

Chantilly CONNECTION

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Posing in character for Chantilly High's children's play, "Waking Sleeping Beauty," are (from left) Shyenne Farrell, Sheershi-ka Mittapally and Tyler Hicks.

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‘Funny and Engaging Script and Story’

Summer SMASH-UP presents musical-comedy mystery.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Summer SMASH-UP (Stage, Music, Acting, Singing and Hamming it Up) is a theater and performing arts camp in Centreville for students, 7-15. It's now in its fourth year and, over a two-week period led by experienced performers and counselors, campers learn a variety of music and theater skills including scene study, set and costume design, and choreography.

Along the way, they learn how to think creatively and work together as a team, while having a good time. And it all culminates in the production of an original musical written by the camp directors. This year's show is "The Veterinarian's Quest: A Beaumont Boarding School Mystery."

It will be presented Friday, July 19, at 2 p.m., at Centreville Baptist Church, 15100 Lee Highway (Route 29/Pleasant Valley Road intersection). Go to Entrance 5 in the



PHOTO COURTESY OF IRISH EYES PHOTOGRAPHY BY TOBY

Some of the 40 cast members are (from left) Emily Short, Katie Powderly, Chase Davenport, Allison Mills, Kiran Weaver, Sean Larrazabol, Grace Dieuville and Darcy Marcoux.

back of the church to get to the performance. The show is open to the public; tickets are \$5 at the door.

THE ACTORS hail from schools including Virginia Run, Bull Run and Cub Run elementaries, Stone and Rocky Run middle schools, and Westfield High. And the story, a musical comedy, follows a young

student named Quinn who receives a mysterious invitation to enroll for free at the prestigious Beaumont Boarding School, an elite prep school in the mountains of New England.

Its graduates become titans of industry and pillars of society; and at first, Quinn is grateful to be there. But what's really behind the

seemingly limitless resources available in all aspects of life at Beaumont?

How do its students seem to be the best at anything and everything, from sports to academics, without exception? And who's the mysterious Beaumont veterinarian? Why is he lurking about a school that boasts no animals, and what secrets do he and the Beaumont headmistress hold?

Along the way, Quinn finds that the choice between destiny and friendship isn't always an easy one. He also learns what it really means to live a life of which he can be proud.

"With a funny and engaging script and story written by Bill Reidway, plus new songs like "Never Trust the Veterinarian," "Spotlight" and "We've Got Plenty of Pasta," audience members are sure to have a great time," said producer Toby Chieffo-Reidway. She's a professional actor who also runs an after-school acting, improvisation and theater-writing program at Virginia Run Elementary.

"Our mission at Summer SMASH-UP is to give every student a chance to shine in their own

unique way on stage, and to explore new passions and talents they didn't even know they had," she explained. "Theater and music can bring out the best in both children and adults, and our campers demonstrate such an incredible capacity for teamwork and dedication. It's really very humbling to watch."

MUSIC DIRECTOR Jeremiah Tyler teaches music at Virginia Run and composed the show's original music. "This year, we put together a story that is both funny and uplifting, with a great message and more music, dancing and comedy than we've ever tried before," he said.

"This is an all-new production with all-new songs," continued Tyler. "These amazing kids hear the songs for the first time, on their first day at camp. And then, 10 days later, they're performing them live for an audience – under lights and in costume. As teachers, there's something absolutely magical about setting the bar so high and watching it all come together – and we are so proud to be a part of it."

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NEWS

Timeless Tale of Love, Grace and Redemption

Westfield Summer Stage presents 'Les Misérables.'

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Featuring a cast and crew of 70, Westfield Summer Stage Presents "Les Misérables" (school edition). It will burst upon the stage July 19, 20, 26 and 27, at 7 p.m.; and July 21 at 2 p.m. at Westfield High. Rated PG, tickets are \$15 via www.westfieldtheatre.com or www.itickets.com/events/429505. All seats are reserved.

