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# CENTRE VIEW

NOVEMBER 27-DECEMBER 3, 2019

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



From left are Andrew Casteel and daughter Elizabeth, 6; Chris Holland; Kathy Smith and Brien MacKendrick. The Chantilly Wegmans received WFCM's Community Service Award.

## 'We've Got to Help Each Other Out'

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## Westfield Bulldogs Reach Regional Final

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW OPINION, PAGE 5 ❖ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 2 ❖ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6

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At 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 12, 2019, Fairfax Water will conduct a public hearing on its Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges. The hearing will be held in Fairfax Water's offices at 8570 Executive Park Avenue, Fairfax, VA.

The proposed changes, to be effective April 1, 2020, include the following:

1. An increase in the Availability Charge from \$4,260 to \$4,320<sup>1</sup>.
2. An increase in the Local Facilities Charge from \$15,285 to \$18,030.
3. An increase in the Service Connection Charge from \$1,300 to \$1,370<sup>1</sup>.
4. An increase in the Account Charge from \$39 to \$40.
5. An increase in the Quarterly Billing Service Charge from \$12.20 to \$14.40<sup>1</sup>.
6. An increase in the base Commodity Charge from \$3.07 to \$3.20 per 1,000 gallons of water.
7. An increase in the Peak Use Charge from \$3.80 to \$3.85.
8. An increase in the Turn Off / Turn On Charge from \$48 to \$49.
9. An increase in the Fees for Use of Fairfax Water Fire Hydrants to include the increase in the Commodity Charge and the Peak Use Charge.
10. A decrease in the Overhead Charge for Labor from 105% to 104% and the Overhead Charge for Materials from 16% to 13%.
11. An increase in the Installation of Sewer Use Meter Charge from \$38 to \$39.

<sup>1</sup>Charges reflect fees associated with a standard 5/8" residential meter. Changes in charges for larger residential and commercial meters are reflected in the Proposed Schedule of Rates, Fees, and Charges.

Fairfax Water is also proposing a \$192.5 million budget for calendar year 2020<sup>1</sup>. Water sales are expected to provide \$166.2 million and the remaining \$26.3 million is expected from connection charges, investment income and other sources.

The major areas of operation and maintenance expense are:

Category	-- \$1,000s --	
	2019	2020
Personal Services & Employee Benefits	\$ 56,839	\$ 60,020
Power and Utilities	10,890	11,060
Chemicals	7,241	7,878
Purchased Water	7,510	7,812
Supplies and Materials	5,418	5,713
Insurance	991	1,165
Fuel	685	730
Postage	612	622
Contractual Services	12,635	13,103
Professional Services	829	1,290
Other	2,353	2,562
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>106,003</b>	<b>111,955</b>
Transfer to Improvement Fund	(10,380)	(10,313)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 95,623</b>	<b>\$ 101,642</b>

Net revenues are expected to be appropriated as follows:

Debt Payment	\$43,000,000
Improvement Fund	\$11,000,000
General Fund	\$36,099,000

<sup>1</sup> Fairfax Water's Board will continue to monitor economic factors and review revenues and expenditures at mid-year to determine if additional action is needed.

A copy of the proposed changes can be viewed on our website at [www.fairfaxwater.org/rates](http://www.fairfaxwater.org/rates). Those wishing to speak at this hearing or desiring a copy of the proposed changes should call Ms. Karen Barnette at 703-289-6029. Interested parties may submit written comments to [PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org](mailto:PublicHearingComments@fairfaxwater.org) or mail written comments to:

Fairfax Water  
Public Hearing Comments  
8570 Executive Park Avenue  
Fairfax, VA 22031

All written comments must be received by close of business on **Wednesday, December 11, 2019** to be included in the record of the public hearing.

## HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT



Students from the Mia Saunders School of Ballet perform the classic Battle Scene from "The Nutcracker."

### Mia Saunders School of Ballet Presents "The Nutcracker"

DEC. 7-8

"The Nutcracker." Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m. At Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Mia Saunders School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." The 2019 production of "The Nutcracker" marks the first for new MSB Artistic Director Hannah Woodruff, an alumna of MSB and 2017 graduate of University of Virginia. Proceeds for this annual giving tradition will benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. Enjoy this holiday classic with your family and support local dancers and CVHS students. Tickets are \$12, (cash or checks payable to CVHS Drama Boosters only) and are available at the door. Visit the website: <http://miasaundersballet.com/>

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

11 a.m. – 6 p.m.: Mini-train rides on Market Street;  
5 p.m.: Dance Performance at Fountain Square;  
6– 6:30 p.m.: Tree Lighting & Sing Along;  
6:30– 10 p.m.: Horse-drawn Carriage Rides. Visit [www.restontowncenter.com/holidays](http://www.restontowncenter.com/holidays).

### HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS

ONGOING

**The Rocky Run Middle School National Junior Honor Society** will sponsor a Toy Drive at its school to benefit Our Neighbor's Child, from Dec. 2-6, Then on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9-11 a.m., it will host The Raise the Ram Winterfest. During that time, community members are invited to drop off donations of new toys while children make holiday crafts, play games and listen to holiday music.

NOW THROUGH JAN. 5

**Bull Run Festival of Lights.** 5:30-9:30 p.m. Mon.-Thurs.; 5:30-10 p.m. Fri.-Sun. and holidays. At Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Every year from Thanksgiving through New Year's Day, visitors can drive through the Bull Run Festival of Lights. It stretches 2.5 miles and is illuminated by holiday light displays. After viewing the festival of lights, visitors may go to the holiday village to enjoy rides, refreshments, and photos with Santa (holiday village open select nights). Visit the website: <https://www.novaparks.com/events/bull-run-festival-of-lights>

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

"The Nutcracker." At Hylton Performing Arts Center, Merchant Hall, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Treat yourself to Virginia National Ballet's full-length, traditional production of "The Nutcracker." Featuring gorgeous scenery, costumes, and choreography, enjoy world-class professional, international dancers accompanied by the students of Virginia National Ballet School. VNB is led by Artistic Director Rafik Hegab, 2019 Winner of the Seefeldt Award for Outstanding Individual Artist. Tickets: \$37 adults, \$25 children (ages 17 and under). Visit [www.virginianationalballet.org](http://www.virginianationalballet.org).

FRIDAY/NOV. 29

**Reston Holiday Parade.** 10 a.m. At Reston Town Center, Reston. The 29th annual Reston Holiday Parade – one of USA Today's 10 Best – plus tree lighting, sing-along, horse-drawn carriage rides, and more all day. Rain or shine. Schedule: 12:30 – 4:30 p.m.: Visits and photos with Santa & Mrs. Claus;

NOV. 30-DEC. 1, 2019

"The Nutcracker." Nov. 30, 4 pm, and Dec. 1, 2:30 pm. At W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax. The Fairfax Ballet Company members, along with students from the Russell School of Ballet and professional guest artists, take the audience on a magical journey through a festive party, an epic battle scene, a winter wonderland of sparkling snowflakes, and a Land of Sweets that includes a delicate Sugar Plum Fairy, a dashing Cavalier, graceful Mirlitons, and waltzing flowers. Fairfax Ballet Senior company member Nicole Shortle, a sophomore at Oakton High School, dances the role of Clara. Carlos Martinez, a sophomore in George Mason University's dance program, portrays the Nutcracker Prince. Professional guest artists, Cody Beaton and Mate Szentes from the Richmond Ballet, dance the roles of the Sugar Plum Fairy and Cavalier. Philip Smith-Cobbs dances the roles of the Mouse King, Mechanical Doll, and Arabian Coffee. Tickets are available for purchase at <http://fairfaxnutcracker2019.bpt.me> Tickets will also be available at the door beginning one hour before each show. Group discounts are available for qualifying organizations with 10 or more guests. Email [events@fairfaxballet.com](mailto:events@fairfaxballet.com) or call 703-665-9427.

FRIDAY/DEC. 6

**Holiday Bazaar.** 5:30-9 p.m. Union Mill Elementary School, 13611 Springstone Drive, Clifton. Shop this fourth-annual bazaar featuring 40 vendors, raffle, jewelry, pottery, cosmetics, toys, apparel, crafts, woodworking and more. For information, email: [umesholidaybazaar@gmail.com](mailto:umesholidaybazaar@gmail.com).

DEC. 7-8

"The Nutcracker." Saturday at 8 p.m.; Sunday at 3 p.m. At Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. Mia Saunders School of Ballet presents "The Nutcracker." The 2019 production marks the first for new MSB Artistic Director Hannah Woodruff, an alumna of MSB and 2017 graduate of University of Virginia. Proceeds for this annual giving tradition will benefit CVHS Drama Scholarships and the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's

SEE HOLIDAY, PAGE 8



# 'We've Got to Help Each Other Out'

WFCM's annual fellowship dinner is big success.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Each month, Western Fairfax Christian Ministries (WFCM) serves 400-500 local families at risk of hunger and homelessness. But it can't do it without the support of the community and all those who contribute to it financially and/or as volunteers.

So this nonprofit's 12<sup>th</sup> annual fellowship dinner gave it the opportunity to thank and recognize them all, as well as raise money to continue offering services to the more than 3,000 clients it's projected to serve in the new fiscal year. The recent event was held at the International Country Club in Chantilly, where a silent auction and donations yielded \$55,000 total.

Some 215 people attended, enjoyed songs by Revelation Acappella and listened to keynote speakers, former Washington Redskin players Ken Harvey and Kyshoen Jarrett. In addition, WFCM Executive Director Harmonie Taddeo announced the organization is now extending its services to Oak Hill and more of Fairfax.

