Improving a Local Treasure
Upgrades to the Bull Run/Occoquan Trail

From Bull Run Regional Park in Centreville to Fountainhead Regional Park in Fairfax Station is perhaps the best natural surface trail in all of Northern Virginia. This 18+ mile trail is the centerpiece of nearly 5,000 acres of contiguous parkland owned and managed by NOVA Parks (Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority).

This was the first big area of parkland purchased by NOVA Parks 50-60 years ago. When the trail was added 30 years ago, there was not an understanding of sustainable trail design. As a result, the old trail goes straight up and down many steep slopes, and the result is erosion, which negatively impacts the water quality of the streams, river and reservoir that adjoin to this parkland.

"The parkland in this area was conserved to benefit water quality. It was very progressive of NOVA Parks leaders 60 years ago to see the need to protect this area. Today, this large forest area serves to filter storm water before it reaches the reservoir," commented Stella Koch, NOVA Parks board member and local environmentalist. "I am thrilled we are now taking steps to make the trail more sustainable," continued Koch.

In the last year, NOVA Parks hired Applied Trails Research, a nationally known trail firm, headed by Dr. Jeremy Wimpey (PhD in Geospatial Environmental Analysis), to study the Bull Run/Occoquan Trail (BROT) and propose a series of trail routes that will address erosion issues, and allow the trail to better serve the many trail users over the next 50 years.

The Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC) partners with NOVA Parks and leads the maintenance of the BROT. Robert Fiano, PATC District Manager for this area noted "many sections of the BROT have a fall line trail alignment - the trail runs straight up and straight down the hillsides, exactly the way water wants to run. These fall line trails erode rapidly, are difficult to maintain, and the erosion exposes roots and rocks. Trail users want to avoid the uneven footing, gullying, and muddy patches, so they walk next to the trail, further widening the trail and starting a new cycle of erosion, rock and root exposure, and trail widening. In places the BROT has become fifty feet wide by this process. The only long term fix for this situation on a natural surface trail is to reroute the trail so the trail is less steep, and drainage can be incorporated into the design to remove water from the trail before erosion can start. This gentle, serpentine design is called contour alignment, since the trail tends to run along the contour of the land. Contour alignment reduces erosion and the resulting situation of adjacent water bodies, as well as reducing the trail maintenance."

The Applied Trails Research study identified 12 areas that should be rerouted, and estimated the total project would cost close to $1 million to complete. In 2018, NOVA Parks applied for and won $400,000 in federal funds to start this project. In addition, over $500,000 plus volunteer work were provided by Mid-Atlantic Off Road Enthusiasts (MORE), the leading mountain bike club in the region.

"Sound trail design has come a long way in the last decade. We are thrilled to be partnering with NOVA Parks and PATC in implementing best practices on this trail," said Ernest Rodriguez, President of MORE.

In addition to improving the environment, the rerouted trail needs to go around numerous archeological resources. This area is remarkable for its history. There are significant prehistoric resources. The troops of French General Rochambeau passed through this area on their way to Yorktown in 1781. During the Civil War, this area was particularly busy, with an early battle near the point where Rt. 28 crosses the river today, and numerous camps and fortifications. "I have worked with NOVA Parks for decades on the preservation and interpretation of many historic sites on their parkland. They are an agency that puts a high value on preserving the history of our region," remarked Jim Lewis, local historian.

The first areas of rerouting the trail have begun, and the work will continue for years as the funds are found and priority areas are addressed. 2019 is the 60th anniversary of NOVA Parks, and of the first purchase of parkland at Bull Run. This project is one of many ways NOVA Parks is keeping its parkland well maintained for current and future generations.

For more information: novaparks.com/parks/bull-run-occoquan-trail

Above, an example of how steep trails cause erosion and root damage. Below, an example of a properly contoured trail.
Showcase Performers Kick Up their Heels

The 9th annual Centreville International Showcase was Saturday, April 13.

Photos by Bonnie Hobbs/Center View

Mahima Adhikari and Aarya Ghimire perform a Nepalese dance.

