Mount Pernon Gazette

WELLBEING

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Mount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

July 4, 2019

Redirecting Recycling Efforts in County

Purple bins and increased efforts may be needed.

By Mike Salmon The Gazette

ecycling has hit some gray areas lately impacting the common mentality of throwing things in the recycle bin. At one time, all plastics, glass and aluminum were a no-brainer, so filling the bin was easy.

The rules are changing though and it turns out that half of what was headed to be recycled now ends up in the landfill. Contaminated materials must be removed, glass is problematic, and not all plastics can go through the machine. Blaming Fairfax County is not entirely justified.

Fairfax County does collect the recyclable material for only 44,000 households living in sanitary districts, said Matthew Kaiser, public information officer for the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. But this is only 10 percent of the county and the remaining population is served by private companies, like Republic, American, Trash Away, etc. Then the county has a contract with American Recycling Center to process recyclables, and they are sorted.

THE COUNTY operates two residential recycling drop-off centers: the I-66 transfer station in Fairfax and the I-95 landfill complex in Lorton. Material collected there (plastic bottles, metal cans, mixed paper, cardboard) is delivered to American Recycling Center by truck. Glass is transported to a county glass processing plant at the landfill complex. Both sites accept



Green bins for recycling only.



The recycle truck moves quickly through the neighborhoods.

electronics, cooking oil, scrap metal, and household hazardous waste, all of which is disposed of through private vendors, said Kaiser.

Now a "purple dumpster," is the latest accessory for recycling glass, and things get complicated. Apparently, glass cannot be included with the others, as it once was, so hauling it off to the purple dumpster throws a twist into the whole process.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) supports recycling and dedicated a recent newsletter "The Herrity Report," to the recycling efforts in the county. He starts out with some "surprising truths" in his newsletter. For example, "the surprising truth is that all of the glass you have put in the curbside single stream recycling bins has been going to the landfill for many years," he said, and notes it's better to drive the glass yourself to the Lorton or I-66 recycling center. Plastic bags clog the recycling machines, so instead of putting them in the bin, take them to the grocery stores and put them in a bag collection bin which is usually out front.

"People see the benefit in recycling," Herrity said.

Herrity did mention that the purple dumpsters for glass is a good idea, and this program will be expanded. "We're going to start putting purple bins at supervisor's offices," he said, so it will be easier for people to take their own glass

for collection. Fairfax County is also crushing the glass which in turn makes it a substance like sand, which is how glass is made in the first place. Then it can be used in building materials. "Not a big market for recycled glass," Herrity said.

Kaiser said the county is embarking on a pilot program with local wineries to have receptacles like purple bins at the wineries so the customers can return the empty bottles on site.

They are trying this at the Bull Run Winery near Centreville, and the glass is taken to Lorton, crushed and used in other projects. "Glass processed in Lorton has been used in two construction projects so far and is being tested as a suitable material for roadbeds," said Kaiser in an email.

THE ROAD to the I-95 landfill is one of the construction projects where they are using a mix of recycled materials to construct and repair roads as part of the county's overall push to deploy Smart Cities technologies.

Two material blends are being tested: a 40/60 mix of ash and crushed glass, and a 25/75 mix of ash and recycled concrete.

Approximately 400-500 tons of recycled material are being used to fill 2,000 square yards of roadway, the county website stated. Crushed glass is also being used as pipe bedding at Flatlick Branch in the Sully area near Chantilly.

Recycling Recommendations

Here is a brief list of items and recycling recommendations. See the county recycling website for more details: (https://

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials)

- ♦ Mattressess and Box Springs:
 Donate if possible, but if not, take to landfill.

 ♣ Plactice Payers if possible and talk
- Plastic: Reuse if possible and take bags to the grocery store bin, but the rest can be put in the recycle bin.
- Furniture: Donate if possible, but f not, take to landfill.
- Paint: If Latex, let air dry and throw container in the regular trash; if oil based, take to Household Hazardous Waste Site.
- Pizza Boxes: Throw in the trash.
 Paper: Recycle some, shredded paper goes in the trash.
- Glass: Purple bin for most.

- Styrofoam: Packaging "peanuts" can be reused by some UPS stores, the rest goes in the trash.
- ♦ Wood and lumber: Paneling, wood can be taken to the I-66 Transfer Station or I-95 Landfill Complex for disposal. Must not exceed eight feet in length.
- ❖ Electronics Recycling: Some can be "e-cycled," others to the landfill.

5 Ways To Help

Wishful recycling harms the recycling process; here are five ways you can belo:

- Only place empty, clean, dry,
- loose items in your bin
 Dump the Filthy Five! These five items should never be placed in your recycling bin: Plastic bags, shredded paper, tanglers (hoses/hangers/cords), Styrofoam containers, and dirty diapers.
- ❖ Purchase products made with high recycled content
- ❖ When in doubt, throw it out
- ❖ Make an effort to reduce the amount of waste you create

For more, see https:// www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/ adjusting-to-new-recycling-realities-5ways-you-can-help-stop-wishful-recycling/

350 Fairfax

There is a group in the county that is focusing on recycling called "350 Fairfax," and they are looking for ways to enhance the county recycling efforts. The "Plastic Free Challenge," is one effort they've started along with other organizations, asking Fairfax County residents to pledge to refuse single-use plastic bags, bottles, and straws.

"For those who were already refusing bags, bottles, and straws, we offered a list of about 40 other ways they could reduce their single-use plastic consumption," said Julie Kimmel, of 350 Fairfax. "We had more than a thousand participants, including local schools, small businesses, and congregations, and we're hoping to reach a wider audience when we do the Challenge again this October," she said.

"Dual stream recycling" is one effort Kimmel supports, and this means picking up separated materials on recycling day, cutting down the possibility of contaminants getting in the wrong pile. Montgomery County, Md. uses this to some extent, with one truck with two compartments.

For Fairfax to adopt this method "would almost certainly cost more up front," said Kimmel, but it would save money and be environmentally advantageous over the long run, she said.

Regardless of all these efforts, some recycling bins do get filled up with material that does not belong there and ends up in the landfill anyways. Herrity points out this "aspirational recycling" which increases the cost for recycling, he said, and listed a few items that are frequently found in the bins but should not be. Those items include diapers, garden hoses, coolers, Styrofoam, food, car seats, and batteries.

"When in doubt, throw it out," he said.

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#WeAreAlexandria









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Alexandria \$485,000 Gorgeous 3-level townhome in soughtafter First River Farms community. Remodeled kitchen with breakfast nook, stainless steel appliances, gas cooking, updated sliding glass door leads to large deck. Close to Old Town, Fort Belvoir,

www.ThePeeleGroup.biz











GW Parkway.



Mount Vernon and the



Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler visits the Sayklon Orphanage in Liberia earlier this year.



Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler, left, at a ceremony held in April recognizing Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department and Prince George's County Fire Department personnel for their response to a June 2018 fiery crash on the Woodrow Wilson Bridge.

Fire Chief John Butler

By Jeanne Theismann The Gazette

airfax County Fire and Rescue Department Chief John Butler didn't grow up wanting to be a firefighter. Born in Liberia, he was 12 years old when his family was forced to flee the country following a military coup in April of 1980.

"My father was among those identified as someone the new regime wanted to do away with," Butler said in recalling the circumstances that led to his immigration to the U.S. "I'm not sure why since he was not involved in politics or the military — he was a businessman. But life had become tumultuous and my parents decided that was not how they wanted to raise their family."

Less than a month later, the family had resettled in Columbia, Md., where Butler



John Butler addresses the media after being sworn in as Fairfax County Fire Chief Sept. 4, 2018. Butler is the first African American to hold the position.

graduated from Oakland Mills High School. He would go on to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps and was home on leave when he accompanied a friend to take the test to become a Howard County firefighter. That decision would change his life, leading to a

career in firefighting and ultimately to his being named the first African American fire chief in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County.

The road from Liberia to

"I wasn't looking for a job," Butler said. "I was loving being a Marine. But while I was waiting for my friend a recruiter convinced me to take the test and when I passed, I thought 'Why not this?' As I look back on this path, the wild ride from that lobby to where I am now is never lost on me."

