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

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# 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 50 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 adjacent 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 reroutes 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 Fina, 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 hill-sides, 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, gully-ing, and muddy patches, so they walk next to the trail, further widening the trail and starting a new cycle 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 siltation 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 \$50,000 plus volunteer 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.

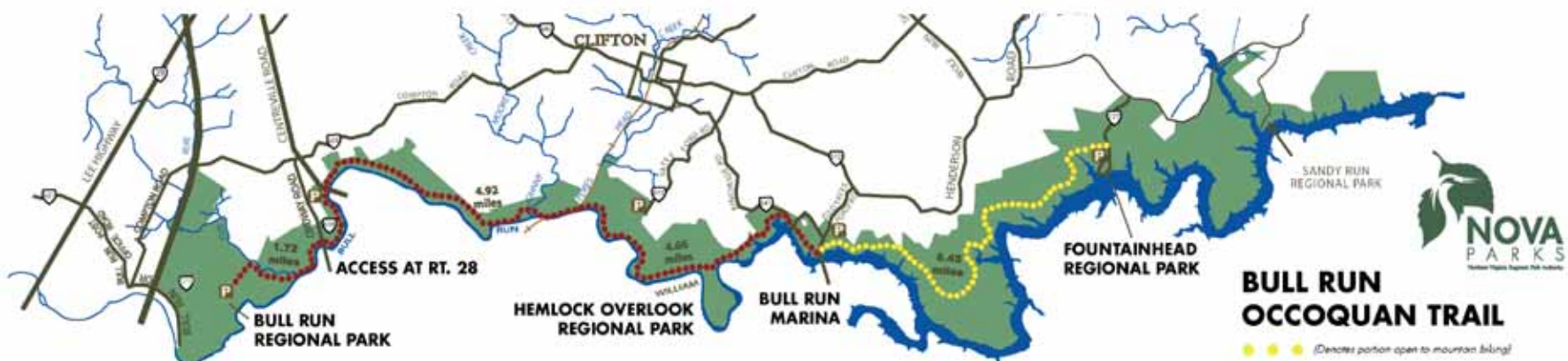
In addition to improving the environment, the rerouted trail needs to go around numerous archeological resources. This area is remarkable for its history. There are significant prehistoric resources. The troops of French General Rochambeau passed through this area on their way to Yorktown in 1781. During 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](http://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.





**Mahima Adhikari and Aarya Ghimire perform a Nepalese dance.**



**Nepalese dancer Laxmi Ghimire takes a bow.**



**The O'Neill-James School of Irish Dancing**



**The Washington Area Senior Harmonica Group**

## Showcase Performers Kick Up their Heels

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

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW



**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.**



**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.**



**Singing while playing music are members of the Korean Central Senior Center's Autoharp Ensemble.**

# OPINION

## Supporting Immigrant Families, Community

**Comprehensive change — not one-time funding — needed to support Fairfax County immigrant families and community members.**

BY MARY SUPLEY  
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 11,500 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 detainer requests issued by ICE (view data directly at [bit.ly/detainer-compliance-rates](http://bit.ly/detainer-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](http://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](http://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.

