

JUNE 10-16, 2015

25 CENTS NEWSSTAND PRICE



The crowd at Bull Run Elementary listens to the speakers.

'Diverse Travel Choices?'

Residents hear I-66 improvement plans, give opinions.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

VDOT plans to improve travel on the 25 miles of I-66 between Route 15 in Haymarket and the I-495/Capital Beltway. So it's created three alternatives and will take the best elements from each — tempered by residents' comments from several public hearings — and develop the final design.

Currently proposed are two express lanes and three regular lanes in each direction. The express lanes would be free to buses and HOV-3 (converted from HOV-2) vehicles. Non-HOV cars would pay tolls with pricing based on congestion. The regular lanes would be free and open to all traffic. There'd also be ramp-to-ramp connections to help drivers more safely enter and exit I-66.

The plan includes high-frequency, rapid bus service beyond peak traffic hours for more predictable travel times. And there'd be direct access between the express lanes and new or expanded commuter parking lots. Existing interchanges will be studied, plus the feasibility of replacing or widening I-66 overpasses and bridges, where needed.

Bicycle and pedestrian access parallel to the highway is also being evaluated, as is the possibility of having Metro within the I-66 right-of-way. The financing method will be determined later,

but the project cost is expected to exceed \$2 billion. Design public hearings will be held in 2016, with construction earmarked to begin in 2017 and end in 2021.

"I-66 today carries over 200,000 vehicles a day in the most congested sections," said VDOT Deputy District Administrator Renee Hamilton. "We want to reduce neighborhood cut-through traffic by having people stay on I-66. And we want to provide diverse travel choices in a cost-effective manner."

She was speaking on Wednesday night, June 3, before hundreds of people in Bull Run Elementary's cafeteria. Ringing the room were dozens of maps showing the project area and possible traffic changes; and outside in the hallway before the meeting, people were able to see more

SEE REVIEWING, PAGE 8



Rocky Run resident John Kuchenbrod points to a current traffic bottleneck in Centreville.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

A Time for Celebration

CPMSAC honors high school students' academic achievements.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

It was a time to celebrate. And that's just what happened at the Chantilly Pyramid Minority Student Achievement Committee's (CPMSAC) 30th Annual Youth Motivation and Academic Awards program.

It was held Saturday, June 6, at Chantilly High, and the gym bleachers were packed with cheering and appreciative friends and family members there to see area high-school students be honored and recognized for their academic accomplishments.

"This year, we had the largest number of people receiving awards in 30 years, so you're making history," CPMSAC President Johnny Nelson told the students. "And we're celebrating you for the job you've done."

Kicking off the program by presenting the colors were the Junior Buffalo Soldiers of Mount Olive Baptist Church. Then Colleen Howard sang the National Anthem and, later, sang the senior tribute song, "Hero (Wind beneath My Wings)."

Six students received scholarships from CPMSAC and were specially acknowledged during the ceremony. Lawrence Wright, Centreville High, and Rachel Jacobs, Chantilly High, were awarded the Shirley O. Nelson Memorial Scholarship. And Cameron Guy Dudley Book Schol-



Johnny Nelson



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS

Keynote speaker Janelle Alabi tells students they need to have grit to succeed.

arship Awards went to Malaz Namir, Chantilly High; Madeline Naa-Koshie Powell, Westfield High; Morgan Carson, Chantilly High; and Arica Jackson, Westfield High.

Wright will attend Case Western Reserve University to major in

SEE A TIME, PAGE 9

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NEWS

Cappies Awards Honors High School Theater

The 16th Annual Cappies Gala honoring high school theater was held Sunday, June 7 at The Kennedy Center. Of the 39 awards, winning the top prizes were Robinson Secondary School for the Best Play Award for "Nowhere," and McLean High School for the Best Musical Award for "Big Fish." This year's Masters of Ceremony were Judy Bowns, Janie Strauss and Ed Monk.

This year's show included 58 public and private high schools in Fairfax County, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, Montgomery, and Prince William counties, and the cities of Falls Church, Alexandria, Manassas and Washington, D.C. The Cappies season extended from October to May.

The Cappies program was launched in the summer of 1999 by Bowns, the theatre arts resource teacher with FCPS, and the late Bill Strauss (director, Capitol Steps), in cooperation with area theater teachers, for the purpose of celebrating and bringing public acclaim to high school theater.

— STEVE HIBBARD



PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/CENTRE VIEW

The Female Dancer Award went to Meredith Mehegan for "Pajama Game" at Westfield High School.

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ROUNDUPS

Reema's Remembrance Cabaret

Each year, a cabaret is held in honor of Westfield High grad and Virginia Tech victim Reema Samaha. And the 8th Annual Remembrance Cabaret is this Saturday, June 13, in Westfield's theater. It begins with a silent auction at 6 p.m., followed by a variety show at 7 p.m.

Besides providing entertainment, it's also a fundraiser. The event is free, but all donations made that night, plus the proceeds from T-shirt and baked-goods sales, will help deserving students attend college via the Reema J. Samaha Memorial Scholarship Fund.

Touch A Truck June 13

The Sully District Police Station and the Chantilly Regional Library present the Third Annual Touch A Truck, this Saturday, June 13, from 2-5 p.m., at the library, 4000 Stringfellow Road in Chantilly. Forget toy trucks and cars; children will be able to get an up-close look at the real thing.

There'll be lots of big trucks on site for kids and adults alike to learn about, explore and discover. There will also be events for kids, balloon artists, live music and much more during this free, fun-filled day for the whole family. Park at Chantilly High, and police will be directing traffic to safely get pedestrians across Stringfellow Road to the library parking lot.

Free Carseat Inspections

Certified technicians from the Sully District Police Station will perform free, child safety carseat inspections Thursday, June 18, 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.

Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry needs donations of Cooking oil, canned fruit (all types), sugar, canned meats (tuna, ham and chicken), hot cereals, pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, flour, and canned or dry beans.

Toiletries needed, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps, include facial tissues, toothpaste, shampoo and solid deodorant.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcmlva.org.

Learn about Police Department

Throughout the year, the Fairfax County Police Department will host a series of lectures as part of its 75th anniversary.

♦ June 11 – 2002 Washington area Sniper Task Force Investigation, 10 a.m. at the Massey Building A Level conference room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2002-washington-area-sniper-task-force-investigation-tickets-15373977982>

♦ July 23 – The Departments growth in relation to the county's development, 11 a.m. at the Criminal Justice Academy <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-departments-growth-in-relation-to-the-countys-development-tickets-15374059225>

♦ Aug. 10 – SWAT – Tools, Tactics, and Technology, 11 a.m. at the West Springfield District community room <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/swat-tools-tactics-and-technology-tickets-15374108372>

♦ Sept. 16 – Helicopter Division, 10 a.m. at the Criminal Justice Academy <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fcpd-helicopter-division-tickets-15374129435>

NEWS

Lessons from Hearing 'Voices'

Police officers undergo Crisis Intervention Training.

BY SAMANTHA TKAC
CENTRE VIEW

Fairfax County Police officers gathered Monday, June 8, at the Criminal Justice Academy, to listen to the voices in their heads.

Each officer wore earphones that emitted a cacophony of seething whispers, spitting remarks, and anxious pleas. The exercise was intended to mimic auditory hallucinations, one of the prevalent symptoms of schizophrenia.

This was the first of many courses being held this week, as officers from around the county worked to gain certification in Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). According to the 2015 Human Services Committee survey, 476 of the 1,336 Fairfax County police officers have completed CIT coursework. The training focuses on how to approach and accommodate those with mental illness — a population that makes up 50 percent of Fairfax County Adult Detention Center inmates, according to the 2013 Sheriff's annual report.

The 20 officers spent 45 minutes sitting at desks, attempting to complete basic activities while listening to the voices and the CIT coordinator Thomas von Hemert. Von Hemert barked orders at the officers, made snide remarks during their progress, and mocked them as they stumbled to answer simple questions. "People with mental illness are treated like they're dumb, they're retarded, they're ignorant, they're disregarded, they're disrespected," von Hemert said afterward. During the session, the officers experienced what it was like to feel helpless.

The activities included simple math, word and puzzle problems, and reading short articles to recite back information. They were also asked to fill out a hospital information sheet, to know exactly how difficult forms can be when distracted by severe mental activity. As time went on, the consistency of correct responses and the confidence of the officers began to waver. One of the last activities was for the class to write down the words to the national anthem. No one could recite the full song. After a few faulty attempts from the students, von Hemert concluded, "Play ball." Onlookers standing beyond the desks broke out in nervous laughter. Most all of the training officers stayed silent.

