

One of "The 39 Steps" casts: (Back row, from left) Morgan Perigard, Eni Oyeleye, Charlie Parsons, Rachel McKennedy and Misha Mullany; (front row) Jackson Armstrong holding Andrew Sharpe.

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ELECTION 2015

Democrats Win Locally

But General Assembly stays in the red.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

“We didn’t win the war tonight, but we did come out ahead in some of the important local battles, and that’s a good start.” That was Roger Kline’s take on the results of the elections for Virginia’s General Assembly, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, and School Board members. Kline was one of hundreds that gathered at The Waterford at Fair Oaks for the Fairfax Democratic Committee’s Election Watch Party on Tuesday night.

Although the doors to the Watch Party opened at 7 p.m. just as the polls were closing, things didn’t really get underway until closer to 9 when the faithful and those they supported began to arrive in earnest.

Monitors in the corners of the room were constantly surrounded by attendees checking the latest results.

“It’s enough to give you an ulcer,” said Aida Lee, referring to the see-sawing numbers that were coming in early on for Del. Kathleen Murphy (D-34) whose district includes part of Loudoun County, and Great Falls, McLean, Wolftrap and Langley in Fairfax County. When 100 percent of the votes were finally reported, Murphy was leading her opponent Craig Parisot.

THE ‘WAR’ that was not won on Tuesday was the Democrats’ fight to gain control of the Virginia Senate. Prior to the election Republicans held the majority, 21-19. Because of the tie-breaking powers of democratic Lt. Gov. Ralph Northam, the Democrats only needed one more seat to gain control.

Democratic candidates prevailed in several hotly contested races, but at the end of the day the total numbers remained unchanged. With an overwhelmingly Republican House and a continued GOP “tilt” in the Senate, Gov. Terry McAuliffe and his party face uphill battles at every turn in their attempts to press forward their priorities, including gun safety regulations and the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth.

Victory by Jennifer Boysko in the 86th dis-

trict was one of the “important local battles” that attendee Kline cheered. Boysko replaces retiring Republican Del. Tom Rust, defeating Danny Vargas (R). Boysko was greeted by thunderous applause as she joined her Assembly colleagues on stage. “It’s already been an incredible learning experience,” said Boysko, in an interview after the formal election result announcements had been made. “I’ve talked to literally thousands of people in my district, listening to what they need, what are their concerns,” she added. “There’s a lot to do, but education kept coming up as a real priority.” Boysko said she is looking forward to the challenge ahead and hoped to become a part of a “civility caucus.” “I think a lot more can be accomplished when we treat each other with dignity and respect.”

Democrats also took the upper hand in the results for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. By re-electing all eight incumbents, including Chairman Sharon Bulova, and adding the Democratic candidates for the vacant seats in the Mount Vernon and Sully districts, the voters gave the board one more Democratic member than they had originally. When the new board takes office in January, incumbents Pat Herrity of the Springfield District and John C. Cook from the Braddock District will be the only Republican members of the governing body of Virginia’s largest jurisdiction.

The Sully District seat, formerly held by Supervisor Michael Frey (R), was won by School Board member Kathy Smith (D) over Republican John Guevara. Another School Board member, Dan Storck, took the Mount Vernon Supervisor contest over Jane Gandee (R), replacing the retiring Gerry Hyland (D).

Democratic Fairfax County School Board election winners were also on hand at the event and took to the stage when introduced by Board of Supervisors Chairman Bulova. Ryan McElveen and Ilryong Moon retained their At-Large positions, while Ted Velkoff lost his seat to Republican-backed Jeanette Hough of Fairfax.

In the Sully District contest for School Board, Republican Tom Wilson was ahead of Karen Keys-Gamarra by about 200 votes.

Fairfax County Election Results

Unofficial results as of Wednesday morning, Nov. 4, 2015.
* indicates incumbent

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Fairfax County Commonwealth’s Attorney		
Raymond F. Morrogh* (D)	141,601	96.78%
Unopposed		

Fairfax County Sheriff		
Stacey Ann Kincaid (D)*	107,610	57.96%
Bryan A. “B. A.” Wolfe (R)	77,609	41.80%

Fairfax County Clerk of the Court		
John T. Frey (R)*	86,623	48.01%
Bettina Mary Lawton	83,111	46.07%
Marisa R. Wissar (I)	10,252	5.68%

Soil and Water Conservation Director Northern Virginia District		
Top three take office		
George W. Lamb IV*	94,260	30.71%
Gerald O. “Jerry” Peters*	93,140	30.35%
Scott John Cameron	90,714	29.55%
Stephen L. Pushor	26,640	8.68%

Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors		
Sharon S. Bulova (D)*	111,124	59.84%
Arthur G. Purves (R)	63,209	34.04%
Glenda Gail Parker (I)	10,890	5.86%

Fairfax County Public School Bond		
\$310 million for new sites, new buildings or additions, renovations and improvements to existing buildings, and furnishings and equipment, for the Fairfax County public school system.		
Yes	138,296	74.27%
No	47,911	25.73%

Fairfax County Public Safety Facilities Bond		
\$151 million for construction, reconstruction, enlargement, renovation and equipment of civil and criminal justice facilities, police training facilities and stations, fire and rescue training facilities and stations.		
Yes	136,176	73.20%
No	49,850	26.80%

Board of Supervisors, District Members		
Braddock District		
John C. Cook (R)*	12,082	51.60%
Janet S. Oleszek (D)	10,675	45.59%
Carey C. Campbell (I)	610	2.61%

Dranesville District		
John W. Foust (D)*	14,807	53.92%
Jennifer C. Chronis (R)	12,615	45.94%

Hunter Mill District		
Catherine M. Hudgins (D)*	17,235	94.33%
Unopposed		

Lee District		
Jeffrey C. McKay (D)*	12,792	96.89%
Unopposed		

Mason District		
Penelope A. “Penny” Gross (D)*	9,196	57.22%
Mollie A. Loeffler (I)	6,785	42.22%

Candidate	Votes	Percent
Mount Vernon District		
Daniel G. “Dan” Storck (D)*	11,714	56.85%
Jane R. Gandee (R)	8,841	42.91%

Providence District		
Linda Q. Smyth (D)*	13,134	95.46%
Unopposed		

Springfield District		
Patrick S. “Pat” Herrity (R)*	18,204	80.56%
Corazon S. Foley (I)	4,226	18.70%

Sully District		
Kathy L. Smith (D)	11,200	51.76%
John P. Guevara (R)	10,382	47.98%

Fairfax County School Board at Large		
Top Three Take Office		
Ilryong Moon*	83,983	17.13%
Ryan L. McElveen*	83,051	16.94%
Jeanette M. Hough	80,006	16.32%
Theodore J. “Ted” Velkoff*	74,803	15.26%
Robert E. “Bob” Copeland	74,509	15.20%
Manar A. Jean-Jacques	57,102	11.65%
Peter M. Marchetti	12,903	2.63%
Omar M. Fateh	11,822	2.41%
Burnette G. Scarboro	10,617	2.17%

School Board District Candidates Braddock District School Board		
Megan O. McLaughlin*	14,147	75.38%
Katherine A. Pettigrew	4,205	22.41%

Dranesville District School Board		
Jane K. “Janie” Strauss*	14,075	54.29%
Peter Kurzenhauser	11,781	45.44%

Hunter Mill District School Board		
Pat M. Hynes*	12,951	61.30%
Mark S. Wilkinson	8,116	38.41%

Lee District School Board		
Tamara J. Derenak Kaufax*	11,759	96.34%
Unopposed		

Mason District School Board		
Sandra S. Evans*	11,975	96.60%
Unopposed		

Mount Vernon District School Board Open Seat		
Karen L. Corbett Sanders	11,915	61.81%
W. Anthony Stacy	7,319	37.97%

Providence District School Board		
Dalia A. Palchik	9,293	58.22%
Patricia S. “Patty” Reed*	6,594	41.31%

Springfield District School Board		
Elizabeth L. Schultz*	18,933	97.60%
Unopposed		

Sully District School Board Open Seat		
Thomas A. Wilson	10,242	50.38%
Karen A. Keys-Gamarra	10,041	49.39%

Fairfax Republicans Celebrate the Victorious And honor the defeated.

BY TIM PETERSON
THE CONNECTION

Supervisor John Cook (R-Braddock) said he much preferred this night to the one when he was elected to his first term. A close race with his opponent meant waiting around until late into the evening.

This year, Cook defeated Democrat Janet Oleszek by a more handy margin of about six percent of the vote.

“Local government is about being the

level closest to the people,” Cook said, as the first speaker at the Fairfax County Republican Committee election results viewing party. “It’s about getting things done, the right way.”

The party was held Nov. 3 at the Fairview Marriott hotel in Falls Church.

Cook attributed his victory to having a full term to “do a lot of work,” including work with Chairman Sharon Bulova and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid on a “Diversion First” program to help prevent people with mental illness from ending up in the Adult De-

tention Center without prior mental health evaluation, work raising awareness and developing resources for victims of domestic violence, and working with community leaders.

“People have shown appreciation for that, and I’m very thankful,” Cook said.

Incumbent Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) recorded a more lopsided victory in his race against Independent Green candidate Corazon Foley.

He spoke about continuing to push “the message of transparency from our govern-

ment” and working with the School Board during his next term.

Arthur Purves was unsuccessful in challenging incumbent Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

At the podium, he described himself as “marching to a different drummer.”

The surprise of the night was Fairfax resident and Republican Jeanette Hough finishing ahead of incumbent Ted Velkoff for the third at-large seat on the Fairfax County School Board.

