

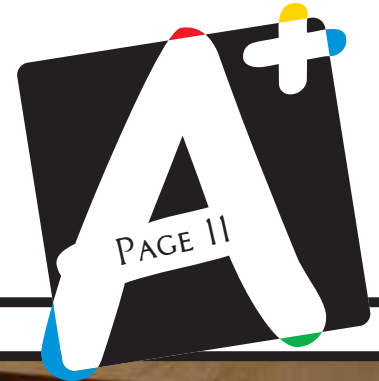


HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

PAGES 7-10

Centreville ♦ Little Rocky Run

CENTRE VIEW



NOVEMBER 16-22, 2016

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE

Filling a basket to take to tables for sorting are (from left) Centreville High sophomores Amy Mbawuike, Mannat Sandhu and Joy Zou.

The Community Helps Out

NEWS, PAGE 3

'A Blessing for All Involved'

NEWS, PAGE 4

How To Help

OPINION, PAGE 6

CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 14

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



Comstock Wins 10th District Race

Hotly-contested seat targeted as a “flip” for Democrats.

BY VICTORIA ROSS

From the outset, the race for Virginia’s 10th Congressional seat attracted national attention as a possible “flip” for Democrats in their bid to gain the 30 seats they needed to win back control of the House. Democrats poured money into the race, which many pollsters considered a bellwether race in a battleground state.

But in the end, freshman Republican Barbara Comstock swiftly and handily won her first reelection bid, defeating Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett by seven percentage points Tuesday night.

Just as Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump defied the predictions of pollsters and pundits to make Virginia a narrow victory for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, Comstock defied the “swing district” predictions and comfortably defeated Democratic challenger LuAnn Bennett to hold the 10th Congressional District seat.

WITH 99 PERCENT of precincts report-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Barbara Comstock spoke to hundreds of supporters in Ashburn Tuesday night after her victory..

ing by 11 p.m. Election Night, Comstock had 203,995 votes (53 percent), while Bennett had 181,999 votes (47 percent).

Bolstered by the Presidential election, voter turnout greatly exceeded the roughly 223,000 votes cast when Comstock won the seat in the 2014 midterm elections.

“This win is your win,” Comstock declared at a victory party in Ashburn to a crowd of about 200 supporters.

Ed Gillespie, a longtime Comstock supporter favored to win the GOP nomination for Virginia Governor in 2017, said Comstock won the race because no one could “outwork or outsmart” her. Comstock is known as an unflagging campaigner, who typically attends or hosts a dozen district events and meetings each week.

Fairfax County Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), another longtime Comstock supporter who attended Tuesday’s victory party, said Comstock is committed to her constituents in a hands-on way. “They know her, and they know they can count on her,” Herrity said. “She shows up. She even attended my town hall forums on heroin abuse because she knows it matters to her constituents.”

But Democrats also knew that voters in the 10th Congressional District were, by and large, affluent, well-educated and likely to reject Trump. They were counting on polls that showed educated suburban women voting against Trump and, by association, any down-ballot Republicans. In 2008 the district went blue for President Barack Obama, and – four years later – Republican candidate Mitt Romney narrowly carried the 10th.

Although Clinton defeated Trump by more than eight percentage points on Election Day in Virginia, Bennett was not able to ride her coattails to victory, indicating that many in the district split their votes between the major parties — voting for Clinton for President but for the Republican Comstock for Congress.

“I commend LuAnn Bennett and her team for a truly hard-fought race in Virginia’s 10th Congressional District,” said Susan Swecker, the chairman of the Democratic

Unofficial Election Results

Source: <http://results.elections.virginia.gov/>

PRESIDENT

Virginia Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	1,968,213	49.63%
Donald J. Trump (R)	1,765,599	44.53%
Gary Johnson (L)	118,464	2.99%
Evan McMullin (I)	53,877	1.36%
Jill Stein (G)	27,572	0.70%

Fairfax County Results

Hillary Clinton (D)	355,052	64.41%
Donald J. Trump (R)	157,820	28.63%
Gary Johnson (L)	15,654	2.84%
Evan McMullin (I)	10,383	1.88%
Jill Stein (G)	4,475	0.83%

U.S. CONGRESS

Member House of Representatives (10)

Barbara Jean Comstock (R)	210,619	52.69%
LuAnn L. Bennett (D)	187,532	46.92%

Fairfax County Meals Tax

No	291,082	53.84%
Yes	249,604	46.16%

Party of Virginia (DPVA), in a statement after the race was called for Comstock.

“LuAnn brought everything to the table: a penchant for public service, a strong business record, and pragmatic solutions to the problems that face Northern Virginia. I am confident that her role as a community leader won’t stop here, and I know she will continue to fight for working families in whatever she pursues next.”

Bennett told supporters in Falls Church that, although the results of the election were “not what we hoped,” she was “so proud of the campaign we’ve run, and vision we’ve put forward for ... our country.”

One person agreeing to have his or her bill rounded up each month. One household or business helping to improve lives in the local community. One joining many others in donating to Operation Round Up® to help their less fortunate neighbors.

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That’s the Power of One.

That’s the Power of Operation Round Up.®

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From left: McKenna Olsen, Heather Balberchak and Kelly Morrison, of Girl Scout Troop 3327, prepare to pack canned goods into crates.



Westfield High junior Ben Miller brings canned goods to tables for sorting.



Carting away some empty boxes are Centreville High Key Club members (from left) Dylan King, Andrew Lee, Shivan Prasad and Arya Rashidian.

The Community Helps Out

The Boy Scout food drive to restock Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry was Saturday, Nov. 12. The Scouts collected nearly 65,000 pounds

of food donated by the community and sorted it along with Girl Scouts, students and others. "This is a phenomenal achievement for a one-day collection, and we really appreci-

ate the generosity of the people in our community, said Michael Adere, the food drive's organizer. "Almost 900 Boy Scouts, plus over 700 other volunteers, participated. They got to expe-

rience what it's like to give back to their community — and the people receiving this food might even be their next-door neighbors."

— BONNIE HOBBS



Sorting canned goods are Scouts from West Ox Baptist Church in Chantilly.



Sorting food into categories are (from left) Karla Romero, Robinson Secondary freshman; Alex MacNamara, Chantilly High junior; Sarah MacNamara, Chantilly freshman; Kayla Spottswood, Centreville High freshman; and Anisha Beladia, Centreville High junior.

'A Blessing for All Involved'

WFCM provides families with food for the holidays.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Christmas dinner is always a high light of the holiday season. But for people who are hungry and have little or no food in their kitchen, it can be devastating. And that's where Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) Holiday Food Program comes in.

This year, it expects to supply holiday food for more than 1,600 local families in need. But it can't do it alone; it needs the community to pitch in, too, by either donating gift cards to grocery stores or providing gift baskets of food.