BUTLER WAS NAMED last summer to replace Chief Richard Bowers and was formally sworn in Sept. 4, 2018. Prior to that he served 26 years with the Howard County Department of Fire and Rescue Services. He began as a firefighter-paramedic, rising through the ranks to serve in a variety of roles, including as battalion chief, emergency medical services chief and adminis-

trative chief before being named Howard County's first African American Fire Chief in 2014.

"Howard County [Fire and Rescue] is a high performing organization, but it was time to take on new challenges," Butler said of his move to the helm of Fairfax County, a department three times the size of Howard County. "I always thought highly of Fairfax Fire and Rescue and am mindful of the more recent challenges. I thought I could bring something to the table — to help them get realigned and continue going in a positive direction."

In addition to his firefighting experience, Butler served in the Marines for 21 years, including two combat tours.

"Joining the Marines is one of the best decisions I ever made," Butler said. "In com

SEE BUTLER, PAGE 14



Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler, second from right, working with Liberian firefighters in January of this year.



Fairfax County Fire Chief John Butler helps a child with her toys at the Firefighters and Friends Toy Distribution Day in December of 2018.

News



The Fabulous Hubcaps performs oldies and classic rock at Lee District Nights on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at Lee District Park Amphitheater in Franconia.



The crowd watches The Fabulous Hubcaps at the kickoff to Lee District Nights on Wednesday, June 26, 2019 at Lee District Park Amphitheater in Franconia.

The Fabulous Hubcaps Play at Lee District Nights

Park Authority sponsors Summer Entertainment Series on Wednesday nights.

BY STEVE HIBBARD The Gazette

he Fabulous Hubcaps helped kick off the Lee District Nights Summer Entertainment Series at Lee District Park Amphitheater in Franconia on Wednesday, June 26. Throughout the summer, the free series of concerts sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority are held from 7:30-8:30 p.m., and will feature a variety of musical acts from jazz to big band, classic to bluegrass, swing to folk and vintage rock 'n roll.



Jay Cleaver "the Beav" of The **Fabulous Hubcaps performs on** saxophone.

According to Sousan Frankeberger, performing director for the Fairfax County Park Authority: "The Park Authority started the Summer Concert Series about 25 years ago. and we started with one small venue and expanded it. Now we offer concert series weekly from Wednesday evenings through Sunday evenings at different park venues throughout the county."

She said there are 160 concerts throughout the county, which includes children's performances on Saturday mornings and evening concerts, plus one series that's international - music and dance from different parts of the world.

She continued: "It's a place for people to bring children and family members, bring a picnic basket and enjoy an evening at the park, under the sun and the trees. We have some good quality shows and we provide genres of every variety — from folk music to Irish rock.'

She said the series is sponsored through contributions from donors; no taxpayer money goes towards paying performance fees and the series are held in all supervisory districts.

"It's a fantastic place for community performing, getting together to know your neighbors, to bring your kids and let them dance and enjoy the music," she added.

"The Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce is delighted to host the Lee District Concerts. This is a great way to bring the community together and we love being here tonight with all the people, and the Fabulous Hubcaps are just fabulous," said Holly Dougherty, executive director of the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce. "We really appreciate the generosity of the businesses that sponsor the concerts and hope people will remember their local businesses when they need to shop or need a product."

Concerts are held at the Lee District Park Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Franconia. For information, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ performances.



Dancers Ralph Hammelbacher and Faith Halter enjoy the music of The Fabulous Hubcaps.

2019 Schedule

JULY 3: The Nighthawks (Blues) JULY 10: Ruthie & the Wranglers

(American Roots)

JULY 17: City of Fairfax - Main Street
Community Band (Concert Band)

JULY 24: The Annandale Brass Ensemble

(American Popular Music) JULY 31: Enter the Haggis (Celtic, Rock) AUG. 7: The United States Navy 'Country Current' (Country)

AUG. 14: Nomad Travels (Dance/Music) AUG. 21: Junkyard Band (Go-Go, Funk) AUG. 28: Trio 111 (Rock)



The Loustau family of Alexandria enjoys The Fabulous Hubcaps -Dad Ricardo, Mom Jessica, and children Alarick, Castiel, Kathlyne, and Sandy.

News



Plenty of Produce To Choose

The local growing season is in full swing and the veggies, fruit, baked goods, and other offerings were on full display Wednesday morning, June 26, at the Mount Vernon Farmers Market at the corner of the Sherwood Hall Library parking lot. The friendly community atmosphere brings friends and neighbors together. Located at the Sherwood Hall Library parking lot, the market attracts families and individuals to buy fresh fruit, veggies, flowers, and more. Visitors can also get some free advice from the Master Gardeners located in a booth near the entrance to the market.





The Master Gardeners organization is a non-profit volunteer organization that offers expert free advice to local residents on everything from how to get rid of poison Ivy, pest control, and how best to grow tomatoes, etc. Their presence at the market is a harbinger that gardening is at peak performance in the local area and they are there to offer their expert advice at no charge.



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Alex/Mt. Vernon Forest \$65 9209 Volunteer Drive

Beautiful 2 lvl, 3BR, 3BA Split on a spectacular, landscaped .6 acre lot. Meticulously maintained & updated, i.e., roof replaced 2001, w/30 year shingles, furnace & A/C 2013, Superior Triple Paned Windows 2001, kitchen is open to the dining rm & has a lovely ceramic tiled floor & granite counters. Baths all undated in the past 3 yrs. Master bedrm expands into previous #2 bedrm & has a

huge walk-in closet. The master bath is large & gorgeous. Finished lower lvl offers a huge (12x18) #3 bedrm & lovely L-shaped family rm w/wood burning FPL, also large & very organized laundry & utility rooms. The lower lvl walks ou to a lovely, beautiful bkyd which backs to private woods. Great location for commuting 5 mins to the back gate of Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 mins to Old Town, Alexandria (N), & 30 mins (N) to Regan National Airport - This is a Great Buy!!!



Alex/Riverside Estates 8405 Bound Brook Lane

Beautiful 4BR, 2.5BA, 3 level Colonial w/carport & a stunning kitchen addition that creates a charming breakfast rm overlooking the scenic bkyd. Beautiful hdwd floors & spacious rms. Bright, open floorplan on the main level. 2 FPLS. Walkout lower level.

Lots of storage. Access the porch, deck & patio from the kitchen sunroom. This house is a nature lover's paradise – enjoy the beauty & the serenity!



Alex/Riverside Estates 8318 Cherry Valley Lane

Popular updated "B" model Colonial w/4BRs, 2.5BAs, 2 gas FPLs & a single car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates: refinished hardwood floors on main & upper levels, freshly painted interior, double pane

windows & a delightful screened porch overlooking a beautiful bkyd. Family rm on main level w/a gas FPL & a 2nd gas FPL in the finished basement. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir-30 mins to Natl' Airport. This market is hot so come on



Alex/Riverside Estates \$629,900 3120 Little Creek Lane

This is the Yorkshire everyone has been waiting for...Stunning& beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5BA Colonial w/2 car garage and spectacular yard backing to the woods. Roof, gutters, & HVAC 2019, HWH 2015, updated kitchen & baths w/ceramic, granite, & SS. Beautifully refinished hdwd floors on

main & upper levels, freshly painted interior & new carpet in finished lower level. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Alexandria, Old Town, 28 mins to National Airport & 30 minutes to the Pentagon! This is a gem!!



Alex/Riverside Estates

8309 Bound Brook Lane Riverside's largest Colonial model w/4 large BRs, 2.5 BAs & large 1 car garage. 2000 sq.ft. on the main & upper lvls plus 900 or so sq.ft. in the basement. A great floor plan w/a spacious kit, dining rm, living rm & family rm & half bath greet you on the main lvl. 4 large bedrms & 2 full baths on the upper lvl. The basement has a large "L"

shaped rec rm & a separate utility rm w/a stairwell taking you to a beautifully landscaped & fenced bkyd. Updates include a brand new roof, double pane replacement windows, a remodeled half bath & stunning refinished hdwd floors on the main & upper lvls.. Priced in the mid 500's to allow you to create quick quity w/a fresh paint job & some updates in the kit. Minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S) & Old Towne (N)



Alex/Riverside Estates \$581,000

3012 Battersea Lane Riverside's popular "Yorkshire: colonial featuring 3 finished lvls, 4 spacious BRs, 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage, all on a beautiful corner lot. Numerous updates include the roof, replacement double pane windows, HVAC system, hot water heater, refinished hdwds on the

main lvl w/Travertine flooring in the family rm. Additional finished space in the basement w/a rec rm & utility rm. Great location: 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, & 28 mins to Natl Airport. All this for less than \$580,000.



