

# Chantilly

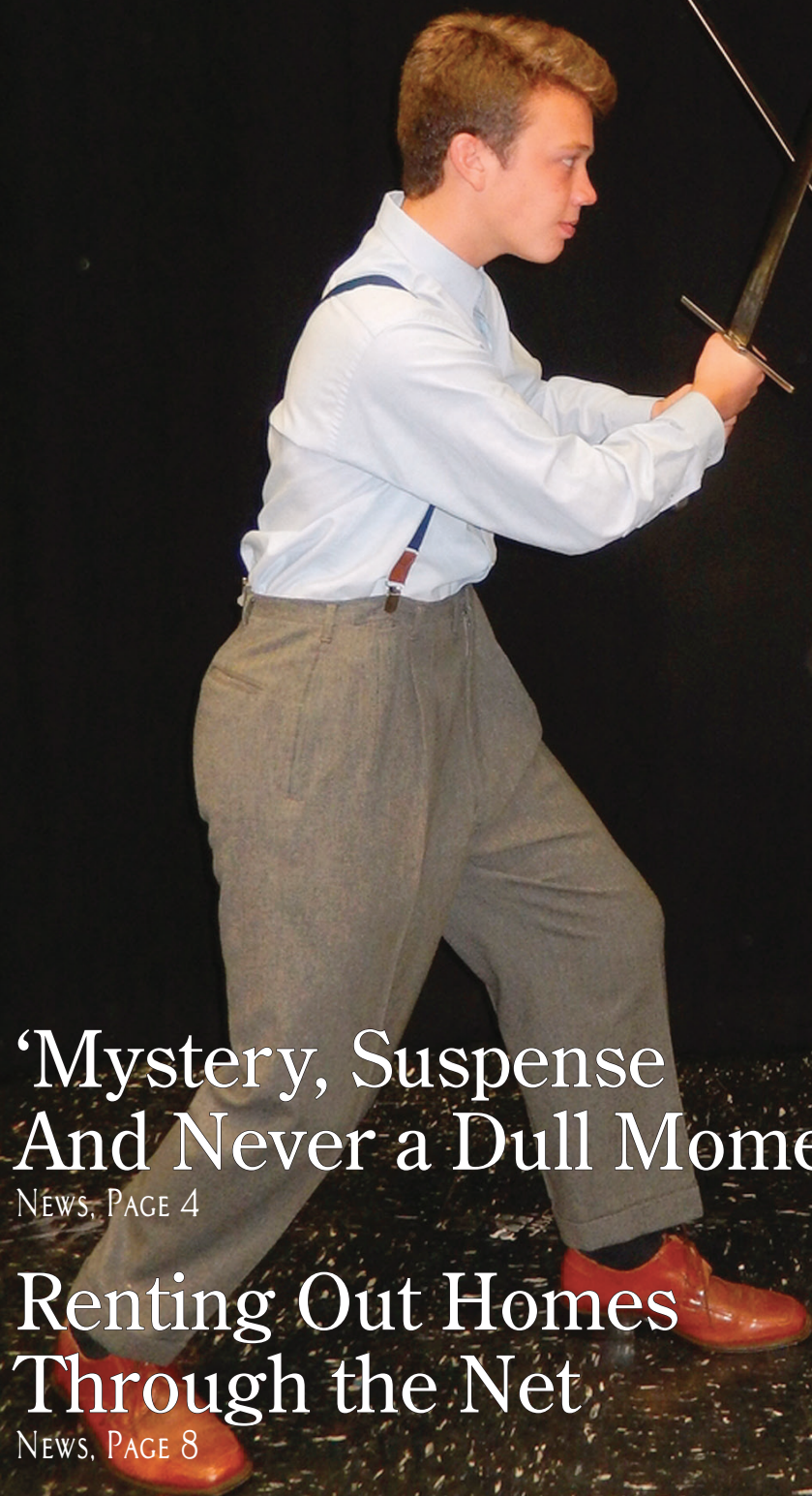
## CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

## HomeLifeStyle

PAGE 9

Dueling in Westfield High's upcoming play, "The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe," are John Henry Stamper and Molly Van Trees.



### 'Mystery, Suspense And Never a Dull Moment'

NEWS, PAGE 4

### Renting Out Homes Through the Net

NEWS, PAGE 8

### Local Designers Help Light Up the Season

HOME LIFESTYLE, PAGE 9

## Good and Evil Meet in Narnia

NEWS, PAGE 3

CALENDAR, PAGE 7 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

NOVEMBER 8-14, 2017

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# NEWS



Join us at the 6<sup>th</sup> annual

## Innovate – Precision Health Conference

The Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce with Virginia Bio and Vibrent Health will host the 6th annual Innovate Conference on **Wednesday, November 15, 2017** at Inova Center for Personalized Health in Fairfax, Va. Focused on precision medicine, the conference will address topics on **"Bringing Data to Life: Digital transformation of Personalized Health and Medicine."**

**Location:** Inova Center for Personalized Health,  
3225 Gallows Road, Fairfax  
**Date/Time Information:** Wednesday, Nov. 15,  
8:00 AM - 12:15 PM

**Sponsorship Opportunities:** Contact John Boylan at  
JBoylan@DullesChamber.org, 571-323-5301  
**Registration:** [www.dulleschamber.org](http://www.dulleschamber.org)



**Harold Garnett, 27, is mourned by his family and friends.**



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**The tragedy happened in the parking lot outside Velocity 5 in Centreville.**

# Police Investigate Killing

**Friends, family mourn man killed outside local sports bar.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**F**riday nights are fun times to be in a sports bar. But a fight that erupted in the parking lot of Velocity 5 in Centreville, early Saturday morning after it closed, left one man dead, another injured, one person in custody and two others on the run.

Fairfax County police were called to the scene at 5825 Trinity Pkwy. around 2:15 a.m. on Nov. 4 for a possible stabbing. There, they found Centreville resident Harold Garnett, 27, with wounds to his upper body.

He was rushed to the hospital – where he later died – while responding officers immediately searched the area for the perpetrator. One of the K-9 units found the suspect hiding in some nearby bushes. He's identified as Vidal Flores Cuchillas, 38, of Centreville.

Police arrested him and took him to the Adult Detention Center, where he's being held without bond. Flores Cuchillas was originally charged with malicious wounding; but now that Garnett has died, detectives planned to meet with the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to possibly amend the charge to murder. Flores Cuchillas has a Jan. 24, 2018 court date.