"Even though Northern Virginia is considered one of the wealthiest jurisdictions in the country, over 64,000 men, women and children in Fairfax County live in poverty," said WFCM Community Outreach Manager Jennie Bush. "One in four children attending Fairfax County Public Schools is on the free- and reduced-lunch program — that's over 52,000 school children for the school year 2015-16."

In some schools here, she said, half of all students qualify. "Many children are hungry during the weekends and

"It's my goal that every family requesting holiday food in WFCM's service area be served, either through sponsorship of a food basket or a grocery store gift card."

**— Jennie Bush,
WFCM Community Outreach Manager**

over holiday breaks," said Bush. "Nearly 76,000 county residents are food-insecure, meaning they don't know where their next meal is coming from."

So she's hoping local residents, businesses and other groups will join the organization's "Neighbors Helping Neighbors Holiday Food Program." Student groups, book clubs, civic associations, etc., are all encouraged to lend a hand.

WFCM serves those in need in Centreville, Chantilly, Clifton, Fair Oaks and Fairfax Station. And with so many people struggling financially, more and more families are coming to WFCM for help. Bush manages this nonprofit's food program, so she sees the poverty in western Fairfax County firsthand.

"It's my goal that every family requesting holiday food in WFCM's service area be served, either through sponsorship of a food basket or a grocery store gift card," she said. "But to do that, we need a tremendous amount of support."

She's already reached out to community organizations and churches for help. "This year, we've been blessed to have the Sully District Police Station and the Westfields Marriott hold food drives and assemble food boxes," said Bush. "And then they'll deliver them to the families they've sponsored for Thanksgiving or Christmas."

The Clifton Lions Club raises money to sponsor families with grocery store gift cards for both holidays. "We also have tremendous support from the Knights of Columbus, St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church and St. Clare of

Assisi Catholic Church," said Bush. "Together, they donate over 100 turkeys and boxes of food to WFCM, which enables us to have our Thanksgiving distribution from



The Knights of Columbus delivering Thanksgiving food boxes and turkeys last year for WFCM's Holiday Food Program.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNIE BUSH



Sully District Police Officers (from left) Michelle Alexander and Tara Gerhard deliver food to WFCM's pantry after filling bags for families.

our food pantry."

Some of the SYA travel soccer teams will also make bins to sponsor larger families in need. And, said Bush, doing so "helps these young people understand the huge need in our community and provide them a hands-on way to help others." In addition, she said, "We're especially grateful for our many supporting churches which sponsor hundreds of families for Thanksgiving and Christmas. They are the backbone of this program."

All recipient families and individuals have been pre-screened for eligibility. "If there are children in the family, all of them already qualify to receive free lunches at school," said Bush. "If a family doesn't have children, they've had to provide sufficient proof of income to document that their need is real and then be referred to the program by a social worker."

Flooded with requests for food, WFCM has a big need for gift cards to serve single individuals, the elderly and small families who either don't want or are unable to eat a large turkey with trimmings, all by themselves. So donations of gift cards to local grocery stores for \$25 and \$50 to give to these people would be particularly welcome.

For those wanting to sponsor a family with a food basket, Bush will match them up with a recipient. She'll give them a list of suggested items to include, and they'd then shop for the items for a holiday meal and put together the basket(s) or food boxes, themselves. Then the sponsors will deliver the food and turkey (or other meat) to the recipient families. To sponsor a family or families for holiday food, contact Bush at jbush@wfcmvva.org. Go to www.wfcmvva.org to obtain a list of suggested items to include in the food baskets. Grocery store gift cards for Christmas food assistance will be accepted through Dec. 20.

Gift cards may be dropped off at the WFCM food pantry at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, in Chantilly, Monday through Friday, between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. (No cash donations). Or mail them with a note saying "Holiday Food Program" to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153.

"WFCM's Holiday Food Program gives our community a unique opportunity to help others truly in need," said Bush. "It elevates an act of generosity into a blessing for all involved."

BULLETIN BOARD

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.

ROTARY CLUB

Chantilly/Centreville Rotary Club, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m. every Tuesday at Eggspectation Restaurant, 5009 Westone Plaza, Chantilly. Join the men and women of the Rotary Club for their weekly luncheon meeting and meal. Rotary is a service club actively involved in the community. Email Charles@keenerinsurance.com to join the group as their guest.

THROUGH NOVEMBER

Aqua Exercise Flex Passes will be on sale throughout the month of November at Fairfax County Park Authority RECenters and online. Pass holders can use the flex passes to attend any water exercise class, space permitting, at the county's nine RECenters. The Park Authority is offering a 10 percent discount on the purchase of a 20-visit pass and a 15 percent discount on a 30-visit pass. The passes are valid for four months from the date of purchase.

WEDNESDAY/NOV. 16

Registration Open House, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Clifton Children's Academy, 14315 Compton Road, Centreville. Bring your child and come take a tour of the campus. Clifton Children's Academy will be holding registration for spring and fall 2017. Call 703-968-8455 for more.

Volunteer Information Session. 7 p.m. at Centreville Labor Resource Center, 5956 Centreville Crest Lane. Current opportunities include the need for bilingual volunteers to help with the daily operations of the center. Email Wynne Tysdal at volunteer@centrevillelrc.org.

THURSDAY/NOV. 17

Health & Wellbeing:

Immunization Lecture. 7-8 p.m. at the Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Learn about the history and importance of immunization and the myths surrounding vaccinations. This health education program presented by NOVAScriptsCentral. cdsciabica@fcps.edu or 703-631-5522

NOV. 21-DEC. 9

Sheehy Cares Toy Collection. At Sheehy Infiniti of Chantilly, 4145 Auto Park Circle, Chantilly. Collection of new, unwrapped toys as part of the company's annual Sheehy Cares Toy Collection to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

TUESDAY/NOV. 22

Dementia Diagnosis Learning. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Arbor Terrace Fairfax Welcome Center, 3901 Centerview Drive, Suite A. This class is geared towards individuals that have just been diagnosed with a memory impairment and their families, as well as those who are caregivers to aging parents who live elsewhere. To register contact Christi Clark at 703-204-4664 or christi.clark@insightmcc.org.



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OPINION

Holidays Are for Giving

Give thanks and share locally; tens of thousands of families in Fairfax County are in need.

The holidays are about giving, and giving thanks. The holidays are about children and family. The holidays are about sharing, about joy. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about alleviating suffering for others.

Northern Virginia is among the wealthiest areas in the country. Many if not most of us go through our daily and seasonal routines without encountering evidence of the needy families among us.

More than 52,000 children who attend Fairfax County Public Schools are poor enough to receive free or subsidized meals, a significant measure of poverty. That's 28 percent of students in Fairfax County Public Schools. (Nearly 7 percent of students in FCPS live below the poverty line, a harrowing \$24,000 for a family of four.)