Nepalese dancer Laxmi Ghimire takes a bow.

Westfield High grad Sara Berrios plays ukulele while singing a song she wrote.

Bowing after doing a Bolivian dance at the Centreville International Showcase are (front to back) Nadya Tapia, 9, and Alexandra Dagdelen, 7.

The O’Neill-James School of Irish Dancing

Centreville High senior Ricardo Avalos sings in Spanish.

Alvi Ramirez sings and plays harmonica and guitar.

Kofi Dennis (second from right) and Friends wow the crowd with their drumming.

The Washington Area Senior Harmonica Group

Singing while playing music are members of the Korean Central Senior Center’s Autoharp Ensemble.
Comprehensive change — not one-time funding — needed to support Fairfax County immigrant families and community members.

By Mary Supplee
Fairfax for All

Fairfax County residents in deportation proceedings are not guaranteed access to free legal counsel. According to Department of Justice data, such legal representation dramatically increases the likelihood that an individual will have a hearing, be released from detention, and be granted relief from deportation.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering limited, temporary, one-time funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings. Without also enacting a policy that ends the county’s voluntary collaboration with ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), this proposal is merely a band-aid that would offer assistance to fewer than 1 percent of the people who need it. A band-aid on a wound that the Board of Supervisors and Sheriff Stacey Kincaid deepen every day as they put more people into the arrest-to-deportation pipeline.

Currently, more than 31,500 county residents are in deportation proceedings. This is because Fairfax County voluntarily collaborates with ICE in the detention and deportation of its residents and visitors. This collaboration harms migrants residing in Fairfax County and weakens our community. Every day that county leadership fails to act, more people live in fear and more residents are detained. Data from Syracuse University’s TRAC program show that Fairfax County ranks 13th in the country for its compliance with voluntary detainee requests issued by ICE (view data directly at bit.ly/1detainer-compliance-rates).

While funding for legal representation would be commendable, it’s not enough. By itself, this proposal alone offers more comfort to the politicians who want to appear to stand with our immigrant neighbors than it does to people vulnerable to those politicians’ policies. Real and lasting change will only come by ending the county’s voluntary collaboration with ICE.

In late 2017, attorneys working in concert with the Fairfax for All coalition drafted the Ordinance to Protect Equal Justice for All. This countywide policy, which would end this racist collaboration and create some equity for our immigrant neighbors, will:

1. Prohibit the county from being involved in civil immigration enforcement; 2. Limit the collecting and sharing of information with ICE; 3. Expand the list of documents that are acceptable as proof of identity; and 4. Establish permanent funding for legal representation for county residents in deportation proceedings.

The complete ordinance can be read at fairfaxforall.org/pledge. It is long past time for Board Chairman Sharon Bulova, the Board of Supervisors, Sheriff Stacey Kincaid, and other officials to end the county’s voluntary collaboration with ICE. A collaboration that furthers the criminalization, incarceration, and deportation of valued Fairfax County families and community members.

Fairfax for All is a coalition of grassroots, civil rights, immigrant rights, and faith-based organizations dedicated to building sanctuary in Fairfax County. Visit fairfaxforall.org.

Fully Fund the MRA to Support Our Community

By Tarrence Taylor
Fairfax County resident and employee

Frontline Fairfax County employees work hard every day to make our community a better place for all people. We are nurses, educators, librarians, first responders, parks staff, sanitation workers, engineers and more. We are your friends, family and neighbors. And we want what everyone wants: the ability to make a difference, financial security, and a better life for our kids.

Unfortunately, the proposed Fairfax budget breaks the county’s promise to workers like me by not funding the agreed-upon Market Rate Adjustment.

The Market Rate Adjustment is similar to a cost-of-living adjustment (COLA), and it is intended to help employees keep up with the high cost of living in this area, as well as to keep up with our neighboring counties. That’s why the Board of Supervisors voted to adopt a pay plan which includes a yearly Market Rate Adjustment.

