

Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Caroline Barbosa and son Gabriel, 5, share a laugh while painting rocks with cops.

Painting Rocks With Cops

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OPINION

Work Is Not Yet Done

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

The General Assembly is in the final week of its scheduled 60-day annual session—scheduled to adjourn *sine die* on March 7. The session has already made history with the actions that have been taken, and that history will be added to in its last week. Resolution of remaining issues will determine just how historic the session will be and how strong the forces of “we have always done it this way” are.

A majority of both the House and the Senate members agree that the minimum wage should be increased—actually should have been increased years ago. The current minimum of \$7.25 is an embarrassment. But discussions continue to be held on how much the increase should be. Should there be incremental increases over time? Should increases be statewide or regional? What jobs should the increase cover?

Almost every member ran for office with a promise to clean up the environment. How should we get to a cleaner economy in the



COMMENTARY

state? What should be the timeline on environmental legislation as experts advise us on the impending climate change crisis? Are consumers willing to pay more to get cleaner electricity?

How strict should background checks be for firearm transfers? A slim majority support my bill to require a background check on all firearm transfers. Others are ve-

hement about having background checks for only firearm purchases. Should compromises be made on gun safety measures designed to reduce gun-related violence?

Should public employees be allowed to bargain with local governments on the conditions and compensation for employment? Or should they only be able to meet and discuss their wages and conditions with local governments with no power to bargain? Should all employees be required to pay dues to unions that are representing their interests?

How often should vehicles have a safety inspection? For many years the requirement was twice annually. Most recently it has been once

annually. Most states have dropped the requirement. Would every other year be adequate?

With gasoline tax revenues declining as automobiles get more mileage per gallon, should the gas tax be increased to make up for the loss? Or should cars be taxed on the distance they travel in a year? And what about electric vehicles that do not burn any gas? Should we be making a greater investment in our transportation infrastructure?

Should a constitutional amendment be approved setting up an independent redistricting commission or is there another way to try make sure districts can be drawn fairly without incumbents alone picking their voters?

I have made my views public on these and other issues over the years. In a legislative session all views must be considered: urban, suburban, rural; Democratic, Republican, Socialist (there is one); conservative, moderate, liberal; etc. In most instances a compromise can be reached in conference committees such as those that are now meeting. Other issues will be put off for another year. Regardless of what happens with remaining issues, the 2020 session will go down in history as truly a remarkable one with the many tough issues that have already been resolved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Airport Noise Fully Disclosed

To the Editor:

Your recent article “MWAA: Warn New Residents about Aircraft Noise” omits important facts regarding our application to develop 157 townhomes in Westfields. Opponents of our application cite new noise contours, a flight path over our property, and projected growth in airport operations as reasons our application should be denied. However, the updated 2019 noise contours and the previous 1993 noise contours are the same for our property. There is no change in the contours for our site. Further, the 2019 noise contours account for the flight path over our property and factor in the ultimate projected growth in airport operations at Dulles International Airport. In fact, the 2019 noise contours account for a projected three-fold increase in the frequency of flights over current levels, notwithstanding the fact that this ultimate projected level of airport operations is not anticipated to occur any time soon. The projected airport operations in 2045 are anticipated to be less than half of the level of ultimate buildout that is factored into the noise contours.

Opponents also cite the need for full and accurate disclosures to potential residents of the noise impacts from the airport. We agree

and have proffered to a robust disclosure package regarding airport noise. These disclosures include notice that aircraft fly directly over the property, that the noise from these overflights exceeds the average noise level, that the frequency of such overflights is likely to increase in the future, and a map showing our site, the airport, and the noise contours.

Our application provides appropriate disclosures for aircraft noise, mitigation of noise impacts to homes through enhanced construction techniques, and an aviation easement to protect the airport. That’s why the Fairfax County Planning Commission endorsed our application on a vote of 8-0-1.