Witty Dialogue, Humor in Classic Whodunit

Comedic mystery,
“The 39 Steps,” at
Westfield High.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 35, Westfield’s High’s upcoming play, “The 39 Steps,” is an adaptation of a classic, Alfred Hitchcock movie. And Director Susie Pike says it’s going to be something special.

“I double-cast it because I have so many talented seniors,” she said. “And it’s such a fun play, I wanted everyone to have an opportunity to work on it. The audience will enjoy the tongue-in-cheek flavor we use in this play. And hopefully, they’ll see the students’ creativity in bringing this diverse bunch of characters to life.”

Pike also praised student director Diana Witt who directs one cast in rehearsals while she works with the other. “She’s invaluable, along with my stage-management team of Gabby Moses, Kaley Haller and Maya Hossain,” said Pike.

The story takes place in London in the late 1930s and follows Richard Hannay as he races to stop a mysterious spy ring called The 39 Steps. Along the way, he becomes involved with three women and interacts with police, salesmen, a professor and others — with humorous results.

Show times are Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, at 2 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 via www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com; \$12 at the door; and students, \$5 at the door.

“It’s a different play for us,” said Pike. “It’s abstract, uses the imagination and places physical demands on the actors. And since it’s a comedic murder mystery, our set inspiration is a puzzle. So just a few set pieces will portray various locations.”

Playing Hannay is senior Eni Oyeleye,

One of “The 39 Steps” casts:
(Back row, from left) Aubrey Cervarich and Embrey Grimes;
(middle row, from left) Charlie Parsons, Diana Witt, Sarah Damers and Alexa Tucker;
and (front row, from left) Zach Szmerekovsky, Rachel McKennedy and Keegan Garant.

PHOTO BY
BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION



who calls his character an everyday, English gentleman. “At the beginning of the show, he’s bored with his life, restless and doesn’t know what he wants to do,” said Oyeleye. “Then, while he’s in a theater, a gunshot goes off and a mysterious, female, German spy tells him The 39 Steps is after her and asks to go to his apartment. She’s later murdered and he tries to find out what The 39 Steps is.”

Oyeleye likes his role because, “In the midst of chaos, Hannay’s the calm in the middle of the storm. The play’s a comedy, so Hannay has to strike a balance between being funny and being measured and restrained. And I get to do physical comedy,

including chases, fights and outrageous movements.” He says the audience will thoroughly enjoy this show because, by the time it ends, “People will have laughed more than they have in a long time.”

Senior Morgan Perigard portrays Pamela, a woman Hannay meets on a train. “She’s a little sarcastic and sassy, has a lot of attitude and becomes Hannay’s main love interest,” said Perigard. “She disappears for a while, but then comes back.”

“I love playing her because of her attitude, and she has really fun lines,” continued Perigard. “She’s realistic and I think a lot of people will connect with her. And it’s fun to explore her changing relationship

with Hannay.”

She said the audience will like the show’s fast pace and good humor. “And, she added, “It involves a lot of mannerisms and physicality.”

In his cast, senior Andrew Sharpe plays several characters, along with Jackson Armstrong. His favorite is the professor. “He’s the evil mastermind behind The 39 Steps,” said Sharpe. “He’s manipulative, clever, deceiving and charming, plus pretty funny because he’s power-crazy.”

He likes this role because the professor is so opposite from himself and “I feel like I’m in control of what’s going on in the play. It’s definitely a challenge playing so many different roles, but it’s fun not being stuck in one character, the whole play. I get to experience a wider range of characters — and they’re the show’s source of humor.”

The audience will enjoy this show because “it’s very cleverly written, with really funny scenes,” said Sharpe. “And Jackson and I get to do lots of costume changes, so that’ll be awesome.”

Meanwhile, in their cast, Zach Szmerekovsky and Keegan Garant each portray about eight characters. “The main one is a secret agent for The 39 Steps, disguised as a police officer,” said Szmerekovsky. “But he really works for the professor, which we also play. Our characters range from British to Italian, and all are physical and goofy, with some slapstick comedy. We even switch between three, different characters in one scene.”

He said they use various dialects to distinguish between their roles. “We also change their walk and voice and give them different, nervous tics or quirks,” said Szmerekovsky. “It’s fun playing many different characters and running around the stage. However, we have lots of lines to learn because we’re onstage almost the whole time.”

Szmerekovsky said seeing all these funny characters “will remind the audience of the stereotypes they see in cartoons. And they’ll like the physical comedy, puns and witty dialogue — it’s a very entertaining show.”

ROUNDUPS

Lane Closures Ahead

Drivers can expect lane closures at Braddock Road and Pleasant Valley Road from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the next two Saturdays (Nov. 14 and Nov. 21), according to the Virginia Department of Transportation. Crews will be doing pipe work, grading and paving.

This work is in addition to regular weekday closures Mondays through Thursdays, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Fridays, 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Construction began in late April to replace the existing four-way stop at the intersection with a one-lane roundabout in western Fairfax. The \$5.8 million project is being administered in coopera-

tion with Fairfax County and is expected to be completed in Spring 2016.

View more details on the project at: www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/braddock_and_pleasant_valley.asp

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 12, 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.

Thanksgiving Food Drive

The Sully District Police Station is having its second annual, Thanksgiving food drive for local families in need within the Sully District.

To donate, drop off nonperishable food items to the station at 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly by Friday, Nov. 13. Needed items include: Canned vegetables, canned/

dried fruit, canned cranberries, gravy (jar or powdered mix), instant potatoes, stuffing, cereal, macaroni and cheese, pancake mix, syrup, cake mix, frosting and brownie mix.

Neighborhood Watch Training

The Sully District Police Station’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will host a Neighborhood Watch training session, Tuesday, Nov. 17, at 7 p.m., at the Sully District Station, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Anyone interested in starting a Neighborhood Watch or who knows someone needing training is welcome to attend. To participate, call 703-814-7051.

Alliance Theatre Offers Original Play

“Shutter” is written, directed by Leslie Anne Ross.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Tough, gritty, honest and absorbing — that’s The Alliance Theatre’s upcoming production of “Shutter.” An original work written and directed by Leslie Anne Ross, it’ll be performed Nov. 13-22 at Mountain View High.

Rebecca, a photographer, marries after a whirlwind romance. But, haunted by her past, she leaves her husband to seek out her teenage crush — her first cousin, Clay Hill. He lives in Mount Gilead, N.C., in the same town as their grandparents, the Tilsons.

As the audience meets Rebecca’s relatives, in July 1992, a picture of family dysfunctions and unresolved conflicts comes into focus. Her refusal to pretend they’re the perfect Southern family stirs up old family issues, and a painful buried secret is revealed.

Portraying Rebecca is Clifton’s Alexia Poe. “Rebecca’s strong-willed, has a fun personality, knows what she wants and goes after it,” said Poe. “She’s pretty wild, but I think that’s a good thing. She promotes women’s rights, although she grew up in a time when she was expected to be a housewife.”

Poe said it’s “fantastic playing Rebecca; I love her a lot. Leslie wrote her some great lines, and she gets to talk about feminist ideals and issues that are still prevalent today. She runs the gamut of emotions, and you get to see her at a critical time in her



“Shutter” cast members are (from left) Alexia Poe, Alice Yarborough, Heidi Clouse, Ellen Woodstock, Leland Shook, Kathy Young, Bob Smith, Timothy Gustafson, Noah Fraize and Ian Wade. Not pictured: Isa Seyran.

life.”

Calling the show entertaining and character-driven, Poe said, “These characters are so real, three-dimensional and complex, and it’s great to see this family’s interactions. It’s also important to tell people, ‘You’re not alone; everyone has family issues and you can come out the other end. You can have confrontations and the world doesn’t end.’ People need to get their feelings out there; it leads to better understanding and acceptance of others.”

Little Rocky Run’s Kathy Young plays Rebecca’s 78-year-old grandmother. “She’s about as opposite of me as possible,” said Young. “She’s a controlling, God-fearing

woman, but self-righteous and not a nice person. But she won’t admit she does anything wrong. She loves her husband and son Gerald, but they’re complex relationships.”

Since Young’s mainly done musicals and comedies, she said her role’s a challenge, especially since “the grandmother is brutal and nasty with her mouth. But it’s a well-written, well-constructed show, and I like playing her because she’s so different from me. And we have a great cast.”

She said this play “will make the audience step back and think about their own relationships with their families. And it might make some people think about mending some fences of their own.”

To Go

Performances are at Mountain View High, 5775 Spindle Court in Centreville. Show times are Nov. 13, 14, 20, 21 at 7:30 p.m., and Nov. 15 and 22 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$17 at the door or via www.thealliancetheatre.org/box-office.html. Produced in conjunction with Mountain View High and the Clifton Arts Council, it’s considered PG-13 because of language and subject matter.

Rebecca’s mother, Rachel, is portrayed by Chantilly’s Ellen Woodstock. “She’s a beaten-down woman who used to be vibrant and full of life,” said Woodstock. “But this family — especially her husband — has made her feel small and unimportant, so she’s become an alcoholic just to survive. She loves her daughter fiercely and would do anything to protect her.”

Woodstock, too, usually does comedy, but she loves this part. “I like being able to stretch my acting chops,” she said. “Rachel’s a good person who’s had a very rough life. She’s likeable, but is sad about everything that’s happened to her and her family.”

She said the audience will like the play’s “realness and how it shows that life isn’t all unicorns and rainbows, but is often a struggle. It’s so profound and will be relatable to many people. They’ll be able to feel and understand what the characters are going through, and it’ll make people appreciate what they have.”