Around 9:20 a.m. von Hemert instructed the officers to take out their ear buds. Tension eased throughout the room, triggering a change in von Hemert's demeanor as well. His features softened as he apologized, "If I came across as unprofessional, rude, obnoxious, or like a jerk ... I hope you don't think that's who I am. Why do you think I took on that persona?"

One officer replied, "Because that's how they're [people with mental illness] are treated."

Yes, people with mental illness are treated like that all the time, von Hemert said, "not just with officers, but with doctors, with nurses, with teachers our community treats people with mental illnesses with that kind of disregard and distaste."

"I need you to focus on my voice. I'm here to keep you safe. ... Are you hearing voices? I need you to listen to my voice."

— Thomas von Hemert, CIT coordinator, giving an example of how to verbally approach those in crisis, placing an emphasis on slowing down



Tom von Hemert, CIT expert, discusses mental health training issues with Chief of Police Edwin C. Roessler Jr. during a class break.

Von Hemert asked the officers for feedback on their experience. Officers said they felt physically ill, exhausted and angry. "It made me nauseous," admitted one officer. "I just couldn't function like that," said another. One officer held up his palms, "My heart is still pounding, my hands are still clammy."

Another officer said, "I could almost see myself doing anything to make that stop."

"That was for 45 minutes. Can you imagine having that for hours, for days, for weeks, even years? It's exhausting," said von Hemert.

Von Hemert advised officers to slow their approach down when dealing with a person with mental illness, reminding officers of how hard and frustrating it was to complete the tasks they were given: "So, if you think that you're dealing with somebody with mental illness, and you say 'listen, I need for you to sit over there, fill that form out, give it to that secretary, and bring it back to me' — you lost them."

Von Hemert gave an example of how to verbally approach those in crisis, placing an emphasis on slowing down, "I need you to focus on my voice. I'm here to keep you safe. ... Are you hearing voices? I need you to listen to my voice."

Thomas Gadell, PFC, has worked for the FCPD for 11 years. When asked what he knew about schizophrenia before Crisis Intervention Training, he responded, "Before I went through Crisis Intervention Training, schizophrenia was just a word to describe somebody with mental illness. It didn't really have specific meaning or an understanding that came with it as to what they experience." CIT was "eye-opening. It really gives you a perspective of what they go through and allows you to feel empathetic toward their situation and put yourself in their shoes instead of [schizophrenia being] a word that doesn't mean anything."

The hope is that once officers understand what it is like to be afflicted with these symptoms, they can work better one-on-one with people who show signs of mental illness on the street.

"One step at a time," von Hemert told the officers. "You're looking for success here."

Nearly Half a Billion for Schools, Fire, Police

New police station in South County area could mean faster response times in a growing area.

By KEN MOORE
CENTRE VIEW

Voters will decide in November on nearly half a billion dollars in bond sales for schools and public safety projects. The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors authorized the referendum on the two possible bond issues at its last Board meeting, Tuesday, June 2.

If approved by Fairfax County voters, \$151 million would be available to renovate five fire stations, build a new police station and animal shelter in the south county area, plus renovate several police facilities.

The \$310 million school bond would renovate nine elementary schools, two middle schools and two high schools, along with funding an addition to South Lakes High School and plan a new Northwest County area elementary school.

The Fairfax County School Board adopted its own resolution on May 7, urging the Board of Supervisors to authorize the bonds.

FIVE AGING fire stations, Merrifield, Reston, Penn Daw, Woodlawn and Edsall, would be renovated with \$51 million. The stations range in age from 36 to 48 years, and require the replacement of major systems “which have reached the end of their useful lives,” according to Fairfax County documents.

“These stations do not meet the current operational requirements of the Fire and Rescue Department.”

Renovations will expand equipment bays to provide adequate space for current apparatus and current station staffing requirements, including bunk rooms and locker facilities for male and female personnel.

THE POLICE would use \$100 million to build a new animal shelter and police station in the South County area; renovate Franconia District Police station; do construction and renovation for the police heliport, K9 Center and several other facilities.

The new police station would create smaller coverage areas.

“This is a critical need given the significant current and future population growth in the area,” according to county documents. “A new station will allow the department to organize smaller patrol areas and decrease response times throughout the county.”

Fairfax County has highest credit rating possible for any government, and this means bonds sell at low interest rates.



The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors recognized the Fairfax County Police Department for its 75th anniversary.



Next week, June 14-20, is Fire and Emergency Medical Services Safety and Survival Week in Fairfax County.



The Board of Supervisors recognized the Fort Belvoir and Fairfax County fire and rescue departments for their mutual aid agreement and joint training efforts.

This plan, including the proposed fall 2015 referendum was approved as part of the FY 2016 – FY 2020 Adopted Capital

Improvement Program.

The school bond sales will be maintained in the annual amount of \$155 million.

The county will issue a pamphlet about the bonds to be mailed to all county households in the fall.

SCHOOLS

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com.

Wheaton College (Wheaton, Ill.) student **Peyton Smith** has been inducted into the Pi Kappa Delta Honorary Society in forensics.

Torrian Pace was inducted into Who's Who Among Students in American Universities & Colleges at the Youngstown State University Student Awards Banquet. Pace has also been honored as a Presidential Mentor at Youngstown State University (Youngstown, Ohio).

The Greenbriar West Elementary

team won first place in the Pandora's Box Division I competition at Virginia Odyssey of the Mind competition. Team members are **Mahima Suresh, Siddharth Balraj, Suhas Gangadari, Tarun Nandamudi, Rishi Sarraff** and **Sanjhi Kesarwani**.

Mitchell Buckley, an Emerson College (Boston, Mass.) student, participated in Emerson Stage's production of X Dance and NewFest New Works Festival at New Fest Shorts: Playwright.

Anna Power was awarded a degree in Business & Economics as part of

Lehigh University's spring 2015 graduating class.

Kurt Winsler has graduated from San Diego State University with honors, he received a degree in psychology.

Timothy Ostlund has graduated from Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.) with a Bachelor of Science in biology. Ostlund is a 2011 graduate of Westfield High School.

Rachel Hamm has graduated from Davis & Elkins College (Elkins, W.Va.) with a B.A. in art.

Carrie Hill has been named to the

president's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

Taylor Jepson will enroll at Lebanon Valley College (Annville, Pa.) beginning in fall 2015.

Timothy Ostlund has been named to the dean's list at Susquehanna University (Selinsgrove, Pa.) for the spring semester.

Addyson Santese and **Alexander Santese** have received dean's list recognition at Fort Lewis College (Durango, Colo.). Addyson Santese is an English major and Alexander Santese is a physics major.

Ryan Branch has been named to "The Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges" list. Branch is a graduate of the Citadel College (Charleston, S.C.).

Samuel White has received the Development Office Certificate of Appreciation at Randolph-Macon Academy (Front Royal, Va.).

Jung Min In has been named to the dean's list at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, Pa.) for spring 2015.

Janna Shapiro has graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (Worcester, Mass.).

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OPINION

Mass Transit Must Be Part of I-66 Solution

To the Editor:

The State Legislature has established that one of the leading criteria for prioritizing VDOT projects is that the project reduces congestion. Widening I-66 outside the beltway without including a mass transit option will not make a significant long-term difference in the congestion problems of the corridor.

Clearly, the extension of the Orange line has the greatest long-term capacity impact as recognized by the allowance made for future expansion of mass transit in the proposed project. Extending the Orange line is not a realistic prospect at this time, so soon after the Silver line expansion.° Furthermore, extending the Orange line at this time would not yield the traffic congestion relief that it could due to the choke point at the Rosslyn tunnel.°WMATA Momentum plans do not include resolution of Rosslyn tunnel choke point problem for at least the next decade.

Although building light rail from Haymarket to the Vienna Metro station would provide somewhat better congestion relief at a much lower price than extending the Orange line, light rail does nothing to alleviate the Rosslyn tunnel choke point.