An epic, uplifting story of love, passion, sacrifice and redemption, Victor Hugo's classic novel comes to life in this Tony Award-winning musical. Set in late 1700s-early 1800s France, it follows the life of Jean Valjean, released after 20 years of wrongful imprisonment.

However, he finds nothing but mistrust and mistreatment, so – hoping to start a new life – he breaks his parole and begins a life-long struggle for redemption. But he's relentlessly pursued by police inspector Javert. Along the way, Valjean agrees to take care of Cosette, daughter of a poor factory



Posing in character are (from left) Christina Brown (Fantine), Kylee Downie (Cosette), John Henry Stamper (Jean Valjean), Ryaan Farhadi (Enjolras), Braeden Anderson (Javert), Keeley Rogers (Eponine), Meredith Kilmartin (Madame Thenardier), and Jeffrey Mouritzen (Thenardier).

worker named Fantine.

During the Paris student uprising of 1832, Javert must confront his ideals after Valjean spares his life and saves that of student revolutionary Marius, who's captured Cosette's heart. And Valjean and others are caught up in the French Revolution.

"The show's theme revolves around grace and forgiveness," said Director Rachel Harrington. "And that story is told through

characters who are gritty and downtrodden. But it's a perfect representation of the religious undertones that keep reappearing throughout the story."

She said a lyric in one of the final songs ties together the play's meaning: "To love another person is to see the face of God." And just like that phrase, said Harrington, "Characters throughout the show receive Godlike grace from other people; and by

loving others, we can extend this grace and, therefore, receive redemption."

MUSIC DIRECTOR is Jon Blank; choreographer, Jonathan Faircloth; and vocal director, Carol Jones. Scenes take place on the streets of Revolutionary France, a dock, in a cathedral and at various houses and stores. And since many, different, social classes are represented, the characters will wear everything from rags to the finest, high-society attire.

"Our cast comprises a multitude of talented, young students from throughout the county," said Harrington. "They hold themselves to high, professional standards, and that shines through in their performances. The audience will love the spectacular vocals; I get goosebumps every time I hear the ensemble sing together. The music is beautiful, and I'm so excited about it – and we have a killer cast who love being here."

Portraying Valjean is Westfield rising senior John Henry Stamper. "He's a man seeking redemption," said Stamper. "He's noble, wise, caring, just and forgiving. His whole life, he attempts to do right by everybody. For example, he takes care of Fantine's daughter, Cosette, and is really selfless."

Calling it a "dream role" of his, Stamper is excited about it. "I've loved this show for

SEE WESTFIELD. PAGE 6

'Big, Bright, Bold' and Funny, Too

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Mathilda the fairy means well – she just keeps messing up – so the seven fairies don't include her in their events. But they let her come to a party for Princess Aurora's new baby and, sure enough, she accidentally curses the infant with sleep. So Mathilda and the other fairies go on a journey to find the princess's true love and undo the curse.

That's the premise of Chantilly High's Summer Theater production of "Waking Sleeping Beauty," a children's show running Thursday-Saturday, July 11, 12, 13, at 11 a.m. each day. Tickets are \$5 at the door or via chantillyhsdrama.com. The cast and crew of 27 features students in eighth through 12 grades.

"Things are going great," said Director Shannon Spicer. "We have a cohesive group of students who've really gotten to know and appreciate each other's talents very quickly. Since we only have six, four-hour rehearsals to put on an entire show, they've really come together to ensure a quality production."

"We have a multitude of fun and engaging characters whose personalities are reflected by their bright and colorful



Playing the seven fairies are (from left) Megan Rudacille, Mollie Epstein, Amanda Donovan, Lauren Lagasse, Isis Richards, Allison Baxter and Melina Nejadian.

costumes," she continued. "For example, one fairy is sassy, another is mean, one is shy, another is a perfectionist – and it'll show in the design, colors and fabrics of their clothing."

