

APRIL 22-28, 2015

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTREVILLE VIEW

Back row, from left, are David Strauch, CJ Robinson, Kholied Bashri, Andrew Lindgren, Santiago Jauregui and Monica Hopkins; (middle row, from left) are Emily Hoffman, Amita Rao, Cameron Daly and Reem Alul; and, front row, from left are Zainab Barry, Joshua Ewalt and Miranda Newman.

Teddy Roosevelt, Murder and Comedy

Centreville High presents “Arsenic and Old Lace.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A comedy about an unlikely subject, “Arsenic and Old Lace” takes place in a house in Brooklyn in the 1930s. Two, sweet, elderly ladies, the Brewster sisters, live there and are well-liked by everyone. But they have a big secret ...

“They have 12 old gentlemen buried in their cellar,” said senior Miranda Newman, who plays Martha Brewster. “When their nephew Mortimer finds out, he tries to resolve the matter without his aunts ending up in jail.”

That’s the premise behind Centreville High’s upcoming play. Show times are Friday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, May 2, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, May 3, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door.

“This is one of my favorite shows — an absolutely fabulous comedy,” said Director Mike Hudson. “And one of the greatest things I’ve experienced so far with this play was explaining what it’s about; my actors were surprised that grandmothers would do this.”

But, he continued, “This is a comedy about the foolishness of the situation. The sisters took pity on lonely, old men without families and put them out of their misery by poisoning them.”

The cast and crew of 21 has been rehearsing since March for this three-act play, and Hudson said the set will be special, as well. “We’re building a house onstage with a two-story staircase,” he said. “And since it’s supposed to be an antique house, I had authentic wallpaper stencils custom-made for the

rooms. We’re playing this show as close to period as possible with the mannerisms, costumes, scenery and furniture.”

Newman describes her character as “bubbly, happy and carefree” and says Martha and her sister are a team. “Martha makes all the meals and is the more serious of the two,” she said.

“I love playing her because she’s so cheerful and is just trying to do her own thing,” said Newman. “And she’s fun to play because she’s so innocent and is so much older than me.” As for the audience, she said people will enjoy this show because of its “fast-paced dialogue and witty, dry humor.”

Portraying the sister, Abby Brewster, is junior Zainab Barry. “She’s kind of spacey and doesn’t realize how off her morals are,” said Barry. “She’s a really sweet woman who cares about others, but doesn’t always know the difference between right and wrong.”

Still, said Barry, “I love her so much. She’s such a funny character; and a lot of the time, she doesn’t realize the things she says are so humorous. And I’ve always wanted to play an older character, adjusting the way

I walk and talk to illustrate that person’s mannerisms.”

Barry says the audience will like the Brewsters’ nephew, Teddy, as well as the idea of how a story about “two, sweet grandmas who kill people — such a serious thing — can be made into a comedy.”

Senior Joshua Ewalt plays another nephew, Mortimer, a New York drama critic in his mid-30s. “He’s assertive and knows what he wants, is an aspiring writer and is a fan of Thoreau,” said Ewalt. “He’s also a regular, normal person — which is where the comedy comes from — because he’s the straight man the other characters play off of.”

SEE TEDDY ROOSEVELT, PAGE 4

Budget Gets Marked Up

Supervisors scheduled to adopt budget next Tuesday, April 28.

BY KEN MOORE
CENTRE VIEW

The Board of Supervisors marked up the proposed budget Tuesday, April 21, by increasing school funding, adding key economic growth positions and restoring money to suggested cuts to “critical” human service programs Tuesday morning, April 21, according to its Chairman Sharon Bulova.

The board is scheduled to formally adopt the FY 2016 Budget next Tuesday, April 28.

See the Mark-up Package at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/> “This is a responsible budget that responds to the needs of our community and takes into account the feedback we received during public hearings, town hall meetings, letters, emails and phone calls from our constituents,” Bulova said.

More than 200 people testified and the board listened to more than 14 hours of testimony from the public between April 7-9.

“Speakers during our three days of public hearings adopted as their theme a call to invest in Fairfax and that is what this mark-up package seeks to do,” said Bulova. The marked-up budget maintains the current tax rate at \$1.09, implements a new compensation plan for county employees with an average increase of approximately 3.6 percent (including a “market rate adjustment of 1.1 percent), comes close to fully funding the

School Board’s transfer request, and restores a number of Human Services reductions proposed in the original advertised budget, Bulova said.

Because of an increase in property assessments, the average homeowner will pay \$185 more in property taxes, even though the tax rate will not increase. Kimberly Adams, president of the Fairfax Education Association, responded immediately.

“FEA has rallied both in Fairfax and in Richmond to tell elected officials that the community wants greater investment in our community and our schools,” said Adams. “Here in Fairfax, the Board of Supervisors has tied their own hands, apologized for this being an election year, and then said they ‘wish they could do more.’ Our schools are not funded by wishes; they are funded by a dedication to actually invest in Fairfax before more damage is done to our community.”

Three supervisors voted against the marked-up package, including Pat Herrity (R), Michael Frey (R), and Linda Smyth (D).

“I am disappointed that not only did the board raise our citizens’ taxes yet again, but the board majority failed to even make the easy decisions to even discuss reducing spending to address the \$100 million shortfall we are facing in FY 2017,” said Herrity. “Under this board’s watch our homeowners have seen their tax bills go up by 16 percent in three years, our commercial vacancy

SEE SUPERVISORS, PAGE 5

4-23-2015
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Downtown Fairfax



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ROUNDUPS

Paving Begins on Stringfellow Project

Crews began several weeks of final milling and paving on April 16 at the Stringfellow Road widening project in Chantilly. Milling began to tie in intersections at Fair Lakes Boulevard, Route 50 and streets between. Final paving will last through May 4.

Drivers are encouraged to use alternate routes during the work, as there will be one lane closed in each direction daily, as well as intermittent intersection detours. All lanes will reopen each afternoon. Fairfax County Police will direct traffic during intersection closures.

The \$62 million project includes widening two miles of Stringfellow Road to two lanes in each direction from Fair Lakes Boulevard to Route 50. The entire project is scheduled for completion in July 2015. View more project details at www.viriniadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/stringfellow_road.asp.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, April 23, 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. Call 703-814-7000, ext. 5140, to confirm dates and times.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of Cooking oil, canned fruit (all types), sugar, canned meats (tuna, ham and chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, flour, and canned or dry beans.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, 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.