James L. Perry
Regional Partner/Vice-President
Elm Street Communities

Fostering Peace in Our Community

To the Editor:

I was excited to see the Connection cover the celebration at Mubarak Mosque marking the centennial of Ahmadiyya Muslim Community’s presence in the United States. Since its establishment in February 1920, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

has positively influenced America in many ways. But noticeably for me here in Fairfax County, I have seen so much done through the Mubarak Mosque which has spearheaded social projects, such as during 2019, when multiple canned food drives were held to be donated to the homeless in Northern Virginia. During Ramadan, we are able to have interfaith iftars (meal for breaking the fast) and learn from each other’s beliefs, thus fostering peace in our community.

Being an American Ahmadi Muslim here and having our mosque as a community symbol means a lot to me. It reminds me that there is always a way to contribute back to our community and help make society a better place.

With these contributions in mind, I look forward to many more years of service to the community!

Aumena Choudhry
Fairfax

Making Virginia a Climate Leader

To the Editor:

We don’t have time to waste in the face of the climate crisis. A recent climate report from the National Audubon Society revealed that two-thirds of North American bird species are vulnerable to extinction from climate change, in-

cluding nearly 70 species found in Virginia.

From the coasts of the Chesapeake Bay to the forests of the Blue Ridge Mountains, birds like the Field Sparrow and Cerulean Warbler may lose nearly all of their seasonal habitat range. We need practical, ambitious climate solutions to protect our state’s birds.

The Virginia Clean Economy Act (HB 1526 / SB 851) can help by leading our state on a path to achieve a 100 percent carbon-free economy that will help our birds, our environment, and our communities thrive.

This bill is not the only step Virginia should take to address climate change—but it’s a great first step. I urge Senator Barker and the General Assembly to make cutting carbon emissions a top priority. We must act now to make Virginia a climate leader and prevent another year of inaction.

Nikka De Mesa
National Audubon Society
Springfield

Write

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. Send to:

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Call: 703-917-6444.
By e-mail:
editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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A Connection Newspaper

'Take a Moment Today and Count Your Blessings'

North Korean refugees speak to Chantilly High students.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Imagine living in a country where the electricity is turned off every night and people are so hungry that they often eat tree bark to quell the pains in their stomachs. Chantilly High students learned about it directly from three students of North Korean descent who visited their school and shared their stories during a special assembly.

In their early 20s, the three attended the Jangdaehyun School in Busan, South Korea, and were here promoting cultural understanding. They did so after Chantilly Principal Scott Poole, former FCPS School Board Member Ilryong Moon and Region 5 Assistant Superintendent Becky Baenig visited that school and others in November while learning about education in South Korea.

Lou Gallo, a teacher at Jangdaehyun School, was previously pastor of Sovereign Grace Church in Fairfax. "About eight years ago, my wife and I met a boy who escaped twice from North Korea, was captured, imprisoned, tortured and released – and escaped again," he said. "We fell in love with him."

So in 2014, he and wife Lisa started NK Missions to help North Korean refugees assimilate into free societies. They later moved to Busan, where both now teach at

Jangdaehyun. It's for middle- and high-school students and is the only school in South Korea that serves refugees from North Korea.

During his visit there, Poole was so moved by the experience that he offered to help these students any way he could. Lou Gallo later asked Poole if he could bring three students to visit Chantilly High. He and his wife did so, Feb. 5, and the trio addressed a packed auditorium, sang a Korean folk song, toured the school, ate lunch with the American students and then visited the Udvar-Hazy Center.

"North Korea is a full, totalitarian dictatorship," said Poole at the start of the assembly. "The current issues in South Korea are the Korean conflict and the hope for reunification of families who've been separated."

Gallo showed several slides, including one from outer space, showing countries near North Korea lit up at night, but North Ko-



Lisa and Lou Gallo listen to Scott Poole speak.



Joe always wanted to visit America

rea – with its electricity off – totally dark. His wife said people sleep on the floor and have to keep a fire burning at night to keep warm. "If they can find wood," she added. "Most of the forests have been stripped."

"Forty percent of North Koreans – almost half the country – do not know where their next meal is coming from," said Lou Gallo. "Two of our students here escaped from North Korea. There are 400 miles between North and South Korea, but their border is the most heavily guarded border in the world."

If people escape into China and are captured, he said, they're returned to North



Sue talks to the students.



