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# CENTRE VIEW



MARCH 20-26, 2019

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Sophie and her dads: From left are Shawn Cox, John Totten (in back), Seraphine Terryberry and Leland Shook.



# ‘Mamma Mia! Here I Go Again’

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 6 ❖ CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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# Explaining Death to Children

Breaking down a difficult topic and helping children grieve.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Rosalie Ward, recalls a hot and sticky summer evening in 1975. She was watching reruns of the television show “Bewitched” with her twin sister in the living room while her mother cooked dinner in the kitchen. Ward remembers hearing the ring of the family’s rotary telephone. The next sound she heard was a shriek and then violent sobs from her mother.

“My mom had gotten a call that her brother, my uncle, had been killed in a car crash,” remembers Ward. “I was six at the time, but most of my memories of that evening are of my mother crying uncontrollably for the hour or so until my dad came home from work. The two of them disappeared behind closed doors. I just remember being terrified and feeling alone.”

Whether prolonged or sudden, unforeseen or expected, experiencing the death of a loved one is never easy. While grief can weigh heavy on adults, it can overwhelm and confuse young children. And although death is an inevitable part of life, finding the words to discuss or explain it to young children can challenge many parents.

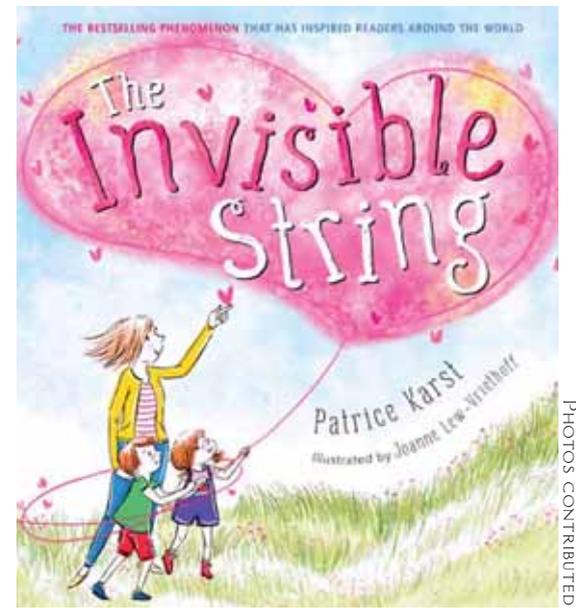
“Whether you’re talking about a family pet or a grandparent, it’s important that parents or caregivers understand that children grieve too and that death has to be discussed,” said Ward, who is a family therapist in Reston.

One of the most significant mistakes a parent or caregiver can make is not being honest with a child about death, said Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., professor of psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. “My biggest worry is when people hide the fact that a loved one died by saying that they went on a trip, and then the child sees the adult crying or being sad,” she said. “That doesn’t give the child a chance to process it, but by including them in a developmentally appropriate way, we are teaching that we can feel big feelings, and with the support of friends and family, we can still thrive.”

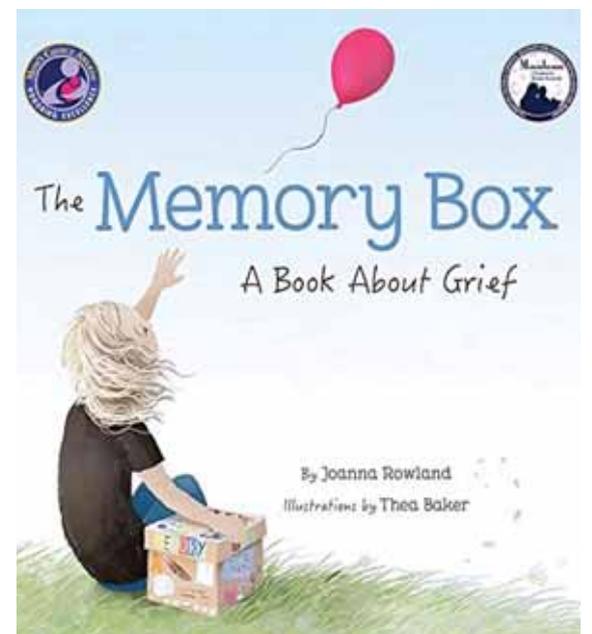
Helping a child to understand they didn’t cause the death could be an important part of the conversation, suggests Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C, a therapist in Bethesda. “Children often see the world as revolving around them,” she said. “Reassure them that their loved one dying was not their fault and that the death didn’t happen because they had a mean thought, misbehaved, or didn’t visit enough.”