Playing Rachel’s husband Gerald, Rebecca’s father, is Leland Shook. “He’s a two-horned devil — a misogynistic, hateful, verbally abusive and cruel man,” said Shook. “And he absolutely believes what he’s doing and how he’s doing it are right. Although he loves his wife and daughter in his way, he has practically no redeeming value.”

Shook said it’s a difficult role for him because of the language and subject matter. SEE ALLIANCE, PAGE 7

Vignettes of All Stages of Love

Centreville High presents “Almost, Maine.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

A series of distinct vignettes that together work as a whole — that’s Centreville High’s upcoming play, “Almost, Maine.”

“There are nine scenes about falling in and out of love,” said Director Mike Hudson. “It’s an interesting journey through all stages of love. The characters talk about past love, love that might have been, love that’s being newly discovered and a love that’s ending.”

The curtain rises Friday, Nov. 20, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 21, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 22, at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$10 at the door. And, said

Hudson, “The interesting thing about this play is that all these scenes are taking place at the same time — 9 p.m. on a winter night in the town of Almost, Maine.”

Calling his cast “young, but talented,” he said this play gave him the opportunity to pair up people who might seem like surprising pairs on the surface, but who work well together. So, said Hudson, “It’s been a strong lesson in personal relationships for the actors.”

There’s a cast and crew of nearly 30, rehearsing since September. And on Monday, they got to meet the playwright, John Cariani, to learn his intentions toward the characters he wrote. “The stories are real and believable,” said Hudson. “And many are about things the audience either has experienced, or will, at some time in their lives.”

The show unfolds in modern day and, even though it deals with the concepts of adult, emotional love, said Hudson, it’s ap-

propriate for families. However, people ages 13 and up will enjoy it more than young children.

“Two scenes will happen inside someone’s home, but the majority of the play takes place outdoors,” he said. “And I think the audience will really like our tech work. We’ll have an LED, star curtain covering the entire upstage area, and it’ll even snow.”

Junior Elizabeth Todd portrays Marci. “She’s fed up with her husband, Phil, who forgets a lot of things, and it gets to be too much for her,” said Todd. “She’s a serious person; she can have fun, but is mostly strict and by-the-book.”

She said it’s interesting playing Marci because “I really have to gather from my own experience to pull the anger I need to play her in this scene. Each person has his or her own scene, usually with just one other person, so they can really focus on their acting.”

SEE CENTREVILLE HIGH, PAGE 5



Caroline Collier and Andrew Dettmer enjoy looking at a painting together as Rhonda and Dave in “Almost, Maine.”

Centreville High Presents 'Almost, Maine'

FROM PAGE 4

Since this show is a dramedy, Todd said, "The comedic parts are a highlight. Things get so abstract that the audience will really enjoy the concept of the story. Plus, the title of each scene has a double meaning, and people will like figuring it out."

Playing Rhonda is senior Caroline Collier. "She's a tomboy and is friends with Dave [played by Andrew Dettmer]," said Collier. "He wants to take their relationship to the next step, but she's hesitant. She's super-outgoing when hanging with a group of guys. But when she's alone with Dave and he tries something with her, she doesn't know how to respond and is socially awkward about it."

Collier said she "absolutely love(s)" her role. "It's a challenge for me because I'm girly and preppy, so Rhonda's out of my comfort zone. But I love working with Andrew because he's such a phenomenal actor and he really makes me want to be a better actress so I can keep up with him."

She said every scene brings something new, and every actor and actress chosen for each scene "fit so well that the audience won't want it to end and will be begging for more. And even though each scene has different people, the characters will be mentioned in other scenes so they're all tied together."



Jack Moore and Elizabeth Todd portray a married couple having problems.

Dettmer, a sophomore, describes Dave as a young man attracted to Rhonda, but "a bit awkward about telling her how he feels about her. They've always been friends, but he wants to be romantically involved with

her. He takes art classes and even makes a painting for her."

The role lets Dettmer expand his acting abilities, so he's enjoying it. "I don't relate to Dave because I'm just a 10th-grader and

haven't experienced that level of romance, yet," he said. "But I have the fun and freedom to explore a romantic character that's in a play and isn't real. Yet, as actors, we try our best to make it seem like it's really happening and these events are actually taking place."

"The characters are really be fleshed out, so the show's very character-driven and the audience will like getting to know them," he added. "And they'll also love our special effects."

Classmate Paul Anderson portrays Daniel Harding, who has an unsettling encounter at his home. "A lady comes to his door and says she likes him," said Anderson. "But because it's dark and it's been years since they've seen each other, she mistakes him for a stranger and doesn't recognize him — but he recognizes her."

Anderson said his character's a "good guy, but he's a little depressed because, years ago, that woman refused his marriage proposal. I enjoy playing him because "he has multiple lines and I get to be in a pretty funny scene."

He said this show is "a nice beginning to the winter holidays because it takes place in Maine in the snow. And the audience won't know [in advance] how each scene will play out because most of them will take a twist."

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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OPINION

Veterans Day in Virginia

Fairfax County and other localities embrace effort to end veteran homelessness this year, while veterans contribute much to the economy.

Virginia is home to about 690,000 veterans, more than 60 percent of them from the Gulf Wars. There are more than 12,000 veteran-owned businesses in Fairfax County alone, and more than a third of those businesses are categorized by the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as professional science and technology.

In 2014, according to the Census Bureau, the median income of veterans in Virginia was more than \$50,000, while for non-veterans, the median income was \$29,909. Only 5.5 percent of veterans in Virginia live in poverty while that number is 11.4 percent for non-veterans in 2014.

Clearly the location of the Pentagon in Arlington, and being adjacent to the nation's capital would mean more veterans, and higher attaining veterans would settle here. Veterans contribute significantly here in Northern Virginia.

At the same time, some veterans experience significant challenges; consider that half of all

veterans under 35 experience a period of unemployment in the 15 months after leaving service.

At the last Point in Time Count of people who are literally homeless in January 2015, there were 46 homeless veterans in Fairfax County, 12 in Alexandria and 19 in Arlington (with 408 literally homeless veterans in the District of Columbia). Forty-five percent of these homeless veterans were employed.

Coordinated efforts from local, state and federal levels have reduced the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in the region. Between 2011 and 2015, the region counted 138 fewer homeless veterans (19 percent reduction), using access to additional dedicated housing resources, such as HUD-VASH vouchers.

Now there is a nationwide effort, called the Mayor's Challenge, to end homelessness for veterans this year. Arlington, Alexandria and Fairfax have all signed onto this challenge.

Elsewhere in this paper, we report on Fairfax

County's coordinated efforts to end homelessness for veterans by the end of next month. This effort will likely be judged successful by the fact that, even though more veterans will experience housing crises, the systems will be in place to get any newly homeless veterans back into housing quickly.

A task force has been meeting every other week in Fairfax County, identifying veterans by name and coordinating efforts to get them the services they need to get them into housing. Sometimes that is help with a security deposit and a few months rent. In other cases, chronically homeless veterans need significant support to successfully move into permanent housing. But this year, every effort is being made to meet those needs.

"We celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embury Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

EDITORIAL

LETTER

Recognize 'LifeChanger'

To the Editor:

Support your LifeChanger of the Year nominee. The hard work done in our schools to educate our children rarely receives the praise it deserves, despite the fact that many teachers and other school employees are worthy of recognition for the work that they do.

Recently, one such educator in our community was nominated for a national award as recognition for his leadership and positive influence.

We should take pride in this because, although this is one individual who was nominated, it demonstrates the type of amazing things being done by educators for our students. I encourage our community to support Lee Kaiser (known as Mr. K), school counselor at Centreville Elementary School, by visiting his profile at, lifechangeroftheyearnominees.com/lee-kaiser/ to leave a positive comment, note of thanks or congratulations.

This nomination is a great honor for Mr. K, and for our community. It shows how hard the people in our schools work to educate our children. We often take this for granted; this nomination is an opportunity to recognize that hard work.

Raj Saini
Centreville



From last year: A delivery team from Centreville United Methodist Church, ready to deliver food to families they've sponsored for the holidays.

Support WFCM Holiday Food Program

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) Holiday Food Program helps those in need in Western Fairfax County with food for the holidays.

Even though Northern Virginia is considered one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the country, more than 64,000 men, women, and children in Fairfax County live in poverty. One in four children attending Fairfax County Public Schools is on the free and reduced lunch program. In some schools, half of all students qualify. Many children are hungry during the weekends and over holiday breaks.

Many local families will receive Thanksgiving or Christmas food as recipients of WFCM's Holiday Food Program. WFCM — serving those in need in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fairfax Station — is expecting to provide over 2,000 families this year with holiday food assistance either with a food gift basket or a grocery store gift card to purchase food for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal.

Jennie Bush, WFCM's community outreach manager, explained that she has reached out to community organizations and churches to aid in providing holiday food for families in need. The Sully District Police Department and Westfields Marriott are holding food drives, assembling food boxes, and delivering to families they've sponsored for Thanksgiving or Christmas. Each year, the Clifton Lions sponsor



Knights of Columbus from St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church delivered more than 200 turkeys and boxes of food to WFCM for Thanksgiving Distribution last year.

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Alliance To Perform 'Shutter'

FROM PAGE 4

cause "I spoil my wife and daughters in real life and would never speak to them the way Gerald does. If I can find a glimmer of humanity in him, my challenge as an actor will be to somehow convey that to the audience." All in all, he said, "The audience will appreciate this show's depth and honesty and the fact that it comes from someone's reality."