We prefer the implementation of a true bus rapid transit (BRT) system in the interim.° A bus rapid transit option would allow buses to use the HOV lanes inside the beltway and significantly increase the capacity of the corridor.° The project should be designed with the future extension of the rail in mind.° BRT stations should be built in the middle of I-66 with pedestrian bridges and escalators similar to the Orange and Silver lines.° Buses should have scheduled headways and timetables providing

reliable service throughout the day, including mid-day and pre- and post-rush hour service so that commuters and casual users know that they can leave their vehicles at park and ride facilities and not be left stranded by limited service hours.° Once the Rosslyn tunnel choke point is resolved, mass transit could be extended by converting the BRT stations to rail along the BRT right-of-way.°

Bicycle/Pedestrian Uses Must be Considered along the Corridor

We support the addition of a protected bicycle/pedestrian pathway in the Fairfax County portion of the improvement. Although one solution indicates intermittent segments of a bicycle/pedestrian pathway along the corridor, where the pathway cannot be accommodated, the pathway is shown routed through county streets. Having an intermittent bicycle/pedestrian pathway defeats the purpose of its use. By routing bicyclists onto the county's streets, we are in a no better position than we are now, with bicycle traffic encountering cross and paralleling vehicular traffic. The rationale for the separate bicycle/pedestrian pathway is its safety by separating the vehicular from non-vehicular traffic. Pathways such we are describing have already been implemented on I-66 inside the Beltway, see for instance the Custis and "Washington and Old Dominion" Trails.

Separated HOV/HOT Lanes Are an Important Part of the Solution

The present HOV lanes along I-66 do not work. The HOV lanes are slowed:

- ❖ by the constant vehicular flow between the HOV and non-HOV lanes,
- ❖ by the use of the lanes by vehicles not qualifying as HOV,
- ❖ by the impracticality of enforcing the HOV restrictions, and
- ❖ by not having ramps between the HOV lanes and the Vienna Orange line station.°

The proposed solution shows separated HOV lanes that would also accommodate tolled users that did not qualify as HOVs.° We support this concept, though if tolling is implemented, funds collected should be used to reduce congestion along the corridor, including mass transit, and not be used for improvements indiscriminately throughout Northern Virginia.

The Project Should Retain All Stormwater from I-66

In an effort to minimize the use of eminent domain, VDOT has pursued having the project only provide stormwater retention for the new impervious surface.°That would be acceptable had the original lanes been designed to the current retention standards and the affected waterways were meeting water quality goals.°But the previous I-66 construction was not designed to current stormwater standards, and the impacted waterways are highly impaired.°The steams are so heavily impacted that the Federal EPA has already proposed requiring reductions in stormwater volume controls to reduce sediment loads for Accotink Creek, one of the impacted streams.°

To minimize the need for property takings we propose that the project be encouraged to identify off-site retention options such as adding rain gardens to existing parking lots in the corridor.

Climate Change Needs To Be Considered

Consideration of climate change should not be limited to simply calculating the additional greenhouse gas emissions caused by the project, but must also consider the climate change impacts on the project for instance:

- ❖ Climate models predict more intense rainfall events so additional stormwater retention is required.
- ❖ Climate models also predict higher temperatures.

SEE LETTER, PAGE 12

Kurspahics To Receive Civic Courage Award

Honored by the Bosnia Memory Project.

Kemal Kurspahic and his wife Vesna of McLean are being honored as recipients of the inaugural Civic Courage Award from the Bosnia Memory Project at Fontbonne University in St. Louis.

Kemal Kurspahic, one of the managing editors of The Connection, was editor-in-chief of the Bosnian newspaper Oslobodjenje during the three and a half-year siege of Sarajevo, between 1992 and 1996. He led a multi-ethnic staff that continued to publish a daily edition throughout the siege, despite the newspaper building being bombed and facing gunfire while trying to reach the office.

"They have stood for the kinds of civic ideas and ideals that characterize the best of Bosnia, Herzegovina and United States," said Dr. Ben Moore, director of the Bosnia Memory Project. "They really believe in journalism as a vital part of the civic sphere, that people of all ethnicities and backgrounds can find common understanding."

Kurspahic's book about the experience, "As

Long As Sarajevo Exists," is required reading for a course Moore teaches at Fontbonne. The Bosnia Memory Project started in 2006 as a response to the large community of Bosnians and their children — around 40,000 — who settled in St. Louis after the war.

"What he did during the siege of Sarajevo, keeping the paper running and refusing to yield to the chauvinism and bigotry, is an ongoing inspiration for what we're doing," Moore said.

The core of the project is producing an ongoing oral history to preserve stories and artifacts from the war and genocide. Another goal is to lay the groundwork for a center of Bosnian studies at the university.

"We have a second generation that's coming of age now," Moore said. "Twenty years after the war, they don't have an understanding of their parents' and grandparents' experience of Bosnian culture."

Vesna Kurspahic is the curator of "Documenting Hometown and Family History in Stari Majdan, Bosnia," a photography exhibition that Moore said is helping to show the "beauty and complexity of Bosnian culture and history."

The Kurspahics are being recognized at a June 13 dinner held at the Grbic Banquet Center, a Bosnian restaurant in St. Louis. Moore



Vesna and Kemal Kurspahic in Sarajevo in 2006 with old Turkish fountain — Sebilj — in the background. Bosnians in St. Louis have built a replica of Sarajevo Sebilj in their new hometown.

said he recently discovered Vesna's mother was a teacher and school principal to the owners, husband and wife, Sulejman and Ermina Grbic.

"This is a classic case of the recipients honoring the award more than the other way around," said Moore. "The challenge, with the plan to offer this award annually, is finding people who rise to the same level."

— TIM PETERSON

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ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

ONGOING

Family Fridays Movie Series.

Fridays at sunset through June 26, at The Manassas Campus of Northern Virginia Community College, 6901 Sudley Road, Manassas. Admission is \$3, free with NOVA ID. Visit www.novamanassas.wix.com/movies.

Sully Historic Site. 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Enjoy guided tours of the 1794 home of Northern Virginia's first Congressman, Richard Bland Lee. \$7/adult; \$6/student; \$5/senior and child. Hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. 703-437-1794.

Singing. 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which includes training by an award-winning director. Visit www.fairfaxjubilaires.org for more.

Art Exhibit. Through June 30, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. at the Clifton Wine Shop, 7145 Main St., Clifton. Art Guild of Clifton presents Davi D'Agostino, Artist of the Month Exhibit. Includes classic fine art oil paintings of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-830-8466 for more.

"Creating Across the City."

Through July at Dulles International Airport. Three organizations; Critical Exposure, The National Building Museum and ARTLAB+ have teamed up for "Creating Across the City: A

Teen Art Showcase," which provides an outlet through art and design for creative local teens.

CAMPS, CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Young Actors' Workshop. Rising students in grades 2-6 may participate in a workshop 9 a.m.-12 p.m., July 20-24 at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. The fee is \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

Young Actors Workshop. July 20-24 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at Westfield High School, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Students will participate in theatre games, improvisation, acting exercises, songs, and dances. The week culminates with a show for friends and family featuring songs and scenes from musical comedy classics. The workshop fee is \$125. Visit www.westfieldtheatreboosters.com.

FCPS 2015 Summer Programs.

Registration is now open for the following Fairfax County Public Schools summer camps. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current 2014-15 school year. Visit www.fcps.edu.

❖ **Tech Adventure Camp** will be held July 20-31 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. for students currently in grades 5-7. This camp allows students to explore careers and technology by rotating through eight areas including graphic design, automotive technology, culinary arts, television production, robotics, and computer technology.

❖ **STEM Camp.** Held in two sessions at Robinson Secondary School: July 6-10 and July 13-17 both from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., daily. STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math)

Camp is a one-week camp for students currently in grades 3-5 to explore careers and technology as they rotate through activities focused on science.

❖ **Elementary Institute for the Arts.** Held July 13-24 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 3-5, E-IFTA offers participants a total immersion in the arts as they rotate through classes in dance, drama, music, and visual art.

❖ **Institute for the Arts.** Held July 6-30 at Robinson Secondary School from 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. daily, Monday through Friday. Designed for students currently in grades 6-11, IFTA allows students to create, perform, experiment, and explore—all in various music, dance, visual art, and theatre venues.

❖ **Robinson Extended Day Adult and Community Education Enrichment.** Programs will be held July 6-31 at Robinson Secondary School and will begin after Tech Adventure Camp, STEM Camp, IFTA and E-IFTA end. These programs are for students currently in grades 1-11 and will provide a continuum of activities for students who want additional programs and activities. Programs will include the Foreign Language Experience Program (FLEX), Culinary Adventure Camp, Language Immersion Camp, Creative Writing, Computer Graphics, and Chess.

