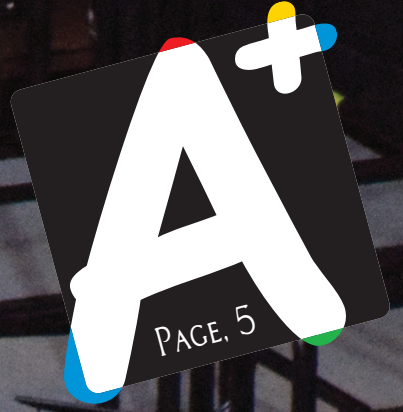


Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Aislin Carpenter, the student speaker, told Westfield High School graduates to “embrace” failure and never stop dreaming after they graduate.



Westfield Graduates Told: Dream Big, Prepare to Fail

NEWS, PAGE 3

Rauf Pleads Guilty to Unlawful Filming

NEWS, PAGE 2

Head-Shaving Event for Children with Cancer

NEWS, PAGE 6

ATTENTION
POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE
MATERIAL
REQUESTED
IN HOME
6-20-19

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EASTON, MD
PERMIT #322

Rauf Pleads Guilty To Unlawful Filming

One of the victims was just 13 years old.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

In late December 2018, local residents were shaken up when Fairfax County police alerted them that a man had been filming customers in Fair Oaks Mall while they changed clothes in store dressing rooms. And last week in Circuit Court, that man – Mumtaz Rauf, 39, of Alexandria – pleaded guilty to four counts of unlawful filming.

“Are you entering your pleas freely and voluntarily, and because you are, indeed, guilty of these charges,” asked Judge Grace Carroll.

“Yes, Your Honor,” replied Rauf. The incidents occurred Dec. 22 and Dec. 24 and, according to Rauf’s grand jury indictment, involved filming “non-consenting persons’ exposed genitals, pubic area or female breasts when they had a reasonable expectation of privacy.”

On Dec. 24, around 4 p.m., police were called to the Forever 21 clothing store following a customer’s complaint. A teenage girl said she saw a black device, such as a camera or cell phone, pointing down from the wall of her dressing room, and she believed photographs were possibly being taken. A store employee then saw a man leaving the store and heading into the mall and described him to police.

OFFICERS FOUND HIM in the fitting room of the H&M clothing store and identified him as Rauf. He was wearing a black jacket, red knit beanie, khaki pants and red



Rauf

shoes, which matched the description provided by the store employee. Police said Rauf had a pinhole camera, black tape and a battery-powered, Bluetooth transmitter that officers believed he was using to remotely gather video and pictures from various fitting rooms. Rauf was charged with felony unlawful filming of a minor, since the victim was under age 18.

Detectives from the Major Crimes Bureau continued to investigate and found more than 100 videos on Rauf’s phone. They then identified three additional females recorded in store dressing rooms over the holidays, after these victims contacted them. As a result, on Jan. 23, police charged Rauf with three more counts of unlawful videotaping, and he was held on \$7,000 bond.

On March 28, in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, he waived his right to a preliminary hearing. Judge Michael Valentine then certified his cases to the grand jury for possible indictment and remanded Rauf back to jail. The April 15 grand jury then indicted him on one felony and four misdemeanors – one of which was later dropped.

Last Wednesday, June 12, Rauf – who is more than 6 feet tall – appeared in Circuit Court to enter his pleas. Carroll made sure he understood that, by pleading guilty, he was giving up his right

to a trial, to confront witnesses and to appeal his conviction.

Furthermore, she asked him, “Are you aware that – because of your guilty plea on count one [the felony], you’d lose your right to vote and to own a firearm?” Rauf answered affirmatively. She also told Rauf he could receive a maximum punishment of five years in prison on that charge, as well as one year in jail and a \$2,500 fine for each of the three misdemeanors – and that she could even run all these sentences consecutively.

Assistant Commonwealth’s Attorney Meghan Gosline then presented details of the prosecution’s case against him, had it gone to trial. She said that, after police responded to the Forever 21 store on Dec. 24, the young victim told them “A man looked over the top of the dressing-room door and photographed her while she was changing.”

And after police caught up with Rauf in H&M, said Gosline, “He told them he’d been in Forever 21 before that. A device was found on him, and he told police he’d put it on top of the dressing rooms and film the victims and then watch the footage on his cell phone. He said he did it in Forever 21, H&M and Old Navy and watched two females who were in Forever 21 and three who’d been in H&M.”

IN ADDITION, Gosline said police executed a search warrant at Rauf’s home and seized two, small, digital cameras – one of which that looked like a pen. She also said police found the videos he’d taken of the four victims for which he’d been charged. Gosline

CRIME REPORT

The following incidents were reported by the Sully District Police Station.

JUNE 17

COMMERCIAL ROBBERY:

14021 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway (Latash Couples Boutique), 6/16/19, 5:02 p.m. A man entered the business, threatened the clerk and demanded cash. He took an undisclosed amount of cash and ran from the store. He is described as black, 30 to 40-years-old, 6’- 6’2” tall with a stocky build.

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY:

5107 Westfields Boulevard (Island Games), 6/16/19, 11:25 a.m. An employee reported someone entered the business overnight and took cash and merchandise.

