles Educator of the Year Award; JEA National Yearbook Adviser of the Year; JEA Medal of Merit, and SIPA Elizabeth Dickey Service Award; and Virginia High School Hall of Fame inductee.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARY KAY DOWNES

Mary Kay Downes beside the plaque of the 2014 Hall of Fame inductees.

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Barbara Comstock? For Congress?

Barbara Comstock:
Bad Ethics—Strike 1!

- \$35,000 in campaign cash from convicted former Gov. Bob McDonnell.¹
- Hid secret lobbying relationships in Richmond and \$85,000 in Romney contributions.²
- Failed to disclose that she was being paid as a consultant by anti-worker lobbying org — while voting on three anti-worker bills (in violation of VA ethics & disclosure rules).³

Barbara Comstock:
Bad Ideas—Strike 2!

- Supported mandatory invasive transvaginal ultrasound tests for women.
- Voted against bi-partisan bill for desperately needed VA transportation fixes.
- Says the government should track immigrants "like FedEx packages."

Barbara Comstock:
Bad Choice!

Do we really want to see strike 3? Team Comstock/McDonnell already has a poor batting average in Virginia. And they have underscored that ethically compromised elected officials cannot police themselves—we need voters to remove them from public office.

It's time to end the culture of corruption in Richmond and Washington D.C.

Elect John Foust on Nov 4.

1. VPAP.org. 2. Wash. Post, 9/5/14. 3. Politico, 10/9/14. Paid for by South Forward IE PAC and not approved by any candidate.

Change for the Better in Fairfax County Schools

Later start times, full-day Mondays; who knows, next maybe gifted-and-talented programs for poor students?

Who says big bureaucracies can't make big changes? One year into the tenure of Karen Garza, we have two huge changes that between them impact almost every single student, every family with children in Fairfax County Public Schools.

Last week, the Fairfax County School Board voted to move high school start times all after 8 a.m. beginning next September. Garza, superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, announced this summer the implementation of full-day Mondays, another previously insurmountable task.

A plan emerged that made this possible for under \$5 million (original estimates were wildly and prohibitively higher) while keeping elementary school times the same (or within 5-10 minutes). The goal is to move middle school start times later in the future.

Change comes in mysterious ways. Part of the support for this change comes from the science.

The American Academy of Pediatrics this fall: "A substantial body of research has now demonstrated that delaying school start times is

an effective countermeasure to chronic sleep loss and has a wide range of potential benefits to students with regard to physical and mental health, safety, and academic achievement.

"The American Academy of Pediatrics strongly supports the efforts of school districts to optimize sleep in students and urges high schools and middle schools to aim for start times that allow students the opportunity to achieve optimal levels of sleep (8.5-9.5 hours) and to improve physi-

EDITORIAL

Voting

Every year is Election Year in Virginia, and this year, the ballot is short but important. Turn out to vote for U.S. Senate, member of the House of Representatives, and a few questions.

You can vote absentee in person between now and Saturday, Nov. 1; after that, vote on Election Day, Nov. 4, at your assigned polling place. Bring photo identification with you, the rules have changed.

cal (eg, reduced obesity risk) and mental (eg, lower rates of depression) health, safety (eg, drowsy driving crashes), academic performance, and quality of life."

We commend the leadership of the advocacy group SLEEP in Fairfax, which never gave up, even in years when this change appeared impossible.

We suspect the key ingredient is new leadership at the top at FCPS, Karen Garza.

A superintendent across the river, Joshua Starr, will have to ask himself what's holding up such changes in Montgomery County Public Schools.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

For information, contact State Board of Elections, 804 864-8901, Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194, email: info@sbe.virginia.gov; or visit <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

You can read previous Connection coverage at <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/Elections/>

— MARY KIMM,

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High School Diplomats Program: A Life Changer

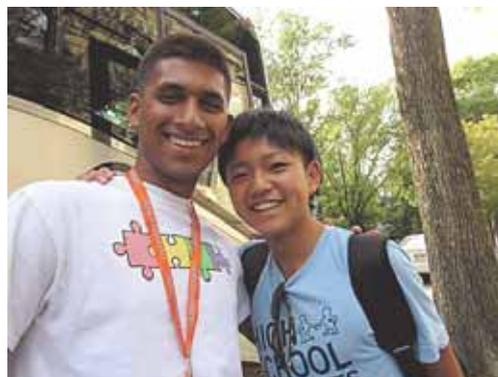
BY PARTH P. DESAI

This past summer, I participated in High School Diplomats, a Japanese cultural foreign exchange program at Princeton University. Every year 40 Japanese students and 40 American students are selected and given full scholarship to attend among thousands of applicants with hopes of receiving one of the greatest experiences of their lives.

During the 10-day program, each American student including myself was paired with a Japanese student-roommate in order to fulfill the full immersion process. The goal by the end of the camp was to come out more knowledgeable of each other's cultures and current social, economic, and political issues occurring in Japan, the U.S., and around the world.

Theme days were held through the 10 days in order for us American students and Japanese's students to interact and learn about each other's cultures. We were given the opportunity to experience Japanese Culture Festival, which involved learning how to cook different foods, playing different Japanese games, and learning how to write in calligraphy. We also participated in theme days that gave the Japanese students a taste of American culture such as Halloween night, American-patriotic day, sports-field day, as well a date night.