Principal Scott Poole

Korea where they're imprisoned and, sometimes, executed. The other option is to pay a broker \$10,000 to smuggle them out of the country via Laos, through jungles and over mountains, to Thailand. They then surrender to the police and are sent to South Korea – their intended destination. So, said Gallo, "It's a 6,000-mile journey to go 400 miles."

"North Koreans are hostile to America because they're taught Americans are evil," said Gallo. "Jangdaehyun is a school for North Korean defectors, and Americans work with the school to show the students Americans aren't bad. And we bring students to America and tell them they're free to think for themselves and make up their own minds."

Sue's Story

Then the three students spoke, starting with Sue, who lived in North Korea until age 10. "My dad died when I was 9 because we had no access to medical care," she said. "My mother and I lived in a hut, but the police tore it down, so we escaped to China. It was a scary time. Then my mother escaped to South Korea, leaving me to be treated like a slave, cooking and cleaning and being mistreated by a man."

Finally, Sue went to South Korea, too, and got to attend school. "But I'd only been to school three months in North Korea, so I was behind and couldn't understand what my classmates were saying," she said. "I had no friends because I was from North Korea, so I stopped telling kids where I was from and lost my identity."

But at Jangdaehyun, she said, "I met other North Korean students, and my teachers told me I was the future of reunification and I could help. My teachers were supportive and welcoming; I was class president, and we did activities with other schools. Then they saw us as people and friends, and I became proud of who I was again."

Now majoring in social welfare at college, Sue added, "I want to help people understand each other and work with both North and South Koreans to help bring about reunification."

Helen's Story

Actually, Helen isn't her real name, but her identity needs to be protected because her family is still in North Korea. Her mother escaped to China when Helen was 3, leaving her with her grandmother on a North Korean farm.

"In school, I learned the history of the Kim family [which rules the country]," she said. "When I eventually made it to South Korea, I learned that American missionaries weren't evil and wouldn't cut out people's organs."

But that wasn't until she was 19 and fled North Korea with five others. "They checked to see if I was a spy," said Helen. "I'd never before had the opportunity to make decisions about my own life, so it was stressful when people asked about my dreams and what I wanted to do. But they made me realize I was precious and had hope for my life."

Now, she's just graduated from a university, where she majored in biology. "I want to someday be a biology teacher, hopefully to North and South Koreans in the same

SEE REFUGEES, PAGE 6



(From left) Robyn Povich and Heidi Lang with their painted rocks.



Mom Kathy Chavez paints rocks with her children (from left), Sebastian, 4, and Juliana, 6.

Community Enjoys Painting Rocks with Cops

More than 160 community members joined police from both the Fair Oaks and Sully District stations, Saturday, Feb. 15, at the Sully District Governmental Center in Chantilly to paint “Rocks with Cops.” Among those painting cheerful rocks with encouraging messages was Robyn Povich. Her group, Rockin Robyn Kindness Rocks, leaves painted rocks in Chantilly for people to find and keep or share with others.

“There’s so much negativity in the world today that it’s nice to spread a little bit of kindness,” she said. “And this is a nice way to connect and surprise people and spark happiness and love in their world. You could be bummed out and look down and find a rock that says, ‘You are loved,’ and it could change your whole outlook. It’s also an opportunity to be creative, and it isn’t competitive – it’s about giving and doing something to make others feel good.”

—BONNIE HOBBS

Caroline Barbosa and son Gabriel, 5, share a laugh while painting rocks with cops.

PHOTOS BY
BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION



Daniella Gonzalez, 5, painted “Family,” “Love” and her name on her colorful rocks.



Camden Leathers, 6, painted polka dots and wrote “You got this” on her rock.



Laila Eimers, 5, paints cheerful designs while Police Officer J. Renfrow turns her rock into a potato.



Police Cadet Katelyn Connolly decorated her rocks with a rainbow, “Be Happy,” VSP (for Virginia State Police) and “Protect and Serve.”