"[Garnett] was taken to the hospital in critical condition and was expected to survive," said police. "[But] his condition worsened throughout the day and he was pronounced dead Saturday evening."

Now, detectives are seeking witnesses to the incident – as well as to what led up to it – and anyone with information is asked to contact Det. John Vickery at 703-246-7865. Police believe up to 50 people witnessed both incidents and they're hoping to speak to as many of them as possible.

They're also looking for two, additional suspects because a second person was also assaulted during the fight. Police say preliminary investigation revealed that Flores Cuchillas and two other, as-yet unidentified people allegedly assaulted a 26-year-old man before running away. That victim wasn't taken to the hospital, but did sustain minor injuries.

So any information the public can provide could be crucial to further arrests. "No matter how minor a detail may seem, it could be what our detectives

need to piece together what happened or lead to the identities of the two, outstanding suspects," said police. They're described as thin, Hispanic men in their mid to late 20s, Detectives believe they were active participants in the fight, but are only suspects in the second assault case, not Garnett's murder.

Police spokeswoman, Officer Reem Awad, said Monday that police don't yet have an idea what Flores Cuchillas and Garnett were arguing about prior to their altercation. She also said the two men did not know each other prior to coming to the sports bar. But, said Awad, Garnett and the second victim knew each other.

Garnett was also well-known and well-liked by the staff at Velocity 5, which made the following statement on its Facebook page, Sunday, Nov. 5:

"The Velocity Five family was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic events that occurred in our parking lot on Saturday, Nov. 4. We are broken at the loss of our friend. Most importantly, we send our most heartfelt condolences to [the] family of the victim involved. He was our respected friend, as well. Our customers and communities are our priority; and, without equivocation, our hearts are broken and our prayers go up for them.

"Our restaurant had been closed for approximately 40 minutes at the time of the incident. Our staff, while doing final closing procedures, heard a fight at the far end of the parking lot. One of our executive team members was able to contact the police quickly. Our main focus is actively cooperating in this ongoing, criminal investigation.

Again, we are deeply saddened by the loss of one of our regular guests and friends. We will miss the joy and happiness he brought to the restaurant daily. We are all heartbroken at this loss."

In a Sunday-night interview with reporter Michael Quander of WUSA-TV channel 9, Garnett's sister described her brother as a "kind and giving person" and said he was stabbed in the heart. Garnett's mother, Josette Garnett, said her son called her Friday night before going to Velocity 5. She said he was crying on the phone, but wouldn't tell her why.

As for her son's assailant, she said, "He didn't have to take his life. I have forgiven him, in order to move on with my life, but I want answers. I want to know why."

Meanwhile, a Go Fund Me page, [www.gofundme.com/young-soul-gone-too-soon](http://www.gofundme.com/young-soul-gone-too-soon), has been set up to raise money for Garnett's funeral expenses and his children. The goal is \$8,000, and donations are already past the halfway point.

On that page, Marta wrote on behalf of the family: **SEE POLICE INVESTIGATE. PAGE 5**

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# Good and Evil Meet in Narnia

Westfield High presents “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.”

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**A**n engrossing tale of fantasy, magic and adventure — that’s “The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe,” Westfield High’s upcoming play. Featuring a cast and crew of 45, it’s based on the iconic “Narnia” book series by C.S. Lewis.

The curtain rises Friday-Saturday, Nov. 17-18, at 7 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at the door and \$10 via [www.westfieldtheatre.com](http://www.westfieldtheatre.com).

It’s the story of four siblings during WWII in England, after their parents send them to a professor’s house in the country to keep them safe. There they find a magical wardrobe that transports them to the mythical world of Narnia, where they meet both friends and enemies and have fantastic escapades before finding their way back.

The scenes take place in a wintry forest in Narnia. “We have a simple, clean-cut, beautiful set that creates the atmosphere that makes Narnia such a whimsical place,” said Director Rachel Harrington. “And our actors wear costumes suggesting animals, magical creatures and people in 1940s’ attire.”

“We’re creating a world that people can only see in their imaginations,” she continued. “And the actors and crew have done a really nice job of bringing all these make-believe elements to life. This show is also important for our time right now because it’s about good defeating evil, in the grand scheme of things.”



**Good vs. evil: From left are Gene Kim (the lion), Alison Brown, Diana Witt, John Henry Stamper and Colin Brown being threatened by Molly Van Trees as the witch.**

Harrington said this play will take audience members back to their childhoods. “It’s based on a popular children’s book, and the children in the story are discovering magic and mystery, just as we all do, at some point in our lives,” she said. “Our top-notch cast is doing a fabulous job and the show’s technical aspects are impressive, too.”

Senior Diana Witt portrays 13-year-old Susan Pevensie, the older sister and second oldest of the four siblings. “She’s very pre-

cocious and the mother figure who keeps her brothers in line and is the caretaker for her younger sister,” said Witt. “She’s wise, but a little shy. She likes exploring her new surroundings, but is a bit more cautious than the other kids.”

Witt enjoys her role because, she said, “I like the relationship I’ve built with the actors playing my siblings. We can play and joke around while exploring our characters together. Susan’s world is very imaginative and whimsical, and it’s fun and interesting to step into that other world.”

Will says the play will “definitely appeal to a wide range of people, from children to adults and families. And the kids’ excitement about the show will make us even more excited to perform it. There’ll be a lot of dazzling, technical aspects that’ll create the world of Narnia, and it’s a really charming and enchanting show. The siblings and their relationships are relatable, but the audience will also get that fantastic, make-believe element of Narnia, too.”

Playing Aslan, the mighty lion of Narnia, is senior Gene Kim. “He’s the very mysterious, powerful ruler of Narnia,” said Kim. “He’s noble, brave and strong, but also compassionate and caring. He’s willing to make sacrifices for other people. And he’s not always around; he’s a busy lion, often off doing business in other countries. And because of that, he comes off as mysterious; yet the people of Narnia honor and respect him because they know he only has good intentions.”

Kim likes portraying him because “He’s mature and a very powerful character. He’s

a leader responsible for the wellbeing of the whole of Narnia. And it’s nice to play such an important character because, without him, the four siblings wouldn’t have the right guidance.”

