



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/CENTRE VIEW

Assim Marad Shammo (center), a senior at Mountain View High School, came to the United States five years ago with his sister and three brothers, leaving his refugee parents and younger brothers behind in Syria. Shammo has worked with the American Ezidi Center, a non-government organization promoting peace in Syria and advocating for international protection of Ezidis and other religious minorities.

Agents of Change

FCPS students recognized for promoting peace.

BY TIM PETERSON
 CENTRE VIEW

After a friend of South County High School senior Sakira Coleman was sexually assaulted while running on a local public path, Coleman decided to take action and started the “Fight for Your Right to Run at Night” program.

“I don’t like feeling helpless,” Coleman said. “This is about raising awareness.”

The senior has also served as president of the school service club “Stallions Lend a Hand” and volunteered at Greenspring Retirement Commu-



Rocky Run Middle School student Seungmin Lee (right) and his mother Naryung Kim (left) stand next to his artwork that won first place in the Fairfax Lions Club 2014 Peace Poster Contest.

nity, a workload that in addition to actual school-work requires “no sleep ever” to maintain.

Coleman and 22 other peace-promoting students and student organizations were recognized March 15 at the Student Peace Awards of Fairfax County, held at Mountain View Alternative High School in Centreville. From anti-bullying event organizers to student association presidents and volunteers in the community, the student leaders were chosen for exhibiting high moral and civic values.

“The number of ways to peace is limited only by the human imagination,” said Dr. Margaret Fisher with the Peace Awards coalition as she opened the program. “Seemingly endless suffering in the world can give way when we join our strengths together.”

The peace awards started in 2006 with one high school and faith-based sponsorship. The event has grown such that now each public high school and three private schools in Fairfax County may select students for the awards and there are 14 faith-based and secular sponsors.

This year schools were also able to select organizations to honor, including: the Anti-Bullying Committee of Cedar Lane School in Vienna, the Dare to Care anti-bullying group of Hayfield Secondary School in Alexandria and The Peer Mediation Program of J.E.B. Stuart High School in Falls Church.

As students were called to the stage in the Mountain View auditorium, they received a copy of Mark Andreas’ book “Sweet Fruits from a Bitter Tree.” Along with a monetary award, each student also chose a charitable organization to which \$100

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‘I’m Just Thrilled To Be Here’

Blakley takes helm at Sully District Police Station.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
 CENTRE VIEW

Right from the start, Bob Blakley planned to become a police officer. Born in Clearwater, Fla., he joined the Police Explorers in 10th grade. And when his family moved to Georgia the next year, he started an Explorer post there.

“People say it’s a calling,” said Blakley. “I just knew that’s what I wanted to do.”

He’s now a police captain and, since January, commander of the Sully District Station. And his roots in law enforcement run deep. He served four years with the Marines, including a stint as a West Wing sentry at the White House for 14 months.

Blakley then attended the State Police Academy in Richmond and worked four years in Fairfax County on SWAT teams and on the Tactical Field Force (civil disturbance) Unit. He was also a road trooper.

“But my passion was DUIs,” he said. “I especially worked nights and, in 2001, I received a plaque from MADD for the number of drunk-driving arrests I’d made.”

In June 2002, though, he left and joined the Fairfax County Police Department to take advantage of the opportunities it offered, without having to move around the state and uproot his family so much. (Blakley married at age 18, and he and his wife of almost 20 years now have four children, daughters 12 and 9, and sons, 7



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Sully District Police Station Commander Bob Blakley.

and 5).

Besides, he said, “I liked Fairfax County and Northern Virginia. I had friends in this department and had heard great things about it.” He began as a patrol officer in West Springfield, serving on that station’s Selective Enforcement Team. On night patrol, he wrote tickets and did stakeouts and various extra things patrol officers don’t have time to do.

Moving to the Traffic Division in September 2005, he was a detective in the Crash Reconstruction Unit. “Advocating for the deceased, you put in extra work,” said Blakley. “And it was uncomfortable explaining to the victim’s family why someone got a minor charge for something that resulted in a death. But I loved the science of the physical investigation,

SEE BLAKLEY TAKES, PAGE 5

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Wilgus, Underwood Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Wilgus of Centreville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Julie Simmons Wilgus to David Andrew Underwood, son of Robert and Anna Underwood of Jacksonville, N.C.

Julie is a graduate of Clemson University with a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering. Julie is employed as a civilian electrical engineer with the U.S. Navy in Charleston, S.C.

David is a graduate of North Carolina State University with dual Bachelor of Science degrees in electrical and computer engineering and a Master's of Engineering degree in electrical engineering from the University of South Carolina. He is currently pursuing a Master's of Science degree in computer engineering from North Carolina State University en route to a Ph.D. in electrical engineering. David is a registered Professional Engineer (P.E.) and also employed as a civilian electrical engineer for the U.S. Navy in Charleston, S.C.

David and Julie share a love for travel and he proposed while they were vacationing in Paris. The wedding will take place at Grace Episcopal Church in Charleston, S.C. on Oct. 3, 2015.



Julie Simmons Wilgus and David Andrew Underwood



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At State Conference

Four members of the Centreville-based John Witt Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames XVIIC, attended the Virginia State Conference in Fredericksburg in March. From left are Stephanie Brahin, Nan Ackerman (Librarian General), Jennifer Smith, and Van Lee. The chapter was one of three hostess chapters for the conference.

SCHOOL NOTES

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

Casey Ea, of Centreville, received a Master of Science-Rehabilitation Psychology, Rehabilitation Psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison's winter commencement ceremony, on Sunday, Dec. 21, 2014.

Jerry Li of Centerville made the dean's list at Washington University's Olin Business School (St. Louis, Mo.) for the fall 2014 semester.

Snigdha Srivastava and **Katherine Hao** of Herndon are enrolled at Washington University's College of Arts & Sciences (St. Louis,

SEE SCHOOL NOTES, PAGE 7



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Firefighters Offer Safety Checks

Firefighters will resume their Safety In Our Community (SIOC) and Wellness In Our Community (WIOC) safety and wellness program Saturday afternoon, March 21, throughout Fairfax County.

They will be in neighborhoods checking and installing smoke alarms, providing seasonal fire and life safety tips, and offering escape plans for families on this first day of spring. Firefighters will leave behind a door hanger with seasonal and wellness safety tips for those not at home.