That someone is Ross, who says her cast and crew of about 20 are doing a wonderful job of breathing life into a story that, until now, was only in her head.

"I wrote this 20 years ago and am able to bring it to the stage because most of the people it's based on are dead now," she said. "We have lots of professional, seasoned actors, plus two young children and two teenagers."

"It's a profound experience for me because this play's semiautobiographical," she said. "The story's fiction, but the characters are all drawn from people in my past."

And it's changed me tremendously; I won't be the same person I was before, because writing this has been an awakening. It's empowered me and helped me find my soul and my self-worth. It was incredibly cathartic because the relationships are all based



As Rebecca and her cousin, Clay Hill, Alexia Poe and Ian Wade rehearse a scene.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

on ones I had with my father's family."

And the themes are definitely for mature audiences. "Rebecca is a version of me," said Ross. "She eventually confronts her father and they have a breakthrough in their relationship. Via flashbacks, this story covers five generations of women. And although it's a drama about a Southern, dysfunctional family, there's a lot of comedy in it. The characters have flaws, and they'll remind people of relatives they know."

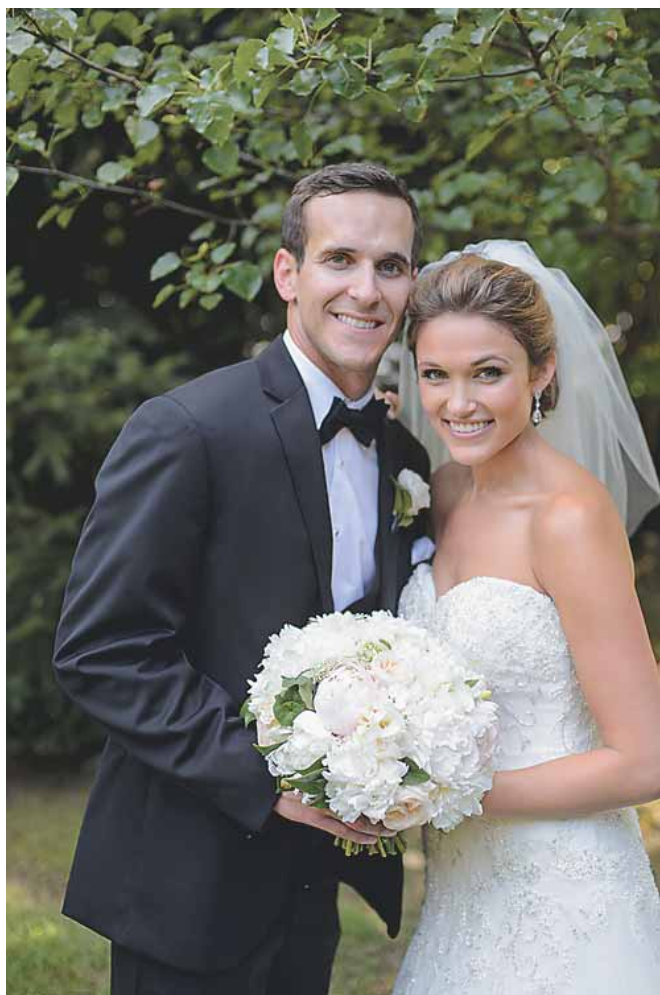
Klein and Dudzik Wed

Meredith Klein and Drew Dudzik were married on June 20, 2015 at St. John Neumann in Reston. The bride is a 2007 graduate of Chantilly High School and a 2011 undergraduate of James Madison University. She completed her Master's in Education at James Madison University in 2012 and taught first grade for the past three years at Oak Hill Elementary. The groom is a 2006 graduate of Centreville High School and a 2010 undergraduate of James Madison University. He completed a Masters in Sports Leadership there the following year.

The bride is the daughter of Bruce and Doreen Klein of Oak Hill. The groom is the son of Michael and Sally Dudzik. Cousin of the bride, Kerrin O'Connor, served as the Maid of Honor. Bridesmaids were Kristen Klein, sister-in-law of the bride, Katie Dudzik, sister of the groom, Anna Brunswick, Stephanie Passino, Kimberly Resua, Jessica Fuller, Allison Butler, Chelsea Goff, and Shelley Newman. Matt Goff, served as Best Man. Groomsmen were Jason Klein, brother of the bride, Steven Klein, brother of the bride, Bill Nay, Dave Hill, Jason Dosh, DJ Mangus, Cameron Dohse, Aaron Butler, and Charlie Newman.

Following the wedding ceremony, a reception with dinner and dancing was held at The Ritz Carlton in Tysons Corner.

The couple honeymooned in St. Lucia and are now residing in Raleigh, N.C. The bride is employed as a marketing specialist with Lionsbridge Technologies and the groom is employed



as an assistant offensive coordinator with the Duke University Football Program.

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VETERANS DAY

Fairfax County To End Veteran

BY MARY KIMM
THE CONNECTION

Jameel Mubaarik of Reston is a 63-year-old Army veteran and mechanical engineer, a former Reston homeowner. He served in the Army in Europe during the Cold War, and among many positions since, worked for Bechtel on the Silver Line and for NASA at the Goddard Space Center.

But a layoff, divorce and a short-sale on his home left Mubaarik homeless, for a time living in a hotel.

Then last May he had a stroke.

"I never thought I would be homeless, but you never know," he said.

Vincent Jenkins, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston calls Mubaarik "the Historian," for his recall of Northern Virginia events, and professorial narrative.

Mubaarik is ready to move out of the homeless shelter and into housing, and as part of a national effort to end veteran homelessness, he'll be looking at possible apartments next week.

In December 2014, Fairfax County joined the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness, a nationwide effort with a tight deadline — the end of this year. In Fairfax County, it's an effort that will in all likelihood be successful.

"At the end of the calendar year, will we have functionally ended veteran homelessness in Fairfax County?" said Tom Barnett, program manager with the Fairfax County Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. While some veterans here will still experience housing crisis, there will be systems in place designed to get them into housing quickly.

Functionally ending veteran homelessness, according to the Mayors Challenge, means that every community has a sustainable, systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. That's the mantra for ending and preventing homeless for all: Homelessness should be rare, brief and non-recurring.

Veterans made up 46 of the 1,204 people who were homeless on Jan. 28, 2015 in the 2015 Point-in-Time Count of People Experiencing Homelessness. A dozen to 15 veterans become homeless every month, but because of ongoing collaboration, most are "rapidly rehoused." While 96 veterans came



FILE PHOTO BY ROBBIE HAMMER/THE CONNECTION

In February 2013, volunteers looking to interview chronically homeless people found encampments like this scattered around the area, usually near major shopping areas, but sometimes in isolated fields. Not all encampments had tents for people to sleep, often found were old couches and sleeping bags, or temporary shelter made of cardboard, plastic and scrap pieces of wood.

into hypothermia shelters last winter season, at the end of October, Barnett reported that there were 17 homeless veterans in the county, and that all 17 were in the process of being housed.

"We owe something to veterans. to the people who have made that sacrifice for us," said Sharon Bulova, chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, who signed onto the Mayors Challenge. She notes that the sacrifice veterans make is measures in time, and in uncertainty.

"When you look at the issue of veterans, the sacrifice is spending time away from the community and from their families," she said. "With that time away comes the potential for coming back changed; that could be physically changed and harmed, and some of the harm might not be physical. Psychological changes might not be visible. We can't turn our backs on people who have been affected that way."

Of the 46 veterans identified in the Point in Time count in January, 15 were chronically homeless. Housing people who have been chronically homeless is not a quick transition; it requires supportive housing and ongoing services. Someone is identified as chronically homeless if they have been continuously homeless for a year or more and have experienced three or more episodes of homelessness in the last four years, a sequence of events that often comes with untreated illnesses, mental health is-

sues and/or substance abuse.

A task force consisting of representatives from nonprofits like FACETS, New Hope Housing, Northern Virginia Family Service and Cornerstones, plus the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Community Service Board, the health department and other partners has been meeting every other week since the county joined the challenge. At the meetings, the partners discuss the individual veterans they are seeking to house by name, and focus attention and resources on overcoming challenges.

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones, director of the Embry Rucker Shelter in Reston. "Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed. ... Fairfax plays really well together. We are really trying to make a major dent in homelessness, and we are doing that."

The "tremendously impactful" tool of choice is the VASH voucher, said Barnett. The Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing program combines rental assistance for homeless veterans with case management and clinical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Once a veteran has been approved for a housing voucher and gets into housing, Veterans Affairs deploys a team to help with transition from the shelter to housing, one of the benefits of the nationwide challenge.

The effort to end homelessness for veterans comes with a different level of community support, too.

"In the community, there is so much en-

ergy and interest to end homelessness for veterans who have served our country," said Dean Kline, director of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. Partners and community groups are engaged "because of their passion for helping veterans who have served our country."

NOT ALL VETERANS who are experiencing homelessness are ready to accept housing, but ongoing outreach by local nonprofits ensures continuing progress. Sometimes it takes years simply to identify that someone is a veteran if that individual is resistant to sharing information.

One man now in line for housing hovered for eight years at the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir. While he would seem pleasant, when anyone tried to engage him or ask questions, he became verbally aggressive and expressed anti-government sentiments, said Tonya Golden, director of Programs for Single Adults at New Hope Housing. He was part of the overflow shelter program, operated in a trailer outside the main building, coming for food and shelter.

"He was resistant to service," Golden said.

"We never knew he was a veteran."

