



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN

Ourisman's Bob Biagi and Bob Hager, plus Centreville, Westfield and Chantilly high school students unload bikes for ONC to deliver to local children in need. Ourisman has donated the truck to pick up the bikes for the last five years.

Getting Ready for Holidays

Our Neighbor's Child gives clothing, toys to local families in need.

BY KELLY LAVIN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
OUR NEIGHBOR'S CHILD



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Virginia Run's Beth Cleveland (left) and daughter Megan, a 2008 Westfield High grad, give out batteries for the toys during last year's ONC packaging day.

There are currently 1,784 children who live in Centreville, Chantilly and Fairfax (west of Fair Oaks Mall) who have been referred to Our Neighbor's Child for holiday assistance. That's a far cry from the 15 children we began serving in 1991.

We live in Fairfax County, one of the wealthiest communities in the United States, but it's expensive for low-income families to live here. The gap between the "haves" and "have nots" is widening and, as a community, we have the ability to pull together and help bridge that gap – especially during the holidays.

The families on our list live in a variety of situations. Some are on our list for many years due to hardship that's not easily overcome, and some reach out for just one year. Some of those families join us as volunteers once they've regained their financial footing.

This year, some of the families ONC will serve include a family protected in an abused women's shelter, a single mother with six children who recently moved to the area, and a longtime local family struggling with the illness of its main provider. There are many others.

Yet no matter their situation, parents are still concerned about holiday gifts for children of all

**SEEKING
HELP**

SEE OUR NEIGHBOR'S CHILD, PAGE 4

Get the 411 on Public Safety

Local, state police, plus sheriff's representative, explain their jobs.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In western Fairfax County, the entities protecting local residents include officers from the Fair Oaks and Sully District police stations, the Sheriff's Office and the Virginia State Police. Representatives gathered recently in Chantilly to explain what they do.

STATE POLICE

First to speak was Sgt. Robert Alessi of the state police. "We're responsible for the I-66 Corridor from the Beltway to the Fauquier County Line," he said. "We've posted troopers daily on I-66 [west] at Route 28 to enforce against people cutting in at the last minute [to exit there], and it has cut down on the amount of accidents tremendously."

He noted that, once a quarter, the state police make a special effort to crack down on aggressive drivers, people speeding and motorists driving in the red-X lanes on I-66. And, he said, "We've increased DUI enforcement 100 percent over the year before, so the troopers are really pounding the pavement and working hard."

Alessi said a trooper is assigned to Fairfax County Public Schools. He attends meetings and shows displays emphasizing safety, and he's visiting all 158 schools during the school year. Alessi also said people in this area are fortunate because "the support you get in this area from the state, county and local police is amazing, com-



MPO Wayne Twombly wants speeding drivers to slow down.



Tara Gerhard is the Sully District Station's crime prevention officer.

pared to other parts of the state."

FAIR OAKS STATION

MPO Wayne Twombly is the crime prevention officer at the Fair Oaks District Station. "Like Sully,

SEE GET THE 411, PAGE 3

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

ATTENTION
POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL
REQUESTED
IN HOME
12-5-2014

PRSRRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322

CIRCULATION
VERIFICATION
COUNCIL

Fairfax County Facing More Budget Strain

County Executive and FCPS Superintendent present adverse forecasts.

BY TIM PETERSON
CENTRE VIEW

Days before the traditional loosening of belts for Thanksgiving, Fairfax County officials discussed the need for tightening theirs.

The Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County School Board met jointly Nov. 25 to talk about budget forecasts, prior to Governor Terry McAuliffe's (D) state budget proposal expected in mid-December.

County Executive Ed Long delivered the grim estimate of a just over \$100 million shortfall for fiscal year 2016. That's versus the estimate in the FY2015 adopted budget of around \$37 million.

Long cited lingering effects of the recession, including slow job growth, at 0.4 percent in Northern Virginia versus 2.4 percent before the downturn, as well as 10.8 percent drop year-to-date in home sales. Federal procurement spending has been trending down, and Long is expecting a 3-4 percent decline for FY 2014.

Residential and non-residential real estate values have also been decreasing, 3.3 percent since 2008 and 5.2 percent since 2009, respectively, accounting for tens of millions of dollars of lost revenue for the county.

Even with a projected \$84 million in new funds from revenues, it doesn't cover the expected increases in disbursements of about \$185 million over the previous year. Those include county employee pay increases and benefits, public safety and hu-

man services, and for schools a 3 percent operating increase, capital support, debt service and Full-Day Mondays support.

"There are a lot of challenges going forward to the spring," Long said. "Uncertainty remains in the economy, we don't know what's going to happen with the Sequester."

Since FY2009, the county has cut around \$269 million by cutting positions and programs, but it just isn't keeping up.

"Looking back, there's nothing easy left to cut," said Long. "We're down to the meat of county programs. Cuts are going to be hard, there's no two ways about it."

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova commented that additional county reserve funds shouldn't be looked to as a resource to cover the shortfall.

"Our reserves are too low for comfort," Bulova said, "and compared to other jurisdictions, we're dangerously low."

FCPS Superintendent Karen Garza followed Long to further explain the challenges facing the vast school system regarded as one of the top in the country.

"Sometimes our challenges get masked by looking at the overall percentage of our size," said Garza. "Forty-nine schools have 50 percent free or reduced lunch or higher. There are some parts of our county where that population and the needs of our students are certainly growing."

Garza referenced growths of 2-3,000 students in the system over the last several years, as well as jumps in the percentage of students who take English for Speakers of



PHOTO BY TIM PETERSON/CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza speaks Nov. 25 at a joint meeting of the FCPS School Board and Board of Supervisors.

Other Languages and or are eligible for free or reduced price meals. Total enrollment is now over 186,000 students.

"The real cost of growth exceeds \$190 million," Garza said. "And of the cuts over the last six years, one-quarter were just the last year. There are 2,175 fewer people, but at the same time we grew by 20,000 students. That's significant for our system."

Echoing Long, Garza said the cuts are not allowing schools in the county to keep up with needs and in particular for schools, the

needs of teachers.

"We're very concerned with competitive compensation," said Garza. "Our bread and butter is the quality of teachers in classrooms, employed throughout our school system. We're losing our competitive edge and I'm very concerned with where we stack up compared to our surrounding jurisdictions."

She showed starting teachers' salaries hovering around the middle of surrounding jurisdictions, above only Loudoun and Manassas Park City for 10 years experience and a master's degree, and just above Prince George's Maryland for maximum salary.