“Death often brings anxiety in children and they wonder if they will die too,” added Barnaby. “Explaining that although the loved one has just died, death is not contagious and that the child will likely live a very long life.”

Clear, concise word usage is also important because young children might not have the language skills to discuss their feelings and emotions, adds Lorente. “Let the child engage in talking about fond memories of the deceased using pictures, making favorite recipes, or visiting a favorite place,” she said.



“The Invisible String” by Patrice Karst is a book that could help parents explain death to their children.



Bethesda-based therapist Carol Barnaby, LCSW-C suggests “The Memory Box” by Joanna Rowland as a tool to help children understand the concept of dying.

Use concrete and authentic terms when discussing it, continued Barnaby. “Avoid euphemisms like ‘Grandma is resting’ or ‘has gone away,’” she said.

“These sayings confuse children and may cause them anxiety over [the notion] that they could die if they fall asleep; or that other loved ones may not come back.” Use clear language like ‘Grandma has died.’

Young children often believe death is reversible, advises Jerome Short, Ph.D., professor of psychology at George Mason University. “You could describe how a body stops working and the person who died isn’t coming back.”

Be open to having an honest conversation about it, continued Short.

“Encourage children to ask questions and tell them you will help them handle any bad feelings or problems that happen,” he said.

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# ‘Mamma Mia! Here I Go Again’

**Rollicking musical presented by The Alliance Theatre.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

Combine hit songs from ABBA, a cast full of stage veterans and an iconic musical that’ll have audiences dancing in their seats, and you get The Alliance Theatre’s upcoming production of “Mamma Mia!” The show runs March 29-April 14 at Mountain View High, 5775 Spindle Court in Centreville.

The story unfolds in Greece, where American ex-patriate Donna runs a hotel. Her daughter Sophie is about to get married there, but doesn’t know which of three men is her father — so she invites them all to the wedding.

“The scenes take place in the hotel’s courtyard, a dock and a beach,” said Director Scott Olson. “The aisles in the theater will be decorated for the wedding, and the audience members will all be wedding guests. This is a fun, campy show, and people will love the music, story and romance. But what they’ll like best is that they’ll be able to join in and sing the songs along with the cast.”

And the festivities will continue after the curtain closes. “We’re holding a wedding reception, right outside the theater, after the show,” said Olson. “There’ll be refreshments, and the cast will even form a receiving line to meet the audience.”

The play has a cast and crew of 20 and is so popular that actors from far and near



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**Dueling couples: From left are Cheryl Bolt (as Tanya) and Dante Estrada (as Pepper), and John Totten (as Bill) and Soni Oberleas (as Rosie).**

auditioned for it. “It attracted people who wanted to do something different and new to the area,” said Olson. “We got so many amazingly talented people that 15 tried out for Sophie, alone.”

For the fathers, he said, “We got Shawn Cox, a former Broadway actor who toured with the show, ‘Titanic,’ and has been a wonderful addition to our cast. And I’ve worked with Leland Shook and John Totten on other shows, so I know how good they are. All three are perfect together as the dads.” Olson also noted the extensive

theater experience of Cara Giambrone, who plays Donna, and praised the “wide range of acting talent in drama and comedy” of Seraphine Terryberry, portraying Sophie.

Totten, of Centreville’s Cavalier Woods community, formerly taught at Centreville High and has acted in at least 10 Alliance shows. Playing dad Bill Austin, Totten said his character is a travel-book writer and confirmed bachelor who lives out of a backpack.

“He’s self-assured until pressed about whether he might be Sophie’s dad,” said

Totten. “And he and the other possible fathers are concerned about what they should do for this daughter that may be theirs. Bill’s also scared when Rosie — one of Donna’s former singing partners — comes on to him.”

Calling it a great part, Totten said, “I love it. I get to sing ABBA music and work with a great staff. I don’t have to dance as much as the other two dads, and I get to show a big range of emotions in a short span of time.”