❖ **Credit Recovery Academy.** This program will be held at Fairfax High School for students seeking credit for high school level courses. Students will be able to take one course during each of the two sessions from June 29-July 16 and July 20-Aug. 4.

SEE ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 16

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Reviewing I-66 Improvement Plans

FROM PAGE 1

maps and charts and speak with VDOT representatives and consultants.

"It's a multimodal solution, not a road-widening project, and transit is integral to its success," Hamilton told the crowd. "And your input is very important." With future traffic only expected to increase, she said studies show something must be done to fix I-66. "The build alternative can move 35-85 percent more people in the morning peak period than if we did nothing; and in the afternoon peak, 40-90 percent."

She said the goals are to reduce the hours of congestion, move more travelers during rush hours and improve people's speeds. Another aim, said Hamilton, is to decrease traffic on parallel roads, such as Routes 29 and 50, that people often use now to avoid the gridlocked I-66.

"This project will have new transit services and more park-and-ride lots," she said. "An additional 4,000 spaces are planned by 2025. We'll also use transportation demand-management strategies to promote the use of carpools, transit services and park-and-ride lots."

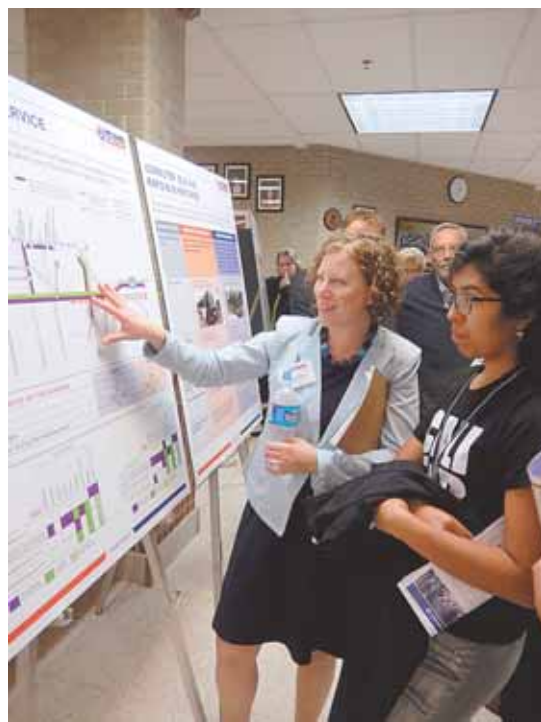
Another critical component will be a new, commuter-bus service into major destinations, plus new rapid bus service that'll run all day and portions of the weekend for reliable travel time.

"We've held more than 119 meetings on the project, to date, and we've received over 1,000 emails, and we answer them," said Hamilton. "We'll assess all the comments and present our recommendation to the Commonwealth Transportation Board. To be included in the record, we must receive public comments by June 18."

State Sen. Dave Marsden (D-37) told those attending, "We're going to have to come up with some creative solutions here. But we need to hear from you to make this work because you are the users."

"We'll keep working with people to minimize impacts, but this is a major project," said Supervisor Michael R. Frey (R-Sully). "This will change the area, but it's got to be done. We've got one chance to improve east-west transportation in Northern Virginia. This is the corridor we have to fix to move the most traffic."

"This is our one shot, so we need to do it right," he continued. "I strongly believe this is the most important project we have for Northern Virginia. We want this to be complementary to and compatible with our



Lora Byala, with the consultant team, explains proposed I-66 bus-service options with area residents.

community."

Various area residents also spoke. "One of the four lanes along 12 miles of I-66 would be converted to HOV, thereby reducing the number of lanes," said Phil Hargis of Chantilly's Franklin Glen community. "How will that improve congestion? Does it make sense to build something like this? Instead, have four general-purpose lanes, extend Metro and fix the interchanges."

Vienna's Mike Herka said 150 acres of trees would be cut down and VDOT should, instead, "use the shoulder lanes for through travel to increase capacity without widening." And Fionnuala Quinn of FABB (Fairfax Advocates for Better Bicycling) was concerned about biking and walking access — and especially safety — at the ramps and roads crossing under I-66.

David Wagner bikes to work in Fair Oaks from Annandale, but called it "dangerous. Our community is a nightmarish, traffic dystopia, so there should be some kind of protected bike lane."

Representing the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, Jeff Parnes said, "Although building light rail from Haymarket to the Vienna Metro station would provide somewhat better congestion relief at a much lower price than extending



Cathy and Rick Rooney of Centreville's Newgate community examine the bicycle/pedestrian map.

To Provide Input

- ❖ Go to transform66.org for maps and further details.
- ❖ Mail written comments to Susan Shaw, VDOT Northern Virginia District, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.
- ❖ Email comments or questions to Transform66@VDOT.Virginia.gov. Or comment online via Transform66.org.
- ❖ Reference "I-66 Outside the Beltway Public Hearing" in the subject line of all correspondence.

the Orange line, light rail does nothing to alleviate the Rosslyn tunnel choke point. We prefer the implementation of a true, bus rapid transit system (BRT) in the interim."

"[It] would allow buses to use the HOV lanes inside the beltway and significantly increase the capacity of the corridor," he continued.

"The project should be designed with future extension of the rail in mind. BRT stations should be built in the middle of I-66 with pedestrian bridges and escalators similar to the Orange and Silver lines."

Next, Bill Niedringhaus of the Potomac Heritage Trail Association recommended direct, natural-surface trail access to the Big Rocky Run Stream Valley from Braddock Road at Route 28 in Centreville. He also urged VDOT not to miss a "once-in-a-generation opportunity" to build a trail along Route 123 linking the City of Fairfax and

Oakton.

Meanwhile, Alicia Coleman of Cabell's Mill feared history would repeat itself. "Twenty-one years ago, I-66 was widened and I asked, 'Where's the rail?'" she said. "HOT lanes are under-utilized and only cause more congestion; rail is needed." Furthermore, she warned attendees, "My neighborhood had to build its own sound barriers. So just because sound walls are on the plan as 'proposed' doesn't mean VDOT will really build them."

In addition, Centreville's John Kuchenbrod of the Rocky Run community wanted shoulders on both sides of the road because, "when there's an accident in the fast lane, traffic is stopped while it's cleared away. And, because it'll still be a bottleneck, separate the people on I-66 east trying to get to Route 28 north from the people getting on I-66 east from Route 29."



VDOT's Renee Hamilton.



Sully Supervisor Michael Frey.

BULLETIN BOARD

Email announcements to centreview@connectionnewspapers.com. Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

Provide Feedback for the Transit System. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at 4100 Monument Corner Drive, Fairfax. Learn more about recommendations made for the transit system gathered

from a 2014 survey. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20

"Meet the Ticket." 7-9 p.m. at Waterford at Fair Oaks, 12025 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax. Guests will have the opportunity to hear State Senate, House of Delegates, County Board of Supervisors, School Board, Soil & Water Conservation Board, and Constitutional Office candidates speak on the issues important to them and the people of Fairfax County. Carly Fiorina will be

the guest speaker. Tickets are \$75 per person, \$135 per couple. Sponsorship and hosting tickets are also available. Visit www.fairfaxgop.org.

MONDAY/JUNE 22

Financial Counseling Clinic. 6-7:30 p.m. at Chantilly Computer Learning Center Partnerships, 4101 Elmwood St., Chantilly. Volunteer financial planners will help participants tackle pressing financial problems during a 45- to 60-minute session. A free credit report will be run, immediate

financial situations considered, and a course of action recommended to address concerns. Free. Contact Lillian Diaz at atldiaz@wfcma.org or 703-988-9656 x108.

MONDAY/JULY 13

"Ask an Agent." 7-9 p.m. at Gunnell House at Truro Church, 10520 Main St., Fairfax. Capital Christian Writers will host literary agent Tamela Hancock Murray of the Steve Laube Agency. Murray will discuss the latest market trends, share tips, and answer questions for aspiring writers. Free.

Visit www.capitalchristianwriters.org.

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING

Residents Can "E-cycle" at the I-66 transfer station. It is free but residents may be asked to show proof of residency. Personal waste only. The I-66 station is located at 4618 West Ox Road, Fairfax and open from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. from Monday-Saturday and from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. on Sundays. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/electric-sunday.htm.

SEE BULLETIN BOARD, PAGE 9

A Time for Celebration

FROM PAGE 1

electrical engineering; Jacobs, GMU, law; Namir, Virginia Tech, human development; Powell, GMU, communications; Carson, VCU, exercise science; and Jackson, Hampton University, nursing.