Kim says the audience will like the show’s many fairytale elements, such as unicorns and animals portrayed by people, spells, talking animals and magical weather. “It’s a story for everybody — all ages can enjoy it and learn something from it,” he said. “Aslan draws a parallel to Jesus; so the moral is that, if you make sacrifices for the good of other people, things will always work out.”

Playing the oldest sibling, Peter, 16, is sophomore John Henry Stamper. “Peter’s responsible, noble and caring and looks out for his siblings,” said Stamper. “He acts like a prince and ensures everyone’s safety before making a big decision. He’s friendly and sometimes over-protective, but he just wants the best for his siblings, since their parents aren’t around.”

Stamper is an older brother, in real life, so he relates to his character. But he also likes his part because, he said, “I have two fight scenes with real, steel swords. Although they’re dull, when they clash, they make a really cool sound. My friend, sophomore Hayden Cutler, taught us stage combat, and I get to fight a monster and an ice witch.”

He said many people will be familiar with the story since it’s from a famous book they’ve read. In addition, said Stamper, “There are lots of talking animals in a huge fantasy land, the story’s based around a Biblical allusion and the set is extensive. The beaver house is on one side of the stage, and the fawn house is on the other side, and there’s a lamp post and trees. It’s a realistic-looking set.”

Senior Molly Van Trees portrays the witch, Jadis, the Queen of Narnia. “She’s cold, calculating and cutthroat,” said Van Trees. “She’ll do anything to keep her claws in Narnia and keep ruling it and make sure nothing stands in her way. She’s aggressive, mean and a really nasty character.”

Van Trees enjoys playing the witch, she said, because “She’s smart, cunning and ruthless, and I’m small and bubbly. So it’s fun playing this big, imposing character who strikes fear into the heart of Narnia. And we have really cool, choreographed, fight scenes with swords, and it’s fun to ‘fight’ your friends. It’s a physically demanding role, but fun, and I get to step out of my own comfort zone.”

She said audiences will like the actors’ “portrayal of such an iconic and well-known story. Our representation is going to be different from the movie, and that’s refreshing. They’ll also like our ensemble — we have a cool, little community of creatures that’s really going to shine onstage.”



**Portraying the four siblings are (from left) Alison Brown, Diana Witt, John Henry Stamper and Colin Brown.**

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS



# 'Mystery, Suspense and Never a Dull Moment'

**"Dracula" takes the stage at Centreville High.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

**B**eware, "Dracula" is about to take the stage at Centreville High. But this version is different from what's usually seen.

"It's a refreshing take on that old story and not the typical interpretation of Dracula in a black cape," said Director Mike Hudson. "It's a retelling of the novel, but doesn't lend itself to a lot of blood and gore. It's fine for middle-schoolers and up, and even mature sixth-graders."

In Centreville's play, he said, "The people all appear to be normal. There's nothing grotesquely abnormal about Dracula, either, but he does have his bad moments. Still, the audience will probably feel more pity and sympathy toward him, by the end of the show."

It features a cast and crew of 30, with seniors portraying most of the main characters. "They're probably one of the strongest groups of seniors I've had," said Hudson. "They play off and support each other and work well together, I think they're really going to be a delight to see." He also praised student Jameson Crouse, his assistant director, for being "an invaluable help to me."

Showtimes are Friday, Nov. 17, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Nov. 18, at 3 and 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Nov. 19, at 3 p.m. \$10 at the door or via [www.theatrecentreville.com](http://www.theatrecentreville.com).

"The lighting and scenery will be very atmospheric," said Hudson. "The set is a huge slab of stone with stairs and columns on all sides. The horror of the story leaves all the characters feeling isolated and helpless, so they move into and out of that granite plateau."

Since the story takes place in late 19<sup>th</sup> century Transylvania and England, the actors wear Victorian-era costumes. Boys will don vests and cutaway coats, and girls will wear bustles and floor-length dresses. And several characters will portray Dracula's victims through the ages, as ghosts, serving as set dressing among the scenery.

Adding to the ambiance, said Hudson, "The sound for this show is very complex. A musical soundtrack and special sound effects play on top of each other."

Senior Andrew Dettmer plays the title role and describes "Dracula" as a horror drama filled with mysterious happenings. "Bite marks appear on people's necks and these people start acting strangely," he said. "There are also two couples and budding romance mixed in, which adds to the story's tension."

As a vampire, said Dettmer, "Dracula is the play's unsettling antagonist. He's a count living in a castle in Transylvania and wants to buy a new property in England. He has many facets to his creepiness. At times, he's



The cast of Centreville High's "Dracula" poses with Director Mike Hudson (front, center).

cold and collected; other times, he has volcanic anger. He's shown as both younger and older versions of himself, so it's fun to play them. He displays affection toward some of the female characters, but it's debatable whether it's love or desire — and that plays into his controlling nature."

Dettmer's enjoying his role because "This is my first, full-on villain and I get to be creepy and scary and wear cool fangs. And it's interesting working with the other characters to make them terrified of me. I also get to assume totally different traits and physicality from my own."

He said the audience will like "The aesthetic of the timeframe, as well as the imagery of torment, horror and carnage. There are characters to root for, and we'll have professional background music and sound effects. There's a lot going on in the story, clues to what's happening are layered throughout, and it all builds to a thrilling climax."

Senior Margot Vanyan portrays Mina. She's real-estate agent Jonathan Harker's fiancé and best friend to Lucy, who becomes one of Dracula's victims. "Mina is a very intelligent woman for her time," said Vanyan. "She's maternal and motherly to all the characters, except for Jonathan and Dracula. She's feminine, but thinks like a man. She's also a lady and a gentle, loving friend toward Lucy."

"I particularly love acting in this show because of all the interactions the characters have with each other," continued Vanyan. "Mina is unlike anything I've ever played before, someone so tender and motherly. And she's critical to the plot — almost all the actions revolve around her and Jonathan, in a way."

While noting that "Dracula" is a dark play, Vanyan said it's not depressing. "It's almost like fantasy," she said. "There aren't many plays like it, and it'll grab the audience's attention. There'll be really cool special effects, and Jenny Lee, who plays Lucy, does a spectacular job of transitioning from human to vampire. It's captivating to watch her."

Lee, also a senior, said Lucy is one of Dracula's first victims. "She's naïve and flirty, unaware of how she hurts with her naivete, but she's a good person at heart," said Lee. "She's sheltered, but has three suitors and is having a difficult time choosing which one to marry. And it was improper at the time being able to consider being in love with more than one man."