His favorite song is “Thank You for the Music,” sung by all three dads plus Sophie. It’s personal to him, he explained, because “Having music in my life and being able to sing is a wonderful thing, so I’m very thankful for music.”

Totten said audiences will love the show’s energy and music and “will hopefully sing along with much of it. It’s also a neat story with kind of a surprise ending, plus a message that there are lots of different kinds of families.”

Shawn Cox portrays dad Sam Carmichael, an architect. “He’s smart, sarcastic, flirty and earnest,” said Cox. “He’s still in love with Donna, who he met 21 years ago. He already has two kids, so he’s open to being Sophie’s dad, too. All the dads think she’s theirs. I wanted this role because Sam is real and relatable. He has some good songs and some nice moments onstage.”

Cox especially likes the number, “The Winner Takes It All,” sung by Giambrone as Donna. “She belts it out, the lyrics are really good and it tells a story,” he said. “And it’s the first time Sam sees that Donna still has feelings for him.”

SEE ALLIANCE PRESENTS. PAGE 6

# Someone Who Goes ‘Above and Beyond.’

**PFC Kenner Fortner honored as Officer of the Year.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS

PFC Kenner D. Fortner III has been chosen the Sully District Police Station’s 2018 Officer of the Year. He was honored at the Feb. 13 meeting of the station’s Citizens Advisory Committee.

In nominating him for this award, Lt. Nicholas DiPippa wrote that, all throughout last year, Fortner “has exemplified what it is to be a patrol officer and leader among his peers. He goes above any supervisor’s expectation of work ethic and performance, while ensuring the welfare of the community he serves each day. He maintains a positive attitude and is willing to perform above what it takes to make a difference.”

Although Fortner has only been in the Police Department for four years, he’s already made an impact. “He is a constant producer and is in the top half – of not only

his squad, but the station – in DWI arrests, criminal arrest, and citations,” wrote DiPippa. “He pushes himself and challenges his coworkers daily with his work ethic and his proactive attitude.”

“His desire for knowledge has him continually educating himself on case law, code sections and law-enforcement topics,” continued DiPippa. “Fortner has become an informal leader among his squad, and younger officers seek his guidance on calls routinely. His supervisors rely on him for his knowledge, calm manner and good decision-making skills. It is because of these attributes that Fortner was selected to become a Field Training Instructor.”

DiPippa stressed that Fortner has shown what an officer can accomplish by going above and beyond his normal duties. In fact,



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

**PFC Kenner D. Fortner III**

he noted that Fortner has been nominated for two, lifesaving awards for saving the lives of two citizens, on separate calls.

In the first incident, the officer responded to a call about a male who’d shot himself in the leg. Fortner arrived before Fire Department personnel and quickly assessed the man’s injuries. According to DiPippa, “He applied a tourniquet without hesitation and continued to calm the male to prevent him from going into shock.”

In the second event, Fortner responded for a male who was unconscious and not breathing. Again, he arrived before the Fire Department and “noticed the male did not have a pulse,” wrote DiPippa. “Fortner quickly began chest compressions that continued for over three minutes before rescue personnel arrived, saving the male’s life.”

Basically, said DiPippa, “Fortner takes in the totality of circumstances on calls and then decides the appropriate action. On one occasion, he stopped behind a vehicle that was stopped in the middle of traffic on Lee Highway. Fortner noticed the male was disoriented and could not open his window. The male at one point was so disoriented, he attempted to put his vehicle in drive. Fortner, along with other officers, broke a window of the vehicle and rescued the male from the car.”

“It was determined that the male was high on narcotics and tried to fight officers,” continued DiPippa. “The male was detained without injury. Even though Fortner had criminal charges to arrest the male, his first thought was for the safety of the male driver. Fortner had the male transported to the hospital, where it was determined he had overdosed on methamphetamines. Fortner did charge the male with his crimes, but made sure he also received medical treatment to help him.”

In addition, said DiPippa, “Fortner has shown a passion and affinity for crime-scene

SEE FORTNER. PAGE 6

## Fairfax County's Bold Housing Agenda

BY MICHELLE KROCKER  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
NORTHERN VIRGINIA AFFORDABLE  
HOUSING ALLIANCE

Last month, a panel appointed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors representing a cross-section of community stakeholders and housing advocates finalized their recommendations for Phase II of the county's Community-wide Housing Strategic Plan. Not since 2005, when then Chairman Gerry Connolly convened the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee, has there been such a comprehensive analysis of the state of affordable housing in Fairfax County.