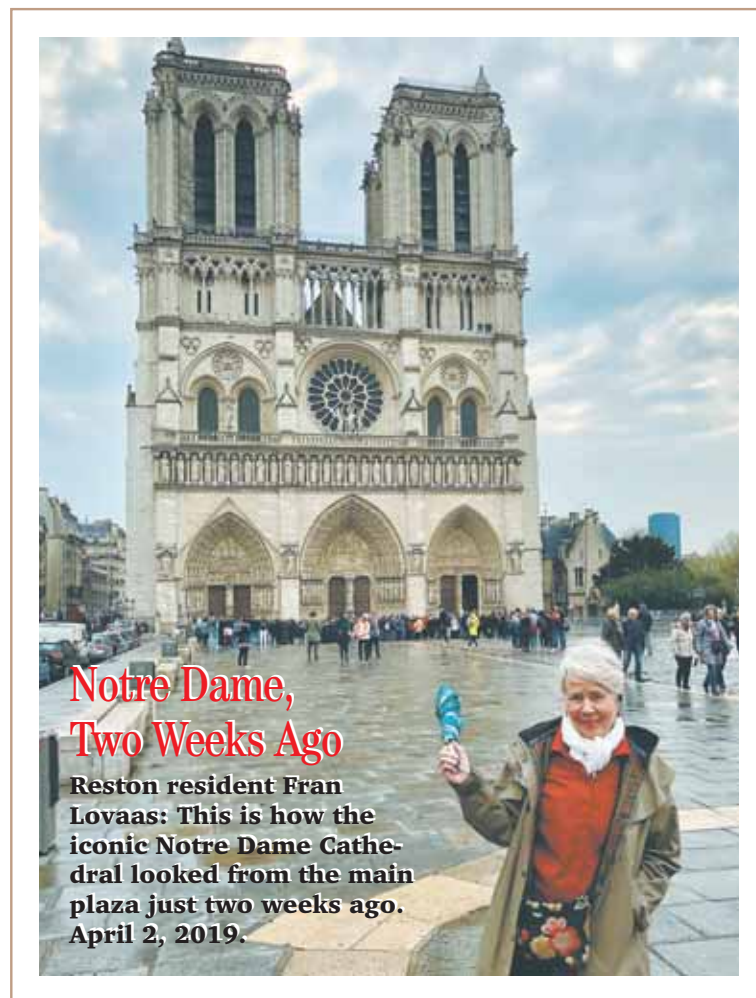
However, if the county does not keep its promise and fully fund the Market Rate Adjustment, then I may not be able to keep my promise to my kids.

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.*

# CENTREVIEW

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# 'Don't Stop Believin' in Westfield Theater

High school presents pop musical, 'Rock of Ages.'

By BONNIE HOBBS

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](http://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



PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE LASSITER

Rehearsing a scene from "Rock of Ages" are (from left) Lauren LeVine, Braeden Anderson, Alan Gutierrez-Urista, Faith Cho, John Henry Stamper, Keeley Rogers, Harry Schlatter, Josh Moore and Colin Brown.

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 naïve, 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

SEE 'ROCK OF AGES'. PAGE 10

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The 2019 recipient of the Katherine K. Hanley Award for Public Service is Sharon Bulova (center), Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. The honor was presented to Bulova at the Leadership Fairfax Breakfast with the Board by Rodney Lusk and award namesake Katherine Hanley.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

A swing, but no miss for the supervisors who are retiring from the Board "line-up" at the end of the year. Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill), Sharon Bulova (Chair), Linda Smyth (Providence), and John Cook (Braddock) have all made significant contributions to the community and the residents of Fairfax County and beyond in their time in office.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

In keeping with the baseball theme, Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid — flanked by Leadership Fairfax graduates of the class of 2017 Devan Strebig and Brian Kincaid — gets interviewed in the "Press Box."



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARLOTTE GEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

The elected officials were made to show off their athletic skills by throwing out a softball — a really, really soft ball! — after answering the first set of questions posed by moderator Casey Veatch. Their efforts drew a variety of a calls from umpire Mark Ingrao.

# Leadership Fairfax Hits a Home Run

Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors honors community service.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

The Leadership Fairfax Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors is always a hot ticket, drawing a full house of elected officials, community and business leaders and members of local law enforcement — many of them alumni of Leadership Fairfax programs — eager to reunite with other grads meet and greet and network with others in their space. They are also there to watch their government representatives opine on the state of our local affairs all while letting down their professional hair just a bit.

The 28<sup>th</sup> edition of the breakfast, held at the Fairview Park Marriott in Falls Church on Friday, April 5, met all those expectations. The planners went for a baseball theme for this year's event and from the very first inning they produced a winner, starting with the Press Box set up in the lobby, where Leadership Fairfax class of 2017 alumni Brian Kincaid and Devan Strebig interviewed a number of the local star players like Supervisor Jeff McKay (Lee District) and Fairfax County Sheriff Stacey Kincaid.