The agreed-upon formula says the MRA should be 2.51 percent this year, but the proposed budget only offers 1 percent. That is simply not enough.

The Market Rate Adjustment is not just a number to me. I’m the father of seven wonderful children, and I’ve made a promise that nothing will get in the way of them achieving a college education. That’s why I’ve worked hard my entire life.

However, if the county does not keep its promise and fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment, then I may not be able to keep my promise to my kids.

Not fully funding the Market Rate Adjustment also hurts the local families who use our services to get ahead, because it keeps us from recruiting and retaining the quality workforce we need.

We are losing good employees every day. Employees gain experience and training here in Fairfax, and then leave for the surrounding counties that pay more. That costs us money and time, as we are forced to constantly train new employees.

Fully funding the Market Rate Adjustment will help keep the experienced employees that we work hard to train, right here in Fairfax County, helping Fairfax County families.

The Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to do something about this. It is their job to make changes to the budget to ensure it meets the needs of our community. Please join us in calling on Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax Board of Supervisors to fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment so that our community can continue to be a wonderful place to live, work and play.

Tarrence Taylor is a Fairfax County employee, resident and taxpayer, and a proud union member of SEIU Virginia 512.
Audiences will journey back to the 1980s in Westfield High’s rollicking, rock musical, “Rock of Ages.” And they’ll be singing the words to the songs along the way.

It’s the school’s Cappies entry, and the show will burst upon the stage, Friday-Saturday, April 26-27 and May 3-4, at 7 p.m., and Sunday, April 28, at 2 p.m. Tickets are $12 at the door or $10 online via www.westfieldtheatre.com.

“We’ve got excellent singers and very skilled dancers, and this show is just a good time—upbeat and colorful,” said Director Rachel Harrington. “And just when you think you’ve got it all figured out, something new happens to keep the audience engaged. We’re really excited about it.”

There are two, main storylines. One is about Drew, a guitarist who works in The Bourbon Room, a bar in 1980s Los Angeles. Lots of rock bands perform there, and Drew wants to be a rock star. His love interest is Sherrie, who moves from Kansas to L.A. to be actress.

The other plot involves a businessman who wants to knock down the Sunset Strip, where the bar is, and replace it with other businesses. And the owner, a protestor and everyone in L.A. who loves rock music are trying to save it.

The show features a cast of 40, crew of 20 and a live, five-piece rock band. Scenes take place mainly on the Sunset Strip, in the bar and in a dance venue called the Venus Club. “We want to bring people into a rock-concert setting—from the set design to the costumes to the music,” said Harrington. “We really want the audience to sing along and take part in the show, not just watch it.”

“The kids have done a really great job of bringing the spirit of the show to life,” she continued. “None of them were alive in the ’80s, but they’ve immersed themselves in the ’80s culture and in their roles.”

HARRINGTON even brought in former “American Idol” singer Constantine Maroulis to give her students a workshop on this show. That’s because he played Drew in the original production of “Rock of Ages” on Broadway.

Portraying Drew for Westfield is junior John Henry Stamper. “Drew is an aspiring musician living on L.A.’s Sunset Strip,” he said. “He’s thoughtful and kind of a sweetheart, but naive, at times. He has good intentions and badly wants to make it big. It’s great being a guy who loves rock, because that’s me in real life. I love all the music in the show, and I want to do justice to these songs because my parents’ generation knows all the words.”

Stamper’s favorite one is “Here I Go Again,” sung by the whole cast while he sings the lead. “It’s so high-energy and it’s really fun.”

See ‘Rock of Ages’. Page 10

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By Bonnie Hobbs

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This is more than great rates

This is more savings for wherever you’re going.

Platinum Savings Account

2.10%

Guaranteed Fixed-Rate CD

2.40%

Annual Percentage Yield for 12 months with no minimum deposits of at least $25,000 and a minimum daily account balance of $25,000 or more.

Annual Percentage Yield for an 11-month term with new money deposits of at least $25,000.

In what has been a tradition for 16 years, the event’s MVP sponsor.

Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors honor service.