To request the installation of a smoke alarm, or a visual smoke alarm for the deaf and hard of hearing, at no cost, call 703-246-3801, TTY 711, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr.

The smoke alarms are being provided by a federal grant sponsored by the Department of Homeland Security.

Amazing Farm Fun To Open

Saturday, March 21, at 10 a.m. marks the grand opening of Ticonderoga Farm's Amazing Farm Fun located on 1,000 acres of undeveloped land in the heart of South Riding on the border of Fairfax County and Loudoun County.

The farm has been transformed with a 750-foot pedal kart track, hay rides, Totland pee-wee kart track, two 40x60 foot bouncy pillows, sliding hills, cow train, panda bamboo maze, Goat City, pony rides and an aviary.

Hog Wild BBQ will be providing customers with hot of the grill, BBQ options with award-winning side dishes and desserts. Additionally, a partnership with Domino's pizza allows customers another fresh, kid-friendly, made-to-order option. Funnel cake, root beer floats, cotton candy and fried Oreos will temp all ages.

Berg pedal karts, local artisans and crafters, a partnership with Melissa & Doug children's toys, produce, honey, jams & jellies and farm fresh eggs add an eclectic assortment of products in the fully enclosed Farm Market. A portion of the proceeds will be donated from the Farm Market to The National Botanic Garden's future educational programming.

Hours of operation (beginning March 21) are: Monday – Sunday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Easter Egg Hunts will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. on March 21-22, March 28-29, April 4-5. There will be three age categories for all egg hunts.

Litzenberger's Campaign Kickoff

Sully District Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger has filed to run for Sully District Supervisor. He's served on the Fairfax County Planning Commission for the past eight years and will hold a Campaign Kickoff rally Tuesday, March 24, from 6-8 p.m., at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Hwy. in Centreville.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, March 26, from 5 - 8:30 p.m., 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.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

❖ April 20 – Public Safety Communications – Call taking, Dispatching, and Technology, 2 p.m. at MPSTOC community room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/public-safety-communications->

SEE ROUNDUPS, PAGE 7

Touring County Animal Shelter

Making the most of its expanded facility.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Members of the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) got to tour Fairfax County's Animal Shelter last Tuesday, March 11. They were divided into four groups and each learned about the shelter from a guide.

"In 2013, we became the largest jurisdiction in the United States with a placement rate above 90 percent," said shelter spokeswoman Kristen Auerbach. "And we received a Compassion Award last year for avoiding euthanasia as much as possible."

The shelter was built in 1975 and renovated in the mid-'80s. But as the county's population grew, so did its pet population; and eventually, the 15,000-square-foot facility became cramped, crowded and outdated.

In November 2006, residents passed a public-safety bond that included \$17 million for shelter renovation and expansion. Ground was broken in 2011 and work began, culminating in a May 2014 ribbon-cutting ceremony.

The shelter nearly doubled in size, to 29,000 square feet, and now boasts separate lobbies for adoption and animal receiving, new animal-holding spaces, a small-animal room, play yards, training rooms, a new air-ventilation system, more space for employees, a veterinary suite, visitation areas for adopters to meet pets, plus additional parking.

"We moved into the new facility in March of 2014," said Auerbach. "We have about 150 foster families and 300 volunteers to walk the dogs. And we also work with wild-life rehabilitators."

Passing by various staff offices with gates in the doorway, she said, "Employees either have their own pets or shelter pets with them in their offices. It's good for the animals' socialization." She also noted that the building "doesn't have an animal smell because it has six or seven, different ventilation systems and the air overturns 60 times



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Bill Donnelly and son Owen, 10, visit a cat in the animal shelter.

an hour."

This summer, said Auerbach, the shelter will offer animal-care camps for children. To learn more about them, see the county Park Authority's booklet, "Parktakes."

She said the shelter receives many more cats than dogs, and the best time to adopt cats is between June and October, when they're plentiful at the shelter. She also pointed out the five, outdoor play yards where the dogs get exercise.

The visitors were able to pet some of the animals and especially enjoyed seeing the bunnies, gerbils and guinea pigs in the small-animal room. "Some people hoard guinea pigs and bunnies," said Auerbach. "So we'll often get 40 or 60 of them at a time."

She also praised the shelter's volunteers and said more are always welcome. "We had 25,000 volunteer hours last year," said Auerbach. "Our volunteers are amazing."

Details

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is at 4500 West Ox Road and is open Tuesday through Friday, noon to 7 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/animalshelter>.



This dog would like a new home.



A white bunny in the small-animal room.

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POLITICS

Litzenberger Launches Bid for Supervisor

Sully Planning Commissioner John Litzenberger has announced his candidacy for the Sully District Supervisor position on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The position is being vacated by Sully Supervisor Michael Frey, who is retiring after 24 years of service.

Litzenberger has served as the District Planning Commissioner under Frey for the past eight years. Before that, he served as his Housing Authority commissioner for four years.

If elected, he said he would focus on bringing more businesses to the county to broaden the tax base. This would result in an increase in tax revenues without raising the real estate tax rate. He feels a consistent tax rate is instrumental in keeping businesses from relocating to other jurisdictions.

While serving as the Planning Commissioner, Litzenberger worked with the business community, the county staff and Frey to bring a variety of improvements to the Sully District including athletic



Litzenberger

fields for youth sports and the high schools, along with additional donations of land and facilities for the county parks.

He also helped negotiate road improvements for the community in the immediate areas of commercial and residential development. All this has resulted in over \$10 million worth of donated improvements for the community.

As a 35-year resident of Centreville, Litzenberger has served on a number of

community committees, including the education and land use committees of the West Fairfax County Citizens Association; as the chairman of the Trustees, Finance and Building Committees of the Centreville United Methodist Church; and as a youth sports and high school lacrosse coach from 1991 to 2008. He was the 1986 Lord Fairfax Award recipient and the 2007 Sully Volunteer of the Year for Celebrate Fairfax.

He is a retired Air Force pilot who flew transport aircraft and was a senior officer. He started his own aviation business.

Schoeneman Would Donate 'Extra Pay'

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Candidate Brian Schoeneman said he would donate the additional \$20,000 pay increase recently passed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to four Fairfax County community organizations, if elected.