LARCENIES:

4900 block of Benton Brook Drive, cell phone from residence
14900 block of Braddock Road, purse from vehicle
12400 block of Clifton Hunt Drive, jewelry from residence

JUNE 14

LARCENIES:

4300 block of Chantilly Shopping Center, beer and wine from business
14500 block of George Carter Way, license plate from vehicle

JUNE 13

LARCENIES:

14100 block of Saint Germain Drive, cell phone from vehicle
JUNE 12

LARCENIES:

Saint Germain Drive/Field Encampment Road, camera and tools from vehicle

6200 block of Hidden Canyon Road, laptop computer and briefcase from vehicle

6200 block of Hidden Canyon Road, sunglasses from vehicle

13600 block of Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, merchandise from business

5600 block of Stone Road, wallet from location

JUNE 11

LARCENIES:

5500 block of Buggy Whip Drive, jewelry from residence

6400 block of Paddington Court, packages from residence

JUNE 10

LARCENIES:

5100 block of Centreville Farms Road, wallet from location

6200 block of Frosty Winter Court, passport from vehicle

14800 block of Millicent Court, tools from vehicle

13900 block of Preacher Chapman Place, cell phone from location

14100 block of Saint Germain Drive, beer from business

4300 block of Silas Hutchinson Drive, wallet and sunglasses from vehicle

STOLEN VEHICLES:

6000 block of Basingstoke Court, 2010 Ford Goldline F100

6100 block of Gothwaite Drive, 2013 Kawasaki motorcycle

BULLETIN BOARD

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

SOBER-RIDE FOR JULY 4

Free Sober Rides. Thursday, July 4, 7 p.m. through Friday, July 5, 2 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app’s “Promo” section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP’s Independence Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 6 p.m. on July 4 on www.SoberRide.com.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

STEM Professionals Needed.

Volunteers are needed to assist K-12 STEM teachers in northern Virginia as part of the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s STEM Volunteer Program, stemvolunteers.org, during the 2019-20 school year, beginning in September. Please contact Don Rea at 571-551-2488 or donaalrea@aol.com.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

Gun Safety Town Hall. 1-2:30 p.m.

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 7

said the felony offense was because one of those victims was just 13 years old.

Judge Carroll then formally accepted Rauf’s guilty pleas and con-

victed him of all four charges. She ordered a pre-sentencing report be made on him and set his sentencing for Sept. 13. She also ordered him to remain in jail until then.

Full Bath Remodel Package \$6,875



Remodeling Bathrooms, Kitchens & Basements

Interior and exterior remodel, tile, carpentry, wood replacement/repair, drywall, flooring, decks, interior and exterior painting, and everything in between. Handyman services are available.



**Picture Perfect
Home Improvements**

703-590-3187

Virginia State Licensed
Class A Contractor & Insured

www.pphionline.com

10% Off Labor OR Maximum Credit of \$400 • Free Estimates
Competitive Bidding and Pricing • Our Discount on Materials Passed to You When Available • No \$\$\$ Down! • Serving All of Northern Virginia • Present this ad at time of estimate!

Learn About Advertising in the Connection and Digital Options!

Advertising in the Connection and upcoming special sections:

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING

or call **703.778.9431**



Graduate Jinsuh Noh smiles as she receives her diploma from Westfield High School Principal Anthony Copeland.



Graduate Karenn Hall reflects for a moment as she waits to graduate and receive her diploma.

Westfield Graduates Told: Dream Big, Prepare to Fail

BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD
THE CONNECTION

At Westfield High School's commencement ceremony at the EagleBank Arena in Fairfax, Va. on Thursday, June 15, 632 graduates received their high school diplomas.

After the graduates entered to "Pomp and Circumstance," played by the school's orchestra, speakers urged students to dream big and be prepared to fail after graduation. The ceremony also included faculty awards, recognitions, and other musical performances – the Westfield High School Chorus seniors sang "Strong" from the movie "Cinderella."

"I believe in you and me, we are strong," the students sang.

Among the sea of graduates were 121 students who wore radiant red medals in recognition of at least a 4.0 GPA, which earned them the title of "Westfield Honor Scholar."

Graduate Aislin Carpenter, who was the student speaker, said the students had all faced barriers in their journeys, like mental health issues, and graduates will certainly fail again while searching for their passions. When they fail, graduates should keep dreaming and moving forward, she said.

"As I look out onto this ocean of future



Seniors throw their graduation caps into the air after turning their tassels and officially being declared graduates.

scientists, politicians and artists, all I see are the stunning results of these countless failures," Carpenter said.

She encouraged graduates to seek out all

opportunities that come their way, and not be afraid to make mistakes and change their pursuit. As an example, Carpenter said she has accepted that she will never win a Mario

Kart race on Nintendo DS or Nintendo Switch.

"In this case, a lifetime of failure has taught me that Mario Kart is really not what I should be doing with my time," she said. "In your futures you may find that certain activities just aren't for you. And if these continued failures don't light a fire in the sky for greatness, embrace it and find something that does."

Anthony Copeland, Westfield High School's principal, called the graduates "truly exceptional" in academics, athletics and service.

He said members of the Class of 2019 received more than \$3.9 million in scholarships to continue their education.

"Transformative learning has allowed you to become better communicators, collaborators, critical thinkers and learners," Copeland said. "And at Westfield High School, you are ethically-global citizens – you are goal-oriented."

He also applauded many students' awards and accomplishments during their four years, like 24 Cappies nominations and varsity baseball regional champions.

Copeland told graduates as they continue beyond Westfield High School, they must be ready for the opportunity to learn throughout their lives.

"Class dismissed," Copeland said.

PHOTOS BY ZACHARY SCHONFELD/THE CONNECTION

ROUNDUPS

Sully District Open Houses

The Sully District Summer Open House is set for Saturday, June 22, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., at the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly.

Meet Supervisor Kathy Smith (D-Sully) and her staff and bring nonperishable food items for the Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry. Needed, as well, are hygiene items, baby wipes and diapers in sizes 4, 5 and 6. Also during the event, people may learn about Fairfax County Park Authority volun-

teer opportunities, mosquito and tick disease prevention and summer classes offered at the REC centers.

