

The Top 10 Stories of 2013

Mary Stachyra Lopez December 31, 2013 Community, Holidays, News 1 Comment

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While *The Centreville Independent* only launched in October 2013, a number of major events have happened in the community since then. The Centreville Wildcats football team won a state championship football game, the Westfield Marching Bulldogs left for Pasadena to perform in the Tournament of Roses parade, new businesses opened and the first snowfall of the season arrived.

Here are the top 10 stories of 2013, as ranked by their popularity on social media accounts:

10. It's Official (Sort of): Centreville is the Best City in Virginia



— Centreville Day 2013.

Movoto, a real estate blog, recently completed a survey of Virginia cities based on cost of living, median household income, diversity, home values, amenities, and other factors. Centreville ranked at the top of the list, while Chantilly tied at number seven—right next to Reston.

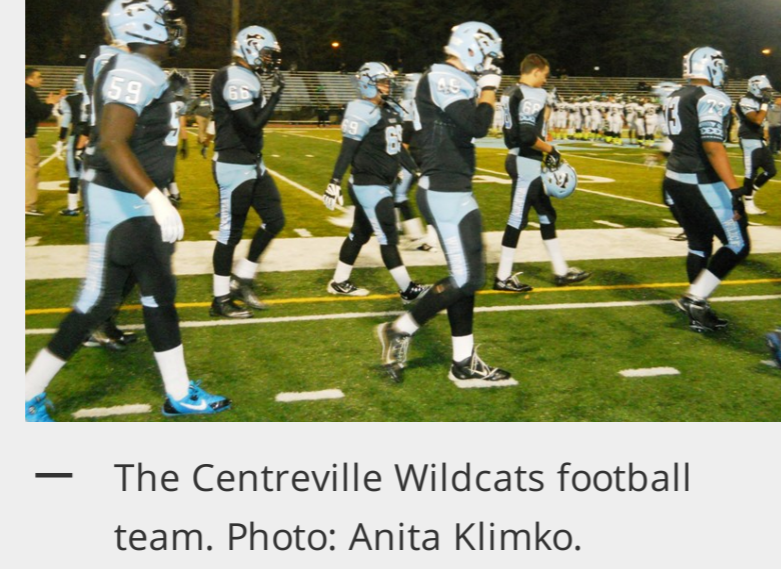
9. Wildcat Nation Raises Thousands for Homeless Football Player



— Centreville Coach Chris Haddock addresses his team. Photo: Anita Klimko.

When the *Washington Post* ran a feature story revealing that Wildcat football player Isaac Samuel's family was homeless and lived at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter in Fairfax, the news made waves among the Wildcat community. Supporters have raised over \$20,000 for the family to date.

8. Centreville Stays Undefeated, Beats Westfield to Earn State Final Berth



— The Centreville Wildcats football team. Photo: Anita Klimko.

Proving they remain the best team in Northern Virginia, the undefeated Centreville High School Wildcats beat cross-town rival Westfield Bulldogs 35-14, outperforming them on offense, defense and special teams.

7. Pediatricians, Psychologists Support Later School Bell for High Schools



— A Fairfax County school bus. Photo Credit: Anita Klimko

A group of about 70 Fairfax County pediatricians, pediatric psychiatrists, psychologists and other mental health professionals recently urged the Fairfax County School Board to hasten its efforts to implement later high school start times.

The move to alter starting times, from 7:20 a.m. to 8 a.m. or later, has been the subject of a long-simmering debate within the district.

6. Thousands Celebrate Thanksgiving at Virginia Run Turkey Trot

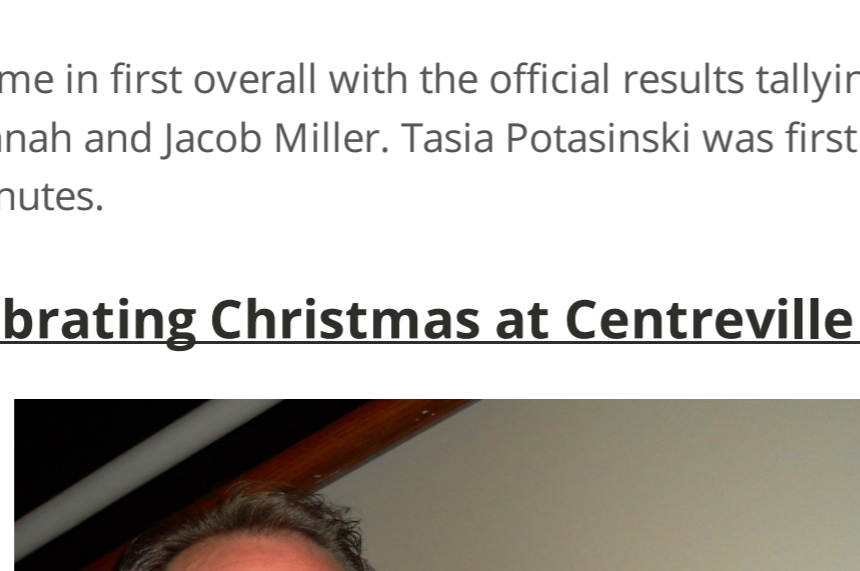


— Grant Hargrave has run in the Virginia Run Turkey Trot for years, a family tradition. For fun, he decided to dress up like a turkey. "This year my 3-year-old daughter ran with us. She likes costumes and dress-up and I thought she'd get a big kick out of that," Hargrave said. Photo: Mary Stachyra Lopez

Thousands of runners flocked to the 25th annual Virginia Run Turkey Trot in Centreville Thanksgiving morning, braving the 30 degree weather to race in the popular 5K race.