Alex/ Riverside Estates \$67 8332 Wagon Wheel Road

\$100,000 + of outstanding renovations in Riverside Estates popular "B" model Colonial w/garage. New roof, deck, front door & A/C in '18. Kitchen & baths in '17. Kitchen totally gutted & opens to Living & Dining rms, includes: quartz tile counters, six burner gas range by Miele, new hdwd floor, SS

appliances & beautiful stained cabinets. All 3.5 baths are gorgeous. MBR combined w/another ower lvl offers a 4th bedrm & 3rd full BA along w/an inviting Rec rm – perfect for a Nanny or Au Pair. DBL pane windows & 6 panel doorsof course!!! Totally turnkey, enjoy!!



For more information: www.RexReiley.com

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OPINION

Restoring Driving Privileges

Delegate (D-44)

his week ushers in the beginning of the new fiscal year, which means that all of the laws that were passed in the General Assembly during this year's session go into effect this week.

One such important measure will temporarily halt the practice of courts suspending driver's licenses for Virginians who have failed

COMMENTARY

to pay court fines and costs. As of Monday, July 1, 2019, Virginians whose driving

privileges have been suspended solely for failure to pay court fines and costs will immediately have their driving privileges restored, without paying a reinstatement fee. I was happy to see this change made through Governor Northam's budget amendment, as this practice disproportionately targeted poor Virginians. While this move is a great step forward to a more equitable justice system, this fix is only temporary. During the 2020 session, I look forward to working towards permanently banning this practice through legislation.

This change will not eliminate the underlying court debt, so Virginians are still expected to pay their balances. The state can use other

ing tax refunds, putting a lien against property, to pay court fines and costs. Their Virginia susor jail time. However, with driving privileges restored, those with court debt will have the ability to drive to work, and will be able to repay their debt as well as support their families. Over the last several months, the DMV has sent over half a million notices to affected individuals with specific instructions on how to have their driving privileges restored. As many as or by setting up an account at 627,000 Virginians could have their licenses www.dmv.virginia.gov and downloading one.

Virginians who still have their physical unexpired license and have presented the DMV with proof of their permanent legal presence in the United States (i.e. birth certificate, U.S. Passport, legal permanent resident card) will not need to take any action. Their licenses will be valid again as of July 1. Virginians who no longer have their physical license or their license has expired must obtain a replacement driver's license or renew their license and will pay the usual driver's license issue fee (\$20 for a re- extended hours. In addition, DMV will moniplacement or \$32 for an eight-year renewal, and tor customer volumes during those extended an additional \$10 for REAL ID). Those who have hours to determine whether additional hours not presented the DMV with proof of their per- are warranted for the last two Saturdays in manent legal presence in the United States will July. My office is always available to help navibe required to do so. Individuals living outside gate this process, so do not hesitate to reach of Virginia need not take any action if their driv- out to me for assistance.

BY PAUL KRIZEK methods to collect this debt, including garnish- ing privilege was suspended solely for failure pensions will no longer be visible to other states' driver licensing agencies after July 1. On request, the DMV can provide what is called a "Compliance Summary" for free that will list the reasons why a driver's license is suspended. These can be obtained by going to a DMV office, calling 804-497-7100 to have one mailed.

> DMV locations are expected to be extremely busy this summer due to license restoration. In anticipation of this additional customer traffic, DMV has expanded hours at several service locations around the state to accommodate. On July 6 and July 13, the Franconia customer service center will operate under expanded service hours, closing at 2 p.m. DMV will continue the 11:30 a.m. deadline for customers to receive a ticket for testing. Call center and headquarters' employees will also have

Making Suicide Prevention a Priority

BY MICHAEL BALLARD

very 28 seconds someone makes a suicide attempt. My first experience with suicide was in 1963 when I was 17. A teacher pulled me aside: "Ballard, your mother called. Your uncle killed himself this morning." He turned around and walked off. I wanted to scream. My

Uncle Ashby was my hero — a UVA boxer, decorated vet, successful dentist, proud father of three beautiful daughters, and great ath-

Why would he kill himself?

the question too often. A college classmate died of suicide. A neighbor I babysat had a hunting "accident" alone in the woods. A former girlfriend died of suicide. Two former employees, wonderful, sensitive, creative individuals, took their own lives.

Two siblings have attempted. Several times. I worry about them every day.

I wish I could end here, but two years ago when I was in California for the national Out of the Darkness Overnight Walk for Suicide Prevention, my daughter

Since Ashby's death, I've asked called. My grandson, 12 at the time, was having a mental health crisis and had just entered a psychiatric hospital. We learned he'd been wrestling with demons for over a year. They were telling him he was worthless ... didn't deserve

> My daughter and son-in-law are two of the finest, most loving and supportive parents I have ever seen. My grandson is a boy's boy soccer, basketball, baseball, now Lacrosse, wrestling, and trumpet — and a good student, loved by everyone. Yet he didn't feel life was worth living. Today,

he has a good counselor and support group, and has learned survival skills. But we keep a watchful eye and listen carefully.

These are the reasons why, on June 9, I was on Capitol Hill urging Rep. Wexton and Senators Kaine and Warner to make suicide prevention a top legislative priority. I ask them to support:

1. Increased funding for suicide prevention research within the National Institute of Mental Health to a level commensurate with the suicide crisis in our coun-

2. Strengthened reporting requirements for mental health par-

3. Full funding of the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline;

4. Maintaining Service member and Veteran suicide prevention as a national priority.

In my meetings, I will be a voice for suicide prevention. I will be joined by passionate community leaders of the ever-growing movement of people who care about preventing suicide because they too have been affected by suicide. You can join us by calling your member of Congress and asking them to make suicide prevention the priority it deserves to be.

The writer is a resident of Great Falls, former chair, Suicide Prevention Action Network USA and Board Member, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

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A Connection Newspaper





Sofi Harai, a 2019 graduate of Mount Vernon High School, is this year's recipient of the Suzanne McGee Memorial Music Scholarship Award which recognizes outstanding musicians in the area. Haria will be attending Berklee College of Music, Boston, Mass., as a vocal performance major this fall. From left are her parents Attila Harai and Jennifer Ceriale, Sofi Harai, Roger McGee, Carrie Garland, and Anne Kisthardt.

OPINION

Innovations in Payment Security Require New Ways of Thinking

By Jason Kratovil Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

nly certain generations of readers will remember the knuckle-buster.

Those of us who were of shopping age before the mid-1980s can re-

call the manual device cashiers would rack

back-and-forth to make imprints on special

Consumers In Focus paper of the embossed account information on a credit card. The cashier would keep a copy for the store to manually process

the transaction later, and would ask if you wanted the carbon paper copy made by the device. Most people didn't bother.

Back then, thieves would sift through dumpsters outside of stores, retrieve the discarded carbon copies and use the information pressed into them by the knucklebuster to commit fraud. My parents never failed to take the carbon copies. Turns out we were practicing state-of-the-art financial data security!

Times have certainly changed in payment security, and our behaviors as consumers have had to follow suit. The transition to chip-enabled credit and debit cards, for example, dramatically enhanced the security of paying with plastic by making it near impossible for a criminal to clone stolen account data and go on a shopping spree. That improvement was not without friction, however, as we all had to break the habit of "swiping" a card in favor of "dipping" the chip into a terminal.

Similarly, the security innovations behind Apple Pay and Samsung Pay – combining biometrics, sophisticated cryptography and advanced hardware engineering to create "digital wallets" – turned our mobile devices into what is widely considered to be the safest way to make a payment. While use of these technologies is growing, it has not been as fast as was predicted: Many consumers simply don't have enough trust in these new methods – despite their benefits in convenience and security – to easily abandon stalwarts of our physical wallets like cards and cash.