PORTRAYING MATHILDA is junior Sheershika Mittapally. "Mathilda is innocent, crazy and over-the-top," she said. "But she's just misunderstood. Since she's also naive, people don't think she knows things, so the townspeople think she's crazy and

might hex them by mistake. But the fairies think she's not fit to be one of them."

Mittapally loves her role because she's "finally gotten a lead. And I feel like she's my alter ego – the other side of me that I hide in real life. My character also teaches a good moral that, no matter what happens, you've got to keep going and pull through with a positive attitude. I'm a child at heart, and this show helps me bring it out."

She said it can be difficult to make little ones understand the storyline in a children's

Chantilly High presents children's play, 'Waking Sleeping Beauty.'

show, but she likes challenges. "The actors also get to let our silly sides out and have fun. Kids will enjoy the characters' wild enthusiasm and large motions – the body language will be crazy. And they'll love the costumes, too, because they're big, bright and bold."

Sophomore Tyler Hicks plays Prince Balderdash, the evil twin of nice twin, Prince Fauntleroy. "He hates his brother because he's too nice and gets everything, while Balderdash gets nothing," said Hicks. "He's pessimistic and gets angry a lot. He wants a pretty princess and a nice castle and tries to capture Fauntleroy to prevent him from meeting Princess Aurora and breaking the curse."

Hicks has never played a villain before. "This is a lot of fun. I get to see a bad guy's point of view and what caused him to be evil. And I like being part of a comedy duo with Christian Schopp, who plays Fauntleroy. In a children's show, you get to act stupid without people judging you, and it's fun making kids laugh."

He said audiences will enjoy the play's humor, plus Harold the royal herald, who makes all the kingdom's announcements. "And there are references to other fairy

SEE CHANTILLY. PAGE 6

OPINION

Special Session on Gun Violence

Eight proposed bills would make the commonwealth safer.

Members of the Virginia General Assembly were scheduled on July 9 to convene in a special session intended to address gun violence. After the May 31 mass shooting in Virginia Beach, Gov. Ralph Northam called for a special session of the General Assembly to address gun violence. Last week, he announced a package of eight bills for consideration during the special session.

❖ Legislation requiring background checks on all firearms sales and transactions. The bill mandates that any person selling, renting, trading, or transferring a firearm must first obtain the results of a background check before completing the transaction.

❖ Legislation banning dangerous weapons: assault weapons, high-capacity magazines, bump stocks and silencers.

❖ Legislation to reinstate Virginia's successful law allowing only one handgun purchase within a 30-day period.

❖ Legislation requiring that lost and stolen firearms be reported to law enforcement within 24 hours.

❖ Legislation creating an Extreme Risk Pro-

tective Order (Red Flag law), allowing law enforcement and the courts to temporarily separate a person from firearms if the person exhibits dangerous behavior that presents an immediate threat to self or others. This would prevent suicides.

❖ Legislation prohibiting all individuals subject to final protective orders from possessing firearms. The bill expands Virginia law which currently prohibits individuals subject to final protective orders of family abuse from possessing firearms, keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers.

❖ Legislation enhancing the punishment for allowing access to loaded, unsecured firearm by a child from a Class 3 Misdemeanor to a Class 6 felony. The bill also raises the age of the child from 14 to 18.

EDITORIAL

❖ Legislation allowing localities to enact any firearms ordinances that are stricter than state law. This includes regulating firearms in municipal buildings, libraries and at permitted events.

These are in fact common sense proposals, and each one should get consideration and a vote. There's a good chance that won't be the outcome because Republicans narrowly control both the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate.

But the special session will focus legislators and voters on the importance of these issues, and that focus will serve the effort well, whether or not any of the bills pass into law this month.

Pet Connection, Send Photos

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of July, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Thursday, July 25.