She also praised her 12 board members plus WFCM's nearly 70 volunteers who serve each week stocking shelves in the food pantry, bagging groceries, speaking with clients and helping out wherever they're needed.

**TADDEO** gave several examples of their unselfish work and care for those in need, and then she had them stand – along with the board members and seven staff members – to be applauded by everyone attending.

"I came to WFCM because I wanted to be part of the solution to hunger here," said Taddeo. "Our vision is a community where everyone is housed and fed and experiences God's love." She said they're working toward this goal, thanks to the tireless efforts of people such as:

- ❖ Annmarie Calkins and Karen Brigman, who often follow clients in wheelchairs around the pantry to help load their carts with food;

- ❖ WFCM founder and former Executive Director Jan Welch, who continues to volunteer with her husband, picking up and delivering food to the pantry;

- ❖ Ivan Mills and Fairfax Church of Christ, plus Ox Hill Baptist Church, who pay for some 50 client families each month to clean their clothes at a laundromat;

- ❖ Bill Tierney, who stocks shelves one morning a week before WFCM opens its doors to serve clients;

- ❖ Sarah Barton, who bags groceries one day a week and often fills in on other days when needed to ensure that clients have assistance when shopping in the pantry;



From left are Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and WFCM board member Glynda Mayo Hall.



From left are Ken Harvey, Harmonie Taddeo and Kyshoen Jarrett.

- ❖ Kitty Beachy, who teaches new differently abled volunteers how to read use-by dates and stock the shelves;

- ❖ Food Pantry Director Pamela Montesinos, who started an onsite garden to add produce for the pantry and pushes to get full gallons of milk and cartons of eggs included as part of WFCM'S USDA distribution;

- ❖ Michael Adere, who organizes the Scouting for Food Boy Scout Food Drive that brings in more than 60,000 pounds of food from the community; and

- ❖ Martin Patch, one of the drivers who transports this donated food from the Boy Scouts' sorting site to the pantry.

Noting that most of WFCM's clients are the working poor, Taddeo said an example of those it serves is a family of four earning an average of \$32,000/year – which doesn't go far in high-cost Fairfax County. Both proud and pleased to be WFCM's leader, she said, "It's a blessing and a privilege to be a part of this organization."

Stepping next to the podium was WFCM

Board President Andrew Casteel, who also thanked everyone involved with WFCM and all the volunteers. "We appreciate your support," he said. "This is an organization that helps so many people in our community."

He then honored Teasa Northern for serving as WFCM's interim executive director from November 2018-February 2019, before Taddeo took the helm. "She did this while still working full-time at Grace Covenant Church," said Casteel. "She volunteered for the job because she knew WFCM was in need."

But that's not all. "She didn't just maintain operations and staff morale, she improved them," he explained. "And during the furlough, she provided special, evening hours for federal-government workers impacted by it."

Next, he presented the Chantilly Wegmans with WFCM's Community Service Award. "It takes seriously partnering with the local community," said Casteel. "Since it opened on May 30, 2018, it's donated 51,521 pounds of food and has given us a



Teasa Northern was honored by WFCM Board President Andrew Casteel, pictured with his daughter Elizabeth.

\$26,000 donation through its Check Out Hunger program. The store also hosted food drives for WFCM and recently donated a new, \$5,000 commercial-grade refrigerator for the food pantry to hold full gallons of milk and other items needing refrigeration."

**RECEIVING THE AWARD** were Service Area Manager Chris Holland and Chantilly Store Manager Brien MacKendrick. "We're about family, and community is family, and we couldn't be prouder to partner with a group like this," said MacKendrick. "And thank you all for what you do."

In addition, Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) read a resolution from the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, thanking and commending the Chantilly Wegmans for its "outstanding work in partnership with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries."

Casteel then invited everyone to tour WFCM (at 4511 Daly Drive, Suite J, in Chantilly) to see "one of the best, hidden gems here in Fairfax County." Next, a video showed three of WFCM's Pathways to Success program graduates, who told how the organization helped them in their times of need.

They said WFCM gave them food to feed their families, taught them financial management and budgeting, and provided emotional support and "a community that helps so much." One said WFCM's assistance "restored my faith in humanity," and another said it "really changed my life, and I can now see a future."

Instead of making speeches, former Redskin Ken Harvey interviewed current Redskin Assistant Coach Kyshoen Jarrett about his life and career. Jarrett told how an injury ended his playing career, but that – with support from family and friends – he was able to move forward.

And, similarly to WFCM, Harvey told the crowd, "The gift is in your hands, and it's about what you can do to help the next generation. We've got to be willing to dig deep and help each other out."



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## NEWS

# 'You Knew the Risks and Did It Anyway'

## Former teacher sentenced for soliciting a minor online.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to his new attorney filing a motion appealing his conviction, former teacher Norman Achin is currently free on bond. But on Nov. 15, he was sentenced to seven months in jail for using a communication device to solicit a minor.