My first taste of a new security technology disrupting my idea of a "normal" payment experience happened three years ago during a stop to make a large purchase on family road trip. At checkout, my credit card was declined. In the past, my choices at that moment would have been to either find a different card or leave empty-handed. Instead, I received a text message from my bank asking me to verify the purchase. After responding, my card was unblocked instantly and I completed the transaction. In all, it took less than 20 seconds and the ef-

fort of multiple companies and technologies to ensure I wasn't a victim of fraud.

To that 1980s-era cashier wielding a knuckle-buster, this is the stuff of science fiction. But thankfully, it's our reality today. Innovation in payments pushes us as consumers to change not only behavior, but also to step out of our comfort zone and place our trust in changing technologies. Adapting won't always be easy, but the pay-off in enhanced security will almost certainly be worth it.

Lastly, whether you swipe, dip, or scan your credit card, you may, on occasion, have a credit card dispute from an authorized charge or you may need to dispute a billing issue. For more information on credit cards, visit the Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Branch for helpful consumer advice.

The writer, who resides in Mount Vernon, serves on the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Over-staffed Bureaucracy?

To the Editor:

Last week, I visited the farmer's market at the Sherwood Hall library. Parking was overflowing so I parked across the street at the Mount Vernon Government Center. After parking, I became intrigued by the presence of seven county employees and two large county vans (see photo). I bewatching these employees and realized they

were there removing a signpost close to the street. As we know, this is a one-person job, requiring digging down to remove dirt around a concrete anchor. Two of the men were mainly involved in the process while the other five observed the



Workers outside the Mount Vernon Government Center.

were there removing a signpost close to action. After awhile, the signpost was rethe street. As we know, this is a one-permoved and the men departed.

I came back last Friday to see what the former location of the signpost looked like. Nothing unusual, just dirt where the signpost had been located (see photo).



Site of former signpost.

To those of you wondering why our taxes are so high in Fairfax County, this is but one small example of what might be an over-staffed bureaucracy.

H. Jay SpiegelMount Vernon

End Child Separation

To the Editor:

Our country has done some incredible, wonderful things. We have also committed some atrocities.

As a veteran and a longtime federal employee, I'm acutely aware of our problematic history and always believed our country was working towards a more positive future. Yet we continue to separate children from their families, withholding basic needs like hygiene and sleep.

I have a 5-year-old daughter, and I cannot even imagine the lifelong trauma she would experience if separated from family unwillingly. All of these children being held in such conditions will be permanently scarred from direct U.S. government action

This is not making the U.S. better in any way. It is blackening our collective soul. I urge Representative Beyer and Senators Kaine and Warner to work with their colleagues in Congress to force the administration to release these children to their own families so they can start to heal, and to prevent any more families from being separated.

Anastasia Bodnar Alexandria













WELLBEING

Burnout at Work

Recognizing the symptoms and strategies for relief.

By Marilyn Campbell The Gazette

aria Cogswell says she used to sob in her car each day as she drove to her job on Capitol Hill. She complained of stomach cramps and indigestion during the time she spent in her office.

"I was rude to people and short and irritable with my friends," she said. "I was miserable. My brain was fried and I was completely burned out at work. Eventually I just quit my job."

Cogswell is not alone. According to a recent Gallup study two-thirds of full-time workers experience burnout on the job. Researchers who conducted the study concluded that employee burnout can lead to a downward spiral in performance and can damage an employee's self-esteem and confidence. In fact, the World Health Organization (WHO) recently labeled workplace burnout as an "occupational phenomenon" that could lead to health issues.

"Burnout is a state of physical, emotional and mental exhaustion that negatively affects self-esteem," said Linda McKenna Gulyn, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Marymount University. "It affects the quality of services the burned-out employee provides. For example, nursing is a field with high burn-out, so this is a concern if the employee is not able to perform well."

The feeling that one has little or no autonomy at work can cause frustration and stress that leads to burnout. "Keep in mind [that] those jobs, across all professions in which the employee has little control and competing demands of both family and work, lead to this serious problem of burnout," added Gulyn, who taught the topic of stress and burnout in a recent class.

Learn to recognize the early signs of burnout, advises Carolyn Lorente, Ph.D., Professor Psychology at Northern Virginia Community College. "Often times the first indicator of work burnout and stress may be felt in our bodies," she said "Especially for those of us who learned as children to tough it out, we may have been socialized to not cue into our stressors or emotions. This can really take a toll on our physical health. We may find ourselves getting more frequent headaches, having stomach issues, or catching colds more often."

Such extreme levels of chronic stress can damage one's overall physical and mental wellbeing, added Chris Harrison, Professor of Health and Physical Education at Montgomery College. "Individuals reach the condition of burnout when they are exhausted and can't replenish their energy levels, they lack motivation, develop a chronic pessimistic attitude with feelings of frustration and hopelessness. ... Job related burnout can result in lower productivity, lower quality of work, increased accidents and increased absenteeism," continued Harrison, who teaches a class called "Controlling Stress and Tension."

One of the most effective ways to ease stress and prevent burnout before it happens is to make time throughout the day to practice self-care, advises Lorente who encourages people to take what she calls "peace pauses."

"For instance, during a lunch break take a walk outside rather than eating inside, treating yourself



Photo by Marilyn Campbell

Yoga and meditation teacher Debbie Helfeld practices alternate nostril breathing which she says can relieve the type of stress that can lead to workplace burnout.

to a favorite afternoon tea or coffee, or listening to books on tape or an interesting pod-cast to and from work."

Stress often comes from feeling a lack of control over how one's time is spent, advises Lorente who is also a psychotherapist at Belle Point Wellness clinic where she helps patients manage stress. "These peace-pauses can help us begin to take back even small parts of how our day goes and help protect against stress-related ill health," she said.

Make time to take care of one's physical health, advises Harrison. "Work to improve your sleep habits, eat a healthy diet and participate in regular physical activity," she said. To ease stress, Harrison also recommends a holistic approach. "Explore activities ... such as yoga, meditation, guided imagery or tai chi," she said. "Mindfulness is the act of focusing on your breath flow and being aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the present moment without interpretation or judgment."

Yoga and meditation teacher Debbie Helfeld recommends alternative nostril breathing for calming.

Adjusting the way one views stress and changing one's thoughts, behaviors and relationships might be necessary, suggests, Jerome Short, Ph.D., Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "The more that we view stress as a challenge and we develop coping skills the more we can experience growth and not harm," he said.

For those who feel a sense of hopelessness, Harrison suggests exploring available options. "Discuss specific concerns with your supervisor," she said. "Maybe you can work together to change expectations or reach compromises or solutions. Try to set goals for what must get done and what can wait."

Sometimes the best option is to get help from a therapist or simply change jobs, says Short. "In the workplace, it helps to have new challenges, a sense of purpose, autonomy to make decisions, and opportunities to master skills," he said.

ENTERTAINMENT



Director Tim Caron, of McLean, leads the cast of "The Knights of



The four Knights in the band — C.J. Andrews, Larissa Dowling, Pete Peterson and Nick Adjami.

A Rock Musical About the Mid-1960s

"The Knights of Salisbury" at D.C.'s Capital Fringe Festival July 13-21.

By Steve Hibbard THE GAZETTE

cLean resident Tim Caron, 28, a first-time playwright, composer, co-director, coproducer, and lyricist, will debut his original musical, "The Knights of Salisbury," at D.C.'s Capital Fringe Festival July 13-21. The play, with a cast of 12 members, is a rock-musical set along the north shore of Massachusetts in the mid-1960s. It follows four high-schoolers who form a band and the young married couple who agrees to be their managers. He said the show is based on childhood memories, experiences playing in bands, and his relationships with parents and friends.

Salisbury" in rehearsing some songs.

Before moving to the District in 2009, Caron who is an attorney, spent his childhood in Andover, Mass. He said he was partly inspired by Bruce Springsteen's high school band, the Castiles, which was managed by a middle-aged couple on the Jersey Shore.

"I'm a big Springsteen fan. I read a biography about his band in high school on the Jersey shore and how he was supported by a couple. I took the basic themes of a couple managing kids in a rock band and infused it with my own experience playing music in undergrad and law school," he said.