Opening remarks were handled by Leadership Fairfax President & CEO Karen Cleveland, Leadership Fairfax Board Chairman Huey Battle, and Monica Schumde, President of the Mid-Atlantic Region of Cigna, the event's MVP sponsor.

Before the Board of Supervisors team took the field, however, award namesake Katherine Hanley and Fairfax County Economic Development Authority national director of marketing Rodney Lusk, a longtime local civic activist and 1998 Leadership Fairfax graduate, presented the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Katherine K. Hanley Public Service Award.

Lusk read out the names of the previous winners before announcing — to thunderous applause — Board of Supervisors Chair-



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Leadership Fairfax president and CEO Karen Cleveland welcomes the spectators to the ballgame-themed Breakfast with the Board of Supervisors on April 5, at the Fairview Park Marriott.

man Sharon Bulova as the 2019 award recipient. Even among such illustrious company, Lusk noted that Bulova was "a real stand-out."

After a career of more than 30 years of service to the community, the last ten of which saw her preside over the governing of Fairfax County as the Board Chair, Bulova has decided to retire at the end of her term, and she will be much-missed, said Lusk.

Both Hanley and Lusk said they were hard-pressed to name only a few of Bulova's accomplishments and contributions. The fact that the county maintained its AAA Bond rating during her term, despite the Great Recession, the federal sequestration and sev-

eral partial government shutdowns that severely impacted a government town like Northern Virginia, are testaments to Bulova's leadership, said Lusk.

Her involvement with championing the development of the county's Diversion First program (designed to decrease the use of arrest and incarceration for low-level offenders with mental health issues), her role with Virginia Railway Express and Metro's Silver Line, initiating the Faith Communities in Action and convening the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, as well as her dedication to the One Fairfax equity initiative, make Bulova "the obvious choice for such recognition" for an award given to someone "who exemplifies service above self and has had a positive effect on the County."

With the award ceremony complete, it was time to call "Play Ball!"

**THE STARTING LINE-UP** of the "Leadership Fairfax All Stars" was introduced by Leadership Fairfax COO Andy Sigle, using a spot-on impression of an announcer's voice as he called each district supervisor in turn.

- ♦ Kathy "Rainmaker" Smith - Sully, "drafted" in 2016
- ♦ Pat "Ace on Base" Herry - Springfield, 2008
- ♦ John "Legal Eagle" Foust - Dranesville, 2007
- ♦ Cathy "The Hammer" Hudgins - Hunter Mill, 2000
- ♦ Penny "The Consultant" Gross - Mason, 1996
- ♦ Linda "Big Slugger" Smyth - Providence, 2003
- ♦ Dan "Rail Splitter" Storck - Mt. Vernon, 2016
- ♦ John "The Champion" Cook - Braddock, 2009
- ♦ Jeff "Batter Up" McKay - Lee, 2008
- ♦ Sharon "The Chairman" Bulova - At-Large, 2009

All the "players" ran in to take their positions on the dais as baseball-style card photos were flashed on screen with their photos and their stats, including a few of their most significant achievements and areas of involvement.

Moderator and head umpire Casey Veatch, principal with Veatch Commercial Real Estate and graduate of Leadership Fairfax class of 1999 got the game under way, giving them an easy pitch to start the proceedings by asking each supervisor to recount a sports memory.

Hilarious, poignant, and even a few dramatic moments were shared, but the highlight of each story was the signing of a really-soft softball by each before they tossed it into the crowd — to a varying degree of success. Each throw was judged by umpire Mark Ingrao, President and CEO of the Greater Reston Chamber of Commerce. Ingrao called a few base hits, a foul ball or two, and declared that Supervisor Cook should actually be called "outta here!" when his enthusiastic pitch hit the ballroom ceiling before bouncing back into the crowd.

In regards to the toss outs, Veatch assured the audience of two things: "It's ok — Leadership Fairfax has insurance for today's game, and secondly, our umpire is legit," he said, referencing Ingrao's induction as an umpire in the Softball Hall of Fame.