The event began at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church on Friday, April 5, where all the expectations were met.

Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott. Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott. Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott. Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott. Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomed the participants to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott. 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The 28th edition of the breakfast, held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church on Friday, April 5, not only exceeded expectations. The planners went for a baseball theme for this year’s event and from the very first Introduction, they produced a winner, starting with the President Box set up as an umpire, where the Leadership Fairfax class of 2017 alumni Jeff McKay (Lee), Mayor of the Braddock District and Dr. Karen Smyth (Providence) representing the Board of Supervisors, Fielder Sharon Bulova (Mt. Vernon) and Supervisor Steve Stenger (Hunter Mill) introduced the Board Chair as the emcee of the day, Businessmatchmaker Patricia Veatch as a surprise umpire. productivity to those who volunteer to ‘volunteer’ to volunteer with their children and their businesses and their families and their partners and their friends, and their neighbors, and their colleagues. She also offered words of encouragement to the audience, reminding everyone that the goal of the day was not only to have fun but also to bring people together for the common good. She spoke about the importance of collaboration and the need for people to work together to achieve common goals. She also emphasized the value of having a sense of community and the importance of being part of a larger whole. She concluded her remarks by thanking everyone for their participation and reminding them to stay connected and engaged with the organization. She expressed her confidence in the future of Leadership Fairfax and encouraged everyone to continue to support the organization and its mission. The elected officials were made to show off their athletic skills by throwing out a softball, a rally—rouseball—after the event. The Board of Supervisors honors community service.

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The elected officials were made to show off their athletic skills by throwing out a softball, a rally—rouseball—after the event. The Board of Supervisors honors community service.
Opportunities for community service and/or religious education are some of the reasons that parents might consider switching a child from public to private school.

Making the Leap from Public to Private School

Signs that a public school isn’t meeting your child’s needs.

By Marilyn Campbell

Elizabeth and Kent Hillegass noticed that their 6th grade son’s grades began to drop while the number of times they received notices from the school regarding his misbehavior had increased. He was also having challenges socially.

“He was really unhappy, the other kids made fun of him, he didn’t have any friends and to top it off his grades were awful,” said Elizabeth. “I would lie awake at night crying because I felt helpless.”

After a series of neuropsychological tests, the Hillegasses learned that their son had ADHD. The testing psychologist advised them to see an education consultant who helped them determine that a quiet school environment with small class sizes would best suit their son’s needs. The Hillegasses ultimately decided to send their son to a private school with a student-teacher ratio of 10 to 1.

“We’ve always been supporters of public education, but the class sizes and noisy environment were too overwhelming for him,” said Kent. “It was like he was lost and unable to focus when he was at school. He couldn’t sit still and pay attention in classes and was always getting into trouble, which made him feel ostracized, like he was the bad kid in school.”

A parent’s decision to move a child from public to private school can be based on factors that run the gamut from smaller class sizes to tuition that can cost as much as $50,000 annually. Although it’s a choice that should not be taken lightly, there are signs that it might be time to make the change if it’s possible, say education consultants.

“I suggest to parents that they focus on the needs of their child, not on the prestige that they think a private school holds or the sticker on the back of their car that lets everyone know that your child attends a certain school,” said Kim Hardy who was the education consultant who helped them determine that a change was necessary. “They have to find the best school for their family, not the one that’s most prestigious or most popular.”

When making the decision, some parents consider specialized opportunities that a public school might not offer. If religious education is important to a family, that’s certainly one reason to leave a public school,” she said. “If a family wants their child to be involved in public service beyond what is required to graduate, they might choose a private school that has community service built in to the curriculum.”

One such school is St. Stephen’s and St. Agnes School (SSSAS) in Alexandria, Va. “Our school offers religion classes and weekly chapels,” said Mandi Sapp of SSSAS. “We also have a ton of service-learning opportunities that students . . . do throughout the school year, including global service trips offered in Middle and Upper School. We have done a lot of work with ALIVE (ALexandrians InVolved Ecumenically) in Alexandria.”