Learn about Transportation in 2045

Learn about Visualize 2045 – the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' transportation vision for the region in 2045 – at the next meeting of the Sully District Council of Citizens Assns. It's set for Wednesday, June 26, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900

Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Sully District Transportation Commissioner Jeff Parnes will give the presentation.

Stuff the Bus for WFCM

A Stuff the Bus food drive for Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' (WFCM) food pantry will be held Saturday, June 29, from 9 a.m.-4 p.m., outside the Giant grocery store, 14125 St. Germain Drive, in Centreville's Centrewood Plaza. Donations of nonperishable food will help local families in need.

New Majority on Board of Supervisors

Eight things to study, get up to speed.

One thing we know for sure, Fairfax County is about to lose a lot of institutional knowledge on the Board of Supervisors. Here are a few suggestions for areas where those who might find themselves on a fully reconstituted Board of Supervisors should bone up.

✦ Affordable Housing: The market is not going to produce the affordable housing we need on its own. Mixed income apartments and condos that serve workforce housing all the way down through vouchers and supported housing managed local by nonprofits, all in the same building, must be leveraged by subsidizing infrastructure, providing partnerships, land and bonus densities. Move outside the box. Let large employers build housing, next to, on top of, in the parking areas, of their buildings. Let churches make room for housing. Put mixed income housing on top of every government building including libraries, community centers, government centers. Make room for housing in vast county parking lots. Try everything.

✦ Homelessness: While in many ways,

Fairfax County has succeeded in reducing homelessness as much as possible, preventing a continuing cycle of homelessness will require more attention. Fairfax County Public Schools counted 2,600 students experiencing homelessness at the end of the school year, most of them Latino. The county's Office to Prevent and End Homelessness counted somewhat fewer, most of them African American. The definition is different, and the differences reveal places for improvement. The board is losing two major advocates for affordable housing and ending homelessness in Chairman Sharon Bulova and Hunter Mill Supervisor Cathy Hudgins.

✦ Roads: We are on the cusp of unprecedented innovation in transportation. Overdesigning roads now will continue to divide communities, suburban and urban, in the future even with a decline in vehicles on the road and car ownership. Think ahead. Self-driving cars. Ride sharing. Service for people with disabilities and older residents.

✦ One Fairfax: Data and other efforts related to equity and One Fairfax are already revealing expected and unexpected issues.

✦ Police Reform: While Fairfax County now has two forms of independent oversight of police, consider that the police have chosen to remain silent on recommendations and reports by both the Independent Police Auditor

and the Civilian Review Panel. Members of the current Board of Supervisors acknowledge that they assumed the Fairfax County Police Department would make a public response to such oversight, but apparently it will need to be an explicit requirement. Transparency remains a concern.

✦ Criminal Justice Reform: Don't forget what voters told you on June 11 about the importance of a progressive approach to criminal justice reform. Figure out and heed what leads to racial injustice in the criminal justice system.

✦ Demographics: Residents of Fairfax County are getting older. Schools are getting more diverse. Data will offer many clues about what the county will look like in 10 years.

✦ Change: We are on the cusp of unprecedented innovation. Don't double down and lock in solutions for yesterday's problems in a way that precludes more elegant technological solutions later.

Transportation is the most obvious of these. But anything that reduces barriers to entry will change the landscape.

Better meetings via camera, including medical appointments, therapy, drug treatment, business meetings. You can be face to face with anyone anywhere. Soon it will be seamless and generally available. There are many other examples.

Answering the Call

BY LOLITA YOUMANS
PRS CRISISLINK VOLUNTEER

I was treated like royalty this past month by PRS, a local nonprofit that helps people facing life crises and mental health challenges, as part of a variety of volunteer appreciation events. Although I appreciated being recognized, my work with PRS has become more than a volunteer job...it is a calling.

My journey to become a PRS volunteer started a few years ago when I lost three people in my life to suicide within 18 months. The first was a coworker who had just survived a heart attack in the summer, and came back to work full of energy. He died by suicide over Labor Day weekend. The next was a young friend of my daughter. They were all in their first semester of college. Her death by suicide was devastating. She had been a cheerleader, active in youth groups and just a sweet free spirit. The third death by suicide was a dear friend of mine, a few days before her 50th birthday.

Each of these heightened my awareness of suicide, and ignited a feeling that I should do something. I don't have a background

in social work or counseling, so I was lost as to what I could do. One day a song came on the radio about the suicide hotline, "1-800-273-TALK" by Logic, and that's when I knew.

I called PRS and signed up to volunteer for their CrisisLink program, which runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.

From the first day of training, I felt like I was in the right place. It is so gratifying. Crisis workers serve as the containers into which callers pour their deepest hurts and disappointments about life. We don't try to fix things; we offer a safe haven for people to share their feelings without fear of judgement.

As I got involved, the biggest surprise for me was the vast range of circumstances that lead someone to consider suicide. We get calls from older adults who feel isolated; young children buckling from the pressures of school and their families; and successful people who feel they have achieved great professional success and come home to an empty house.

Last year during the holidays, I took a call from an older gentle-



The CrisisLink runs Northern Virginia's 24/7 suicide prevention and crisis intervention hotline.

man. He was in a nursing home and didn't have family to check on him.

He talked about feeling lonely and didn't see any reason to keep living. He told me about his love of music. We started talking about all his musical interests, and I could sense his mood lifting. As we were wrapping up, he sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth." It was beautiful and peaceful...and reinforced for me that I was in the right place.

I answered the call, but it's so

much more. Now other crisis workers have become friends, bonded by our shared desire to serve. After having been here for a year, I know that I have found my "tribe!" Of course, the need is great, and we always need more to join our tribe.

PRS CrisisLink is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week – 1-800-273-TALK, 703-527-4077 or text 'CONNECT' to 855-11. To learn more about becoming a crisis worker, visit www.prsinc.org/crisislink.

