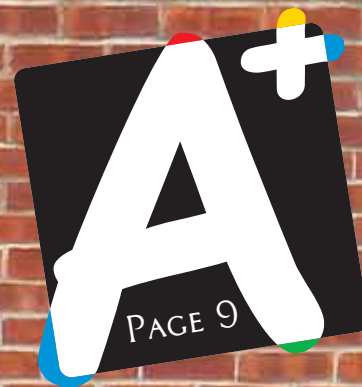


Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes



Two Fallen Officers, One Indelible Date

NEWS, PAGE 3

In loving Memory of
Master Police Officer
MICHAEL E. GARBARINO
For his Heroic Actions
on May 8, 2006

End of Watch: May 17, 2006
"Keep up the fight"

2nd Lt. Chris Cotone
stands at attention
behind MPO Mike
Garbarino's memorial
at the Sully District
Police Station.

Festival to Fight Cancer

NEWS, PAGE 4

Safety in the Water

A+, PAGE 9

CALENDAR, PAGE 12 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

MAY 17-23, 2017

ONLINE AT WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Chantilly Forensics Team Wins State Title Twice

Five students take first place; team scored 40 out of 80 points.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

For the second year in a row, the 16-member Forensics Team at Chantilly High School took first place in the VHSL 6A State Forensics Championships on March 25 in Midlothian, Va., beating out 16 schools and 78 students from around the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Scoring a total of 40 out of 80 points as a team in the various debating categories, the following five Chantilly students and a duo took first place: Poetry - Nora Malatinszky; Storytelling - Jared Belsky; Dramatic Duo - Kylee Marciello and Aris Stovall; Dramatic Interpretation - Michael Rosegrant; and Humorous Interpretation - Maria Benincasa.

"We placed in every single category, which is ridiculously amazing," said Barbara Clougherty, the speech and debate teacher at Chantilly High School. "This is the first year in our history that every student broke and made it to the final round, which means



Members of the Chantilly High School Forensics Team that won first place in the VHSL 6A State Forensics Championships on March 25 in Midlothian, Va.

they placed first, second or third. That was pretty amazing."

She added: "I would attribute it to the talent of the students and the esprit de corps of the team; my team works really well to-

gether. There's a lot of team support and peer critiquing.... They are extremely team focused."

A two-time state champ for poetry, Nora Malatinszky, 17, of Greenbriar earned first

place in Poetry Interpretation. Her theme was "Growing Stronger After Domestic Abuse." Of her win, she said: "It was really

SEE FORENSICS, PAGE 11

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Two Fallen Officers, One Indelible Date

Sully Police Station honors Armel and Garbarino.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Eleven years have passed since May 8, 2006 — when MPO Mike Garbarino and Det. Vicky Armel were fatally shot in the back parking-lot of the Sully District Police Station. But for those who knew them, loved them or worked with them, the memories of these brave officers will be forever etched in their hearts.

Both Armel and Garbarino left spouses, two children each, devastated colleagues and a grieving community. And each May 8 since then, a special remembrance ceremony is held for them at the station. This year's event was particularly poignant, since it was held at the scene of the tragedy.

"There are only a few, pivotal dates in history that survive in the collective consciousness of a people," said Lt. Alan Hanson, the assistant station commander. "Some revolve around world events, others revolve around national or local events. These dates are of such profound impact that, by merely reciting the date, you trigger in the listener memories of where they were and what they were doing when the event occurred."

"May 8, 2006 is such a date for Fairfax County, particularly for the Fairfax County Police Department and the families we honor here today," continued Hanson. "This date holds that place in time — not because of the nature of the attack — but because of the actions taken by all those that responded, and especially because of the actions of our fallen officers."

This year, May 8 fell on a Monday — just as it did 11 years ago. Around 3:40 p.m. that afternoon, 18-year-old Michael Kennedy carjacked a van. Responding to the call, Armel went outside to the police station's rear lot. But as she reached her cruiser, Kennedy — armed with five handguns, an assault weapon and a high-powered rifle — drove into that lot.

There, an unarmed Garbarino was tending to things inside his cruiser before leaving on vacation. Standing just a few yards away, Kennedy ambushed him, firing more than 20 rounds at the officer with an AK-47-type rifle.

When the shooting began, Armel made her presence known to Kennedy to draw fire away from Garbarino. She and Kennedy exchanged gunfire, and a bullet from his 30-06 rifle pierced her ballistic vest and struck her in the chest.

She made it back inside her cruiser, but was shot again in the legs. And even though mortally



From left: Mike Garbarino's daughter Katie and wife Sue lay flowers at his memorial.

wounded, she still fired four more rounds, trying to stop the assailant. Armel was later pronounced dead at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

Garbarino also displayed bravery under fire that day. Although he'd been shot five times and was gravely wounded and in pain, the 23-year police veteran used his cruiser's radio to alert other officers to the danger. He provided suspect information, told the police helicopter where to land and warned other officers to approach from the front of the building so they wouldn't walk straight into harm's way.

He also prayed to God and told his fellow officers, "I'm not going to die here." True to his word, Garbarino held on in the hospital for nine more days, but succumbed to his injuries May 17, 2006. As for Kennedy, he was killed the day of the offense in a shootout with other responding officers;

police said he'd fired more than 70 rounds.

Both Armel and Garbarino left spouses, two children each, devastated colleagues and a grieving community. A year later, the Fairfax County Police Department awarded the officers Gold Medals of Valor, posthumously.