Lee likes playing Lucy because "She screams a lot — which is great fun. At one point, she even gets to be a little creepy. It's also my first time being cast with some of my really close friends, so it's great being able to show that chemistry onstage."

She said the audience will enjoy the play because "It'll have a lot of cool blocking and costumes, so it'll be visually appealing. And it's always fun to watch melodramatic shows because the actors and audience are having a good time, and it'll immediately pull people into the story. So it's melodramatic in the best way possible. The actors really put a lot of effort into this show; and with this production's high energy level, the audience can't help but be excited about it, too."

Portraying Renfield is senior Alex Wells. "He's a lunatic who, in his search for eternal life, has been Dracula's servant from afar," said Wells. "He lives in an asylum in England and Dracula controls him. He oc-

asionally has moments of extreme lucidity, when he speaks about life — and even life as a character in literature. He's also decided that, by eating other life forms, he can prolong his own life. He's just really crazy and single-minded."

As Renfield, said Wells, "I get to yell and scream and put great intensity into the character. And I like how he interacts with others. He doesn't respond the way other people want him to, but goes off on his own tangent. So I don't have to restrain myself onstage; I can be sporadic and random, and it fits the character even better."

The audience will like this play's continual suspense, said Wells. "From the very beginning to the very end, they'll be wondering what's going to happen next — and even when they're walking home," he said. "The playwright does an excellent job of maintaining the mystery and darkness of the original book."

Senior Paul Anderson plays Jonathan Harker. "He's selling a house in London to Dracula," said Anderson. "He's sort of the reason everything goes wrong — because if it weren't for him selling the house, there wouldn't be any problems. He's a nice guy, but loses it and doesn't come back to sanity until the end."

Also liking his part, Anderson said, "I put a lot of emotions onstage to express whatever Harker's feeling. He has the first encounter with Dracula, so he understands what everybody else is up against and is involved in everything."

Anderson said the audience will love the show's drama. "There's always something happening around every corner," he said. "Every scene adds suspense, there's great acting and there's never a dull moment."



## NEWS

# Police Investigate Killing

FROM PAGE 2

"On Nov. 4, we lost an all-around amazing person. There are no words to properly describe him, for he is so many things. He was, kind, funny, smart and had a big life ahead of him. Most of all, he was loved by everyone who knew him. One look at his smile and you knew it [would] make your day. Much like there are no words to describe the magnificent person we lost, there is no way to describe how our family feels.

"We cannot express how deeply he was loved by us and everyone around him. We are truly and deeply saddened by our loss. We all are hurting and handling things the way we know how to. Some go to Facebook to pay their respects in pictures and kind words. Some sit quietly trying to process their loss.

"We all are grieving his loss – myself, his dad, mom, grandmothers, brother, sisters, son, cousins and all his friends and family. We want our family and friends to find peace, and [we] hope that hosting a cel-



**Vidal Flores Cuchillas**

bration for Harold will give him a life with wings in heaven."

On Nov. 6, relative Samantha Maria Garnett added to that page. "Our family and friends are remaining strong and sticking together as one for Harold," she wrote. "We

want to thank everyone for all the love, prayers and donations."

Others posted there, too. One woman wrote, "Not only was he was one of my favorite regulars at V5, he was my friend. Love and miss you dearly, Harold, aka 'bartender.' I don't know what my Friday nights will be like now without you."

Another person wrote, "Rest in peace, Harold. You're gone, but will never be forgotten." And yet another wrote, "May his soul rise to the heavens and dwell with the living God."

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar).

#### DEADLINE NOV. 13

**Apply for Fuel Assistance.** To apply online or to check eligibility for services, visit [commonhelp.virginia.gov](http://commonhelp.virginia.gov). Applications may also be submitted by telephone at 855-635-4370.

#### TUESDAY/NOV. 14

**VDOT I-66 Hearings.** 6-8:30 p.m. at the Stone Middle School Cafeteria, 5500 Sully Park Drive, Centreville. Design Public Hearings on the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project regarding plans for project segment 2 from Route 29 in Centreville to Route 50. Visit [transform66.org](http://transform66.org) for more.

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# OPINION

## Be Part of Children's Issue 2017

Get creative and send art, poetry and more.

**D**uring the last week of each year, this newspaper devotes its pages to the creativity of local students and children. The results are always remarkable. It is a keepsake edition for many families. Even readers without children of that age spend time admiring and chuckling over the issue. The annual Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View) is a tradition of well over a decade.

### EDITORIAL

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, individuals and homeschoolers. We publish artwork, poetry, essays, creative writing, opinion pieces, short stories, photography, photos of sculpture or gardens or other creative efforts.

We ask that all submissions be digital so they can be sent through email or delivered on CD or flash drive. Writing should be submitted in rich text format (.rtf). Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions:

- ❖ Drawings or paintings or photographs of

your family, friends, pets or some favorite activity. These should be photographed or scanned and submitted in jpeg format. Photos of sculpture or larger art projects are also welcome.

- ❖ Short answers (50 to 100 words) to some of the following questions: If you could give your parents, family or friends any gift that didn't cost money what would that gift be? What are you most looking forward to in the upcoming year? What is one thing that you would change about school? What do you want to be when you grow up? What is your favorite animal? What is your favorite toy? What makes a good parent? What makes a good friend? Describe one of the best or worst things that ever happened to you? What is the best gift you've ever been given? Ever received?

- ❖ Your opinion (50 to 100 words) about traffic, sports, restaurants, video games, toys, trends, politics, etc.

- ❖ Poetry or other creative writing.

- ❖ News stories from school newspapers.

- ❖ Photos and text about activities or events.

To be published, we must have the full first and last name of the student artist/writer.

Identify each piece of writing or art, including the student's full name, age, grade and town of residence, plus the name of the school, name of teacher and town of school location. Home schoolers' contributions are welcomed.

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 1. The Children's Edition will publish the last week of 2017.

To send CDs or flash drives containing artwork and typed, electronic submissions, mark them clearly by school and hometown and mail the CD or flash drive to: Children's Connection (including Children's Gazette, Children's Almanac and Children's Centre View), 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314.

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to the following editors:

- ❖ For Burke, Clifton, Fairfax, Fairfax Station, Great Falls, Herndon, Lorton, McLean, Reston, or Springfield, email to Kemal Kurspahic at kemal@connectionnewspapers.com.