"At a time when we are cutting services and taxes continue to climb, I do not support the pay increase recently passed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors," Schoeneman said in a statement. "It's easy to say you don't support a pay increase that you don't have to vote on. It would be even easier to just pocket the extra money if elected. I couldn't, in good conscience, do that. I want

this money to benefit the community, so I will be donating it instead."

The \$20,000 donation will be made in \$5,000 quarterly donations to four community organizations:

FACETS – A Fairfax-based organization dedicated to helping parents, their children, and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in Fairfax County.

Cornerstones – A Fairfax-based organization promoting self-sufficiency by providing support and advocacy for those in need of food, shelter, affordable housing, quality childcare, and other human services.

Shelter House – A Fairfax-based

organization providing crisis interventions, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County.

Assist Pregnancy Center – A Fairfax-based organization promoting life through Christ to those vulnerable to abortion, including providing pre-natal services and counseling free of charge.

Schoeneman is seeking the Republican nomination for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, representing the Sully District. The Fairfax County Republican Committee is holding a party canvass ("firehouse primary") to select their nominee on Saturday, April 25.

BULLETIN BOARD

THROUGH APRIL 15

Free Tax Preparation. Tuesdays, 4-8:30 p.m.; Wednesdays, 1-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. For taxpayers with low and middle income. All ages, with special attention to seniors. Federal and Virginia tax returns prepared and electronically filed by IRS-certified volunteers. Tax questions can be answered. Bring your photo ID(s), Social Security Card(s), tax documents, and your prior year tax return.

THROUGH APRIL

Kindergarten Registration.

Greenbriar West Elementary School, 13300 Poplar Tree Road, Fairfax, is now accepting information for next year's Kindergarten classes. Parents of students within Greenbriar West's boundaries, who will turn 5 years of age by Sept. 30, 2015, should call the school office at 703-633-6700.

MULCH SALES

Westfield High School. Mulch

delivery is scheduled for April 10-11. Order early to guarantee driveway delivery. Delivery limited to the WHS boundary area only. High-quality, double shredded mulch, \$4.95 per bag, \$2.65 of that amount is tax-deductible. Minimum order for delivery is 15 bags. Visit <http://ptsa.westfieldhs.org/parents/mulch-order-form.html> to order online. Mulch spreading service available for \$2 per bag, limited availability. Volunteers needed. Email bulldogmulch@westfieldhs.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Drive to Donate. Tolls collected on the 495 and 95 express lanes will be donated to local fire and rescue departments.

Housing Expo. 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Herndon High School, 700 Bennett St., Herndon. The Northern Virginia Housing Expo is a free public event designed to educate attendees renting, buying, selling, credit scores, home maintenance, reverse

mortgages, and condominium living. Free. Visit www.novahousingexpo.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 22

Gun Safety Forum. 2-3:30 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. An information session on the County's efforts to reduce firearms-related violence. Visit www.lwv-fairfax.org/.

MONDAY/MARCH 23

Financial Counseling Clinic. 6-7:30 p.m. at Chantilly Computer Learning Center Partnerships, 4101 Elmwood St., Chantilly. Volunteer financial planners will help participants tackle pressing financial problems during a 45- to 60-minute session. A free credit report will be run, immediate financial situations considered, and a course of action recommended to address concerns. Free. Contact Lillian Diaz at atLdiaz@wfcma.org or 703-988-9656 x108.

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CENTRE VIEW

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Blakley Takes Helm at Sully District Police Station

FROM PAGE 1

working backward, reconstructing the accident and determining the angles and speed.”

He was then promoted to sergeant and, in June 2007, worked midnight and day shifts on patrol in Mount Vernon. “It was a busy station and a new environment, so it was probably the most fun time in my career,” he said. “I was a new supervisor with a great group of aggressive police officers on the midnight squad.”

In 2009, Blakley went to the Internal Affairs Bureau as an investigator. “I believe in accountability and am rules-oriented, so it was perfect for me,” he said. “I investigated, cleared and held officers accountable for allegations of misconduct.”

While there, he was promoted to second lieutenant and, in September 2010, was transferred to the Major Crimes Division as supervisor for the Financial Crimes Squad.

“I was in charge of 13 detectives, plus two detectives who investigated the crimes,” he said. “They take in 5,000 reports a year, so I created the Financial Crimes Online Reporting System so we could do it more efficiently. Citizens can go online and file their fraud reports that go straight to the detectives. We also provide online information about scams and fraud prevention.”

Then in May 2011, Blakley returned to Internal Affairs, this time also investigating allegations of criminal misconduct against police. And he became an instructor for the International Association of Chiefs of Police, in its Leadership in Police Organizations program – which is the FCPD’s leadership training program. He’s certified to teach this intensive, three-week program and still does it today.

Blakley went back to Mount Vernon in March 2012 as a patrol supervisor of the midnight squad. That December, he was promoted to first lieutenant – a commander



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

Capt. Bob Blakley at his desk in the Sully District Station.

rank – and transferred to the Police Information Technology Bureau as the supervisor.

“I oversaw the Computer-Aided Dispatch

and police radios,” he said. “That was a very busy and intense job.” Also that year, he graduated from GMU with a master’s in public administration. (In 2009, he’d graduated from the University of Richmond with a bachelor’s in Human Resources Management and a minor in Leadership).

Then in 2013, Blakley became commander of the Police Department’s Peer Support Team, which provides counseling to officers after a critical incident or personal crisis. He’s still its co-commander, along with Capt. Ed O’Carroll, under whom Blakley served as the Sully District Station’s assistant commander when he came here in March 2014.

O’Carroll is now director of the Department’s Public Information Office and Blakley, now a captain, took over the reins at Sully on Jan. 7. “As a captain, for my first assignment to be a station commander, I’m very honored,” he said. “That doesn’t always happen; I’m just thrilled to be here.”

New Commander Stresses Community Relations

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

As the new commander of the Sully District Police Station, Capt. Bob Blakley has big plans.

He’s looking forward to highlighting “the good work the 107 sworn officers here do every day,” and he and Assistant Commander Matt Owens have certain goals for 2015, including increasing com-

munity engagement by revitalizing the station’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC).