Attendees at last Monday's remembrance ceremony in their honor included Deputy County Executive Dave Rohrer, county Police Chief Ed Roessler, family members of Armel and Garbarino and former and current Sully District Supervisors, Michael Frey and Kathy Smith, respectively.

"We come here today to pay respect to Vicky and Gabby [Garbarino's nickname]," said Hanson. "We're here to celebrate their lives and the lasting impact they had on all they encountered in both their personal and professional lives, and to reflect on the valor and sacrifice displayed on that day. We come



Vicky Armel's sister, Sandy Munday, lays flowers at her memorial behind the police station.

here to honor their memory and to honor their families."

Trying to describe what May 8, 2006 and its aftermath meant to all involved, Hanson said certain words resonated with him: Duty, valor, sacrifice, resolve, love, family, honor, commitment and legacy.

"They represent ideals and emotions displayed by Vicky and Gabby, their families, members of the Department and the community as a whole," said Hanson. "These words cannot do justice to the range of emotions felt in our heart; but when reflected upon, perhaps provide at least a small measure of what was experienced on that day and continues today."

Calling Armel and Garbarino part of the "culture, spirit and legacy" of the Police Department, Hanson said the Sully District Station officers acknowledge the pair with photos inside the building, plus memorials outside at their parking spaces. But even more, he explained, "We honor them with the stories we tell about them. The officers and staff earnestly share their story with those who visit our station so they can know and understand what happened here and who Vicky and Gabby were. This is just a small part of their legacy that endures within our department."

Giving the invocation, former homicide detective and now police chaplain Shawn Perkins thanked all the police officers for carrying out their duties "not just as a job, but as a responsibility from God." But, he added, "Carry your authority gingerly, humbly and carefully." Perkins then prayed to God, "To honor Vicky and Gabby for their sacrifice, we ask you to give us courage and wisdom so our lives and service will honor them."

Next came a moment of silence, followed by a helicopter flyover



Lt. Alan Hanson (on right) addresses the crowd.



Club members pose with some of the Kraftlove kits they assembled.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF VALERIE NGUYEN

Members of the Wildcats vs. Cancer Club for the 2016-2017 school year.

Raising Money in Her Sister's Honor

Festival to Fight Cancer features races, games and superhero costumes.

BY BONNIE HOBBS

In October 2015, Centreville High sophomore Valerie Nguyen founded the Wildcats vs. Cancer club. Since her younger sister was battling cancer, she wanted to help families going through the same things hers was.

So throughout that school year, the 42-member club raised money and held various activities to ease their burdens. "When one person in a family has cancer, the whole family goes through it together," said Nguyen.

Trouble is, cancer doesn't play fair. And on Oct. 11, 2016, Nguyen's sister Cecilia died at age 13. "It's still difficult — that never goes away," said Nguyen, now a junior.

"But I find ways of dealing with her death and carrying on her legacy by raising money for childhood-cancer research."

She's currently doing so via an upcoming event hosted by her club, now 110 mem-

bers strong. The Festival to Fight Cancer is set for Saturday, June 10, from 8-11 a.m. on the Centreville High football field. Slated are a 2-mile fun run or a 1-mile, family fun run/walk, plus food vendors, games, activity tents and a superhero costume contest with prizes.

All proceeds from this event will go to Special Love, dedicated to helping pediatric-cancer families. This nonprofit provides support for them through camps for siblings, parents, cancer patients and the whole family to maintain as much normalcy as possible. It also offers programs and financial aid.

Throughout her sister's journey, Nguyen attended Special Love's BRASS (Brothers and Sisters) camp for siblings, and it gave her the support she needed to cope. She was a counselor-in-training there, working with other siblings like her, and she realized that they all faced the same struggles daily.

In addition, she said, "Special Love has really helped my family by providing community support and a network of other families who've been through this and get it." And this summer, she'll be a counselor at the camp. First, though, comes the festival at her school.

There'll be carnival-type games, face painting and a raffle for gift cards and prizes donated by local merchants. And the top finishers in both the 2-mile and 1-mile runs will also receive gift cards and prizes.

"People can run in costume, if they want, because we're also having a superhero costume contest," said Nguyen. "Prizes in various categories will be given for the best costume and for the ones best carrying out the theme."

Entry to the festival is free, but donations are encouraged. Registration for run/walk participants is \$15 for people on a team and \$20 for individuals. It includes a commemorative T-shirt, water bottle, the festival ac-



From left are sisters Valerie and Cecilia Nguyen.

tivities, plus a free breakfast (bagels, fruit, granola bars, etc.) after the race. Register at <https://goo.gl/AMQcXI>. Online registration is encouraged because the registration costs go up \$5 on festival day.

This event also culminates the Wildcats vs. Cancer club's activities for this school year. In December, the members got Hasbro to donate more than 100 toys for the DC Candlelighters' holiday party. And in February, the students made valentines for young cancer patients in Fairfax Hospital and for Pediatric Specialists of Virginia, which treats many of those children.

During football season, they invited children with cancer, and their families, to be their guests at a Centreville Wildcats football game.

"The football team and cheerleaders interacted with them," said Nguyen. "And they even got to try out some of the band's percussion instruments."

In March, the club teamed up with the nonprofit Kraftlove to make art/craft kits to donate to pediatric cancer patients in local hospitals. Kraftlove provided the supplies and the students assembled them into

some 600 kits. Then the children receiving them were able to decorate a picture frame with paint and stickers.

"It makes me feel joyful because I know my sister's spirit lives on in me," said Nguyen. "And it's wonderful that the kids in my club take time out of their busy lives to give back and become not only volunteers, but advocates, for something so personal to me."