Even with \$53.1 million in a transfer from the county, Garza is still projecting a \$63.9 million deficit for FY2016, something she and the supervisors agree should garner some attention from the state.

"We recognize and believe the state has to do something more to help us," said Garza.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay weighed in as well. "We're funding 70.6 percent of the FCPS budget, which is significantly higher than almost everywhere else in the state," he said. "If we received adequate funding from the state, we wouldn't be having this conversation. It's a huge emphasis moving forward. If we're not looking at the long-term, these issues will continue to compound."

Garza and Long will spend the next few months finalizing their budget plans. Garza's proposal for FY2016 should be released Jan. 8, 2015 and Long's plan for FY2016-2017 should come up at the Feb. 17, 2015 Board of Supervisors meeting.

Croan's Photography Earns Awards

Sandi Croan of Centreville received the Nature Visions' "Best in Landscape" and "People's Choice" awards at the recent 2014 Nature Visions Photo Expo.

Her photograph, entitled "Sossusvlei 427," was taken in the Namib-Naukluft National Park in the Sossusvlei area in Namibia, Africa. Nature Visions is one of the premier photography expos in Northern Virginia. The expo was held Nov. 14-16 at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, Manassas.

"This year there were 1,335 entries from 155 local photographers for our nature and fine art competitions. The talent and creativity is a joy to behold," said Bill Corbett, McLean Photo Club and president, Nature Visions Photo Expo. Camera clubs and their membership from throughout Northern Virginia and beyond were contributors to the Expo.

Croan has been living in Northern Virginia since 1978. Professionally, she has been a registered physical therapist, director of personnel and administration at a social science consulting firm, and president and co-founder of a personnel staffing agency. In 2003 she took her first photography course and joined a local camera club. She enjoys all types of photography.



COURTESY OF SANDI CROAN

Sandi Croan

"It was an honor to be awarded 'Best Landscape' by such a distinguished panel of judges from among so many amazingly talented photographers. It was also especially gratifying and thrilling that my image, 'Sossusvlei 427' was chosen as the People's Choice award at the Nature Visions Photo Expo," said Croan.



PHOTO BY SANDI CROAN

Nature Visions' "Best in Landscape" and "People's Choice" awards photograph: "Sossusvlei 427."

NOVEC To Return \$1.4 Million

The Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative board of directors has authorized the electric utility to return \$1.4 million in capital credits to customer-owners. Current customers who began service with NOVEC anytime between 1993 and December 2013 will see the return credited on their December bills in the form of "CashBack."

As a not-for-profit business, NOVEC reinvests capital margins to maintain, improve, and expand its electricity-distribution system. Despite unanticipated costs incurred in 2014 due to polar vortex weather events, NOVEC President/CEO Stan Feuerberg says NOVEC's strong financial position is allowing the Co-op to provide CashBack to current customers.

"This CashBack return, combined with NOVEC's reduced rates and a power-cost-adjustment credit we've been giving for three years, should make the holidays a little brighter for our Co-op members," Feuerberg said.

Since 2000, NOVEC has returned almost \$285 million in CashBack to Cooperative members.

NOVEC, headquartered in Manassas, is a not-for-profit electric utility corporation that supplies and distributes electricity and energy-related services to approximately 157,000 customers in Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudoun, Prince William, Stafford, and Clarke counties, the Town of Clifton, and the City of Manassas Park. For more information, visit www.novec.com or call 703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500.

ROUNDUPS

Truckers Cited for Violations

Law-enforcement officers stopped and inspected 11 trucks, last Tuesday, Nov. 25, in the 5800 block of Old Centreville Road in Centreville. Five vehicles were taken out of service and 56 total violations were found. Eight out-of-service violations and 11 summonses were issued.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Dec. 4 and Dec. 18, 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.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of canned fruits and vegetables (except for green beans), cereal, canned pasta, crackers, canned tomatoes, pancake mix, rice and noodle mixes, cooking oil, Jello, and canned tuna and chicken. Also needed are toiletries, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps. Especially needed are toothpaste, bars of soap and toilet paper.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

Volunteering Made Easy

Fairfax County introduces its new volunteer management system, paving the way for easier navigation of county volunteer opportunities. People may visit volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov, fill out one application and search for opportunities meeting their interests by geographic location, dates, type of people or program type. They may view positions from a variety of agencies track their hours and review upcoming volunteer jobs. They may even volunteer to serve during emergencies.

Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break. Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Helping Immigrant Children

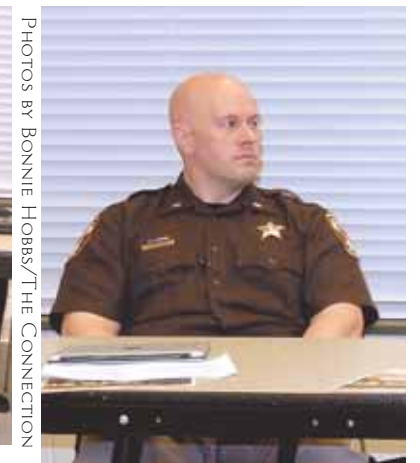
The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) is collecting donations for the 70 immigrant children and 15 young mothers being housed at a secure facility in Bristow while awaiting hearings. The children need health and hygiene supplies, clothing and bedding. Donations may be brought to CLRC, 5956 Centreville Crest Lane in Centreville. Especially needed are clothing and underwear for both boys and girls, ages 7-17; white towels, twin-sized blankets, sheets and bedspreads; new pillows and personal-hygiene products including shampoo, conditioner, hand soap, lotion, deodorant, hair brushes and accessories, tooth paste and toothbrushes, and disposable diapers.

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

NEWS



From left are 1st Lt. Jason Travis of the Sheriff's Office, and police crime prevention officers Tara Gerhard and Wayne Twombly.



Sheriff's Office 1st Lt. Jason Travis listens.

Get the 411 on Public Safety

FROM PAGE 1

Fair Oaks has plenty of neighborhoods with speeding issues and we have two officers dedicated just to traffic," he said. "We put out sign message-boards and speed signs and write lots of tickets. We also have 'Click It or Ticket' campaigns to remind people of the importance of wearing their seat belts."

The police "Slow Down" program began in August. Under it, residents may contact their local supervisor and obtain signs to put in their yards saying, "Slow down; we live here, you live here." And recently, officers did a pedestrian-safety event at the Vienna Metro Station to encourage people to use the crosswalks.