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— MARY KIMM

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Good for the Gander

BY KENNETH R.
"KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



The General Assembly went into Special Session July 9 at the call of Gov. Ralph Northam to address gun violence after a shooter with a silencer on his pistol murdered a dozen persons in a municipal building in Virginia Beach. The outcome of the session in which legislators introduced eight different bills at the request of the Governor is unknown as I write this column. I introduced the bill that I have introduced at other sessions to expand criminal background checks for all firearm transactions or universal background checks.

Virginia has had a criminal background check for gun purchases for 30 years. The system was put in place after a bill that was heavily debated and that seemed certain to be defeated was passed with the support of a senior delegate, Vic Thomas, who was an

Gerald Baliles signed the bill into law even though he had earlier opposed any gun control legislation.

The resulting instant background check system that was put into place continues operating today. It was the promise of an instant background check without the need to wait for days for approval that was the feature that led to the bill's passage.

There was then that continues today a major flaw in the law as originally passed that supporters had hoped to correct but have not been successful in amending. The law only applies to purchases made with federally licensed gun

avid NRA supporter. He concluded that it was a bill the public clearly wanted and should pass because it did not interfere with the Second Amendment. In what may have been the last time the NRA took such a position, it did not support but it did not oppose the bill's passage. Governor

dealers. That's about half the gun sales in the state each year, although exact statistics are unknown because of statutory limitations on gathering information about gun sales put in place with NRA advocacy. This flaw in the law created what is referred to as the "gun show loophole." At any of the numerous gun shows that are held throughout the Commonwealth one can purchase a gun from a federally licensed gun dealer with an instant background check; at the next table at the show a person can purchase a gun from an unlicensed dealer with no identification needed and no questions asked.

The astonishing statistic is that in 2018 the Virginia State Police conducted 446,333 firearms transactions involving licensed dealers with 3,457 of the transactions denied because of previous criminal behavior. Had the loophole in the law been closed there may have been as many as a half million more checks with a proportionally high number of persons with criminal records being denied another weapon.

What is good for the goose is

good for the gander, as I have always been told. With a successful system for background checks in place for thirty years without opposition or hick-ups, all gun sales should go through the system with minor exceptions related to family members. According to many polls, the public supports universal background checks at levels around 90 percent. It is time for the legislature to act or be able to explain to the public in the coming political campaign why this old adage is not being followed.

What Do You Think?

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue.

The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors.

Letters to the Editor
The Connection
1606 King St.

Alexandria VA 22314

By email:

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NEWS DEPARTMENT:
chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com

Steven Mauren
Editor, 703-778-9415
smauren@connectionnewspapers.com

Jean Card
Production Editor
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter, 703-778-9415
bhobbs@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Worker
Contributing Writer
aworker@connectionnewspapers.com

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Classified & Employment
Advertising
703-778-9431

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly,
Ali Khaligh
Production Manager:
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CIRCULATION
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A Connection Newspaper

Plastic bins such as those in this closet can help maximize space in a dorm room, advises Susan Unger of ClutterSOS.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN UNGER.

Dorm Room Decor

Adding style and creating space in tight quarters

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When she moved out of her family home and into a dorm room at Marymount University, one of the obstacles that Grace McKinley faced was creating a sense of style and order in her new downsized dwelling.

"[My] biggest challenge was making a small space feel like a functional home," said McKinley, an interior design major who now works as an intern at Case Design/Remodeling, Inc.

For students who are getting ready to head off to college next month, part of their preparation includes shopping for supplies to hold items ranging from jeans and t-shirts to laptops and books. Like McKinley, many will take on the task of finding pieces that will serve the dual role of adding both aesthetic appeal and efficient organization to a diminutive and austere room.

"First of all, since dorm rooms are really small, try to only take what you know you will actually need," said Susan Unger of ClutterSOS. "If you can only take your clothes, choose items needed for the current season and then change them out when you return home for a visit."