All of these are children who are living in families who may be on the brink of homelessness, families who must choose between medical bills, car repair, heat and food. Some of these are children who may not be sure that they will have a meal between the meals they get in school.

School holidays can bring uncertainty and hunger, a far cry from the celebrations, gifts and plenty that we associate with Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Hundreds of homeless students attend the public schools, and their needs are greater.

Many nonprofits in the county need your help to provide a holiday meal for Thanksgiving or Christmas, to provide children with gifts.

There are literally hundreds, probably thousands, of ways to give locally this season. Here are a few ideas. We will rerun this list again after Thanksgiving, so please let us know what we have missed.

— MARY KIMM,
MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Where to Give Locally

- ❖ **Western Fairfax Christian Ministries** — food pantry at 13981 Metrotech Drive in Chantilly (near Backyard Grill and Bar). For more information or to sponsor a family, call 703-988-9656, ext. 105. To mail gift cards or send donations by check, add a note saying “food basket program” and send them to: WFCM, P.O. Box 220802, Chantilly, VA 20153. 703-988-9656.
- ❖ **HomeAid** builds and renovates facilities that house the homeless, and partners with many local organizations to do so. 3684 Centerville Drive, Suite 110B, Chantilly, VA 20151. www.homeaidnova.org/
- ❖ **LINK**, serving Herndon, Chantilly, Loudoun and more, needs contributions of food, coats and holiday toys for children, and needs volunteers. More than 4,000 adults and children have signed up for help with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. Every year the goal is to provide each family with a week's worth of non-perishable food in November and again in December. When funds allow, grocery gift cards are also included. In November, clients also receive a voucher for coats and warm clothing. In December, children 16 and under receive gifts. holiday@linkagainsthunger.org. 703-437-1776 www.linkagainsthunger.org.
- ❖ **Northern Virginia Family Service**. Just \$50

provides a complete holiday meal to a family of four. Donate online or via check payable to “NVFS” with “Operation Turkey” on the memo line, or send grocery store gift cards. Northern Virginia Family Service, attn: Holiday Initiatives, 10455 White Granite, Drive, Suite 100, Oakton, VA 22124. Gifting for Families was able to bring some extra holiday cheer to more than 2,000 children in Northern Virginia last year. Monetary contributions and online donations help the most at www.nvfs.org. www.nvfs.org/holidayprograms. Or donate toys. New toys for children of all ages are needed to stock our Toy Closet. (If possible, shop for infants/toddlers or teens, as these age groups can be overlooked.) Drop off on Monday, Dec. 12, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesday, Dec. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 13939 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151

- ❖ **FACETS** helps parents, their children and individuals who suffer the effects of poverty in the Fairfax area, a partner in efforts to end homelessness in Fairfax County. FACETS is always in need of volunteers, and offers a variety of one-time and ongoing opportunities. 703-865-4251 or volunteer@facetscares.org. www.facetscares.org. 10640 Page Avenue, Suite 300, Fairfax VA 22030

- ❖ **Britepaths** will have 3,000 individuals and families in need of holiday assistance list this fall. Sponsor a family or donate to provide a family with a Thanksgiving meal, December holiday meal and/or gifts for their children. Join Britepaths at Wine & Wonderment, Nov. 30, at 2941 Restaurant britepaths.org
- ❖ **Lamb Center**, www.thelambcenter.org, day center for homeless, Fairfax 703-691-3178.
- ❖ **Food for Others** provides a safety net for people who suddenly face unforeseen emergencies such as a family illness or the loss of a job or a spouse. Located at 2938 Prosperity Ave., Fairfax, VA 22031, 703-207-9173. 2938 Prosperity Ave. info@foodforothers.org Hours: Monday-Friday, 9:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. www.foodforothers.org
- ❖ **Assistance League of Northern Virginia** is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization that feeds, clothes and educates children in need. Assistance League's philanthropic programs touch the lives of thousands of children at 11 Title I schools in Northern Virginia, serving children most in need at selected schools in Fairfax and Prince William counties and the City of Alexandria. To learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, contact alnorthernva@gmail.com or visit <http://www.northernvirginia.assistanceleague.org>
- ❖ **Comfort for America's Uniformed Services (CAUSE)** ensures that recuperating service members have opportunities for recreation and social interaction and receive concrete signs of appreciation for all that they have done. 4114 Legato Road Suite B, Fairfax, VA 22033, 703-591-4968, cause-usa.org
- ❖ **Shelter House** provides crisis intervention, safe housing and supportive services to promote self-sufficiency for homeless families and victims of domestic violence in Fairfax County. <http://www.shelterhouse.org/get-involved/>

BULLETIN BOARD

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can “E-cycle” at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm for more.

DONATIONS

The **Student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax

- ❖ **National Capital Food Bank**, 6833 Hill Park Drive, Lorton, serving all of Northern Virginia, 703-541-3063. www.capitalareafoodbank.org
- ❖ **Homestretch** is the largest provider of transitional housing in Fairfax County and offers a services to help the homeless better their lives through education. Email: jhenderson@homestretchva.org; 703-237-2035 x125; <http://homestretchva.org/volunteer/>
- ❖ **Pathway Homes** focuses on providing housing and support services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, with the mission to help these individuals reach their full potential and lead stable lives. They offer both in-home programs, semi-independent houses and assisted living facilities. 10201 Fairfax Boulevard, Suite 200, Fairfax, VA 22030. 703-876-0390 info@pathwayhomes.org <http://www.pathwayhomes.org> <http://www.pathwayhomes.org/support-pathway/>
- ❖ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Washington Fairfax Area** operates clubs in two of the neediest areas of the county, Culmore and the Route 1 corridor, focusing on character and academic success. www.bgcgw.org/fairfax
- ❖ **Friends of Guest House Northern Virginia** offers structure, supervision, support and assistance to female ex-offenders who want to improve their lives and break the cycle of incarceration. Friends of Guest House offers the only program for women of its kind in Northern Virginia. One East Luray Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22301-2025, 703-549-8072, info@friendsofguesthouse.org, <http://friendsofguesthouse.org/>
- ❖ **Habitat for Humanity of Northern Virginia** transforms the lives of lower-income families in need by providing affordable homeownership opportunities in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax and Falls Church. Learn more at www.habitatnova.org.

Volunteer Locally Through Volunteer Fairfax

- ❖ **Britepaths (formerly Our Daily Bread):** Sponsor individuals and families in need who live throughout the Fairfax County area for Thanksgiving meals, December holiday meals and/or gifts for children in December. Britepaths will send you information on a person/family who meets your criteria, and you will contact them and arrange to deliver food and/or gifts. You may also donate funds to help us assist those who are not sponsored. To sponsor a family or make a donation, visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com/index?section=volunteerNOW&action=viewOpportunity&fwID=22508>
- ❖ **The Holiday Project:** Share the spirit of the season with The Holiday Project, a non-profit organization that organizes visits to patients in hospitals, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities during the holiday season. Bring the spirit of a holiday to those who might not otherwise have a celebration. Visits occur throughout the metropolitan area. Dates and times of visits vary by location; for more information visit <http://volunteerfairfax.civicore.com/index?section=volunteerNOW&action=viewOpportunity&fwID=21393>.
- ❖ **Volunteer Fairfax:** Your local volunteer center, seeks individuals and families, youth and seniors, corporate groups and civic clubs for volunteer opportunities at holiday time and throughout the year. www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of old cellphones so that troops can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14215E Centreville Square, Centreville.