The High School Diplomats program offered an academic side as well. Every day, we were split up into classes based on how much Japanese we knew: Beginner class (no experience),



Parth Desai and his roommate Takumi Kanazawa pose for a picture as they meet each other for the first time during their 10 day long High School Diplomats experience.

Intermediate, and Advanced. No prior Japanese language training was required for the program. In the classes, we learned how to speak and write Japanese through the teach-

ing of Japanese Princeton professors and also received lessons about Japanese culture, morals, and values. Seminars were conducted where we discussed different issues that were going on around the world.

One of the main points I took away from the program was the relationship I developed with my Japanese roommate. The High School Diplomats program allowed for us American students to gain a close friend from another country that we don't normally have the opportunity to do. The respect that I now have for my roommate and his culture is indescribable. The High School Diplomats program has become one big family that will always be connected. It is something that my American and Japanese friends will always hold on to. I have kept in touch and communicated with my roommate to this day and it has made the program all the more worth it.

For more information about the High School Diplomats program and how to apply, please visit www.highschooldiplomats.com.

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.
Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

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Newspaper of
Chantilly
Fair Oaks / Fair Lakes
A Connection Newspaper

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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Arbors of Chantilly Gets a Thumbs-Up

Assisted-Living facility would focus on Alzheimer's patients.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's on to the Board of Supervisors now for a proposed, elder-care facility in Chantilly. The Fairfax County Planning Commission gave it a thumbs-up last Wednesday, Oct. 22.

"The Planning Commission overwhelmingly approved this facility because it was badly needed in Fairfax County and all the key traffic concerns stated by the commissioners were met under Virginia law," said Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger. "Several of the 'what-if concerns' expressed by some local citizens were researched, but were found to be not applicable."

Artisan Land Group LLC hopes to build The Arbors of Chantilly at 13622 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, off Downs Drive, which runs alongside a gas station on Route 50 west. But to do so, it needs a special-exception permit from the county.

The six-and-one-half-acre site, zoned residential, is currently a vacant lot. Planned is a one-story, 37,000-square-foot, residential-looking building facing Route 50.

Traffic counts for this 48-unit facility are projected to be less than if that site were



The Arbors of Chantilly would be off Route 50 and Downs Drive.

BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

developed with the 12 homes that could be constructed on it by right. Two entrances off Downs are planned, and county staff is recommending approval, subject to certain development conditions.

However, the nearby residents are worried that people leaving The Arbors would

cut through their community to reach Route 50. They stressed that their neighborhood, Chantilly Estates, is old, with narrow roads and no sidewalks, plus children and elderly, handicapped and special-needs residents who are often outside.

So in response to their concerns, the ap-

plicant has agreed to forbid all vendors from making a right turn leaving the site, so they can avoid driving into the neighborhood. Signs to that effect will be placed on site and on Downs Drive, and residents will be given a phone number to call if anyone violates this policy.

Furthermore, the applicant will also comply with a development condition to limit deliveries into the site. It states that, except in the case of an emergency, "best efforts will be used" to ensure that no deliveries to the Arbors of Chantilly will be scheduled between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

"No other substantive changes are proposed," said Billy O'Donnell, senior land-use coordinator with the county's Planning and Zoning Department. "Staff continues to find that the proposal is in conformance with the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Ordinance, as conditioned."

During a Sept. 18 public hearing, residents also complained that the service road by the nearby gas station is "dangerous and often blocked." That's because many drivers – including those in large trucks – park there routinely while they go into the gas station. So people drive through Chantilly

SEE PLANNING, PAGE 11

Your health care choices:
Their Business?



John Foust
supports Obamacare.
Libertarian Bill Redpath will work to replace it with more consumer choice.



Barbara Comstock
voted for invasive transvaginal ultrasounds.
Libertarian Bill Redpath votes no on laws that butt into our personal choices.

Libertarian Bill Redpath:
"You should make your own health care choices, not the government."

#VA10

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What's on the Ballot?

Vote Nov. 4.

Every voter in Virginia will vote for U.S. senator and their member in the U.S. House of Representatives.

One constitutional question will appear on all Virginia ballots, Proposed Constitutional Amendment - Question: Shall the Constitution of Virginia be amended to allow the General Assembly to exempt from taxation the real property of the surviving spouse of any member of the armed forces of the United States who was killed in action, where the surviving spouse occupies the real property as his or her principal place of residence and has not remarried?

U.S. SENATE

One-term incumbent Sen. Mark R. Warner (D) is challenged by Republican Ed W. Gillespie and Libertarian Robert C. Sarvis. Republican Ed W. Gillespie, www.edforsenate.com Democrat Mark R. Warner, www.markwarnerva.com Libertarian Robert C. Sarvis, www.robertsarvis.com

IN THE 10TH DISTRICT, an open seat was created by the retirement of Frank Wolf (R), who was elected to office in 1982. Both major party candidates are elected officials from McLean, with Republican Barbara Comstock, a member of the Virginia House of Delegates, facing Democrat John Foust, a member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The 10th district sprawls from McLean to Winchester, and includes Great Falls, Chantilly, parts of Fairfax Station, the Town of Clifton, part of Burke and Springfield.