NEWS

Jill Ellis offers remarks before presenting awards. She addressed the young players in the room by saying that club soccer, "Truly is a platform to help you build for the rest of your life." Ellis went on to say that, "You've learned resilience. You've dealt with failure. You've cried. You've laughed. Sport is not sport, it's a gift. And when you can play with your friends at club soccer, it truly is something that I think if you go forward, you'll take those lessons with you."

PHOTOS BY TOM MANNING/THE CONNECTION



Youth Soccer Hosts Winter Gala

Southwestern Youth Association (SYA) Soccer hosted its inaugural Winter Gala on Friday, Feb. 28 at the International Country Club in Chantilly. The gala honored graduating high school seniors as well as new inductees into the SYA Soccer Hall of Fame. The

keynote speaker and awards presenter was Jill Ellis, the former US Women's National Team Coach and two-time FIFA World Coach of the Year who grew up in Northern Virginia.

—TOM MANNING



Alexandra Benton is recognized for her years of commitment to the SYA soccer program.



Damon McCarthy was honored by the SYA program.

Anna Farmelo—pictured with Jill Ellis, former US Women's National Soccer Team Coach, after receiving an award for commitment and dedication to the SYA soccer program.



Justin Zapata with Jill Ellis, former US Women's National Soccer Team Coach, after receiving an award for his years of participation in the SYA soccer program.

Members of the SYA U13 Red team.



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WEST VIRGINIA

NEWS

North Korean Refugees Visit Chantilly High

FROM PAGE 3

classroom," she said. "I'm grateful to have the opportunity to visit America, but my heart goes out to the people of North Korea who have no freedom or dreams."

Joe's Story

"My mom was from North Korea and was sold to my biological dad, a Chinese man," said Joe. "I didn't find out I was part North Korean until age 15. I escaped to South Korea, went to school in Busan and began to understand the issues in North and South Korea."

In early 2015, the Gallos came to his school, Jangdaehyun, "to teach us about God, the Bible and the United States," said Joe. "They also taught me that I was someone of value with a purpose to my life, and they encouraged me to come to America."

He said he learned about the U.S. at age 7 from a comic book and "wanted to visit this wonderful country. I'm so grateful to be here now, share my culture and learn about your country." He's now majoring in psychology in college and is also a magician, later wowing the audience with several, baffling card tricks.

First, though, he told the students to appreciate how lucky they are to live in this country. Said Joe:

"There are students, your same age, who dream of going to school and having the wonderful freedoms you have."

Life in North Korea

"There's no refrigeration in North Korea," said Lisa Gallo. "People mainly eat corn or potatoes – but often eat rats, snakes and tree bark to fill their stomachs. Even mentioning God can cost you your life, whereas, in America, it's a privilege to be able to decide your religion."

She said clothing choices are limited and there are no cars or school buses. "Here, you bring lunch from home or have a warm meal in the cafeteria," said Gallo. "There, a young schoolgirl saved a couple kernels of corn in her pocket to bring home to a starving family member and was beaten to death by her teacher because of it."

"So keep the North Korean people – and the refugees here in this country – in your thoughts," she said. "There, you'd have no access to the Internet or cellphones. Think what your life would be like without these things. Take a moment today and count your blessings."

Then, thanking the guests, Poole said, "This was a powerful learning experience. We teach students resilience, and you certainly personify that and truly show what the triumph of the human spirit is all about."

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

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THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

BULLETIN

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

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 4

Sully District Town Hall. 7-9 p.m. At Sully Governmental Center, McDonnell Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Join Sully District Supervisor Kathy Smith, School Board Member Stella Pekarsky, The Sully District Council, and Budget Staff from Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools to discuss the FY 2021 budgets for FCPS and Fairfax County. Email: sully@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-814-7100.