“If a child is unhappy and asks repeatedly to change schools, Fetters believes that is a reason to give serious consideration to academic switch.

“At the end of the day, parents have to take a long, hard look at their child and their family,” Fetters said. “They have to find the best school for their family, not the one that’s most prestigious or most popular. Does what the school offers as a whole align with your family’s values and your child’s needs. Whether it’s public or private, that’s what a parent must determine.”
NEWS

Fond Farewell to Labor Center Manager

From left, are Centreville Immigration Forum President Alice Foltz with outgoing Centreville Labor Resource Center Manager Samantha Zaboli. During the CIF’s annual Centreville International Showcase, Saturday night, April 13, Foltz presented Zaboli with a shawl and bag handmade in Guatemala. Many of the day laborers at the CLRC come from Guatemala and, for the past two years, Zaboli has managed that center. But she’s now leaving that job to spend more time with her husband and child, so these were gifts to show appreciation for all she’s done.
News

‘Rock of Ages’ at Westfield High

John Henry Stamper and Keeley Rogers have lead roles in Westfield’s upcoming musical, “Rock of Ages.”

CALLING THE MUSICAL, itself, “super-fun,” she said it’ll be such an upbeat experience and so interactive that the audience will feel like it’s part of the story. “The adults will completely love it because it has all the songs they know and love,” said Rogers. “And there’s a big, wow factor with lots of dancing and big, group numbers. It’s a spectacle with a cheesy love story.”

Portraying German businessman Hertz is senior Braeden Anderson. “He’s come to L.A. to industrialize it and rid it of rock,” said Anderson. “He wants to completely renovate the whole Sunset Strip. He’s stern, strict, cold and serious and doesn’t joke; he’s always thinking about work.”

Anderson is enjoying the challenge of performing with a German accent. “Hertz is ultra-masculine and, previously, I’ve played softer roles,” he said. “And playing the antagonist is a new experience for me and different from my natural, optimistic personality. This guy’s very cynical, so I get to stretch myself as an actor.”

His favorite number is “Hit Me with Your Best Shot,” sung by Hertz’s son. “It’s the first time his son stands up to him,” said Anderson. “After that is my character’s turning point, because he realizes he’s making a mistake and losing his son.”

He said this show has lots of comedy and is a “jukebox musical. If you like rock, you’re going to enjoy it. Adults can reminisce over the songs, and people my age will like them, too. We grew up on rock and roll because it’s still relevant. And everyone will come away having a favorite song.”

Junior Faith Cho plays Regina, the mayor’s new city planner who becomes a feminist and tries to save her city from developer Hertz. “She’s headstrong, doesn’t take ‘No’ for an answer, does what she wants and fights for what she thinks is right,” explained Cho. “She’s kind of a rebel and is very energetic and excited.”

Cho especially likes the song, “We’re Not Gonna Take It,” which she sings. “I get to dance with the ensemble and all my friends in it,” she said. “I’m leading a group of protestors trying to save L.A.”

Overall, she said, “Rock of Ages” is “everything you want a musical to be. It’s full of energy, with something special about the characters’ passion. And there are so many different types of characters and such great music that this show definitely has something for everyone.”
Look Out for Shady Scams

Learn about scams targeting average citizens during a special event, Saturday, April 27, from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. It will be held at Fairfax County Public Safety headquarters, 12099 Government Center Pkwy, in Fairfax. Every day, hundreds of local residents lose their hard-earned money to a variety of fraud schemes. In fact, every two seconds, a con artist steals someone’s identity. So to strike back against scammers, AARP Virginia and Fairfax County Government’s Silver Shield Task Force are bringing together top experts and law-enforcement officials to present a free, informational Steam Jam. They’ll discuss scams aimed at Virginians, such as fake solictor schemes, bogus investment deals, lottery scams, email fraud, a grandparent ruse and the latest identity-theft shams. Registration is required; go to https://states.aarp.org/silvershield/scamjam or call 1-877-926-8300.