"If we get into any tussles among the players," Veatch joked, "we're still safe since the ump is also a Wrestling Hall of Fame referee!"

Another easy pitch to the players followed. "Name your favorite stadium snack," asked Veatch.

McKay was quick to respond, "beer." Storck followed up "then with 2 beers!" Herry also voted for beer, while sausages, hot dogs, and peanuts also made the list.

After the sports stories were concluded and the softballs thrown without major in-

jury to either players or spectators, it was time for the fastballs, curveballs, and sliders to finally be unleashed.

**IT'S AN ELECTION YEAR** in Fairfax County. All of the seats on the Board of Supervisors are up for grabs, but even if incumbents retain their positions, the line up of the Board is set to change dramatically.

In addition to Bulova's retirement, the Hunter Mill, Braddock and Providence districts will all see new faces of representation as Cathy Hudgins, John Cook, and Linda Smyth respectively declined to seek re-election. Jeff McKay of the Braddock District is running to take the Board Chair position, meaning his district will also elect a new supervisor.

"I think it's something like 40 years since we held a primary for the Chairman's seat," said Veatch, but that is exactly what is ahead for McKay and his Democratic challengers on June 11.

With all that change in the air, Veatch asked questions that not only focused on the current state of affairs, but on how that change may effect the governance of Fairfax County going forward. He also reminded Bulova, Cook, Hudgins, and Smyth that their impending retirements from the team meant they were "free to speak your minds," while pointing out that Penny Gross (Mason) would become the longest-serving member of the board and "the adult in the room."

Some of their responses included: **Gross** (Mason) — "Yes, I will be the adult supervision," she laughed, but vowed to be the mentor to the newbies that helped her transition successfully when she joined the Board. Gross also referenced a quote that advised that "one could go far alone, but to go far required going together. The united team of the Board of Supervisors can move us forward, base to base."

**Foust** (Dranesville) also spoke to unity

and the need for collaboration among the connected regions of Fairfax County and neighbors, in order to collaboratively achieve success for all citizens.

**Cook** (Braddock) expressed concern about the destructive impact of divisions within the country and even the county, and the potential for further harm as the wealth gap continues to widen. When the American Dream changes from "if I work hard I can get there, to even if I work hard I can't get there," Cook says the resentment and the division builds up. "Government doesn't create, so much as it follows. It's up to you and the community to work together with government" to make community improvements and get things done.

**Smith** (Sully) talked about changes to the county's zoning laws - big and small. In addition to hearing cases and making changes to protect the integrity of the county's standards, Smith explained how some restrictions on owning unusual pets like chinchillas and hedgehogs had been eased, thanks to the advocacy of some younger members of her constituency. "Yes, you can now own a hedgehog," said Smith, "but please consider your pet choices carefully and learn how to take care of your pets properly."

Referencing a recent report on illnesses that can be passed from hedgehog to human, Smith added "and words I never thought I would say in my professional life, please don't kiss your hedgehog."

**Herry** (Springfield), who has long been a champion of the war against opioid addictions and deaths in the region, spoke of the steps being made to improve the devastating situation. "Opioid deaths were down by 40 percent between 2017 - 2018," he noted, but said there was still much work to be done and better reporting needed. "The biggest need is more resources for treatment," he added. "There just aren't enough treatment centers" to address the problems.

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**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  
THE CONNECTION

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 your car that lets everyone know that your child attends a certain school," said Kim Hardy who was the education consultant to the Hillegass family. "There's a range of factors that parents should take into consideration."

The first, advises Hardy, is whether their child is

happy and well adjusted. "If a child is bored or frustrated at school, not just because their grades aren't good and they've given up, but there are also cases where students are making straight As without much effort and are bored because they aren't being challenged."

When the accommodations that a school can offer don't meet the needs of one's child, that's another clue that a change is necessary, suggests Arlington-based education consultant Rita Fetters.