For 30 years, Achin, 52, was a respected FCPS teacher. He taught Latin at Westfield and West Springfield high schools in 2017-2018; before then, he did so at Chantilly and McLean high schools. He even tutored – often in students' homes. But when he solicited an undercover police office online, thinking he was a teenage boy, Achin was arrested, July 23, 2018, and suspended from his job without pay. He was later convicted, Aug. 21, following a nonjury trial in Fairfax County Circuit Court, and returned Nov. 15 for sentencing.

"Up until these events began, you lived a pretty decent life," said Judge Michael Devine. "But then your life took a different turn. It's difficult to reconcile you acting completely out of character, but people do that, all the time."

During Achin's trial, a male, police detective with the FCPD's Child Exploitation Unit testified against him. When they connected via the Grindr app, the detective was posing online as a teenager named Alex, hoping to catch predators preying on children. To protect his undercover status, this newspaper is not revealing his identity.

**THE DETECTIVE** told Achin his father was gone, his mother lived out of state, and his aunt – who worked nights – watched him. He also said he was in high school and would be "15 very soon. I used abbreviations, misspellings and emojis, like teens do, and was kind of emotional." The court heard a phone call between them, saw transcripts of their text messages and Grindr exchanges and also saw a 2-1/2-hour video of the detective's interrogation of Achin following his arrest.

Achin used his middle name, Mike, during their online conversations, which ran from July 11-23, 2018. "I'm very concerned about your age," Achin told "Alex." Achin also asked if they could meet and talk in person. "Just talk?" asked "Alex?" Replied Achin: "Well, maybe more."

"I've never done this before, so I'm nervous," said "Alex." To which Achin answered: "Me, too. I could get in trouble, even for what we've done so far...I'm taking a big risk." They arranged a meeting in a park where, instead, police arrested Achin.

Achin said he wanted to tell "Alex" he was "too young to do this. I was also talking with other people [on Grindr and Tinder] and I got confused between the sites I was on. I didn't want anything from him – 18 or 19 years old, fine – but not a kid." He said he worried that "Alex" might kill himself, so he "wanted to talk to him, maybe as a father figure, because I thought this was a fragile, young man."

However, Achin also sent two photos of himself to "Alex" – one showing his bare torso and abs, and the



Norman Achin

other, his penis. Saying he could only access Grindr on his phone, not his computer, he told the detective, "I couldn't see the pictures I sent, at times, so sent the wrong pics to the wrong people at the wrong time."

He said he thought he'd sent the penis photo to a man, not "Alex." But Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Elena Lowe noted that Achin never apologized to "Alex" or said he'd sent it by mistake. "When he sent the picture, he knew who he was talking with, consistent with their text mes-

sages," she said. "His statements [about] trying to help this boy were just a cover."

At Achin's sentencing, defense attorney Thomas Walsh said he'd filed a motion to set aside the court's verdict regarding his client. But, said Devine, "I'm satisfied Mr. Achin was properly convicted of the offense and is guilty as charged."

The state sentencing guidelines for this case were three to six months in jail, and Lowe requested Achin

serve at least three months "because the offense includes sending a pornographic picture to a minor and arranging to meet him. It shows no good intention. His actions were inconsistent with normal, human behavior with a child."

Walsh read statements from some teachers and a student saying what a good teacher Achin was and his interest in helping students. "I don't believe

incarceration is necessary in this case," said Walsh. "And the probation and sex-offender registry will be a nightmare for him, for the rest of his life." Seeking a suspended sentence, Walsh added, "He'll never be a teacher again, and losing his profession after 30 years has been a pretty hard sanction."

**THEN, VOICE BREAKING,** Achin stood and told the judge, "Much has been made about the fact that this is not normal behavior. But it is normal behavior for me to care, just like my teachers cared about me when I was growing up. I want to protect children, too. I would never do anything to harm anybody."

Devine, however, was unmoved. "I believe you cared about students, but I don't believe you felt that way about Alex," he said. "It's not how you see yourself, but your actions were not to save this person – and vulnerable kids like this are exploited. After he said, 'I will be 15,' you told him, 'I don't want you latching onto me.' That tells me you were looking for your own gratification at the exploitation of a vulnerable minor."

"You had plenty of chance not to do this kind of offense – and you did it anyway," continued the judge. "You knew the risks and even said so. And I don't think you should be treated any differently from any other person who commits this same crime."

Devine then sentenced Achin to three years in prison, suspending all but seven months and placing him on two years' active, supervised probation. Achin must also register as a sex offender and comply with whatever his probation officer requires him to do. Devine said he could continue his supervised release while his case is being reviewed by the state court of appeals.



# OPINION

## Jump into the Children's (and Teens') Connection

Please send all submissions no later than Friday, Dec. 13, 2019. Earlier is better!