Cecilia was an eighth-grader in the Advanced Academics program at Rocky Run Middle School. "She was very bright, caring and curious and loved learning," said Nguyen. "She also loved arts and crafts and spending time with our family and dog. She had osteosarcoma [bone cancer] and aspired to be a pediatric oncologist to save kids like her."

So it's no wonder Nguyen is hoping for a big turnout for the festival to raise as much money as possible for children like her sister because "every penny counts. And instead of just donating money to a charity, people will get more bang for their buck because they'll be spending quality time with their families and making lasting memories. And all the proceeds will be going to a good cause. So I want people to spread the word about the festival and tell all their friends."

The event also has sponsors; the main ones are CYA; NEU, Strat & PM; Union Mill Pediatrics and Northern Virginia Center for Oral, Facial & Implant Surgery. And Nguyen is grateful for them.

"No one chooses to be a victim of childhood cancer," she said. "I believe that no one should ever have to fight cancer alone and that, as able-bodied people, it's our responsibility to stand up and fight for those who can't."

For more information about the club, go to <http://wildcatsvscancer.wixsite.com/wildcatsvscancer>.



Club members are dressed in costume to volunteer at the DC Candlelighters' holiday party for children with cancer.

NEWS

Church Gets New Look

Parishioners at Saint Veronica's Catholic Church in Chantilly were recently welcomed with new and refurbished pews, new flooring—including tile in the center aisle and in the sanctuary — and a repainted church in the traditional liturgical colors of blue and terracotta.

And there's more to come, including a new altar, a baptismal font, and other furnishings inside the church. All renovations should be completed by 2018.

The Rev. Dennis Kleinmann, pastor of Saint Veronica Catholic Church, says he is thrilled. "Although we had a suitable church before this, I think the enhancements we've made does more to one's mind, heart and soul to the glory of God which is what Mass is all about," he said.

St. Veronica was established in June 1999 and celebrated its first Mass in August of that year at Community of Faith United Methodist Church in Herndon. In 2004, the church was built.



St. Veronica's center aisle tile work has been installed.



Newly replaced kneeler in St. Veronica.



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On the set of ABC News Channel 7

OPINION

FCPS to Propose Increases in Class Sizes

BY MOLLIE REGAN

The lead-in for the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Proposed FY 2018 Budget states the following: “The FCPS FY 2018 (2017-18 school year) budget reflects the school system’s priorities. It’s also a communications tool that informs parents, staff members, students, and community members about our values and goals.”

COMMENTARY

If that is true, then why is FCPS proposing to balance its FY18 budget by increasing class sizes by 0.5 students in all elementary, middle and high schools?

Large class sizes have a negative impact on students’ ability to learn and succeed, and on teachers’ ability to teach. Large classes burn out good teachers and affect teacher decisions about whether to continue working at a school. Every time a good teacher leaves the employ of FCPS, we forfeit our investment in hiring and training that person.

In many recent meetings about teacher compensation, the School Board has expressed concerns about teacher attrition. In FCPS, we

lose about 40 percent of our teachers in their first five years of employment, and we lose many more teachers after their fifth year. Class size is cited — both in FCPS and in a national study — as a top factor in teachers’ decisions to leave the school district.

At this critical time when we already suffer from teacher shortages and large class sizes, FCPS should not be considering additional class size increases as a means to save \$14.7 million. There are alternatives that could better address the FY18 budget gap. Some alternatives actually reduce expenses. Others just change budget assumptions.

For example, the School Board could cut \$15 million of other expenses with the understanding that in July, it would use the “found money” from the year-end FY 2017 budget review to restore those programs. This is exactly what the board did about six years ago, when Jack Dale was the FCPS superintendent.

Alternatively, FCPS could find \$14.7 million by using more realistic assumptions about employee attrition. Every year, FCPS prepares its budget using unrealistically low attrition assumptions, which in turn consistently produce about \$30 million/year of “found money”

from higher-than-projected teacher attrition during the budget reviews.

Of course, if FCPS made a sustained commitment to reasonable class sizes, it could arguably avoid increasing the costs associated with that teacher attrition. Imagine the cost savings from retaining our teachers. What additional innovations could be used to reduce the expense of endlessly restaffing our classrooms and training a new workforce?

The FCPS Strategic Plan, “Ignite,” affirms its commitment to student success and a caring culture. Seeing “Ignite” in action would mean that our School Board representatives resolve the FCPS financial shortfall without again balancing its budget on the backs of our teachers and students. Class Size Counts created an online petition asking the School Board not to increase elementary, middle and high school class sizes by 0.5 students across the board as part of the FY 2018 budget. Please sign the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/fairfax-county-public-schools-join-class-size-counts-to-oppose-the-core-academic-class-sizes-in-fcps> and join in the advocacy.

Mollie Regan is Vienna resident and a Class Size Matters advocate.

A Joyous ‘Legally Blonde’ at Westfield

BY MARGIE GREER
J.E.B. STUART HIGH SCHOOL

Westfield High School’s production of “Legally Blonde” serves up a powerful celebration of high-spirited sisterhood. “Legally Blonde” premiered in 2007, based on the 2001 movie, which was in turn based on a novel of the same name. The musical follows Elle Woods (Molly Van Trees), a sorority girl fashionista who enrolls at Harvard Law School to win back her ex-boyfriend, Warner Huntington III (Wade Parker). Along the way, she makes unexpected friends, wins her first case, and discovers her true self.