But with ongoing efforts, the man, now "up in age," developed a rapport with one outreach person, and agreed to sign up for housing. As they filled out the information

needed, he made reference to his service. New Hope Housing submitted his name to Veterans Affairs, discovering that he served 14 years including in Vietnam, was honorably discharged and entitled to benefits.

Now he's qualified for a VASH voucher, is working with housing case managers and will move into an apartment with supportive services soon.

Most veterans who arrive at a shelter do not have the critical documentation they need.

New Hope Housing opened Veterans House, a home with case management services for four veterans, where the veteran doesn't have to sign a lease.

"We take veterans who have challenges leasing up, so it's in our name," Golden said. "These are the clients that we work with, they are ready to move forward. ... There's no judgment."

Clients who have criminal records or other issues that might prevent them from being approved for a lease still need housing.

Golden is a military spouse, her husband is career army, a lieutenant colonel. They lived for a time on Fort Belvoir. "We've been doing this for a long time," she said. "It's personal for me that our soldiers are connected to the services they are entitled to."

THE DAILY ROUTINE for Richard Davis, a veteran and a single dad: Davis sleeps at

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give."

— Richard Davis, single dad, was living at the Kennedy Shelter by Fort Belvoir

"At the task force meetings, we celebrated a lot this year. Each time we met, there were another four to five veterans who were housed."

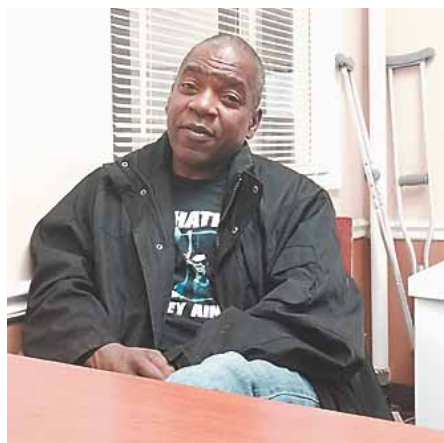
— Vincent Jenkins, director, Embry Rucker Shelter, Reston

Details

Find out more at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/homeless/opeh.htm

Homelessness

Each homeless veteran has a story, and a path to housing.



PHOTOS BY MARY KIMM/THE CONNECTION

Richard Davis, a single dad and veteran who has been chronically homeless, moved into a three-bedroom home with his children last week with supports from New Hope Housing.

the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway by Fort Belvoir, while his two young children sleep at a nearby friend's house. In the morning, Davis gets his children ready for the day, drives his son, 4, to a program that addresses the son's intellectual disabilities and then Davis cares for his daughter, 2, who has health issues. He picks his son up in the afternoon, and later, after he gets his children dinner and puts them to bed, he heads back to the shelter to sleep.

At least that was the routine until last Thursday, when New Hope Housing was able to place him in permanent supportive housing with three bedrooms for him and his two children.

Davis served in the Navy. Then he served 25 years in prison, and was released in 2008.

"With a 25-year gap, no one is going to give you the kind of job you need to take care of yourself," Davis said. He worked three jobs at one time, but still didn't earn enough to support his family. And now the full time care of his children presents other challenges.

Davis trained as a paralegal in prison. "I have five habeas corpus briefs under my belt," he said. But when he applied for jobs at law firms when he was released, his prison record kept him from employment.

Davis speaks in a deep voice that reflects the sense that he expected more of himself. He describes himself as "disheartened" by his lack of accomplishment since being released in 2008. He's educated and well-spoken. It's clear that his children bring him joy, and that now getting this part right means the world to him.

"You know you have aspirations when you're younger. You have goals. And you're not really achieving them. I'm dealing with my mortality now," he said. "I have 10-11

more years. I'm living for my children. It's my responsibility to turn out good human beings. ... I want them to be able to go to Dad and to know they will answer to Dad. They are the love of my life."

"In my heart, I feel like I have a lot to give," Davis said.

NOT ALL VETERANS in need of housing are men.

One woman veteran who had served in the Army for three years, emerged struggling with mental illness. She stopped taking her medication, and got into trouble with law. She was receiving services from Northern Virginia Family Services, and was one of the homeless veterans discussed by name at the task force meetings, said Barbara Schultheiss, program director of Services for Single Adults at FACETS in Fairfax.

"So many people just need help with a security deposit and a few months rent," Schultheiss said. "But some need more support."

FACETS operates permanent supportive housing, and when a vacancy opened up there, Schultheiss coordinated her move into a new apartment.

"She's very independent, and she loves her apartment," Schultheiss said. But she also talks about Vladimir Putin as her husband, and dances around her living room with his photo. In her new home, she'll get case management services to help keep her in housing.

There is evidence of long-term success, too.

One Navy veteran lived 17 years in the woods, and has now lived in FACETS housing for seven years with support after serving in the Navy with awards.

"He comes with his own slew of medical problems," said Schultheiss, who was his case manager in 2008, and helped track down his service record.

He told her, "If it wasn't for the FACETS program I'd be dead."

Schultheiss asked him why he left the Navy. "Being on a ship with a bunch of guys, it just got old," he said.

But after that, he couldn't get a job that would pay the bills.

VETERANS WHO HAVE recently been in service have been in an environment where they have had one important job, protecting the country, and their basic needs like



The Eleanor Kennedy Shelter for the Homeless on Richmond Highway.

housing, food, schedule and health, have been cared for in a very structured way, said Barnett. "They find themselves on the street without any of that. They've had a job to focus on, but now they have to worry about how to take care of themselves," he said, and their frustration in the new circumstances can be extreme.

Veterans can also be among the most vulnerable of people experiencing homelessness, chronically homeless and living in the woods.

"Their basic training has prepared them to be out there, to withstand some things that most people cannot," said Vincent Jenkins of Cornerstones of challenges of even getting some veterans who have lived outdoor for a long time into the shelter. "It's not always a good fit for them here in the shelter."

Reaching out to the most vulnerable homeless is helped in part by work done in 2013 when nonprofit volunteers, county employees and others went out into the woods and other areas, creating an inventory and conducting interviews. Fairfax County participated in the national 100,000 Homes campaign, ranking chronically homeless people on the vulnerability index that indicates who is a greatest risk of death.

Of more 462 people surveyed, 10 percent were veterans.

Veterans who have lived outside for an extended period are also more likely to be resistant to services.

At the Embury Rucker Shelter, staff uses the "BOLO" protocol as part of their outreach efforts. That's "be on the lookout." They know which veterans they need to reach, and when one of them comes in the door for a bagged lunch or anything else, outreach staff is alerted so someone can come to interact.

While Vietnam-era vets who are homeless are more likely to be among those that are extra resistant to coming indoors, their advancing age sometimes makes them more willing. Homeless veterans of any of the Gulf Wars are more likely to be dealing with PTSD, but also are more likely to be able to jump right back into housing after a crisis with some financial help, said several homeless advocates.

"Their symptoms are related to the trauma they experienced in war," said Greg White, chief operating officer at Cornerstones. "Their coping mechanisms include alcohol, substance abuse."

"One guy who had been living out in the woods told me about the adjustment he had to make to living in a house," White said. Sometimes people who have moved into housing still come back to the shelter, or even the woods, to visit. "Those social connections mean a lot to them."

Outreach during the very cold months when chronically homeless are more likely to come to the shelters, and also the Health Care for the Homeless programs offer opportunities for outreach that can eventually lead to enough trust for veterans to give information that will help get them into housing.

While some veterans are chronically homeless, living with physical disabilities or mental health issues that can be barriers to moving into new homes, it's a shortage of affordable housing that is still the biggest barrier to ending homelessness, for veterans and others. Many veterans are severely rent burdened, said White and others. Even when they can find a job, it's rare they can find employment that will pay enough to cover their needs.



The overflow services trailer on the grounds of the Kennedy Shelter.

Getting Guest-Ready

Local designers offer solutions for easy, pre-holiday updates.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Getting ready for the holidays means more than simply hanging decorations and ordering a turkey with trimmings. For many, the holidays usher in an abundance of house guests. While there might not be time to complete a remodeling project or build an addition, local designers offer suggestions for minor tweaks that can breathe new life into a living space so that it is guest-ready when the holidays arrive.

Starting with a home's exterior, outdoor lighting that highlights the walkway and facade of the house is a simple update, according to Kai Tong, director of architecture at Hopkins and Porter. "Low voltage lighting can also accentuate the steps leading to the front door, as well as [line voltage] lighting illuminating ... [plants] and trees."

Tong also recommends upgrading a home's interior lighting fixtures, such as sconces and dining room chandeliers. In fact, he said dimmer switches create ambiance. "Low voltage lighting, including cable-mounted lighting, can bring new brilliance to spaces."

A coat of paint can also brighten a home in time for the holidays. "You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests," said Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint. "Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

Rooms where most of the holiday décor will be displayed as well as the dining room where meals will be served are good starting points, said Cornish.



JOHN COLE PHOTO

A kitchen is often a hub of activity during the holidays. Small touches like new cabinet hardware can add polish to the space.

"Consider selecting a wall in perhaps a guest room and painting it an exquisite accent color," adds Tong. "The same goes with public spaces such as the kitchen."

Painting a home's main entry door or trim is another simple way to welcome guests in style. "The front door makes an immediate first impression," said Tracy Morris, color consultant and principal of Tracy Morris Design.

Morris suggests using Benjamin Moore's Soot for the front door. "The rich color is festive and fun and makes the perfect backdrop for holiday décor, as well as provides a lasting first impression."