Twombly said the police promote the use of Sober Ride during holidays and pass out the organization's flyers to restaurants and bars to encourage people to call a taxi when they've had too much to drink.

"We want them not to drink alcohol and drive," he said. "And four times a year, we do shoulder taps at businesses, sending underage cadets into a business to buy alcohol. Businesses should ask for their age and ID."

SULLY DISTRICT STATION

Tara Gerhard, crime prevention officer at the Sully District Station, said the Police Department's crime-mapping app "provides real-time data so you can see all the different crimes going on around you right now. Or you can check a particular type of crime within a certain [geographic] area, or check for crimes happening within a certain time period."

Similarly, Twombly said people may also use that app to click on the police helicopter to see why it was flying in their neighborhood, the night before.

"You can gather your own crime statistics with this app," added Gerhard. "We also have a daily blog with crime reports telling what's happening throughout the County."

She said the Sully District police protect local residents in many ways. For example, said Gerhard, "We had an all-hands-on-deck in April, with 56 officers all working at the same time. We have six officers dedicated to traffic enforcement and, with the holidays coming up, they'll be focusing on DUIs."

The Sully District Station has held senior-citizen safety seminars, including one on how to avoid being a victim of financial crimes. Officers also did VIN etching on vehicles and participated in

the K-9 Krawl. October was Teen Safe-Driving Awareness Month, and November brought a distracted-driving seminar.

Emergency preparedness was the topic of the November Citizens Advisory committee meeting, and December is the time for the annual Santa's Ride, when the station gathers toys for children in the hospital and those from families in need.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Representing the county Sheriff's Office was 1st Lt. Jason Travis, who supervises the Civil Enforcement Section. "I'm in charge of our Project Lifesaver program," he said. "We look out for children with autism or Down Syndrome and adults with Alzheimer's or dementia."

"We ask for a \$25/month donation and we put a special bracelet on them," said Travis. "Then if they go missing, our deputies find them quickly. We have 50-60 clients now and 50 on a waiting list; by next year, we'll probably have 150 clients."

He said members of the Sheriff's Office work in the courts, Adult Detention Center and civil enforcement. There are 529 sworn deputies and about 96 civilian personnel. "I have 27 deputies, including me, plus six civilians, in Civil Enforcement," said Travis. "We serve 200,000 papers/year and 800/day – everything from evictions to summonses, document requests, subpoenas, capias [failure to appear in court], requests for information, etc."

"We serve about 4,200 eviction notices a year, plus 1,800 lock changes a year related to evictions" he continued. "We're responsible for serving protective orders in case of domestic violence, and many are served immediately. We average about 900 domestic-violence cases/year – four or five a day." In fact, said Travis, Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court added an afternoon court to handle some of the protective-order cases.

In addition, he said, sheriff's deputies perform child safety seat inspections, one Saturday a month, at the county courthouse, plus child ID events. And they participate in Santa's Ride, as well as Shop with a Sheriff, during which they take homeless families shopping for school clothes and supplies.

"We also go after owed, personal-property taxes — especially vehicle taxes," said Travis. "We return \$1 million in unpaid taxes/year to the county — \$4,000/day. We'll boot the car and, if the taxes aren't paid, we'll sell it."



Virginia State Police Sgt. Robert Alessi makes a point.

Our Neighbor's Child Prepares for Holidays

FROM PAGE 1

ages – including those still enrolled in high school. And parents will often do whatever it takes to bring their children joy at the holidays, even if it means dipping into funds that should be reserved for January's rent or electric bills. We're glad to help reduce some of this stress and quite possibly reduce some of the need for emergency assistance for these families in the new year. So we hope people will check out the How-to-Help box and join the effort – their help will be greatly appreciated.

The all-volunteer, ONC team has enjoyed incredible consistency over the years. This season, two longtime volunteers will celebrate 20 years with the organization. Karen Moore is still the organization's treasurer. Jenny (Lorentzen) Bowen started with ONC when she was a 17-year-old senior at Centreville High School, and she's still the face at our front desk. Several others are nearing that milestone, and more than half have worked with the organization for 10 years or more.

Our Neighbor's Child credits its long-term success to volunteers like these and the churches, schools and businesses that pledge their support and continue to return, year after year. We believe

this consistent support is the key to providing peace of mind (at least at the holidays) to the community's struggling families.

My greatest concern is that people will see our operation and mistakenly believe we're so set that we'd be all right without them. But it's because we can count on help from the community each year that we're still here.

I'm worried that some of the churches will forget what it was like 23 years ago before we started ONC. At that time, families in need would go from church to church seeking assistance, and no church was really sure if they were duplicating the other's efforts.

If ONC were to lose the support of the community, we simply couldn't do it. With the growth of our community, this would bring more than 800 families to the doors of local churches or schools at the holiday season, desperate for help. We hope we never need to go back to that. ONC is committed to help coordinate this effort – we just need everyone to do his or her part.

Requests for clothing items (over toys) are greater than ever this year. If you are considering the purchase of a gift for a local child, the 1,784 children currently on ONC's list break down as follows:



Westfield High's football team unloads ONC trucks on Monday for the 12th year.

Under age 1: 63
Age 1: 76
Age 2: 91
Age 3: 78
Age 4: 115
Age 5: 99
Age 6: 140
Age 7: 143
Age 8: 131
Age 9: 143
Age 10: 130
Age 11: 102
Age 12: 97
Age 13: 86
Age 14: 79
Age 15: 74
Age 16: 73
Age 17: 56
Age 18: 7

We really appreciate the more than 45 businesses, schools and churches who agree to take ornament wishes for these children. ONC doesn't put out ornament requests for gift cards, but we've received 451 gift card requests from teenagers for clothing items.

If you, your company or social group could help provide some of these gift cards – or donations to



From left: Marni Rochkind, Madeline Weaver and Ellie Kraselsky lend a hand at the ONC warehouse.

purchase them – it would be wonderful. ONC uses every penny to purchase gifts for a child in need. Not a cent goes toward overhead, salaries or anything else. Our founding partners provide any expenses outside of gifts.



Leslie Dominy and Mickey McDermott take a break to pose with a penguin. They make sure the right gifts go into the right bags and check that they're labeled with each family's ID number, plus how many bags they're receiving.

We are all grateful to live in a community that truly cares about its neighbors and the children who all deserve a holiday season full of joy. Please lend a hand to help make this season brighter for them.