CARON SAID he finished writing the play in March 2017, after working on it for one year. "Some of the songs I've been holding onto for years, and this project was an excuse to complete it. The music was a weird mix of some of it from years ago, while some of the songs were relatively recent," he said. In all, he composed 20 songs for the show.

His goals were to make a good retro show without falling into the trap of having to rely on pre-existing songs. He also added a Lebanese-American character based on his family's own heritage - his maternal grandfather was Lebanese-American. "I hope it



Director Tim Caron, of McLean, checks the sound equipment.

PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE

Two principal actors in "The Knights of Salisbury:" Mo Hafez and Nadine Foty.

helps the audience to have an understanding that the immigrant community wasn't just Irish and Italian," he added. And with the adults managing the band,

he added, "Hopefully the audience will come away with more understanding that rock wasn't just upstart kids being rebels on their own, but getting help from the adults." In real life, Caron performs with a band he co-leads, the Heartless Romantics.

Pete Peterson, 18, of Alexandria has the role of Jake Flaherty, who plays guitar in the show. "He's one of the founding members of the band. He's not as outspoken as the others — a little more shy and less confident. A lot of that stems from his father getting on him for not being the traditional son. Jake is more into music than sports, so in his father's eyes, he's being lazy and not doing things," said the recent T.C. Williams graduate.

AS FAR AS CHALLENGES, Peterson, who will be attending VCU to study cinema, said: "The whole experience was a lot different from the other musicals I've been in because it's an original piece. There's no source material that I can look at other than the demos Tim's given me."

He added: "I'm getting a good experience

of how to take an entirely original piece and making it into a finished product." In real life, Peterson plays guitar in the rock band, Chad's House.

Arlington resident William Colligan, 55, who works for the Department of Defense, plays four different roles in the play, including the supportive father named Bill to one of the band mates. "There are different challenges to try to look distinctly different so that takes creative costuming and accents and different ways of speaking," he said. "The other thing I prepared for, I tried to study a Boston accent, which is one of the hardest accents you can do in theater because it's so inconsistent."

"The Knights of Salisbury" will be performed July 13 at 11:30 a.m.; July 14 at 6 p.m.; July 16 at 5:45 p.m.; July 20 at 3:15 p.m.; and July 21 at 8:15 p.m., at the Capital Fringe Festival. The venue, which is Metro accessible, is located at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, 400 I Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024.

For more information about the show, visit page: https:// www.facebook.com/ THE.KNIGHTS.OF.SALISBURY/

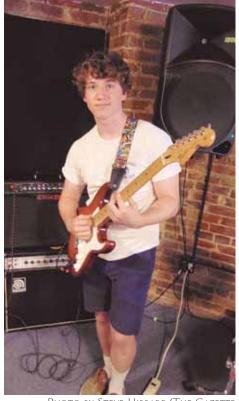


PHOTO BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE GAZETTE Pete Peterson, recent T.C. Williams High School graduate, plays guitar in the show.

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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Entertainment

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

ONGOING

Band Members Needed. Join the Mount Vernon Community Band, a group of players who enjoy playing many styles of band music in a relaxed atmosphere. Rehearsals are Tuesdays 7:30-9:30 p.m. in the Mount Vernon High School Band Room, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road. No auditions. All instruments needed. Contact Eric Leighty directly 703-768-4172 or visit www.mybands.com/join-us/.

Art Exhibit: Notes of Color.

Through July 21, gallery hours at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. The Washington Sculpture Group presents Notes of Color. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Art Exhibit: Labyrinths and/or

Mazes. Through July 28, gallery hours, Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show, Labyrinths and/or Mazes. Sometimes one is led to success and sometimes one hits a dead end. Gallery embers have pushed their paths and have come up with wonderful results. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit

www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

4Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists.

Through July, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

more. **Art Exhibit: More Than A Body**.

Through Aug. 4, gallery hours, at Target Gallery at Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union St. Target Gallery, the contemporary exhibition space for the Torpedo Factory Art Center, presents their competitive annual solo exhibition featuring Northern Virginia-based artist Julia Kwon. Kwon uses traditional Korean inspired textiles to create a dialogue on othering and objectification she experiences as a Korean-American woman. Julia Kwon: More Than A Body will be on view June 14-Aug. 4.

Visit torpedofactory.org/target.
Ceramics Go Casual. Trhough Aug. 4, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 North Union St. The "Siestaware" Kiln Club show features calm colors and organic contours in a collection of blissed out dishes and shapely sculptural work by the Kiln Club artists. Call Scope Gallery at 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org.

Creative Summer Programs. Through Aug. 31 at Del Ray Artisans, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. Del Ray Artisans' Creative Summer Programs is a series of workshops exploring the arts. Learn techniques in photography (macro and SmartPhone), painting, sculpture, mixed media, jewelrymaking, sketching, and more; and discover how to use art for affirmation, communication, and intention. Details and registration at DelRayArtisans.org/programs/ creative-summer/.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market. Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ farmersmarkets.

THURSDAY/JULY 4

An American Celebration At Mount Vernon. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Salute the first commander in chief during Mount Vernon's annual Independence Day event. Celebrate Independence Day with daytime fireworks, military re-enactments, and a wreath-laying ceremony. Enjoy birthday cake (while supplies last) and visit with General and Mrs. Washington. Listen to a performance by the National Concert Band during its "Red, White and Blue" concert and observe a ceremony to honor new citizens. Rain or shine. Included with general admission. Visit www.mountvernon.org/plan-yourvisit/calendar/events/an-americancelebration or call 703-780-2000. July 4th Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-1 p.m. at

Dalebrook Drive. Plants known to thrive in this area will be sold by the Garden Club of Waynewood, whose members will be available to answer questions. Email bjbulleit@gmail.com or pattimorrison1613@yahoo.com.

Declaration of Independence

Reading. Noon-1:30 p.m. in Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton. The community is invited to a reading of the Declaration of Independence in Historic Pohick Church by historical re-enactor, the Rev. Dr. Thomas Costa, portraying the Rev. Mr. Massey, rector of Pohick Church in 1776. The reading will take place at noon, with free docent tours of the colonial church of George Washington and George Mason following the reading. Free. Call 703 339-6572, or visit www.pohick.org.

Independence Fireworks at Mount Vernon, 6-9:45 p.m. at George

Vernon. 6-9:45 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Highway. Enjoy a patriotic evening filled with fireworks, Mansion tours, musical performances, and games. This fireworks show, beginning at approximately 9:30, is synchronized with patriotic music. Visit Washington's Tomb at night—this event is one of the few times this area is open in the evening—and watch sparks fly at blacksmith shop. Concessions from the Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant will also be available. Rain or shine. A separate ticket is required for this special evening. \$20-\$36. Visit

www.mountvernon.org/plan-your-visit/calendar/events/independence-fireworks or call 703-780-2000.

FRIDAY/JULY 5

Mount Vernon Nights: Ellis Dyson & The Shambles (Gypsy Swing). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more

Serenade! The Human Journey.

7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 228 S Pitt St. Classical Movements and The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts copresent the 9th annual Serenade! Choral Festival, welcoming vocal ensembles from all over the world over for a meaningful exploration of "The Human Journey: Music,"



Brynna Rae Shank on stage during a performance of EyeSoar.

EyeSoar

Alexandria's Jane Franklin Dance will present EyeSoar at the Capital Fringe Festival. Space is getting tighter and longtime occupants of the Four Mile Run (Shirlington, VA) nestle with change. Through an audio, video, and movement-based performance, EyeSoar captures the evolving space, people, and organizations in this industrial neighborhood. Saturday, July 13, 5:45 p.m.; Thursday, July 18, 8:30 p.m.; Sunday, July 21, 1:30 p.m.; and Sunday, July 28, 4 p.m. at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. \$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com/capital-fringe or call 703-933-1111.

Migration & Identity," part of the Kennedy Center's year-long series of programs, The Human Journey. Free with registration at

www.eventbrite.com/e/serenade-the-human-journey-st-pauls-episcopal-in-alexandria-va-tickets-59775560310.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 5-7

Waterfront Beer Garden. Friday, 5-8 p.m.; Saturday, noon-8 p.m.; Sunday,

noon-4 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1 King St. Toast to summer at the Waterfront Beer Garden by Port City Brewing Company. Enjoy awardwinning craft beer plus local food and entertainment including live music and DJs. Attendees can also enjoy lawn games, live music from artists like NACIM and DJs such as DJ G throughout the weekends. Free admission; food and drink available for purchase. Visit PortsideInOldTown.com for more.