SUPPORT GROUP

Support Groups. Jubilee Christian Center of Fairfax is having its “Living Free” support groups for the spring on Wednesdays, 7:15 p.m. The support groups are free, and will cover “Stepping into Freedom,” “Concerned Persons Group” (for family and friends of addicts), “The Image of God in You,” and “Handling Loss and Grief.” There are also support groups on Sundays, 10:10 a.m. 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. For information or to register, call 703-383-1170, email livingfree@jccag.org or see www.jccag.org.

CENTREVIEW

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Newspaper of
Centreville
Little Rocky Run
A Connection Newspaper

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

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A Connection Newspaper

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT & GIFT GUIDE

Holiday Calendar

UNTIL DEC. 31

Holiday Giving Projects. The Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) kicked off its annual Holiday Giving Projects Meeting and chose two organizations to be the recipients of donations: Britepaths (britepaths.org) and Fairfax Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue (www.ffandfriends2therescue.org). The public is invited to donate to these two causes and all donations are tax deductible. Donations to Britepaths, a local nonprofit organization that provides assistance to Northern Virginia families experiencing financial hardship, will be distributed to the families in January. Grocery store gift cards of any denomination as well as checks for the organization to purchase cards, should be made out to Britepaths and sent to: DWCNV, P.O. Box 143, Clifton, VA 20124. Donations will be accepted until Dec. 31, 2016 for January delivery. cliftonwomendems@aol.com

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

Nutcracker In a Shell All Jazzed Up. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at John Champe High School, 41535 Sacred Mountain St. Aldie. The Institute of Performing Arts for Youth and Creative Dance Center performing a time honored traditional favorite with a twist. Starring children from Loudoun and Fairfax counties in a family friendly, jazzed up version of the classic holiday favorite. \$12 Adult, \$8 Children, Seniors. www.CDCdance.com

Pictures With Santa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Learning Experience of Chantilly / South Riding, 4150 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Bring your own camera and a non-perishable item. Chantilly.tlchildcare.com or 703-378-7391

MONDAY/NOV. 21

Centreville Garden Club Thanksgiving Centerpieces. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Handcrafted gifts for senior centers, participants are asked to bring fresh flowers to arrange. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com, email



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Fairfax Ballet Company celebrates the 25th anniversary of its first full-length, magical Nutcracker ballet this year. The Fairfax Ballet Company has been staging this production since 1991. The Fairfax Ballet Company stages the "The Nutcracker" Nov. 26-27, 2016 at W.T. Woodson High School in Fairfax. Three show times include: Nov. 26, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 27, 2 p.m.

centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com, or call 703-266-9233.

older, \$10 msb.teaparty.tickets@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/NOV. 24

VaRun Turkey Trot. 8 a.m. at Virginia Run Community Center, 15355 Wetherburn Court, Centreville. All proceeds go to Life With Cancer. This year's event is in memory of Centreville residents Steve Logan and Michael Ziegler, 1st Lieutenant. Tickets are \$10-35. Visit varunturkeytrot.wixsite.com/2016.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/NOV. 26-27

Nutcracker 25th Anniversary Show. The Fairfax Ballet Company stages the "The Nutcracker" at W.T. Woodson High School, on Saturday, Nov. 26, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sunday, Nov. 27, 2 p.m. Visit fairfaxnutcracker2016.bpt.me, email events@fairfaxballet.com or call 703-439-9788.

TUESDAY/NOV. 29

Giving Tuesday, A Global Day of Giving. All day at 13850 Braddock Road A, Centreville. The Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County is again participating. Glory Days Grill has agreed to donate to UPC 10 percent of its food and beverage sales at its six Fairfax

County restaurants to Unified Prevention Coalition of Fairfax County. Call 703-938-8723, email deckert@upcfairfax.org or visit www.unifiedpreventioncoalition.org for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 1-3

Centreville Library Holiday Used Book Sale. At the Centreville Regional Library, 14220 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Thursday, Dec. 1, 5-9 p.m.; Friday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.-6 p.m.; and Saturday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-830-2223, www.friendsofcentrevillelibrary.blogspot.com.

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Crafters Needed. St. Andrew Lutheran Church, 14640 Soucy Place. \$40 entree fee. Registration at www.saintandrewlc.org, standrewcrafts@gmail.com or 703-

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Historic Clifton Holiday Homes

Tour. 4-7 p.m. at the Town of Clifton. Tickets available from Town of Clifton merchants. Presale ticket pricing for cash or check sales: \$25 adult; \$5 children under 13. Presale ticket pricing for credit card sales - Belle Jar only: \$30 adult; \$5 children under 13. Day of event pricing for cash, check or credit (credit at Belle Jar only): \$35 adult; \$5 children under 13 and/or email thelynn99@gmail.com no later than Dec. 1.

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SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC. 3-4

Holiday Train Show. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Sat., noon-4 p.m. Sun. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Adults 16 and over - \$5; children 5 to 15- \$2; 4 and under - free; museum members - free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY-WEDNESDAY/DEC. 6-7

NOVA Loudoun Poinsettia Sale. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and 5-7 p.m. at NOVA's



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia (DWCNV) kicked off its annual Holiday Giving Projects Meeting and chose two organizations to be the recipients of donations: Britepaths (britepaths.org) and Fairfax Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue (www.ffandfriends2therescue.org). Email cliftonwomendems@aol.com for more information.



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Cub Scouts from Centreville's Pack 2011 helping out during the Boy Scouts' Scout-ing for Food drive in the Virginia Run Community.

PHOTO COURTESY
OF BRIAN ADAMS



FROM PAGE 7

Loudoun Campus, 21200 Campus Drive, Sterling. Poinsettias of varying colors will be available for \$10 each, and all proceeds will benefit NOVA's Horticulture Club. For details on the sale, call 703-948-7592.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/DEC 10-11

"The Nutcracker." 3 p.m. at Centreville High School Theater, 6001 Union Mill Road, Centreville. Proceeds will benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. \$12. msb.nutcracker.tickets@gmail.com.

CALENDAR

ONGOING

White House Ornament Sale.

GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club is selling 2016 White House Christmas ornaments. This year's ornament honors our 31st President, Herbert Hoover. The ornament, inspired by a White House fire on Christmas Eve, 1929, is a fire truck carrying a Christmas tree. Ornaments are \$21. Call 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years' ornaments.