CAPPIES REVIEW

Molly Van Trees commanded the demanding lead role of Elle Woods. Ms. Van Trees was equally as impressive in high energy dance numbers as she was in soul-searching ballads. Her empathetic acting made her character believable whether she was portraying Elle as a likable ditz or an intelligent law student. Her chemistry with John Henry Stamper as Emmett Forrester was natural and adorable. Stamper also displayed impressive vocals, and low-key charm contrasting to Elle’s bubbly personality.

Aja Rene shined as Paulette. Ms. Rene’s stunning rendition of “Ireland” brought something fresh and new to this role. Her excellent comedic timing and goofy stage presence, along with her powerful voice proved her to be an incredible storyteller.

The Delta Nu Girls executed difficult choreography with ease; the girls remained in sync and full of energy throughout all of their numbers. The entire ensemble remained engaged during the entire show, defining each character and bringing the world of the show to life.

Other standouts in the cast were Gene Kim



From left are Evan Kohnstam, Alan Gutierrez, Maya Hossain, and John Henry Stamper.

as a free-styling dancer/violinist, Ian Balderston as Kyle the UPS delivery guy, and Colin Brown as Nikos the pool cleaner. Each created a specific walk and gesture for their character, generating outbursts of laughter from the audience each time they came on stage.

The lighting was subtle and effective in creating beautiful stage pictures.

The props team showed exceptional attention to detail as well as creating several hilarious visual gags. The show also featured a cre-

ative and versatile set which still allowed space for the large dance numbers.

The hair salon was particularly well done, unfolding to reveal a space full of Paulette’s personality.

Case closed! Westfield High School’s “Legally Blonde” was a dance-powered, ballad infused journey of self discovery. Each member of the cast contributed engaging comedy, standout dancing, excellent dynamics, and strong vocals to create a joyous musical theater experience.

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OBITUARY

Barbara Jane Thaler

Barbara Jane Thaler of Centreville Farms died on March 22, 2017 after a short illness; she was 91. Barbara was the widow of Dr. William John Thaler, a physicist and a Georgetown University professor from 1960-1994, who, in the late 1950s, invented the first system for the detection of incoming ballistic missiles (Over-the-Horizon Radar), a milestone for the security of America in the Cold War.



Barbara Jane Thaler

Born in 1925 in Coalinga, Calif., Barbara Jane Greene was the only daughter of Charles Thomas Greene and Elizabeth Green Jarnagin née Lenhart. Barbara completed her undergraduate degree at the University of California, Berkeley and studied at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., where she earned her Master's Degree in communications and drama. She met her future husband, William, while in Graduate School there. On their first date, Bill told Barbara: "You know, I'll ask you to marry me, when I know you'll say Yes!" Barbara and Bill were married on June 16 1951; and 50 years later they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary at their home with family at friends.

Barbara was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She was also a teacher, who lectured in public speaking, communications and English as a second language at Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University. Barbara was an active member of the Sully Book Club at the Centreville regional library and the

Rocky Run Garden Club. Trained as an opera singer in her youth, Barbara enjoyed listening to opera and attending operatic performances. While at Berkeley, she converted to Catholicism. After moving to Centreville with her family in 1965, she joined St. John's Episcopal Church, where she was also a member of the choir. Her pastimes in retirement included enjoying opera, theater, and watching home improvement shows and Dancing with the Stars. Barbara was a collector of people, with her kind and caring disposition, she befriended people she met in her life and helped them, as she was able. Her husband, William, preceded her in death on June 5, 2005. Her oldest son, Mark Stephen Thaler died in 1990 and her fifth son, Geoffrey Andrew Thaler, died in 2003. Survivors include four children: Paul Thaler of Rixeyville, Va., Alice Thaler of Thurmont, Md., Gregory Thaler of Centreville, Peter Thaler of Gainesville, Va., and nine grandchildren.

Barbara is interred at St. John's Episcopal Church, 5649 Mt. Gilead Road, Centreville.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reflections on Motherhood

To the Editor:

As a Muslim woman and a mother of four young children, one of the things I have always appreciated about my faith is the high status and great honor that women are given in Islam, particularly mothers.

As a young girl I had always heard the saying of the Prophet Muhammad that, "Paradise lies under the feet of your mothers." But, I feel, I never truly understood the meaning of those words until I became a mother myself.

I have realized that Islam accords such a high status to mothers not only due to the physical toll of pregnancy, birth, and childrearing, but also due to the tremendous responsibility that comes with being a mother.

Now, I negotiate the challenges and a reward of motherhood with a deeper appreciation of everything my mother has sacrificed for me and with a deeper understanding of why paradise may be found under a

mother's feet. The Prophet's words resonate twofold: they encourage us to be watchful mothers who create a paradise for our own children while at the same time encouraging us to serve our parents, to take care of them and show them mercy in their old age as a means to attain bliss in another life.

On this Mother's day, I am grateful for the occasion to reflect on this aspect.

Rabia Ahmed Iqbal
Chantilly

Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

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ROUNDUPS

Park Center Proposed

The Fairfax County Park Authority is holding a public information meeting on Thursday, May 18, to share with the public its feasibility study findings for the development of the Sully Woodlands Stewardship Education Center.

Sully Woodlands encompasses 4,400 acres and 43 parks with multiple uses. The proposed facility would be a state-of-the-art interpretive center to manage non-recreational parkland, provide educational and visitor services, conduct natural resource management activities, and work with staff in the management of the Sully Woodlands.