Even for those who choose to take only a limited amount clothing, finding the best use of space requires creativity and precision. "Use bed risers to make room for under-the-bed storage bins where you can house items such as extra food and clothing you don't wear on a regular basis," said Unger.

Students who, like McKinley, miss the comforts of home, can use nostalgic reminders to smooth out the transition. "I made sure to put up photos of friends and family on the wall to add a sentimental touch," she said. "And I coordinated my favorite colors in my bedding and organization items." McKinley said those items included stackable, plastic storage trays that held her jewelry and school supplies.

In fact, tools for keeping order are essential when trying to maximize the limitations of size-challenged rooms. "Always think of using available vertical space such as the back of doors," said Unger. "You can actually use an over-the-door shoe bag for other things like toiletries or food instead of shoes."

Even dorm-sized appliances can be multi-functional, says Unger. "If you have a refrigerator with metal sides you can use magnetized bins for office



When decorating a small space, interior designer Allie Mann of Case Design/Remodeling Inc. says that bold colors can add vibrancy.

or kitchen supplies like condiments or eating utensils," she said. "A shower caddy is also a good idea so that you can keep all your bathing supplies in one place."

When it comes to breathing life into sterile, cramped quarters, a touch of vibrancy can have a big impact says Allie Mann, designer and senior interiors specialist at Case. "When decorating a small space, don't be afraid of color," she said. "The best small spaces are those that are the most colorful. So many times folks are afraid of too much color. Be bold and have fun."

Accessories that Mann recommends include colorful peel-and-stick wallpaper. "Take any lamp and give it life and character with pom poms from a craft store," she said.

While she encourages color creative, her advice comes with a caveat. "Be careful not to mix too much pattern," she said. "Too much pattern in a small space could be a bit dizzying."

Now working as Mann's design intern at Case, McKinley says that, as she progressed in her major, she began putting her newly acquired skills to use in her dorm room. "In my interior design classes, we learned that balancing elements of design like color, shape, space, and texture creates the best spaces," she said. "Adding interest with a unique throw pillow, patterned rug, or a fun lamp can make a simple dorm stand out from the rest."

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NEWS

Westfield Summer Stage Presents 'Les Misérables'

FROM PAGE 3

a long time and can't wait 'til we bring it to the stage. Because it's been around for 30 years and this character's been done so many times, I'm drawing inspiration from previous Valjeans, but also bringing my own interpretation to it."

He also likes his part because "The music is fantastic and Valjean has such a deep, character arc, spanning his entire life. ... My favorite song is 'One Day More,' with all the leads and the ensemble, at the end of Act I. It's so powerful and tells all the plots in the story simultaneously."

Stamper said the audience will like "The big cast, the timeless, classic that is 'Les Mis' and how passionate everyone is about this show – and that'll come through onstage. They'll also love the inspiring music that makes you happy and sad and feeling so many, diverse emotions."

NEW WESTFIELD GRAD Braeden Anderson plays Javert, the guard when Valjean was in prison and, now, a police inspector. After Valjean breaks parole, Javert makes it his mission to capture him. "Javert is almost like an automaton – mechanical, heartless and ruthless," said Anderson. "He views people as unchanging and – even though he's a man of God – he doesn't believe in mercy."

So, said Anderson, "Valjean goes against everything Javert believes in – if you sin, you're going to hell, and there's no redemption. Javert's two, main themes are the idea of living in a dark world where people are lost, and that justice is law and people can't be forgiven. To some extent, he fears change and can't accept the fact that he's been wrong and that – in a dark world – he's the one who's lost."

Anderson enjoys playing him and "delving deeper into his character. He's the most complex character I've done. He's stiff and serious and doesn't express his emotions through his face, so I portray how he's feeling through what he says and how he says it."

Anderson especially likes the song, "Confrontation," when Javert confronts Valjean about breaking parole and reveals his identity. "They both sing it and Javert reveals some of his back story, explaining why he's the way he is," said Anderson.

