

Clifton Clatter



Summer 2019

A publication of the Clifton Betterment Association

www.cliftonva.org

Vol. 57, Issue 2



President's Corner

There were so many new babies with their parents at the park this summer! It seems that many new families have found our town and love it. I remember when this year's scholarship winners were just tiny kids. Nikki Spina and Ivy

Mitchell are headed off to college and I will miss seeing them at our events. Nikki attended the ceremony when we placed the conservation easement on the barn. She is the tiny one in the photo. I hope you enjoy reading her scholarship essay as much as I did. I admit that it brought tears to my eyes! Her words remind me that what we all do for our kids matters. Thanks to all of you for allowing your kids to be a part of Clifton. michellestein@cox.net

Michelle Stein is the President of the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA)

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR!

October 13	Clifton Day
October 19	Barn Dance
October 26	Clifton Haunted Trail
October 31	Halloween Trick or Treating



See pages 8 and 9 for CBA Scholarship Essay



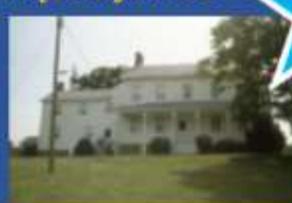
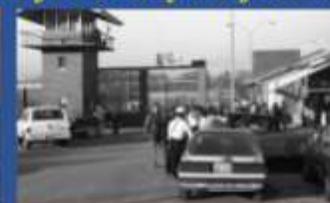
Historic Clifton



Save the Date!



Fairfax County's Fifteenth Annual History Conference



50 Golden Years of Historic Preservation

in Fairfax County: 1969 – 2019

And 400 Years of African American History in Fairfax County



Saturday – November 9, 2019; 8:30am – 3:30pm

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, Fairfax, Virginia

Robert Stanton, Director, National Park Service (Retired),

Panel Presentations, Re-enactors, Past, Present & Future Discussions, Breakfast, Lunch, Trivia & Swap & Drop Table: \$25.00

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/history-commission/> for further information, please call: Lynne Garvey-Hodge, 571-655-5630

FITClifton

How a 60-Year-Old Clifton Entrepreneur Crushed His First Gravel Bike Race

By Lynne Beverly Strang

Note: This article originally appeared on [Late-Blooming Entrepreneurs](#), Lynne's blog for and about 40-and-older entrepreneurs.

Since this blog began in 2010, I have profiled all kinds of entrepreneurs -- but I've seldom featured a family member. Happily, I get to write about one for this post.

In June, I traveled to Emporia, Kansas to watch the Dirty Kanza, an annual gravel road cycling event with several distance options. Among this year's 2,700 registrants was my husband, Jim, who owns six bicycle stores throughout Northern Virginia. At age 60, Jim was a first-time rider in the DK200, a self-supported, 200-mile endurance challenge.

With gravel grinding, cyclists usually ride on gravel, rocks and/or packed dirt. Typical routes are trails and backroads with little or no traffic -- one of the reasons this type of cycling is becoming more popular.

Although I'm a long-distance cyclist myself, I couldn't help wondering what my spouse had gotten himself into when he set out to race 200 miles *in one day*. The dusty, hilly DK200 has just two checkpoints and goes through Kansas' remote, rugged Flint Hills, described here as "the largest expanse of tall grass prairie existing anywhere in the world."

Thanks to meticulous preparation and a disciplined training regime, Jim did great. He finished in under 16 hours and placed ninth in his age category. Not bad for a sexagenarian rookie.

In addition to Jim, this year's DK200 included two other Clifton residents -- Vince Kelly and Daniel Rodriguez -- who also finished the race with flying colors.

While gravel riding and entrepreneurship may seem unrelated, they have much in common. For one thing, the sport tends to appeal to hard-working business people like Jim, Vince and Daniel, who relish the opportunity to escape for a few hours of outdoor exercise in a quiet, peaceful setting.