Art Guild of Clifton Exhibit. 10

a.m.-8 p.m. at Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Includes oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

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.

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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 to reserve a space.

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.

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SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 9

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**Christmas Eve
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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.

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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.

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.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

Legos Kids Club.

Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime.

Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

PET ADOPTIONS

Adopt a Cat or Dog.

Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10

JOIN US FOR A FABULOUS THANKSGIVING MEAL

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Nov 19 4 PM

Sunday, November, 20
Nov 20 3PM

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MBT is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Virginia Commission of the Arts, Prince William County, and the City of Manassas

FROM PAGE 9
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.

SATURDAY/NOV. 19

American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony. 10 a.m. at Fairfax Fire Station 38, 6001 Oday Drive, Centreville. The event is the American Legion Flag Retirement Ceremony performed by Centreville Legion Post 1995 with the participation of the Firefighter/EMTs of Station 38 and local Boy Scout Troops.

Nutcracker In a Shell All Jazzed Up. 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. at John Champe High School, 41535 Sacred Mountain St. Aldie. The Institute of Performing Arts for Youth and Creative Dance Center performing a time honored traditional favorite with a twist. Starring children from Loudoun and Fairfax counties in a family friendly, jazzed up version of the classic holiday favorite. \$12 Adult, \$8 Children, Seniors. www.CDCdance.com

Pictures With Santa. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at The Learning Experience of Chantilly / South Riding, 4150 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Bring your own camera and a non-perishable item. Chantilly.tlechildcare.com or 703-378-7391

SUNDAY/NOV. 20

Dancing With My Baby. 10:30-11 a.m. at NOVA Natural Birth Center, 4200a Technology Court, Chantilly. Connect through movement, dance, yoga, and the expressive arts as you and your family share in learning simple dance routines to music, practice yoga poses, relax, and create art. Admission is on "pay what you can" basis. Visit briggittawhite.com/dancingwithmybaby for more.

NTRAK Scale Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Adults 16 and over - \$4; children 5 to 15- \$2; 4 and under - free; museum members - free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/NOV. 21

Centreville Garden Club Thanksgiving Centerpieces. 7 p.m. at Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Handcrafted gifts for senior centers, participants are asked to bring fresh flowers to arrange. Learn more at centrevillegardenclub.blogspot.com, email centrevillegardenclub@gmail.com, or call 703-266-9233.

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FRIDAY/NOV. 25

Children's Science Center. The Children's Science Center will be

hosting a \$5 Family Fun Day at the Children's Science Center Lab promoting family learning. Contact Dorothy Ready at 703-963-6699 or dorothyready@childsci.org.

SATURDAY/NOV. 26

Sugar Plum Fairy Tea Party. At Little Rocky Run Recreation Center 3, 13900 Stonefield Drive, Clifton. The event will feature a performance by the cast of this year's Nutcracker production, light tea party snacks and treats, games and an appearance by the Sugar Plum Fairy. Ages 3 and older, \$10 msb.teaparty.tickets@gmail.com.

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**Centreville United
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(703) 830-2684 www.Centreville-UMC.org

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Decking the Halls, Stuffing Bellies

Local cooking schools offer crash courses in holiday dishes.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Ever since Bernadette Lott can remember, she's had a sweet tooth as big as a sugar cane field. Describing herself as a hard and fast confection lover of the extreme type, she thinks her predilection for all things candy-coated probably started with her grandmother, who pretended not to notice when she devoured spoonfuls of sugar while the two were baking.

"I must have been three or four, standing on a stool in the kitchen, craning my neck to see," said Lott.

In fact, baking was a hobby she honed at her grandmother's hand, which later became a practical skill. She learned that to satisfy her ravenous sugar cravings, be they for shiny glazed lemon tarts or gooey chocolate trifles moistened with rum, she needed to learn to bake.

"I think my first word was cake," Lott said. "I love to bake, but I also do my fair share of tasting."

It's no wonder that for Lott and other foodies, the holidays offer a chance to legitimize an obsession with baking marathons that, if done at any other time of the year, might appear to be chocolate-covered insanity.

In response, dozens of local chefs and culinary enthusiasts are rolling out a slew of holiday cooking classes this season. "Want to make your own lemon rugelach? Considering letting your children take over the gingerbread baking? Interested in assembling a buche noel? From the informal classes that Lott runs out of her Alexandria kitchen to formal cooking schools with classes taught by professional chefs, there's instruction for students at both ends of the skills spectrum.

"These cooking classes help people get into the holiday spirit," said Toni Lipe of



Friends Terri Carr and Elaine Agran have a decades-long tradition of baking holiday cookies for friends and family.

Culinaria Cooking School in Vienna. "They learn to make things that they can wrap in paper and ribbon and give as gifts."

Students at Culinaria enter a holiday cookie paradise of softened butter, vanilla and coconut, and spend hours cutting, rolling and decorating, emerging at the end of class with boxes of rugelach, almond macaroons and other confections.

"The classes are filled with laughter and chatter," said Lipe. "It's like a party, such a wonderful experience."

In Lott's lessons, which she runs informally out of her home — students discover her through word of mouth — she demonstrates tooth-achingly rich buche de noel and fudge-filled, whiskey-soaked chocolate bundt cake recipes. A limited class size allows her to guide students through the process, from melting chocolate over simmering water to adding a good dousing of liqueur to the mixture and beating it into a fluffy batter before sliding it into the oven.

"Some of my best holiday childhood memories were baking with my family," said Lott. "I love being able to share that love with other people so that they can create their own memories."

During her lessons, students rummage through a treasure trove of cookie cutters in shapes ranging from angels and wreaths to starfish and rosebuds. After mixing flour

and nutmeg with lemon zest and vanilla extract, then chilling, rolling and cutting the dough, their effort bursts forth in the form of highly spiced citrus, ginger cookies.

"I still like nibbling the cookie dough as much as I did when I was a little kid," said Claudia Yost, a recent student.

Even the youngest gourmands can add calorie-laden joy to the world this season. Diminutive cooks-in-training use seasonal bounty to create child-friendly versions of traditional Thanksgiving fare at Tiny Chefs cooking school. They use yeast, flour and sweet potatoes to create warm, fluffy doughnuts, encased in sugar that crunch slightly to the bite.

"Cooking during the holidays, and at any time, builds memories and gives them skills that they can use when they're responsible for preparing dinners later on down the road," said Katie Raguindin of Tiny Chefs.

In the gingerbread house-making class, instructors support children's imaginations, encouraging the wackiest, most creative designs, propelled by a rainbow of colored icing and decorative candies. There's even a gift class where they fill mason jars with ingredients for cookie dough. The project becomes present-ready when topped with shiny bows.