But Blakley’s also concerned about residents’ perceptions about their local police. “Law enforcement is in the national spotlight – and even in Fairfax County – for negative aspects,” he said. “I want people to know they can trust their police department and ensure that the police have a positive reputation.”

“I’ve devoted my life to public service and I know the hard work and sacrifices the police have made,” he continued. “I tell my officers, ‘Do your best to maintain the public trust,’ and it comes from maintaining a good relationship with the community.”

Blakley’s already redesigned the station’s Neighborhood Patrol Unit to make it more effective. He divided it so half the team is focused on traffic issues and the other half

focuses on community policing. “And they’ll often support each other,” he said. “So it’s now a more dynamic and flexible unit.”

He’s increased the amount of training at the station to hone the officers’ skills in everything from legal updates to first aid to tactics, and Owens is also part of the Leadership Training Team. Like Blakley, Owens is an instructor with the Leadership in Police Organizations program, and they both want to provide that kind of training for all of the station’s 14 supervisors.

Regarding the police/community relationship, Blakley said he seeks out any opportunity to nurture it.

The CAC meets the second Wednesday of the month, at 7:30 p.m., at the station, and Blakley said those meetings offer “a great place for citizens to have a dialogue with us and tell us what’s concerning them. We want to

know what the community expects of us and we want to deliver it.”

Basically, he said, “I’ve been blessed with many opportunities and am proud of everything we’ve accomplished here and will continue to. And I’m thrilled to be able to do what I’m doing.”

Toughest, said Blakley, is that “it’s a 24/7 operation and I’m in charge. So I stay plugged in a lot – the job never ends.” The best part, he said, is “seeing the really awesome things the officers do – making sacrifices and criminal apprehensions, plus collecting food for holiday meals, assembling the food baskets and delivering them to families in need. We want to participate in the community and be good stewards of the Sully District.”

He also enjoys “sharing experiences and job satisfaction with the employees. I like seeing them be happy and excited to be at work.”

Agents of Change Honored

FROM PAGE 1

would be donated in their name.

Guest speaker Vickie Shoap, restorative justice specialist for Fairfax County Public Schools, addressed the audience once the students were recognized.

“When I looked at what these students have done,” said Shoap, “I was humbled and lifted. There is hope for the future.”

Shoap referenced the nonviolence and civil disobedience that characterized the work of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, commenting that “We’re all fighting for human rights. ... We’re change agents. It’s hard to talk about things that are difficult in their communities.” But, Shoap said, “You’re connected to a growing global community of peacemakers.”

Though mostly upperclassmen were recognized with peace awards, Seungmin Lee of Rocky Run Middle School represented the next wave of peacemakers. His artwork was featured on the back

of the event’s program and won first place in the Fairfax Lions Club 2014 Peace Poster Contest.

Lee used colored pencils to depict a red, white and blue dove flying over a globe and a peace sign, with hands of various skin tones reaching towards it.

“It’s about people sharing, un-

derstanding each other, that peace is beautiful,” said Lee.

Sakira Coleman commented that although the students receiving awards have done a lot for promoting peace and reducing violence, “There’s always more to do. It’s nice to see we’ve already started.”

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On Police Information and Secrecy

Time for change in public access to police information.

The first meeting of the Fairfax County Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission will take place next Monday, March 23, and it comes with hope for real change.

Police could take one step that would signal that they are serious about regaining public trust.

Police departments in Northern Virginia should let go of their relentless pursuit of secrecy. Police departments all over the country routinely allow access to police reports, incident reports, dashboard video and many other sources of information without harm, all things that police here refuse to allow the public to see.

The first paragraph of Virginia Freedom of Information Act, passed by the General Assembly in 1968, states that all public records “shall be presumed open.” But the legislation includes an exception that allows police to withhold “complaints, memoranda, correspondence,

case files or reports, witness statements and evidence.”

Police officials in Fairfax (and also in Arlington and Alexandria) have adopted what they call a “blanket” approach to using their exemption. That means they have decided to withhold any document they can without any analysis of whether they should, whether the case is open or closed, whether they are about a “police-involved shooting” or information requested by a family about a homicide victim.

EDITORIAL

It is only because of legal action by the family of John Geer, shot dead by a Fairfax County police officer in the doorway to his own home in August 2013, and the resulting court order that we know details of what happened that day. And what we now know confirms that the information released by police was incomplete and misleading at best.

We’ve learned that we cannot trust the leadership at the Fairfax County Police Department to tell the truth voluntarily on these matters. (See Editorial: “Not the First or Only Time,” Connection, Feb. 11, 2015.)

Repeating what we have said in this space many times: Police wield power unlike any other entity — the power to detain and ques-

tion, the power to arrest, the power to respond with force when necessary, sometimes deadly force.

With that power, comes responsibility — the responsibility to operate openly and with transparency, the responsibility to make available the greatest possible amount of information, especially the responsibility to provide the public with a full picture of what happened when something goes wrong.

Most Northern Virginia residents think very highly of their police. We are very safe here. People understand that sometimes mistakes happen, that sometimes force is needed, and that sometimes police will exercise deadly force. What they are unlikely to accept is secrecy that shrouds mistakes, and failure to take responsibility for explaining events of deadly force.

It’s clear that discretion about when to withhold information cannot be left up to the police department.

—MARY KIMM, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Mary Kimm is a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission; news coverage of police issues will continue to be the responsibility of reporters at the Connection.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Amazing Compassion

To the Editor:

Recently, my 12-year-old grandson played in a year-ending basketball game in Chantilly. A boy with an intellectual disability was playing for the opposing team. As might be expected, this young boy did not get many (if any) opportunities to shoot for a basket. However as the game was ending, he somehow got the ball and took a shot. He missed.

Suddenly, the gym got quiet and the players from both teams stood stock-still. Someone tossed the ball back to him. He tried again to make a basket ... it hit the rim but alas, missed again. Once more, he was given the ball. He tried an-

other time and in it went!

Everyone cheered, the spectators, the parents, the coaches but mostly the players themselves. The smile on this boy’s face was ... well, you can imagine. Boys from both teams rushed up to him congratulating him with many high fives.

This all occurred without any input from adults. How sweet is that? With all of the dreary news of today, it is refreshing to know that so many kids can be amazingly compassionate.