Learn about Police Department

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

♦ 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>

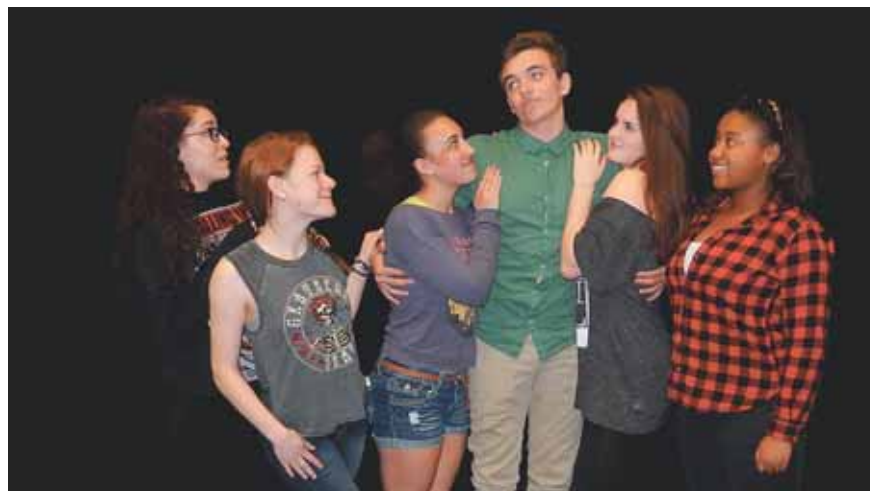
♦ May 25 - The Development of the FCPD Badge, noon at the Massey Building A Level small conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-development-of-the-fcpd-badge-tickets-15373875676>

How to Hire CLRC Workers

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.

NEWS



The union president with some of his admirers (from left) are Meagan Morrison, Cait Egan, Gabby Moses, Embrey Grimes, Samantha Dempsey and Casi Demming.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

'Entertaining and Fun'

"Pajama Game" is Westfield High's Cappies show.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

Featuring a cast and crew of 60 and a 25-piece orchestra, Westfield High presents the musical comedy, "Pajama Game." It's the school's Cappies show and the students have been rehearsing since March.

"Pajama Game" takes the stage Friday-Saturday, May 1-2 and 8-9, at 7:30 p.m., and Sunday, May 3, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door, and \$10 for students with IDs and advance purchases at www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com or www.whspjgame.weebly.com.

The story takes place in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, in the late 1950s-early '60s. There's unrest in the Sleep Tite pajama factory between labor and management over pay raises. And romantic relationships there are affected by the controversy.

"I have great comic actors and wonderful singers and dancers," said Director Susie Pike. "They're really capturing the small-town fun and spirit of the working class. The audience will like the happiness, lightness and almost innocence of working America back then and how the factory workers become a family. It's a slice of life in which the actors come off not as caricatures, but as real people."

Junior Daniel Williams designed the sets showing scenes inside the factory, at an office, a park and in a vintage kitchen. "A lot of research went into making the sets as realistic as possible," said Pike.

The student choreographers are Meredith Mehegan and Ola Pozor. And Charlie Parsons plus sisters Porsche and Wednesday Amaya designed the costumes, including vintage pajamas and bright, colorful dresses with big skirts.

Leading the labor union's grievance committee is factory worker Babe Williams, played by senior Emily Cervarich. "She's a strong, independent woman who knows what she wants and goes after it," said Cervarich. "She doesn't have time for relationships. She was raised without a mother by her father to be hardworking, so she's very business-oriented."

Cervarich enjoys her role because "Babe's like my personality; she puts on a brave front and doesn't let anyone break it. Then Sid [the new factory superintendent] comes along and gets to know her more vulnerable side." Her favorite number is her solo, "Hey, There," since it's "the first song where Babe really lets her guard down. It's very emotional

for her to admit she's let someone in."

Cervarich says the audience will also like the group numbers. "It's an ensemble-driven show, so there's lots of energy onstage," she said. "And they'll also like watching the girls twirling around in their big skirts."

Portraying Sid is junior Andrew Sharpe. "He's overconfident and full of himself," said Sharpe. "He's good-looking and all the girls are in love with him. But he eventually falls in love with Babe and becomes more tender. He struggles between work and pleasure and figuring out what's right in the work environment."

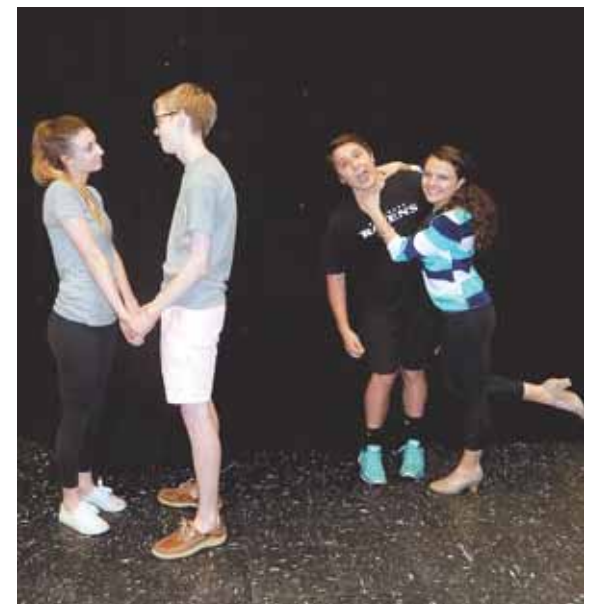
Sharpe likes playing him because Sid is the opposite of his own personality. And he loves his character's songs, especially "Small Talk," during which he acts while singing. In it, Sid's tired of making small talk with Babe and not advancing their relationship.

Although this play's a classic, Sharpe said it's not well-known by today's audiences, so it'll be new to them. "We go all out with our sets, and they'll get immersed in the 1960s," he said. "So it'll be nostalgic for the adults and fun for teens to see what a different time period was like."

Junior Shaina Greenberg plays Gladys, a secretary for one of the factory managers. "She always knows what's going on in the office and has a lot of responsibilities," said Greenberg. "She's fun-loving and an office flirt, but has an ongoing relationship with a factory worker named Hines."

It's a fun part, said Greenberg, "because Gladys is

SEE 'PAJAMA GAME'. PAGE 5



Rehearsing are (from left) love interests Emily Cervarich and Andrew Sharpe, and Keegan Garant and Shaina Greenberg.

CENTRE VIEW ♦ APRIL 22-28, 2015 ♦ 3

A Serious Chapter in U.S. History

Chantilly High is performing the play, "Radium Girls."

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

A slice of American history is presented in Chantilly High's production of the drama, "Radium Girls." It features a cast and crew of 35, and Director Ed Monk says his young thespians are doing a terrific job.

"I hadn't intended to double-cast the show, but the auditions were so good that I had to," he said. "We have so many talented actors."

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, May 1-2, and Thursday-Friday, May 7-8, at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door or via www.chantillyhsdrama.com.

The play takes place in Orange, N.J., during WW I. "It's based on a real story of female factory workers in 1917 who were painting glow-in-the-dark watch dials for the soldiers," said Monk. "To make a fine point with their brushes, they had to put the brush tips in their mouths. But they were using radium paint – not knowing it would cause cancer. And the story's about their struggle to get compensation from the company that caused their health problems."