"We're giving them a nice way to participate with the holiday cooking," said

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TERRI CARR



Terri Carr bakes, decorates and packages holiday cookies, which she sends to friends and family.

Raguindin. "It's a good family activity, and they can remember for years to come that they got to cook with Mom and Dad for Christmas dinner."

Even as adults, life-long friends can relive their childhood sugarplum fantasies.

At the start of the holiday season, Terri Carr and Elaine Agran gather in Carr's Potomac, Md., kitchen to preserve a baking tradition that spans more than three decades. For four days and four nights, the two friends lose themselves in a shrine of softened butter, flour and sugar, emerging with several thousand sugar cookies that they package and ship to friends, family and colleagues.

"We take turns. One of us sleeps while the other one bakes," said Carr, of Terri's Table, a cooking school she runs out of her home.

This year, Carr's holiday classes are focused on Thanksgiving, teaching students to make both main and side dishes, and ending with such as a crunchy and deeply nutty pecan pie.

At the end of her classes, Carr sets a festive table around which her apprentices gather, raising a chorus of oohs and aahs and noshing on the fruit of the holiday labor until the last crumb is devoured.



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PEOPLE



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Honoring Veterans

Poplar Tree Elementary School students honored veterans on Thursday, Nov. 10 with patriotic songs, speeches, a special slide show, and a parade.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

At Meeting in Richmond

Four members of the Centreville-based John Witt Chapter, National Society Colonial Dames of the Seventeenth Century (NSCDXVIIC), attended the Virginia Society Board of Management meeting in Richmond in October. Member Nan Ackerman serves the National Society as Librarian General and member Stephanie Brahin is the Virginia State Treasurer. Above, from left, are: Jennifer Smith, Stephanie Brahin, Nan Ackerman and Van Lee. The chapter welcomes prospective women who have an ancestor that was born prior to 1680 and who resided in America by 1701, to attend a chapter meeting. Contact jsmithtot@aol.com for more information.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Morning Check

Firefighters at Fire Station 38, West Centreville, A-Shift check out the ladder truck and associated equipment. Each morning, the oncoming shift conducts a thorough check of all vehicles and equipment, as well as personal protective gear, to make sure all is working properly.



PHOTO BY FCPS

Learning about Homelessness

Stone Middle School students learned facts about the homeless population in the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area and collected money and canned goods last month to support them.

Receiving Good Scout Award

T Tyler Schroder, an 8th grader at Rocky Run Middle School, a member of Boy Scout Troop 577 in Clifton and a member of the Order of the Arrow; and Dan Kurtenbach, a committee member of Sully District, Boy Scouts of America, received the honor of being recognized as this year's youth and adult Northern Virginia Good Scout for Sully District. The Good Scout Award is given based on the following credo: "You are put here to do something for your fellow man and to take an active part in your community and its issues."



PHOTO BY HONDO DAVIDS

Tyler Schroder (left) and Dan Kurtenbach



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Celebrating 30 Years

After a spirited morning assembly, students and staff at Union Mill Elementary commemorate the school's 30th anniversary by wearing red and forming the number 30 on the black top.

SPORTS



Sean Eckert # 2 tries to hold off W.T. Woodson defender Isaiah Barnes #27 after teammate Gavin Kiley's #15 reception.



Nathaniel Chung carried the ball 12 times for 78 yards and 2 touchdowns.

Westfield Defeats Woodson in Playoff Game

BY WILL PALENSCAR

PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR

The Westfield Bulldogs and W.T. Woodson Cavaliers matched up for a first round playoff game on Friday night, Nov. 11, in Chantilly.

Westfield's Nathaniel Chung would open scoring for the Bulldogs on a 2-yard run. Later in the 1st quarter, Brian Delaney kicked a 31-yard field goal with 5:17 to play in the opening quarter which put the Bulldogs up 10-0. Sean Eckert would score his first of two touchdowns with 1:53, giving Westfield a 17-0 advantage after the first 12 minutes.

In the 2nd quarter, Westfield scored three touchdowns. The first, when Rehman Johnson ran 4 yards on the first of his two touchdowns, with 8:08 in the opening half. Nathaniel Chung would run in from 3 yards out with 3:43 to go in the 2nd quarter and Westfield then led 31-0.

Chung would carry the ball 12 times for 78 yards and two touchdowns. Westfield QB



Eugene Asante #8 carries the ball for Westfield.

Rehman Johnson, would throw his second touchdown of the game with :20 to play in the 2nd quarter to Sean Eckert. Johnson completed 9-13 passes for 177 yards and two TD's, while Eckert would score on two of his three receptions.



Ivory Frimpong # 4 secures the ball from W.T. Woodson defender Isaiah Barnes #27.

In the 3rd quarter Rehman Johnson rushed to the end zone from 7 yards out for Westfield's final points, and a 45-0 lead.

W.T. Woodson would get on the scoreboard in the 4th when Daequan Will-

iams ran in from 4 yards out. Westfield went on to win 45-7.

With the win Westfield improves to 9-2 and will host South County (8-3) winners over Battlefield 34-12.



PHOTO BY ANDREW ONG

Success at National Championships

Centreville's Matt Datta and Kevin Egilmez placed second with their tennis team at the United States Tennis Association USTA League 9.0 National Championships. Datta and Egilmez are on the men's tennis team from Fairfax, representing the USTA Mid Atlantic Section, at the USTA League Adult 55 & Over 9.0 National Championships in Surprise, Ariz. In front row from left are Gary McManis (Falls Church), Nick Colletti (Bristow), Matt Datta (Centreville), Lange Johnson (Oakton), Steve Bittner (Clifton) Back: Herb Hopwood (Vienna), Mike Carley (Fairfax), Kevin Egilmez (Centreville), Mark Chisolm (Washington, D.C.), and Joe Cassady (Vienna).

SCHOOL NOTES

Andrew Vetsch, a Stevenson University (Stevenson, Md.) student from Centreville, volunteered during Mustangs Make A Difference Day, a university-wide day of service, where clubs and organizations on campus set up varying volunteer opportunities for students to participate in.

Dana Martin of Centreville, together with other student leaders at The Commonwealth Medical College (TCMC), has planned an Affordable Care Act (ACA) health insurance registration event in Scranton.

The following students from Centreville are members of James Madison University's band, the Marching Royal Dukes: **Maren Luper**, a third-year student who is in the clarinet section; **Heather Cameron**, a second-year student who is in the Dukette section; **Meghan Schneider**, a second-year student who is in the Dukette section; **Davina Miaw**, a first-year student who is in the flute section; **Christopher Hoffman**, a first-year student who is in the percussion section; and **Colton Sorrells**, a first-year student who is in the percussion section.

