



Stafford Rotary Highlighter

April 25, 2018



The Chatterbox Lounge
at Paragon Theaters, Fred

Join us on Wed, 5pm,
to relax and raise a glass.

WORLD POLIO IMMUNIZATION WEEK, APRIL 24-30

Did you know that through immunization **Rotary and its partners have helped protect more than 2.5 billion children worldwide from polio** ?

In addition, the “plus” in **PolioPlus** helps support a range of additional health and humanitarian interventions for other disease initiatives, such as measles and tuberculosis. Polio eradication is Rotary’s global priority. Please consider following **End Polio Now** on *Facebook* and *Twitter* for the latest polio eradication news. And thank you for your continued support of this important effort.



On April 18th, **Joel Griffin**, of the **Stafford County Economic Development Authority**, talked with us about the role Stafford County plays in our regional economy. Given the 95 corridor and the nearness to DC, the defense, technology and law enforcement industries are major employers for Stafford, along with healthcare. Stafford is growing faster than the surrounding counties, as is witnessed by the growth of the Embrey Mill housing development and the plans for retail expansion on Garrisonville Road and at Aquia Town Center.

The tax structure for businesses in Stafford is also quite favorable. Joining Joel on Wednesday was **Richard Cobert**, Acting Director of the Stafford County Economic Development & Tourism Board. Whereas Richard’s organization is part of the Stafford County government, the EDA is an all-volunteer organization made up of local business leaders. If you’re interested in the slides that Joel and Richard shared, contact Sandy or Leigh Ann.



May 19 Meals of Hope part of our 50,000 Meals Project

On May 19 we’re planning for a busy and exciting morning of packing nutritious meals for neighbors and school children in need. We and about 100 other volunteers will package fortified macaroni & cheese and pasta & tomato sauce pouches. These meals have a shelf life of 3 years and we’re working with local agencies to be the recipients of our efforts. Wear your Rotary service shirt. If you don’t yet have one or need another, **contact Leigh Ann ASAP for a Rotarian at Work t-shirt**. To learn more about **Meals of Hope**, go to www.mealsofhope.org.



May Set Up Team
Laura, Mary, Shawn

Club Schedule - April – Maternal & Child Health Month

Apr 26 -29 District Conference in Williamsburg

Club Schedule - May – Youth Service

May 2 Lunch Meeting at Bowman Distillery

May 9 Speaker Eric Reeves, RYLA Chairman

May 12 District Training, UMW Stafford Campus

May 16 Speaker Margaret Beltran-Strong

May 19 50,000 Meals Club Service Project

May 23 Speaker Ata Birol, Director-The Childress Agency

May 30 Club Social at *The Chatterbox*

Also on Wed, 4/18, our club made a donation to the **Gwyneth's Gift Foundation**, in honor of our speaker, Joel Griffin and the foundation he and his wife, Jennifer, began following the death of their daughter, a student at Mountain View High School. The below is information that Linda Knecht shared from a recent publication :

In 2012, Gwyneth Griffin passed away shortly after her 13th birthday following a collapse at school resulting from sudden cardiac arrest. Since then, Gwyneth's parents, Joel and Jennifer Griffin, have been working hard to establish legislation as well as a foundation in their daughter's honor in order to prevent something similar from happening to another child. They've chosen to take their pain and use it to make a change.

"We wanted to make a difference in our community," explained Jennifer Griffin. "We wanted to make sure other families have a better outcome." Gwyneth was born with a minor heart defect and a murmur. She was active in sports and dance, and was a loving, compassionate child. Following her death, her parents worked with the American Heart Association to pass Gwyneth's Law in Virginia. The law, which became effective in March 2013, requires all public schoolteachers to be trained in CPR and all public schools to be equipped with an automated external defibrillator (AED). An AED sends an electric shock to the heart to restore normal heart rhythms. In addition, all high school students are required to take CPR training as part of their health curriculum, which began this school year. "Since the law passed, four lives have been saved, and three have been children during a school day," Jennifer Griffin said.

Last year, The Griffin family also created the Gwyneth's Gift Foundation, which provides awareness, training, and resources in the event of a heart-related emergency. The goal is to teach people about AEDs—what they are and how they operate—as well as equip more schools and public places with defibrillators in case they are needed. "Awareness is a big part of our foundation," said Jennifer Griffin. The foundation offers free CPR training and hosts an annual event open to the public. The foundation is also working with Stafford County to purchase a phone app called PulsePoint. The app tracks where the closest AED is located during a cardiac arrest and notifies those in the vicinity who download it to let them know when and where their assistance is needed. PulsePoint will be deployed in Stafford County early in 2017 through the support of Gwyneth's Gift and financial contribution of Stafford Hospital.



The Griffin's, through the foundation, want Stafford County to be a model for the rest of the Commonwealth. "We want to see Virginia have one of the best out-of-hospital survival rates on the East Coast. That is our goal," Joel Griffin said.

You can read more at www.gwynethsgift.org.

Sunday, April 22 was Earth Day—read about one Rotarian's efforts

I started my journey in Rotary as a Youth Exchange Student in 2009-10, hosted by the Rotary Club of Waukegan, Illinois, USA. I'm now a member of the Rotary Club of Bulsar, India, and Rotary helps me live out my dream, a dream I have had since age 11 – giving back to my community in service. In 2005, I created my first brick using industrial paper waste and chewing gum. Similar bricks of recycled materials would go on to make thousands of stand-alone toilets for rural communities by 2015. The company I founded, **Eco Eclectic Technologies**, continues to research and invent new products in pursuit of a clean India. It is a vision captured in one of my mantras: "Nothing is useless in this world. What might be a waste to you is someone else's assets." I like to tell people that Eco Eclectic Technologies is a transformation parlor for industrial waste. Neglected and unwanted waste comes to us instead of the landfill, and we transform it into useful items that people can use in their everyday lives.

EcoLights Studio: a micro social enterprise that is connected to Eco Eclectic Technologies, aims to employ non-skilled women and rural artisans. We teach them how to create light fixtures, made entirely of waste, by hand. Every light that is purchased recycles 7 kilograms of waste, helping reduce carbon emission and electronic waste. The lights themselves are 90 percent recyclable.



Light fixtures made from recycled materials.



Binish Desai, a member of the Rotary Club of Bulsar, India, and a former Rotary Youth Exchange student. Binish runs Eco Eclectic Technologies, a lab that recycles and reuses more than 50 different types of industrial waste and converts it into more than 150 products. In 2017, Desai received the RI Alumni Global Service award for zone 6A. Desai was recently listed by Forbes Asia in their list of "30 Under 30" social entrepreneurs.