Over the last two years, advisory groups and ad-hoc committees have been engaged in a top-to-bottom review of administrative, land use and regulatory policies and programs that impact affordable housing preservation and production. The scope of the plan encompasses the entire continuum of housing needs from persons with disabilities, seniors on fixed incomes and formerly homeless households to affordable homeownership.

The Housing Strategic Plan process began in June 2017, when the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) conducted an online county-wide housing survey and four community outreach sessions. Phase I of the Plan, which was adopted by the board in June 2018, identified 25 strategies related to land-use and zoning policies, allocation of existing financial resources, and administrative processes that are outdated or in need of revision to expedite affordable housing approvals. A timeline for the work on these strategies shows a completion date of 2020.

In Phase II, the ad-hoc Affordable Housing Resources Panel focused on two board-defined objectives: identify an annual goal for the production of new affordable units; and recommend a source of funds for the financial resources needed to achieve that goal. When completed, the housing plan will be incorporated into one comprehensive county strategic plan that integrates multiple existing agency plans to chart a blueprint for the future of the county.

**RECOMMENDATIONS** include housing strategies that have been promoted for some

time by advocates. They include:

- ❖ A goal to produce a minimum of 5,000 new homes, affordable to households earning no more than 60 percent of the area median income over the next 15 years. (It should be noted that the analysis identified the need for 15,000 units over the next 15 years);

- ❖ Dedicate the equivalent of an additional penny of the real estate tax (approximately \$24 million) to support public investment in these units beginning in FY2021, as well as retain the current funding of a half penny to support preservation strategies;

- ❖ Consider a countywide policy on commercial contributions to affordable housing production. Currently, this policy exists only for the Tysons redevelopment area;

- ❖ A commitment of "no net loss" of existing market affordable units (those serving households up to 60 percent of area median income);

- ❖ Promote opportunities to co-locate affordable housing with county capital facilities.

We especially applaud the recognition of the need for more robust preservation strategies.

**FORTHCOMING** recommendations from the EMBARK Housing Advisory Group provide additional strategies for preservation incentives in both redevelopment and new construction proposals which could be a template for preservation efforts countywide. The arrival of Amazon HQ2 should heighten concern among county leadership for vulnerable communities in Fairfax County that are located in close proximity to Pentagon City. Areas like Seven Corners and Baileys Crossroad, as well as the Richmond Highway corridor have all been approved in recent years for transit enhancements, mixed-use development and increased density. Amazon's announcement could be the catalyst that triggers investment in these areas that are home to thousands of low-income, minority households who live in the older, market-affordable housing located in these corridors. Recent Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RHA) investments in Parkwood and Murraygate that preserved over 400 units in the Lee and Mason Districts are steps in the right direction, but much more is needed.

**LOOKING AHEAD:** Currently, the county has over 650 affordable units in the pipeline with a development in the Dranesville District in Herndon, a senior housing project in the Lee

District, and a development at the Huntington Metro Station in the Mt. Vernon District. Two sizeable parcels of county-owned land located in Lee District and Springfield District are being processed for transfer to the RHA as sites for housing development. And plans to refinance the Crescent and Wedgewood apartments will result in additional funds for housing development, or expansion of Bridging Affordability, the County's local rental subsidy program.

All this bodes well for housing affordability in Fairfax County. For too long, the county's budget has shortchanged investments in new construction and preservation. An inventory developed by Virginia Tech's Center for Housing Research shows that only 9,000 market-affordable units, affordable to a family of four earning approximately \$66,000 annually, remain in the county. However, more than 68,000 households in the county earn no more than \$50,000 annually. Rents are rising faster than incomes, and families are experiencing rent burdens, overcrowding or are being priced out of the county.

**NEXT STEPS:** In March, recommendations from the Phase II Panel will be presented to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration and approval. Afterwards, the final package of housing recommendations will be given to the County Executive to be incorporated into the board's budget guidance for FY2021. This will occur when the Board adopts the FY2020 budget on May 7.