Matias Palavecino came in first overall with the official results tallying 16:12 minutes, followed by Joey Hannah and Jacob Miller. Tasia Potasinski was first in the women's category at 18:58 minutes.

5. Photos: Celebrating Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church



Congregants at Centreville Baptist Church welcomed the spirit of season with a pair of Christmas Eve services within the new church sanctuary.

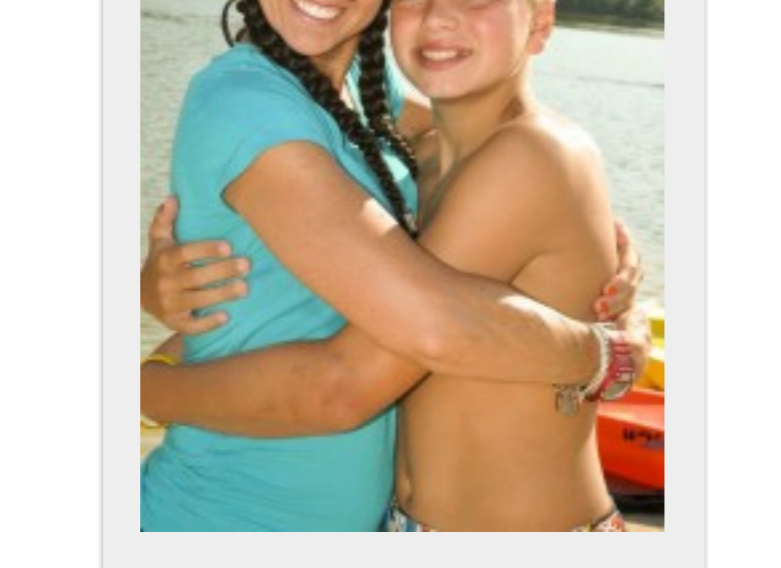
4. Brain Cancer Survivor Returns to Marine Corps Marathon



— BethAnn Telford, a brain cancer survivor, ran the Marine Corps Marathon in November. Courtesy photo.

Nine years after a life-changing diagnosis, Beth Ann Telford, a Fairfax resident, ran her 12th consecutive Marine Corps Marathon on Oct. 27. Brain cancer, rather than slowing her down, has pushed her through three Ironman competitions and three Boston Marathons—not to mention quite a few "Turkey Trots" in Virginia Run.

3. Fairfax County Recognizes Westfield Marching Band



— The Westfield Marching Bulldogs were honored by Fairfax County in early December for earning a spot in the Tournament of Roses parade on Jan. 1, 2014. Courtesy photo.

Sully District Supervisor Michael Frey moved to present a certificate of recognition in early December to the 275 members of the Westfield High School Bulldogs marching band, noting the rarity of their invitation to participate in the Tournament of Roses parade on Jan. 1, 2014. "The Westfield High School Marching Bulldogs are only the third Virginia band in history and the first Fairfax County band ever to be asked to participate in the Tournament of Roses parade," said Frey.

2. Locals Get Boost From Centreville Baptist Church Clothing Giveaway



— About 300 people queued up for a giveaway at Centreville Baptist Church. Photo: Anita Klimko.

Local residents started lining up at 3 a.m. on an October morning for free clothes, shoes and childrens' toys at a semi-annual giveaway sponsored by the Centreville Baptist Church. The church has been collecting clothing donations for the past month and amassed more clothes for the giveaway probably than ever before.

1. Potomac Records Ignites Local Music Scene



— Mike Bailey of Potomac Records. Courtesy photo.

Centreville-based Potomac Records—launched by two high school friends and lifelong musicians—is working to change and reinvigorate the local music scene by providing a launching pad for local artists.

The indie label is the collaboration of Northern Virginia natives Mike Bailey and Pete Evick, launched in 2011. Their vision is to re-make Northern Virginia into a fertile ground for local musicians, just like Seattle or Los Angeles.