MONDAY/MARCH 30

Kindergarten Registration. 4-5 p.m. Union Mill Elementary is currently registering new students for the 2020-21 school year. If your child will reach his or her fifth birthday on or before September 30, 2020, he or she is eligible to attend kindergarten in the Fairfax County Public School that serves your address. Please follow the following steps to register your child:

1. Find your neighborhood school by entering your address at <http://boundary.fcps.edu/boundary/>
2. Complete a packet of registration forms—you may obtain these in the Union Mill Elementary office or online at https://www.fcps.edu/sites/default/files/media/forms/enroll_0.pdf. Feel free to call Union Mill's registrar at 703 322 8500 if you need help navigating the website.
3. Gather your supporting documents—proof of residence in the Union Mill boundary, a certified copy of your child's birth certificate, parent/guardian photo ID, and any custody orders. Certificate of physical exam and immunization will be required before the student may start school, but is not required for registration.
4. Call the registrar at 703-322-8500 or email lrnulla@fcps.edu to make an appointment to bring your completed registration forms and supporting documentation to school.
5. Bring your child to attend Kindergarten Orientation on Monday, March 30, from 4 to 5 p.m. Your rising kindergarten student will have the opportunity to visit a kindergarten classroom while parents attend an information session in the school cafeteria.

NOVEC YOUTH ART CONTEST

Northern Virginia Electric Cooperative (NOVEC) invites students in kindergarten through fifth grade to enter their art in Cooperative Living magazine's 18th annual Youth Art Contest. Entries are due May 4. Art should reflect the "Trip to the Zoo" theme.

Artwork should be configured vertically (portrait-style) on an 8.5-by-11-inch sheet of white paper. Art can be in color or black and white. It can be in any medium, including crayon, pen, acrylics, charcoal and pencil. No tracing or "party pictures" done by a group are permitted. The child's full name, age, grade, school, mailing address, and parent or guardian's daytime phone number and email address should be printed clearly on the back of each entry.

Artwork can be emailed using instructions at www.co-opliving.com/contests/youth-art. Hard copy entries should be mailed unfolded to Youth Art Contest, c/o Cooperative Living magazine, P.O. Box 2340, Glen Allen, VA 23058-2340. Original entries will not be returned.

CORT COLLECTS 70,000 POUNDS OF FOOD

Through its partnership with Move For Hunger, CORT, the nation's leading provider of transition services, (with offices in Chantilly) gathered and delivered close to 70,000 pounds of food in 2019, the equivalent of 58,000 meals.

Move For Hunger, a nonprofit that mobilizes the relocation industry to reduce food waste and fight hunger, currently partners with more than 1,000 moving companies, realtors, corporate housing providers, relocation management companies and apartment communities across the United States and Canada to collect and deliver food to local food banks. Because many people throw out or leave behind food when they move, Move For Hunger teams up with companies across the country like CORT to pick up the unwanted, non-perishable food items and deliver it to local food banks. CORT has been a Move For Hunger partner since 2017 and has activated the program in 57 districts, including

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Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Kenny is currently out of the office. Please enjoy this previously written article from July 2019:

Presumably, most of you readers are aware that many supermarkets have a rack located somewhere near the rear of the store that is stocked with off-price merchandise: discontinued items, items with damaged packaging, out of season products, etc. Over the years, I have been a regular checker of this rack looking for such bargains. I have purchased breakfast cereal, soup, cookies, candy, and miscellaneous other non-perishables. I've even purchased two bags of Kingsford charcoal. In addition, I've seen household products, health and beauty, school supplies; and everything else you can imagine, running the gamut from "A" to "Z," for sale. Recently however, in this rack I saw a product I'm not sure I even thought was available to the general public, and if it was, would not have thought buying it from the discontinued merchandise rack at the supermarket would not have been the way to go. But what do I know? As has been proven many times: not much.

The item? A DNA Paternity Test Kit. I guess I thought, if this test was necessary, it would involve a physician or at least be administered by a health care professional and/or involve witnesses/legal representation (at least a notary). Going to the supermarket or even the drug store? And then testing yourself without necessarily knowing the precautions and proper procedures appropriate for the task at hand? There seems as if there's a bit more at stake here than an at-home pregnancy test, a test with which many of us are familiar. But DNA testing at home? What is this, the Maury Povich Show?

Having not traveled down this particular road myself, perhaps I'm unaware of the realities. All I know is what I've seen on television or read about in the papers. I guess I just assumed (generally a bad thing), that the steps one takes to verify/confirm/resolve paternity-type issues were a bit more involved than a visit to the supermarket. Apparently, this subject is just another where I know very little about, like tools and how to use them, automobile repair, home maintenance, lawn and garden, cooking, and on and on and on. But enough about me.