During the last weeks 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.

We welcome contributions from public and private schools, art classes, 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 flash drive. Writing should be submitted in text format. Artwork should be photographed or scanned and provided in jpeg format.

Some suggestions, but don't be limited by these:

- ❖ 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 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 (around 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.
- ❖ Were you involved in November's elections? What did you think?

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.

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

Please send all submissions by Friday, Dec. 13, 2019.

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

Email submissions for the Children's Edition to [kemal@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:kemal@connectionnewspapers.com)

## Happy Thanksgiving 2019

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

The 38 British settlers who landed on Dec. 4, 1619 at the site of what is now Berkeley Plantation, about halfway between Williamsburg and Richmond, fell to their knees and thanked the Good Lord. Little wonder that they were thankful after having survived a 75-day journey that should have taken half that time in the cramped quarters of a small wooden ship with munitions running out.

The guidance provided them by the investors supporting their voyage was that they should observe a period of thankfulness for having completed the journey. Do not envision the event as a bountiful feast for it was not.

The guidance document along with our own imagination of how thankful the voyagers must have been constitute sufficient evidence for Virginia to lay claim to having the first English Thanksgiving in the New World. Along with that claim in most documents celebrating the happening is a note pointing out that it happened two years before the festivities at Plymouth, Massachusetts, that are more commonly referred to as the first Thanksgiving.

The Virginia Thanksgiving is qualified as being the first English Thanksgiving for in Florida there is evidence that the actual first Thanksgiving took place around 50 years before Berkeley and Plymouth near the Matanzas River in St. Augustine, Florida. Rather than a scene like that typically thought of as Thanksgiving, the Florida First Thanksgiving would have had Spanish Conquistadors wearing armor gathering around eating salt pork and



### COMMENTARY

drinking red wine with local Native Americans.

From its earliest beginnings the diversity of America with the Spanish, British and Indigenous Americans was providing ample reason for a thanksgiving celebration. None of those early celebrations continued.

The celebration that we know of as Thanksgiving today traces its continuous history to 1863 when President Abraham Lincoln issued a proclamation during the Civil War to "render the homage due to the Divine Majesty for the wonderful things he had done in the nation's behalf and...to subdue the anger which has produced and for so long sustained a needless and cruel rebellion...and finally to lead the whole nation through the paths of

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Season to Go Back to Basics

To the Editor:

In just a couple of days, me and my family will join together to share a meal and eat some pumpkin pie. I'll get a couple of days off school to sleep in and relax. But Thanksgiving is not just about food, but gratitude. These days, it seems like we don't appreciate each other enough. But I hope this holiday season, we go back to basics.

**Aumena Choudhry**

12th Grade, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology.

## CENTREVIEW

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Newspaper of  
**Centreville**  
**Little Rocky Run**  
A Connection Newspaper

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

Published by  
**Local Media Connection LLC**

**1606 King Street**  
**Alexandria, Virginia 22314**

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# SPORTS



PHOTOS BY WILL PALENSCAR/THE CONNECTION

Avery Howard beats a South Lakes defender to the endzone.

## Westfield Bulldogs Reach Regional Final

The Westfield Bulldogs and the South Lakes Seahawks met in a 2<sup>nd</sup> round Regional play off game on Nov. 22 with the winner advancing to play the winner of the Yorktown v. Madison game in the Regional Final on Saturday, Nov. 30.

Westfield would score first when Avery Howard would take a Noah Kim pass 63 yards for a score. Deshawn Paige would add the PAT and Westfield was up 7-0 with just 10:57. Alex Richards would add the first of his 4 touchdowns on a 12-yard TD reception with 5:48 to play in the opening quarter. Paiges' PAT would increase the Bulldog lead to 14.

Mikal Legall would run in from 13 yards out to give the Bulldogs a commanding 21-0 lead with 3:55 to play in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Again, Paige was successful on the PAT.

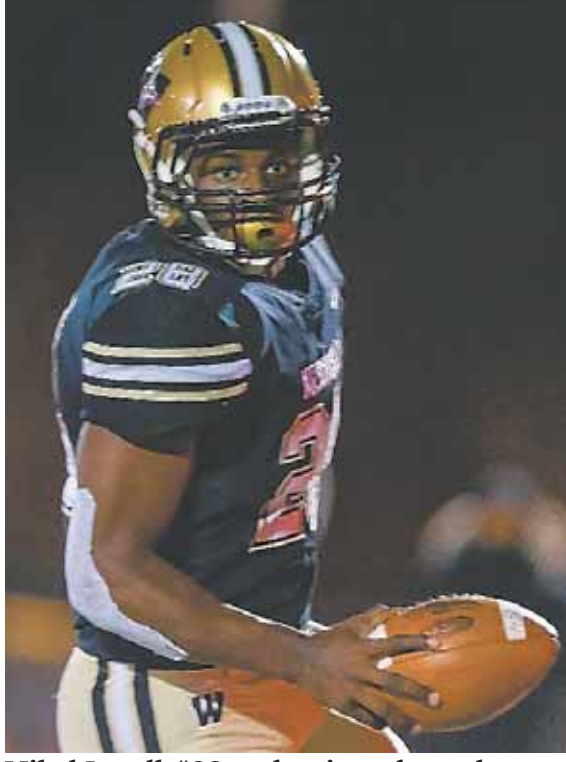
Alex Richards took a Noah Kim pass 46 yards for his 2<sup>nd</sup> touchdown of the game, Paige was successful on the PAT and Westfield now led 28-0 with 4:43 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter.