3 Spots for a Refreshing Summer Drink

By Hope Nelson

hen it comes to outdoor activities, July and August are a mixed bag. Alternately sunny and perfectly warm one day, rainy and humid the next, and straight-up broiling on a third, tough location decisions abound for happy-hour-goers and

patio-sitters. Here are three of the city's best bets for cocktails and beer — no matter the weather.

People's Drug, 103 N. Alfred St.

Just a stone's throw from busy King Street, People's Drug feels at once close at hand and a remote speakeasy. Small and intimate, but often bustling, its drink offerings skew cocktail-heavy, but that's not a bad thing. Go with it and you'll be pleased with the result. Heading over for brunch? Check out the Optimal Shandy — vodka, local honey, lemon and a splash of Port City's Optima Wit beer. Or turn up for a postwork happy hour and you're likely to find a Hemingway daiquiri (the old-fashioned kind, not the swim-up pool-bar variety) or classic Rob Roy awaiting your arrival. Order a helping of truffle fries to go alongside and you'll be cooled-off in no time.

Lost Dog Café, 808 N. Henry St.

The opposite side of the beverage spectrum from People's Drug, Lost Dog Café skews incredibly beer-heavy — which

should suit diners just fine. The Route 1 outpost of the regional restaurant offers dozens of ever-changing beer options spanning a variety of styles. Looking for a light brew to go with a heavy pizza? Fine Creek Brewing's Helles Lager fits the bill. Or venture to the other side of the spectrum with the likes of Grimm Artisanal Ales' Double Negative stout. Across the balance are sour beers, ciders, IPAs and wheat beers, all vying for a spot at your table.

Los Tios Grill, 2615 Mount Vernon Ave.

There are few Friday nights better than those where the weather is just cool enough – but, preferably, sunny too – to sit out on Los Tios' long patio, taking in the goings-

on across Mount Vernon Avenue while noshing on chips, salsa, burritos and fajitas. And what goes better with topshelf Mexican fare than top-shelf margaritas and mojitos? So many margaritas fall down on the job in the sugar department, coming on much too strong with the sweet stuff while letting the tequila and citrus flavors take a back seat. Los Tios' concoctions balance quite nicely indeed, allowing for all ingredients to showcase their talents. The same goes for Los Tios' mojitos, complete with sugarcane stalks and fresh mint.

Hope Nelson owns and operates the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

Entertainment

SATURDAY/JULY 6

Old Town North Walking Tour. 10-11:30 a.m., begins at the waterfront at Pendleton Street, Alexandria. North Old Town Citizens' Association (NOTICe) sponsors a free and informative tour about the history of Old Town North July 6 and 13. Contact mikeatalexhouse@gmail.com to register.

Used Book Sale. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Selection of over 20,000 gently used books, including children's books, fiction, history, biography, home and garden, cooking, crafts, sports, religion, travel, CDs, DVDs, and more. Unless specially priced, \$1 for hard backs, 50 cents for large paperbacks, and 25 cents for mass market paperbacks. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/friends-of-sherwoodregional.

Story Time for Little Historians. 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/

upcoming-events.

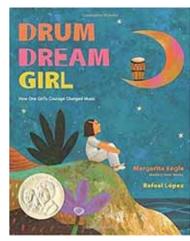
Mount Vernon Nights: The Tom
Cunningham Orchestra (Big
Band). 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse
Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way,
Lorton. Performances will range from
disco to Indian Bollywood and
acoustic blues to big band.Bring a
picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy

one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 7

Book Discussion. 1-3 p.m. at Glory Days, 3141 Duke St., Alexandria. 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.

Chamber Concert Series. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features composer and pianist Haskell Small. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.



Story Time for Little Historians

Enjoy cultural stories and creative craft activities that introduce world history and folklore. This week features Drum Dream Girl: How One Girl's Courage Changed Music by Margarita Engle. Afterwards, explore the museum exhibits to learn about local Black history. Saturday, July 6, 11 a.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St., Alexandria. All ages welcome, but most suitable for children 4 and older. Admission is \$3 per person. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call 703-746-4356 or RSVP at shop.alexandriava.gov/Events.aspx.

MONDAY/JULY 8

Yoga for Gardeners I. 9:30-10:30
a.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603
Green Spring Road. (Adults) This
class features a gentle introduction to
the Vinyasa method which helps
participants increase the strength,
flexibility and endurance necessary
for gardening. Class held indoors.
\$91/person for eight hour-long
classes. Register online at
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/
parktakes/ using code 6E6.C2FC or
call Green Spring Gardens at 703642-5173.

Garden Sprouts Summer- Nature Playgroup. 10-11:30 a.m. (3-5 yrs.) Your preschooler enjoys nature-themed toys and puzzles while you meet other playgroup parents one Monday a month. Through games, songs, activi–ties and a garden walk we explore July' topic: Camping. \$8/child. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code F8D.F5EB or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY/JULY 9

Simpson Gardens Stroll. 10-11 a.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Stroll through Simpson Gardens with Extension Master Gardeners as they describe the gardens' variety of demonstration beds that combine sustainable gardening practices with appealing aesthetics: waterwise gardening, scented plants, plants that attract pollinators, plants that prefer shade, and plants that have appealing structure and texture. Free. To reserve a spot, register online at mgnv.org/public-education-events/ vce-horticulture-programsregistration. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY/JULY 10

Lee District Nights: Dale Jett and Hello Stranger (traditional Carter Family, country). 7:30 p.m. at Lee District Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Enjoy an evening of al fresco music at Lee District Park. Head to the amphitheater on Wednesdays for this series concerts featuring a variety of musical acts from jazz to big band, classic to bluegrass, swing to folk and vintage rock 'n roll. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/lee-district-nights for

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Waterfront Bagpipe Concert. 8-8:30 p.m. at Waterfront Park, 1A Prince St. Celebrate Alexandria's Scottish heritage as bagpipes and drums provide the soundtrack. Free event features music and a performance by area Scottish dancers.

JULY 11-29

Musical: "Be More Chill." at the Ainslie Arts Center on the campus of Episcopal High School, 3900 West Braddock Road. Be More Chill follows nerdy loner Jeremy, who ingests a supercomputer called a "SQUIP" in order to become cool and popular. Be More Chill is directed by Izzy Smelkinson with music direction by Marika Countouris. In addition to mounting the first professional production of the show in the D.C. metro area, Monumental Theatre Company will also be employing an all-female design team. Visit www.monumentaltheatre.org/bemore-chill.html for tickets.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

Mount Vernon Nights: The 19th Street Band (country rock). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for

JULY 12-14

Plein Air at Mount Vernon. Noon-4 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Visiting artist Simon Bull paints in the gardens on a mural-sized canvas and answers visitor questions. Included with admission (\$20 for adults; \$19 for seniors; \$12 for ages 6-11; free for children ages 0-5). Call 703-780-2000 or visit mountvernon.org/pleinair.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Workshop: Casting Concrete Leaves. 9:30-11 a.m. at Green

Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Capture the beauty of ornamental leaves by casting them in concrete to decorate home or garden. Green Spring staff demonstrates casting and painting techniques and assists participants in mak—ing a treasure to take home. The cost is \$43/person for the program and \$25/person for the supply fee. Register online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes/ using code 95A.5596 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Watercolor Workshop: Monet & Water Lillies. 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Monet contributed to the art world with his monumental water lily paintings. Be inspired by Monet's style and create water lily paintings using techniques like glazing, dry-brush, wet on wet, washes and more with the help of instructor Dawn Flores. Supply list emailed before class. The cost is \$93/person. Register online at

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please be advised that a brief (5-minute) daytime fireworks display will take place as part of the annual American Celebration public event at George Washington's Mount Vernon on

Thursday, July 4 between 1:00 pm. and 1:30 pm.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association thanks you for your tolerance and apologizes for any disruption. To receive Mount Vernon fireworks notifications via e-mail, write to Events@MountVernon.org

GEORGE WASHINGTON'S
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Entertainment

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/ parktakes/ using code 7A1.D2F2 or call Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-5173.