He said people will enjoy "the beauty of the voices. The whole show is sung – it's essentially an opera."

Chantilly High Presents Children's Play

FROM PAGE 3

tales, besides 'Sleeping Beauty.'"

Portraying Princess Aurora is junior Shyenne Farrell. "She's a sassy princess who has money, but no common sense," said Farrell. "She's a typical 18-year-old going through phases and mood swings. She just doesn't think, at all – not even to realize that a stove could be hot. She's also a free spirit and is always on roller skates."

Excited about her role, Farrell said, "I get to act like a petty teenager and be bratty, telling my mom, 'It's my life and I can do what I want to.'"

She like being in children's shows because "You get to be silly, crazy, wild and super-duper extra, and you're doing a good job. The kids will like the

Portraying Marius is Oakton High junior Jonny Geerdes. "He's one of the college students who revolts," said Geerdes. "He's from a wealthy family, but he fights with the poor because he believes in what they're fighting for – freedom from the tyrannical government. Marius thinks more with his heart than his head. He's a leader, is charismatic and believes his friends are more important than his own, personal interests."

As the first musical Geerdes fell in love with, "Les Mis" made him want to pursue musical theater. He enjoys playing Marius because "He's the charming lover and his vocals challenge me and allow me to sing something different from contemporary styles."

His favorite number is "Bring Him Home," which Valjean sings about Marius. "Marius is in the barricade and an attack is coming," said Geerdes. "And he's sent Cosette a letter saying he loves her and that, if he survives the attack, he'll come back to her. He prays that God will bring him home to Cosette. It's a beautiful song, and it touches me that he's singing it to God."

Noting the "extremely talented cast," Geerdes said the audience will "fall in love with the ensemble, the harmonies and how everybody comes together to tell the story."

NEW CHANTILLY HIGH GRAD Kylee Downie plays 16-year-old ingenue Cosette. "She's sweet, gentle and empathetic," said Downie. "She has an especially good relationship with Valjean and cares deeply for others. Valjean took her in after her mother died when she was a little girl, and raised her as his own. She thinks he's her father. She's sheltered from the world and only knows Valjean until Marius comes along and they fall in love."

Thrilled with her role, Downie said, "I'm having the time of my life. I've always wanted to play Cosette because she's bright and sees light in every corner." And, she added, "There aren't many soprano roles in modern theater."

She particularly likes the song, "The Epilogue." The whole cast sings it and, said Downie, "It's incredibly powerful because it contains the line exemplifying the show, 'To Love another person is to see the face of God.' It's significant because, despite the war and what seems to be a Godless time, love is the one thing that never fails and always finds a way."

big motions we make, and their parents will enjoy our funny jokes. And the set will be great."

Sophomore Colin McLean is the stage manager. He makes sure the actors know where to be and that nothing happens onstage during the show without his go-ahead. "We'll have brightly colored lighting and funny sound effects that kids will like, said McLean. "And there'll be fun props like a pair of pants that the peasants won in a lawsuit against the king for excluding them from parties. Whenever he's about to do that again, they hold up the pants to remind him." He loves stage managing – and almost every aspect of theater. "You can do thousands of shows on the same stage, and it will never be the same experience. And you make everlasting friendships."

CALENDAR

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.

Chantilly Farmers Market. Thursdays, 3:30-7 p.m., through Nov. 11 in the parking lot at St. Veronica Catholic Church, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. The farmers market is a family-friendly weekly event where everyone can access local foods around, and build connections with local farmers, small business owners, and their neighbors. Farmers and vendors bring locally raised fruits, vegetables, breads and baked goods, meats and eggs, local honey, wine, soaps, prepared foods, and more each week. Free admission. Visit www.community-foodworks.org/chantilly for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Hunter Mill Nights: The Reunion Jazz Orchestra (Big Band). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