- ❖ For Alexandria, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly, Mount Vernon, or Potomac, Md., email to Steven Mauren at smauren@connectionnewspapers.com.

See last year's editions by visiting [www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/PDFs/) and scroll down to Children's Edition.

## 'Pride and Prejudice' at Chantilly High

BY ABBIGAIL ALM  
POTOMAC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

**"I**t is a truth universally acknowledged that a single man in possession of a large fortune must be in want of a wife." The opening first line in Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" rings more true for her characters than the Bennets' dressing-bell. Adapted from the novel in 1936, it was initially well received in London, despite having to make multiple cuts for the sake of time.

Revolving around the prejudiced Elizabeth Bennet and her doting mother urging her to find a husband, Elizabeth meets the prideful Mr. Darcy, a friend of their neighbor, Mr. Bingley. They immediately show a distaste for each other at the Bennet's ball,

### CAPPIES REVIEW

until Mr. Darcy proclaims his admiration for her to Mr. Bingley's sister, Caroline. Immediately following, Reverend Collins, a cousin of Mr. Bennet, declares that he will ask Elizabeth for her hand in marriage. Mr. Darcy suppresses his feelings and leaves to find Mr. Bingley, who had since fallen in love with Elizabeth's beautiful older sister, Jane. Mr. Darcy and Caroline convince Mr. Bingley that his feelings towards Jane are not reciprocated. Mr. Bingley leaves for London, as Jane anxiously awaits a letter from him. Jane decides to go to London herself to find the Bingley's, where she bumps into Caroline, who tells her that Mr. Bingley had since found a fiancée. Jane returns home, distraught by the news. Meanwhile, Mr. Collins, still staying with the Bennet's, is rejected by Elizabeth. Mr. Darcy, after getting word of this, makes his move on



Zaid Al-Nouman and  
Aris Stovall

PHOTO BY  
ANDY SHAW

Elizabeth, only to be rejected as well; Elizabeth tells him that, because of what he told Mr. Bingley, Jane couldn't marry her true love.

Played by Alex Yee, Mr. Darcy was portrayed phenomenally, especially in the second act. Becoming a much more endearing character, he captured the audience's hearts and minds with his polished ideals and his proclamations of love to Elizabeth; played by Aris Stovall, she twists Elizabeth into the endearing, yet slightly condescending young woman that she is. Annie Silva's portrayal of the charismatic Mrs. Bennet relied on motherly instinct and energetic physical comedy, which played out spectacularly in the long run. Playing off of her humor, Mr. Bennet, played by Zaid Al-Nouman, bounced back and forth between comedic aggravation and commentary of his family's hi-jinks.

Along with the elaborate, rotating set, special effects were used to make moving projections in the windows of each scene, adding more dimension to the background. The string quartet in the ballroom scene also made the story feel more alive, while not overpowering on the actor's voices, who projected their voices well. The hand-made, period-appropriate costumes and expertly-styled wigs showed the dedication the stage crew had to the show. The publicity team packed the house with their clever methods of advertising in their school, as well as in their community.

Austen's subtle commentary of the titular 1800's England makes "Pride and Prejudice" notable, even today. Her characters set the boundaries for many archetypes, exploring the dilemmas of love, pride, and wealth. Both as a novel and play, it remains relevant for every tomorrow there'll ever be.

## Chantilly CONNECTION

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**NEWS DEPARTMENT:**  
[chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Steven Mauren**  
Editor, 703-778-9415  
[smauren@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:smauren@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Mike Salmon**  
Assistant Editor  
[msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:msalmon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Bonnie Hobbs**  
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415  
[bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Andrea Worker**  
Reporter  
[aworker@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:aworker@connectionnewspapers.com)

**ADVERTISING:**  
For advertising information  
[sales@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspapers.com)  
703-778-9431

**Debbie Funk**  
National Sales  
703-778-9444  
[debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com)

**David Griffin**  
Marketing Assistant  
703-778-9431  
[dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor & Publisher**  
Mary Kimm  
[mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@MaryKimm

**Executive Vice President**  
Jerry Vernon  
703-549-0004  
[jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com)

**Editor in Chief**  
Steven Mauren  
**Managing Editor**  
Kemal Kurspahic  
**Art/Design:**  
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,  
Ali Khaligh  
**Production Manager:**  
Geovani Flores

**Special Assistant to the Publisher**  
Jeanne Theismann  
[jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com)  
@TheismannMedia

**CIRCULATION**  
[circulation@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:circulation@connectionnewspapers.com)

A Connection Newspaper



# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 703-425-9225.

**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.

**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](http://www.nvshag.org).

**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](http://www.fairfaxjubilairs.org).

**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.

**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.

**Lego Block Party.** Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.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](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com) for a full schedule.

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

**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 Dog.** Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org).

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 10

**Matt Waller in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 11

**Matt Waller in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 12

**Falling South Film.** noon at the Clifton Town Hall, 12641 Chapel Road, Clifton. Part of the Clifton Film Celebration that will take place from Nov. 10-12 in the Clifton Town Hall. Visit [clifton-va.com/](http://clifton-va.com/).

**Ken Fischer in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 17

**David Davol in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## NOV. 17-19

**“Dracula” on Stage.** Various times at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. “Dracula” is Stephen Dietz’s adaptation of the classic novel by Bram Stoker that preserves all of the suspense and seduction of the original work. \$10. Visit [theatrecentreville.com/](http://theatrecentreville.com/).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 18

**37th Annual St. Timothy Craft Fair.** 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at St. Timothy School, 13807 Poplar Tree Road, Chantilly. Over 90 crafters, bake sale, raffles and gift ideas. Free admission. Visit [www.sttimothyparish.org](http://www.sttimothyparish.org).

**Falling Home in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SUNDAY/NOV. 19

**Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. The NTRAK group with a display of running N Gauge model trains. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$4. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Buddy Cosmo in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit

[www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## MONDAY/NOV. 20

**Westfield Cares.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Westfields Marriott, 14750 Conference Center Drive, Chantilly. Prominent presenters, whose expertise in the areas of Substance Abuse and Mental Health, share their knowledge about their respective topics. Call 703-488-6300 or [TGBragg@fcps.edu](mailto:TGBragg@fcps.edu).