In addition, endurance athletes and entrepreneurs share certain characteristics, including a desire to push themselves. As a spectator of the Dirty Kanza, I came away with these reminders about success:

Preparation is key. Fulfillment of a goal requires research, careful planning and a timetable. You usually don't get the outcome you want if you wing it

Perseverance is critical. Some want to traverse 200 miles of gnarly gravel roads on a bike. And some aspire to navigate the pitfalls, setbacks and tough times that come with starting and operating a business. In both cases, you need a will to succeed.

You can't do it alone. Your odds for success improve greatly when you join a supportive group of fellow athletes or business owners who share tips and ideas. You also need family members who encourage you to pursue your dream.

Age changes your perspective. As you get older, success becomes more about the journey than the destination. It may take longer than it did 10 or 15 years ago to crest a hill or cross the finish line. But each scenic view, each high five, is sweeter.

Congratulations to Jim, Vince and Daniel. And congratulations to all of this year's Dirty Kanza riders who took on a challenge bigger than themselves. You rock, literally and physically.



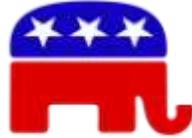
The Labor Day Car Show Continues to Roll Along

The 20th Annual Labor Day Car Show sponsored by the Clifton Lions Club and City of Fairfax will be held on Monday September 2nd, 2019 on the streets of the city. In addition to making the anticipated 300 show cars available for viewing to the public, the primary objective of this event is to raise money for two local service organizations: Life with Cancer (www.lifewithcancer.org) and the Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program (www.NVTRP.org). Other local charitable organizations providing show support are the Masons Acacia Lodge #16, Shriners Kena Car Club, and American Legion Post 177.

The Labor Day Car Show is open to cars, trucks, and motorcycles of all makes and vintages which will be on display from 8 AM to 3 PM. Spectators can enjoy DJ music, a silent auction for items from local vendors, a 50/50 cash raffle, and lots of good food from the Clifton Lions and Fairfax restaurants. Plan to bring the whole family for a fun day strolling among unique motor vehicles of past and present.

Sponsorships are available and monetary donations for the charities are welcome. 100% of the proceeds from the show will be donated. Event information is available on line at www.labordaycarshow.org or contact Jim Chesley at: email jcchesley@aol.com / telephone (703) 830-2129.





Candidates taking a break from campaigning. From left, Vinson Palathingal, Srilekha Palle, Cheryl Buford, Elizabeth Schultz, Priscilla DeStefano, Tim Hugo and Pat Herryty. Photo by Donna Curtin.

The Republican Women of Clifton (RWC) recently held a wonderfully successful barbecue fundraiser that featured candidates for the General Election in November as well as the delightful designer, Andre Soriano of Occoquan.

Fairfax County School Board candidates in attendance were Elizabeth Schultz, Springfield District School Board member who is running for re-election; and three at-large candidates: Vinson Palathingal, Cheryl Buford and Priscilla DeStefano. All four candidates support a return to academic excellence and strong parental involvement in the education process. They have received Republican endorsement.

Also speaking were Delegate Tim Hugo (R-40) and Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herryty. Both men are running for re-election and are involved in strong campaign efforts. Srilekha Palle is the Republican candidate for Sully District Supervisor. The RWC is volunteering at various levels to help these candidates.

Soriano gave an emotional, patriotic finale to the program and "brought down the house" as he modeled the "Keep America Great" suit that he created for glam-rock artist, Ricky Rebel, to wear at the 2019 Grammy Awards. Soriano is also the creator of the MAGA gown that was worn by singer, Joy Villa, on the red carpet for the 2017 Grammy Awards. Quite a talented designer, right in our midst!

Current club activities include marching in the Clifton Fourth of July Parade, placing American flags in neighborhoods on behalf of Del. Hugo, working the Saturday morning Republican table at the Burke Farmers Market, and working for the candidates who have stepped up to participate in the election process culminating November 5th.

If you would like to join us or just find out what we are about, please visit www.CliftonGOP.com and feel free to reach out to any of us with questions and/or concerns. We welcome your involvement.

It's a very positive group that is trying to sort through this maze of politics that we are all currently experiencing.