Senior Mia Rickenbach plays the lead role of Grace Fryer, who goes from ages 15-26 during the show. "Initially, she does what other people tell her to do," said Rickenbach. "But as time goes on, she begins to stand up for herself. She works at the U.S. Radium Corp., painting watch dials, and faces challenges in her relationships with her fiancé, friends and mother."

It's a tough role, she said, because "It's

different from plays we usually do and because Grace changes so much physically, emotionally and health-wise, throughout the show. But it's exciting to play her because she's so diverse and changes so much. And although she has her flaws, she still fights for what's right."

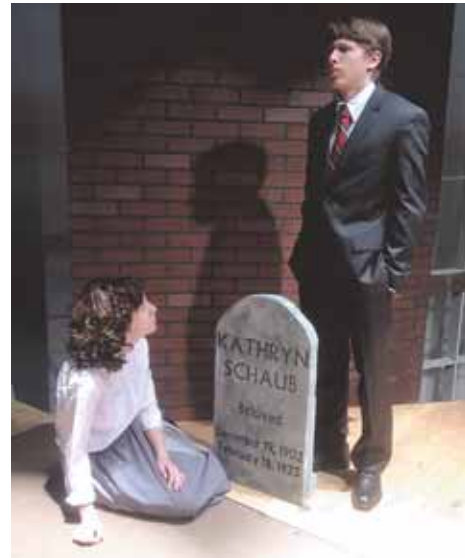
Rickenbach said the audience will appreciate that "The story doesn't unfold in a linear fashion, but jumps from one character's perspective to another's, so you get different insights on what's happening."

Portraying Arthur Roeder, the vice-president and then the president of the U.S. Radium Corp., is senior Ryan Rickard. "He's a smart, modern businessman with a background in sales, so he has lots of ideas on how to market radium," said Rickard. "But he's also a man of moral principles and hires as many people as possible who need help. And once allegations against his company start coming out, that the radium from his plant causes cancer and radiation poisoning, he's torn between admitting it and finding a way to save his company."

Senior Carly Carter plays factory-worker Kathryn who's Grace's best friend. "She loves her cousin Irene [who also paints the watch dials] and is very loyal to her," said Carter. "They argue with each other like siblings, but they're really close. So after Irene dies, Kathryn becomes a lot more cynical — when, before, she used to romanticize everything. And she now sees the worst in people."

Carter's character gets sick, too, and she said it's an "interesting experience to play someone deteriorating. I get to show how cancer affects the body. And our makeup person, Maddy Farmer, is really great at special-effects makeup. She transforms both Grace's and Kathryn's looks throughout the play, so I'm really excited about that."

Carter said the audience will be fascinated



As friend and employer, respectively, of factory-worker Kathryn, Grace (Mia Rickenbach) and Roeder (Ryan Rickard) visit her grave.

with the play's morality "as Roeder makes tougher and tougher decisions about how to deal with these girls. People will also be able to see the larger picture of how victims are sometimes pushed under the rug and not given the compensation that they deserve."

Monk, too, said the audience will be absorbed with the story and find it interesting. "The play's still relevant today, sadly enough, with, for example, the General Motors ignition switches and the airbag cases," said Monk. "Companies with good people in them still do horrible things — and why? How do people lie and justify these things to themselves? So, hopefully, our show will make people think. And it's also a piece of American history most people don't know about."

International Showcase Set for Saturday

Centreville's diverse restaurant scene will be front and center at the Centreville International Showcase, this Saturday night, April 25, from 6-9:30 p.m., at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road in Centreville.

For the first time ever at this event, local restaurants are participating in a "Taste of Centreville." There'll be Indian food from Indian Ocean, Tandoori Village and Citimart, plus many Korean specialties provided by Korean Central Presbyterian Church.

Also offered will be Peruvian-style chicken from Chicken Latino, Salvadoran pupusas from Two Amigos Restaurant, Guatemalan dishes from Cuna del Sol and El Quetzal, and Mexican and Tex-Mex specialties from El Taco and Guapo's. Other restaurants, including Jireh Bakery, Pollo Campero and Carabbas, are providing coupons and discounts to be offered during the evening's raffles.

Dinner costs \$15, adults; \$5, children. Volunteers will serve guests at their tables, while entertainers perform songs and dances from around the world in this cabaret-style, family event. Countries featured will include Korea, Guatemala, India, Ireland, Honduras, El Salvador and Africa. The showcase theme is "One Community, One Centreville, One World."

The Centreville Immigration Forum is sponsoring the event to bring the community together for an evening of fellowship and fun. Admission is free, but the showcase raises money for CIF through raffles for a 50-inch widescreen TV, computer and Nook; a 50/50 raffle is also slated. And donations to CIF will be accepted.

Early-bird raffle tickets and reserved dinner tables are available in advance via Pay Pal at www.centrevilleinternationalshowcase.org or by checks payable to Centreville Immigration Forum and mailed to the Centreville Labor Resource Center (5956 Centreville Crest Lane, Centreville, VA. 20121). Specify "donation," "raffle," or "dinner."

— BONNIE HOBBS

Teddy Roosevelt, Murder and Comedy at CVHS

FROM PAGE 1

"He's tons of fun to play," said Ewalt. "I get to do lots of yelling and running around. I run up and down stairs, jump on a bench and do physical comedy. It's a really wacky role, as Mortimer tries to juggle a dozen, different things at once."

He said the audience will enjoy watching "how the characters react to and interact with each other. They'll also like seeing how Mortimer's trying to keep everyone else normal and calm but, in the process, starts acting crazy, himself."

Playing Teddy is junior CJ Robinson, who's also designing the makeup to age the young actresses into old women. "Teddy lives with his aunts and believes in his heart that he's President Theodore Roosevelt," said Robinson. "But he recognizes that he thinks he's met people and experienced events that haven't yet happened to Roosevelt, who's really the president when the play takes place. Teddy really embraces Roosevelt's more eccentric characteristics, so he's more of a caricature than an actual

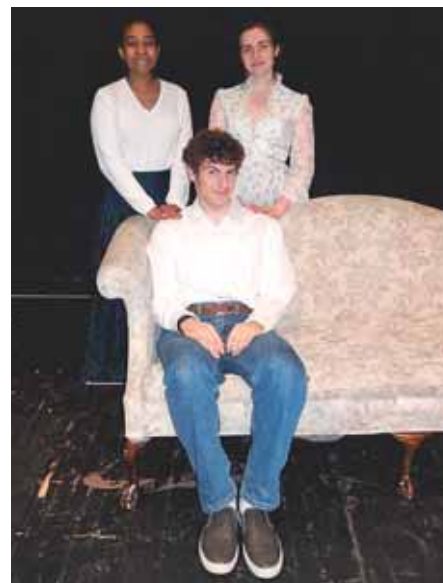
person."