## FRIDAY/NOV. 24

**Eli Lev in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/NOV. 25

**Turkey Walk.** 10-11 a.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Discover the wild turkey’s habits and secret ways during a walk through the cedar forest. Look for turkeys and their signs. This program for participants age 3 to adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

## NOV. 25-26

**Fairfax Ballet Company’s Nutcracker.** Nov. 25, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Nov. 26, 2 p.m. at W.T. Woodson High School, 9525 Main St., Fairfax. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Ana Victoria Smith of Clifton, dances the role of Clara. Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists. Email [events@fairfaxballet.com](mailto:events@fairfaxballet.com) or call 703-665-9427.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 1

**Matt Walker in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 2

**Annual Holiday Train Show.** 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Bring broken locomotives to the “Train Doctor” to fix or advise on other options. Stop and admire the antique cars visiting for this event, weather permitting. Visit the gift shop for holiday gift items and Santa may stop by to visit. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; 5-15, \$2; 16 and older, \$5. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org).

**Matt Walker in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

**Town of Clifton Holiday Homes Tour.** 4-7 p.m. at 12644 Chapel Road, Clifton. Five homes in Town and a bonus home outside of Town, in addition to the caboose and two historic churches that will be open to the public. Free admission. Call 703-517-7703.

## FRIDAY/DEC. 8

**Ryan Angello in Concert.** 4:30-8:30 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

## SATURDAY/DEC. 9

**Ryan Forrester Band in Concert.** 1-5 p.m. p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway. Call 703-815-2233 or visit [www.wineryatbullrun.com](http://www.wineryatbullrun.com).

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**Nick Ploutis, Springfield**



**James Hart, At-large Commissioner**



**Timothy Sargeant, At-large Commissioner**



**Don Hinman, Mount Vernon**



**Gail Henry, Fairfax**

# Renting Out Homes Through the Net

**Proposed zoning rules would allow residents to operate short-term lodging as an accessory use of a home.**

BY KEN MOORE

**N**ick Ploutis developed his backup plan during tough economic times when fewer people contracted him to paint their houses.

"It has saved me," said Ploutis of Springfield, a father of four who rented out his Alexandria property through a short-term rental platform. "Airbnb has helped me to pay my bills."

Fairfax County Planning Commission held a workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1 to address issues associated with allowing short-term rentals, such as who can operate lodging, the number of days permitted, whether homeowners or occupants must be present during the rental period, fees and necessary permitting for registering homes for short-term rentals, and if a log of overnight adults guests must be maintained and available to county staff.

"I think a lot of [short-term rentals] are flying under the radar," said Dranesville District Commissioner John Ulfelder. "Technically, they are illegal right now."

Currently, short-term lodging is not a permitted use under the existing Zoning Ordinance.

Laurie Arrants, of the Mason District, expressed comfort that the county will examine this new rental industry before rushing ahead: "Adding risk associated with lodging into the residential communities is a huge paradigm shift," when local zoning code has protected residential areas from commercial activity, she said.

Right now, the county is considering limiting the number of nights in a range of 30 to 180 days annually; planners said they want the rentals clearly defined to be an accessory use, that

the property's primary use will still be somebody's domicile.

Gail Henry of Fairfax asked why there would be a limit to the number of days residents could rent out home spaces. "I imagine there are many positives," said Henry, referring to widowers, military members, people laid off or underemployed, or trying to remain in an expensive county.

She voiced concern over a negative undertone she sensed in the county's initial discussions on the topic.

But planning commissioners have not taken any stand, said Planning Commission Chairman and Springfield District Commissioner Peter Murphy.

"No one on the commission is calling balls and strikes right now, we are simply asking questions," said Murphy, during the public workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 1.

**QUESTIONS CONCERNING** parking, noise, and insurance liability dominated the queries from the planning commissioners

## Regulating, Permitting Short-Term Rentals

Fairfax County is moving forward with a process to permit and limit short-term lodging like Airbnb and other platforms. This would regulate who can operate short-term lodging, impose limits on the operation and develop a permit process for seeking approval of short-term lodging as an accessory use to the occupancy of a dwelling.

The county's Department of Zoning Ordinance process allows time to fine-tune additional language of short-term rentals; the county will advertise public hearings to give all residents an opportunity to voice opinion. The county conducted an online survey and have conducted several public meetings already, including last week's public workshop at the Planning Commission.

For more, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm) and [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/shorttermrentals/shorttermrentals-calendar.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/shorttermrentals/shorttermrentals-calendar.htm).

to Department of Planning and Zoning staff during the two-hour meeting.

Liability insurance must be addressed, said Don Hinman, of Mount Vernon District, who spoke on behalf of the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. The federation advocates that homeowners (or residents) must be present when renting out for short-term rental.

At-large Commissioner James Hart called the short-term rentals analogous to child care centers operating in people's homes.

He asked if inspections will be made, but county officials said they intend the responsibility to be placed on the homeowner or occupant hosting the short-term renter.

"If we're approving a registry of these,

maybe there's some expectation in the public that somebody at some point has checked to make sure there's a working smoke detector and that there's a fire exit that meets code," said Hart. "I hope that there's not a false sense of security by us approving a registry for these, that yes, you can sleep overnight there ... and we don't know if it's a firetrap or not."

Lee District Commissioner James Migliaccio would like to see "a more draconian approach" taken with violators.

"I'm looking to protect the neighbors a bit more," said Ellen Hurley, Braddock District Commissioner.

**THE STRONGEST** request came from Mason District Commissioner Julie Strandlie. She implored the county to conduct a survey of HOAs and condo associations.

"I think it is imperative that we do a survey to find out what our communities existing HOA and condo language says," said Strandlie. "It will be next to impossible for condo associations and HOAs to amend documents if theirs do not already prohibit [short-term rentals]."

At-large Commissioner Tim Sargeant said he has concerns for small HOAs that might not have the resources to pursue legal costs should the need arise.

"We're not precluding any HOA in any way from saying no?" asked Commissioner Hart.

"That is correct," answered Lily Yegazi, senior assistant to the zoning administrator.