Cooking, Counting, Drama

And other fun ways to preserve skills during the summer.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

During the summer, Glenda Hernández Baca and her children can be found in the kitchen measuring and mixing, stirring and sautéing. They cook together as a family, but what the children don't realize however, is that their mother is helping them maintain their math and reading skills.

"You can do math no matter what you are doing, and cooking is also a great way to do math," said Hernández Baca, Ph.D. of the School of Education at Montgomery College. "My kids love to cook with me and they help me with the recipes. We engage in reading, organizing and sorting, and discussing and analyzing fractions and conversions. They are doing so much learning but they do not know it."

The key to preventing that reversal, say educators, is finding creative ways to make learning fun while maintaining the light-hearted and carefree nature of vacations, camps and trips to the pool.

"The more students practice their academic skills in the summer, the more prepared they will be for the next school year and the less review and relearning they will need to do," said Hernández Baca.

For students who don't enjoy reading, infuse reading with drama, suggests Ana Lado, Ph.D., Professor of Education at Marymount University in Arlington, Va. "Pick ... books with lots of dialogue and either lots of active verbs or actionable scenes," she said. "You and the child read the parts as dramatically as you can together ... totally exaggerating the spoken parts as well as the actions as much as possible."

"Have them make a video with their favorite scenes in a book," continued Lado. "It forces them to read for scenes that have drama and to reread as they rehearse. It gives them a goal and making a film is a concrete goal. As they read through the book looking for drama and action let them put a sticky note on each good page they find."

In fact, infusing reading with drama can change the mindset of a child who doesn't enjoy reading. "Some students will benefit if they watch a movie version of a classic text like something by Jane Austen, for example, while they are reading it," M.A. Mahoney, Dean of Academics and Faculty at the Madeira School in McLean, Va. "This approach is sometimes the gateway to a lifetime of reading pleasure of an author."

For children who have challenges or difficulties reading, Hernández Baca suggests choosing short passages that allow them to explore a subject that piques their curiosity. "Consider cutting out an article or something shorter about an interest they have such as a band, music [or] sports," she said.

Everyday conversations can lead to math, science and language learning opportunities. "Often, children will make comments about something they are curious about such as how something grows or why the sky is changing colors, Hernández Baca said. "Maximize that opportunity and tell them what great questions they have and look up information. You could even make it a library trip to learn together. This is a wonderful way to show and model that we as parents, are always learning, too."



PHOTO COURTESY OF MADEIRA SCHOOL

M.A. Mahoney of Madeira School believes that during the summer, students can develop a lifetime of reading pleasure.

Even a short car ride or setting money goals can help support math skills, says Hernández Baca. "Talk about how much money a certain toy costs and how much they would need to purchase it. Have them come up with different equations that would help them reach that goal and talk about it. ...

"You can do math no matter what you are doing," she continued. "For example, in the car you can count how many trucks you see or how many blue cars."

Another way to practice math is to engage children in predictions and estimates, says Hernández Baca. "Asking 'How long do you think it will take us to get there?' or 'How many steps does it take to walk to the car or to the house?' You can then break it down and ask questions such as, 'Why do you think mommy had to take fewer steps?' or 'How many miles an hour would we have to go if we needed to reduce the trip time to get here?'"


A family vacation can provide an opportunity to practice language and writing. "Keep a vacation journal by printing out your child's favorite photos and have them write about them," said Carly Flanigan, Lower School Learning Specialist at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Va.

When parents model a positive attitude toward reading, a child might find it more pleasurable "Have a family book club [and] meet once a month at everyone's favorite restaurant," said Flanigan "Make connections about books you and your child read or listen to. Ask questions about characters, setting and action in the plot ... Have your child read one of your favorite books that you love."

"Read aloud no matter the age of the child," said Elizabeth McConnel, Lower School Learning Specialist, also at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School. "Make this a fun family event. Utilize different genres of text including magazines for your child's reading. Use audio books, Audible, or podcasts."

Current events can provide fodder for mental stimulation. "I always encourage students and families to read an editorial daily from a news source, and then to discuss it at a family meal," said Mahoney. "This builds reading comprehension skills, civil discourse skills, and increases familiarity with essay construction, not to mention making meal time more lively."

No matter the method, parents should be intentional about prioritizing and setting summer learning goals for their children, advises Hernández Baca. "Your kids do not need to know your structure or plan, but it will help you stay consistent with activities that specifically target learning in reading, writing, math, science or anything else."