Robinson called it a "really fun part to play" because he gets to be so outrageously hilarious and over-the-top. "Teddy's basically a running punch line throughout the show, and I love it," he said. "I even get to blow a bugle before making announcements, and I yell 'Charge' before going up stairs. Teddy's also building the Panama Canal in the cellar."

He said the show has lots of subtle humor, as well. "There's a lot of comedy arising from miscommunications and great jokes that people will like," said Robinson. "I think this comedy will be something everyone will enjoy."

Agreeing with him, Director Hudson said, "It's a funny, decent show that'll appeal to any age audience. It's utterly unbelievable in its content, but the audience will want to believe it happened because it's so fantastic."

"This play came out of the Golden Age of American comedy and was extremely successful on Broadway," he continued. "And



Zainab Barry and Miranda Newman with Joshua Ewalt.

it's one of the most-produced shows for any theater group, high school or otherwise, in history."

Westfields Sprint Triathlon to Benefit Charities

The 3rd Annual Westfields Sprint Triathlon will kick-off from Cub Run Rec Center, 4630 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly at 7 a.m. on Sunday, April 26. Participants will swim, bike, and run in and around the Westfields corporate campus.

REV3 is partnering with the Westfields Business Owners Association to host the event this year. Registration is required and is available on the website: REV3TRI.COM.

The proceeds from the race sponsorships will benefit Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) and Westfield High School.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

'Pajama Game' at Westfield

FROM PAGE 3

all over the place, and I usually play serious roles. And she's in a lot of the dance numbers. My favorite is 'Steam Heat,' done in Bob Fosse style. It's different from the other numbers because of the choreography, and it's the only one that isn't fast and upbeat."

As for the audience, she said, "There's something in this show for everybody. Older adults will appreciate the show's classic style and others will enjoy the bright colors, cheerful numbers and happy storyline."

Portraying Hines is junior Keegan Garant. "Hines is also the narrator who breaks the fourth wall by talking directly to the audience," said Garant. "He's Gladys's love interest and the goofy character who ties the

show together. It's so much fun because I get to be crazy with him while also giving Hines a dramatic arc and showing what a loving person he is."

Garant likes the song, "Never Be Jealous Again," which he sings and dances with Jessi Swanson, who plays Mabel, an older wiser secretary who gives him dating advice. "It really shows a lot about Hines's character — both his affectionate nature and his silliness," said Garant.

He said the audience will enjoy the interactions between all the characters because "each one brings something else to the table, so they're all really well-developed. This show also has strong singers and great dance numbers so, overall, it'll be really entertaining and fun for the whole family."

Supervisors Revise County Budget

FROM PAGE 1

rate has spiked to over 16 percent, ... but the board thought they deserved a pay raise for themselves," said Herryty.

The revised budget restores the most critical Human Services reductions in the Advertised Budget, including Healthy Families, Parenting Education "Good Touch, Bad Touch" programs, mental health services in jail, and detox diversion positions. It also restores the Enforcement of the Grass Ordinance, Bulova said.

"The Advertised Budget as amended by these actions results in some changes that will make some folks happy, some relieved, and some disappointed," said Bulova.

"It is, however, a responsible package that: maintains our current tax rate at \$1.09."

The marked up budget comes close to fully funding the School Board's request with an increase of over \$66 million (including funding for School Debt Service) over last year, Bulova said.

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OPINION

Connection Papers Win Awards

Variety of coverage honored at Virginia Press Association's annual conference.

On Saturday, April 18, a group of journalists from the Connection Newspapers traveled to Roanoke for the annual Virginia Press Association event to collect awards for business reporting, government writing, writing about health, science and the environment, feature writing, sports writing, column writing, obituaries, cartoons, entertainment pages and writing, public safety writing, editorial pages and writing, page design, informational graphics and more.

A look at the themes of some winning entries gives some insight into the mission at the Connection: to tell stories of significance, using reporting, data and analysis while getting to the heart of why the issues matter in local lives. In a time that we, like all newspapers, are functioning with reduced resources, it helps affirm that the effort can make a difference.

Bonnie Hobbs won for ongoing coverage of a family's efforts to provide the best life for a son they call "not special needs, but a special



Bonnie Hobbs



Jon Roetman



Victoria Ross



Mary Kimm



Marilyn Campbell

person," and a second award for coverage of issues related to affordable housing and homelessness. Judges call Michael Pope's business reporting "first-rate, data-driven reporting and analysis on important issues." Stories on driving habits, cesarean deliveries and the Affordable Care Act are called "well-researched, clearly written and engaging. The use of real-live people high up in stories to illustrate makes for very compelling material."

Vernon Miles won for breaking news coverage of Arlington's first same sex marriage, being "on the scene of a local event that has local, statewide and national significance. ... The story is multi-sourced; has a strong lead that gives readers a sense of the scene; places the event in historic context; and captures the celebratory feel of the event."

On Pope government reporting: "Rather than regurgitating official statements, the reporter tells people's stories to illuminate the conse-

quences of government decisions. This represents a model for all government reporting."

On Marilyn Campbell's reporting for Wellbeing: "These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term."

Even in recreation and entertainment, our mission is to provide our readers with the information they need to have fun, and our annual update to the "Insiders Guide to the Parks," brainchild of Jean Card, is designed to do that.

What are we missing? We rely on our readers to let us know. We invite your story ideas, your tips, your letters to the editor, calendar listings, photos of mothers for Mother's Day and fathers for Fathers Day, and more. Visit www.connectionnewspapers.com and click on "contact us," or email editors@connectionnewspapers.com

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Winners

Truncated list, for a complete list, see www.connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs, Centre View — Feature Series or Continuing Story, First Place. *Saluting 'a Special Person,' Mom's Quest for an Accessible Van, 'This Will Change Our Lives'* Judge's comments: Clear and concise writing with a good flow. Journalist captured the emotion of the event and engaged the reader well.

Jon Roetman, The Vienna/Oakton Connection — Sports Writing Portfolio, First Place. *Madison's Koshuta Scores 39 Against 'Idol' Floyd; Oakton Girls' XC Repeats as State Champs; Madison Volleyball Drops Heartbreaker in State Final.* Judge's comments: Strong and clear writing and excellent storytelling helps game stories feel more like features. Excellent work.

Victoria Ross, Oak Hill/Herndon Connection — Government Writing, First Place. *Let Sun Shine on Virginia's Financial Disclosure Laws, Mr. Horejsi Goes to Richmond; Bulova: 'This Will Be a Challenging Budget.'* Judge's comments: An engaging look at a

lobbyist who fights for the little guy; an entertaining story on a political candidate, helping readers put the upcoming election into context; one of the better budgeting stories I've seen lately that helps readers understand how the county's budgeting process is going to cost them more money. The supporting sidebars help bring the message home.