How To Help

❖ Visit the ONC website at www.ourneighborschild.org for volunteer opportunities and "adopt-a-family" information. Volunteers are currently needed on the following dates:

Warehouse Set Up: Sunday, Dec. 7
Packaging Day: Thursday, Dec. 12
Cookie Baking: Thursday, Dec. 12
Delivery Day: Sunday, Dec. 14
Warehouse Clean-Up: Wednesday, Dec. 17

❖ Clothing Coordinator Stephanie Somers still has 117 (of more than 1,000) clothing items on her list and would love to hear from anyone who'd be willing to "adopt" a child or family's clothing wishes.

Please contact her at Volunteer@ourneighborschild.org.

❖ Provide a toy, a book or clothing – contact ONC at Volunteer@ourneighborschild.org. Or bring an item for a child on its list to Stone Middle School, this Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m.-noon, during the annual Panther Drop-Off to support ONC. Or select an ornament from the ONC Giving Trees at the Wal-Mart Fair Lakes or Wal-Mart Chantilly.

Our Neighbor's Child (ONC) is now in its 23rd year of bringing holiday joy to financially struggling local families. But it can't provide all the clothes, toys and cookies to all the people in need without the help and generosity of the community. It's an all-volunteer, nonprofit group founded by Executive Director Kelly Lavin of Centreville.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN

Chantilly SGA students helped unload gifts from churches, schools and businesses this week.



Chantilly High's lacrosse team volunteered to do ONC's warehouse clean-up.



From left are Adam LeKang as Batman, Jason Saitta as Spider-Man and Thatcher Furgerson as The Red Power Ranger.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHANNON KHATCHERESSIAN

Festival To Entertain Children

Chantilly High's Peer Helping class will be hosting a "Superheroes and Princess Frozen Festival" for children. The fun will happen on Saturday, Dec. 13 when the cafeteria is turned into a winter wonderland. There'll be super heroes and Disney princess, Santa, children's activities, games and food, plus music provided by the Rocky Run Middle School band and choir.

The games and activities will run from 8:30-10 a.m., followed by a showing of the movie, "Frozen,"

at 10 a.m. in the Chantilly theater. Admission is one, new, unwrapped toy per guest to be donated to Toys for Tots.

Children will be able to meet their favorite cartoon and movie characters, including Spiderman, Superman, Batman, Power Rangers, Anna, Elsa, Snow White, Cinderella and Belle.

They may also have their photos taken with Santa. For more information, go to www.toysfortotsmovieevent.com.

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* With coupon, not valid with any other offer, one per person per visit.

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OPINION

Be Part of Children's Centre View 2014

Annual edition showcases youth art and writing.

During the last week of each year, The Centre View devotes its entire issue to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families.

We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

We welcome student's original ideas. Here are some suggestions:

❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or

scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? What is the best or worst thing that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever given? Ever received?

❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about news, traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

❖ News stories from school newspapers.

❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location.

Email submissions for the Children's Centre View to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail to Children's Centre View, 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Please send all submissions by Dec. 10. The Children's Centre View will publish the week of Dec. 27, 2014.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Clifton Home for the Holidays

Christmas Candlelight Homes Tour returns Dec. 6.

Driving through neighborhoods lit by Christmas lights is a time-honored tradition but in historic Clifton, residents take it a bit further. Each year as part of a candlelight homes tour, the public can enter five preserved and restored homes and two churches, done up for the holidays.

Each year the homes lineup changes slightly, but all the buildings date back to the late 19th century. This year, the stops include:

❖ 12704 Chapel Road, "Detwiler House," built circa 1905, Jennifer and Mike Heilmann residence and Hydrangea Home & Gift Boutique.

❖ 12641 Chapel Road, The Art Guild of Clifton.

❖ 12748 Richardson Lane, Clifton Presbyterian Church founded in 1870, with music every 30 minutes, performed by The Osborne Park Madrigal and Cantus Singers.

❖ 7151 Main Street, "Payne House," built in 1884, Pete and Mary Mills residence.

❖ 7152 Main Street, Clifton Baptist Church, built in 1877, with music every 30 minutes, performed by the Patriot High School Women's Choir.

❖ 7153 Main Street, built in 1884, Sal and Gina Speziale residence.

❖ 12653 School Street, "Edgewood," built in 1908, Regan and Laura MacDonald residence.

❖ 12641 School Street, "Spring Cottage," built in 1901, Karen and Mac Arnold residence.

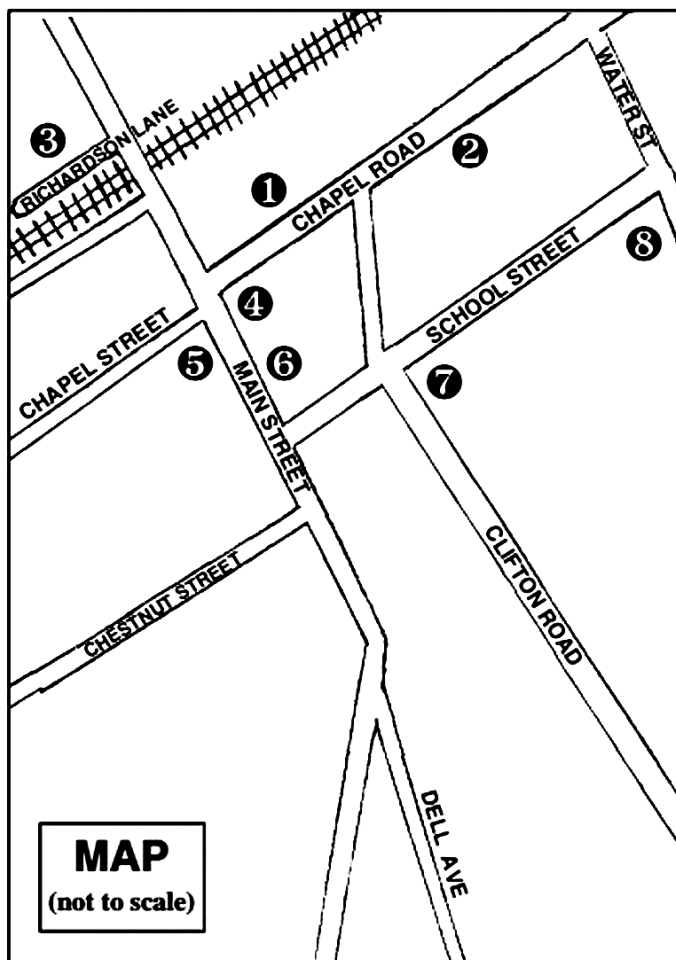
The tradition goes back decades and has added a number of auxiliary events over the years. Prior to the start of the homes tour at four o'clock, the Clifton Horse Society will parade a number of costumed, caroling riders through town on similarly costumed chargers, starting at two o'clock. "It's a little quirky," said organizer and Clifton Main Street Pub owner Tom McNamara. "But it's really cool and it's a big thrill for the kids."