Replacing the front door or updating the hardware on an existing door, updating

lighting fixtures at the door or on a porch enhances a home's curb appeal, says Ken Hurdle, Hopkins and Porter project coordinator.

The kitchen, powder room and guest bathroom are usually hubs of hospitality during the holidays, and a polished appearance can be accomplished with a few minor tweaks.

In a guest bathroom, simple fixes include new vanity or sink hardware, new medicine cabinets and vanity lighting. "Check and see if accessories such as towel bars [and] paper holders could also use an easy recharge," said Tong.

Kohler's Moxi shower head holds a wireless speaker, "so you can enjoy your music

while showering," said Nancy Knickerbocker, designer, Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield.

In the kitchen, minor touches can yield a major impact. "Kitchen 'lite' projects are a great way to spruce up your space if you're redesigning on a small budget and have great existing cabinets in your kitchen," said Stephanie Brick, designer at Nicely.

This can include new hardware on kitchen cabinets and new faucets, according to Hurdle.

These projects include upgrading counter tops with quartz or granite and adding a coordinating tile backsplash or other kitchen accents like crown molding to the ceiling or chair rail molding. "These seemingly small details, when put together in a design package," said Brick, "can have a great impact on the overall look of your kitchen."

"You don't need to paint the entire home at once to make a great impression for your guests. Think about rooms you'll be using the most and then devise a plan."

— Marty Cornish, CEO of EasyPaint

Preparing a Home for the Holidays

Suggestions for getting the house guest-ready.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

With only two weeks until Thanksgiving and the start of the holiday season, it might be time to take stock of your home's guest-readiness. Local designers explain how to reduce stress and make guests feel at home this holiday season.

"Walk into your home as if you are a guest in your own home," said Dana Kaminsky with Glickman Design Build in Potomac. "Look at the entryway. Your front door should have a festive feel."

A new doormat and large urns filled with evergreen foliage that will last until the end

of winter are two accessories that Kaminsky suggests to help ring in the season.

Reorganizing and decluttering a home's interior can decrease stress during holiday hosting and entertaining. The first place to start, suggests Kaminsky is a foyer closet. "This is a great time to donate any winter clothing that your family doesn't use anymore," she said. "This will make way for guests' coats so you don't have to throw them over furniture and take up valuable seating real estate."

This is also the time to declutter one of the most often-used rooms during the holidays: the kitchen. "Go through your pantry so you can have an accurate inventory when getting ready to prepare holiday meals," she said. "Also get rid of any unnecessary products that are not useful anymore."

This process, says Kaminsky, makes room for needed storage and eliminates the unnecessary use of counter space.

Simple and low-cost ways to brighten a kitchen include purchasing new hand tow-



PHOTO BY ANGIE SECKINGER

Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special, advises Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design.

els and fragrant, sink-side, hand soaps and lotions in elegant dispensers. "William Sonoma has a clean line of fragrances, as well as cleaning supplies and candles that will for sure make you and your guests

Must-Haves for an Inviting Guest Room

Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Interior Design in Bethesda, Md., offers tips:

- ❖ Save sample creams and lotions and display them in an attractive container for guests to try.
- ❖ Make Internet passwords available and visible so guests have easy access while visiting.
- ❖ Consider placing a sound machine in the guest room, particularly if you have an active household, so guests may choose the background noise.
- ❖ Provide magazines that may interest your guests.
- ❖ Make sure there are enough hangers, preferably "pretty hangers," in the closet for your guests.
- ❖ Be sure to place a water carafe (or bottled water) and a glass in the guest room.
- ❖ Clean, crisp sheets and soft, plush towels make guests feel special.

happy," said Kaminsky. "Pink grapefruit is always a perfect year-round standby."

When it comes to a guest bedroom, Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors in Bethesda believes that stocking a room with books and magazines makes overnight visitors feel at home. She also makes sure the room has a tray of bottled water and cups.

"Guests welcome the chance to catch up on reading," she said.

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2015 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors 30th President, Calvin Coolidge. The ornament cost \$20. Call 703-378-6216 for more.

Zumba Fitness Classes. Mondays and Wednesdays, 7 p.m. at Cheer Tyme Chantilly 14110 Sullyfield Circle. The first class is free, \$7 after that.

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

ESL Book Club. Every other Saturday, 11 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Adults learning english are welcome to meet and discuss a book chosen by the group. To find out book title, call 703-502-3883.

Lego Block Party. Every other Tuesday, 3 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way. 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.

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.

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.

THROUGH DEC. 24

Fair Oaks Mall Celebrates with "Peanuts Gang." Various times at Fair Oaks Mall, 11750 Fair Oaks Mall, Fairfax. To celebrate the launch of "The Peanuts Movie," guests will find Peanuts characters center stage within interactive Ice Palaces at the mall. The indoor holiday displays feature a 30-foot dome complete with falling snow, a light show and other activities. Free to attend. Visit www.shopfairoaksmall.com/events.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 11

Texas Roadhouse Celebrates Veterans Day. 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Texas Roadhouse, 4993 Westone Plaza, Chantilly. All veterans — including all active, retired or former United States military can choose one of 10 entrees for free. Call 703-378-9887.

THURSDAY/NOV. 12

Centreville Quilter's Auction. 6-10

p.m. at Colin Powell Elementary School Cafeteria, 13340 Leland Road, Centreville. Bid on fabrics, notions, quilts, and more. There will be silent and live auctions. Free to attend. Contact Jodi Heins at jodiheins@aol.com for more.

SATURDAY/NOV. 14

Taste Hand-Churned Butter, Sample Cheeses. 2-3 p.m. at Walney Visitor Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn history about the local dairy industry. Taste hand-churned butter, and cheeses. Admission is \$6. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Gospel Concert. 6 p.m. at Oakton Baptist Church, 14001 Sullyfield Circle, Chantilly. True Spirit Bluegrass Gospel Band performs. Free, but donations accepted. Call 703-631-1799.

Community Irish Dance. 6:30-10 p.m. at Frying Pan Park Visitor's Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Take an Irish dance class and dance to music by Old Pitch and Friend. Tickets are \$15 for adults, half price for children. Families will pay a maximum of \$35. Visit www.ccepotomac.org.

SUNDAY/NOV. 15

Table-top N Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Tabletop N Gauge model trains will be on display and running. Admission for museum members and children under 4 is free, \$2 for children ages 5-15, and \$4 for adults 16 and older. Visit www.fairfax-station.org.

MONDAY/NOV. 16

GrATTITUDE Journaling Classes before THANKSgiving. 5-6:30 p.m. Eileen Wilkinson, WELlarts founder/facilitator will lead a class in cultivating and expressing a grateful heart with two journaling workshops. This half of the workshop will be strictly journaling while the second (Nov. 23) workshop will allow attendees to make a Thanksgiving banner or centerpiece will be constructed to encourage family members or visitors to share their gratitude list. Tickets are \$20 per class or \$30 for both. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

"Self-Defense for Women." 7 p.m. at Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. GFWC Western Fairfax County Women's Club (WFCWC) will host a presentation on "Self-Defense for Women." Guest speaker James Sheeran, a third-degree Black Belt instructor in the martial art of Bando, will discuss some defensive techniques that might help women escape potentially dangerous situations. Free. Visit www.wfcwc.org

TUESDAY/NOV. 17

"Wagging Tales and Dogfish Ale." 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m. at Dogfish Head Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Guiding Eyes for the Blind's Dominion Region will host the 3rd annual "Wagging Tales and Dogfish Ale." The family-friendly fundraiser will feature food, live music, raffle, silent auction, radio and TV personalities, and Guiding Eyes puppies. Fifteen percent of all food and beverage proceeds will be donated to the

nonprofit. Free to attend. Contact Janet Bartolotta at 703-307-0611 or gebdominion@gmail.com.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 18

Annual Veterans Celebration. 6 p.m. at Chantilly High School, 4200 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Chantilly High School National Honor Society is hosting a Veterans Celebration with food and live entertainment. Admission is free, but registration is required. Registration closes on Nov. 11. Visit www.chantillynhs.com/veterans.

THURSDAY-FRIDAY/NOV.19-20

"The Spirit of India." 8 p.m. at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Bollywood Masala Orchestra and Dancers of India present authentic Indian music. Tickets are \$29-48 and half-price for children through the 12th grade. Visit www.hyltoncenter.org for more.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 20-22

"The 39 Steps." 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 2 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Westfield Theatre presents Alfred Hitchcock thriller "The 39 Steps." Tickets are \$12 at the door, \$10 online, \$5 for students. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

"Almost Maine." 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Centreville High School students perform "Almost Maine," a play comprised of several small stories. Tickets are \$10.

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SPORTS

Karl's OT Goal Clinches Region Championship

Bulldogs will face First Colonial in state semis Nov. 13.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The setting for Thursday's 6A North region championship game was familiar for the Westfield field hockey team — the game would be played on the Bulldogs' home field.

The stakes were familiar — it was Westfield's fourth region final appearance in the last five years.

The Bulldogs' opponent, however, was a mystery.

T.C. Williams on Oct. 26 won its first conference championship since 1995 and entered Thursday's contest in search of its first region title. The Titans were 21-1 and riding a 17-game win streak, but had little in the way of past postseason credentials.

"We didn't know what to expect because we've never seen them play and we didn't really know much about them," Westfield senior goalkeeper Callie Rennyson said. "We knew we had to come in and play our game."

For 60 minutes, T.C. Williams proved a formidable foe as the teams went to overtime locked in a scoreless tie. It took less than two minutes of OT, however, for the Bulldogs to return to a sense of familiarity.