## Proposed Standards

### Related to Operation:

- Short-term lodging allowed as **accessory use** to the primary residential use
  - ✓ Limited to overnight rentals of not more than **30-180 calendar days/year**
  - ✓ Operator must be present during all rental period except for a maximum of **14-60 calendar days/year**
  - ✓ Limited to one contract per night
  - A log of all overnight adult guests must be maintained & must be available upon request by County Staff
- ✓ Indicates provision to be advertised with flexibility

FAIRFAX COUNTY PLANNING AND ZONING

**This chart shows a range of proposals for the zoning ordinance regarding short-term rentals.**



# Home LifeStyle

## Light Up the Season

Tastemakers create holiday trees, mantel-pieces, wreaths and a menorah for charity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Some local designers are collaborating with patients at Children's National Health Center to deck the hall for charity. The tastemakers are creating holiday trees, mantle pieces, wreaths and a menorah for a community fundraiser called "Light Up the Season." The Creative & Therapeutic Arts Services at Children's National worked with the Children's Health Board to pair designers with patients for inspiration.

"We were very excited to learn about Light Up the Season and be able to take part," said Nadia Subaran of Aidan Design. "Over the years we've been regular participants in the DC Design House, another charity event benefitting Children's National. However, with this event we got the chance to interact and collaborate with the children that these events benefit. It's been a much more hands on experience for us. And who doesn't love decorating holiday trees?"

Subaran, along with Megan Padilla and Kelly Emerson also of Aidan Design created a holiday tree design called "A 'Wimpy' Tree – A Tree in Cartoons," which was inspired by a patient named Wesley and his favorite book series, "Diary of a Wimpy Kid."

"Our tree will explore a black and white theme in keeping with the graphic novel genre," said Subaran.

The design team says that they used 2- and 3-D interpretations of classic Christmas décor combined with "striking graphic visuals, pops of color, and a good dose of wit, the tree will be both a throwback to a simpler time and on trend for young readers."

"A Guiding Light" is the name of the mantel design created by Kelley Proxmire of Kelley Proxmire, Inc.

and inspired by a patient named Cheyenne. In creating her mantel, the designer said that she, "tied in biblical references to light, which are shown throughout the display, and incorporated Cheyenne's favorite color: red for a red, white and silver-themed mantel."

Two sisters named Leilah and Ava were the inspiration for a tree design called, "A Colorful Family Christmas" by Annie Elliott and Christy Maguire of Annie Elliott Interiors. "When asked what they liked best about Christmas, the girls agreed that being together with their entire family was tops," said Elliott. "In that spirit, they inspired our theme, 'A Colorful Family Christmas.' Playing board games, reading stories, sitting around a fire and decorating the tree also are favorite family activities. You'll see all of these holiday traditions reflected in our



PHOTO BY RYAN MEDIA LAB

**Annie Elliott (right) and Christy Maguire (left) of Annie Elliott Interiors, (pictured with Leilah and Ava) will collaborate on a holiday tree for Light Up The Season 2017.**

tree's decorations."

"Leilah and Ava have many favorite colors, but a winner for both is teal," added Maguire. "Therefore, teal drives the tree's color palette, and other of the girls' favorites, purple, blue, and green, also are included."

Other area designers include Lena Kroupnik of Lena Kroupnik Interiors, Allie Mann and Alexandria Hubbard of Case Design/Remodeling, Inc., Camille Saum of Camille Saum Interiors of Bethesda, Md.; Victoria Sanchez of Victoria at Home, Susan Nelson and Todd Martz of Home on Cameron, Ashley Greer of Atelier Ashley

Flowers of Alexandria; Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors of Herndon; Josh Hildreth and Tara Price of Josh Hildreth Interiors of Reston and Lisa Tureson of Studio Artistica in Oak Hill.

The holiday designs will be on display during a family-friendly community fundraising event to benefit Children's National at Four Seasons in Georgetown, 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW – on Sunday, Dec. 3 from 1-4 p.m. There will be activities for all ages, such as holiday cookie decorating, ornament making, a visit from Santa and Children's National Dr. Bear mascot, musical performances and youth entertainers, silent auction, and light fare and libations. In addition, guests will be encouraged to write holiday cards for Children's National patients. Visit [childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason](http://childrensnational.org/lightuptheseason) for more.

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## SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALESCAR

### District Champions

The Westfield Bulldogs show off their 2017 Concorde District Champions banner after defeating Chantilly 46-7, while ending the regular season 10-0. The Westfield Bulldogs and Chantilly Chargers played in the regular season finale on Nov. 3. Chantilly ends their season at (0-10) while Westfield finishes at (10-0). Westfield will host Battlefield HS (7-3) on Friday, Nov. 10



Westfield QB Noah Kim puts Westfield up 7-0 with his TD run with 11:19 to play in the 1st quarter.



Christian Parana #3 takes the handoff from Chantilly QB Tyler O'Reilly #12.



Eugene Asante scored Westfield's second TD with 8:13 left in the 1st quarter.



With 5:41 in the opening quarter, Joe Clancy #36 scored Westfield's third TD.

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## ROUNDUPS

### Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, Nov. 9, 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.

## Comment on Dulles Suburban Center

The Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning will hold a community meeting to discuss proposed changes to the Comprehensive Plan for Land Unit E-2 of the Dulles Suburban Center. The public is invited to attend the meeting and learn about the proposed changes, ask questions and provide comments.

Land Unit E-2 consists of approximately 85 acres and is located northeast of the intersection of Centreville Road and Route 50. It is developed primarily with retail use and includes the Sully Plaza and Sully Place Shopping Centers. It is located in the Sully Magisterial District. The proposed plan will consider an option to increase the planned intensity of the site and to introduce residential use.

The meeting will be held on Monday, Nov. 13, 7-9 p.m. at Franklin Middle School, 3300 Lees Corner Road, Chantilly.

## I-66 Design Public Hearing

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with I-66 Express Mobility Partners (EMP), will host Design Public Hearing on Tuesday, Nov. 14 in Stone Middle School Cafeteria for project segment 2 from Route 29 in Centreville to Route 50.

## 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@wfcma.org if willing to coordinate a food drive.

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## Infusion Schedule is all Fowled Up



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Previously, chemotherapy only had anecdotally-described memory loss: "chemo brain" as proof of a missing fragment. Recently however, clinical studies have confirmed the link. Yet, I still feel as if I haven't forgotten that I don't recall any prior infusions occurring on the day after Thanksgiving, as my next infusion is presently scheduled. If I remember correctly, and there are occasional disputes, this would be the first Friday after a holiday when I've needed to be local, and infused. And yes, the Infusion Centers are open for business on the weekdays following major holidays.