DEMOCRATIC WOMEN OF CLIFTON & NORTHERN VIRGINIA

The Democratic Women of Clifton and Northern Virginia welcomes all Democratic women from Northern Virginia to become part of an exciting organization. We are a friendly forum in which Democratic women educate themselves, discuss important issues of the day, and work together to elect Democrats to local, state, and national offices. Through our monthly meetings, quarterly newsletters, and frequent social events, we build political awareness, influence public policy, promote participation in political processes, and encourage connections between regional leaders and the local community.

Members, families, and friends will be marching for our 2019 Democratic candidates at the Clifton Fourth of July Parade, and members will dine and visit at a local restaurant on July 16th. We will participate in Clifton Day on October 13th and invite you to help us staff our table. Our book club will resume monthly meetings in September, and we will staff the polls on November 5th from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Our fall meeting schedule is set. All meetings are on Sundays from 3 to 5 p.m. and are usually held at the Clifton Town Hall.

On September 15th we will host an Ice Cream Social Meet and Greet for our November 5th General Election Democratic candidates. This is your chance to meet and talk with our nominees in an informal setting. On October 20th, our meeting topic will be "It's Your Turn." Here, members will have an opportunity to share their interests and concerns--what you are passionate, worried, or angry about, followed by a discussion of actions we can take to address these concerns. On November 17th we will meet for a pot luck dinner at the Clifton home of a member and will collect donations to two wonderful charities: Britepaths and Fairfax County Firefighters and Friends to the Rescue. (Read more about these organizations and the programs they sponsor at [Britepaths](#) and [Firefighters](#).) You do not have to be a member to donate to our holiday projects.

Contact us at cliftonwomendems@aol.com for information, check out our website at <http://www.democraticwomenofclifton.org/>, and enjoy our Facebook page here <http://www.facebook.com/DWCNV>.



Nikki Spina
Clifton Betterment Association Scholarship
May 2019

A Culture of Dedication, History, and Purpose

For many my age, Clifton is nothing more than the home of Peterson's or Villagio, a place to get a first job, somewhere to take cute pictures to post before returning to suburban life. However, between the American flags, colorful picturesque houses, white fences, and local shops there lies deep historical roots of tradition and legacy that have shaped my life in innumerable ways. To say that Clifton is my past is to diminish all it has been for my childhood and upbringing; it is my home, my foundation, my growth.

I could not imagine a world in which autumn of each year isn't filled to the brim with town events, whether it be Clifton Day, the Haunted Trail, or Halloween on the Dell. I look forward to the three month period of gorgeous scenery and crisp air not just for the beauty of the place I hold dear but for the warmth I feel in the community. Each weekend brings another opportunity to reconnect with family friends and neighbors as the pull of volunteering brings everyone out to greet each other once more. There is a sense of comradery and fellowship that arises during the fall in Clifton, one that is accompanied by hard work and unity towards shared goals and that has taught me that the largest of challenges can be overcome through perseverance.

Clifton Day stands out as a prominent purveyor of life lessons given that I have not missed but one in my eighteen years of town citizenship. My duties as a volunteer have shifted over time, first starting at a young age with the setup of hospitality to then the manning of the information booth to what has become my favorite job, acting as assistant to Mrs. Stein at 5 AM on Main Street. As the sun rises (or perhaps the rain starts, depending on the year) I witness the building of a small empire, tents and trucks and booths and activities flowing into the heart of the town. I greet newcomers and welcome back old faces in the early morning air as I help navigate vendors through the streets, a job which I originally found difficult since I couldn't just tell non-towns folk to head towards the Tengesdal's or park near the house that hangs the giant spider during Halloween. My hands may be frozen or my eyes puffy from the lack of sleep but I always look forward to assisting in whichever ways I can to an event that has created so many fantastic memories for me.

Almost every service hour I log for school or church or various extracurriculars comes from Clifton-centric events. Of course, I love branching out and experiencing a wide array of

service projects, however I know I will always return to the rich sense of dedication that is brought about through town gatherings. I am able to deepen my connections to those both older and younger than myself, a skill that has proven incredibly useful in my creative endeavors in theatre and film. More so, the diverse array of fellow community members reminds me that while work styles may vary, success can always be achieved through compromise and organization of the management of people.