Republican Barbara J. Comstock, www.barbaracomstockforcongress.com Democrat John W. Foust, www.foustforvirginia.com Libertarian William B. Redpath, billredpath.com Independent Green Dianne L. Blais, www.votejoinrun.us Independent Brad A. Eickholt, www.eickholt4congress.com/

IN THE 11TH DISTRICT, Gerry Connolly (D), former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, elected to congress in 2008, will face Republican Suzanne K. Scholte and two independent candidates.

Republican Suzanne K. Scholte, www.suzannescholteforcongress.com/ Democrat Gerald E. "Gerry" Connolly, incumbent, www.gerryconnolly.com Green Joe F. Galdo www.joegaldo.com Libertarian Marc M. Harrold, www.marcharrold4congress.com

IN FAIRFAX COUNTY, all voters will vote yes or no for more money for transportation projects.

Transportation Improvements Bond Question: Shall the Board of Supervisors contract a debt, borrow money and issue bonds of Fairfax County, Virginia, in addition to bonds previously authorized for transportation improvements and facilities, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$100,000,000 for the purpose of providing funds to finance the cost of constructing, reconstructing, improving and acquiring transportation facilities, including improvements to primary and secondary State highways, improvements related to transit, improvements for pedestrians and bicycles, and ancillary related improvements and facilities?

FOR MORE ELECTION INFORMATION

Fairfax County Board of Elections, 703-222-0776, www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eb/ 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Suite 232, Fairfax, 22035; FAX 703-324-2205; email voting@fairfaxcounty.gov State Board of Elections, 804-864-8901 Toll Free: 800 552-9745 FAX: 804 371-0194 email: info@sbe.virginia.gov <http://www.sbe.virginia.gov>

Down to the Wire

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

The race to replace U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R) in Virginia's sprawling 10th district has been exactly what political prognosticators said it would be: one of the most watched, most expensive and most contested races in the 2014 midterm elections.

For years, local Democrats liked to joke that the seat was not so much an "R" seat as a "W" seat, and if they could field a candidate named Wolf, they would have the seat regardless of party affiliation.

But they didn't expect a shot at the seat anytime soon.

Until last December, when Wolf delivered a game-changer by announcing that he would not seek re-election to an 18th term in Congress.

His retirement announcement came as a surprise to both Republicans and Democrats, and set off a feeding frenzy among political hopefuls throughout the district.

By the end of January 2014, 15 candidates stood in line for a chance at the coveted seat.

The news also sparked a flurry of speculation about the district's possible political shift. Democrats became bullish on the seat that had not been competitive for 30 years.

In February, The Rothenberg Political Report rated the race as "leans Republican," noting that in recent elections, the district supported both Republicans and Democrats in presidential and gubernatorial races. The Washington Post ranked the seat as "the sixth most likely seat to flip control" in the 2014 election.

"The 10th district had become increasingly liberal and diverse," said Toni-Michelle C. Travis, an associate professor of government and politics at George Mason University. She noted that while Democrats held just three congressional districts, voters swept Democrats into all three statewide offices last year, and went for President Obama twice.

"These districts are shifting and they are not set in stone anymore," Travis said. "The 10th now includes a chunk of Loudoun County, and voters are going to see the world differently from voters in Fairfax County. It's possible that's where the race will be won or lost."

IN REACTION to the news of an open seat, both parties were frantically maneuvering to select a candidate. Many Democrats were already coalescing around Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust, who had announced his candidacy in September to run against the incumbent Wolf.

"I remember being in the Government Center when

Money

Both Foust and Comstock have received and spent millions of dollars in the race to replace retiring U.S. Rep. Frank Wolf (R). Congressional candidates are required to file up to seven main reports with the Federal Election Commission during the 2014 midterms. Below are Foust and Comstock's most recent quarterly reports, filed Oct. 15.

COMSTOCK:

Beginning Balance: \$575,890.52
Total Contributions for Reporting Period: \$1,300,412.84
Expenditures: \$1,075,722.43
Cash on Hand: \$800,580.93

FOUST:

Beginning Balance: \$1,125,718.40
Total Contributions for Reporting Period: \$1,008,833.03
Expenditures: \$1,492,681.95
Cash on Hand: \$641,869.48

Source: Ballotpedia.org

As 10th District race heads into homestretch, Foust, Comstock continue to battle for voters.



PHOTO BY VICTORIA ROSS

Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) stands by his shipment of new signs that he received in September - "This is Foust Country."

Wolf announced his retirement ... my Blackberry started buzzing like crazy. I was surprised, but I knew my chances to win just shot up," Foust said.

On Jan. 24, Northern Virginia Republicans announced the party would run a firehouse primary on April 26 to choose a nominee. The firehouse primary had never been tested in the state's congressional history, and it was a process that caused significant intra-party strife. But it would give their nominee an early start. If the party opted for a state-run primary or convention, it would not have been held until June 10.

In March, the Democratic convention was cancelled when every other candidate seeking the party's nomination - everyone except Foust - withdrew from the race.