"Some children need to be in a classroom with a low student teacher ratio so that teachers have time to redirect students who have trouble staying focused," she said. "Other students need a lot of exercise and outdoor activity to release energy so that they can focus better in class. Public schools may not be able to offer that."

The Heights in Potomac, Md. builds activity and exercise into each school day including outdoor recess and a challenging physical education program that not only releases energy, but teaches important life skills.

Fetters says some parents make the change because they want specialized opportunities that a public school might not offer.

"If religious education is important to a family, that is 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 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."

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# 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.



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**NEWS**

**'Rock of Ages' at Westfield High**

FROM PAGE 5

a personal favorite of mine," he said. "And it breaks the fourth wall, too."

He said the set design and costumes will also appeal to the audience. "We built an extension to the stage so we could get closer to the audience and imitate a rock concert," explained Stamper. "We'll also have lights suspended onstage to go with the music, and the set will have moving parts. The costumes include acid-washed jeans, leather jackets, jeans jackets and fancy shirts - a lot of throwback accessories and outfits."

Junior Keeley Rogers plays Sherrie. "She's a bubbly and optimistic girl who has big dreams and is willing to do whatever it takes to make them come true," said Rogers. "She's a daydreamer, but she's persistent. She's also outgoing and loving and really falls hard for Drew. I usually play the antagonist, so it's fun being the quirky and lovable person."

Rogers especially likes the song, "Don't Stop Believin'," because "It's the final number of the show, everyone's onstage and the whole audience will love it because it's such a well-known song."

**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 "juke-box musical. If you like rock, you're going to enjoy

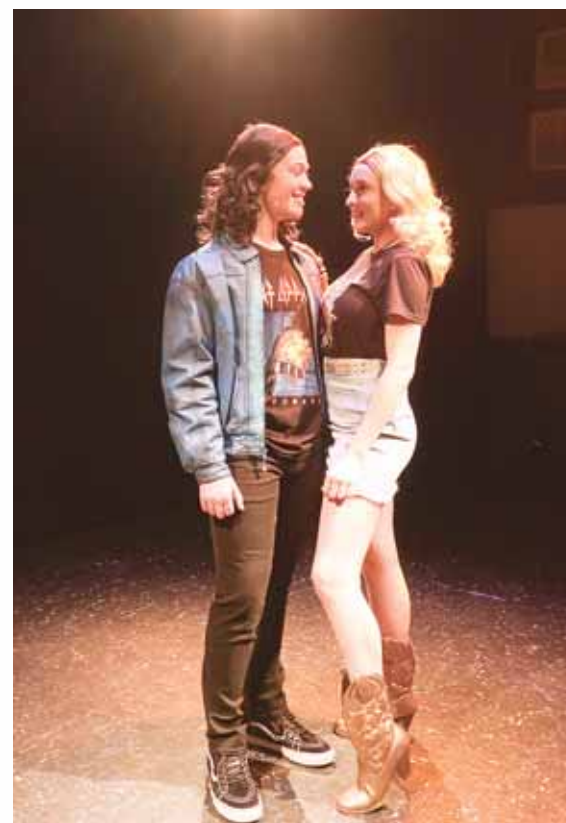


PHOTO COURTESY OF NATALIE LASSITER

**John Henry Stamper and Keeley Rogers have lead roles in Westfield's upcoming musical, "Rock of Ages."**

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. "It's fun playing her because she's really out there and loud. 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."

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ROUNDUPS

## 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 Fair Oaks. 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 Scam Jam. They'll discuss scams aimed at Virginians, such as fake solicitor 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/fairfaxscamjam/> or call 1-877-926-8300.

## Learn about Cyber Security

The Fair Oaks District Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) will meet Tuesday, April 30, at 7 p.m. The guest speaker will be Capt. David Smith from the Cyber and Forensics division, and the meeting is open to the public and all ages. It will be held at the Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive in Fairfax.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

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](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or 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](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), 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 Albemarle Point Place, Suite 119, Chantilly. Contact Travis White at [scwfc.office@gmail.com](mailto: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, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, will hold its next monthly meeting on April 15, 2019. Individuals are invited to attend to learn more about the organization's programs. There are additional tutoring opportunities to improve reading skills for first graders through one on one tutoring or to help with food or other programs. Pre-meeting social starts at 9:30 a.m. Free. Visit [www.alnv.org](http://www.alnv.org) for more.