Also starting at two is the Art Guild of Clifton Show at the Community Hall, with artists showcasing and selling paintings, sculpture, jewelry and textile art. The exhibition will include contest-winning work from students at Clifton's Union Mill Elementary School.

At five o'clock, McNamara said a child chosen from the crowd will get to light the towering fir tree at Ayre Square. Last year, they had 100 handheld, battery-operated candles for people to light at the same time as the tree. This year they've planned to supply twice as many candles.

Throughout the day there will be hot chocolate, Christmas cookies and other refreshments available.

The Clifton Christmas Candle-



- ❶ 12704 Chapel Road ~ Jennifer & Mike Heilmann Residence and Hydrangea Home & Gift Boutique
- ❷ 12641 Chapel Road ~ The Art Guild of Clifton
- ❸ 12748 Richardson Lane ~ Clifton Presbyterian Church
- ❹ 7151 Main Street ~ Pete and Mary Mills
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light Homes Tour runs Dec. 6 from 4-7 p.m., with Caroling on Horseback and the Art Guild of Clifton Show beginning at 2 p.m. Prior to Dec. 6, tickets for the event are

\$20 for adults, \$5 for children under 13. On the day of, those prices go up to \$25 and \$10.

— TIM PETERSON

CENTREVIEW

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

HOLIDAY GIVING

Families in Crisis Program Seeks Gift Cards.

The Families in Crisis program at Westfield works with counselors to support current WHS families facing immediate financial hardships and is seeking donations of gift cards in any \$5 increment. Large donations should be split among multiple smaller denomination cards, as opposed to one large one. Send any donations to the main office or mail to: WHS-Families in Crisis, Attn: Meg Crossett, 4700 Stonecroft Boulevard, Chantilly.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Christmas VBS. 10 a.m. -2 p.m. at Pender United Methodist Church, 12401 Alder Woods Drive, Fairfax. Children will have wonderful time learning about the true meaning of Christmas while moving through different rotations of Christmas story, craft, music and recreation. Tickets are \$10 per child. Visit www.penderumc.org/christmasvbs.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

Annual Fundraising Gala. 7 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. The evening program will feature international entertainer Daniel Cainer. Trustee Members celebrating five years of giving will be honored and the Eleanor Sue Finkelstein Award for Special Needs will be presented to

Jerry Hulick. Tickets are \$218. Visit www.jccnv.org for more.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

Temple Beth Torah Ladies' Book Club.

7:30 p.m. at 4212-C Technology Court · Chantilly. This is a "pot-luck" style book club that meets every other second Tuesday of the month. Open to all women. Bring a drink or appetizer to share. Discussing "The History of Love" by Nicole Krauss. Call Jennifer Harding 703-217-8938 or visit www.BethTorah.net.

Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month. For family caregivers of older adults. Discuss "The Good, the Bad and the Ugly-Caregiving with Family and Friends." Share experiences, gain support and get information without travel. Free. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

Fairfax County Park Authority Board Meeting.

7:30 p.m. in the Herrity Building, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/boardagn2.htm for meeting materials, archives and more. Call 703-324-8662.

MONDAY-TUESDAY/DEC. 15-16

Mental Health First Aid. 8:30 a.m.-

1:30 p.m. at the Pennino Building, 12011 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Public education program from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board Wellness and Health Promotion. Over a two-day course, certified instructors help people learn to assist someone developing or experiencing a mental health problem or crisis. \$25. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hscode/ereg/Registration.aspx?groupID=47.

TUESDAY/MARCH 3

Listening Tour. 6:30 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road. Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen K. Garza will hold a series of listening tours during the 2014-15 school year, and invites students, parents, employees and community members to participate in these upcoming sessions. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/listening-2014-15.shtml for more.

WHITE HOUSE ORNAMENT SALE

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



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Westfield Throttles Lake Braddock in Region Semifinals

Bulldogs will face Centreville in region final rematch.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Facing third-and-11 on the third play from scrimmage, Lake Braddock quarterback Kyle Edwards retreated toward his own end zone, trying desperately to find a place to throw the football while eluding a pack of Westfield defenders.

As the Bulldogs closed in, Edwards attempted to get rid of the football, but Westfield defensive lineman Brandon Flores tipped the pass in the air. The ball dropped into the arms of linebacker Jack Clancy, who stepped into the end zone for a touchdown.

Edwards' interception placed Lake Braddock in a 7-0 hole less than 90 seconds into Saturday's 6A North region semifinal contest. It turned out to be the first in a long line of Bruin miscues.

Lake Braddock turned the ball over three times in the opening quarter, leading to a pair of Westfield touchdowns and the Bulldogs cruised to a 42-20 victory on Nov. 29 at Westfield High School. It was the second year in row Westfield beat Lake Braddock in the region semifinals.

The Bulldogs led 35-0 at halftime and 42-0 in the fourth quarter before the Bruins scored a trio of late touchdowns to make the score appear closer than it actually was.

Westfield's lone loss of the season was a 36-23 defeat against Lake Braddock on Sept. 19. On Saturday, the Bulldogs



Westfield linebacker Jack Clancy (41) sets his sights on stopping Lake Braddock quarterback Kyle Edwards during the 6A North region semifinals on Nov. 29.

pounded the Bruins and earned a trip to their fourth consecutive region championship game. Westfield (12-1) will travel to face defending state champion Centreville (11-2) at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 6.

Things couldn't have started much worse for Lake Braddock. After the Bruins' first drive ended with a pick-six, Lake Braddock's second drive reached the red zone, but Edwards was intercepted in the end zone by Westfield's Donteiro Moore.

After the Lake Braddock defense forced a three-and-out, a 68-yard Westfield punt pinned the Bruins back at their own 3-yard line. Edwards fumbled on the next play and the Bulldogs recovered, leading to a 2-yard touchdown run by Evan Gray and a 14-0 Westfield advantage.

"It was huge because their quarterback, as everybody knows, is one of the best in the state, honestly," Westfield linebacker

Clancy said of the Bulldogs forcing three first-quarter turnovers. "I'm just proud of our defense."