In reaction, Fairfax County Democrats announced in March they would cancel a convention, and select Foust as their nominee.

Avoiding a costly primary would give Democrats an edge in building widespread district support for Foust before Republicans named their nominee in a firehouse primary in April.

State Del. Barbara Comstock handily won the GOP "firehouse" primary in April. The former Wolf aide and establishment favorite beat out five other contenders for the nomination.

Her win ensured a heated general election contest for the battleground district, and signaled the official start of the high-stakes race.

For the past six months, both candidates have been campaigning hard.

Foust's campaign likes to look at the race in terms of numbers. They boast that the campaign has made 960,000 phone calls, knocked on 120,000 doors and registered 1,500 new voters in the quest for the seat.

But the midterm cycle is a steep climb for Democrats, and a win often comes down to a vigorous get-out-the-vote effort.

Republicans, outflanked by a superior Democratic turnout operation in the past two presidential elections, have been spending tens of millions of dollars to improve data collection to achieve a rough parity.

President Obama's approval ratings are hovering near all-time lows, and Republicans have successfully persuaded their core supporters that the election is a referendum on him.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) greets supporters during a campaign stop in Clifton last month.

IN EARLY OCTOBER, National Democrats delivered a blow to Foust by canceling a multimillion-dollar television ad buy in the race, shifting money from the 10th to shore up vulnerable incumbents, such as freshman Rep. Ami Bera, a California Democrat.

"Ad reservations are changing every week, and John Foust is running an aggressive campaign in a tough climate," David Bergstein, spokesman for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in response to the move.

Foust said he still sees a path to victory. Campaigning Saturday in Prince William County, Foust told supporters that the campaign is at a "critical point."

"I like to say both Barbara Comstock and I will have more than enough supporters to win this election, there's no question about that. But because it's a low turnout election, the one who is going to win is the one who has the ground game, and I know we have the ground game."

Comstock's campaign said they have been working their field operation too.

"As we enter the final week, our campaign has the momentum," Comstock said Friday. "We have ongoing Get Out The Vote efforts and will continue to reach voters through Election Day. I am pleased with all of the positive responses we get every day throughout this diverse district."

Johanna Persing, a spokesperson for Comstock's campaign, said Comstock and her volunteers have been knocking on doors every day. "We are reaching voters in all corners of the district... our strong ground game and Get-Out-the Vote effort will be instrumental to victory on Nov. 4."

"The point is not everything is moving in one direction, which makes it impossible to predict the outcome. Different groups are responding in different ways to the candidates and the messages," said longtime Northern Virginia campaign activist Frank Blechman. "Bottom line: It's too close to call so get out and vote."

Poll Position

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Despite low public opinion of President Obama and a minimally productive Congress, U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly has plenty going for him as the incumbent seeking re-election in Virginia's largely democratic 11th district.

Republican challenger Suzanne Scholte and independents Marc Harrold (Libertarian) and Joe Galdo (Green) have been trying to use that unproductivity to their advantage, citing their lack of experience in elected office as affording an advantageous, fresh perspective.

"They're not only not hearing us, they're not taking the time to listen to us," said Scholte. "I think we see that in the partisan shift, the bitterness in how people are dealing with each other."

And though that's not a bad strategy, local academics following the race say there's really no substitute for the strength of incumbency. Especially when you've made yourself as a household name like Connolly has.

"Once he fended off a serious challenger in two separate election cycles, when people thought he was vulnerable, that established the perception he's one of those hard-to-beat incumbents now," said Mark J. Rozell, acting dean and professor of Public Policy for the George Mason University School of Policy, Government and International Affairs.

Connolly won his first two congressional races by 12 points (2008) and 26 points (2010).

And now that he's stuck around, proven himself a winner, "most voters differentiate between Congress as an institution and their own incumbent member," said Rozell.

"It doesn't necessarily weaken any incumbent who may have the favor of his or her constituents," he continued.

Scholte has come after Connolly for being "completely out of touch with people in this district." Connolly has countered that, "there's no excuse for people seeing you as getting distant. I come home every night. When I pick up my dry cleaning I'm in my constituency. When I grab a meal, it's in my constituency."

"And as long as Connolly can present himself as an authentic representative who's out there fighting for his people," said Rozell, "fixing the problems with hyper bipartisanship, that protects him a good deal."

INCUMBENCY COMES with superior name recognition and funding, both factors making it that much more difficult for outsiders to pull an upset.

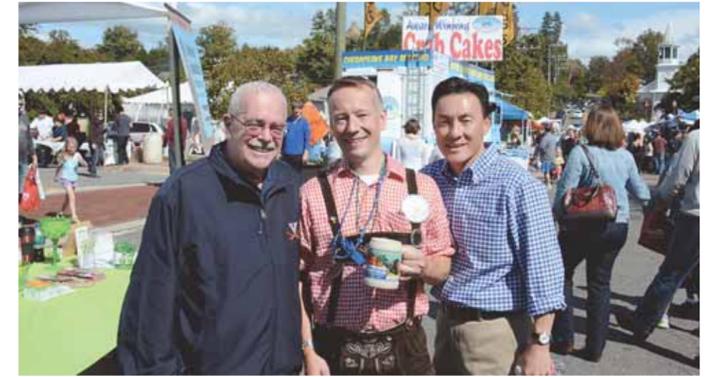
As of an Oct. 15 OpenSecrets.org report, Connolly had raised \$1,886,601, spent \$986,053 and had \$1,768,494 in cash on hand.