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## As It Is Happening



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Thankfully I woke up today (duh!) – without the crushing, incapacitating fatigue that I woke up with two weeks ago, post-my-last-immunotherapy infusion.

As I have written previously, I did not alert my oncologist to my bedridden status then or since as I have been trying not to worry that I had crossed some Rubicon-type line concerning my treatment and its side/straight-on effects. Apparently, and I will continue to believe (cling to this belief) that my inability to get out of bed two Saturdays ago was indeed an aberration rather than an actualization, of life in this new Kenny lane.

So here I sit at my desk writing away, fully dressed, teeth-brushed and clean-shaven, all by 8:15 am, pill-popping as I go.

As I recall two weeks ago, when I finally summoned the strength to extricate myself from under the covers to get dressed and attempt to walk downstairs and restart my day (I had gotten up earlier to feed our cats breakfast and give Chino his insulin shot), “The clock on the wall” (clock radio, actually), to quote George Thorogood, said 3:53 p.m. (And other than bathroom breaks, that was all I could muster in the nine hours since I woke up at 7 a.m.)

No pain, just zero energy. It was almost as if I was paralyzed.

Writing back to the present, anticipating this morning, I’ve been a bit apprehensive the last few days – fearful that when I awoke today, I would once again be fighting that terrible fatigue and considering a new reality in my cancer existence.

When my eyes popped open at 6:30 this morning, I was grateful (as my father used to say: “Any day that I wake up is a good day”) and relieved that when I raised my right arm to roll back the covers, I did so with relative normalcy; and even more relieved when I was able to swing my legs out from underneath the covers and onto the bedroom floor where I had no difficulty getting my bearings. Before too long (maybe 30 seconds or so), and after a few deep breaths, I stood up and officially began my day without any further adieu. Although I hadn’t taken any Roloids: “Oh, what a relief it is!”

Dare I say then it will be a normal day, up and at ‘em with nary a hint of fatigue in the forecast.

Rain, however, is in the forecast and given the date on the calendar: April 13, 2019, I have to face an even greater challenge than the fatigue I experienced two weeks ago: clothes shopping.

More specifically, I have to buy a suit, as well as some upgraded good-looking casual attire which my wife, Dina will approve and that Kenny’s budget will tolerate, as I’ll be attending a family wedding and rehearsal dinner beginning May 3, 2019.

One more concern: my weight. It’s not good. It’s the talking-scale-joke-will-one-of-you-please-get-off, bad. But I have no choice. Today’s the day (for availability reasons) or it will be “Good night, Irene.” Is there a tent sale going on anywhere?

You know, now that I think about it – and feel it, I may be feeling a little fatigue.

Maybe it’s not the best day to be trying on ill-fitting clothes ALL DAY. What if I don’t have the manual dexterity to be in and out of dressing rooms, up and down while in them and back and forth to the clothing racks with shoes, slacks, shirts and suits?

What if today is another day in my life – which seemingly began at birth, where I spent hours in the “Husky”/“Portly” departments at Jordan Marsh, Filene’s Basement and Kennedy’s in downtown Boston, trying to find Kenny some “school clothes” that fit, that is excruciating AGAIN? Granted, it wasn’t cancer then as it is now, but for an overweight young boy, it was torture personified and the experience imprinted me for life as a serial-clothes-shopping-hater.

Got to go. Wish me luck. I’ll need it.

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

# ENTERTAINMENT

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

## FRIDAY-SUNDAY/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 nothin' 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](http://shelterhouse.org) for a list of needed items. Tickets are \$10 at [westfieldtheatre.com](http://westfieldtheatre.com) or \$12 at the door.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27

**Springfest 2019.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, 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 [ayleah@cleanfairfax.org](mailto:ayleah@cleanfairfax.org) or visit [Springfestfairfax.org](http://Springfestfairfax.org) for more.