Lake Braddock turned the ball over three times in its first 12 offensive plays. "We jumped on them really quick there at the beginning," Westfield head coach Kyle Simmons said. "That certainly gave us some momentum and I'm sure it made them, offensively, feel a little uneasy. That was a big start for us."

Facing third-and-20 at its own 10 during its ensuing possession, Lake Braddock elected to quick kick, giving Westfield the ball at its own 48. Five plays later, running back Terrell Bethea scampered 36 yards for a touchdown a 21-0 lead.

On the second play of the second quarter, Westfield quarterback Mason Scoville connected with Hank Johnson for a 34-yard touchdown and a 28-0 advantage.

Scoville connected with Tyler Scanlon for a 2-yard touchdown with 4:17 left in the first half, increasing the Bulldogs' lead to 35-0. Westfield's final touchdown came with 10:27 remaining in the fourth quarter, when Scoville hit Scanlon with a 19-yard pass, giving the Bulldogs a 42-0 lead.

Scoville completed 9 of 10 passes for 104 yards and three touchdowns.

"When he's comfortable and he's playing well," Simmons said of Scoville, "we're at our best."

Terrell Monticue led the Westfield ground attack with 72 yards on three carries. Bethea rushed seven times for 50 yards and Gray carried 11 times for 43 yards.

"Last week, we struggled a little [on offense], but we fought through it in the

second half," Scoville said. "This week, we were going pretty well."

Running back Dejoun Lee scored three touchdowns for Lake Braddock. Edwards completed 29 of 58 passes for 382 yards. He was sacked six times and limited to 10 yards on the ground on 16 carries.

The win sets up a region final rematch with Centreville, which beat the Bulldogs 35-14 last season on its way to a state title and an undefeated record. Westfield won the regular-season meeting between the teams this season, 42-41, in double overtime on Oct. 10.

Centreville is a talented team with multiple players committed to play at the Division I level. The Wildcats ended last season nationally ranked and opened this year with a nationally televised game against Gonzaga, a private school in Washington, D.C. Despite Centreville's credentials, Westfield safety James Gibson, who is committed to play for Army, said he's pleased to be facing the Wildcats.

"We beat them before, I think we can definitely do it again," Gibson said. "I'm just happy that it's Centreville. We know those guys and it's going to be fun. A lot of people think they're unstoppable. They had that game on ESPN. We know them. We know our strengths, we know we can beat them. I'm not worried about any of their commits or anything like that. That's what a lot of people say: When you play a team like Centreville, you have to worry about [their commits]. We're just going to play."

Simmons views Westfield as the underdog. "I don't think anybody gives us a shot at winning the football game," Simmons said, "but we think we can win it, so I figure we'll show up and play."

Centreville Senior Wakefield Offensive-Minded in Victory

First-year point guard scores 22 in win over Mount Vernon.

BY JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

Centreville girls' basketball coach Tom Watson stood in a hallway at Mount Vernon High School and praised Caroline Wakefield following the Wildcats' season opener Tuesday night.

"I think Caroline is going to be a first-team all-region player," Watson said. "I just don't see how she can't be. She's the best defensive player out there. You saw her game. She was hands down the best player on the court out there."

"We're working on her offense. I don't know how many points she had. It was double digits, I just don't know how many."

Wakefield, a four-year member of the Centreville varsity, has received all-district/conference recognition for her defensive skills in each of her first three seasons. This year, however, Wakefield has made the

move to point guard, taking over for graduated star Jenna Green, who is now a freshman on the William & Mary women's team. The Wildcats need Wakefield to take on an offensive mindset as Centreville graduated 78 percent of its scoring, according to Watson, from a team that reached the 2014 region semifinals.

Minutes later, while Wakefield was speaking with a reporter, Watson returned with the senior's point total: 22.

"I'm pretty sure," Wakefield said, "that's probably the most I've ever scored in my life."

Not bad for a first night at a new position.

Wakefield's 22 points propelled Centreville to a 51-44 victory over Mount Vernon on Dec. 2 at Mount Vernon High School. Wakefield, per usual, was a difference-maker on defense, totaling four steals and two blocks, but she also carried the Wildcats offensively and was the only Centreville player in double figures.

"To be honest, it was something very new," Wakefield said. "I am glad to take on the role as Jenna Green this year. ... I'm a defensive player for sure, but this year, if we're going to win games — and coach said,



Centreville senior Caroline Wakefield scored 22 points during her first varsity start at the point guard position Tuesday against Mount Vernon.

you're a captain on the floor, you've got to act like one — and I think for us to win games, I've got to be putting up at least 20 points."

Wakefield has some big shoes to fill, taking over for Green. To compensate for Wakefield's lack of experience as a ball-handler, the Wildcats have worked on breaking the press and other strategies that Watson simply didn't have to worry about when Green was on the court.

"Before, we would just hand the ball to Jenna and Jenna would do it all herself," Watson said. "Now, we're setting up plays and setting up different people to handle the ball. We're basically putting in press breaks. We never had a press break [when Green was a Wildcat]. We didn't have to. We had the Jenna break — Jenna, get the ball and break the press."

While Wakefield isn't a polished product on the offensive end, she's oozing with athleticism. She recently signed a letter of intent to play Division I lacrosse, her primary sport, at the University of North Carolina. What she lacks in polish, she makes up for with raw talent and hustle.

"Caroline is the B version of Jenna when it comes to handling the ball, but she's the A version of Jenna when it comes to defense," Watson said. "I think she's going to be just as good a player. She just chose to be a lacrosse player instead of a basketball player."

Centreville trailed 37-32 early in the fourth quarter Tuesday, when Wakefield knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the Wildcat deficit to two. Later, she tied the score at 39 with a steal and layup before sopho

SEE WAKEFIELD, PAGE 9

SPORTS

Centreville To Face Westfield

The Centreville football team defeated Battlefield 56-21 on Nov. 29, earning a return trip to the 6A North region final.

The top-seeded Wildcats (11-2) will host No. 2 Westfield (12-1) at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 6 in a rematch of last year's region final. Centreville won that meeting, 35-14, before thumping Oscar Smith, 35-6, to win the 6A state title, putting the finishing touch on an undefeated season.

This year, Westfield won the regular-season meeting, 42-41, in double overtime. Centreville went for two in the second overtime period but was stopped short of the goal line. It was the Wildcats' first loss to a public school since falling to Oakton in the region semifinals on Nov. 16, 2013.



Centreville receiver Charles Tutt focuses on catching a pass against Battlefield in the 6A North region semifinals on Nov. 29.

PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/CENTRE VIEW

Wakefield Scores 22 Points

FROM PAGE 8

more Kam Daily's layup gave the Wildcats their first lead of the night at 41-39 with 4:47 remaining. Centreville led for the remainder of the contest.

Centreville outscored Mount Vernon 19-8 in the fourth quarter.

Wakefield, a Centreville captain, praised her teammates after the game, including fellow senior captain Chrissy Jacksta, who scored eight points and grabbed seven rebounds despite getting in early foul trouble.

Daily and sophomore Camryn Conklin each scored

six points for the Wildcats.

Watson praised the rebounding efforts of guards Noelle Brown (7) and Monica Kirk (3).

"We have a lot of pieces that aren't put together in the puzzle yet, but we have a puzzle, and a lot of teams don't," Watson said. "We have some good pieces, we've just got to figure out how to use them correctly."

Centreville (1-0) returns to action on Tuesday, Dec. 9 with a road game against Marshall at 7:30 p.m. The Wildcats' first home game is Dec. 16 against Annandale.

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Since It Ain't Broken...

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Apparently, at least in the near term, we're (meaning my oncologist) not going to fix it. And by fix it, I am referring to my chemotherapy infusion, which will continue to be every three weeks, as it has been for almost six years; save for a year or so when I was able to take pills at home, and on-site infusions were not necessary. Last week, at my most recent face-to-face appointment with my oncologist, given my higher-than-hoped-for creatinine levels, (which led to a one week's delay in my regularly scheduled infusion), I had inquired about extending my infusion interval to four weeks to give my kidneys a break. Considering the ongoing damage these vital organs have suffered after six years of non-stop chemotherapy, I thought – to quote my deceased father, "that the idea had merit." And it does have merit and my oncologist has always been concerned about the effect. In fact, per his orders, I had seen a nephrologist (a kidney specialist) a few years back. After examining me on multiple appointments, the doctor suggested there was no real need for a return appointment. Though my creatinine levels were abnormally high, her assessment was, considering my pre-cancer/pre-chemotherapy lab work history had been normal, it would likely go back down if we stopped chemotherapy; but since it's highly unlikely that we'll be stopping chemotherapy, given my diagnosis, there was nothing to be done other than watching and managing the levels as my oncologist has been doing. And that's what we've done and I've not been back to see her since.

Nevertheless, it is cause for concern. The kidney is a major organ. As it goes, so might yours truly go, and consequently its affect has been an ongoing theme/point of awareness during my six years of treatment. Fortunately, miraculously maybe (for all I know), a week later the second/rescheduled lab work showed that my creatinine levels had returned to its previous high normal and thus chemotherapy went on/in as semi usual. And thus begins, according to my oncologist, my new normal: I will continue to be scheduled for infusion every three weeks with my pre-chemotherapy lab work completed the Wednesday before the Friday. If my creatinine levels are high, we'll delay, and reschedule the infusion for a week later as happened during this past interval. Now, we didn't discuss what schedule we'd follow if abnormal creatinine levels persist. As has been established during previous conversations between Team Lourie and my oncologist, scenario questions are not helpful and we rarely venture into any what-ifs/what-abouts until absolutely necessary.

But what we did discuss at this last appointment was my future, a little bit. Considering the "shrinkage" written about in last week's column, my oncologist was very encouraged and characterized my treatment going forward as something we're going to be doing for awhile. But he said it so matter-of-fact, that we sort of took it for granted. He didn't really fuss about it and we didn't either. He said it. He didn't really emphasize it. But he meant it. It was all good, that's for sure.

On the way home, my wife, Dina and I reviewed what my oncologist had said and we became even more giddy at what had transpired/been said. It was certainly news with which we could live and that's what we intend to do. I'm not about to look a gift oncologist in the mouth. Since nothing seems broken, I'm not looking to fix anything.

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

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WELLBEING

Diffuse Holiday Tensions

**Local experts offer
ideas to handle family
dynamics.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Last month, Linda and Tom Bullen traveled from Boston to Arlington, to celebrate Thanksgiving with their son Matt, daughter Rachel and her partner Grace Knight.

But Rachel Bullen, who spent weeks creating a menu and coordinating a table setting that would please even Martha Stewart, was deflated by one question from her mother.

"Do you think you might be eating too many carbs?" Linda Bullen asked as her daughter scooped up a second helping of potatoes.

"What I eat is none of your business," Rachel Bullen responded. She spent the rest of meal fuming in silence and feeling humiliated in front of her partner and brother.

Family dynamics — and the drama that often ensues — are often unwelcome, but frequent guests at family gatherings during the holiday season. While spending time with family can be a source of comfort, it can also be fraught with anxiety. And the more people and dynamics involved, the more effort it takes to create or maintain harmony.

"During the holidays, people who live far apart and are not part of one another's daily lives often come together," said Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D. "As a result ... people cover lot of territory, catching up in a short amount of time, instead of gradually as things naturally happen throughout the year. People give opinions without understanding all of the details."

Being aware of the feelings and emotions of others can help minimize family conflicts, however. "Sensitivity allows us to tune in to what others might be feeling at a particular moment or in a particular situation," said Katherine Knapp, Ph.D., a marriage and family therapist based in Burke. "It helps us make wise decisions about things that might say or decide not to say."

For example, Linda Bullen was concerned about her daughter's weight.

"Rachel recently lost about 25 pounds," she said. "As a teenager she'd been overweight and had self-esteem issues." She thought she was being a supportive and helpful mother.

"When family members are sensitive to each other's feelings, they think before they speak about how what they say might affect another person's feelings," Knapp said. "Even innocent comments or questions can damage a relationship when we speak from our own perspective and don't consider what another person might be feeling."

The pressure to create a perfect holiday can exacerbate pre-existing difficulties as well.

"People are often stressed during the holi-

days, especially those preparing meals, having out of town guests staying in their homes," said Isenberg. "Guests can be stressed too, as they are staying in someone else's home, don't have their own space, and are operating according to someone else's agenda. So tensions are already higher, and patience is shorter."

The ability to be flexible and recognize that even the most organized plans can fall apart, will reduce pressure as well, said Pamela Daniels, a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist based in Lorton. "Flexibility allows us to roll with the punches," she said. "Rigidity can be a recipe for disaster, especially during the holidays."

FAMILY MEMBERS can help ease tension by expressing their needs up front.

"Some people just have a need to feel appreciated," said Knapp. "Everyone has different needs, but others, including family members won't know those needs unless we tell them."