Nothing is certain until board adoption. But advocates throughout the county feel that in this very consequential election year, when so many candidates for the Board of Supervisors have identified housing affordability as a priority issue, this is the year for significant housing wins. To be successful, housing advocates must build a coalition of support that encompasses the business community and anchor institutions like healthcare facilities, education advocates, supporters of coordinated multimodal transit and land use planning, organizations promoting compact, mixed-use development and entities working for social justice and racial equity. This plan is bold and forward-thinking, and in this election year a community-wide campaign will be critical for adoption.

For more, see [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/communitywideplan](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/communitywideplan).

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Do Good Works

To the Editor:

It was beyond shocking for me to learn that there was a terrorist attack at two mosques in Christchurch, New Zealand. Innocent worshippers attending Friday Prayer were gunned down just because they were Muslim. It irks me that there's nothing I can do. I am sad and frustrated that I can't do anything for the people affected

or I can't spread enough peace to people. I can't even get my thoughts down because I am having so many ... like why can't everyone live peacefully? How did this help anyone? Some people have so much hatred in them that it doesn't matter what you say. But I know that I have to be positive and hope it will influence someone. The Qur'an says, "Vie with one another in good works" (2:149). And good work is what we all need to do.

**Saba Amjad**  
Chantilly

#### To Fight Darkness

To the Editor:

We are deeply saddened by the massacre of our Muslim neighbors. The murders this past week of children, women and men in Christchurch, New Zealand, is an awful painful repeat of the attacks that have taken place around the world and in our own community. This is a new reminder of the power of dark words to multiply

in strength.

We pledge continued prayer for these victims, and for all in religious communities everywhere. We pray for all who are insecure in this most sacred and precious right, to worship God, and to work with others to share the peace, goodwill and care for others, that the Creator wants for all.

We pray that at this time, and always, we may stand together in determination that darkness and hate will not overwhelm faith, and

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

# ROUNDUPS

## Fair Oaks CAC Meeting

The next meeting of the Fair Oaks District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) is set for Tuesday, March 26, at 7:30 p.m., at the Cale Community Center, 4615 Stringfellow Road, in Greenbriar. These monthly meetings are open to the public and all ages are welcome.

The Officer of the Month award for February will be presented, along with details about why that officer was selected. And the featured guests will be members of the Fairfax County Police Department's Marine Patrol Unit. It patrols county waterways, aids the boating community and is the only full-time, local law-enforcement marine patrol in Northern Virginia's waters.

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Children who will be 5 years old on or before Sept. 30, 2019, are eligible to attend kindergarten. Find the correct neighborhood school by entering your address at [boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/](http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/). Complete a packet of registration forms found at [www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/it/forms/enroll.pdf) or in the school office. Gather supporting documents: proof of residence in the school boundary, a certified copy of the child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the

## Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Tuesday, April 2, 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.

student may start school, but is not required for registration. Parents who choose to delay enrollment in kindergarten by one year are required to notify the school in writing of their intent. Learn more at [www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/general-registration-requirements).

❖ **Union Mill Elementary** is currently registering new students for the 2019-20 school year. Find registration forms in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at [www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll\\_0.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf). Call 703-322-8500 or email [lmilla@fcps.edu](mailto:lmilla@fcps.edu) to make an appointment to bring completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school. Kindergarten Orientation will take place on Monday, April 1, 4-5 p.m.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

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VA K Town Food Hall LLC trading as VA K Town Food Hall, 13818 Braddock Rd, Centreville, Fairfax County, VA 20121. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine & Beer On Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Stacey Kwon, Member. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**NEWS**

**Fortner: Officer of the Year**

FROM PAGE 3

techniques." Fortner has a background in crime-scene knowledge, but continues to add to his repertoire by attending crime-scene classes with the Fairfax County Police Department.

Furthermore, Fortner has been given several accolades from detectives and crime-scene personnel on his documentation of scenes, report writing, and processing skills. "If there is a priority call that could use his crime-scene skills, Fortner has already started to respond to assist officers," wrote DiPippa.

A call exemplifying this attribute happened when a citizen reported a vehicle had been broken into in the neighborhood. Fortner responded to assist the primary officer by processing the vehicle in hopes of obtaining suspect fingerprints. He located traces of blood in the vehicle and correctly collected them, according to the skills he acquired in his crime-scene classes.