Saying CPMSAC's motto is "Only Excellence is Good Enough," master of ceremonies Chuck Coffin encouraged the students there to continue working hard and to be role models for their peers. He also acknowledged all the school administrators, staff members and facilities personnel for everything they do.

And, he added, "Parents, continue to be involved in your child's education and provide a positive environment for them, because it makes a difference when you care."

Chantilly High Assistant Principal Karla Hogan and Sully District School Board member Kathy Smith also congratulated the students and wished them well. And Frances Ivey, FCPS assistant superintendent, Region 5, said three things were responsible for the students' success.

"You did the hard work, made wise choices along the way and excelled in the classroom," said Ivey. "And all the adults involved are very, very proud of you. To CPMSAC, thank you for 30 years of support and service to our schools. You've served as a model to our schools, community, state and, really, the nation, of how our students can succeed."

The Rev. Eugene Johnson, of Mount Olive Baptist Church, said June 6 is a national



Colleen Howard sings "Hero (Wind beneath My Wings)" to the graduating seniors.



Master of Ceremonies, CPMSAC's Chuck Coffin

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

day of remembrance of the losses during D Day. "But today is also about young people who've strived, met challenges and took the opportunities to excel," he said. "Looking back over 31 years [of CPMSAC], I remember the vision we had for this day. Congratulations on your accomplishments and on what you will do — for you are a lamp that shines forward to a more perfect day. Keep that lamp burning."

The keynote speaker was former CPMSAC participant Janelle Greene Alabi, a 2003 Chantilly High grad and a member of its 2001 state championship gymnastics team. She later obtained a bachelor's in sociology and a master's in education and is now a wife, mother and a first-grade teacher at London Towne Elementary.

"Those of you here have already achieved some level of academic excellence," she said. "When I was here, I planned to go to business school, get a job and make lots of

money." But then she changed her mind and worked hard to instead become a teacher.

"It's easy to set goals, but it takes a great deal to reach them, including grit — which involves determination, passion, perseverance and stamina," said Alabi. "It's sticking with your vision, year in and year out. For example, Walt Disney was fired by a newspaper editor because he 'lacked imagination and had no good ideas.' But he knew life was a marathon, not a sprint." She said people like him, who have grit, don't let setbacks discourage them. "Grit has even been found to be more important than intelligence," said Alabi. "Students not as smart as others work harder. Do you have grit? Find your passion, work toward it and

stick with it."

Alabi said the five characteristics of grit are courage, conscientiousness, follow-through, resilience and excellence, and she explained what it means to possess each one. She also said she dropped her business major when she realized she hated her classes pertaining to it. Instead, she became a teacher and, she said, "I love it."

"Life may knock you down through circumstances you can't control," said Alabi. "But it's OK to struggle and feel confused. Don't give up, but know that you're on your way to accomplishing your goals."



Presenting the colors are the Junior Buffalo Soldiers of Mount Olive Baptist Church.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 8

DONATIONS

The **student Auto Sales Program** operating from Centreville High School works in conjunction with the CVHS automotive technology classes to bring in donated automobiles, boats and motorcycles for students to work on. Some refurbished vehicles are sold, with 75 percent of the proceeds going back to the auto tech program. The program is in need of cars, trucks or motorcycles, which are fully tax deductible, for student training. Contact Lyman Rose at 703-802-5588 or by e-mail lyman.rose@fcps.edu for more.

Cell Phones for Soldiers is accepting donations of old cellphones so that troops can call home. Patrons may drop off donations at 14215E Centreville Square, Centreville.

SUPPORT GROUP

Telephone Support Group for Family Caregivers of Older Adults. 7 p.m. every second Tuesday of the month. This telephone support group is designed to help caregivers

of older adults share experiences, gain support and get important information without having to travel. These are one-hour free sessions. Find out more and register at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/ and click on Caregiver Telephone Support Group.

Fair Oaks Parkinson's Support Group for people living with Parkinson's disease, caregivers and family, meets on the fourth Saturday monthly, 10 a.m.-noon at Sunrise at Fair Oaks, 3750 Joseph Siewick Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-378-7221 or visit www.fairoaksparkinsons.com for more.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Shepherd's Center of Fairfax Burke serves those 50+ and who no longer drive. Volunteer drivers are needed for trips (Monday-Friday) to medical appointments and companion shopping within the Fairfax/Burke area. Contact Barry Wickersham at 703-359-2918 or aowbrw@verizon.net or contact John Taylor at 703-239-2898 or jajt7@verizon.net. For these and other volunteer

opportunities, call 703-324-5406, TTY 711 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/olderadults and click on Volunteer Solutions:

❖ **The Sully Senior Center** in Centreville needs a certified personal trainer, preferably with experience working with older adults.

❖ **Meals on Wheels** needs drivers in Chantilly and McLean. Substitute drivers needed throughout the county.

❖ **Korean Meals on Wheels** needs Korean-speaking volunteers to deliver meals in Centreville, Annandale and Falls Church.

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/ltc.

Homeless Animals Rescue Team is looking for volunteers to hold dogs at adoption events, Saturdays noon-3 p.m. Volunteers must be 18 or older. Events will be held at Petsmart, 13866 Metrotech Drive, Chantilly. Call 703-691-HART or visit

www.hart90.org for more.

Sully Historic Site needs volunteers to help plan and present programs. Volunteers who enjoy gardening, working with children, learning new recipes and cooking methods, or just like to be around interesting people are needed both weekdays and weekends. Sully is a historic house museum owned and operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Volunteer at Sully can choose an aspect of historic interpretation, event support or any other area to make a difference for visitors. Call 703-437-1794 for an interview. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site for more.

The Fairfax Station Railroad

Museum needs volunteer docents on Sunday afternoons from 1-4 p.m. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the Museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Docents should possess good people skills. Opportunity for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. The museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Call Michael at 703-945-

7483 for more information, or visit Fairfaxstation.org

Northern Virginia Family Service is seeking volunteers to organize collection drives of toiletries products for clients in need. Requested items include such things as shampoo, soap, lotion, deodorant, hand sanitizer, toothbrushes and toothpaste. Learn more about Northern Virginia Family Service at www.nvfs.org and contact Colleen Ross cross@nvfs.org if interested.

The Stuart-Mosby Civil War

Cavalry Museum needs volunteers to work on Sundays at 13938 Braddock Road, Centreville. The museum is open from 1-4 p.m. on Sundays, when volunteer help is needed the most. The museum is also open on Saturdays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. and Mondays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Call 703-785-5294 or visit www.stuart-mosby.com.

Fairfax County. Looking for volunteers to oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month while family caregivers are given a well deserved break. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Repairs Trigger Remodel

Great Falls renovation evolves from basic, needed repairs to an extensive family-friendly remodel.

BY JOHN BYRD

Sometimes a significant home improvement starts with small repair considerations. In fact, as Roger Lataille, senior design consultant at Sun Design Remodeling, recalls, his first discussion with Jeff and Sharon Roman of Great Falls concerned how to solve a water drainage problem.

"There were no gutters over the three garage ports, and rain water splash-back was causing the garage doors to deteriorate," Lataille said. "Also, the front entrance was too exposed. And the original wooden deck on the back of the house had decayed so badly it wasn't being used much at all."

Then there was the problem with woodpeckers regularly attacking the house, a reflection of moisture build-up and bug-infestation under the home's sprayed-on stucco exterior.

Yet rectifying these everyday dysfunctions turned out to be a comparatively small part of the Romans' agenda, as Lataille soon discovered.

As the conversation progressed, the outlines for a sweeping, state-of-the-art makeover began to take shape even as the home's exterior was gradually re-imagined as an architectural statement fully integrated with its setting.

At 6,500 square feet, the nearly 20-year-old, six bedroom center hall Colonial offered considerable grandeur, yet the facade lacked detail, definition, even warmth.

"There were a lot of distinctive architectural themes in place," Lataille said. "Our first concern is always helping the owner articulate a program that suits their goals, and then initiating an effective collaboration process."

With this in mind, the solutions proposed for the home's front elevations came right to the point. A metal-clad overhang supported by decorative brackets above the garage doors not only re-directs rainwater into a discrete functional drainage system, but also gives the facade a unifying accent



PHOTOS BY GREG HADLEY

On annual vacations to Deep Creek Lake, Md., Jeff and Sharon Roman discovered how much they enjoy sitting by an open fire. Situated on two rolling acres and surrounded by woodland, the home's setting provides a perfect backdrop for an extensive indoor-outdoor solution.