Scholte, by contrast, had \$42,856 on hand, raised \$224,457 and spent \$182,601. Harrold was reported with \$6,547 raised,

Local academics following the 11th Districts race say there's really no substitute for the strength of incumbency.



From left: Ann Juliano of Bristol, Suzanne Scholte of Falls Church and Janet Gorn of Montclair enjoy the late afternoon sun at a campaign event in Gorn's back yard.



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON

The 11th District incumbent Gerry Connolly (left), Burgermeister Greg Burkheart of Vienna (center) and Delegate Mark Keam practice their Deutsche at Vienna's Oktoberfest celebration.

\$4,583 spent and \$1,962 on hand. Galdo wasn't part of the report.

Toni-Michelle Travis, GMU associate professor of Government and Politics, agrees with Rozell that the race is "pretty clear-cut." "He's doing all the right things, but I wouldn't say he's got the seat indefinitely," she said. Travis cited changing demographics in Northern Virginia as something incumbents shouldn't sleep on in future elections.

According to the Office of Elections, there are 25,122 new voters registered in Fairfax County since Nov. 5, 2013. That figure includes transfers as well first-time registrants. "Every incumbent's got to be very attentive to it," said Travis. "This could erode, this could begin to change because of the new voters. That's tripped up many, including Jeannemarie Devolites Davis, who used to represent Vienna."

Travis believes a shift could come in "sort of purple" Northern Virginia, and issues like immigration have the potential to "become real change" in favor of a challenger, at least

one with more election experience.

"It's a training ground," said Travis, "because these things shift in Northern Virginia. Maybe next time [Scholte] might prevail."

As well, Rozell doesn't discount the value of third-party candidates in the electoral process.

"They can force major candidate to address different issues that might get ignored otherwise," he said, "add something important to the debate that's going on."

HARROLD AND GALDO have highlighted the need for more government transparency as well as pragmatic planning for simplifying the tax code, among other issues.

"Unfortunately for them," said Rozell, "voters remain strategic creatures, under the belief that they'd be throwing their vote away otherwise. It somewhat becomes a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Visit Elections.virginia.gov to see the new requirements for voter identification required at the polls on Nov. 4.



Motorists on Wednesday drive beside the new section of road under construction outside Chantilly High.



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Drivers and construction vehicles Wednesday afternoon on Stringfellow Road at the Poplar Tree Road intersection.

Stringfellow Road Work Should Finish Early

Meanwhile, Fair Lakes Parkway ramp is closed.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Stringfellow Road is one of the most heavily traveled roadways in western Fairfax County. It already carries some 23,000 vehicles/day, and that number's projected to rise to 33,000/day by 2034.

It's also popular because it provides access to four elementary schools, a middle school and a high school, a regional library, two parks, several athletic fields, churches, shopping centers, a park-and-ride lot and highly populated residential areas.

Trouble is, all the motorists driving to and from all these places regularly clog Stringfellow and bring it to a standstill during rush hours, the start and end of the school day and on weekends during youth-sports events. And all that happened even

before it turned into a massive construction project. The portion of Stringfellow between I-66 and Route 29 was four-laned in the 1990s by Fairfax County's Department of Transportation. Now, the section from I-66/Fair Lakes Boulevard to Route 50 is also being widened from two to four lanes, providing a faster conduit between Route 50 in Chantilly and Route 29 in Clifton/Centreville.

Currently under construction are four travel lanes — two, 12 feet wide, and two, 14 feet wide; a 10-foot multipurpose trail, a 6-foot sidewalk and a raised, 16-foot, grass median. And bicyclists will not only share the trail with pedestrians, but also pedal side-by-side with cars, trucks and buses on each outer, 14-foot lane.

It's a complicated undertaking — especially considering the fact that VDOT is constructing all these elements without shutting down Stringfellow. There have been lane shifts and sometimes travel delays but, on the whole, drivers have still been able to use the road while work progressed.

Traffic was shifted to Stringfellow's new southbound lanes in early October, and work is on track to complete the north-

bound side to open all four lanes — including turn lanes and permanent signals — this December. Originally, this \$63 million project wasn't expected to be done until mid-summer 2015, so finishing it by the end of this year would make it some six or seven months ahead of schedule.

"The future southbound lanes are complete — a significant milestone — and both directions of traffic have been shifted to allow crews to finish constructing the two northbound lanes while maintaining traffic at all times," said VDOT spokeswoman Jennifer McCord. "So drivers should have the benefit of four lanes and the final configuration in about two months."

She said the rest of the work includes putting in the raised concrete medians, stormwater-management ponds, final surface pavement and markings — which will require some lane closures — plus landscaping, and should be completed well before the official July 2015 end date.

Meanwhile, though, drivers will have to

deal with Stringfellow/Fair Lakes Parkway ramp closures. For the next six to eight weeks, they're asked to use alternate routes as crews construct a retaining wall along the ramp from Fair Lakes Parkway to northbound Stringfellow Road.