"Fortner further assisted the primary officer when suspects were later developed," wrote DiPippa. "He then wrote a search warrant for the suspect's DNA and could tie them to the vehicle that was broken into, assisting in securing a conviction."

But that's not all. "Another outstanding case conducted by Fortner was when he spoke with a citizen who had his wallet stolen," wrote DiPippa. "Fortner wrote a very detailed and thorough report that received praised from Sully detectives. He did not stop at just taking a simple report, but contacted the victim on a follow-up and realized that the victim's credit cards had been used."

Fortner received copies of the receipts to show dates and times of the fraudulent transactions. He then received still images of the suspect at the locations where these transactions were made.

"Fortner also obtained arrest warrants for the suspect for fraudulent transactions over \$1,150," wrote DiPippa. "He arrested the male, interviewed him and obtained a confession from the suspect for all the fraudulent transactions, as well as for the original larceny of the wallet, forming a rock-solid case for court prosecution."

DiPippa ended his award recommendation by saying, "In recognition of his hard work and devotion to duty during 2018, PFC Kenner Fortner has been named Officer of the Year for the Sully District Station."

**Alliance Presents 'Mamma Mia!'**

FROM PAGE 3

He expects the show to be a big hit because "People love this music and it brings back memories of where they were when they first heard these songs. And the story is frothy and fun, with bits of seriousness and lots of silliness. Teens and adults will enjoy it."

Playing dad Harry Bright is Leland Shook. "Harry's a British banker, but has a fun-loving personality," said Shook. "Being on the island, he finds the happiness of his youth, as opposed to the seriousness of his everyday life. I usually direct musicals and act in dramas, but I'm having fun being in this production with all the other cast members and staff and their great energy." Being a huge ABBA fan, Shook likes all the group's songs, particularly "I Have a Dream," sung by Terryberry as Sophie. "It fits her character well," he said. "And it shows her changing from a girl to a woman and being responsible for her own actions." He said the younger audience members will enjoy "Mamma Mia!" because it's a popular Broadway show and movie. "Adults will like the nostalgia of the songs," he added. "And there are lots of breakout, funny moments — it's a hilarious show."

Seraphine "Sissi" Terryberry portrays Sophie. "She's an optimist, a romantic who thinks with her heart and a very vulnerable character," said

Terryberry. "She's hopeful and believes things will turn out all right and that good will overcome bad and love will beat out any obstacles."

Terryberry likes her part because of Sophie's upbeat attitude. "It's encouraging to me, and I've been able to bring her positive mentality into my own life," she said. "I've previously played either male roles or women in period pieces, so it's my first ingenue role set in modern times."

Her favorite number is "Voulez Vou." Performed by the entire cast, Terryberry calls it "a party onstage and so much fun to sing." She also likes "Slipping through My Fingers," sung by Donna, with Sophie joining in at the end. "It's right before the wedding and is about wondering where the time goes with your children," said Terryberry. "And it's a special moment that mother and daughter share together."

She said the show tells a story about love, not just romantically, but in a family. "It's great for moms and daughters to see a representation of a mother-daughter relationship where you're bickering one minute, but wouldn't want to be arguing with anyone else," said Terryberry. "The story reminds people to appreciate their family dynamic — and also has some sparkly costumes, jazzy dance moves and pretty funny jokes."

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**CALENDAR**

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PHOTO BY CB REPETTI

Participants enjoying vendors and historic sites during Centreville Day.

## Volunteers Wanted

The Planning Committee for Centreville Day 2019 is looking for new volunteers. The 27th anniversary of Centreville Day will be on Saturday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., in Historic Centreville Park. Learn how to be part of this family-friendly annual community event. Monday, April 8, 7-9 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Visit [www.centrevilleday.org](http://www.centrevilleday.org) or call 571-232-9371.