**Fundraiser: VFW Post 8469.** 1-5 p.m. at Bowl America, 5615 Guinea Road, Burke. VFW Post 8469 will host a public 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 Flag, 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 benefit issues.

**"Enchanted Forest" Joy Prom.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Hwy, Centreville. Similar to Tim Tebow's "Night to Shine," this is a free event for all who register and intended to be a night of fun for the special needs community as well as a time of respite for families and caregivers. Local youth are volunteering to be coupled with participants as "buddies" throughout the night's activities. Registration to participate is open to all ages 13 and up, but not limited to high school students. Visit [www.cbvva.org/joyprom](http://www.cbvva.org/joyprom).

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/APRIL 27-28

**LEGO Model Train Show.** Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 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 (WamaLTC) members will hold a two day LEGO-based train show. All trains, buildings and scenery in the display are built from LEGO blocks and shapes. Donations of unwanted LEGO pieces and sets are appreciated to help support WamaLTC's efforts to bring fun and education to all ages through its activities. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## SATURDAY/APRIL 27-FRIDAY/MAY 3

**"7 Divine Laws for Happiness & Fulfillment."** Saturday-Sunday; 4:30-7:30 p.m.; Monday-Friday, 6-9 p.m. at Rajdhani Mandir, 4525 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Swami Mukundananda is a renowned teacher of Spirituality, Yoga and Meditation. He is the founder of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION RAILROAD MUSEUM

## Railroad Museum

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum holds events most Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.



PHOTO BY ELYSABETH MUSCAT

**Saaya Pikula and Emanuel Tavares, Principal Dancers of VNB rehearse for Carmen.**

## Ballet Performance

Virginia National Ballet presents the ballet Carmen and the premiere of Life In The Fast Lane, a rock ballet to the music of The Eagles. Sunday, April 28, 3-4:30 at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. \$40. Call 703-753-5005 or visit [hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane](http://hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane).

yogic system JKYog also known as Yoga for Body, Mind and Soul. Free. Visit [www.jkyog.org/events/7-divine-laws-happiness-fulfillment-chantilly-va](http://www.jkyog.org/events/7-divine-laws-happiness-fulfillment-chantilly-va) or call 703-901-3731.

## SUNDAY/APRIL 28

**Ballet: Carmen.** 3-4:30 at Hylton Performing Arts Center, 10960 George Mason Circle, Manassas. Virginia National Ballet presents the ballet Carmen and the premiere of Life In The Fast Lane, a rock ballet to the music of The Eagles. \$40. Call 703-753-5005 or visit [hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane](http://hylton.calendar.gmu.edu/virginia-national-ballet-carmen-and-life-in-the-fast-lane).

## FRIDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 3-4

**Rock of Ages: High School Edition.** 7 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

library/events.

## SATURDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 4-5

**HO Gauge Model Train Show.** Noon-4 p.m. at The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Potomac Model Group will have running HO gauge model trains. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## TUESDAYS STARTING MAY 7

**Program for Homeschoolers.** 1-2:30 p.m. At E.C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Learn a new skill with Homeschool Animal Vets. 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 youngsters ages 8 to 15. Call 703-631-0013 or visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence>.

## FRIDAY/MAY 17

**Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction.** 10 a.m.-4 p.m. The Clifton Community Woman's Club hosts the 47th Annual Clifton Homes Tour and Silent Auction on Friday, May 17. Proceeds are distributed to local scholarships and charities. This Clifton tradition offers guided tours of four homes and two historic churches: 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 a single home. Tour tickets may be purchased in advance at local shops, online at [www.cliftoncwc.org](http://www.cliftoncwc.org), or purchased the day of the tour at the Clifton Presbyterian Church, 12748 Richards Lane, Clifton.