Due to the deep excavations required to build the wall, the ramp from Fair Lakes Parkway to northbound Stringfellow has been closed, leaving a short right-turn lane near the traffic signal. Motorists must use alternate routes to reach Route 50, such as the Fairfax County Parkway or through Fair Lakes Boulevard for local traffic.

"We truly appreciate the patience of drivers and residents, especially considering the extremely involved and somewhat unusual utility work — including a jet-fuel line," said McCord. "Our folks have also been coordinating closely with three schools, the library and the Park Authority."

For further details about the project, go to http://www.virginia.gov/projects/northernvirginia/stringfellow_road.asp.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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 the Northern Virginia counties of Arlington, Fairfax, (eastern) Loudoun and Prince William. Visit 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 or call 703-658-1152 for more.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 5

An Evening with Cal Thomas.

7 p.m. at SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 11



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Unexpected Lessons

"Spinny" Spencer Johnson recently visited Poplar Tree Elementary School. His performance featured fun basketball skills while teaching the importance of education, respect, goal setting, determination and perseverance. His message to the students was: "With the proper discipline and hard work, you can accomplish anything."

Planning Commission Approves Arbors of Chantilly

FROM PAGE 7

Estates to get out, instead of using the service road to reach the traffic light at Chantilly Road to get to Route 50 east.

But, said Litzenger, "County staff emphasized that the timing of the traffic lights at the Staples store and Chantilly Drive will enable a two-minute break in traffic to occur on Route 50, which is plenty of time for a large number of vehicles to merge onto Route 50 from Downs Drive."

"In addition, county staff is now working with the owner of the Shell gas station to fix the issues as far as the service drive is concerned. Although the service drive is not needed to meet the VDOT requirements, the



The view from Downs Drive.

addition of the full-use service drive will enable more options for traffic to come and go from Downs Drive."

Besides that, Litzenger said county staff expects the service-drive issues to be cleared up in less than a year.

The Arbors of Chantilly owner said it'll take two years to build the facility, so full use of the service drive will be in place when it opens.

In the end, the Planning Commission voted 10-0 to approve Artisan's proposal. One member not present for the public hearing abstained and another was absent. The issue is slated to go before the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, Dec. 2.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 10

Paul VI Catholic High School library, 10675 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax. Cal Thomas, columnist, will share an insightful and humorous presentation on the topic of government and private schools. Email pvipto@paulvi.net.

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 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 for more.

FRIDAYS/NOV.7-DEC. 19

Temple Beth Torah, a reform Jewish congregation and member of the Union for Reform Judaism holds services and religious school at 4212-C Technology Court, Chantilly. The

congregation offers spiritual, educational, support and social opportunities for member children age 3 through Bar/Bat Mitzvah and confirmation. All community members welcome. Call Jennifer Harding 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net 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 for more.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

Veterans Sunday Patriotic Services. 8:45 and 11 a.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Jubilee is having special Veterans Sunday patriotic services featuring U. S. Army Brass music. The public is invited. Call 703-383-1170 or see www.jccag.org.
Author Talk. 7 p.m. at the Jewish

Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike. Three writers share their personal journeys. Email boxoffice@jccnv.org.

TUESDAY/NOV. 11

Veterans Day Celebration. 9:30 a.m. at Bull Run Elementary School, 15301 Lee Highway, Centreville. Bull Run invites Veterans in the Centreville community to be honored guests at the school's annual Veterans Day Ceremony. Students and staff will recognize veterans for their patriotism and willingness to serve our country. Veterans who will attend, RSVP at 703-227-1400.

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Westfield senior Emily McNamara was named to the Conference 5 all-tournament team.



Kellie Cleveland and the Westfield field hockey team lost to Herndon in the Conference 5 championship game on Oct. 23.

Westfield Field Hockey Loses to Herndon in Conference 5 Final

Sophomore forward Markert scores two goals for Bulldogs.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The defending state champion Westfield field hockey team ended up in an unfamiliar position on Oct. 23.

Second place.

Herndon, the No. 3 seed, captured the Conference 5 championship with a 3-2 victory over No. 1 seed Westfield in the tournament final at Oakton High School. Taylor Stone scored all three Herndon goals and the Hornets thwarted a Westfield penalty corner in the final minute to take home the title — and earn acknowledgement on the field hockey banner in the school gymnasium.

“We now get to put our year up in the gym,” Stone said. “That’s what we wanted — we wanted to make history.”

It was Herndon’s first conference/district championship since 1979 (no district tournament back then).

Westfield cut the Herndon lead to 3-2 with 16:08 remaining in the second half when sophomore forward Olivia Markert scored her second goal of the evening. The Bulldogs had opportunities to tie the score, including the penalty corner in the final minute, but came up empty.

“You know what, they’re a great team,” Westfield head coach Starr Karl said. “They



Westfield’s Olivia Markert, right, scored two goals against Herndon in the Conference 5 tournament final on Oct. 23.

play really hard. I can’t take anything away from them. They wanted it. They played hard. We wanted it to, we just didn’t [capitalize].”