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm has a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com for more.

that ties in with the redesigned front entrance. The defective stucco cladding has been replaced with sand-colored Hardiboard and a stonework "water table" motif that scales back the mass of the looming three level facade, making the whole feel more intimate and approachable.

LIKEWISE, on the rear elevation, opportunities for self-expression quickly became inspirations.

Situated on two rolling acres and surrounded by woodland, the home's setting provided a sprawling backdrop for an indoor-outdoor solution.

Boasting a southwesterly view from the rear elevation, the existing rear deck was usually bathed in soft sunsets on summer evenings. The visual display was, likewise,

available from the house — except the windows were too small and the only exits to the outside converged in a recessed hyphen joining the two main blocks on the rear of the house.

"Ironically, we've always loved spending time outdoors," Sharon said, "so it's surprising that we hadn't changed the exterior of the house in the 13 years we've lived here."

During summer vacations at Deep Creek Lake in Maryland, however, the Romans discovered how much they enjoy sitting by a fire pit on pleasant evenings. This revelation prompted thoughts of adding not only a fire pit, but a screen porch on the rear of the house — one that could be used from early spring and well into fall.

"I also pictured more natural light in the back of the house," Sharon Roman said. "A rear elevation with oversized windows and doors that invites in the beauty all around us."

As the vision evolved, the Romans decided on a plan with four main components: a 20-foot-by-15-foot screened porch, a 21-foot-by-16-foot grilling deck, a ground level sunken patio that exits from a lower level

room, and a stand-alone fire pit with seating for six.

"We were thinking ahead in many ways," Sharon Roman said. "Jeff and I have elderly parents, and a lot of family in the area. A direct entrance to the lower level, for instance, might make it easy to convert the space into an in-law suite if needed."

Overall, the Romans sought the capacity to comfortably entertain up to 40 or 50 people.

Of course, for a fete of that size — well-constructed decking is essential. Phase one to the new plan was, thus, a nod to necessity: re-design the decking system to accommodate traffic circulating from directions never previously in the picture.

"We learned immediately that the concrete supporting the existing 20-year-old deck hadn't been properly set," Lataille said. "Also, to assure the durability of the deck's surface, we specified Trex instead of wood, and narrowed the span between undergirding joists from 16 inches to 12 inches."

Structurally, the new decking is not only an upgrade, but thoroughly necessary since it's now directly accessible through oversized double glass doors from the family room, the dining room and the billiards parlor. It's also linked via a new flagstone walkway to the both fire pit and the new rear entrance to the lower level.

"Access to the outdoors from the house is one of the most fundamental features of an integrated indoor/outdoor solution," Lataille said. "Bringing the aesthetics of nature into your daily life is a lifestyle change. The goal is to create spaces that can be easily maintained, yet allow owners to comfortably extend the open-air season."

THE SPACIOUS NEW screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen as the porch flooring, for instance, is not only one of the most enduring materials offered for outdoor surfaces, but — installed in a tongue-and-groove pattern — is more effective in keeping out bugs than a screen mesh undergirding. Ipe, which is Brazilian walnut, was also specified for the porch handrails.

Meanwhile, the fiberglass charcoal screen — which makes it hard to see the porch interior from the outside — creates a cozy sense of closure. Overhead, the fir-beaded tongue-and-groove wood ceiling lends a natural burnish to the open-air ambiance.

Taking the lead from other finish work details, the design team installed a stone work "water table" for the porch's inside wall — a textured backdrop for the wide-screen TV.

Equipped with both overhead fans and portable heaters, the outdoor room is habitable in all but the coldest days of winter.

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



The spacious new screened porch demonstrates how highly durable materials can be shaped to meet demanding aesthetics. The Ipe decking chosen for the porch flooring is one of the one of the most enduring natural hardwoods offered for outdoor surfaces.



To assure the durability of the deck's surface, Sun Design specified Trex planking instead of wood, and narrowed the span between joists from 16 inches to 12 inches.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Colorful blooms can help create an elegant summer landscape.



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Hydrangeas are a low-maintenance, flowering shrub.

Trending in the Garden

Local landscape architects offer suggestions for updating.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
CENTRE VIEW

As summer gets underway, so does time spent outside. The American Society of Landscape Architects recently released the results of its 2015 Residential Landscape Architecture Survey, a list of trends in outdoor design that yields a bounty of backyard design ideas. From adding a pond to planting a garden, local landscape gurus explain how these trends can be used to transform an outdoor space into a favorite escape.

The top landscape and garden elements include native plants, vegetable gardens and low-maintenance landscapes. "Since native trees and shrubs are meant to grow here, they're easier to take care of and they're lower maintenance," said Janet Darab of Cravens Nursery in Fairfax.

"I think there is an increased awareness of the benefit in planting native," said Patrick Lawver of Nature By Design in Alexandria. "If you are planting natives, they should be able to maintain themselves. If they are planted in the right area and planted correctly, you don't have to water them once they get established, so you won't have to rely on water that much."

Dogwoods, redbuds and magnolias are native trees that Lawver says are among the most popular in the Washington, D.C., region. Iris, milkweed and butterfly weed are some of the most popular native flowers. "A lot of people are liking butterfly weed because it's great for attracting monarch butterflies."

Experts also recommend amateur gardeners think

about what type of plants are appropriate for their yards. "For example, if someone has a small backyard garden, there are some plants that grow aggressively that we don't recommend because you'd have to constantly cut them back to keep them under control," said Lawver. "There are some plants that grow better if you have wet soil and some that do better in dryer soil. The bottom line is that they're all low maintenance as long as you're planting them into the right situation."

Raised garden beds are also popular. "One of the advantages of raised beds is that they discourage critters like rabbits from getting in and digging stuff," said Lawver. "Raised beds often hold moisture really so well there is not as much maintenance with the plant."

Among the most popular outdoor design elements, as reported in the American Society of Landscape Architects survey, are fire pits and fireplaces, lighting and grills. One pavilion, built by Rill Architects for a Potomac, Md., home, incorporates the three elements and can serve as inspiration for those who want to create an outdoor oasis.

The space was created as a place to enjoy nature while relishing the comforts of home. "[It] creates a seamless transition between the house and yard," said James F. Rill, AIA of Rill Architects.

A ceiling fan cools the space during warm weather and a stone fireplace warms it when the temperature drops. A mahogany pergola hovers above the terrace. Outdoor chairs, along with low walls that are made of stone, provide seating for entertaining. The floor of the pavilion is made of flagstone.

The pavilion offers of view of the home's English garden, including a pond and walking bridge, and its terrace overlooks a saltwater pool. A gatehouse connects the updated rear porch to the expanded garage. "Now the outbuildings offer an oasis to enjoy nature from both inside and outside the home," said Rill.



PHOTO BY MELISSA MAILLETT PHOTOGRAPHY

One of the top landscaping trends is an interest in native plants.



PHOTO BY MELISSA MAILLETT PHOTOGRAPHY

The 2015 Residential Landscape Architecture Survey can offer inspiration for creating an elegant summer outdoor space.

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6/24/2015.....Independence Day Preview

6/24/2015...Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

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7/1/2015.....Wellbeing

7/8/2015.....HomeLifeStyle

7/15/2015.....A+ Camps & Schools

7/22/2015.....Pet Connection

7/29/2015..Professional Profiles & Business in the Community

AUGUST

8/5/2015..... Wellbeing

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Taking a Stand for Future Generations

County boards, high school students tackle “civil rights issue of our era.”

BY KEN MOORE
CENTRE VIEW

Catherine Reed of Equality Virginia thanked McLean High School junior Darrell “DJ” Valdez for the effect he will be have on the future, and on all civil rights.

“If it wasn’t for courageous people willing to stand up for the next generation, believe me, it’d be a lot harder for all of us,” said Reed. “It’s been 26 years of hard work to get where we are today.”

Valdez will be the president of McLean High School’s Gay Straight Alliance next year.

“Even in an area as progressive as McLean, it still feels as if our voice isn’t heard. It means a lot that you would voice this for us and with us. We are very grateful,” Valdez told the Board of Supervisors.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors designated June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in Fairfax County with a proclamation issued on June

2, 2015 in the Fairfax County Government Center.