Janet Clement
Springfield

Considering Women Leaders

To the Editor:

“Is your dress Valentino or Chanel?” This is the burning question for the potential Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton as she embarks on a political campaign trail for the 2016 elections. Despite her numerous accomplishments from serving as New York State senator to becoming the Secretary of State, her potential is measured by what she has chosen to wear in the evening.

As we reflect on Women’s History Month in 2015, it is disappointing that we, as Americans, cannot handle the idea of a woman holding the most important posi-

tion in the world. Meanwhile, four developing (majority Muslim) countries have had female heads of state. This list includes Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan, and Turkey. While these nations are not the ideal picture of free and just states, their societies recognize that women can be just as effective leaders as men. Islam has a powerful impact on this notion as it promotes women to participate

and lead in a society. Although these states don’t embody the best of Islam, it can be noted that looks were not a relevant factor in Benazir Bhutto’s rise to power or Khaleda Zia’s return to the Prime Minister office. Let’s continue to be leaders in this world by following this beautiful example.

Shumaila Ahmad
Chantilly



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Guest Chaplain

U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly, House Speaker John Boehner and House Chaplain Reverend Patrick J. Conroy welcome Pastor David Ryoo from the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Centreville to serve as guest chaplain of the U.S. House of Representatives in December.



Write

Centre View 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
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Alexandria VA 22314
Call: 703-917-6444
Email:
centreview@connectionnewspapers.com

ROUNDUPS

FROM PAGE 3

call-taking-dispatching-and-technology-tickets-15373766349

❖ May 22 – The Police Canine (K-9) Team, 1 p.m. at OSB <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-fcpd-canine-k-9-team-tickets-15373824523>

❖ May 25 - The Development of the FCPD Badge, noon at the Massey Building A Level small conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-development-of-the-fcpd-badge-tickets-15373875676>

Food Donations For WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of canned fruit (all types), fruit juices, cooking oil, sugar, canned meats (tuna, chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, flour, canned or dry beans, and small bottles dish soap. Also needed are toiletries, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps. Especially needed are shampoo and solid deodorant.

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.

SCHOOL NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

Mo.) where they both earned dean's list recognition for the fall 2014 semester.

Middle and high school students enrolled in Fairfax County Public Schools have won a total of 524 awards in the Regional Scholastic Art Awards program sponsored by the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. From more than 2,400 entries from FCPS students, 158 Gold Keys, 164 Silver Keys, and 202 Honorable Mentions were awarded for outstanding drawings, paintings, prints, photographs, ceramics, sculptures, digital art, design, architecture, jewelry, fashion, film and animation, mixed media artworks, and portfolios. Gold Key award-winning entries will be submitted to the national Scholastic Art Awards competition. National awards will be announced in April.

❖ Students from Centreville High School include:

Sarah Asif, Honorable Mention in photography for "Time Never Slows Down"

Alexia Chenevey, Gold Key in Sculpture for "Gust"

Sarah Clark, Honorable Mention for "Effects of Nature" Portfolio

Valerie Frigerio, Silver Key in ceramics and glass for "PTSD"

Claudia Guillen, Silver Key in sculpture for "Contemplating Angel"

Lara Hassan, Honorable Mention in drawing and illustration for "Raven Girl"

Chansong Kwak, Honorable Mention in sculpture for "It's Hard to be a Daughter"

Lee Soo Yeon, Honorable Mention in painting for "Craving" and Silver Key for "Human Form"

Judy Moon, Honorable Mention in painting for "Serenity"

Park Ye Ri, Silver Key in drawing and illustration for "Artificial Life" and Silver Key in painting for "Falling Apart"

Colleen Song, Honorable Mention in ceramics and glass for "Fading Sea"

❖ Students from Mountain View High School include:

www.connectionnewspapers.com

How to Hire at CLRC

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

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

Meals on Wheels Volunteers Needed

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm.

Heena Baig, Gold Key in Sculpture for "Death By Litter"

William Derry, Gold Key in Sculpture for "The Infinite Forest?"

Sean Lee, Gold Key in Sculpture for "Entropic Men"

David Merino, Silver Key in Sculpture for "natural interference"

Erfan Mozaffari, Honorable Mention in Sculpture for "Yearning for Escape"

❖ Students from Westfield View High School include:

Joanna Ahn, Silver Key in drawing and illustration for "Seeing"

Elias Alhussaini, Honorable Mention in design for "Retro Poster"

Salem Alhussaini, Silver Key in ceramics and glass for "Marquise and Clyde"

Porsche Amaya, Honorable Mention in sculpture for "Rooted"

Emily Baynes, Gold Key for "Rooms" photo portfolio

William Finn, Honorable Mention in design for "Data"

Stephanie Introne, Silver Key in photography for "Glimmer"

Jessica Kim, Honorable Mention in digital art for "Ae;" Silver Key for "Bana;" Honorable Mention for "Cryasora;" Gold Key for "Ema;" and Silver Key for "Veris"

Gloria Marshak, Gold Key in photography for "Anxiety" and Honorable Mention for "Listen to the Clouds, Help"

Carleo Mitolo, Silver Key in digital art for "Lamp"

Darcy Nguyen, Silver Key in digital art for "Asian American," Gold Key for "Bystander" and Silver Key for "Idol"

Courtney Ryder, Silver Key in photography for "Gloomy"

Ismael Umanzor, Gold Key in mixed media for "Sum" and Honorable Mention for "Creation"

Yoon Eu Hyun, Honorable Mention for "Illumination" art portfolio; Gold Key in mixed media for "Mouse Hole;" Gold Key in painting for "Self-portrait;" and Gold Key in drawing and illustration for "Shatter"

Megha Kalyan of Centerville High School received special recognition at the Regional History Day Competition in "Senior Individual Exhibit."

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SPORTS

Westfield Suffers Gut-Wrenching Loss in State Final

Missed free throws in final minute cost Bulldogs against Colonial Forge.

By JON ROETMAN
CENTRE VIEW

After overcoming a 15-point first-half deficit, the Westfield Bulldogs had a state championship in their grasp Saturday night.

Then four missed free throws and a “lucky bounce” changed everything.