Westfield defeated Herndon 5-4 during the teams’ regular-season meeting on Oct. 8. The Hornets held a 4-2 advantage in the second half, but surrendered a trio of late goals, including the game-winner in the closing seconds.

Herndon’s Sofia Palacios said Westfield’s penalty corner in the final minute on Oct. 23 brought back memories of the Hornets’

gut-wrenching regular-season loss to the Bulldogs.

“When they had a corner with 30 seconds left, [I had a] flashback to last time,” Palacios said. “I’m like, this cannot happen again. ... When we got it out [of the circle], it was one of the best feelings ever.”

The regular-season loss to Westfield snapped a 13-game winning streak for Herndon. After bouncing back with a victory over Oakton, the Hornets lost their regular-season finale to Chantilly, dropping Herndon to the No. 3 seed in the tourna-

ment and forcing the Hornets to play in the quarterfinal round (the top two seeds in the six-team tournament receive a first-round bye and an automatic regional berth).

Herndon beat Oakton 6-1 in the quarterfinals on Monday and knocked off Chantilly 2-0 in the semifinals on Wednesday. Miller said being forced to play in the quarterfinal round helped the Hornets regain some confidence. She also said the team benefitted from its performance against Westfield in the regular season.

“For my kids, when you’re playing against Westfield, you’re playing against the defending state champion, you just have to know you can be in the game,” Miller said. “I think from that first game, even though we lost in very disappointing fashion, we knew we could play with them.”

Herndon’s Stone, defender Kaley Selner and junior midfielder Seara Mainor were named to the all-tournament team, along with Westfield senior forward Emily McNamara, junior defender Sarah Horgan and freshman midfielder Mackenzie Karl.

Westfield faced Yorktown, the No. 3 seed from Conference 6, in the opening round of the 6A North region tournament on Wednesday, after The Connection’s deadline.

Herndon finished region runner-up in 1979, but has never won a region championship. Westfield has appeared in the last three region championship games, won the last two and captured the 2013 6A state championship.

“I hope we get to see [Herndon] again,” Starr Karl said. “I think our conference was definitely the strongest conference this year. It’s exciting because that’s never been the case.”

PHOTO BY SUE SHENGER

SPORTS

#63 Alex Simmons attempts to strip the ball from Washington-Lee's #5 Josh Matthews as #32 Kobie Turner assists.



PHOTO BY WILL PALENSCAR

SPORTS BRIEFS

Chantilly Football Falls to Yorktown

The Chantilly Chargers suffered their third loss in four games with a 17-14 defeat against Yorktown on Oct. 24 at Chantilly High School. The Chargers dropped to 4-4. Chantilly will travel to face Robinson at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31.

Centreville Football Beats W-L

The Centreville football team earned its sixth win in its last seven games with a 35-7 victory against Washington-Lee on Oct. 24 at Centreville High School.

The Wildcats (6-2) will close the regular season with a pair of road games, starting with a trip to Herndon on Oct. 24. Kickoff is at 7:30 p.m. Centreville will face Robinson on Nov. 7.

Westfield Football Produces Season High Point Total

The Westfield football team set a season high for points scored during a 66-28 victory over Herndon on Oct. 24 at Herndon High School. The Bulldogs' previous high was 56 in their season opener against South Lakes on Sept. 5. Westfield (7-1) will host Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 31.

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Running Out of Efficacy



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that I'm the least bit worried (actually, I'm the most bit worried), but surviving a terminal cancer diagnosis years beyond one's original prognosis does present its own unique set of problems. Most notably, and most personally for me, they concern treatment options. Specifically, what drugs, targeted or otherwise, can be infused and/or swallowed (when in pill form, like Tarceva) and for how long, when signs of internal organ damage are indicated on regular lab tests? The answer is, generally speaking, so long as your body – as indicated by lab work and any physical symptoms/diagnostic scans – tolerates it. Once the results turn negative, however, and the drug no longer appears to be working, change – in the form of new medicine – is warranted, according to my oncologist. Cancer cells figure it out eventually, and the drugs become ineffective. Moreover, going back to previous drugs – infused or orally (first line, second line, etc.) – that were likewise once effective and then no longer were, is also rarely advisable since the drugs don't magically become re-effective with non-use. Apparently, the cancer cells don't forget, either.

The problem then becomes/has become, for me, given some of the now pre-existing internal organ damage nearly six years of non-stop chemotherapy can cause, is that a patient can run out of treatment options. In fact, I'm on the last oncologist-recommended one, of those with acceptable risks and side effects. Barring any new drug making it out of the research/FDA-approval pipeline, my next option is experimental/a clinical-type study (N.I.H./Johns Hopkins come to mind) or alternatively, a 100-percent non-Western approach. Fortunately, I'm not quite there yet; I was almost there last September after a week-long stay in a hospital due to fluid build-up in my lungs, when after my release, my oncologist took a bit of a chance and prescribed Alimta (an infused chemotherapy drug, the one he characterizes as "the last miracle drug" on the market) for me, which has been miraculous. I'm not cancer-free, but neither am I curled up in a fetal position. Alimta has become my new best friend.