Marilyn Campbell, Chantilly Connection — Health, Science and Environmental Writing, Third Place. *Spiritual Wellness in the New Year; Consistent Bedtimes Aid Children; How To Age in Place Safely;* Judge's comments: These articles amount to personal guidance in the best sense of the term. They should serve as very helpful resources for readers of a variety of ages. In concise manner, they effectively made the concepts clear and applicable to the reader. The aging in place article was particularly relevant and insightful, the childhood sleep story was unlike anything I'd ever read (and I have two kids) and really summed up how a specific approach to children's health makes sense. The spiritual health article was unusual, refreshing to

see, and I love the variety of sources and comments. **Bonnie Hobbs**, The Fairfax Connection — Personal Service Writing, Third Place.

Affordable Housing Lack Can Lead to Hunger; 'Help Us, Will You Please?' City of Fairfax to Tackle Affordable Housing; Council 'Honored to Support this Project; 'Dream Come True' for Lamb Center. Judge's comments: Solid writing and good follow-through on the housing issues. The writer did a good job of including income and free lunch data without breaking the flow of the story.

Mary Kimm, The McLean Connection — Editorial Writing, Third Place. *Trending in the Right Direction; Virginia Proves Elections Matter; More Affordable Housing Needed; Tragic Consequences; Deadly Medicaid Debate.* Judge's comments: This submission consists of five well-articulated and well-grounded pieces tackling access to affordable housing and health care, a pair of closely related state and national issues with important local ramifications. The work combines passion with a persuasive factual underpinning.

GOP Candidates Highlight Concerns

Targeting Taxes

BY JOHN GUEVARA
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
FOR SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

When I started this campaign I stated that one of the pain points in our community was in our wallets. Since that kickoff, my wife and I put hundreds of miles on our minivan and knocked on almost 2,000 doors. I talked to moms, dads, business owners, young professionals, teachers, and many more. Your message was overwhelmingly united: "Do something about the high

SEE TARGETING TAXES, PAGE 8

Proven Experience

BY JOHN LITZENBERGER
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
FOR SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

Sully District residents should vote for me because I know how to get things done and have a proven track record of accomplishments for the Sully District. I will treat the position as my full time job. My opponents will maintain their current full time occupations and treat the position as a part time job. As the current Sully District planning commissioner, I constantly work with businesses, resi-

SEE PROVEN EXPERIENCE, PAGE 8

Restoring Trust

BRIAN W. SCHOENEMAN
REPUBLICAN CANDIDATE
FOR SULLY DISTRICT SUPERVISOR

In Fairfax County, the lack of transparency surrounding the deaths of John Geer and Natasha McKenna are fueling a rising level of cynicism about the most accessible level of government — the local level. There are few issues that are more important for us to be discussing than the public's lack of faith in the institutions that have made our county and country great over the last two centuries. Our

SEE RESTORING TRUST, PAGE 8

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A Connection Newspaper



REAL ESTATE

Staged to Sell

Real estate agents give the lowdown on getting your home ready for the market.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

When a Burke family hired E. Diane Neustrand to sell their home, she did her standard walk-through of the house to assess it, but when she reached the dining room, she stopped cold.

"It was painted with three different shades of orange and accessorized with black, white and gold furniture," said Neustrand, a real estate agent with Long and Foster Real Estate, Inc. in Burke, Fairfax Station and Clifton.

First on Neustrand's chopping block: a pair of zebra print chairs. The boisterous wall colors were next.

"It wasn't harmonious at all," said Neustrand, who also works as a professional home stager. "We had to calm that down because orange is not a color that sells well. You want neutrals in paint and furniture,

so potential buyers can visualize their own items in your home."

Residential real estate staging, the practice of preparing a home to go on the market for sale by making it aesthetically appealing, is credited with giving homes an advantage over the competition.

Staging can range from rearranging furniture, decluttering and painting the walls to furnishing a home in which the seller no longer resides.

The National Association of Realtors' 2015 Investment & Home Buyers Survey showed that staging can have a positive impact on the number of days a home sits on the market and the amount of money potential buyers a willing offer for the home.

"**STAGED HOMES** traditionally present themselves better than the competition by being clean, clutter-free and ready to show to prospective buyers," said Mona Bekheet,

a real estate agent with McEneaney Associates, Inc. in McLean. "Home staging is decluttering, depersonalizing and preparing a seller's home to look like a model home so the potential buyers can see themselves living in the home."

The survey showed that 49 percent of agents say most buyers are affected by home staging, while a 2013 study by the Real Estate Staging Association showed staged homes sold 83 percent sooner than houses that weren't staged.

Realtors also believe buyers usually offer a 1-5 percent increase on the value of a staged home.

"Staged homes take less time on the market and they sell at the best price," said Bekheet. "Buyers view them as well cared for properties and appraisers are more likely to appraise staged homes at a full or higher value."

That increase can offset the expense of having a home professionally staged. Ser-

vices, including consultations and furniture rental, can cost \$250 to \$2,000. Neustrand uses as many of the homeowners' possessions as she can to minimize expenses.

However, real estate agents say initiating conversations with homeowners about their homes and suggesting changes must be handled delicately.

Removing ultra-personal items like family pictures or bills is another part of the staging process.

"You want to get a potential buyer to envision their things in the home," said Stone. "Neutrals can help with that. Those are things that a home stager can suggest."

Less is often more in the home staging game, say Realtors. "I tell my clients to take stuff off the walls, rent a storage space and take all the stuff you don't need and put it into a storage unit, so it opens up more space," said Michael Richter, real estate agent for residential preferred properties at the Richter Group in Burke.

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VDOT

Virginia Department
of Transportation

Transform I-66 Outside the Beltway Fairfax and Prince William Counties

Public Hearings

**All hearings are 5:30 p.m. until 9 p.m.
A presentation will begin at 7 p.m.**

Wednesday, May 27, 2015
VDOT Northern Virginia District Office, 1st Floor
4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030

Thursday, May 28, 2015
Oakton High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #14)
2900 Sutton Road, Vienna, VA 22181

Tuesday, June 2, 2015
Battlefield High School Cafeteria (Entrance #1 or #4)
15000 Graduation Drive, Haymarket, VA 20169

Wednesday, June 3, 2015
Bull Run Elementary School Cafeteria (Entrance #1)
15301 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20121

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), will host hearings for the public to review and provide comments on the Tier 2 Environmental Assessment (EA)/Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation for the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. In compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, Section 106 and 36 CFR Part 800, information on potential effects of the proposed improvements on properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places is included in the environmental document. The EA is being prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and 23 CFR 771. The project involves the transformation of 25 miles of I-66 between U.S. Route 15 in Haymarket and I-495/the Capital Beltway, and will provide congestion relief and enhanced safety, as well as new travel choices and reliability.

Stop by between 5:30 and 9 p.m. to view displays, learn more about the project, discuss your questions with VDOT staff and provide written or oral comments. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m.