With a lead and a chance to ice the game, the Westfield boys’ basketball team went 0-for-4 at the free-throw line in the final minute, opening the door for defending champion Colonial Forge. After the Eagles missed twice during their final possession, sophomore guard James Shellington scored on a putback to take the lead with 3.2 seconds remaining. Westfield failed to get off a shot in the final seconds and Colonial Forge repeated as 6A state champion with a 47-46 victory on March 14 at VCU’s Siegel Center.

“It was a great game — great atmosphere,” Westfield head coach Doug Ewell said. “I thought we started off a little slow, very similar to last [night’s semifinal victory over Landstown]. [We] picked it up [with] typical Westfield basketball: getting stops, grinding, grinding, grinding, [but we weren’t] able to get the last stop.”

Junior point guard Blake Francis’ bucket with 1:27 remaining in the fourth quarter gave Westfield a 46-42 lead. Colonial Forge’s Shellington scored 20 seconds later, cutting the Westfield lead to two, but the

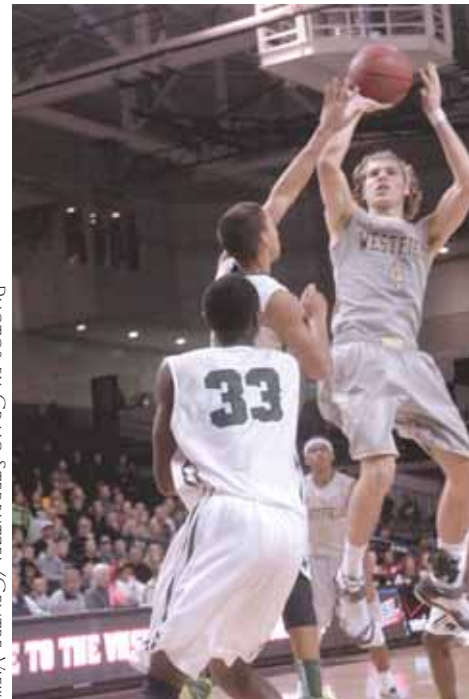


Westfield junior Blake Francis finished with seven points in Saturday’s state championship game.

Bulldogs were still in control.

However, Westfield twice missed a pair of free throws in the final 43.2 seconds, giving Colonial Forge an opportunity. After the first two Westfield missed free throws, Colonial Forge guard Carion Eaton made one free throw to cut the Westfield lead to 46-45. The Bulldogs then missed a second pair at the line, and Shellington put back the game-winner at the other end of the court.

“That last play, we couldn’t snag that board,” Westfield senior guard Jacob Williams said. “... They got a lucky bounce and it [went] right to [Shellington] and he finished the layup.”



Westfield’s Patrick Lawless goes up for a shot against Colonial Forge during the 6A state championship game on Saturday.

Ewell downplayed the impact of Westfield’s late missed free throws.

“It had nothing to do with free throws down the stretch,” Ewell said. “We were down [31-16], nobody asked about free throws then. ... If anybody looks back at free throws, then they don’t realize where [the Bulldogs] were at and where they got to.”

Westfield shot 9-of-17 from the free-throw line, including 3-of-10 in the second half.

Westfield junior Tyler Scanlon finished with 23 points, accounting for half of the Bulldogs’ offensive production. The first-team all-region selection shot 4-of-5 from

3-point range, grabbed three rebounds and dished three assists.

“Tyler, he’s a Westfield guy,” Ewell said. “He’s a grinder. He’s an amazing young man. Knowing Tyler, he’ll be calling me tomorrow saying, ‘Hey, coach, can I get in the gym?’”

Westfield’s Francis, a first-team all-region selection, finished seven points on 3-of-14 shooting. Michael Scruggs had five points, Zach Sheahan and Williams each scored four points and Patrick Lawless added three.

Winston Burgess and Marco Haskins each had 12 points for Colonial Forge.

Westfield entered the state final with a 25-game win streak and finished the season with a 27-2 record. The Bulldogs won Conference 5 and 6A North region championships along the way.

One day before the state championship game, Westfield defeated Landstown 64-60 in triple overtime during the state semifinals. Several Bulldogs came up big during crunch time.

Trailing by one late in regulation, Williams came up with a steal and scored, giving Westfield a 49-48 advantage.

In the second overtime period, Scanlon tied the score at 54 with a 3-pointer, and then forced a third overtime by knocking down a pair of free throws with 3.8 seconds remaining.

In the third overtime, Lawless knocked down the go-ahead jumper with 1:27 on the clock, and iced the game with a free throw with 7.3 seconds remaining.

Scanlon finished with 20 points and Francis added 17 against Landstown.

“I’m sure for Blake and Tyler, they’re like, ‘Let’s get it on, let’s start working for next year. I can guarantee that. I think a simple goal is ... get back here next year and finish what wasn’t finished.’”

Lax for a Cause Raises \$20,000

Lacrosse marathon at Centreville High School supports Wounded Warrior Project.

By STEVE HIBBARD
CENTRE VIEW

Despite the pouring-down rain, the “Lax for a Cause: Purple vs. Red” lacrosse marathon on Saturday, March 14, raised \$20,000 for the Wounded Warrior Project. This was the second year in a row that the event raised \$20,000 for the cause.

The eight-hour lacrosse extravaganza featured 700 children, ages 5 and up, from 27 CYA teams (Chantilly Youth Association) and 14 SYA teams (Southwestern Youth Association) competing in

dozens of lacrosse games at Centreville High School’s field. Both SYA and CYA will each send a \$10,000 check to the Wounded Warrior Project.

“Despite a rainy, cold day, our kids showed up en masse to support a wonderful cause — our Wounded Warrior Project — and we couldn’t be more happy and proud of our players,” said Chris Saben, CYA Lacrosse Commissioner.

Funds were raised through both individual player and corporate sponsorships, as well as through concessions and T-shirt sales.

“I was absolutely blown away with how much everyone was able to pitch in and help out,” wrote TJ Kenary of the Wounded Warrior Project, in an email.

This year’s event also included speaker Jeremiah Pauley, an Army veteran representing The Wounded Warrior Project, as well as a color guard to honor our nation’s armed service members. Pauley, who was injured by an improvised explosive device in Iraq, spoke about his experience and what inspires him today to “carry on and be positive.”