Richards would then score his 3<sup>rd</sup> touchdown on a 26-yard reception with 8:43 to play in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, Westfield now up 35-0. Paige was again successful on his PAT. Later in the quarter Richards would rush in on a 53-yard touchdown with 5:55 to play in the game, Paige would add the PAT and Westfield (12-0) would close the game out with a 42-0 victory, while South Lakes ends their season at (7-5).

Westfield will host the Yorktown Patriots (11-1), winners over Madison 25-10. The regional Final will be played on Saturday, Nov. 30, at 12 noon in Chantilly.

Westfield's Noah Kim threw for 4 touchdowns while rushing for 30 yards on 5 carries. Alex Richards had 3 touchdown receptions on 4 catches, and another TD on a 53 yard run.

Mikal Legall carried the ball 19 times for 76 yards and a touchdown.



Mikal Legall #28 rushes into the endzone for 13-yard touchdown for Westfield.



Alex Richards is in the endzone for one of his 4 touchdowns.



## ROUNDUPS

### Fatal Six-Cars Crash in Chantilly

A man has died after a crash that involved six cars. Thursday, Nov. 22, at 5:17 p.m. Sai Leung Li, 69, of South Riding, was traveling westbound on Lee Jackson Memorial Highway near Centreville Road in his 2010 Toyota Corolla. Preliminarily, it is believed Li may have suffered a medical emergency that caused him to go off the roadway then continue to cross Centreville Road. Li then crashed into five cars that were stopped in the southbound lanes of Centreville Road waiting at the red light. Li was taken to a nearby hospital where he died. One of the passengers from the five cars was taken to the hospital for injuries that were not life threatening. Neither speed nor alcohol appear to be factors related to the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone - 1-866-411-TIPS(866-411-8477), by text - Type "FCCS" plus tip to 847411, and by web - Click HERE. Download our Mobile tip411 App "Fairfax Co Crime Solvers". Anonymous tipsters are eligible for cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 dollars if their information leads to an arrest.

### Rocky Run Toy Drive, Winterfest

The Rocky Run Middle School National Junior Honor Society will sponsor a Toy Drive at its school to benefit Our Neighbor's Child, from Dec. 2-6, then on Saturday, Dec. 7, from 9-11 a.m., it will host The Raise the Ram Winterfest. During that time, community members are invited to drop off donations of new toys while children make holiday crafts, play games and listen to holiday music.

### BULLETIN BOARD

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

#### NOW THRU JAN. 27

**HOPE for Mental Health.** 7-8:30 p.m. At Centreville Presbyterian Church, 15450 Lee Highway, Centreville. HOPE for Mental Health is a support group for adults 18-plus who are dealing with mental health challenges of various kinds. The group is designed to provide a welcoming, confidential, supportive, and spiritually-enriching environment where participants are encouraged to share their experiences, give and receive comfort and encouragement, and learn how faith and reliance on God can instill hope.  
Email: Lauren Mowbray at [lauren@cpceco.org](mailto:lauren@cpceco.org).

#### MONDAY/DEC. 2

**DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup.** 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. A signature program of DiabetesSisters Opportunities to share experiences, peer support, and lived expertise with others who have been there too. Meet with other women living with diabetes for encouragement, education, and Empowerment. Women age 18+ living with any type of diabetes or prediabetes are welcome, regardless of whether they were diagnosed yesterday or 40+ years ago. They strive to create an open, respectful environment for women with diabetes or prediabetes to truly focus on their health. Free. Email [sara@diabetessisters.org](mailto:sara@diabetessisters.org) or visit [diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups](http://diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups) for more.

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### Lost in the Shuffle



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

As difficult as the last few weeks have been, with Chino's at-home hospice-type care and ultimate passing, and the "Catch-22 A" realities of "reverse-mortgaging" my house "perplexed" by the "derelict" stable/shed on my property, my upcoming quarterly CT scan hasn't even "blipped" the radar. Though it will have occurred already by the time this column prints, it's quite possible, due to the Thanksgiving holiday, its results won't be known for much longer, 12 days in fact, than has been customary. And so far, between my wife, Dina and I, none of this has even been discussed. Yet, as I sit and write on Sunday, the scan is on Wednesday, three days away. Close enough to where it should have been front and center instead of where it's been: back and off to the side.