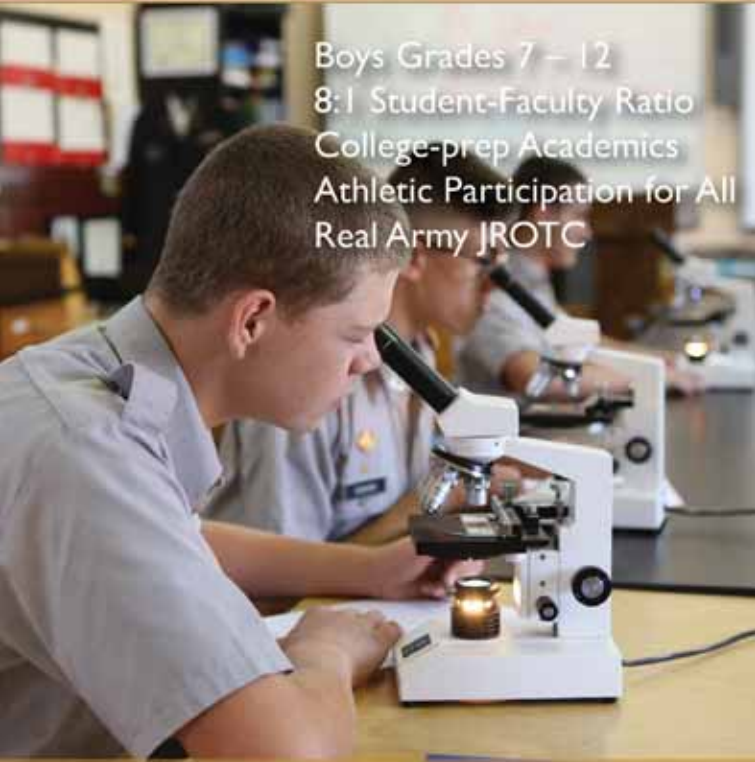


FISHBURNE

MILITARY SCHOOL

LEADERSHIP *for* LIFE

Transforming Potential into Achievement since 1879



Boys Grades 7 – 12
8:1 Student-Faculty Ratio
College-prep Academics
Athletic Participation for All
Real Army JROTC

Call or email today to schedule a visit for your family!
Admissions@Fishburne.org 540/416-9836
www.Fishburne.org

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

UPCOMING SPECIAL SECTIONS

June	
6/5/19.....	Wellbeing
6/12/19.....	Father's Day Dining & Gifts
6/12/19.....	HomeLifeStyle
6/19/19.....	A+ Graduations & Summer Education
6/26/19.....	Senior Living:
	Connection Families: Summer Life
July	
7/3/19.....	Wellbeing
7/10/19.....	HomeLifeStyle
7/17/19.....	A+ Camps & Schools

Email SALES@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM for more specials, digital advertising options and pricing.



Have The Connection emailed directly to you every week!
www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Fairfax Connection
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Arlington Connection
- Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Burke Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- Reston Connection
- Centre View
- McLean Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Chantilly Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Vienna/Dakota Connection

Yard Sale

Huge Church Yard Sale
Saturday June 22
7 AM to 2 PM
304 E Church Rd
Sterling VA 20164
You want it, we probably have it!
www.sterlingumc.com for info and directions

**Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!**

[www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community

www.connectionnewspapers.com

Employment

**Forget Daily
Commuting**

**Print and digital media
sales consultant for area's
most popular and trusted
local news source**

Manage your own hours from home
Enjoy flexible schedule
plus no daily commute
Help local businesses grow
Unique opportunity to be a
voice in your community
Competitive compensation

Call Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
Connection Newspapers & Digital Media
Trusted Connection to Local Communities

**ATTENTION
ADVERTISERS:**

expand your
audience beyond
our weekly print
edition with

**THE CONNECTION
DIGITAL**

- ▶ **Email Marketing**
- ▶ **Social Media**
- ▶ **Sponsored Content**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
CALL 703.778.9431**

OR VISIT

CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING

**LOCAL MEDIA
CONNECTION**
Newspapers & Online

703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

• Alexandria Gazette Packet • Fairfax Connection • Oak Hills/Herndon Connection
• Arlington Connection • Fairfax Station/Glendon/Lorton Connection • Potomac Almanac
• Burke Connection • Great Falls Connection • Reston Connection
• Centre View • Loudoun Connection • Springfield Connection
• Chantilly Connection • Mount Vernon Gazette • Vienna/Gainesville Connection

**Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!**

[www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community

www.connectionnewspapers.com

News

Head-Shaving Event for Children with Cancer

Centreville woman co-founded DC Candlelighters.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
CENTRE VIEW

When Centreville's Rachel Crossett was battling cancer in the late 1990s and early 2000s, she received medical care, but there was no entity offering comfort and support to her family. Rachel died in July 2001 at age 6, and in 2007 her mother Meg co-founded the DC Candlelighters Childhood Cancer Foundation with West Springfield's Jen Click, whose daughter also fought cancer.

It's an all-volunteer charity that provides financial, emotional and educational support for families in similar circumstances.

It gives parents facing the devastating news of a child's cancer something these moms wished they'd had, themselves – someone to talk to who's been through it and understands the resulting fear, helplessness and financial and family pressures.

"DC Candlelighters was founded because we did not have a direct-services group to support the families of kids with cancer, and we decided this was something we could do," said Crossett, of the Pleasant Hill community. "I love knowing that I can help another family."

AND ON SUNDAY, June 23, she'll participate in a fundraiser for this nonprofit organization. It's a head-shaving event to raise money for local families who have children fighting cancer at Inova Fairfax, Georgetown, Children's and Walter Reed hospitals.

Called "Take it to the Alley," it will run from 1-4 p.m. at King Street Oyster Bar, 12 S. King St. in Leesburg. To show solidarity with those who lose their hair while undergoing chemotherapy treatment for cancer, various people will have their heads and beards shaved while their friends and family members whoop with glee.

The fun also includes face painting, a silent auction, food trucks and refreshments.

Attendees can play a part by cheering on those being shaved; they may also help the cause by making donations, buying T-shirts and bidding on silent-auction items.

As for Crossett, she said her family did have "a fabulous community here in Centreville, with lots of friends and relatives willing to lend us support and love." But she would have liked to have had someone to commiserate with who knew exactly how she was feeling.

"When we went to New York and stayed in the Ronald McDonald house during Rachel's treatment, I found a camaraderie that didn't exist here in Virginia," explained Crossett. "It came from so many parents living together, including some who were



Meg and Jim Crossett, with Rachel, 4, in April 1999. They celebrated Easter early that year because Rachel was about to have surgery in New York.



Rachel Crossett in February 2000.

veterans of treatment willing to talk with 'newbie' parents about what to expect and give them hints to make life easier."

DC CANDLELIGHTERS offers the same kind of camaraderie in other ways, and Crossett, herself, visits parents and children in clinics and does what she can to share her own knowledge, help and experience with them. That's why, knowing how much of a lifeline the organization is for families going through cancer battles, she's hoping for a large turnout for the fundraiser.