Cyber Security

The Fair Oaks District Station’s Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet Tues-day, April 30, at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Capt. David Smith from the Cyber and Forensics division, and the meeting is required; go to https://states.aarp.org/silvershield/scamjam or call 1-877-926-8300.

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BULLETIN BOARD

Volunteers Wanted

Interested in local Civil War or Railroad History? Consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. The Museum is also seeking an individual to coordinate the scheduling of the volunteer staff. Training will be provided for all positions. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org call 703-945-7483 for 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. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFPSB6, or call 703-425-9225.

Volunteers Needed. The Shepherd’s Center of Western Fairfax County needs volunteers to provide weekday rides to medical appointments for residents 50 and older. Drivers can choose their rides and how often they want to volunteer. Office volunteers are needed and work from home or SCWFC office. The Shepherd Center office is located at 14426 Albermarle Point Suite, 119, Chantilly; Contact Travis White at scwfc.office@gmail.com or 703-246-5920.

MONDAY/APRIL 15

Volunteer Reading Tutors, 10 a.m.-noon at Sully District Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly, Assistance League of Northern Virginia (ALNV) is looking for approximately 20 volunteers to read with students from kindergarten through second grade at local public schools in Chantilly and Centreville. For more information, email volunteer Reading Program Coordinator, Jennifer Dennis, at readingprogram@alnv.org or call 703-788-6539.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photo/artwork encouraged.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/APRIL 26-28
Rock of Ages: High School Edition. Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 2 p.m. at Westfield High School in Chantilly. As the sun sets on the LA strip, Rock ‘n’ Roll comes alive inside the doors of the Bourbon Room. With impending demolitions and the struggles of young love, the people of the strip are still “looking for nothing but a good time” in this electrifying tale of Rock of Ages. The cast and crew of Westfield Theatre’s Rock of Ages will be collecting donations for Shelter House at each performance. Visit shelterhouse.org for a list of needed items. Tickets are $10 at westfieldtheatre.org or $12 at the door.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27
Springfest 2019. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Sully Road in Chantilly. Springfest is a once a year, environmental festival that strives to educate Northern Virginia residents, businesses and students on the benefits of helping our planet. Springfest strives to celebrate our planet and participate in the observance of Earth Day. Email ayeah@cleanfairfax.org or visit Springfest@fairfax.gov for more.

Fundraiser: VFW Post 8469. 11 a.m. at bowl America, 3515 Guinea Road, Burke. VFW Post 8469 will host a bowling event to raise funds to help support veterans’ needs. The cost is $20 for three games and shoes, plus a raffle ticket to win either a decorative Flags of Valor, a guided day hike in the Shenandoah, two tickets to Amy Grant at the Birchmere or a bowling ball. There will also be a Certified Service Offices on site to help with Veteran benefits issues.

*Enchanted Forest* Joy Prom. 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church, 1510 Lee Hwy, Centreville. Similar to Tim Tebow’s “Night to Shine,” Basketball: Carmen and the premiere of Life In The Fast Lane, a rock ballet to support WamaLTC’s efforts to bring awareness to those living with Alzheimer’s disease. $40. Call 703-502-3883 for more.

FRIDAY/SATURDAY/APRIL 26-27
LEGIO Model Train Show. Friday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington D.C. Metropolitan Area LEGO Train Club (WALMC) members will hold a two-day LEGO-based train show. All trains, buildings and scenery in the display are built from LEGO bricks and sets. Donations of unwanted LEGO pieces and sets are appreciated to help support WALMC’s efforts to bring fun and education to all ages through its activities. Admission is ages 16 and older, $4; 5-15, $2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org or call 703-425-9225.

SUNDAY/APRIL 27/FRIDAY/MAY 3
*Divine Laws for Happiness & Fulfillment.* Saturday-Sunday, 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Monday, 4-7 p.m. at Rаждани Mandir, 4525 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Swami Swami Swami Swami is a renowned teacher of Spirituality, Yoga and Meditation. He is the founder of www.yogystem.com. He also is the founder of www.7divinenewlife.com. 