Feeling a Little Better



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Just as last week's column attempted to describe the loss a surviving cancer patient feels when a fellow cancer patient succumbs to his disease, this week's column will attempt the opposite: describe the feeling a surviving cancer patient feels when a new lung cancer patient joins the club. Specifically, an individual (who I met this week, coincidentally) who exudes the kind of confidence and positive attitude necessary to endure the bumpy road ahead. Unfortunately, one doesn't always have the luxury to avoid the road/not join the club; to quote Groucho Marx: "I don't want to belong to a club that will accept me as a member." If only it were that funny - and simple.

With respect to lung cancer patients, typically a late-stage diagnosis: stage IV (there is no stage V), is heard early on the initial appointment with one's oncologist. Given that there is at present, no agreed-upon approach to screen for lung cancer and in many cases, patients are often symptom-free or experiencing discomfort not in the lungs; nor having any difficulty breathing, coughing or coughing up blood, among other symptoms, especially so for non-smokers who now represent upwards of 25 percent of new lung cancer patients, this is not uncommon. For multiple reasons then, lung cancer remains the leading cause of cancer deaths in this country, projected at 158,000 in 2016, as well the leading cause of new cases of cancer reported every year, projected at 225,000, "more than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined," according to cancer.org. One percent live beyond two years, according to cancer.net

Generally speaking then, one can say, with a reasonable amount of confidence, that receiving a diagnosis of lung cancer is devastating news and for a few days anyway, knocks the wind completely out of your sails, even if you don't own a sailboat. It's almost impossible, eight years post-diagnosis, to articulate exactly how I felt when a doctor (an oncologist) whom I had never met told me I had stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer and advised me I had "13 months to two years" to live (I was 54 and a half at the time and a life-long non-smoker). Out of the blue doesn't even begin to describe my reaction. Surreal, which was my general sense of what I had just heard is also a very common description, as I have likewise heard and read from other newly diagnosed cancer patients.

So you need to find help anywhere you can get it. For me, the most valuable help was/is emotional: people being supportive, encouraging, funny, unafraid to face my reality and most importantly, positive - about the negative. Don't tell me anything that I'm doing is bad. Tell me everything I'm doing is good. Minimize the negative and maximize the positive. Don't be overconfident but do be underwhelmed. Take my circumstances in stride. Don't walk quietly and don't carry a big stick. Treat me normally - in spite of my cancer, as you would had I not been so diagnosed. If I am treated in these ways, I will - and think I have become, a welcome addition to the club. Because this is a club that needs individuals to step up and fight not only for themselves but for to others as well. And if in fact what goes around comes around, I will be similarly embraced and moreover, cared for and about; and it's the strength in these numbers that will empower me to be the best cancer patient I can. And when I meet a fellow cancer patient, this how I will roll: concerned but emotionally available, serious but funny, respectful but disarming, realistic but hopeful and always positive about their negative. If I am turn treated in a similar way and the patient expresses the kind of good-in-the-locker-room type of attitude necessary for the long journey ahead, I will feel stronger and more hopeful for my own circumstances than I would have had I not met this new patient.

Cancer shouldn't be a singular pursuit. I need your help, and I'm willing to offer mine. If we help other, we'll both be better served because of it. This is not meant to be selfish, it is meant to be selfless. There is no "I" in cancer.

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

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OPINION

High School Diplomats

— An unforgettable
experience.

BY PRASHANT DESAI

Over the past summer, I participated in a program called High School Diplomats (HSD), which is a cultural exchange program between Japan and the United States held at Princeton University. The program selects 40 American students and 40 Japanese students amongst the hundreds who apply to interact with each other in a series of culture-related activities for 10 days, absolutely free of charge.

Each American student is paired with a Japanese roommate to receive the full cultural exchange experience. During the program, each day has a new theme to help expose different aspects of American and Japanese culture.

I would like to talk about two days during my HSD experience that I found particularly impactful: the Japanese Culture Festival and Halloween night. Through these two events, I felt a genuine sense of family that the HSD program creates. When I see fellow HSD alumni, I immediately feel a connection and bond with them through the unique and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that we shared.

At the Japanese cultural festival, Japanese students were given time to show the American students a taste of the important aspects of their culture. Stations were set up throughout the room including practicing traditional sword fighting, making green tea, and a traditional Japanese dish, and learning how to write Japanese calligraphy.

I had never tried Japanese food before and the festival gave me an opportunity to try it for the first time. I was nervous at first but I ended up loving it and I even learned how to make it on my own so I could show my family when I got home. I was shy to try out the different activities they had planned out for the American students at first, but the Japanese students were so warm and welcoming, I immediately felt a part of their family.

Everyone greeted each other with a smile and it made trying new things so much



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Prashant Desai and Takuma Suzuki, his Japanese roommate

easier. Although I didn't like the green tea as much, it was amazing trying it out and learning the proper tradition and technique used before and after drinking the tea. I felt as though I was part of the Japanese family. To top the whole experience off, males wore traditional clothing called Jinbei and females wore Yukata's, again something I had never done before, but thoroughly enjoyed.

Halloween night was another great night at Princeton where all Japanese and American students dressed up in different costumes to mimic the Halloween experience in the United States. The Japanese students do not get to experience the Halloween tradition back at their homes; to give them a true experience, the HSD staff created a haunted house full of surprises. After the haunted house we gathered around a fire and made s'mores, which may sound like an activity we do regularly but it really tightened the relationship between my roommate and I, as it was a great bonding time.

My best memories as a child were walking into my neighbor's haunted house with my older brother and feeling the thrill of being scared. With so much importance in my childhood, I thought it was incredible to be able to share this experience with my Japanese roommate and friends because it is something they otherwise would not have experienced back home.

And although these are little things, I felt as though I was making a big difference. The High School Diplomats program has events everyday in addition to Halloween and the Japanese Culture Festival including an American Independence Day, Date Night, Community Service Day, Sports Olympics Day, and classes in which students learn about Japanese language and culture and so much more. The two days I elaborated on emphasize how incredible all of the events are at the High School Diplomats program.

I would highly recommend applying to this program. All current sophomores and juniors in high school across the country are eligible to apply. The application is available online at www.highschool-diplomats.com and is currently available. The deadline for the application is Jan. 8, 2017. The program itself for this upcoming year will be held at Princeton University from, July 25 – Aug. 5, 2017. Again I would like to reiterate that this program is free of charge and changed my life completely. It was an experience that I will never forget.

Prashant Desai is a Clifton resident.

Write

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Businesses Navigate County Planning

German grocery looks to Chantilly.

BY KEN MOORE

The German Lidl grocery chain offered to proffer \$250,000 for athletic fields and recreational facilities in Chantilly. Lidl's U.S. operations is headquartered in Arlington; Lidl (pronounced leedle) plans to expand its business in the United States and Fairfax County.

"I've been to Lidl in Spain. They have good bread," said Sully District Planning Commissioner Karen Keys-Gamarra. "I look forward to that."