JULY 11-28

Sacred Threads Exhibition. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road, Herndon. Sacred Threads is an exhibition of quilts exploring themes of joy, inspiration, spirituality, healing, grief and peace/brotherhood. This biennial exhibition was established to provide a safe venue for quilters who see their work as a connection to the sacred and/or as an expression of their spiritual journey. \$10. Visit sacredthreadsquilts.com/default.htm or call 703-793-0026.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

“Obliged to Cook-The Legacy of Enslaved Cooks.” Noon-2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. The voices and stories of the enslaved men and women who labored in Virginia’s 18th century kitchens are often hidden in their recipes and oral history. Sully will examine the legacy of enslaved cooks that can be found in the lasting presence of African-American foodways in American cuisine. For participants age 5-adult. 8 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

Game Day. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Come play a train game or other games reflecting life during the Civil War. Participants can try their luck with a Scavenger Hunt that afternoon. Fun for the whole family. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, or call 703-425-9225.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Hunter Mill Melodies: Blue Sky Puppet Theater (puppets). 10-10:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Park visitor center pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Free series of children’s shows and family performances Wednesdays through Aug. 21.



Railroad Museum

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE FAIRFAX STATION 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, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Hunter Mill Nights: Whiskey Wildfire (new country). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 20-21

Book Discussion. At DC Big Flea, Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Authors discuss their new book on Col. John S. Mosby’s combat operations in Fauquier County, following volumes on other area battles. \$10 admission for both days. Visit www.hmshistory.com for more.

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.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Hunter Mill Melodies: The Great Zucchini (comedy, magic). 10-10:45 a.m. at Frying Pan Park visitor center pavilion, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. Free series of children’s shows and family performances Wednesdays through Aug. 21.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

Hunter Mill Nights: Bumper Jacksons (Americana, country, bluegrass). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

“Obliged to Cook-The Legacy of Enslaved Cooks.” Noon-2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. The voices and stories of the enslaved men and women who labored in Virginia’s 18th century kitchens are often hidden in their recipes and oral history. Sully will examine the legacy of enslaved cooks that can be found in the lasting presence of African-American foodways in American cuisine. For participants age 5-adult. 8 per person. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

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.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Hunter Mill Nights: Incendio (Latin). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

SATURDAY-SUNDAY/AUG. 3-4

Book Discussion. At Civil War Days at the Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, Centreville. Authors discuss their new book on Col. John S. Mosby’s combat operations in Fauquier County, following volumes on other area battles. Visit www.hmshistory.com for more.

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.

ROUNDUPS

Brewery, Community Center Meeting

The Joint Sully District Land Use and Transportation Committee will meet Monday, July 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly. Agenda items include an update on the proposed Bull Run Brewery and the addition of a healthcare suite to the planned Sully District Community Center.

Sacred Threads Quilt Exhibition

The Sacred Threads quilt exhibition comes every two years to Floris United Methodist Church, 13600 Frying Pan Road in Oak Hill. Within each work, artists tell stories of love, loss, joy, hope, healing, spirituality, peace and inspiration. Now in its 13th year, this national, juried exhibition of more than 200 quilts runs July 11 through July 28, Monday-Saturday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. Tickets: \$10, adults; \$5, children 5-12.

THURSDAY/AUG. 8

Hunter Mill Nights: Chopteeth (Afrofunk). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 15

Hunter Mill Nights: Veronneau (world jazz). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

THURSDAY/AUG. 22

Hunter Mill Nights: The United States Navy ‘Cruisers’ (pop rock). 7:30-8:30 p.m. at Frying Pan Farm Park, 2739 West Ox Road, Herndon. With a mix of performances through for the whole family, Hunter Mill Nights returns through Aug. 22 with performances by entertainers from across the United States and around the world. Allow time for a picnic in the park, a visit with the farm animals and a wagon ride, along with the show. Free. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performance/hunter-mill-nights for more.

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.