I can't say I worry about "what next" every minute of every day, but I certainly worry about it most days, and most definitely worry about it every third Thursday while I await the results from my every-three-week, pre-chemotherapy lab work. Once my creatinine and bilirubin (kidney, liver respectively), exceed acceptable levels, my chemotherapy stops (and if my next CT Scan shows tumor growth and/or movement, likewise the chemotherapy stops) and the "what next" question rears its ugly head. Quality of life, quality of treatment. I'll have entered the land of the unknown. No more FDA-approved protocols, no more drugs whose efficacy can be measured. No more predictability. Life as I've come to know and love it will likely take a turn for the scary.

So far, my body – and my mind, have mostly withstood the chemical and emotional onslaught that almost six years of chemotherapy can exact. I don't imagine, given my original "13 month to two-year prognosis" back in late February, 2009, that this routine goes on forever. As much as I want to believe and live like I have a future, sometimes it's difficult not to live day-to-day, or at most, every-three-weeks-to-every-three-weeks.

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

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NEWS



The Butterfield siblings, Jaime, 4, and Joslyn, 1.



From left are Ryleigh Line and Doug Kaspar.

Colorful Costumes At Goblin Gallop

The 21st annual Goblin Gallop was Sunday, Oct. 26, at Fairfax Corner.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



Children prepare to start the 1K fun run.



Kim and Brian Haugli and daughter Juli, 4.



From left are the Gray brothers, Cillian, 5, and Callum, 2.

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Passenger Rail Public Meetings Planned
Join the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Nov. 5, 6, 12, or 13 for a public meeting to discuss Washington D.C. to Richmond-Southeast High Speed Rail, to improve intercity passenger rail for faster, more reliable connections. DRPT strives to provide reasonable accommodations and services for persons who require special assistance to participate. Contact the Title VI compliance officer at 804-786-4440 or TDD 711. Comments will be accepted until Dec. 5. An online meeting is available at: www.DC2RVARail.com
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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. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "D-Day: Normandy 1944", "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot," "Hidden Universe" and "The Dream is Alive." Visit airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule or to schedule an IMAX On Demand show for groups of 50 or more.

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

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

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 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 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 fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter 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 for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit 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 for more.

THURSDAY/OCT. 30

After School Stories. 4:30 p.m. Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Storytime with chapters from a children's novel. For children K-2. 703-502-3883.

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/ for more.

FRIDAY/OCT. 31

Halloween Stories. 12:30 p.m. Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Library, Chantilly. Wear a costume, enjoy storytime with stories, songs and "spooky" activities. Ages 3-5 with caregiver. 703-502-3883.

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 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.

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.

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.

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.ccom 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 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 for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 8

Bazaar and Craft Fair. 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. More than 50 local craft vendors will be selling their items. Proceeds will benefit eight United Methodist affiliated charities at the local, state and international level. Email novemberbazaar@hotmail.com for more.

Art Auction by Marlin. 6:30 p.m. King of Kings Lutheran Church and Preschool, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. Art for everyone's taste and budget, in all media and price ranges, will be live-auctioned by Marlin. Event benefits the Preschool Scholarship Fund and youth program. Admission: \$20 per person /\$35 per couple. Light refreshments. Contact Judi Cooper at 703-378-7272, ext. 225 or at jhangan@kofk.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 9

The Nothing But Net 5k Run, 9 a.m./ Burke Lake Park. Funds are being raised through the registration fees and sponsorship to benefit the Girls HS Basketball Teams at Chantilly, Oakton, Westfield and Centreville High Schools. Participants can also mingle with Master of Ceremonies Ryan McElveen, School Board Member at Large both before and after the race. This is a fun, stroller and pet friendly course with great post-race food. Race t-shirts for each registrant and random prize giveaways. Learn more and register at www.nothingbutnet5k.com. Select a high school when registering.

Modeling Day. 1-4 p.m. at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about railroading and the Fairfax Station through hands on modeling activities. Participants may also bring their own model train items that need work. Call 703-425-9225. or visit fairfax-station.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 13

Joseph Ribkoff Trunk Show. 3-7 p.m. at Judy Ryan of Fairfax, 9565 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Play dress-up while planning holiday parties. Meet a Joseph Ribkoff specialist, try on samples and sneak a peak at Spring 2015. Call 703-425-1855.

SATURDAY/NOV. 15

Charity Home Tour. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 12722 Clifton Heights Lane, Clifton. Residents will hold an open house of newly remodeled homes. Proceeds will benefit a widow who operates one of the local day care centers. Call 703-425-5588 or visit RemodelersCharityHomeTour.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV 19-SUNDAY/JAN. 4

Lights Festival. 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Almost two and a half miles of light displays and a Holiday Village to celebrate the season. Visit www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com.

SATURDAY/NOV. 22

Christmas Decorating Tips. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn how to create holiday displays that will wow guests. Call 703-968-9600 or visit merrifieldgardencenter.com for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 29

Fairfax Ballet's "The Nutcracker." 2 and 7 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Members of the Fairfax Ballet's Company, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet. Tickets are available for purchase at fairfaxnutcracker2014.brownpapertickets.com. Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show. Call 703-439-9788 or email events@fairfaxballet.com.

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