Sophomore midfielder Mackenzie Karl scored with 13:13 remaining in 7-on-7, sudden-victory overtime, giving Westfield its third region championship in the last four years with a 1-0 victory over T.C. Williams on Nov. 5.

"We didn't play our best game tonight," Westfield head coach Starr Karl said. "I think T.C. Williams was very jacked up for the

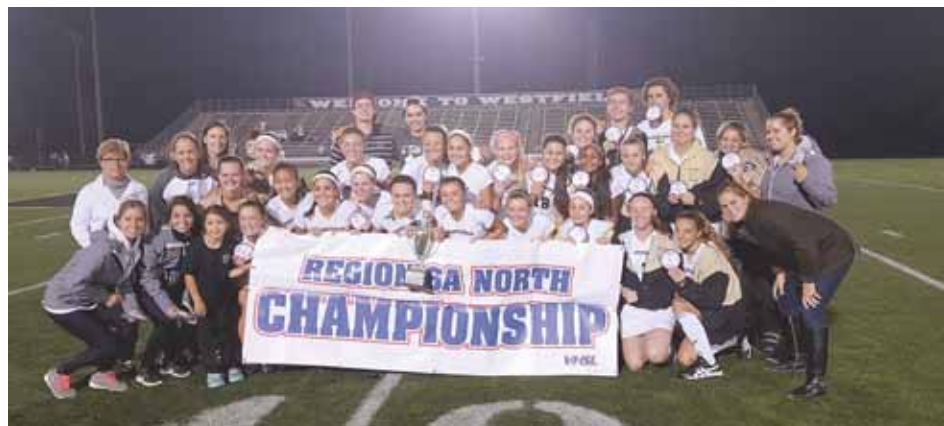


PHOTO BY JON ROETMAN/THE CONNECTION

The Westfield field hockey team won the 6A North region championship with a 1-0 overtime victory over T.C. Williams on Thursday at Westfield.

game. It's been many years since they've been out there and they really, really wanted it." Westfield will face First Colonial in the state tournament semifinals at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13 in Virginia Beach. The Bulldogs improved to 20-2 and have won 19 games in a row.

"We've never seen TC play," Mackenzie Karl said. "They're a great team. We had no idea what to expect. We haven't ever played them and we had no idea what their mentality [was or] what their strategies were. It took us awhile to adapt to it, until like the last 10 minutes, but we did well when we did." While Westfield struggled with an unfamiliar opponent, the Bulldogs were plenty prepared for overtime.

"We play seven-a-side every day in practice," senior defender Sarah Horgan said. "We get the ball to the right and [Karl] goes in and shoots far post. We got what we needed and the outcome that we wanted tonight." Just like Westfield had practiced, Karl shot far post from the right side of the field, blasting the ball into the cage and earning the Bulldogs another region championship. "Like I do every day in practice for seven-a-side, I sent it across the goal as my coach tells me, strictly, and it went in and I couldn't be more excited," Mackenzie

Karl said. "... Right when I let that ball go I knew it was going in."

Karl was in the eighth grade and was a team manager when Westfield won the state championship in 2013. The Bulldogs have four seniors who were sophomore starters on that team: Rennyson, Horgan, midfielder Sara Ayoub and defender Kellie Cleveland.

"A few of us on the team, including me, we have been there before," Horgan said. "We've started, we've won it, we've [experienced] what it felt like, we know what the standards are and what we need to do. I think we're really excited to go and I think we're ready."

How valuable is that experience?

"They know what it takes," Starr Karl said, "and they want it."

Westfield finished with seven penalty corners, compared to three for T.C. Williams, though the Titans held a 3-2 advantage at halftime. The Titans had nine shots on goal and the Bulldogs had six.

Rennyson had 10 saves for Westfield, and T.C. Williams goalkeeper Sarah Leckman had six.

T.C. Williams will face Frank W. Cox in the state semifinals at 10 a.m. on Friday, Nov. 13.

Westfield's Mackenzie Karl, Rennyson,



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

Westfield sophomore Mackenzie Karl scored the game-winning goal in overtime of the 6A North region championship game against T.C. Williams Thursday night at Westfield High School.



Westfield's Sarah Horgan, left, is one of four seniors who started as sophomores when the Bulldogs won the state championship in 2013.

sophomore defender Delaney Golian, and sophomore forward Nicki McNamara were named to the all-tournament team, along with T.C. Williams' Leckman, senior midfielder Philomena Fitzgerald, and sophomore defender Izzy Diz.

Westfield Beats Chantilly, To Host W-L

BY WILL PALENSCAR

On Friday night, Chantilly and Westfield met up for a Conference 5 matchup and both teams' final regular game of the 2015 season.

Two weeks ago, after defeating Centreville, Westfield head coach Kyle Simmons said: "Wins in the next two games will secure Westfield football's 10th conference title. But we don't want to stop there. We have secured our program's 15th straight playoff appearance and we look forward to continuing to improve into December."

Westfield did just that — with a 48-17 win over Herndon and a 28-14 win over Chantilly. The game was one of many high school games across the United States that was deemed a Great American Rivalry and presented by the U.S. Marines. At the con-



Sean Eckert and the Westfield football team will host Washington-Lee in the first round of the playoffs on Friday, Nov. 13.

clusion of the game an MVP was honored and Westfield's Tim Beard was the winner.

After a scoreless first quarter, Beard scored from 3 yards and Westfield was up 7-0 after a Brian Delaney extra point. After Westfield was forced to punt later in the quarter, the special teams came up big, downing a punt inside the Chantilly 10-yard line. Things didn't get better for the Chargers. Bryson Malo stripped the ball from

Charger running back Cush Eastman and Westfield Kevin Petrillo picked the ball up and ran in 3 yards with 1:06 to go in the half.

In the third quarter, Westfield quarterback Tyler Scanlon connected with receiver Ivory Frimpong on a 38-yard pass. In the final quarter, Westfield's Scanlon and Frimpong again connected on an 11-yard pass to go up 28-0.

Chantilly did add some excitement as they scored two touchdowns late in the fourth; the first a 35-yard pass from David Tammaro to Garret Snedeker. Tammaro then connected from 29 yards out with Trevon Montgomery.

Tammaro threw at least two touchdown passes in each game this season.

In the fourth quarter, senior team captain Ashkan Motamedi, No. 6, who battles cerebral palsy, was inserted into the game as a

Ashkan Motamedi sees some action for the Westfield football team.



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

wide receiver much to the team's and fans' approval. Motamedi was sent in motion from the right side of the line of scrimmage to the left. At the end of the play Motamedi was embraced by many Westfield players.

Chantilly finished the regular season with a 5-5 record, including 2-3 in conference. Westfield again lofted the conference title and finished the regular season 9-1 and 5-0 in conference. Chantilly will play at Madison (9-1) in the first round of the playoffs. Westfield will host Washington-Lee (5-5). Both games are Friday at 7:30 p.m.

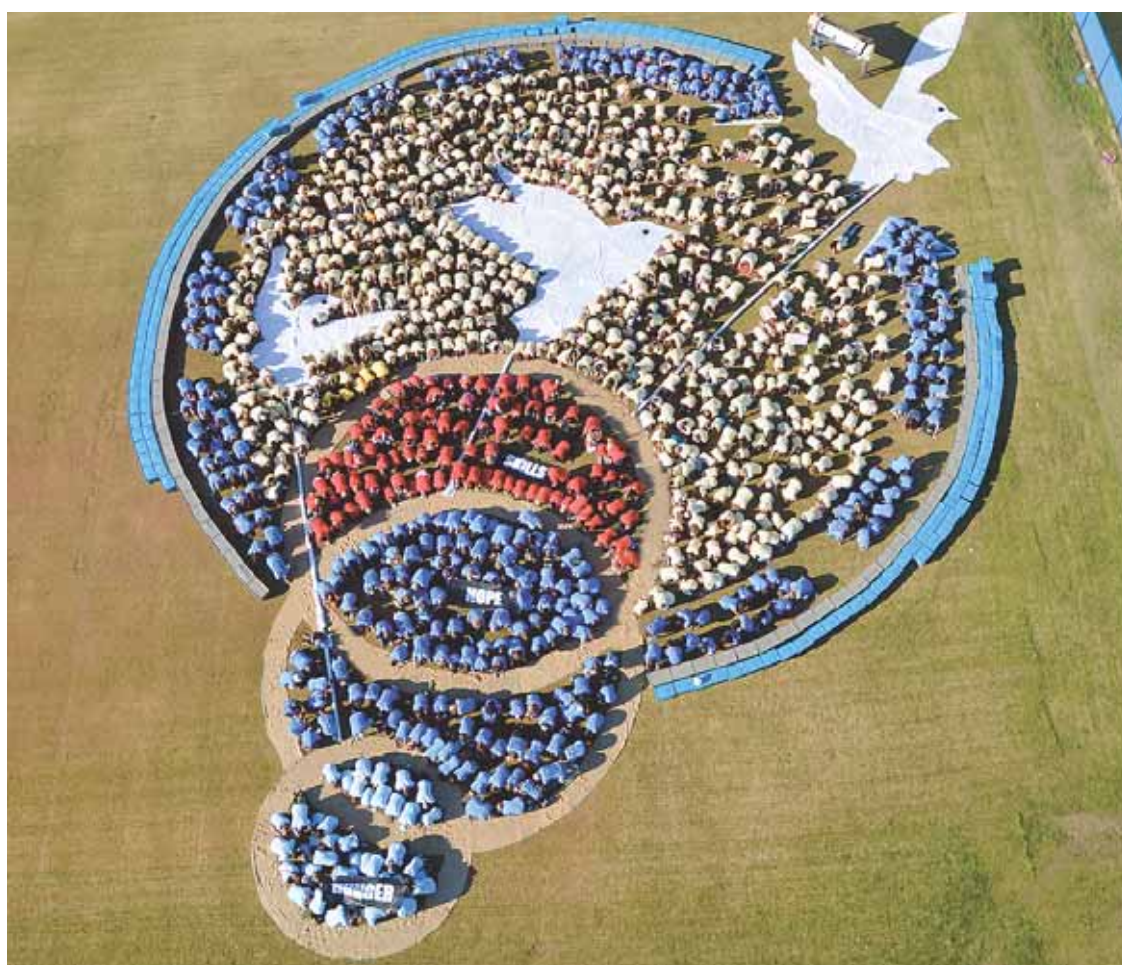


PHOTO COURTESY OF DANIEL DANCER, ART FOR THE SKY

Circles of hope contain the words "hunger, hope, skills and empower."