The Stewardship Education Center-Information meeting will take place from 7-8:30 p.m. in Conference Room 4/5 at the Government Center at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/swsec.htm.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, May 25, 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.

Learn about Disaster Response

Free training in basic disaster response skills is being offered by the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) through the county fire and rescue department. The training prepares residents to help themselves, their families and neighbors in the event of a disaster in their community. Through CERT, residents can learn about disaster preparedness and receive training in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search and rescue, and disaster medical operations.

The next available CERT Class is scheduled to begin on Monday, May 22 at the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Academy. There are two sessions each week on Mondays and Wednesdays that run until June 21. The class is 28 hours in length, plus a final practical exercise. CERT training is free of charge and basic gear is provided. The minimum requirements to participate in CERT training at any level is that residents be 16 years of age or older, and either be a Fairfax County resident, or work in the county.

To learn more about CERT, see www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm.

To sign up, go to <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?recruiterID=1380&class=OppDetails&oppGuid=7D82617D-1474-4D20-AD47-FA0306D2FD42>.

Bunco Night with WFCWC

Bunco Night will help raise money for GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman's Club's (WFCWC) Chantilly High School scholarship fund. WFCWC has awarded \$52,000 in scholarships to CHS senior girls since 1995. Enjoy an evening of merriment, prizes, refreshments, and a raffle for a \$175 gift card to The Red Door spa and help to raise funds for our 2017 scholarship winners. Tickets are \$20 per person. Bunco Night will be Tuesday, May 23 at 7:30 p.m. at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Space is limited. Tickets must be purchased in advance. Call Barbara at 703-631-7830.

In affiliation with the General Federation of Women's Clubs and GFWC Virginia, WFCWC is dedicated to promoting the civic, cultural, domestic and educational betterment of the community through volunteer service. See www.wfcwc.org.

NEWS

Scouts Present Awards of Merit

Aaron Bills and Dawn Winkler were awarded the Sully District Award of Merit for their outstanding performance to Sully District at the Annual Sully District Awards and Potluck Dessert Banquet.

These citations were read as the award was presented to them:

AARON BILLS

'Aaron started his scouting experience as a youth in the Milwaukee County Council in Wisconsin. Through Cub Scouts and Webelos, he earned the Arrow of Light and crossed over to Troop 142, where his father was a Scoutmaster. Aaron achieved the rank of Life Scout. In the midst of excessively pondering his Eagle project and as a rising 11th grader, the family relocated to Arizona, which neatly de-railed his Scouting activity.

"His formative Scout years had developed a sense of resourcefulness and purpose. His son Alex became active in Cub Scouting and Webelos at Pack 1860 where Aaron was an active parent assisting with campouts and activities. His son Alex crossed over to Troop 577 where Aaron continues to serve as an active parent and Assistant Scoutmaster. He is a Brotherhood member of the OA and is the Troop Adult Advisor to the Troop Order of the Arrow representative. He is an active participant in the OA's Sully Chapter. He provided a high level of camping activity and troop support including Troop 577 FOS Unit Coordinator where the unit over performed its goals. He has been a high adventure Troop expedition coordinator for Northern Tier, Seabase, and Philmont. "Aaron became the Sully District Vice Chairman for Finances and coordinator of the Sully District FOS Program in 2015 and has coordinated the FOS campaign over three years with 100+ percent achievement of the Sully District goal. A fixture at District and Roundtable meetings, he has been persistent to the point of annoyance, a verbose advocate of Scouting whose soliloquies have tested the patience of Randy Young and Dan Kurtenbach at Roundtables. He is focused on task, and developing new FOS revenue streams with a goal of making Sully District the most revenue-productive of all 23 Districts in NCAC. "He is currently the Strategic Advisor to AOC Solutions and was a founder of 3 Delta Systems, Incorporated."



PHOTO BY HONDO DAVIDS

District Award of Merit Recipients 2017 Aaron Bills and Dawn Winkler.

DAWN WINKLER

"Dawn Winkler grew up as a Girl Scout, but as a mother of a Cub Scout and a Boy Scout, she has become deeply involved with the Boy Scouts of America. She has made significant contributions to Scouting at both the Unit and District levels.

"Dawn has served Pack 448 as a Den Leader for four years and as an Assistant Den Leader for one year. Dawn has also been actively involved as a Camp Coordinator for Pack 448. She earned the BALOO certification and has led Pack 448 campouts for six years. She has also promoted and coordinated the Pack expeditions to Day Camp at Camp Snyder and at our own Sully District Twilight Camp

"Dawn volunteered to become the Unit Kernel for Pack 448 shortly after her oldest son joined Cub Scouts. She served as a Unit Kernel for three years and enjoyed the opportunity to motivate Scouts and support the financial stability of the Pack. She then served as Sully District Kernel for two years, helping to provide a successful fundraising program for 20 units within the District.

"In addition to Scout activities, she is an active member of Vienna Presbyterian Church, serving as a Sunday School Teacher and a Vacation Bible School Leader for eight years and teaching ESOL classes at church for over 15 years."

GET INVOLVED

Volunteers Needed

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries at 4511 Daly Dr. Suite J, Chantilly seeks individuals to volunteer for the following:

- ❖ Volunteer(s) to clean office and bathroom, Tuesday or Thursday, either 8:30-9:30 a.m. or 2:30-4 a.m.

- ❖ Volunteer(s) to answer phones and schedule appointments, Tuesday and Thursday, 2 - 4:30 p.m. Requirements: good phone skills, personable, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.