## SATURDAY/MAY 18

**Festival to Fight Cancer.** 8-11 a.m. at Centreville High School, 6001 Union Mill Road, Clifton. The CVHS Wildcats vs. Cancer Club hosts their third annual Festival to Fight Cancer. This year's festival features a 1-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/](http://www.dccandlelighters.org/)), a non-profit organization supporting families affected by pediatric cancer. Tickets are \$20 at [runsignup.com/Race/VA/Clifton/FestivaltoFightCancer19](http://runsignup.com/Race/VA/Clifton/FestivaltoFightCancer19). Learn more at [wildcatsvscancer.wixsite.com/wildcatsvscancer](http://wildcatsvscancer.wixsite.com/wildcatsvscancer).

**Historic Marker Unveiling: Mystery of the Centreville Six.** 10 a.m. at McDonald's Restaurant, 5931 Fort Drive, Centreville. Speakers include the Honorable Michael Frey, Sully District Supervisor at the time of discovery and excavation, and a keynote address by Kevin Ambrose, who discovered the first soldier.

## SUNDAY/MAY 19

**Red Shoe 5k.** 7:30 a.m. (start 9 a.m.) at Bull Run Special Events Center, 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Proceeds support Ronald McDonald House. Competitive and non-competitive runners and walkers are

welcome. All registrants will receive a t-shirt and Kid's Fun Run participants will also receive a souvenir medal. Mixed gravel and pavement course. Strollers are welcome, but course may not be suitable for the average stroller. Children should always be supervised by parent or guardian. Dogs on leashes are welcome and free. \$25-\$40. Visit [rmhcdc.org/red-shoe-5k/](http://rmhcdc.org/red-shoe-5k/) for more.

**NTRAK Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold an N gauge Model Train Display Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Wine, Whiskers and Wags.** 1-5 p.m. at Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Annual fundraising event for Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter will feature silent auction, adoptable pets and training demonstrations. Admission includes heavy hors d'oeuvres, beverages, a ticket for a glass of wine or a wine tasting, a keepsake wine glass, dog demonstrations, participation in the silent auction and access to exhibitors. Tickets are required and may be purchased in advance for \$45 at [www.ffcas.org](http://www.ffcas.org); tickets may also be purchased at the event for \$55.

## SATURDAY/JUNE 1

**Clifton Caboose Run.** 6-9 p.m. in the Town of Clifton, at the intersection of Clifton Road, Newman Road and Main Street. A 5K Run and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk beginning in the turn-of-the-century town of Clifton. A post-race party with refreshments, live music and an awards ceremony will take place at the Red Barn near Clifton's Main Street area. 5k run, \$21; 1-mile fun run/walk, \$15. Call 703-968-0740 or visit [www.facebook.com/cliftonva.org](http://www.facebook.com/cliftonva.org).

## THURSDAY/JUNE 6

**Westfield All Night Grad Party.** 11 p.m.- 4 a.m. at Uptown Alley, 8300 Sudley Road Suite Unit A-7, Manassas. Westfield High School will be hosting an All Night Grad Party at Uptown Alley. Registration for Seniors and donations is now open (register by May 31). \$75, includes food, drinks, and all activities. Email [bocm61@gmail.com](mailto:bocm61@gmail.com) or visit [www.ptsa.westfieldhs.org/parents/angp-homepage/](http://www.ptsa.westfieldhs.org/parents/angp-homepage/).

## ONGOING

**Fitness for 50+.** Daytime hours, Monday-Friday at Sully Senior Center, 14426 Albemarle Point Place, Chantilly. Jazzercise Lite, Zumba Gold, Hot Hula Fitness (dancing Polynesian style), Strength Training, Qi Gong, Tai Chi and more. Membership is \$48 a year, and waivers are available. Email [lynnelott@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:lynnelott@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call 703-322-4475 for more.

**History Volunteers Needed.** Fairfax Station Railroad Museum needs history buffs. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. Email [volunteers@fairfax-station.org](mailto:volunteers@fairfax-station.org) or call 703-945-7483 to explore 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. [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), 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 of European settings; doors, windows, and flower shops. Free. Call 703-409-0919 for more.