Rachel Bullen needed her mother to recognize and validate the effort that she'd put into preparing a healthy Thanksgiving dinner and an aesthetically appealing table, and to maintaining a lifestyle that had kept her fit.

"I've always seen my mother as thin, beautiful and the perfect hostess," said Rachel Bullen. "And she can always find something wrong with everything that I do, but she can find no wrong with my brother."

Recognizing that such old patterns and dynamics may be rekindled during big gatherings can help family members navigate difficult relationships.

"Even though there may be months or even years between visits, people's triggers and sensitivities are the same unless they've previously worked through them with their family members and reached an understanding about the best ways for them to interact," said Isenberg. "The judgmental parent or uncle will still be judgmental and the inquisitive grandmother who pushes boundaries will still do so."

Prior to spending time with family, she suggested, it's a good idea to think about the actions, words or situations that ignite tensions and decide how they can be avoided.

"Consider topics to discuss with certain family members and how you will politely steer away from topics you'd rather not discuss," Isenberg explained. "If you anticipate that there will be a topic or way of interacting that is too difficult to be avoided with subtlety, you may want to consider gently approaching it prior to the holidays. For example, tell your parents you don't feel comfortable discussing your relationship with your significant other in front of the extended family and ask them not to mention it during dinner, and provide them with an answer to give when relatives inquire."

Rachel decided to begin seeing a therapist to help strengthen her relationship with her family. "Hopefully Christmas will be less tense," she said. "If not this Christmas, then next."

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Polar Bear Reading Club. Saturday, Dec. 6-Saturday, Jan. 31. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Read any five books between Dec. 6 and Jan. 31 and get a prize. Up to Grade 6. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

Lights Festival. Through Sunday, Jan. 4 at 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.

Workbook on Display. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. The exhibit is open through January 2015, in the park's visitor center and admission is free. The highlight of the exhibit is an original workbook created by Lewis H. Machen who purchased Walney in 1843 and lived there until his death in 1863. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence for more.

Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers at Historic Sully. Through Jan. 31. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. This holiday exhibit is included in a guided tour of the 1794 house. Sully, the home of Richard Bland Lee, northern Virginia's first congressman, will be decorated for the holiday season from Dec. 3-22. 703-437-1794 or

visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully

THURSDAY/DEC. 4

The End (Or Is It?) Book Group. 7:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Book discussion for 5th and 6th grade students. December's title is "Mockingbird" by Kathryn Erskine. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/DEC. 5

PJ Library Book Buddies Storytime. 11:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Moms, dads, grandparents, caregivers and children who loves books are welcome to join for stories and fun that relate to the Jewish culture, traditions and holidays. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

Ready for School Storytime. 2 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Early literacy program for children ready to be on their own without caregivers or siblings. Age 4-5. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/DEC.5-7

Christmas Musical Drama. 7:30 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Enjoy the musical drama, "The Gift" depicting the story of a soldier and family at the end of WW II. Call 703-383-1170 for more.

Holiday Performance. Friday, 7:30 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday, 3 p.m. at Mountain View High School,

5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. Enjoy "Twas the Night Before Christmas" by special arrangement with Samuel French, followed by Christmas caroling, and an opportunity to sit with and take your own pictures with Santa. Visit TheAllianceTheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 6

Champagne Holiday Breakfast. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at Judy Ryan of Fairfax, 9565 Braddock Road, Fairfax. Kick off the season with Judy Ryan of Fairfax. Enjoy a continental breakfast, complete with champagne and mimosas and storewide savings. Judy's elves will wrap gifts. Call 703-425-1855.

Decorating with Fresh Greens and Flowers. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, Fair Oaks Meeting Room, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. See how to use fresh cut pine, holly, cedar, boxwood, magnolia and other plants to fill a home with the fragrance and beauty of the season. Call 703-968-9600 or visit merrifieldgardencenter.com for more.

Holiday Craft and Vendor Fair. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Brookfield Elementary, 4200 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly. Enjoy pictures with Santa and local craft vendors offering potential gift ideas. Contact 703-814-8700.

St. Nicholas Workshop. 1-4 p.m. at Saint Raphael Orthodox Church, 4429 Brookfield Corporate Drive, Suite 500, Chantilly. Children can make crafts and gifts. Free, registration required. 703-426-8719.

Holiday Art Show. 2-6 p.m. at Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road. Enjoy shopping for quality, original art, made entirely by Clifton artists. Visit www.artguildofclifton.org for more.

English Conversation Group. 3:30 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. English conversation practice opportunity for adults learning English. Volunteer led program. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

SUNDAY/DEC. 7

A Cathedral Brass Christmas. 4 p.m. Christ Presbyterian Church, 12410 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. The concert features Christmas carols and other holiday favorites including "Twas the Night Before Christmas," narrated by Alan Cole. Free, donations accepted. music@cpcfairfax.org or 703-346-3512.

MONDAY/DEC. 8

ESL Book Club. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/DEC. 9

LGBTQ Book Club. 4:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A book discussion focusing on LGBTQ themes. Ask for title. Grades 9-12. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

Magic and Mayhem. 4:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A sci-fi/fantasy book discussion group for girls and boys. Discuss "Doll Bones" by Holly Black. For students in 6-8th grade. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/

library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 10

A Novel Society. 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Holiday book exchange. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

Holiday Beaded Jewelry Tutorial. 7 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

Book Discussion. 7:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Adults. Ask for title. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY/DEC. 12

Holiday Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Gift-quality used book sale. All ages holiday book sale. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

Kinder-Budds: Book Buddies for Kindergarteners. 4:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A book discussion group for boys and girls. Ask for title. Kindergarteners. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 12-13

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Books for all ages will be offered at bargain prices. The book sale is open to the public. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/ DEC. 12-14

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. 10 a.m.-6p.m. at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center Drive, Chantilly. More than 250 of the nation's finest artisans will display and sell their handcrafted work. Visit www.sugarloafcrafter.com for more.

SATURDAY/DEC. 13

Holiday Book Sale. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Gift-quality used book sale. All ages holiday book sale. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

Thriving Three to Fives. 10:30 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Age 3-5 with adult. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/ or 703-830-2223.

Kaleidoscope Storytime: An Adaptive Storytime. 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Family sensory storytime geared to children on the autism spectrum and with other developmental challenges. Stories, songs and movement in a welcoming atmosphere. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. 11 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Ask for title. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

Paws for Reading. 3 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Read aloud for a 15-minute session with therapy dogs. Bring own book or choose a book from the library. Age 5-12. www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/ or 703-502-3883.

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