- ❖ Volunteer(s) for Client Services Intake, Monday and Friday, 9:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. Requirements: Spanish speaker preferred, ability to work with clients, able to conduct pantry tours. Interview and completed application required.

- ❖ Volunteer for Food Pantry, bagging clients' food choices, Thursday, 10:45 a.m. - 2:15 p.m. Requirements: must be able to stand for long periods of time and lift at least 25 pounds. Inter-

view and completed application required. See <http://wfcmbva.org/how-you-can-help/volunteer-program/>

Food Donations For WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of 1-2 pound bags of rice; fruit juice; jelly; red, white or black beans (can or bagged); canned vegetables (no green beans of corn needed); macaroni and cheese; can pasta; pasta sauce; and pasta (spaghetti, rotini, elbow, etc.). Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include diapers, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry's new location at 4511 Daly Dr. Suite J, Chantilly from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Mondays through Fridays.

Contact Terri Kelly at tkelly@wfcmbva.org if willing to coordinate a food drive.

Safety in the Water

Water Safety Month designed to educate public in advance of summer swimming.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

During the month of May, National Water Safety Month, water safety educators are waging a month-long campaign to educate the public about responsible water practices before the start of summer. The campaign is designed to help prevent drowning and water-related illness and injuries.

"The most important tip from swim experts [is] to have your child in perpetual swim lessons," said Gina Bewersdorf, who owns Goldfish Swim School in Reston. "Situations will always arise in which we or our children are around water, [like] at a friend's pool party, vacation near a lake, or a boating trip, so learning the necessary skills to stay safe is vital. It only takes a second for a child or adult to unsuspectingly fall into a body of water."

Constant adult supervision is the first and best way to prevent accidents in and around water, says Lisa S. Grepps, director, Marketing & Communications, The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals in Alexandria. She also recommends additional safeguards to help prevent children from gaining unsupervised access to a pool or spa or to warn of a child's presence. "But don't get lulled



Learn to swim no matter the age. This is one of the best ways to be safer in and around the water.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL

into a false sense of security with barriers and other devices as they are just backups to the primary means of accident prevention which is constant adult supervision," said Grepps.

Keeping a cell phone nearby to make a call to 911 in case of an emergency and avoiding swimming at the first sign of bad weather are two tips that Ann Thompson of Ann's Aquatics in Bethesda offers to her students and their parents. "I tell parents that certain flotation devices are great, but they are in no way a replacement for responsible adult supervision," she said. "And the supervision should be undistracted.

Don't get lost in a conversation or a phone call and divert attention away from your children, not even for a second. If you leave the pool area, no matter how brief the period of time, take the children with you."

In addition to learning to swim, Bewersdorf recommends making sure that children are taught water safety skills as well as how to perform CPR on both adults and children. "We recommend a child enroll in swim lessons as early as possible [and] year round, not just during the warmer months. Persistent swim lessons are proven to be incredibly beneficial in order to keep these life-saving skills sharp" she

said. "We offer classes as young as four months old in which the parents are constantly with their infants. This gets the child used to simply being in and around water and they learn simple safety skills."

When choosing a pool, check for an on-duty lifeguard. In cases where a lifeguard is not available, look for accessible safety equipment such as a rescue ring or pole.

"We want people to have a safe and fun time swimming and that's why [we] issue permits to all public pool facilities and routinely inspect them to ensure they are being operated in a safe and healthy manner, in accordance with Fairfax County Code," said Martin A. Thompson, Environmental Health supervisor for Fairfax County. "It's also important that swimmers take steps to maximize the health benefits of swimming while minimizing the risk of injury or illness to themselves and others."

Thompson advises adhering to other safety guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) which include looking to see if the drain at the bottom of the deep end is visible, staying out of the pool if you have diarrhea, covering any open wounds with waterproof bandages, showering before entering the pool and only using flotation devices that are Coast Guard approved.

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NEWS

Honoring Armel and Garbarino

FROM PAGE 3

and the fallen officers' families placing bouquets of flowers at each memorial. Doing so were Garbarino's widow, Sue; and daughter Katie; plus Armel's mother, Betty Owen; sister and brother-in-law, Sandy and Adrian Munday; and niece Taylor Munday.

"The family is very appreciative of the Police Department and the efforts they've made every year to recognize Vicky and Gabby's heroism and service," said Adrian Munday. "They've also done a fantastic job of taking care of the families."

"When I come here [to this station], I feel like I'm home," said Owen. "Everybody is so friendly."

"They always say, 'Gone, but not forgotten,'" added Sandy Munday. "And they really are here for us, all year 'round. Even on their days off, officers on the department's Peer Support Team take us to Police Week events. And at Christmas, they send us wreaths for our door because Vicky loved Christmas. They make you feel like you're part of the family."

Agreeing, Sue Garbarino said last week's ceremony was important because "It's all about remembering Mike and Vicky and knowing that their actions will always

be honored. And it means a lot to my girls, Katie and Natalie, that the department does so much to remember its fallen officers."

The event was also meaningful to Rohrer, who was the county's police chief on that day, 11 years ago.

"I'll always remember Vicky and Mike for what they did, and how well the officers at this station



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Lt. Alan Hanson and Vicky Armel's brother-in-law, Adrian Munday (on right), watch as Armel's mother, Betty Owen, lays flowers at her memorial.

responded to the tragedy," he said. "And I'll always remember — 'til the day I pass — how well the community supported us with the candlelight vigils and how much respect they had for the Police Department and the families. They just embraced us."

"When I came to the first candlelight vigil, the officers were huddled inside the station," said Rohrer. "But they eventually came outside and were literally embraced by the crowd. And it meant so much to see how much the community cared for them."