But so what, really? My attitude is, and has always been, to quote John, a close friend: "It is what it is, and it will be what it will be." By the time I slide forth and back under the CT scan's arch, or earlier I imagine, the damage to my body such as it is - or isn't, will have been done. Either the cancer has grown/spread or it hasn't. Certainly hearing and/or reading results from the oncologist will confirm facts at present not in evidence but there is, without being particularly negative about my circumstances, an inevitability to it. One day, my amazing nearly 11-year run is going to come to a walk and eventually to a lie-down. And I will deal with it when the time/results come. In the interim however, this next scan is merely another stop on the less-than Merry Go 'Round.

I don't mean to make light of an extremely heavy burden that we cancer patients have to carry: the prospect of death. As Lee J. Cobb said in "The Exorcist:" "I only mention it in passing." Cancer causes enough internal problems (physically), one doesn't need, if possible - and so far for me, it has been possible, to cause external (emotional) problems as well. Maybe it's a kind of resignation or some kind of accommodation or acceptance of reality that has enabled this one to have lived so long beyond my original "13 month to two-year" prognosis (offered up on Feb. 27, 2009), an accomplishment I am proud to say occasionally has led to my oncologist showing me off to his medical students; his prize cow I call myself.

Honestly, what's the point, really? I'm only in control of so much. Focusing on things I can't control seems a waste of time and energy. Life is precious. Why dwell on things beyond my reach? Grasping at straws, if you can even find one, is likewise counter-productive. And setting oneself up for failure or disappointment is counter-intuitive almost. Why do that? The cancer is already causing enough havoc in your body. Don't let it affect your mind too. "Piling on," as the NFL referees used to call this major infraction. Now I believe its called "Unnecessary Roughness." For cancer patients, doing anything, physically or emotionally to hasten your demise/adversely affect your quality of life is most definitely unnecessary roughness and should be penalized.

Learning to live with what ails you seems a more prudent plan than "woeing" is me or bemoaning the process. Sure we'd all love to be on the President's plan where you're examined in the morning, scanned in the afternoon and operated on in the evening. But none of us are on the plan and wishing we were, to quote Jean Luc Picard from "Star Trek: Next Generation," is not going to "Make it so." But I can live with that. I have lived with that - for almost 11 years now, and counting. I'll learn the results from my scan soon enough. Good or bad, life goes on. To quote my friend John's daughter, Melanie: "Whatever."

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



# HOLIDAY ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 2

Research. Enjoy this holiday classic with your family and support local dancers and CVHS students. Tickets are \$12, (cash or checks payable to CVHS Drama Boosters only) and are available at the door. Visit the website: <http://miasaundersballet.com/>

## SUNDAY/DEC. 8

**A Celtic Family Christmas.** 4 p.m. At Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Featuring Natalie MacMaster and Donnell Leahy. One of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia's most important exports and a superstar in the Celtic music world, fiddler and step-dancer Natalie MacMaster has built a sterling, multi-decade career on electrifying playing and must-see live performances. She performs with husband and fellow fiddler, Donnell Leahy, recognized as one of the best Celtic fiddlers in the world. Tickets are \$33 to \$55. Visit [www.hyltoncenter.org](http://www.hyltoncenter.org)

## SATURDAY/DEC. 14

**Holiday Ice Show.** 6:30-8 p.m. At Ion International Training Center, 19201 Compass Creek Pkwy., Leesburg. The Snow Story is a Holiday Ice Show featuring the Loudoun Ballet, 21st Battalion Grey Coats Fife & Drum Band and Four-Time World Champion Kurt Browning. Cost is \$20-\$30. Visit the website: [www.ionitc.com](http://www.ionitc.com).

## EVENTS IN ALEXANDRIA

### FRIDAY-SATURDAY/DEC. 6-7

**The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend.** At various Old Town Alexandria locations. The Campagna

Center presents the 49th Annual Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend and Parade. The parade is Dec. 7 at 11 a.m. and begins at St. Asaph and Wolfe Streets and concludes at Market Square with a massed band concert. Admission: Free for parade and Heather and Greens Sales; \$180-\$290 for Taste of Scotland; \$40 for Holiday Home Tours. In 1749, the City of Alexandria was officially established by three Scottish merchants and named after its original founder, John Alexander, also of Scottish descent. Through your support of the events of The Scottish Christmas Walk Weekend, you provide vital support to Campagna Center programs that serve more than 2,000 children, teens, and adults throughout the year. Visit the website: <https://www.campagnacenter.org/scottishwalkweekend>

## SATURDAY/DEC. 7

**Boat Parade of Lights.** Parade begins at 5:30 p.m.; Dockside festivities 2 to 8 p.m. At Waterfront Park, 1 King Street, Alexandria. Parade viewing areas: Founders Park (351 N. Union St.), Alexandria City Marina (0 Cameron St.), Waterfront Park (1 King St. and 1A Prince St.), Point Lumley Park (1 Duke St.), Shipyard/Harborside Park (1 Wilkes St.), Windmill Hill Park (501 S. Union St.) and Ford's Landing Park (99 Franklin St.). Admission: Free; \$ for food/drink and some activities. Visit [AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade](http://AlexandriaVA.com/boatparade) Schedule in Old Town (2 to 8 p.m.)