Review project information, including preliminary plans, project schedule, and right-of-way, environmental and civil rights information at www.transform66.org, at the public hearings, or at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax beginning May 12, 2015. Please call 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Written comments may be mailed to Ms. Susan Shaw, Megaprojects Director, at the VDOT Office address above, or emailed to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Please reference "Transform 66 Outside the Beltway" in the subject line. Comments must be postmarked, emailed or delivered to VDOT by **June 18, 2015** to be included in the public hearing record.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT's Civil Rights Division at 800-367-7623 or TTY/TDD 711.

State Project: 0066-96A-297, P101 Federal Project: NH-066-1(300) UPC: 105500

real estate
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THE CONNECTION

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Thoughts Before Friday's GOP Firehouse Primary

Targeting Taxes

FROM PAGE 6

taxes and fees in our county!" Your concerns don't occur in a vacuum, circumstances have driven you to this conclusion. Since I moved to Sully in 2000 our real estate taxes have gone up by 140 percent while local inflation has gone up by only 47 percent. This disproportionate increase has a tangible effect on your wallet. In fact, on average Fairfax County residents are paying \$3,000 more per year than they did in 2000. We all know that higher taxes and fees do not stimulate economic growth or increase the availability of good full-time positions. Yet, the Board of Supervisors continues to double down on failed policies that leave you paying the bill with nothing to show for it. We need to send them a clear message on April 25: "Enough!" This is my number one priority as your next supervisor. I will fight each and every day to ensure that our economy gets back on track. I will do this by employing time-tested private sector solutions to correct the county's fiscal mismanagement and establish a long-term plan for budget sustainability. Additionally, I will lead the fight to bring more jobs to Sully by providing relief to small companies that want to do business in Fairfax County. The BPOL (Business, Professional, and Occupational License) tax is a great example of what we are doing wrong, it has to go!

I am a strong proponent of smaller government, one that is efficient and that serves the community. We the people designed, established, and run our government: this is why we must demand that our government be transparent and accountable. Too often we see politicians who use this local office for selfish reasons, they are beholden to special interest groups and not you the voter and resident of Sully. It is because I have lived here in the Sully District for 15 years with my high school sweetheart and where we've raised our two boys, that my commitment as supervisor would be to you and you alone. I have demonstrated that dedication to you since the age of 17 when I swore an oath to defend my country as a U.S. soldier. As a Sully resident I served as your HOA president, CYA coach, PTO board member, Scouts leader, Sunday school teacher, and vice president on the board of directors for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries — a local food pantry here in Sully. You can rest assured that this is the same level of service and commitment that I will continue to give you as your next supervisor.

When Supervisor Michael Frey announced his retirement in January I was asked by several of my neighbors throughout Sully to run. I gathered strength and support from the hardworking, dedicated, and concerned people of Sully. By working together our message that our local government needs to be smaller and more efficient, accountable, and transparent, has been given a seat at the table. But of all the support my campaign has received nothing compares to your encouragement and resounding connection to my candidacy and our shared vision for the future of Sully.

On Saturday, April 25, Sully residents will go to the polls to decide who will run against Democrat Kathy Smith. A candidate that represents business as usual will not win against her tax and spend philosophy. What we need now more than ever is to break that status quo mold. I am that alternative to business as usual and the right kind of Republican that is needed to defeat Kathy Smith.

It would be my pleasure and honor to serve you as your next supervisor. I humbly ask for your vote this coming Saturday at Westfield High School between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Proven Experience

FROM PAGE 6

dents, and staff to promote economic growth in Sully and in all of Fairfax County. I am the only candidate who is knowledgeable and experienced, and I have the record to prove it. One of my accomplishments is helping to secure \$20 million of amenities, to include roads and athletic fields, for the Sully District with no use of taxpayer dollars. My opponents have no such background.

I have lived in Sully for 35 years, and know both the history of where issues have been and the many parameters that influence the economic decisions in Fairfax County. Concerns such as land use, transportation, school facilities, cell towers, excessive taxes and parkland acquisition are my forte. I have the knowledge of the process and legal procedures to get things done. These are skills that I have honed over many years. My opponents would be at a loss facing the many legal and mandatory regulations. I have the contacts and leadership expertise to understand where a problem started and how to correct it. I am knowledgeable on various sources of funding and how to use them to avoid exceeding the Fairfax County budget. My last assignment in the Air Force was as agency director for National Security and Emergency Preparedness. In this position, I oversaw all aspects of Air Force support to Homeland Security, a vital position that required both leadership and experience to be successful. This background, coupled with my years as a small business owner and my extensive community experience makes me the most qualified person for the job.

Another very important quality I have is my bi-partisan experience. Despite being outnumbered as a Republican on both the Housing Authority and the Planning Commission, my colleagues have on several occasions elected me to be the chairman of various committees because I know how to bring people together to get things done in a fair, yet efficient, manner. At my campaign kickoff, an astounding 20 percent of the attendees were Democratic supporters. I will be in the best position to defeat the Democratic candidate in November.

Many in the media have asked what prompted me to get into the race a month after my opponents declared their candidacy. Quite frankly, it was the number of phone calls I received from community leaders, individual parents in the youth sports community, and business leaders urging me to run. They like my approach of listening to concerns and then charting a course of action to address them. From master planning for parks, trailers at schools, youth athletic field needs, or a myriad of other issues, these long-time supporters thought I would be the best person for the job. To summarize, I will be a full time supervisor. My leadership experience in the Air Force and my Planning Commission involvement, plus 35 years of living and volunteering in Centreville and Fairfax County make me the best choice as the next Fairfax County supervisor for the Sully District. I am the only candidate with a proven track record of getting things done for Sully residents.

Please take 10 minutes and vote at Westfield High School this Saturday, April 25. Thank you.

GOP To Select Supervisor Nominee

Three Republican candidates are seeking their party's nomination to run for Sully District supervisor. The nominee will be selected April 25, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., at a Firehouse Primary at Westfield High. The winner will face Democrat School Board member Kathy Smith to replace the retiring Michael Frey (R) as Sully District supervisor.

Restoring Trust

FROM PAGE 6

lack of faith in our public institutions threatens the legitimacy of our government, and it is critical that elected officials and candidates for office recognize that danger and act to combat it.

The solution to increasing trust between the government and the citizenry is openness, transparency and honesty. Being honest about mistakes, being transparent and providing information before it is demanded, and demonstrating a commitment to inclusion and the willingness to listen is the only way we can begin to restore trust in government.

Today, more than ever before, government has the tools to make our political processes and our way of governing more open and transparent. The internet gives us the ability to place a nearly limitless amount of information at the fingertips of the public, and through social media like Twitter, Facebook and other sites, those within government have unprecedented access to their constituents.

Information is power. Giving citizens the information they need to make an informed decision empowers them and makes us all feel more confident, even when mistakes are made.