Having recently had my quarterly, post-scan, face-to-face appointment with my oncologist and survived the ordeal, we moved on from discussing the scan results to being examined to scheduling future appointments – including a brain MRI and CT Scan, and of course, my next infusion. And looking at the calendar, Nov. 24 is that next date. Generally speaking, per previous conversations with my oncologist, rescheduling my infusions by a week or two, here or there, had not been much of a problem (my oncologist is a strong proponent of quality of life), and pretty much up to me. However, as I've gotten older and presumably wiser – and well aware of my creatinine level/kidney issues, my current infusion schedule is what it is for a reason – protecting my kidneys. Moving the infusion up a week or back a week is not an arbitrary, Kenny-made decision any more, despite my holiday wish least. Sure enough when I asked my oncologist if he had any thoughts on my possibly rescheduling my next infusion to five weeks or seven weeks (vs. the current six weeks), he had a specific preference: five weeks. This would mean infusing the Friday before the following Thanksgiving Thursday (the effect of which would likely cause some eating challenges for yours truly – on my favorite meal of the year no less) rather than extending the infusion interval to seven weeks.

His thinking, as he explained it to us was: he didn't want me to wait any longer for my infusion/medicine than was absolutely necessary. Not that I don't realize how precarious my situation is but I am sort of going merrily along of late. His rebuke, so to characterize, to me about not extending my next interval to seven weeks reminded me yet again of the seriousness of my underlying diagnosis. The last thing one can do is take cancer's inactivity for granted. Even though I've been stable for four years since I was last hospitalized in August 2013, I do have an incurable disease: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, and I was initially characterized as "terminal," so hardly am I "N.E.D.", no evidence of disease.

So my next infusion date is up to me, just not as 'up' as I thought it was/has been. Either I can keep my original six-week interval infusion appointment as currently scheduled or I can advance one week to five weeks (my previous regular interval). Extending it to seven weeks is not recommended. According to my oncologist, this is good news. Since my creatinine level/kidney function has not appreciably improved while extending the interval from five to six weeks, shortening the interval back to five weeks is not a concern to him which means my kidneys are up to the challenge, which is very reassuring since kidney damage is permanent.

And even though waiting a seventh week for my next infusion might allow my kidneys more time to filter the chemotherapy a bit longer, it might also give the cancer some time to activate – and we certainly don't want that.

However, nothing lasts forever, and cancer cells in particular are pretty resourceful and often figure out what's being done to them and start doing something else which leads to different treatment. At the moment, the drug I'm infusing, alimta, is working miracles. Perhaps the next drug will be as successful, perhaps not; and that of course is the problem, the unknown.

What I do know is this: a definite is better than a maybe. If I infuse the previous Friday, I definitely won't feel like eating on Thursday. If I infuse on the Friday after Thanksgiving, maybe I won't feel like driving. So what! A bird in hand ...

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



# ‘Scouting for Food’ To Benefit WFCM’s Food Pantry

By JENNIE BUSH  
WFCM COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH MANAGER

**I**t is surprising to many people in Northern Virginia that there are hungry families right in their midst. Many individuals and families do not earn enough to meet basic monthly expenses such as food, housing, and transportation. More than 76,000 county residents are at risk of experiencing hunger. They are food insecure which means they don’t always know where their next meal is coming from.

Each year, local Boy Scouts in the Sully District conduct a food drive so families in need will have something to eat. Michael Adere, who has organized the Sully District Scouting for Food Drive for 12 years, said, “The Boy Scout slogan is to “Do a good turn daily,” and in the Boy Scout Oath, a Boy Scout promises to help other people at all times. By participating in the Scouting for Food Drive, scouts are able to put action to



Sorting canned goods last year are members of Girl Scout Troop 3327 of West Ox Baptist Church in Chantilly.

those promises.”

Boy Scouts will be out in neighborhoods in the Centreville and Chantilly area delivering empty grocery bags with a flyer asking for food donations. They hope, as do many hungry families in the community, neighbors will fill the bags

with lots of food for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries’ (WFCM’s) food pantry, and place the bags outside their front door by 9 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, for pickup.

The Scouts will be collecting non-perishable items, such as



Transporting donated food within the sorting area are members of Boy Scout Troop 1826 of Chantilly. From left are Nathan Goehring, Brigham Hampton, Mosiah Santiago, Stacia Bangerter and Mark Wilkinson, one of the troop leaders.

canned soup, meats, vegetables, fruit, cereal, rice, oatmeal, macaroni and cheese, pasta and sauce (no glass jars), peanut butter and jelly, dried beans, canned tomatoes, etc. Scouting for Food is the largest food drive of the year for WFCM’s food pantry, as the Scouts go through the neighborhoods and bring approximately 65,000 pounds of food to WFCM on that

one day.

It’s a huge effort to collect and sort the food at the Chantilly sorting site, so more than 150 youth and adult volunteers are needed to help throughout the day. Shifts are available at a local site in Chantilly beginning at 10 a.m. and end at 4 p.m. for setup and tear-down, sorting, crating and transporting of food on Saturday, Nov. 11.

This volunteer event is ideal for individuals, small groups, families, service clubs, and students needing community service hours. WFCM is also looking for volunteers with trucks and strong backs to help transport 30-50 pound crates from the sorting site to the food pantry and/or local storage areas during the afternoon shifts.

For more information and to sign up, contact Annette Bosley at [abosley@wfcma.org](mailto:abosley@wfcma.org).

## BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar). Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## ORNAMENT SALE

**GFWC Western Fairfax County Woman’s Club** is selling 2017 White House Christmas ornaments. This year’s ornament honors the 32nd President, Franklin D. Roosevelt. 2017 ornaments cost \$21. Proceeds benefit charity. Order now by calling 703-378-6841 or 703-378-6216. It is possible to order previous years’ ornaments when you call.

## SATURDAY/NOV. 11

**SALT Fall Advocacy Training Conference.** 9-11 a.m. at the Virginia International University, Conference Room (VD-301), 4401 Village Drive, Fairfax. Sister Simone Campbell, will be the keynote speaker on “21st Century Poverty: Needed Action.” Del. Ken Plum will address “Advocacy is moving to the state levels, Are you moving with it?” and Gay Gardner, with Interfaith Action for Human Rights will speak to “Making Solitary Confinement Truly a Last Resort.” Free. Visit the SALT web site at [www.S-A-L-T.org](http://www.S-A-L-T.org).

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