Old Town North Walking Tour. 10-11:30 a.m., begins at the waterfront at Pendleton Street, Alexandria. North Old Town Citizen's Association (NOTICe) sponsors a free and informative tour about the history of Old Town North. Contact mikeatalexhouse@gmail.com to

register.

Beyond the Battlefield. 10 a.m.-noon at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St .A guided walking tour of Civil War sites in Historic Old Town featuring locations and stories associated with soldiers, citizens, and the enslaved, including the occupation of Alexandria and emancipation. \$15 in advance, \$20 gate. Visit www.leefendallhouse.org or call 703-548-1789.

Here is to a Healthier You. 10:30-11:30 a.m. at Ebenezer Baptist Church (Education Building), 301 N. Patrick St. Min Kirshnamurthy, instore nutritionist at Giant in Fairfax, VA, will present "Eight Steps to a Wealth of Health." Free. RSVP required at 703-683-1473 or www.eventbrite.com/e/here-is-to-a-healthier-you-tickets-62311502381.

Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

Summer Saturdays. 11 a.m.-4 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. Join Gunston Hall for a summer of fun. Each Saturday in June, July, and August, stop by for a historic adventure on the grounds and in the Visitor Center. Included with regular admission. Call 703-550-9220 or visit www.gunstonhall.org/visit/guide/upcoming-events.

Old Town Pub Crawl. 1:30-6 p.m. Port City Brewing Company will host its sixth annual Old Town Pub Crawl in Alexandria. Over the course of the afternoon, more than 1,000 participants will visit eight bars and restaurants in Alexandria's Old Town. Port City team members will be handing out pub crawl passes at all eight pub crawl stops from 1:30-2:30. Participants who have their passes stamped at all participating venues can pick up their commemorative pint glass from 5-6 p.m., while supplies last; no purchase required. Port City will also host an official post-crawl after party at Murphy's Grand Irish Pub (713 King St.). Participants are invited to join the Port City team for more food, fun, and beers. Visit www.portcitybrewing.com/events/ 6th-annual-port-city-old-town-pubcrawl for more.

Lecture: Five for Freedom. 2 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. John Brown and raiders, including 5 African American men, descended on Harpers Ferry, WV, in 1859. The lives of these "Five for Freedom" have been overshadowed by their leader. Join author Eugene L. Meyer for a lecture about the lives of these men. \$5. Register at https://shop.alexandriava.gov/EventPurchase.aspx.

EyeSoar. 5:45 p.m. at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. Alexandria's Jane Franklin Dance will present EyeSoar at the Capital Fringe Festival. Space is getting tighter and longtime occupants of the Four Mile Run (Shirlington, VA) nestle with change. Through an audio, video, and



As a tradition that spans over 50 years, the George Washington Chapter of the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution (VASSAR), organized an Independence Day Commemoration at George Washington's Mount Vernon estate, with over 40 members of the SAR participating. The 2018 parade up the bowling green in front of the mansion was led by the Frederick Town Fife and Drum Corps 1745-1817 and the VASSAR Color Guard. Independence Day will be celebrated at Mount Vernon on Thursday, July 4 with festivities including daytime and evening fireworks. Visit www.mountvernon.org for more.

movement-based performance, EyeSoar captures the evolving space, people, and organizations in this industrial neighborhood. \$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com/capital-fringe or call 703-933-1111.

Alexandria's Birthday Celebration.

6-10 p.m. at Oronoco Bay Park, 100 Madison St. Alexandria celebrates its 270 birthday and America's 243rd birthday in one big celebration. Guests can enjoy a performance by the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra, patriotic birthday cake and food vendors. The event culminates in a fireworks show over the Potomac River. Visit

www.visitalexandriava.com/alx-bday/.

Mount Vernon Nights: The United States Army Blues (jazz). 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band.Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

A Taste of Scotland. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) It's not just haggis and shortbread. Discover the diversity of Scottish food and how it reflects Scot-land's history, land and people. Hear about traditional dishes linked to national celebrations, and sample au-thentic Scottish fare. Afterwards, the culinary theme continues at the tea table. \$42 (program + tea), \$18 (program only. Pro-grams are by reservation only. Call 703-941-7987, TTY (703) 324-3988

Chamber Concert Series. 3-5 p.m. at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. The Washington Metropolitan Philharmonic Association sponsors a chamber music series, weekly through Sept. 15, at the Lyceum in Old Town featuring small ensembles and soloists. This week's performance features trombonist Tyler Castrucci, accompanied by pianist Tyler Welch. Free. Donations are appreciated. Visit www.wmpamusic.org or call 703-799-8229.

Fort Hunt Park Concerts. Through Aug. 25, Sundays, 7-8 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park, Pavilion A, 8999 Fort Hunt Road. All are welcome for free community concerts held at Fort Hunt Park every Sunday. Free. Visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/ forthuntconcerts.htm for performer.

TUESDAY/JULY 16

Genealogy: United States Census.

1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. Genealogist Sharon Hodges will speak about how to fully understand what a U.S. census record actually says. The presentation is called "There's More to the Census Than What's Online." Free, open to the public. Visit www.mvgenealogy.org for more.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17 Lee District Nights: City of Fairfax Main Street Community Band.

7:30 p.m. at Lee District Amphitheater, 6601 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Enjoy an evening of al fresco music at Lee District Park. Head to the amphitheater on Wednesdays for this series concerts featuring a variety of musical acts from jazz to big band, classic to bluegrass, swing to folk and vintage rock 'n roll. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/lee-district-nights for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 18

Summer Garden Tour and Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) Tour the vibrant demonstration gardens with a master gardener docent who highlights summer's standout plants, and tells stories of Green Spring past and present. Afterward, enjoy a tradition—al English afternoon tea. \$36/person. Pro–grams are by

reservation only. Call (703) 941-7987, TTY (703) 324-3988.

EyeSoar. 8:30 p.m. at St. Matthews Lutheran Church, 222 M St. SW, Washington, D.C. Alexandria's Jane Franklin Dance will present EyeSoar at the Capital Fringe Festival. Space is getting tighter and longtime occupants of the Four Mile Run (Shirlington, VA) nestle with change. Through an audio, video, and movement-based performance, EyeSoar captures the evolving space, people, and organizations in this industrial neighborhood. \$20. Visit www.janefranklin.com/capital-fringe or call 703-933-1111.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

Mount Vernon Nights:

Shenandoah Run (folk). 7:30-8:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Performances will feature musical styles from soul to and pop and bluegrass and rock. Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Blue Sky Puppet Theatre. 10 and 11:15 a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. One of the East Coast's finest children's theater companies visits Alexandria to perform an off-beat twist on a classic tale, The Three (Not So) Little Pigs. The wolf is a vegetarian and the pigs jam on rock and roll guitars. Since 1974, Blue Sky Puppet Theatre has been one of the finest touring children's theatres on the East Coast. \$6 per person. To buy online, visit alexandriava.gov/Arts click on Durant Arts Center.

Walking with Washington Tour. 10 a.m.-noon, starting at the Ramsay House, Alexandria Visitor Center, 221 King St. Explore important sites associated with George Washington in his hometown. This guided walking tour focuses on significant people and events in his life and American history and his character and values. Stops at Ramsay House, Market Square, Carlyle House, The Bank of Alexandria, Wise's Tavern, Duvall House/Tavern, Gadsby's Tavern, Washington's townhouse, and Christ Church. Reservations not required. Free. Recommended for ages 10 and above. Call 703-746-3301 for more.

Composting Basics. 10:30 a.m.-noon at Beatley Library Reading Garden, 5005 Duke St. Turn yard clippings, kitchen waste and excess paper into black gold for a garden. Extension Master Gardeners will demonstrate how to start composting at home, what to put into a compost pile, how to easily maintain it so the materials break down properly, and how to apply it in a garden and lawn. Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Dyke Marsh Meetup Walk with a Ranger. 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at Belle Haven Park/ Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Enjoy the outdoors on this 2-mile walk with a national park ranger to see the largest freshwater marsh in the nation's capital. Bring a pair of binoculars for viewing an eagle's nest and other marsh life. Free. Call 703-235-1530 or visit www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/dykemarsh.htm.