“Fairfax County has a diverse LGBT community that includes people of all ethnicities, religions and professions,” said Dranesville District Supervisor John Foust. “Everyone should be able to live without fear of prejudice, discrimination, violence or hatred based on gender identity or sexual orientation.”

The proclamation “urges all residents to respect and honor our diverse community and celebrate and build a culture of inclusiveness and acceptance,” said Foust.

Six students from McLean High School and members of the GSA attended the ceremony.

“I suppose all I really have to say is thank you,” Valdez said.

“**TOO MANY** individuals continue to encounter discrimination and mistreatment,” said Foust. “Young people in particular can find navigating sexual orientation very difficult and threatening during their teen years. That’s why it’s so important that we all join the fight against all discrimination.”

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay referenced the May 7 School Board hearing, where the School Board added the words “gender identity” to its nondiscrimination policy.

“The School Board recently dealt with and



Members of the McLean High School Gay Straight Alliance were among those on hand as the Board of Supervisors designated June as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Month in Fairfax County.

grappled with a very touchy subject and I had the unfortunate opportunity of watching that entire public hearing and seeing some of the worst disrespect and hatred that still exists out there in our community,” he said.

“Many people have called this the civil rights movement of our era. Like all civil rights movement, it takes education, it takes advocacy if we are to make change happen,” McKay said. “I’m proud of what our School Board did, I’m proud of people who came out to testify in support of it, I was disappointed in some of the things that were said that are just frankly untrue.”

“This is a human rights issue, plain and

simple. We are all different in different ways,” said Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova.

One of the McLean students who is transgender, thanked the board for “everything that has happened this year.”

Doug Hansen, a Fairfax County employee with Department of Planning and Zoning, stood in alliance with the McLean students, representing all county employees in the LGBT community. Tara Dwyer, the faculty advisor also stood in support of her students. “As a person who falls under this umbrella, we would have never ever been so welcomed when I was a teenager,” she said.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 6

peratures, so the road surfaces need to consider the increased temperatures, and the air pollution hot spot analysis should consider the higher temperatures in their analysis as well. The impacts of the additional greenhouse gas emissions should also be considered.° Climate change will have devastating impacts on coral reefs, so the additional greenhouse gas emissions will have an indirect impact on the endangered coral species and this too needs to be considered.

The Route 28/I-66 Interchange Is the Most Important Single Intersection along the Highway and Must Provide All Turning Movements

State Route 28 provides limited-access connectivity to and from Washington Dulles International Airport from points south and west of the airport. Its current interchange with I-66 does not provide full interconnectivity, currently forcing eastbound I-66 traffic which wants to go south on Route 28 to use Route 29 through a commercial corridor, as does the reverse flow of northbound Route 28 traffic which wants to go west on

I-66. The interchange should be planned to provide all turning movements, even if this means litigation to take the necessary property from E.C. Lawrence Park.

Jeffrey M. Parnes

Transportation Co-Chair
Fairfax County Federation of
Citizens Associations

Public-Private Partnership

To the Editor:

Recently, there have been a lot of media reports regarding Interstate 66 and the proposal by the Virginia Department of Transportation to develop a multi-modal solution on I-66. As a longtime resident of western Fairfax County, I share the frustration of thousands of commuters who have sat in gridlock on I-66 for years. Improvements to this corridor are critical to the continued growth of our region — but they must be done right.

The proposed Interstate 66 project is a capital-intensive endeavor for the 25-mile stretch between Haymarket and I-495. While the scope of the project is well defined the question is how the Commonwealth should fi-

nance this \$2.1 billion megaproject. The answer: Through a public-private partnership, commonly known as a P3.

Through developing this project as a P3, Virginia could leverage private investment to fund the corridor improvements. The total cost of this project is estimated at \$2.1 billion and even with new transportation dollars the Commonwealth is struggling to meet the demands of a transportation system that has been neglected for years. As evidenced by the I-95 Express Lanes, the state partnered with a private investor and delivered \$10 in improvements for every single tax dollar spent. A P3 on I-66 would enable state and local leaders to leverage private investment and utilize hundreds of millions of dollars of finite resources for other critically needed projects.

Projects such as the one proposed for Interstate 66 are complex and risky. By utilizing a public private partnership for Interstate 66, Virginia could transfer a substantial amount of risk associated with the project to the private sector. This means that taxpayers will not incur unexpected costs during construction or during the operation of the road.

A public-private partnership would also harness private sector innovation to develop a project that minimizes the impact to communities along the I-66 corridor. There has been a lot of discussion about the initial design that VDOT has proposed because of the amount of property it takes along the corridor. Those homeowners have every right to be upset. However, through a public private partnership, Virginia can leverage the innovation of the private sector to develop a project that minimizes the impact to the local community. This solution was utilized on I-495 and after VDOT first proposed a design that took 300 homes and businesses and cost in excess of \$3.6 billion the private sector was able to construct the project at a cost of \$1.4 billion and only took eight homes.

A P3 on Interstate 66 is a sound approach and state leaders should take opportunities like the Interstate 66 project to attract private investment to help close the funding gap. This approach will help ensure that more transportation priorities driving the greatest relief will get funded.

John Guevara

Republican Nominee for Sully
Supervisor

Honoring Fathers

To the Editor:

Soft-hearted, understanding, wise, and sacrificing are just a few out of many words to describe my father. From taking time out of his work to picking me up from elementary school and buying me Happy Meals from McDonalds to telling funny jokes that don’t make sense just to see me smile and having adventures to Home Depot to helping me recover from a bad test grade; through thick and thin, he has been there for me.

The Holy Quran says, “Thy lord has commanded ... show kindness to parents. If one of them or both of them attain old age with thee never say unto them any word expressible of disgust nor reproach them, but address them with excellent speech” [117:24]. This Father’s Day we should reflect upon what our fathers have sacrificed for us and show our love and appreciation for not only our mothers but our fathers too.

Sabiha Basit

Centreville

PEOPLE



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

About the Middle East

The Republican Women of Clifton welcomed Erick Stakelbeck, investigative journalist and Middle East authority, and Sgt. Joseph Bozik, wounded warrior, to its May business meeting. Stakelbeck's presentation "Target America: Why You Should Care About the Rise of ISIS" outlined how the Islamic State is a threat to America through its network of sympathizers. Bozik was recognized for his service in Iraq and updated attendees on his continuing service to the country with the Department of Homeland Security. Above, Stakelbeck and Bozik are pictured with the 2015 club officers and committee chairs.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Support Appreciated

On Monday, June 8, Kevin Whalen (center), who lives in Centreville's Walney Glen community, presented a Police Unity Tour plaque to Centreville Glory Days manager Mark Huddleston and owner Jeff Newman, to recognize their support in raising more than \$2,000 for the Police Unity Tour. Glory Days has been a major sponsor of Police Unity Tour rider Whalen since 2008, hosting fundraising events at the Centreville restaurant and the lunch break rest stop on May 12 for 100 of the riders in the Virginia chapter on their way to D.C. Glory Days was part of the total national donation of \$1.997 million raised by 1,800 police bicycle riders who rode May 9-12 in honor of fallen officers who died in the line of duty. 119 were lost in 2014. Whalen rode this year for Norfolk, Va. police officer Brian Williams, killed on May 30, 2014.



PHOTO GALLERY!

"Me and My Dad"

To honor dad on Father's Day, send us your favorite snapshots of you with your dad and Centre View will publish them in our Father's Day issue. Be sure to include some information about what's going on in the photo, plus your name and phone number and town of residence. To e-mail photos, send to:

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Philosophically Speaking



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Recently I attended a "Celebration of Life" event, sponsored by Kaiser Permanente, created to bring attention to, and educate the public on, cancer. As a long-time cancer survivor, nearly six and a half years now – and one treated by doctors at Kaiser, I was asked, along with a cervical cancer survivor, to sit on a "survivor panel"; to share our cancer experiences, and offer, along with two oncologists and a pulmonologist, our respective insights as "treater" and "tatee."

As you regular readers know, my story, based on the available statistical indicators at the time, is a miracle. Lung cancer is a killer, almost always. Survivors who live beyond two years are rare enough; beyond five years, rarer still. However, given the evolution of the research and new drugs brought to market, there are more lung cancer survivors than ever before. And the more survivors I meet, the more empowered I become regarding my own life expectancy. Which, if a cancer patient thinks too much about, the shorter – in my opinion, it will be. As a practical consideration though, how do you not focus on the most important thing in your life; that thing being your lung cancer diagnosis. A diagnosis your oncologist has advised you will likely result in a rather disappointing prognosis. But somehow, from my perspective anyhow, that's exactly what patients/survivors have to do; agree and proceed, sort of.