Det. Vicky Armel's memorial at her former parking space at the police station.



Chaplain Shawn Perkins gives the invocation.

Forensics

FROM PAGE 3

nice, especially since I got to compete side-by-side with Naguib Zekeria, and we were first and second place the whole time, so it really was us pushing to emote and evoke emotion.”

She added: “When we work together as a team and give constructive criticism, I think every individual win was a team win.”

First-year team member Kylee Marciello, 17, a junior from Chantilly, took first place for Serious Duo Interpretation along with Aris Stovall. They interpreted Kathryn Stockett’s book, “The Help,” whose overarching theme was racism. It was made into a 2011 movie starring Emma Stone, Viola Davis and Octavia Spencer.

“We interpreted the book. When Aris and I first started, we zoned into establishing distinct character voices. We worked for hours and hours. We worked on voices; we were brutally honest with each other,” she said. “So we eventually incorporated distinct character voices and we decided to incorporate as much

“We placed in every single category, which is ridiculously amazing.”

— Barbara Clougherty, speech and debate teacher, Chantilly High School

blocking as we could.”

“We don’t shy away from difficult topics,” added Clougherty. “Whether it’s domestic abuse, racism, social justice, transgender issues or father-son relationships — I think we do dive into the complexities of those issues.”

On her win, Marciello said: “Honestly, it was very eye-opening for me in the sense that speech really changed my life; it gave me a different outlook on things. Winning the states was the best day of my life; it was a very liberating experience for me. I’m definitely a changed person for it.”

Another member of the team, Kate Wozniak, 17, a junior from Chantilly, won second place in Impromptu, one of the non-interpretive events. “I love getting to be spontaneous; it’s really nerve-racking because I could literally give a speech on anything,” she said.

She said with Impromptu, she’s given three topics: either people, events or quotes, and has seven minutes to plan a speech with structure, examples, and a message. “I talk about something different every single time,” she said. The topics could be social or political, or about “SNL” or the Russian interference in the election.

She added: “I honestly feel lucky to be part of a team like this ... So to win with the team is icing on the cake. I’ve found something that I am passionate about.”

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New To Some, Old News To Others



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

For those of you unfamiliar with my column: in Burke, Springfield, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Mount Vernon and Alexandria, welcome aboard the Kenny train. I have been writing a weekly column for Connection Newspapers since December 1997 appearing primarily in our “Tuesday papers,” as we call them: Vienna/Oakton, McLean, Great Falls, Reston, Oak Hill/Herndon, Arlington, Chantilly, Centre View and Potomac. The question has persisted among friends and family: Ken he continue to, as my older brother Richard jokes, “churn out this dribble?” Apparently so, if the last 19 and half years are any indication.

Back in the day when I first had to characterize my column for various local yearly Press Association editorial contests (of which I have won nearly a dozen awards), I would write “Everything in general about nothing in particular.” A great friend of mine, Edward Faine, himself an accomplished author — of children’s and jazz books, and a small press publisher as well, has described my columns as “Thoughtful humor and insightful commentary.” Perhaps between these two quotes you’ll get a sense of what you’re likely to get from my weekly wondering.

And so it continued until June 2009. That’s when I published my first column about a diagnostic process which had been ongoing since New Years Day which ultimately lead to a lung cancer diagnosis delivered to “Team Lourie” on Feb. 27, 2009 (you bet you remember the date). That column, entitled “Dying to Find Out, Sort Of,” chronicled the process, excruciating as it was/is that one often endures attempting to determine the cause of a medical problem; in my case, a pain in my left-side rib cage which a day or so later, migrated to my right-side and eventually took my breath away — almost literally, especially when inhaling and/or bending over. This difficulty forced me off the couch and into my car for a drive over to the Emergency Room. Once the diagnosis was confirmed, I wrote another column entitled “Dying to Tell You, Sort Of” which detailed the findings of the nearly eight weeks the process took to specify my diagnosis: stage IV, non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Out of the blue, I had become “terminal,” as my oncologist described me, and given a “13 month to two-year” prognosis to boot. Surreal, which is a common description offered by many in similar situations, is how one feels after receiving news of this kind, and only begins to tell the tale of the change and evolution in the individual’s life living forward into treatment and subsequently beyond into the great unknown.

This ‘great unknown’ is mostly what I have written about and published ever since; “cancer columns” (original I know) is what I call them. Occasionally, I will write a non-cancer column, one a month or so, depending on my experiences. These columns will address non-cancer issues of the day, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous. Most recently topics have included the movie “The Exorcist,” “Exercising a Demon,” paying for things with a credit card: “Credit the Card,” reacting to advertising for grass seed and riding mowers: “And So It Begins,” and buying in bulk: “Bulky Boy,” but never/well, almost never do I write about my wife, Dina; I have been warned.

Though the recurring theme of these columns is cancer, the content is rarely morbid or dare I say, self-indulgent, believe it or not. I try to make fun a very “unfun” set of circumstances. I’m still writing about life; now however, it’s life in the cancer lane, a road unlike any I had ever traveled before. Nevertheless, I’ve gotten through eight years and nearly three months of it relatively incident free, save for a week in the hospital three and a half years ago. And yes, I am still undergoing treatment.

I hope you readers will be semi amused at the slings and arrows of outrageous misfortune upon which my columns are based. Please know: the significance of their content is not that it is me writing them, it is that cancer is being written about.

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

ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

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.

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.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 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.