The Geer and McKenna cases are perfect examples. In each case, someone lost their life through the actions of Fairfax law enforcement. And, unfortunately, in both cases, facts were slow to trickle out. After attempts to limit the amount of information available, a significant amount of information was released in the Geer case, but by then the damage to the reputation of Fairfax County and our highly professional police force was done. In the McKenna case, it took months for a more than cursory explanation of the death of a 37-year-old mother in the custody of the Fairfax Sheriff's Department. What has been revealed, that McKenna was tasered four times while restrained, raises as many questions as the information released has answered.

This is unacceptable. No matter how bad the facts appear or what mistakes may have been made — if any — the public has a right to know what happened, and law enforcement deserves the ability to explain and defend their actions.

When I served on the Electoral Board, I made transparency a priority. Elections have always been controversial, and the inevitable charges of ballot stuffing, voter suppression, voter fraud and the like swirl around every race, especially those that are close. Knowing this, and knowing how attention is often focused on Fairfax, the largest jurisdiction in Virginia, we made it a priority to get as much good information out to the public as quickly as possible. When a perfect storm of human error and mechanical breakdowns caused concerns during the 2013 General Election, we quickly communicated with the public to provide solid information and assure voters everything was being done to ensure the security and accuracy of the election. That included our board putting every recount-related document on our website, as well as writing and publishing a detailed report about all the events and issues that were raised and explaining our rationale for the decisions we made.

At the same time, we engaged voters directly via the news media and social media to give them the chance to ask questions, probe our answers and learn more about the process. What we did, and the success we had doing it, is a model for how open, transparent and responsive government can work.

We must restore trust and faith in our public institutions at all levels. Fairfax County has given itself a black eye by not being transparent in the Geer and McKenna cases, and we must not allow that to happen again.

Citizens deserve to know what is happening inside the halls of government, and the best way to ensure mistakes are corrected is the cleansing power of sunlight. Officials at every level of government must make transparency and open government a priority.

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

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.

"Creating Across the City."

Through June at Dulles International Airport. Three organizations; Critical Exposure, The National Building Museum and ARTLAB+ have teamed up for "Creating Across the City: A Teen Art Showcase," which provides an outlet through art and design for creative local teens.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Young Actors' Workshop. Rising students in grades 2-6 may participate in a workshop 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 20-24 at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. The fee is \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

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.

❖ **Adult and Community Education.** Programs include Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions test prep, SAT test prep, study skills, and driver education.

❖ **ACE Driver Education.** For students in grades 9-12.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog. Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.



Author Joe Tennis Hosts Book Signing

On Friday, April 24, writer Joe Tennis will be signing copies of his latest book, "Virginia Rail Trails: Crossing the Commonwealth" 6-8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive. The book contains maps, photos and narratives. Tennis is also the author of several other books, including "Beach to Bluegrass" which inspired the name of Virginia's Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. Call 703-278-0300.

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

Adopt a Dog. Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

FRIDAY/APRIL 24

Book Signing. 6-8 p.m. at Barnes & Noble Booksellers, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive. Author Joe Tennis will be signing copies of his new book, "Virginia Rail Trails: Crossing the Commonwealth." Free to attend. Call 703-278-0300 for more.

The Mother of all Baby Showers. 6 p.m. at Great Beginnings Furniture, 13920 Lee Jackson Highway, Chantilly. Parents and parents-to-be will find products, services and

educational sessions from experts. Blogger/author Bunmi Laditan will attend. General admission is free. VIP tickets are \$45 for couples and \$25 for individuals. Call 571-512-4280.

William Walter. 9:30 p.m. at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Chantilly. Musician William Walter will be accompanied by his band. Free to attend. Visit www.williamwalterandco.com for more

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 24-25

"Shrek: The Musical." 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the

SEE ENTERTAINMENT , PAGE 12

CENTREVILLE

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Pins and Needles

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



This column isn't about acupuncture or knitting, any more than last week's column was about nausea. They are, however, both about the same thing: the life of a "terminal" cancer patient (and an extremely fortunate one at that), waiting and wondering – and worrying, hoping and praying – never more than now, not having heard the results of my most recent diagnostic scan, results of which can't come quickly enough and which, in point of fact, don't come quickly at all. More often than not, given that my oncologist wants to see me in person when he delivers the results – to explain and be available to answer any questions/discuss any strategy, etc. – typically, I don't learn my fate (to be honest about how I feel), until the Friday nine days after the previous week's Wednesday scan.

Not that I haven't been able to live with the anxiety and the eternity (again "live" being the operative word) and get accustomed to the ebb and non-preferred flow; I certainly have, it's more that the longer I live, the more it seems the veneer of tolerance and relative/comparative calm I've exhibited/maintained over these past six years and nearly two months, may be weakening. Not that I'm throwing in the towel (although I am doing laundry as I write), it's a simple admission I'm making that, as old as I hope to live, this process is getting older, faster. Now whether this sensation matters to my prognosis/future, who's to say; and I doubt whether my oncologist and/or any medical professionals with whom I interact could enlighten me in any sort of way. I am well aware that the day I received my diagnosis of stage IV, non small cell lung cancer (NSCLC): February 27, 2009, along with its "13 month to two year prognosis," is the day that any and all guarantees for better-than-average, longer-than-expected quality of life ended. If nothing else – as I had been forewarned by other cancer patients – oncologists, generally speaking, don't exactly "blow any sunshine up your skirt" (to quote the late, great McLean Stevenson as Lt. Col. Dr. Henry Blake from the classic, long-running television series M*A*S*H). And at the initial Team Lourie meeting, my oncologist definitely did not. Quite the contrary, I was encouraged, given the rather dire straits in which I now found myself, to "perhaps take that vacation I've always dreamed of," while I could. "What?!", I exclaimed. No more do I exclaim when I receive medical updates or even what I might call "down-dates," (negative, disappointing, dare I say, bad news). I've learned to take it all in stride. Although those strides seem to be getting shorter and less balanced – not a new symptom, just a metaphor. (If "new" symptoms persist for two to three weeks, I am to alert my oncologist.)

Nevertheless, there appears to be little I can do to speed up the flow of information between this doctor and this patient. E-mails do shorten the timeline, but it's the process/doctor's preferred method of communicating (heck, for all I know, legal requires face-to-face rather than computer-to-computer) which may ultimately shorten my timeline. I realize this is not my oncologist's intent (since he's proud of the success we've had together; in fact, he calls me his "third miracle patient"), but unfortunately, the effect may very well be the same. I guess for the time I'm still being, I'm sort of stuck.

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

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21 Announcements

PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON, VIRGINIA PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING OF TOWN COUNCIL May 5, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town Council of the Town of Clifton, Virginia will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 5, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. at the Clifton Town Meeting Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, 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 and 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 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 special use permit.

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-Ethiopian Proverb

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-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

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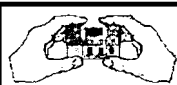
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SPORTS

Chantilly Girls' Lax Improving

When Victor Chen came to Chantilly from Lake Braddock in 2014, the long-time girls' lacrosse coach didn't expect sudden success for the Chargers, a program that had fallen on tough times.