Lidl U.S. Operations, LLC, has proposed to amend zoning to permit a 30,000-square-foot grocery store and 18,000-square-foot multi-tenant retail building on 5.09 acres on the 73-acre Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center at the intersection of Lee Road and Chantilly Crossing Lane.

"We're quite excited for what that vision can be in the center," said Matthew Allman, who represented Lidl before the Planning Commission's public hearing on Thursday, Nov. 10.

The site is currently an open field, according to Planning Commission staff documents. The application specifically discourages drive-through and fast food restaurants, according to Joe Gorney, with planning staff.

Keys Gamarra wants to ensure pedestrian safety with the project, especially pedestrians that may walk between hotels and the busy intersection.

"We are increasing traffic, and I'm not sure members of the public would understand," she said.

"The Comprehensive Plan anticipates high-quality landscape and architectural design. In response, the applicant has taken into consideration pedestrian circulation and outdoor amenities," said Gorney. "Pedestrian paths are proposed which could connect to the surrounding uses, including the adjacent stormwater management pond, and which would allow connectivity between the proposed uses."

At-large Planning Commissioner James Hart said the fountain at the shopping center has been neglected and is currently an eyesore; he asked the applicant if they would be willing to take part in making the fountain an attractive central piece of the center.

"This point was going to be a special place and was going to be an amenity that was beautiful where people would have picnics," he said.

Dranesville Supervisor John Ulfelder acknowledged Lidl's efforts in Europe to build stores with high environmental standards. "Is there something we can learn from Lidl's experience building in other parts of the world?" said Ulfelder.

Lidl currently operates nearly 10,000 stores in 26 countries throughout Europe



PHOTO BY TOM MANNING

Lidl U.S. Operations, LLC, has proposed to amend zoning to permit a 30,000-square-foot grocery store and 18,000-square-foot multi-tenant retail building on 5.09 acres on the 73-acre Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center at the intersection of Lee Road and Chantilly Crossing Lane.

and plans to open as many as 100 U.S. locations.

Keys-Gamarra deferred a decision-only hearing for Dec. 7.

Costco Adds Two Grades of Gas to Mix

Costco hopes to add a service station with eight fueling tanks that can queue up to 60 vehicles at its 13.39-acre site in the Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center, 14390 Chantilly Crossing Lane.

The gas station will only be available to Costco members; only two grades of gas will be available, payable only by Costco credit card or debit.

"It's a different animal than a traditional station," said David Gill, who represents Costco. Gill estimates that 2,000 customers will use the station each day.

Only one employee will be needed at the station.

"Given its lack of visibility from the surrounding public road network, its interior position within the larger shopping center, and the limitation on sales, the proposed use can be expected to primarily serve existing patrons of the Costco retail warehouse and is expected to generate only a nominal increase in vehicular trips," said Joe Gorney, planning staff.

County planners have recommended approval of the application. The Planning Commission is expected to give its recommendation to the Board of Supervisors on the application at a decision-only hearing on Nov. 30.

Costco has other similar stations in Fairfax, Sterling and Manassas.

Sully District Planning Commissioner Karen Keys-Gamarra said she frequents the store. "Keep coming back," said Gills.

Underground fuel tanks, an above ground Healy tank for excess gasoline vapors, and a canopy will be needed as part of the special exception amendment.

Chantilly Crossing Shopping Center is on 73 acres south of Route 50, east of Lee Road

and west of Route 28. The center was approved by the Board of Supervisors in the summer of 1996.

The center also has two restaurants, two extended-day hotels, a drive-through bank, a Costco retail warehouse, a Target store, two retail buildings with multiple tenants and an additional service station with quick-service food store.

Chickens Change, Roosting Place Remains

Chick-fil-A, Inc. wants to enlarge the existing 2,932-square-foot, 64-seat KFC in Sully Plaza shopping center with a 142-seat, 4,792-square-foot restaurant and two-lane drive through.

The Planning Commission recommended approval of the zoning application on Wednesday, Nov. 9, 2016. The Board of Supervisors will vote on the application at a hearing in an upcoming Board meeting.

The 13-acre Sully Plaza shopping center is located northeast of the intersection of Route 50 and Centreville Road in the Chantilly area. Access to the shopping center is provided from Route 50, Metrotech Drive and Centreville Road.

Chick-fil-A would replace the existing KFC fast food restaurant located next to the stormwater management pond near the intersection.

"While the older restaurant was of a relatively small size, the proposed restaurant is not out of scale with the shopping center or other similar restaurants, and staff does not consider the expansion to be egregious," according to planner Carmen Bishop. "The proposed design of the building and landscaping would provide for a visual improvement to the center."

The restaurant would have a brick facade, as well as brick on three sides of its trash enclosure.

The two-lane drive through has the capacity to stack 20 vehicles.

"Large truck deliveries shall be scheduled to occur when the restaurant is closed," except for unusual or emergency situations, according to proposed development conditions of the application, and "small truck deliveries will be scheduled "to avoid morning, noon and evening peak hours of operation."

Sully Plaza was constructed in early 1985. The KFC, approved by the Board of Supervisors in November 1985, was constructed in 1986.

"We believe we will be an improvement to the shopping center and look forward to being part of the community," said Sheri Atkin, of McGuire Woods, who represented Chick-fil-A, which is headquartered in Atlanta. During busy times, Chick-fil-A is prepared to have an employee with an iPad ready to take orders so queuing never exceeds capacity.

"As recommended by staff, the application improves pedestrian circulation by providing a connection to the trail along Route 50. A development condition is proposed for the site plan to include appropriate crosswalks, such as to the CVS store, to further improve pedestrian safety," according to Bishop.

Luxury Pawn Shop Requested

Ardavan Badii wants permission to operate a pawnshop, but one that will only deal with diamonds, gems, jewelry and precious metals.

"Nothing else," said Badii. "That's what we specialize in. It's really important that we keep that image of luxury and beauty."

Bullion and Diamonds Company is a 788-square-foot retail store at 4086 Airline Parkway in the 50 West Shopping Center, just west of the Route 50/Route 28 intersection.

"Jewelry is an asset," said Badii, who has operated his store for eight years in Chantilly. "Occasionally, [customers] need some dollars but don't want to give up their jewelry."

There are currently eight pawn shops allowed via special exceptions in Fairfax County, said Michael Lynskey, planning staff with the Department of Planning and Zoning. The county permits up to 12 pawnshops countywide, he said.

The Fairfax County Circuit Court has already given Badii approval after a background check.

"We're expecting one to two people a day, at most," he said. "This is something that can help my small business a lot."

Sully Planning Commissioner Karen Keys-Gamarra deferred decision on the application to Dec. 7, 2016.

"I'd like to thank the applicant for coming in and coming to community meetings. At first glance, it seems like a simple application, but it hasn't been so simple," she said.

The commissioners will work with the county attorney to structure details on the proffered conditions to limit items for sale.