What about those wanting answers to extraordinarily important questions: Who's the father? And is that my child? Looks can be deceiving so a professional, or so I thought, incorrectly, is brought in to oversee the process. Nope. No professional need apply. Just go to your local "chemist," as they say in England. No need to visit "the surgery," as they also say over there. Just find a box with the right letters on it and go back to your home/work and swab, stick, pin-prick or whatever and the results will be known soon enough if you or someone else is whomever they claim to be or not to be. That is the question which begs an answer. Shakespeare notwithstanding

It seems only fair that one's birthright should be gotten wrong. And not that home-testing can't be trusted. Just the opposite. Nevertheless, some things, like circumcisions, though they can be performed at home (see "Shaky the mohel" from a long ago Seinfeld episode). I would have thought, a DNA Paternity test, given the need/want of a resolution/clarification which could possibly impact multiple individuals/families over generations, be similarly performed in the most careful of conditions. This kind of test has no margin for error - or humor. "Bought the kit in the discount rack at my local supermarket." Is that the answer you want to give when all eyes are on you? And saying how much you saved over regular price is unlikely to endear you to any and all of the interested parties on hand. After all, money really isn't the issue.

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

CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Beginning English Conversation. Fridays 10:30-12:30 p.m. At Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Drop-in conversation group for ESL speakers who want to improve their skills. Adults. No registration required. Fridays 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free. Call 703-830-2223. Visit the website: <https://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/6119888>

Collect Coats for Children in Need. Now thru Feb. 28. At CSB Office, 14150 Parkeast Circle, Suite 200, Chantilly. The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) Youth & Family Outpatient staff is holding a coat drive to benefit its clients and the community. Bring new or gently used coats, hats, scarves and gloves to CSB's office.

SATURDAY/MARCH 14

Travel the Forgotten Road. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. These one-hour, outdoor walking tours cover the original outbuildings and slave quarter at Sully that were used during the late 18th century. Tours take place at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. daily, except on Tuesdays, during special events, or when there is severe weather. Call the site to confirm the tour status. The tour cost is \$8 for adults; \$7 for students age 16 and older with ID; \$6 for children age 5-15; and \$6 for seniors age 65 and older. Tours of the historic house will not be available through May because of ongoing structural repair and maintenance work. The rest of the historic site is open. Call 703-437-1794 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site.

Celebrate Pi Day with Pie. 3:14 to 5 p.m. At Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. Sully Historic Site is hosting a "Pi Day Pie Celebration" for visitors of all ages to mark the return of 3.14 day. See historical interpreters in 18th-century clothing bake over an open hearth with pie recipes dating from the Lee time period through the 19th century. The cost, of course, is \$3.14 per person. Call 703-437-1794.

Following Mosby Thru Fauquier County. 4-6 p.m. At the Sully District Government Center, Frank Room, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Join authors Don Hackenson and Chuck Mauro as they describe the exploits of Colonel John S. Mosby in Fauquier County during the Civil War and discover sites that still remain today. Mosby is among the more complex historical figures of the Civil War. Known as the "Grey Ghost" the romantic lore surrounding him is consistent with the "Lost Cause" interpretations of the war. Yet Mosby himself denied this view of the war and suffered for it. Presented by the Historic Centreville Society. Light refreshments will be served. Free. Email CentrevilleFHC@gmail.com

St. Patrick's Day/St. Joseph's Day Party. 6-9 p.m. At St. Veronica's Church parish hall, 3460 Centreville Road, Chantilly. This is a family event that includes food, drink, sing-alongs, Irish dancers and plenty of smiling Irish eyes. Adults \$8, Children \$6, drinks extra. Visit the website: <http://www.stveronica.net/> or 703-773-2000.

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 18

Climate Change Forum. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly. Sully District Democratic Committee sponsoring a Hot Topic Forum on Climate Change - A Message of Urgency and Hope featuring Molly Bakal, Earth Rise Indivisible/Climate Reality Project, and Karen T. Campblin, Green New Deal Virginia. For details, email: LizWalker2@iCloud.com.