Chantilly continued taking its lumps last season, finishing 2-12. This year, however, the Chargers have doubled their victory total from the previous season and have time to add some more wins.

Chantilly defeated South County 13-10 on April 1, giving the Chargers four wins this season. Chantilly lost to Centreville 13-5 on April 16, dropping its record to 4-6, and had its Monday game against Yorktown postponed by lightning.

"It's a big boost for us," Chen said. "I don't think we were expecting any real quick successes [in] only my second year being here. ... Your first year coming in you try to bring your own philosophies, your own strategies. I think the biggest difference is now they're actually understanding it. ... We're trying to get more girls who are lacrosse players rather than girls playing lacrosse."

Chen said one of the challenges he faces taking over a new program is teaching the game of lacrosse the way he wants it played.

"My biggest issue in all of Northern Virginia is that one-pass rule," Chen said. "They coach the one-pass rule in the younger age groups where they make one pass and then they tell them to go to goal right away. To me, that's not how you play the game of lacrosse."

Chen said senior defender Shelby Merchant and senior attacker Brittany Tickle have been standouts for the Chargers. Freshman midfielder Dana Cleary, and sophomore midfielders Hannah Reeves and Rachel Scherbenske are promising young players.

Chantilly will travel to face Oakton at 7:30 p.m. on April 28.

"It's a matter of just being competitive," Chen said about his expectations. "All I want to do is be competitive every year. I don't focus on wins and losses. I figure if we're competitive and we do the right things and play the game the right way, we'll get our wins and we're seeing that success right now."

"... It's all I'm trying to do right now is just rebuild the program."

Centreville Girls' Lax Undefeated

The Centreville girls' lacrosse team is off to a 6-0 start.

The Wildcats defeated Chantilly 13-5 on April 16 and had Monday's game against Fairfax postponed due to lightning.

The Wildcats also have wins against Yorktown (22-11), Langley (15-12), Paul VI (18-6), Oakton (13-9) and Madison (13-8).

Centreville will travel to face Fairfax at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 22. The Wildcats will return to the road to face defending state champion Westfield at 7:30 p.m. on April 28.

ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 9

familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 24-26

Chantilly Library Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and 1-4 p.m. Sunday. Large selection of fiction and non-fiction books for adults and children, plus DVDs, CDs and audio books. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/events.

SATURDAY/APRIL 25

Pancake Breakfast. 8-10 a.m. at Deer Park Elementary, 15109 Carlbarn Dr., Centreville. Deer Park's PTA is hosting a pancake breakfast fundraiser. Admission is \$12. Call 703-802-5000 for more.

Centreville International Showcase. 6-9:30 p.m. at Centreville United Methodist Church, 6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville. Find international food, music and dancing from around the world. Admission is free. Visit www.centrevilleinternationalshowcase.org.

USO of Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore's fundraiser. 6 p.m. at Marriott Dulles Airport Hotel, 5020 Aviation Drive, Sterling. This annual event raises funds to support the USO Lounge which supports military families as they travel. Find a full course dinner, cash bar, silent auction, raffles, dancing and more. Individual tickets are \$45, tables are \$400. Visit www.uso.org/WashingtonBaltimore.

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain

View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SUNDAY/APRIL 26

"Images of Rails." 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Visit a photo exhibit of Virginia railroad sites. Museum members and children 4 and under, free; children 5-15, \$2; adults 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org.

"Shrek: The Musical." 3 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10690 George Mason Circle. Pied Piper Theatre presents the familiar Shrek Tale set to music. Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for children. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org.

Q & A at Loudmouth Brewery. 4 p.m. at the Clifton Betterment Association Barn, Clifton Road and Yates Road, Clifton. Ask the new local brewery questions about their craft beer. Free. Visit www.cliftonva.org.

THURSDAY/APRIL 30

Sushi Night at Bull Run. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Learn to make your own sushi while drinking Bull Run Wine. Tickets are \$59. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 1-2

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain

View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 1

Community Yard Sale. 8 a.m.-2 p.m. at the corner of Pleasant Valley and Wetherburn Drive. Individual residences will be holding yard sales that can be found by retrieving a "treasure map." Free to attend. Call 703-216-6730.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 2-3

D.C. Big Flea. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. The "Big Flea" hosts more than 600 booths of antiques, collectibles, and vintage clothing. \$8 for both days. Visit www.thebigfleamarket.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 2

Arts Alive! 12-4 p.m. at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle., Manassas. Find live performances, exhibits, etc. at this festival comprised of dance, theatre, music, literary arts and the visual arts. Free. Visit www.pwcartsCouncil.org.

SUNDAY/MAY 3

"Curtains." 2 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre

presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 8-9

"Curtains." 7:30 p.m. at Mountain View High School, 5775 Spindle Court, Centreville. The Alliance Theatre presents "Curtains." It's the promising year of 1959. Boston's Colonial Theatre is host to the opening night performance of a new musical. When the leading lady mysteriously dies on stage the entire cast and crew are suspects. Visit www.thealliancetheatre.org for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 9

"Fly-In to Victory Day." 10 a.m.-3 p.m. at Udvar-Hazy Center, 14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway, Chantilly. Celebrate the end of World War II in Europe. Free. Visit www.airandspace.si.edu.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 9-10

The Heritage India Festival. 12-9 p.m. on Saturday, 12-7 p.m. on Sunday at Dulles Expo Center, 4368 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Rushhi Entertainment's 14th annual festival will celebrate Indian culture with a dance competition, live performances, shopping and food. \$5 for adults, free for children under 5. Visit www.hifestival.com.

SATURDAY/MAY 16

Chantilly Day. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Sully

Plaza Parking Lot, 13910 Metrotech Dr., Chantilly. Find a Business Expo, the Taste of Chantilly, Children's games, rides, stage performances by local groups, Educator of the Year awards and Pet adoptions. Free. See www.chantillyday.com.

Meritage Blending Class. 1-3 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Learn to make your own 2014 Meritage. Tickets are \$55. Call 703-830-9463.

Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. 6 p.m. at the Barn, 7139 Main St., Clifton. Participate in the 1-mile or 5K race. There will be a post-race party with food and live music. The 5K race has a \$24 registration fee, the 1-mile run has a \$20 fee. Visit www.signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/105915 to register.

SUNDAY-MONDAY/MAY 24-25

Art Guild Show and Sale. 12-5 p.m., artists' reception 5-8 p.m. on Sunday, at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Artists will display and sell work from a variety of genres and styles. Admission is free for museum members and children 4 and under, \$2 for children 5-15, and \$4 for everyone else. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 30-31

Vintage Virginia Wine Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. on Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. on Sunday. The 34th of its kind, the festival will feature food trucks, vintage cars, music and wine. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the gate. Visit www.vintagevirginia.com for more.



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Questions: Contact Kevin at kevwhalens@gmail.com
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