Moreover, how does one make light of something (your "terminal" disease/ "13-month to two-year prognosis") which is incredibly heavy? And how does one not get depressed about something (again, your diagnosis) which is terribly depressing? And finally, how does one stay positive and find humor/balance, when cancer is the definition of negative and imbalance, and is, as the old expression says: "Funny as a heart attack"? It all seems and feels counter-intuitive. It reminds me of the Seinfeld episode when, out of desperation, George decided to act opposite to his instincts: "My name is George. I'm unemployed and I live with my parents;" which resulted in his meeting an attractive woman at the diner and getting his Assistant-to-the-Travelling-Secretary job with the New York Yankees. Yet somehow, following this path of least resistance has worked – for me. Inexplicable. Random? Lucky? Misguided? Inadvisable? Rhyme or reason? If I think too much about it, I'm afraid I'll weaken the nation. All I know is: since it ain't broke, I'm not looking to fix it.

Certainly there have been struggles: I'm not going to pretend otherwise. Still, living is its own reward, and having survived now way beyond my initial prognosis, I'd like to think that I'm further from the beginning than I am closer to the end. But who knows, really? And what good comes from asking myself that question anyway? I can't get an answer, obviously; and of course, any guarantees are long gone. Somehow I have to continue to trick myself into not caring: the opposite of all my instincts. It worked for George and so far, it's worked for me. Now, if I can only leave well enough alone. That would truly be a miracle.

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

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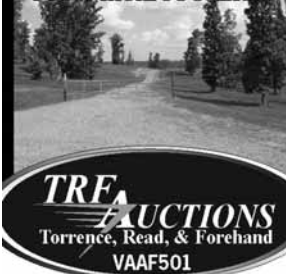
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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 7

- ❖ **Online Campus.** For credit recovery, acceleration, and enrichment for middle school and high school students. Health, Physical Education, and Geometry Honors run June 29-Aug. 4; all other courses run July 6-Aug. 4.
- ❖ **SOL Remediation.** For FCPS high school students who passed an SOL course but did not pass the SOL test. Held at Fairfax High School.
- ❖ **SOL Test Only.** This program is for FCPS seniors who plan to graduate by Aug. 28 and passed an SOL course but failed the SOL test.
- ❖ **ESOL Numeracy and Literacy.** The ESOL Numeracy and Literacy class provides currently enrolled FCPS high school ELP Level 1 students with the opportunity to develop their numeracy and literacy skills. Students will meet face-to-face with their teachers daily. This is a noncredit class. Held at Fairfax High School July 6-24.
- ❖ **Online ESOL.** Through this three-week class, students will continue developing their academic and reading and writing skills in an online discussion with an ESOL teacher. This is a noncredit class. Held July 6-24.
- ❖ **Extended School Year Learning Communities.** Services for identified students with disabilities in accordance with their individualized education programs.
- ❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Summer Technology Institute.** The Institute will be held July 13-Aug. 7 at Woodson High School. Students currently in grades 7 and 8 will be introduced to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics through week-long

sessions that allow them to explore a STEM topic of interest.

- ❖ **Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology Academic Summer School.** This program will be held July 6-Aug. 6 at Woodson High School. Current TJHSST students and incoming freshmen choose from a variety of courses for academic credit.
- ❖ **Adult and Community Education.** Programs include Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology admissions test prep, SAT test prep, study skills, and driver education.
- ❖ **ACE Driver Education.** For students in grades 9-12.

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- Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit hart90.org for more.
- Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit aforeverhome.org for more.
- Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit www.lostdogrescue.org for more.

THURSDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 11-14

- White Elephant Sale.** 5-8 p.m. on Thursday, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. on Friday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. on Saturday and 8 a.m.-12 p.m. on Sunday at St. Mary's, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. A white elephant sale features used items of special interest to collectors. There is a \$5 fee to attend the preview sale on Thursday, but is free all other

days. Call 703-978-4141 for more.

THURSDAY/JUNE 11

Art Walk. 5 p.m. at Virginia Run Elementary, 15450 Martins Hundred Drive, Centreville. Virginia Run Elementary PTA will be hosting its annual art walk which will include a display of artwork by 5th grade students. There will also be ice cream, a PTA election and more. Free. Call 703-988-8900.

The Second Annual Juried Exhibition Reception. 6-8 p.m. at the Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. The winners, including Best of Show, Best Runner-Up and Honorable Mention recipients, will be honored at a reception. Free. RSVP is required. Contact Hylton@gmu.edu to RSVP. Visit HyltonCenter.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JUNE 12-13

Scrapbook Expo. 10 a.m.-6 p.m. on Friday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday at Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Find all of the essentials for a scrapbooking hobbyist. Also participate in a "Mega Make and Take Extravaganza," workshops and more. Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. Visit www.scrapbookexpo.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 13

- Black Fig Pizza Oven.** 1 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Mobile pizza caterer visits the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.
- Touch a Truck.** 2-5 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow

Road, Chantilly. Vehicles will be available for children and adults to learn about. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Remembrance Cabaret. 6-7 p.m. at Westfield High School Auditorium, 4700 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. This event is fundraiser for the Reema J. Samaha Scholarship Fund which provides scholarships to local students. Find music, dance, art, a silent auction, and a bake sale. Admission to the event is free. All proceeds from bake sale and silent auction will benefit the scholarship fund. Call 703-919-2941 or email janetkohler@cox.net.

MONDAY/JUNE 15

Writers Group. 6:45-8:45 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join fellow writers to discuss work, share, and receive feedback. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JUNE 16

Magic and Mayhem. 4:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Middle school students are invited to a discussion on sci-fi books. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov for more.

"Mission to Tokyo." 7 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. World War II historian and author Robert F. Dorr discusses the experiences of American airmen in the Pacific. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

THURSDAY/JUNE 18

"Indoor Picnic." 6 p.m. at the Sully Government Center, 4900 Stonecroft

Blvd. Liberty Republican Women's Club hold their annual "Indoor Picnic" with Linda Bartlett, President of the VFRW as guest speaker. Everyone welcome. Admission is free. Contact 703-378-4190.

SATURDAY/JUNE 20

Clifton Wine Festival. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at 7150 Main St., Clifton. Local wineries will bring their goods to the festival. Also find a wide variety of arts and crafts vendors and live entertainment. General admission to the festival is \$15 at the gate. The "Taster Ticket," for attendees 21 and older includes admission, a souvenir wine glass and choices to sample is \$25. A children's ticket is \$5. Visit www.cliftonwine.com.

Battle of the Beers. 3-5 p.m. at Total Wine, Greenbriar Shopping Center, 13055 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, Fairfax. Compare "Old World" beer to "New World" beer and learn about beer history. Tickets are \$15. Visit www.totalwine.com.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 20-21

NoVa Summer Brewfest. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Bull Run Regional Park, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Find seasonal craft beer from local and regional breweries alongside vendors, exhibitors, music, and food. Tickets are \$35 for adults on the day of the event, \$25 in advance and \$10 for designated drivers. Children under 16 may attend at no cost. Visit www.novabrewfest.com.

SUNDAY/JUNE 21

Antique Car Show. 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Celebrate Father's Day at Sully's 42nd Annual Antique Car Show co-sponsored by the FCPA and The Model A Ford Club of America. Find 400 antique and classic cars, cars for sale, a flea market, food and music. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$8 for seniors and \$7 for children. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Father's Day in Paradise. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Paradise Spring Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Dads are invited for a pig roast, live music pop-up barber shop and a swagger and cigar bar. An adult ticket to the pig roast is \$75, and a child's ticket is \$45. Other prices vary. Visit www.paradisepspringwinery.com for more.

Father's Day at the Winery. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Dads and families are invited to celebrate Father's Day with live music, barbeque, cigar rolling and a photobooth. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

Dinosaur Babies. 2:30 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. DinoRock performs a musical puppet show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov.

TUESDAY/JUNE 23

Father's Day Beer Dinner. 7 p.m. at Dogfish Alehouse, 13041 Lee Jackson Highway, Fairfax. A special five-course menu will be available. Each course will be paired with a different beer. Tickets are \$60. Visit www.dogfishalehouse.com.

FRIDAY/JUNE 26

Sipping & Painting. 6:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Drink wine and decorate your own wine glass. Tickets are \$39. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for more.

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