"I became president of DC Candlelighters two years ago, and my mom, Pat Lawless, is the treasurer," said Crossett.

"The organization provides financial support to families of children fighting cancer – something we know personally. But the need is so great that we paid out our entire budget of \$20,000 by May 5 – all to local families in the Washington Metropolitan area."

She also runs the Holiday Party every December for children who can't go to the mall to see Santa because of their immune systems being compromised.

So, said Crossett, "We bring Santa to them. We have a big party at Inova Fairfax Hospital so the inpatients can attend."

In addition, local entities including Mia Saunders Ballet and balloon twister Mike Becvar come to support and entertain the children. "We have a huge, volunteer base for that party, and CYA [Chantilly Youth Assn.] members collect toys and help wrap them for every child and sibling. It is a huge undertaking and, without the support of CYA, Mia Saunders and Mike Becvar, we wouldn't be able to do it."

For more information or to create a shaving team, call 202-827-6544 or email DCCandlelighters@gmail.com. To learn more about the organization or to donate, go to www.DCCandlelighters.org.

BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 2

at J. Michael Lunsford Middle School, Auditorium, 26020 Ticonderoga Road, Chantilly. U.S. Rep. Jennifer Wexton (VA-10) will host a Gun Safety Town Hall featuring a panel of experts from a broad range of backgrounds. Free. To ensure appropriate seating and space, the public is asked to register at www.eventbrite.com/e/congresswoman-wexton-hosts-gun-safety-town-hall-tickets-63476466821.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/JUNE 24-28

Young Actors Workshop. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at Westfield High School. This camp is for rising 1st-7th grade students. For more than a decade, this dramatic arts camp has offered students the chance to sing, dance and participate in theatre games and performances. Through words, music and movement, students engage in activities that culminate in a presentation of songs and dances from popular Broadway shows. www.westfieldtheatre.com to register.

TUESDAY/JUNE 25

FCPS Career Fair. 9 a.m.-2 p.m. at 9200 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) will host a Career Fair for individuals interested in learning more about instructional and operational positions with the school district. There will also be four breakout sessions offered: benefits, the application process, and resume writing and interviewing. Particular needs include teachers, instructional assistants, special education teachers, substitute teachers, HVAC mechanics, school bus drivers, maintenance technicians, and professionals in information technology, human resources, procurement and finance, and safety and security. Visit www.fcps.edu/news/fcps-host-career-fair-instructional-and-operational-personnel-to-rsvp-or-learn-more.

MONDAY/JULY 1

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this brand new PODS Meetup for an evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Women living with any type of diabetes are warmly welcome. Free. Email sara@diabetessisters.org or visit diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups-for-more.

Application Deadline. Each year, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia provides a grant opportunity to help public schools encourage healthy lifestyles through increased exercise and better nutrition. Grants up to \$2,000 are awarded in a competitive grant process. Public elementary, middle and high schools located in Northern Virginia are all eligible to apply. Visit www.cfnova.org/for-grant-seekers/healthy-kids-grants-for-more.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group. 7-8 p.m. Fairfax County's Family Caregiver Telephone Support Group meets by phone on Tuesday, February 13, 7-8 p.m. This month's topic is After Hospitalization: What's Next? Call 703-324-5484, TTY 711 to register.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Fairfax Commission on Aging Meets. 1-3 p.m. at McLean Governmental Center, Rooms A & B, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean. The public is welcome to attend and join in the comment period that begins each session. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-commission-on-aging. Call 703-324-5403, TTY 711 for meeting access needs.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

DiabetesSisters PODS Meetup. 7-9 p.m. at Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Join the first meeting of this brand new PODS Meetup for an evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Women living with any type of diabetes are warmly welcome. Free. Email sara@diabetessisters.org or visit diabetessisters.org/pods-part-diabetessisters-meetups-for-more.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM
CALL 703-549-0004 FOR ADVERTISING INFORMATION

LANDSCAPING A&S CONSTRUCTION SOD, Mulch, Clean-Up Leaf Removal Hauling. 703-863-7465		Good is not good, where better is expected. -Thomas Fuller		TILE / MARBLE Quality Tree Service & Landscaping Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured. Spring Cleanup... Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc. 25 years of experience - Free estimates 703-868-5358 24 Hour Emergency Tree Service	
ELECTRICAL K & D ELECTRIC COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE Family Owned & Operated Recessed Lighting Ceiling Fans Phone/CATV Computer Network Cabling Service Upgrades Hot Tubs, etc... Licensed/Bonded/Insured Office 703-335-0654 Mobile 703-499-0522 lektrkman28@gmail.com		ELECTRICAL			
GUTTER GUTTER CLEANING Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned Small Repairs • Gutter Guards PINNACLE SERVICES Lic/Ins 703-802-0483 free est. email jamil@lawnsandgutters.com web: lawnsandgutters.com Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!		GUTTER			
A&S Landscaping <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Concrete work • Retaining Walls • Patios • Decks • Porches (incl. screened) • Erosion & Grading Solutions • French Drains • Sump Pumps • Driveway Asphalt Sealing 703-863-7465 LICENSED Serving All of N. Virginia					
RN. CONTRACTORS, INC. Remodeling Homes, Flooring, Kitchen & Bath, Windows, Siding, Roofing, Additions & Patios, Custom Deck, Painting We Accept All Major Credit Cards Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic Phone: 703-887-3827 E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com www.rncontractors.com					
LANDSCAPING Patios & Drainage Your neighborhood company since 1987 703-772-0500		LANDSCAPING			
J.E.S. Services Free Estimates • Fully Licensed & Insured <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting & Landscaping Design • Drainage & Water Problems • Concrete Driveways, Replacement or New • Patios and Walks • Masonry Work or Dry Laid • Paver, Flagstone, Brick, any style you choose • Retaining walls of all types All work Guaranteed					
ATTENTION ADVERTISERS: expand your audience beyond our weekly print edition with THE CONNECTION DIGITAL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ► Email Marketing ► Social Media ► Sponsored Content FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 703.778.9431 OR VISIT CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/ADVERTISING					
Sign up for FREE DIGITAL SUBSCRIPTION to any or all of our 15 papers WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM/SUBSCRIBE					

A Few Weeks Off, Finally



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After a second successful week of navigating government and private sector websites, I have reached the promised, albeit familiar land: only worrying about the fact that I have non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV. Oh well. What else is new?