Next year my journey takes me to Southern California and Chapman University, which is just about as far as I could be from the life I know now. Despite this distance, I know Clifton and its inhabitants remain part of my story through the lessons I've learned and the fostering of community I have experienced. While it is helpful and bittersweet to reflect upon the shaping of my life through each July Fourth Parade, 5K race, Homes Tour, Car Show, Friday Night in the Park, or simply through the joy I have garnered living in such a tight knit area, it is paramount that I continue to develop and apply what I have learned to create similar experiences for others. College is a new step where many feel lonely and isolated when they first arrive and I hope to utilize the skills of welcoming and community building I've witnessed in my time in Clifton to help myself and others adjust to a new way of life. Just as it takes a village to run town events, it is the love of that village that keeps everyone returning back. I hope to pass on the wisdom I hold dear to those who may feel ungrounded by the life changes approaching fast.

It's nearing the point in my life when I move away and can no longer say I'm from Clifton, as my new line becomes "I'm from just outside D.C.". However, this change is not reflective in the slightest of who I truly am. I've seen the light posts decorated with Clifton Elementary scarecrows and Labor Day flags, I've watched the coffee shop change 4 times, I've watched the creek overflow and the walls change colors and the people grow old and the kids running on the playground. I've seen 18 years of what it means to truly love where you're from and I firmly believe nowhere else in the world will I find the Norman Rockwell-esque muse that is Clifton, Virginia. Overflowing with gratitude, I part only in distance from the town I know well as the next stage of my life comes near; I could not be more proud to call myself a member of this community.



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www.cliftonhorsesociety.org

Around Clifton



Honor your hero. Be a hero. **Donate blood.**



Blood Drive **Acacia Lodge No 16**

Meeting Room
7135 Main St
Clifton, VA 20124

Friday, August 30, 2019
2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: "Acacia Lodge 16" to schedule an appointment.

[144] - 0416 10 : 825211 - Item ID : 362000 - 01 : 1 of 1 - 025008 4 - 0183 - 20706

redcrossblood.org | 1-800 RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767  **Download the Blood Donor App today!**

© 2015 The American Red Cross | 2015-APL-00753

Plant native plants. The butterflies and bees love them!



Around Clifton

WHEELHOUSE PILATES



Pinot & Pilates

Beginning in April on the first Friday of every month



Paperwork MAVEN.LLC

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Quicken, Quickbooks Online and
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🌐 paperworkmaven.com

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No Mess is Too Big to Handle

Membership Corner

The CBA board is in the process of updating membership lists and creating a usable database to track membership. I'm happy to say that we now have a completely updated, fully functional database!

The majority of memberships in the CBA have lapsed, so I have now begun the process of reaching out to past members via email. I'm getting quite a few email bounce backs, so I may be following up by phone as well.

If you know that your membership has lapsed, please go ahead and renew online (<http://www.signmeup.com/site/reg/register.aspx?fid=6X2VMJ7>). You can also send in the form in the Clatter via snail mail.

If you are wondering if your membership has lapsed, or if you have questions about membership, please don't hesitate to email me at CBA.VA.Membership@gmail.com. I'm happy to answer any questions you have.

For current members, who are expiring, you will be receiving an email from me one month before your renewal is due.

We are also trying to reach out to potential members, so please mention the CBA to your new neighbors!

Jennifer M. Lowe Davis

Membership Chair

CBA.VA.Membership@gmail.com (703) 307-3747

A friendly reminder to please clean up after your furry friend.



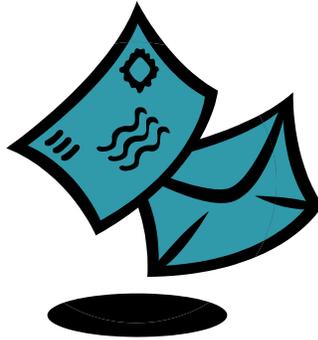
Ideas for articles, etc. for the Clatter? Please contact cliftonclatter@gmail.com



ideas

Attention All Post Office Box Holders in Clifton

When telling people your mailing address, please list the street info under your name with the post office box below the street. It is also fine to just use the P.O. Box number. Thanks!