Taking a Stand against Hunger

Community helps fill Our Daily Bread's food pantry.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

The power of community was on full display Sunday afternoon as some 1,500 people came together on a Fairfax High athletic field to help Our Daily Bread (ODB) feed local families in need.

Wearing red, blue and yellow T-shirts, they created a living design to take a stand against hunger in Fairfax County and were photographed from 100 feet up by Art for the Sky's Daniel Dancer. But even

more importantly, they brought with them 11,143 pounds of food (valued at about \$19,150), plus \$3,050 in grocery-store gift cards and cash donations.

"We are so thankful for everyone's generosity in helping their neighbors in need," said ODB Executive Director Lisa Whetzel. "Our hope is that this event will bring awareness to the fact that, in our very affluent community, we have neighbors who suffer from hunger insecurity — meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from. We want to ignite the conversation about why people are hungry. And we'd like to inspire community members to think about what they can do to help create an environment where everyone can thrive."

The Nov. 8 event was ODB's fifth annual Complete the Circle FoodRaiser and was held jointly with the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC). The donated food, cash and gift cards will help feed the people served by both organizations.

Participants included individuals, families, companies, faith congregations, Scouts, youth groups and various community organizations. And, said ODB spokeswoman Heather Webb, each person contributed at least three, nonperishable food items or a grocery gift card to "complete the circle of giving and hope."

The event attracted people from all over the county, as did the festivities prior to the photo shoot. Young musicians from the School of Rock in Vienna entertained, local nonprofit Parties 2 Inspire led children's activities and Cox Farms in Centreville provided refreshments.

Among those taking part in the event were Centreville's Brian Clifford, son Mason, 6, a first-grader at Centre Ridge Elementary, and one of Mason's SACC (School Age Child Care) teachers,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

From left are Nancy Holsopple with Mason and Brian Clifford.

SEE TAKING A STAND, PAGE 15

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SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

NOVEMBER

11/19/2015..Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I
Thanksgiving is November 26
 11/25/2015.....Celebrating Gratitude, Thanksgiving

DECEMBER

12/2/2015.....Wellbeing
 12/9/2015...Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide II
 12/9/2015...HomeLifeStyle; Home for the Holidays
 12/16/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools; Holiday Entertainment & Gifts Pages
 12/23/2015.....Special Issue – Safe for the Holidays
 12/30/2015.....Children's Connection

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Small Talk in a Big Way



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

No way, actually. In my nearly seven years of cancer-induced doctor's appointments, scan appointments, lab work and miscellaneous other recurring occasions to be sitting/idling in waiting rooms, never before last week's pre-chemotherapy lab work had I been so chatted up by a fellow member waiting for their name to be called.

The circumstances were not particularly unique; it's not as if there was a two-for-one/half-price special that day. It was just another day – not in paradise, at the lab, of which I've had my share. It was crowded this day and because of seat non-availability, I was forced to sit up close and personal between two other patients. We weren't exactly touching one another, but there was some proximity that had the room been less occupied, there likely would have been fewer eyes making contact.

Before I had even completed my half-turn, "bassackwards" descent into my single chair, the self-described grandmother and church-goer to my standing right/sitting left said to me – quite unsolicited I might add, with zero provocation from yours truly: "Look outside!" After landing in my chair, I craned my neck back around to "look," anticipating an incident/accident of some kind. Instead, I saw blue skies and a bright shiny sun, and said as much to my new temporary neighbor and then asked if I was missing something. She said "No." And then elaborated on how it was a beautiful day and how such days make her so happy and yada, yada, yada; yada, yada, yada. (It didn't stop there, if you catch my prose.)

Apparently noticing my rather cool (not hip) demeanor in not responding to her observation/opinion, she started on the man immediately sitting to her left. He was from Ethiopia. Oh. The pastor at her church was from Ethiopia and the congregation used to be old but now thanks to him..., and on and on and on; fortunately not directed at me, but obviously within earshot. Soon however, his name was called and his seat remained unoccupied long enough for grandma to return her conversation back to me and begin to recount the information about the man with whom she had just been conversing: Ethiopian, a pastor, his young wife, their young children, the congregation; and on and on and on. Again, my lack of enthusiasm was likely evident in my barely audible responses to her comments and before too long, the vacated seat to her left was taken by a mother and her nine-month-old baby girl. Sure enough, the conversation soon left me and went over to the mother and her "beautiful baby." Within a few short minutes (in time), my neighbor's name was called (mercifully) and off she went into the lab. As she pulled open the door, she turned back to me, waived and smiled. I smiled back and said: "Break a leg." To which she responded something like: "Oh. You never want to..." but I had lost my focus and she was practically through the door into the lab and no more was there time and place to listen. Thankfully, the exchange, such as it was, was over (and she had just started asking about my job, too; what next? What was I in for?) I don't want to sound like Humphrey Bogart from Casablanca here, but: Of all the hospital waiting areas, of all the HMO waiting rooms, of all the labs, of all the clinics, she had to walk into mine. Don't let this play out again, Sam; it was an intrusion of sorts. Well-intended, I presume, and perhaps a little nervous energy at play; but as Kenny Rogers would say/sing: "You got to know when to fold 'em, know when to hold 'em."

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

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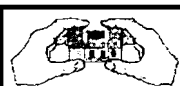
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PUBLIC HEARING FOR TOWN OF CLIFTON PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO SPECIAL USE PERMIT PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF CLIFTON PLANNING COMMISSION

November 30, 2015

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Clifton Planning Commission will hold a Public Hearing on Monday, November 30, 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 the Clifton Café, located at 7144 Main Street, to include an expansion of the use, including, but not limited to, the increase in number of seats, inside and outside; an increase in parking onsite; expansion of the hours of operation; increase in employees. The application for the proposed amendment to the Clifton Café'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 Café's special use permit.

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Participants kneel down within the pattern to create the design.
Packed inside the blue and gray boxes on the perimeter is the donated food.

Taking a Stand against Hunger

FROM PAGE 13

Nancy Holsopple. All were on a 25-member team from the school's SACC program. "Mason was interested in helping out, so we wanted to foster that in him," said his dad.

"This is something our entire SACC cluster does, so we wanted to participate," said Holsopple. "In SACC, we try to instill in our kids a sense of community. So we collected almost 100 different food items and brought them with us. But together, all eight Centreville SACC clusters collected 800 items to donate."

Stone's Cove KitBar, a restaurant in Oak Hill, also brought a team. "We support local nonprofits in the community," said team member Sonia Rana. "We made a financial donation." Meanwhile, Vienna's Vince Curcio was part of a Fairfax/Centreville group of about 100 friends and family members called The Big Give. It's comprised of 18 families from Fairfax, plus four other groups, including 40 children and parents. "We collected 20 bags of food just in our 18 families," said Curcio on Sunday. "And before coming here today, we made lasagna and delivered it and some beverages to the Fair Oaks Fire Department."

"Then we gave food, a bed and toys for a companion dog belonging to SafeSpot of Fairfax," added his wife, Christie Curcio. "It helps abused children and provides a safe spot for them to go." The next stop for the

members of The Big Give was ODB's FoodRaiser.

"We did this Complete the Circle event last year, too," said Christie Curcio. "It was my niece Hannah's birthday, and she wanted to do this for her birthday. We're doing it again this year to give back to our community because that's what Our Daily Bread does."

And Hannah, 11, was there on the field with her dad, Curcio's brother, Brian Silman of Little Rocky Run. He was participating in the FoodRaiser because "it's helping people within our community; we're making sure we're taking care of our own."

"People always need help and, if we're ever on the other end of it, I'd want people to help our family," continued Silman. "We have the ability to do so, and I want our children to see that it's important to help people who are in need."

Whetzel finds it "incredible to think that, in wealthy Fairfax County, there are 67,000 people who don't know where their next meal will come from. Many of them are children, and it's heartbreaking to think of how their parents must feel when they work so hard to make ends meet, but have to put their kids to bed with empty stomachs. Participating in Complete the Circle is a joyful way for community members to come together to be part of the solution to the very real problem of hunger and need in our midst."

BULLETIN BOARD

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

THROUGH NOV. 12

Fall Food Drive. Drop off food at Sheehy Infiniti of Chantilly, 4145 Auto Park Circle, Chantilly. Sheehy Auto Stores will collect canned goods and non-perishable food as part of the company's annual Fall Food Drive to benefit Ashland Christian Emergency Services (ACES), the Capital Area Food Bank, Feeding America,

the Oxon Hill Food Pantry and the Southern Maryland Food Bank. Visit www.sheehy.com or call 410-760-3500.

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