TUESDAYS STARTING MAY 7
Program for Homeschoolers, 1-2 grade. 5:30 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Chantilly. Learn a new skill with Homeschool Animal Vet. Students get hands-on experience caring for animals in the visitor center and park. They will explore the lives of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Feed and refresh tanks for exhibit animals and explore the park to see what staff does to assist wildlife. The program meets every Tuesday from 1 until 2:30 p.m. It is appropriate for younger ages 6 to 15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit https://virex.co.gov/parks/clearnw.

FRIDAY/MAY 17
Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Clifton Community Association’s Clubhouse hosts the 47th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction on Friday, May 17. Proceeds are distributed to local scholarships and charities. Clifton’s Tradition offers guided tours of four homes and two historic churches with Clifton Baptist Church (1910) and Clifton Primitive Baptist Church (1871). The silent auction (free admission) is from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church. Tickets are $30 in advance, $33 online, and $35 the day of the tour; $10 to tour one home. Tour tickets may be purchased in advance at local shops, online at www.cliftonvec.org, or purchased the day of the tour at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton.

SATURDAY/APRIL 27
Festival of the Arts. 8-11:30 a.m. at Centreville High School, 5611 Unum Mill Road, Clifton. The CVHS Wildcats vs. Cancer Club hosts their third annual Festival of the Arts. This year’s festival features a 1.5-mile fun run/race and an inflatable obstacle course. The festival will also include a selfie station, vendors, raffle prize drawings, a “Minute to Win It” game station, food, and more. Proceeds go to DC Candlelighters (www.dccandlelighters.org), a non-profit organization supporting families affected by pediatric cancer. Tickets are $20 at runsignup.com. Call 703-735-0456 or Facebook FestivaloftheArts19. Learn more at wildcatsvscancer.com or www.nationaltraining.com.

Historic Marker Unveiling: Mystery of the Centreville Six. 10 a.m. at McDonald’s Restaurant, 15100 Lee Hwy, Centreville. The Virginia Historical Society will unveil a historic marker dedicated to the six members of the Centreville Six: GOLD, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is $48 a year, and www.chevauxdefer.com. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

Library/Events

SUNDAY/APRIL 28
HO GAUGE Model Train Show. Noon-4 p.m. at the Clifton Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Model Railroad Group will have running HO gauge model trains. Ages 16 and older, $4; 5-15, $2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfaxstation.org or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAYS STARTING MAY 7
Program for Homeschoolers, 1-2 grade. 5:30 p.m. at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Chantilly. Learn a new skill with Homeschool Animal Vet. Students get hands-on experience caring for animals in the visitor center and park. They will explore the lives of birds, reptiles, amphibians and mammals. Feed and refresh tanks for exhibit animals and explore the park to see what staff does to assist wildlife. The program meets every Tuesday from 1 until 2:30 p.m. It is appropriate for younger ages 6 to 15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit https://virex.co.gov/parks/clearnw.

FRIDAY/MAY 17
Clifton Caboose Run. 6-9 p.m. in the Town of Clifton, on the intersection of Clifton Road, Newman Road and Main Street. A 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk beginning in the turn-of-the-century Wild West theme. Call 703-379-7214 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 6
Westfield All Night Grad Party. 11 p.m.-4 a.m. at Uptown Alley, 8301 Sudley Road, Centreville. Adult and non-adult Fun Run/Walk beginning in the turn-of-the-century Wild West theme. Call 703-379-7214 for more.

ONGOING

Fitness for 50+. Daytime hours, Monday at the Sully Senior Center. 14426 Albermarle Place, Chantilly. Jazzyercise, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is $48 a year, and www.chevauxdefer.com. Email lynne.lott@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-322-4475 for more.

History Volunteers Needed. Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history volunteers to offer a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email volunteers@fairfaxstation.org or call 703-941-2707 for more.

Property of the Year. 2019. 8:30 a.m. at the Clifton Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. call 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, watercolors, oils, pastels, etchings, doors, windows, and flower shows. Call 703-735-0456 for more.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com