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Mount Vernon Nights: Thrillbillys

(roots rock). 7-8 p.m. at The Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances will range from disco to Indian Bollywood and acoustic blues to big band.Bring a picnic dinner and a blanket and enjoy one of Fairfax County's summer traditions. Visit www.fairfax county.gov/parks/performances/mt-vernon-nights for more.

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



New Members

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber welcome several new businesses to the organization during the month of June. From left: Stan Koussis, chamber president, recognized John Renner, Renner and Co. CPAs; Jennifer and Jessica Dorn, Belle Haven Pizzeria; Brian McGarry, Brian J. McGarry Interiors; Wendy Smith, Belle View Condominiums; Sonja Creech, Brandywine Living Alexandria; along with Sonja Caison, chamber chairman.

Whiskey Festival Set for November

eorge Washington's Mount Vernon offers two new items: a new George Washington Whiskey Festival set to launch on Nov. 9 and a new batch of George Washington Straight Rye Whiskey now available for purchase. The whiskey was distilled at Mount Vernon's reconstructed distillery using George Washington's original recipe, then aged on site in charred oak barrels for four years. The George Washington Straight Rye Whiskey retails for \$225 and can only be purchased at The Shops at Mount Vernon and Gristmill shop.

Mount Vernon's new George Washington Whiskey Festival takes place on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 6-9 p.m. At this event, sample George Washington's Rye Whiskey and spirits from more than 11 Virginia distilleries before voting for a favorite beverage. Curated food will accompany the spirits and complements the pour. Hear from Steve Bashore, Mount Vernon's director of historic trades, and other spirits industry titans as they discuss their distilled products. Watch 18th-century coopering demonstrations, sample 18th-century baking using flour ground at the gristmill, and enjoy music and entertainment throughout the evening. Tickets are \$125 per person and now available for



New at Mount Vernon: Four-Year rye whiskey available for purchase.

purchase.

A small number of tickets are available for an exclusive, hands-on experience at George Washington's Distillery prior to the festival from 5-6:30 p.m. on Nov. 9. For more details, visit mountvernon.org/ whiskeyfest. All proceeds benefit the ongoing preservation and restoration of Mount Vernon and its educational programs.

CRIME REPORT

ATTEMPTED ROBBERY: 8400 block of Blankenship Road, June 29, 3:12 a.m. The victim stepped out of his truck and was approached by three men. One of the men opened the truck's door in an attempt to take it. They his cell phone. He was able to call the police and all three men ran away.

BURGLARY: 3000 block of Fordson Road, June 26, 12:49 p.m. Someone entered the victim's home and stole personal items

STOLEN VEHICLE/PURSUIT: Richmond Highway/Kings Village Road, June

26, 2:08 a.m. Officers located a stolen vehicle occupied by two men. A traffic stop was attempted but both men ran off. One of the suspects was located and an 18-year-old man from Temple Hills, Md., was charged with receiving stolen prop-

JULY 1 **LARCENIES**

2900 block of Douglas Street, cash from vehicle

8100 block of Fordson Road, cell phone from location

2700 block of Groveton Street, bicycle

from residence

2000 block of Huntington Avenue, tools from vehicle

3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard, diapers from business 3100 block of Lockheed Boulevard,

6200 block of Richmond Highway, merchandise from business 6300 block of Richmond Highway,

merchandise from business 6300 block of Richmond Highway, purse from vehicle

7400 block of Richmond Highway, bag and gun from location



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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them. -Werner Heisenberg

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Coup de Gras



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that I'm unburdened from the website weight I've been carrying for the past few weeks, I will, for the second week in a row, not write about cancer.

This week's topic will be manufacturer's coupons and the trick certain supermarkets are playing on us unsuspecting consumers.

Like many of you, or maybe not that many, I use coupons to save money. In fact, I have become rather adept at doing so. I'm not willing or talented enough to go on television - and tell my tales; I'm not that good. As an example, I'm not able/that inclined to download and print the digital coupons some brands/sites offer.

All I know to do is clip/use the paper coupons inserted in the Sunday newspapers and "clip" the digital coupons offered on certain supermarket and drugstore websites.

In my "couponing" I am aware and mindful of the doubling and occasionally even tripling coupon opportunities. Moreover, I am similarly aware of the less frequent doubling/tripling of coupons with values of one dollar or more.

Most of the time, I am using coupons whose face value is less than one dollar whose amount is then doubled (a 75 cent coupon is worth \$1.50). In addition, I'm always looking to use my "couponing" skills with items that are already on sale for super savings.

Unfortunately, the opportunity doesn't present itself as often/on as many items as I like to purchase. Although, until recently, there had been a savings opportunity when the identical-to-the-paper digital coupon appeared on the supermarket's website. On those occasions, one could use both the paper and digital coupons on the same item, to double dip, so to speak (and a super-duper savings if that item were already on sale); a loophole which has since

Another loophole, of sorts, one that saves the supermarket's money – at the consumer's expense, literally and figuratively, involves their digital coupons. Not only can you no longer 'double dip,' but if you "clip" the digital coupons, the ones under one dollar, the face amount doesn't double as it would for a similarly valued paper coupon.

Who does that help? The convenience of digital coupons. I'm not buying it anymore.

In summary, two ways here I see the supermarkets making money where previously they hadn't.

First, they're encouraging consumers to use digital coupons, like it's money for nothing. Really it's money for something, just not the consumer's something. Granted, there seem to be more digital coupons than paper coupons but the more digital coupons you use, especially instead of paper coupons for the same item, the more money you lose (by not benefiting from the doubling opportunity afforded by paper coupons).

Second, for whatever coincidental/conspiratorial reason, there are fewer coupon inserts in the Sunday papers. There's less to cut on Sundays and accordingly, less to show for it on Mondays, when I plan my week's "consumering." The result is that due to this lack of paper coupons, consumers are being forced to go digital, and by doing so, are losing our ability to

Rather than supply the demand in paper, the supermarkets are demanding the supply by forcing our hands to go mouse-clicking.

You may view this coupon pursuit as a bit of a fools errand, but I view it more as a challenge, and as a way to overthrow the conspirators, while there's still time

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



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News

Butler

From Page 3

bat is where I grew a lot of my character. It's where I learned how to lead teams and how to lead others on a shared mission and vision."

Butler's vision for FCFRD is to regain the reins of an organization bruised by claims of bullying and harassment.

"I came here to establish guardrails, set a vision and build a healthy team," Butler said. "We have a talented, diverse department but we can't solve problems using the same thinking that created those problems."

BUTLER HAS CREATED an equity and inclusion council and implemented code of conduct and social media policies. Social media policies in particular have been under scrutiny since the 2016 suicide death of firefighter Nicole Mittendorff following claims of online bullying.

"We need to reestablish and rebuild the relationships that have taken a hit over the years," said Butler, who was a defendant in a termination suit brought by a Howard County battalion chief based on social media postings.

"The case — Buker vs Howard County went to the Supreme Court," Butler said. "We prevailed and stuck to strong social media policies and a code of conduct that basically says that if it disrupts the workplace, we can hold you accountable. That's the platform I have for here - I won't tolerate cyberbullying or any behavior that disrupts the workplace."

Butler, 52, holds a Master of Science in management from Johns Hopkins University and a Bachelor of Arts from the University of Baltimore. He is a graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and holds a certificate from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis

IN 2014, Butler was the recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa. He has made several trips to the Republic of Liberia, most recently in January of this year, when he assisted in training recruits for the Liberian National Fire Service and visited the Sayklon Orphanage. Butler uses his personal vacation time and pays for all expenses out of his pocket.

"Whenever I return from trips such as this, I am reminded of how fortunate we are to have the things we have, the infrastructure and quality of life that we enjoy and most often take for granted," said Butler following his most recent trip.

Butler, who is married with three adult children, hopes to have a positive impact in Fairfax County.

"I am really loving the department, the people I am working with and the direction we are going," Butler said. "Most importantly, I hope that my emphasis on trust, courageous conversations and human engagement is making a difference. But the best way I can impact the organization is by modeling good behavior."

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