For more information about “LAX for a Cause” and becoming a sponsor, visit <http://www.lax4acause.org/http://www.lax4acause.org/>

For more information about the Wounded Warrior Project, go to <http://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW

The Lax for a Cause event raised \$20,000 for the Wounded Warriors Project on Saturday, March 14 at Centreville High School.

www.woundedwarriorproject.org/

For more information about CYA Lacrosse, visit <http://www.syalax.org/>

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For more information about SYA Lacrosse, visit <http://www.syalax.org/www.syalax.org>

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Choosing a Summer Camp

How parents can ensure positive summer experiences for their children.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

Though the official start of spring is still days away and the fridity of winter is still recent on the minds of many, Janelle Wright, a Potomac, Md., mother of two, has already mapped out the summer for her children.

Wright did research before signing up her 13-year-old daughter, Corrine, in an academic camp geared toward boosting her English composition skills, and enrolling her 12-year-old son, Teddy, in a camp for children whose needs fall just outside the norm.

Indeed, experts say social interactions, a chance to have fun and an opportunity to fill the time between family trips are just some of the benefits of summer camps.

There are camps for every child, no matter their needs.

"I spoke to the camp and shared with them up front that my son might need help socializing with other kids," said Wright. "He might need directions repeated to him. I did that so I could drive away in peace knowing that he'd be fine."

WHETHER A CHILD is typical or falls slightly outside the norm, doing a bit of research and exercising forethought are good ideas when selecting summer programs. In fact, advanced planning and registration for summer camp is essential in the Washington, D.C., region, say educators.

"It's important to find an activity that kids already like to do. It's summer so kids should have fun," said Linda Gulyn, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Marymount University in Arlington.

"Choose a camp where they won't feel lonely. It helps to sign them up with a buddy, especially in late elementary and middle school so they'll have one or two people at camp they already know. That really does matter."

"Parents should consider a camp that taps into their child's strengths, the size of the groupings during the day," said Susan J. Johnson, Ph. D., of Commonwealth Academy in Alexandria. "Consider the length of time for each activity."

Johnson advises that parents try coordinating their child's attention span with the camp's schedule. "Match camp schedule with body clock of the child," she said. "Schedule afternoon camp for children who

naturally sleep late in the mornings, for example."

INFORM THE CAMP'S STAFF if a child has allergies, medical needs or phobias. For special needs children, Johnson says camp counselors and directors should be "aware of a child's specific learning disabilities, and trained in how to teach children with learning disabilities, present directions, teach multiple strategies for learning new skills and always incorporate hands-on learning activities."

For children who are prone to feeling anxious about going to camp, Johnson suggests parents do a practice run to camp and visit the campus or building. "This will ease first day anxiety and give the camper self confidence that he or she knows his way around," she said. "Meet the counselors if possible."

There are also options if parents want their children to enjoy typical camp activities like swimming and arts and crafts combined with academics. For example, Wright chose an English program at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Potomac for her daughter.

"[Our] summer programs encompass academics for credit or enrichment and the arts [including] visual, performing and culinary," said Monique McMillan-Jackson, director of summer programs. St. Andrews also offers sports and technology camps.

SOME DAY CAMPS are structured to allow parents to choose the week their child will attend camp based on the camper's interests.

"We have a theme for every week that is packed with field trips and special events" said Fred Lowery, owner of Kiddie Country in Burke, which is running 11 weeks of camp this summer. "All of the camp activities are related to the theme. There are field trips to the Maryland Science Center, a Washington Mystics game, Reptiles Alive and Hershey Park. On site, we have everything from mad science to jugglers to swimming."

Traditional camp experiences, like opportunities for socializing with peers, are still found in specialty camps.

"As [campers] learn to identify, measure and combine ingredients, they are also learning important life skills, working together as a team and ultimately creating a delicious meal," said Jennifer Bashaw, curriculum development coordinator at Tiny Chefs, Inc. "Children leave our camps with a greater confidence in their kitchen skills and personal creativity."

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The biggest things are always the easiest to do because there is no competition.
-William Van Horne

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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION
March 31, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 31, 2015 at 7:30 P.M. at the Acacia Lodge Hall, 7135 Main Street, Clifton, VA 20124 to consider the amendment of the special use permit of Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub, located at 7140 Main Street, to include and authorize an increase in number of seats, an increase in parking onsite and off-site for the public and employees. The application for the proposed amendment to Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special use permit, is available for review and downloading on the Town's website at www.clifton-va.com and a hard copy may be examined at the Clifton Post Office, 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton VA, 20124. All interested parties are invited to attend and express their views with respect to the requested amendment to the Clifton General Store / Main Street Pub's special use permit.

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By KENNETH B. LOURIE

It always does, and there always are; especially if you have to work for a living and cancer is a part of that living. Granted, I'm extremely happy to be able to still make a living, cancer diagnosis notwithstanding, but a cancer diagnosis, particularly a "terminal" one, is hardly "notwithstanding." In fact, it is almost impossible to withstand. Oh sure, there are good days, and of course bad days, but mostly – for me, anyway, there is a daze in between. And that "between" is what's rocky about this hard place.

Since most things cost money, and money doesn't grow on trees (nor is it made from trees by the way); allocating it, when you have cancer, is complicated. Do I spend it now (whether I have it or not), as a means of reinforcing a positive but premature end? Or do I not spend it and plan for a longer-than-predicted life expectancy while depriving myself of the pleasure in the interim? Or do I rationalize the expenditure and reward myself for good behavior – so to speak, figuring that the high will be more beneficial than the low and create exactly the kind of energy my body needs to combat the cancer? Or do I minimize all of it and live my life as normally as possible? If only it were that simple.

"Normally as possible" left the building on February 27, 2009, the date I received my stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer diagnosis (my ground zero) with its "13-month to two-year prognosis." At that point, your brain stops functioning as it has for the entirety of your previous life (54½ years for me). Life, as you knew it, is sort of over; not done, but most assuredly, it will be different, and your perspective and emotional underpinnings will be changed forever – whether you expect them to be or not.

It doesn't mean, as an example, that you'll never laugh again or make self-effacing jokes, but neither can you look at, or live, life as naively as you have. Living forward becomes way more complicated, and viewing it all, planning for it all, can only be considered through the prism of cancer. And though certainly I can boast of some success surviving six-plus years post-diagnosis, it really has been mind over matter. Even though cancer is constantly on my mind, I've tried not to let it matter. (Much easier written about than actually managed.)