MARCH 20-22

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Fri., Mar 20 – 3-8 p.m.; Sat. Mar. 21 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. March 22 - 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$13; Children age 4-12 \$8, age 3 and under – Free. The family-friendly event will feature more than 200 pet-related exhibits along with entertainment and educational activities. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Tickets: www.superpetexpo.com



Super Pet Expo

Hermit crabs will be one of the highlights at the Super Pet Expo at the Dulles Expo Center in Chantilly.

MARCH 20-22

Super Pet Expo. At Dulles Expo Center, 4320 Chantilly Shopping Center, Chantilly. Fri., Mar 20 – 3-8 p.m.; Sat. Mar. 21 - 10 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sun. March 22 - 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Admission: Adults \$13; Children age 4-12 \$8, age 3 and under – Free. The family-friendly event will feature more than 200 pet-related exhibits along with entertainment and educational activities. Dogs, cats, Champion Trainer, hermit crabs and reptiles will highlight this show. Tickets: www.superpetexpo.com

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Bake Old-fashioned Biscuits. 5:30-7 p.m. At Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. Fairfax County parks preserve history, as well as nature. Get a taste of that history at the "Cooking Biscuits" program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. Come to the park and learn to cook the old-fashioned way — over a fire — the way Virginians did for generations before us. Cook biscuits and top them with fresh-made butter and jelly. Discover the kinds of tools that were once used in the kitchen and the safety measures required when cooking with open flames. This program is designed for participants age four to adult. Call 703-631-0013.

ONGOING

Diabetes Sisters PODS Meetup. Meets the first Monday from 7-9 p.m. At Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. An evening of sisterhood, encouragement, and peer support. Opportunities to share experiences, peer support, and lived expertise with others who have been there too. Meet with other women living with diabetes for encouragement, education, and empowerment. Women age 18+ living with any type of diabetes or prediabetes are welcome, regardless of whether they were diagnosed yesterday or 40-plus years ago. They strive to create an open, respectful environment for women with diabetes or prediabetes to truly focus on their health. Free. Visit the website: <https://diabetessisters.org/pods-meetups>

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

English Conversation Group. Tuesdays, 10:30 a.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

English Conversation Group. Thursdays, 7 p.m. at the Chantilly Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road. Practice English with a group of students and adults. Free. Call 703-502-3883 to reserve a space.

Practice English Conversation Group. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive. Drop in and enjoy casual conversation and learning for adult learners of English. Volunteer led program. Call 703-830-2223 for more.

ASL Conversation Practice Group – Practice using American Sign Language in a relaxed, informal group. Teens and Adults. No registration required. Wednesdays 6:00-7:00 pm. Call 703-830-2223 for more info.

Beginning English Conversation Group - Drop-in conversation group for ESL speakers who want to improve their skills. Adults. No registration required. Fridays 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Call 703-830-2223 for more info.

BULLETIN BOARD

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activated the program in 57 districts, including Boston, Chicago, Seattle, and Washington, D.C. If you would like to partner with Move For Hunger, visit moveforhunger.org/get-involved/ for more information.

BE AN EARTH DAY VENDOR

Reach thousands of Fairfax County residents in a single day with a booth at the Fairfax County 2020 Earth Day Festival. Applications are being accepted now from vendors, exhibitors and food vendors who want to join the celebration hosted by the Fairfax County Park Authority.

This event, formerly known as Springfest, will be held on Saturday, April 25 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., in celebration of the 50th

Anniversary of Earth Day. Festivities will take place at Sully Historic Site, located at 3650 Historic Sully Way in Chantilly, Virginia. For event details, visit the Earth Day Fairfax 2020 website. To learn more about exhibitor opportunities, visit the Vendor/Exhibitor Information and Application portal.

Once your application is received and reviewed, you will be notified of your application status. If accepted for the event, your fee payment will be due by April 1, 2020 to secure a spot. If you have questions or need assistance, contact Teri Bowers at Terilyn.Bowers@fairfaxcounty.gov.

DONATIONS

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