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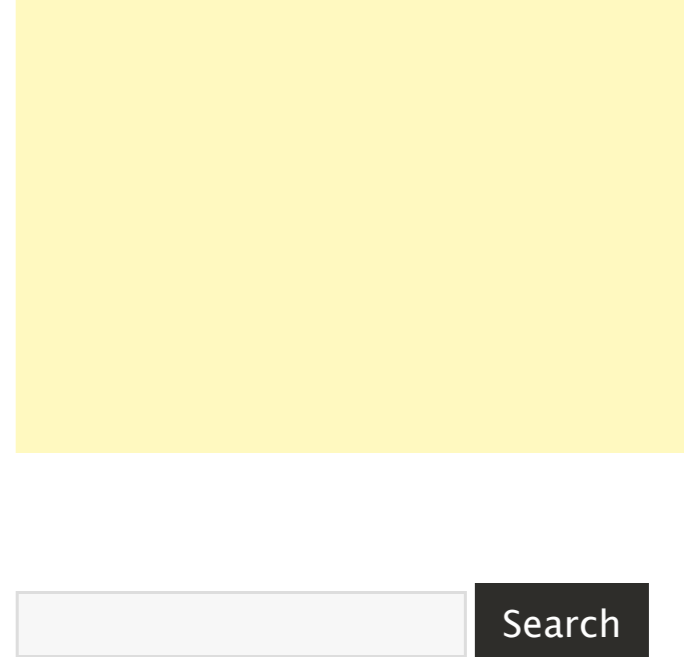
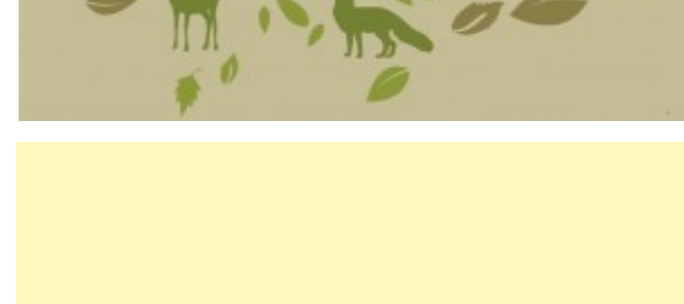
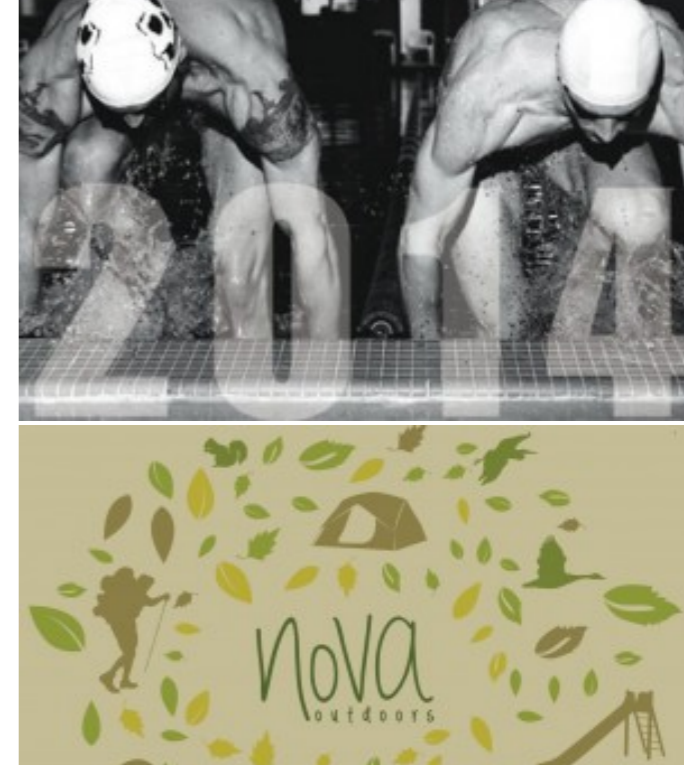
2013 Year in Review, Top 10, Year in Review

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The Centreville Independent If I had written this article a day later, this article would have come in as number two on the list: http://centrevilleindependent.com/westfield-band-arrives-in-pasadena-prepares-for-rose-bowl-parade/ Reply · Like · 10 hours ago

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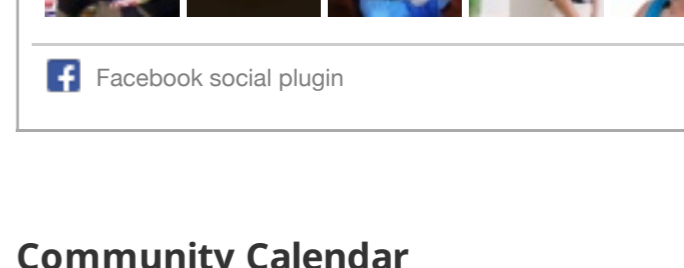
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Community Calendar

Events on January 1, 2014 The Marching Bulldogs at Tournament of the Roses Parade Starts: 12:00 pm Ends: 1:00 pm, January 1, 2014 More details

Events on January 11, 2014 Birds of Prey Starts: 10:00 am Ends: 11:00 am, January 11, 2014 More details

Events on January 16, 2014 Westfield High School PTSA Meeting Starts: 7:00 pm Ends: 8:00 pm, January 16, 2014 More details

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