### CALENDAR

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

#### ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: "Fifty Shades of Green."** Through April 15, gallery hours at the Caton Merchant Family Gallery, 9419 Battle St., Manassas. Founded in 2016, Nova Plein Air Artists (NPAA) was initiated due to a shared desire to explore the idea of painting outdoors. Since then, NPAA has evolved into a creative, educational and social network of local artists committed to painting weekly at organized "paint-outs." Shades of Green showcases artwork from 11 active, local artists. Visit [center-for-the-arts.org](http://center-for-the-arts.org) or call 703-330-2787.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 21

**Weekend Food for Kids.** 10-11:30 a.m. at Dominion Energy, 3072 Centreville Road, Chantilly. Assistance League of Northern Virginia, a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization, invites community members to help pack food for its Weekend Food for Kids program. This critical program provides nonperishable food over the weekend to children who receive free or reduced-price meals during the school year at Title I schools in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. May arrive at 9:30 to help with setup. Free. Visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org).

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 23

**Friends of the Fairfax Station.** 11 a.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Richard Slattery, Senior Director of Policy and Research of the National Railroad Passenger Corp. (AMTRAK) will discuss the current state and future prospects of passenger rail services in the U.S. Slattery's presentation will take place as the keynote speaker following the annual membership meeting of the Friends of the Fairfax Station. The meeting and the Forum are free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be available. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Reception: "Fifty Shades of Green."** 6-8 p.m. at the Caton Merchant Family Gallery, 9419 Battle St., Manassas. Founded in 2016,

Nova Plein Air Artists (NPAA) was initiated due to a shared desire to explore the idea of painting outdoors. Since then, NPAA has evolved into a creative, educational and social network of local artists committed to painting weekly at organized "paint-outs." Shades of Green showcases artwork from 11 active, local artists. Visit [center-for-the-arts.org](http://center-for-the-arts.org) or call 703-330-2787.

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 24

**Spring Make 'n Take Activity.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Make tissue paper flowers to welcome spring. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**Live Music: Valerie Smith & Liberty Pike.** 7 p.m. (doors open at 6) at Frying Pan Farm Park Visitor Center, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Make plans to "hitch up the team" and head to Frying Pan Farm Park this season for Bluegrass Barn. Food and beverages available for purchase. \$18 in advance, \$20 at the door. Purchase tickets online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/bluegrass-barn) or by phone at 703-222-4664 or 703-437-9101.

#### THURSDAY/MARCH 28

**Who Left That Behind?** 1-2:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn park critters by the signs they leave behind. Join a naturalist on a hike to look for and identify these signs, and then complete a craft that helps you learn to identify different animal scat. Wear sturdy walking shoes. \$8 per person. Ages 4 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

#### SATURDAY/MARCH 30

**NoVaTEEN Book Festival.** 9:30 a.m. at Marshall High School, 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. The NoVaTEEN Book Festival is back with a day full of panels, games, and signings with over 30 bestselling and emerging Young Adult authors. Learn more on the official festival website. The event is free and open to the public; tickets and schedule -at [novateenbookfestival.com](http://novateenbookfestival.com).

**Lecture: The Power of Objects.** 1

p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Come for a discussion with Dr. Jennifer Van Horn on her book, "The Power of Objects in Eighteenth-Century British America." In the book, Van Horn investigates Anglo-American items to discover the importance of objects in the formation of a new society. Light refreshments will be available before and after the presentation. This talk is sponsored by the Sully Foundation, Ltd., and donations will be gratefully accepted. Space is limited, so please reserve a seat by March 14. For reservations or for more information, call 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site/).

**Amphibians After Dark.** 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Assist naturalists at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park with a calling amphibian survey. Learn how to identify frogs and toads by their calls while exploring pools and ponds. \$7 per person. Ages 7 and older. Children must be accompanied by a registered adult. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

#### SUNDAY/MARCH 31

**Learn about the "Tender Cars" on Trains.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Learn about the "Tender Cars" a type of railroad car on trains. Story boards and a craft will begin the series of activities to learn about the different types of cars on trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

#### MONDAYS STARTING APRIL 1

**Program for Homeschoolers.** 1-2:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Flock to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park for Homeschool Biology-Birds where students receive hands-on instruction in wild bird identification, migration, habitats and conservation through citizen science. Instructors use preserved species, and wild birds to illustrate the concepts. All lessons are structured around the Virginia Standards of Learning. The program meets every Monday from 1-2:30 p.m. except April 15. This program is geared for students ages 8-15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence).

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