- ❖ Holiday music and giveaways from 97.1 WASH-FM
- ❖ Letters to Santa postcard station from Penny Post
- ❖ Holiday ornament activity from AR Workshop Alexandria (2 to 4 p.m.)
- ❖ Bookmark making station from Old

- ❖ Town Books (4:30 to 8 p.m.)
- ❖ Torpedo Factory Art Center Holiday Festival
- ❖ Santa arrives by fireboat at the Alexandria City Marina (3:30 p.m.)
- ❖ Alexandria Holiday Boat Parade of Lights begins (5:30 p.m.)

## TUESDAY/DEC. 31

**First Night Alexandria.** 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. At venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. This 25th Anniversary Celebration is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight. Kids Karnivals: 6 to 9 p.m. at four warm indoor venues in Old Town, Del Ray and the West End. Live Entertainment: 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. at warm indoor venues throughout Old Town Alexandria. Rockin' on the River: 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St., Alexandria. Midnight fireworks: Potomac River at the foot of King St., Alexandria. All Access Admission: \$25 through November 30, 2019; \$30 December 1-30, 2019; \$35 December 31, 2019; Kids Karnival is \$5 for children ages 2-12 and free for parents and infants. Call 703-963-3755 or visit [firstrnightalexandria.org](http://firstrnightalexandria.org).

## CALENDAR

### MONDAY/DEC. 2

**African-American Genealogy.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. An African-American Genealogy study group meets the first Monday of the month (except September and November).

Participation in the study group is free but registration is requested. To register, or for more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/events](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/events) or call 703-830-2223.

## DEC. 6-7

**Mesdames de la Halles.** Dec. 6 at 8 p.m.; Dec. 7 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. At Hylton Performing Arts Center, Gregory Family Theater, 10960 George Mason Circle, GMU Campus in Manassas. Celebrate the joy of the Holiday Season and join Mason Opera for a production of Mesdames de la Halles, a comic one-act opérette bouffe by Jacques Offenbach, with libretto by Armand Lapointe. First performed in Paris in 1859, this comedy revolves around the competitive street vendors of a famous Parisian fruit and vegetable market, "La Halle." All the women vendors have fallen head over heels in love with the handsome kitchen boy, Croûte-au-pot, and they compete for his attention. Croûte-au-pot however loves the beautiful fruit vendor, Ciboulette. After a comedy of errors and misplaced identity, true love triumphs. Tickets are \$15 for Adults, \$10 for seniors, \$5 for youth, and may be purchased in person, by phone, and online. To purchase in person, visit the Center for the Arts Box Office located on George Mason University's Fairfax campus or Hylton Performing Arts Center Box Office located on the George Mason University Manassas campus. Tickets may be purchased by phone at 703-993-2787 or 703-993-7759. To purchase online, visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) or [hyltoncenter.org](http://hyltoncenter.org).

## SUNDAY/DEC. 8

**Victorian Times.** 1-2 p.m. At Sully

Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Long before there were video games, boys in the 1800s would amuse themselves by making horses from potatoes. Give it a try at the "Make a Potato Horse" event at Sully Historic Site. Round out your visit by making some fun Victorian crafts for your tree, too. The activities hark back to an era when a young visitor to Sully described a beautiful tree she saw adorning the big hallway as "... bedecked with glowing candles, strings of popcorn and cranberries, cut out paper angels." For ages 5 to adult. Cost is \$10. Call 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site).

**Free Chair Yoga.** 3:30-4:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Join in gentle and mindful chair yoga for adults. No registration required. Free. Call Christine Turner at 703-830-2223.

## JAN. 17-26

**Joshua's Hands Quilting Event.** Location TBA in Purcellville. Joshua's Hands is a non-profit in Loudoun County that hosts free quilting events to support wounded servicepeople. Joshua's Hands will host 10 days of quilting fun to make handmade quilts for servicemen and women wounded while serving our country. All are welcome. No sewing experience or registration needed. All materials are provided but donations are appreciated. Come for an hour or the day. Monday-Saturdays 9 a.m.-9 p.m.; Sundays 1-9 p.m. Purcellville. Check website for exact location. [Info@JoshuasHands.org](mailto:Info@JoshuasHands.org), or call 540-454-7827, or visit [www.JoshuasHands.org](http://www.JoshuasHands.org).

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