Nothing much thankfully so I can continue to try and live the Vulcan philosophy: "Live long and prosper." (Although, I could never manipulate my fingers to support the greeting. My wife, Dina, can however, with ease but she's not a logical person.)

I have to be a logical person.

If I am to endure the ups and downs and all-around of a "terminal" cancer diagnosis, I have to think as unemotionally as possible about any news or assessments I may receive.

Cancer is too insidious to give it any help from the "diagnossee." Moreover, from what anecdotal evidence exists, providing cancer as inhospitable an environment as possible is said to help.

And aside from maintaining a positive attitude and a good sense of humor, keeping cancer things – good or bad, in some kind of perspective/context, is a trek worth taking. One should be reminded of the never-say-die mantra of the 1978 NBA World Champion Washington Bullets: "It ain't over 'til the fat lady sings."

In addition, all us cancer survivors should remember the famous words of Bluto (John Belushi) from 1980's "Animal House" when he implored his fellow Delta Fraternity brothers: "What? Over? Did you say over? Nothing is over until we decide it is. Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no! ..."

And not that cancer survivors can control our disease any more than the Germans can control this mistaken narrative, funny and famous though it is, but we have to try and laugh – and joke, because it sure beats the alternative. Control? 'Hell no!'

And now that I've completed the arduous and tedious – for me – tasks of the last two weeks, I feel as if I've taken back some control.

Cancer, schmancer.

I've survived the multi-step process required of the Virginia Employment Commission, the Maryland Health Connection, Social Security/Medicare, and the future provider of my Supplemental Medical insurance all within two weeks. Besides me, and anybody who knows me: Who says I can't step my way through this morass of websites, user names, passwords, mouse clicks and keystrokes? But I did. Somehow. An amazing miracle if there ever was one.

Now life can return to abnormal. But it's an 'abnormal' with which I'm totally familiar.

After 10-plus years of it, as Col. Sherman Potter of M*A*S*H said to Major Margaret Houlihan upon her early return to the 4077th from her honeymoon hearing her awkwardly describe a mishap in the shower: "There's nothing new under the sun, Major."

For a long-time cancer survivor, there's nothing new, really. One's life is likely to be more of the same, only different. And I can live with same – or the different – because after a decade, I've been there and pretty much done that.

Now I can add: succeeded in navigating websites "heretofore" (quoting Ben Affleck from 1997's "Good Will Hunting") thought impossible to do. No more do I have to worry about what I need to do, but rather I can bask in the glow of what I've done.

As I finish this column, I realize this is what us cancer patients need to do: reinforce our positives (successes) and minimize our negatives (failures). As many of us attempt to take all this cancer stuff in stride, the truth of it is we're often teetering and tottering on a very fine line. A 'line' to quote the late Ken Beatrice, on which "you wouldn't want to live."

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

ENTERTAINMENT

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

ONGOING

Crafters Wanted for 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will hold its 2nd Annual Fall Craft Show and LEGO (TM) Train Show on Saturday, Oct. 12, 2019 ,10 a.m.-4 p.m. For crafters interested in joining the event, booth space is enough room for a 10x10 canopy and cost is \$50 per space. Email dmueller@fairfax-station.org for an application and further information. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

FRIDAY/JUNE 21

Celebrate the Year's Longest Day. 8-9:30 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Cozy up to a campfire at a "Summer Solstice Campfire." Learn to separate fact and fiction regarding midsummer and its celestial events. Head out on a hike while waiting wait for the sun to set and enjoy roasting marshmallows around a campfire. The minimum age to attend this program is 6 years. \$8. Call 703-631-0013 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence.

SATURDAY/JUNE 22

Sully District Summer Open House and Food Drive. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at the Sully District Government Center – Community Rooms, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly. This two-part event will feature a food drive with Western Fairfax Christian Ministries as well as presentations from various environmental agencies like the Fairfax County Health Department and the Park Authority. Attendees will be able to learn about mosquito and tick prevention, summer REC Center information, Park Authority volunteer opportunities and more. Call 703-814-7100 for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 23

Hands On Activities. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Some of the activities will include operating model trains, decoding and writing telegraph messages as well as observing Tom Boltz, one of the Station's volunteers, demonstrate how an old train order hoop was used by the railroads so that the train engineer and a train station employee could communicate when a train was entering a station. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

SATURDAY/JUNE 29

Clothes To You. 8 a.m.-10 a.m. at Chantilly Bible Church, 4390 Pleasant Valley Road, Chantilly. Chantilly Bible Church will be having their annual Clothes to You giveaway. There will be clothing for all ages, linens, books, toys and small household items also available. Bags are provided for shopping and Spanish and Mandarin speakers available to help. Free. Visit www.Chantillybible.org or call 703-263-1188.

Stuff the Bus. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Giant, 14125 St. Germain Drive, Centreville (benefitting Western Fairfax Community Ministries). Many individuals and families continue to go hungry and the demand becomes more acute in the summer when children no longer get school meals. Area food pantries work tirelessly, but they need help to restock when their shelves run low. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus for more.