Green Space in Clifton

All events taking place on any green space in Clifton need to be registered on the Town calendar (which is kept by Donna Netschert) to avoid event collision regardless of whether or not it is a private, Town or CBA sponsored event. Green space includes Playground Park, Ayre Square and the 8 Acre Park. Groups larger than 10 need to make a reservation and may be subject to rental fees.

To rent or reserve any green space, please call Donna Netschert at 703-830-2727 or email villagetimesaver@aol.com.





CLIFTON BETTERMENT ASSOCIATION

Clifton Betterment Association
Clifton, VA 20124
www.cliftonva.org

CBA Membership Form

Date _____

Name (first & last names) _____

Partner or Spouse Name _____

Children's Names (or Others At Home) _____

Street Address: _____

P. O. Box _____

Town, State, Zip _____

Telephone 1 _____ Telephone 2 _____

E-Mail 1 _____

in directory: include do not include

in email announcements list : include do not include

in newsletter distribution list : include do not include

E-Mail 2 _____

in directory: include do not include

in email announcements list : include do not include

in newsletter distribution list : include do not include

Please check type of membership:

Family Membership

2 yr. Family Membership - \$45

1 yr. Family Membership - \$25

Individual Membership

2 yr. Individual Membership - \$25

1 yr. Individual Membership - \$15

Senior Membership - Free

QUESTIONS? Contact Jennifer Lowe-Davis, Membership Chair, CBA.VA.Membership@gmail.com

Mail form and check, made out to CBA, to: Jennifer Lowe-Davis, CBA, P. O. Box 94, Clifton, VA 20124

Members must live within the CBA boundaries (Clifton Elementary)

Information about the Clifton Clatter and the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA)

Clifton Betterment Association Officers

President - *Michelle Stein*

1st Vice President - *Jan Schneiderman*

2nd Vice President - *Steve Bittner*

Secretary - *Chris Spina*

Treasurer - *Mike Davis*

Clifton Clatter Volunteer Production Team

Volunteer Editors: **Ann O'Dea**

Email: cliftonclatter@gmail.com

Questions, concerns, or news to share? Contact the Clifton Clatter at cliftonclatter@gmail.com. The Clifton Clatter is published four times per year and is the official newsletter of the Clifton Betterment Association (CBA). Its contents are for information only. Articles express the opinion of the authors, not the CBA. The CBA Officers, the Clatter Publisher, and the contributors assume no responsibility for errors, omissions, or consequences resulting from information provided in this edition. The CBA does not officially endorse any of the products or services advertised herein.

The Clifton community affirms a desire to interact with one another in an environment of respect and integrity.

We are a community that:

- is committed to the dignity and value of one another.
- assumes the best in each other.
- communicates clearly and directly.
- provides open forums to address difficult issues in an orderly, respectful manner.
- behaves towards one another, both individually and collectively, with honesty, decency and responsibility.
- holds the preservation of our unique historic character in the highest regard.
- participates in community activities, organizations and events in the best interest of all.

*Have a new
neighbor?*

Be sure and share
your copy of the
Clifton Clatter
with them so they
can learn about
joining the CBA.

Something you would
like to see in the Clatter?
Please email us at
cliftonclatter@gmail.com
We will do our best to
include it in a future
edition.

Clifton Betterment Association

P.O. Box 94
Clifton, VA 20124
www.cliftonVA.org

Our Community, Our Clifton

Placing an Ad in the Clifton Clatter is Easy!

Display Ad Sizes and Rates:

Ad Size	Per Issue Price
1/8 Page	\$20
1/4 Page	\$40
1/2 Page (Landscape Only)	\$80
Full Page	\$160

Circle issue months: Sep- Dec

Ad Copy Changes: Fixed Occasional Variable

New ad copy by: 20th of the month prior to issue

Check: \$ _____ / # _____ Please make check payable to CBA.

Send check and this form to:

Clifton Clatter Advertising, c/o Ann O'Dea, 6918 Clifton Rd., Clifton, VA 20124

Send ad (in a jpeg file) and instructions to cliftonclatter@gmail.com

Business Name: _____ Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____ Phone: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Special Instructions: _____

Please contact cliftonclatter@gmail.com