Over-40 Softball League. A Fairfax-based league is looking for enough players to form another team. Players must be at least 40 years of age to be eligible. All games are doubleheaders -played on Sundays at Bready Park in Herndon between 11 a.m. and 6 p.m. If interested, email skeduman@aol.com for more.

THURSDAY/MAY 18

Clifton Homes Tour. 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton. Protective booties will be provided and must be worn in all homes. Heels are discouraged. No smoking, cameras, food or drink permitted inside the homes. No children under 12, including infants, on the homes tour. Visit cliftoncwc.org for more.

FRIDAY/MAY 19

Bike to Work Day 2017. Registration — now open — is free and open to anyone who commutes in the region, from first timers to daily cyclists. All registrants will be entered in a regional bicycle raffle, and the first 16,000 to register and attend will receive a free t-shirt at one of more than 85 pit-stops throughout Northern Virginia. Participants can register online at www.biketoworkmetrodc.org. Email Megan Goodman at mgoodman@mmwcog.org, or call 202-962-3209 for more.

SATURDAY/MAY 20

Health Walks. 8 or 9 a.m. at 505



The Fairfax Ballet Company's presentation of "The Doll Shop," May 20 and May 21 at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. Showtimes are Saturday, May 20, 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, May 21, 4 p.m.

Huntmar Park Drive, Herndon. My Health Matters 5K or 1 Mile Walk and Health Fair. Sponsored by Dulles Chamber of Commerce. Visit www.dulleschamber.org for more.

Clifton Caboose Run. 6 p.m. in the Town of Clifton. The Clifton Betterment Association is hosting its Annual Clifton Caboose Twilight Run. Visit www.cliftonva.org for more.

and Sunday, 4 p.m. The Fairfax Ballet Company's presentation of "The Doll Shop," May 20 and May 21 at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road. Call 703-327-1757 for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 21

N-Gauge Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge T-TRAK model train

show. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

WEDNESDAY/MAY 24

Art at The Library. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Every fourth Wednesday is an art activity. May theme: "Portraits." Bring a small hand mirror, sketchbook and pencils, and learn the basics of drawing a portrait and getting a likeness. Teens and adults. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to register. Refreshments provided.

SUNDAY/MAY 28

Memorial Day Service. 5:30 p.m. at Church of the Ascension, 13941 Braddock Road. Visit www.ascension-acc.org/ for more.

FRIDAY/JUNE 2

Grand Opening. 9 a.m. at At Home, at 13910 Metrotech Drive. Ribbon cutting of a 100,00-square-foot home decor store. Visit www.athome.com/ for more.

Forks, Corks and Kegs. 6-11 p.m. at St Andrew the Apostle School, 6720 Union Mill Road, Clifton. A tasting festival of local breweries, Virginia wines, and food trucks with a live band, lawn games, and silent auction. Old Bust Head, Bad Wolf, Heritage, Forge Brew Works, and Growling Bear breweries will be pouring. \$55 in advance, \$65 at door. Visit hand.bid/standrew for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 3

Fair Lakes SpringFest. 1-4:30 p.m. in the parking lot at 12450 Fair Lakes Circle. Live performances, strolling characters, Whole Foods Market Kids Marketplace, dance troupes, instrument petting zoo, carnival games, face painting, fire and police vehicle tours, food, and community booths. Email beth@theskygroupinc.com or call 301-452-1459 for more.

JUNE 3-4

Civil War Living History weekend. Various times at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road. Demonstrations of camp life, musket firings, candle making, Civil War re-enactors from the Victorian Dance Ensemble of the Civil War Dance Foundation in formal ball dress of the time dancing and teaching authentic dance steps of that period. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 4

Wine, Whiskers and Wags. 1-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Benefit hosted by Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter. Wine tasting, food, a silent auction, raffle and much more. Well-behaved children and dogs welcome. Admission is \$40/person in advance and \$45 at the door. Visit ffcas.org for more.

SATURDAY/JUNE 10

Festival to Fight Cancer. 7:30-11 a.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. A 2-mile run with all of the funds will be donated to Special Love, a non profit organization that provides camps, programs, and financial aid for families affected by childhood cancer. Visit wildcatscancer.wixsite.com for more.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CENTREVILLE COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

The Church of the Ascension

Traditional Anglican Catholic Services

Memorial Day Prayer Service
Sunday, May 28th at 5:00 p.m.

Holy Communion 10 a.m. Sundays



www.ascension-acc.org

13941 Braddock Road
Centreville VA 20120
in the "Old Stone Church"
of Historic Centreville

(703) 830-3176



To highlight
your faith
community,
call
Karen
at
703-778-9422



Centreville United Methodist Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ,
We Worship, Grow and Serve Together

Sunday Worship Services

Traditional:

8:15 AM

9:30 AM

11:00 AM

Contemporary:

11:02 AM

Nursery, Children, Youth
and Adult Sunday School
at 9:30 and 11:00 AM



Worshipping God - Serving Others

6400 Old Centreville Road, Centreville VA 20121
www.Centreville-UMC.org ~ 703-830-2684
Corner of New Braddock and Route 28

Christian Preschool for ages 2 1/2 to 6 years old: 571-522-1875

The Church of the Ascension

(703) 830-3176 www.ascension-acc.org

Centreville Baptist Church

(703) 830-3333 www.cbcva.org

Centreville United Methodist Church

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



Life is better connected

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sundays at 9:15 am & 10:45 am

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Sundays at 8:00, 9:15 & 10:45 am

15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120
703-830-3333 www.cbcva.org