Music in the Parks - "Feast for Young Ears." 10 a.m. at E.C. Lawrence Park Amphitheater, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. The Fairfax Symphony Orchestra is partnering with Fairfax County Parks to provide free Music in the Parks children's concerts. The performances are engaging and interactive experiences; perfect for young, first-time concert-goers. Each concert offers an introduction to the musicians, their instruments, their roles in creating the music, and features a wide variety of musical selections from classical music to the familiar music of today. Visit www.fairfaxsymphony.org/concerts-in-the-parks.

SUNDAY/JUNE 30

Dog Days of Summer Craft Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come

Burke's Newest Guitar CD Is Released

Centreville High guitar teacher Bill Burke holds a copy of his new CD, "Color of My Heart," which was released June 1.°It comprises 17 original compositions and Burke plays all the instruments. He's taught guitar at Centreville for 20 years and is the school's Performing Arts Department Chairman and the Director of Guitar Studies. His latest CD features a painting by this wife, Naila Parveen, on the cover and sells for \$10. It's available on iTunes, CD Baby, Spotify, Amazon, etc.°For more information or to obtain a copy, contact Burke at bbburkemusic@gmail.com.



BONNE HOBBS/CENTRE VIEW

celebrate the Dog Days of Summer with local rescue groups and learn about Adopt Don't Shop for finding a new pet. Make pull toys out of old jeans and fleece to be donated to pups waiting for their furever home. Donate old jeans or fleece on any Sunday or bring it along on the 30th. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

4th of July in Clifton. 4 p.m. Join the Clifton Betterment Association for 4th of July in Clifton. Parade begins at 4 p.m. with a BBQ Potluck (bring a side dish or dessert) and games in the park beginning at 5 p.m. Volunteers needed, sign up at www.signupgenius.com/go/30e0b4fafa92ca57-4thofjuly3. Visit www.cliftonva.org for more.

MONDAY/JULY 5

African-American Genealogy. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. An African-American Genealogy study group meets the first Monday of the month (except September and November). Participation in the study group is free but registration is requested. To register, or for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/events or call 703-830-2223.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Photography Basics 1. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. "Using Fully Automated Mode" part 1 of a two-part series. This class will teach participants how to take pictures with a camera or mobile device on full automatic mode. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5250981 for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 10

The Clifton Cup. 8 a.m. shotgun start at Westfields Golf Club. The Clifton Cup is back bigger and better than ever. Below are the details and the sign up link. There are great benefits to those who sponsor! All proceeds go to the Clifton Betterment Association. Sign up at www.cliftonva.org/events/clifton-cup.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

Chair Yoga. 3-4 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Gentle and mindful chair yoga for adults and older adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5312868.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

NTRAK 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 a N gauge Train Display. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/JULY 23

Photography Basics 2. 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. "Going Beyond Automatic Features" part 2 of a two-part series. This class will teach how to take pictures with a camera or mobile device with more features than automatic mode allows. Teens and adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5251050.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

G-Scale Trains. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Washington, Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS) members will have a G-Scale train display running. The sheer size of these trains is a wonder to behold as is their ability to run through the garden all year around. Speak with experienced people about this facet of the model railroading hobby. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

MONDAY/AUG. 6

African-American Genealogy. 7-8:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. An African-American Genealogy study group meets the first Monday of the month (except September and November). Participation in the study group is free but registration is requested. To register, or for more information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/events or call 703-830-2223.

SATURDAY/AUG. 24

Glass Harp Performance. 1-2 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Join an end of summer celebration as Jamey Turner plays the glass harp, a musical instrument made with drinking glasses filled with water. This family friendly program will engage and delight all ages. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5238367.

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 lynne.lott@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 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, 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.

Carolina Shag Dance. Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m.; no partners needed; dinner menu at 6:45 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Visit www.nvshag.org for more.

Open Rehearsal. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Centreville. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires barbershop chorus invites men of all ages who enjoy singing. Free. Visit www.fairfaxjubilairs.org for more.

Live After Five. Fridays at 5:30 p.m. at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Every Friday night a band plays on the patio of the winery. Free to attend. Visit www.wineryatbullrun.com for a full schedule.

Mondays are Family Night. 5-7 p.m. at Villagio, 7145 Main St. \$45 for a family of four. Call 703-543-2030 for more.

LIBRARY FUN

Toddlin' Twos. Tuesdays, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Early literacy storytime with songs and activities included. Age 2 with caregiver, free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Storytime for Three to Fives. Tuesdays, 1:30 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Stories and activities for children age 3-5 with caregiver. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Plant Clinic. Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. A neighborhood plant clinic with horticultural tips, information, techniques, and advice. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Lego Block Party. Every other Saturday at 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Legos will be provided for an afternoon of building. Grades 3-6. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Duplo Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Develop and reinforce early literacy skills for reading success. Ages 1-3 with adult. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a spot.

Legos Kids Club. Every other Tuesday, 10:30 a.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Thousands of Legos for children to play with. Ages 6-12. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

Starlight Storytime. Every other Wednesday, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Stories under the stars for ages 4-8. Wear pajamas and bring stuffed friends. Free. Call 703-830-2223 to reserve a space.

IMPROVING ENGLISH

One-on-One English Conversation. Various times at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Spend an hour with a volunteer tutor to practice conversing in English. Various times and days. Reservations are required. Call the library at 703-830-2223 to make a reservation.

ESL Book Club. Mondays, 7 p.m. at the Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Meet and discuss a book chosen by group. Free. Call 703-830-2223 with questions and to reserve a spot.

English as Second Language Book Club. Mondays, 7-9 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. Call the library 703-830-2223 for book title.

Advanced English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop-in conversation group for adult English as Second Language speakers who want to improve their skills. Call 703-830-2223 for more.