Juggling emotions has been difficult enough, but managing money, allocating resources and planning a financial future while living a precarious present, is all it's cracked up to be. Yet, if I don't find a way to maintain my status quo/balance emotionally, I may very well become a victim of my own circumstance. As much as I'd like to invoke Curly Howard (while looking in the mirror): "I'm too young to die, too handsome; well, too young, anyway" as an arbiter of reason, the reality is: cancer is the big dog and I'm just sitting here on the porch.

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

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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.

ONGOING

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

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

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

2015 Summer Programs.

Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu/is/summer/index.shtml for more.

❖ **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

❖ **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at

Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

❖ **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

❖ **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

❖ **Robinson Extended Day Adult and Community Education Enrichment.** Programs will be held July 6-31 at Robinson Secondary School and will begin after Tech Adventure Camp, STEM Camp, IFTA and E-IFTA end. These programs are for students currently in grades 1-11 and will provide a continuum of activities for students who want additional programs and activities. Programs will include the Foreign Language Experience Program (FLEX), Culinary Adventure Camp, Language Immersion Camp, Creative Writing, Computer Graphics, and Chess.

❖ **Credit Recovery Academy.** This program will be held at Fairfax High School for students seeking credit for high school level courses. Students

will be able to take one course during each of the two sessions from June 29-July 16 and July 20-Aug. 4.

❖ **Online Campus.** For credit recovery, acceleration, and enrichment for middle school and high school students. Health, Physical Education, and Geometry Honors run June 29-Aug. 4; all other courses run July 6-Aug. 4.

❖ **SOL Remediation.** For FCPS high school students who passed an SOL course but did not pass the SOL test. Held at Fairfax High School.

❖ **SOL Test Only.** This program is for FCPS seniors who plan to graduate by Aug. 28 and passed an SOL course but failed the SOL test.

❖ **ESOL Numeracy and Literacy.** The ESOL Numeracy and Literacy class provides currently enrolled FCPS high school ELP Level 1 students with the opportunity to develop their numeracy and literacy skills. Students will meet face-to-face with their teachers daily. This is a noncredit class. Held at Fairfax High School July 6-24.

❖ **Online ESOL.** Through this three-week class, students will continue developing their academic and reading and writing skills in an online discussion with an ESOL teacher. This is a noncredit class. Held July 6-24.

❖ **Extended School Year Learning Communities.** Services for identified students with disabilities in accordance with their individualized education programs (IEPs).

❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Summer Technology Institute.** The Institute will be held July 13-Aug. 7 at Woodson High School. Students currently in grades 7 and 8 will be introduced to science, technology, engineering, and

mathematics (STEM) through week-long sessions that allow them to explore a STEM topic of interest.

❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST) Academic Summer School.** This program will be held July 6-Aug. 6 at Woodson High School. Current TJHSST students and incoming freshmen choose from a variety of courses for academic credit.

SATURDAY/MARCH 21

Spring Fling Shopping Event. All day at The Mosaic District, 2910 District Ave., Fairfax. Mosaic District retailers will be providing shoppers with special deals, events and prizes. Visit www.mosaicdistrict.com.

Guided Civil War Tour. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. The Friends of the Fairfax Station will sponsor a guided Civil War Tour of sites related to the Battle of Sangster's Station. Tour cost \$30 per person; \$20 for Station members payable on arrival at the Station. Wear clothing and shoes suitable for low stress hiking. Bring lunch. Space is limited. Contact events@fairfaxstation.org or 703-425-9225. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

Perennials in Every Garden. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. There is a perennial that is just right for every garden. Learn about new varieties and some time-honored favorites to consider adding this spring. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Family Fun Day. 1-4 p.m. at Centreville Dance Academy, 14215 Centreville Square, Centreville. Bring the family to meet the teachers and tour the facility. Staff will be on hand to assist with registration for summer

camp as well as summer dance classes. Free, open to the public. Visit www.centrevilledance.com or call 703-815-3125.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 25

Author Event. 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Alan Rems, author of "South Pacific Cauldron," will discuss his book, followed by a question and answer period. Signed copies will be available for sale. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch or call 703-502-3883.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MARCH 27-28

Jazz Festival. Friday, 3-10 p.m.; Saturday, 8:30 a.m.-9 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Watch as jazz bands and combos from area middle schools and high schools compete for bragging rights and learn about jazz. Featured artists this year are the Alan Baylock Jazz Orchestra, George Mason University Jazz Ensemble, No Explanations, National Jazz Workshop All Star Jazz Orchestra, and YouTube sensation trombonist Christopher Bill. Exhibition performances by Chantilly High School's own Workshop Jazz and Chantilly Jazz groups. Free, open to the public. Visit www.chantillyband.org for more.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Growing Herbs. 10 a.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring out the best in recipes with home-grown herbs. Learn how to plan, plant and harvest an herb garden that will look as good as it tastes. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

Festival of Colors and Kites. noon-6 p.m. at Bull Run Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Presented by IntenseDMV, thousands of people from all walks of life are invited to come together for a day of peaceful celebration with dancing, live performances, a variety of food, kite flying and color throwing. \$5 per person. Visit intensedmv.com for more.

Children's Gardening Workshops. 2 p.m. at Merrifield Garden Center, 12101 Lee Highway, Fairfax. These seminars are ideal for parents and grandparents who want to introduce children, ages 6-12, to gardening. Children will work on a garden project to invite nature into their homes. An adult must be present. Space is limited, so please sign up online here. Visit www.merrifieldgardencenter.com or call 703-968-9600.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Story Time and Egg Hunt. 10 a.m. at Pender United Methodist Church, 12401 Alder Woods Drive, Fairfax. Pender United Methodist is once again hosting an Easter Story time and egg hunt. There will be crafts, story, a snack and egg hunt. Bring your camera for photos with the Easter bunny. For children 12 and younger. Rain or shine. Free. RSVP at www.penderumc.org/easter-event.

Museum Meeting and Presentation. 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Friends of the Fairfax Station will hold its annual meeting, followed by local resident Lee Hubbard presenting four long lost plaques from a 1903 commemorative monument at Sangster's Station to the Museum. The meeting is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. Doors open at 7 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

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