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PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Fairfax Station CONNECTION Clifton & Lorton

Clifton Holds Hometown Parade

NEWS, PAGE 3

Davis Hall on the bike,
and a gas powered
minibike, as Clifton
holds the Independence
Day Hometown Parade.

Fire Chief John Butler to Set Vision

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Lorton Barber Shop: 20 Years As a Local Favorite

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Jack Nguyen and fellow hair cutter Lynn Ho have kept the scissors going all these years.



Kelly and Reid Osborne have been coming for 10 years.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Lorton Barber Shop: 20 Years As a Local Favorite

Neighborhood barbershop sees the same faces on Silverbrook Road.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

In 1999, the requests came in for the Ricky Martin hair cut or the mushroom cut, which was “like a bowl,” said Lorton Barber Shop owner Jack Nguyen, but after 20 years at the same spot off Silverbrook

Road, the styles change. “Now nobody does it,” he said.

Nguyen has seen a lot since 1999, and is geared for an anniversary celebration on Saturday, July 13 so his regulars can come in, reminisce, and enjoy the music and food while they talk about haircuts. He stands behind the first chair, in the “same spot, standing

right here,” and sees the same faces over and over again. Whether it’s Mayberry RFD or Nguyen’s spot in Lorton, the familiarity of the neighborhood barbershop doesn’t change.

“I can’t believe it’s 20 years,” said Kelly Osborne as she brought in her son Reid, 13, for his summer cut. “They always know what you want, super nice,” she said. Her husband and other son are regular customers too.

The interior is no different then the shop in Mayberry either, ex-

cept the barber pole, which was taken down from the outside location because of shopping center rules, but now operates in a window spot. “At night, the light is on,” he said. There are about six barber chairs opposite the waiting area seating, sports memorabilia on the walls, pictures of past customers, and a selection of electric razors hanging behind Nguyen’s seat. Sports are always playing on the television sets and he’s sup-

SEE BARBER SHOP, PAGE 5

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What's a Clifton event without horses?



Ava, left, and Keira Congdon get ready to march.

Clifton Honors Independence Day with Hometown Parade

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Parade participants fell into place in the Dell Avenue staging area for the annual Clifton July 4th Parade last Thursday afternoon. Fire trucks from Station 416 led the way, followed by the “cow train,” full of lucky participants for this local event. “This is the definition of a home town parade,” said Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) as he handed out Tootsie Pops to all who wanted one. Following the cow train, there were flashy convertibles, bicycles, minibikes, scooters and more as they led the route down Main Street, and circled twice before gathering for patriotic songs, the Pledge of Allegiance and speeches to mark Independence Day in Clifton.



Davis Hall, 10, sports an outfit highlighted by the red moustache.



Raising the flag at Iwo Jima.

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/
THE CONNECTION



After the parade, everyone gathered for the pledge of allegiance.



Clifton Parade 32: After the parade, everyone gathered for the pledge of allegiance.

Special Session on Gun Violence

Eight proposed bills would make the commonwealth safer.

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

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

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

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

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

❖ Legislation creating an Extreme Risk Pro-

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

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

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

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

Good for the Gander

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



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

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

avid NRA supporter. He concluded that it was a bill the public clearly wanted and should pass because it did not interfere with the Second Amendment. In what may have been the last time the NRA took such a position, it did not support but it did not oppose the bill's passage. Governor Gerald Baliles signed the bill into law even though he had earlier opposed any gun control legislation.

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

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

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

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

What is good for the goose is

Pet Connection, Send Photos

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

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

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— MARY KIMM

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

Jack Nguyen became a barber legend in Lorton.

Lorton Barber Shop Turns 20

FROM PAGE 2

ported local teams before. He held up a college graduation announcement of a customer he's known for years. "He used to be on the booster seat, now he finished college," he said.

A haircut was \$8 in 1999, and now is \$16. "We do shaves with the razor, hot towel," he said.

Back in 1999, Silverbrook Road was different too. There were only a motel and another store, no

houses and a smaller intersection. Now he has a steady level of clientele but with the expansion of the area, other hair salons open as well so the business is steady. Lynn Ho has been working there for 16 years alongside Nguyen.

A highlight of the coming anniversary celebration is a raffle Nguyen has planned for free haircuts – eight for first place, four for second and an American Crew Cut with shampoo and conditioner for third.



Haircuts will be raffled on July 13.

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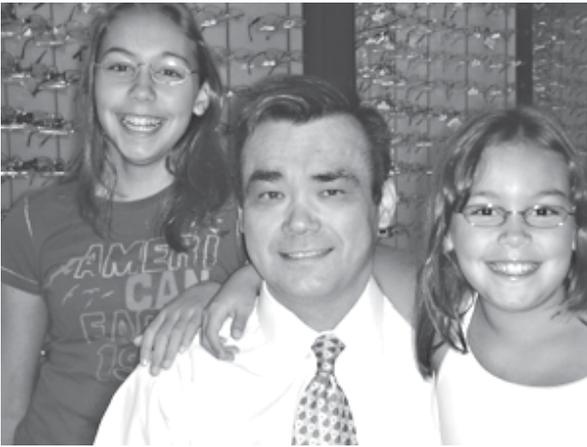
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Home LifeStyle

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



PHOTO COURTESY OF SUSAN UNGER.

Dorm Room Decor

Adding style and creating space in tight quarters

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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- Vienna/Galton Connection

Development Authority Names New Leader

Victor Hoskins named president and CEO of Fairfax County Economic Development Authority.

The Fairfax County Economic Development Authority (FCEDA) has named Victor Hoskins as its new president and chief executive officer. Hoskins is currently Director of Economic Development for Arlington County, Va., where he helped lead the successful regional effort to bring Amazon's HQ2 to Northern Virginia. He previously served as Deputy Mayor of Planning and Economic Development for the District of Columbia where he was instrumental in the development of major sites in the District including City Center, the Wharf and Union Market.

THE FCEDA helps businesses start, expand and relocate in Fairfax County by promoting the county as one of the world's best business locations. Fairfax County already is home to 10 Fortune 500 companies, more than 100 companies on the Inc. 5000 list and 8,800 tech companies. It also has one of the nation's most educated workforces with top-ranked schools and nearly 150,000 technology workers, or one in four jobs in the county. Hoskins will assume his new role Aug. 5.

"Victor has been an economic-development dynamo in our region for years. We are thrilled he is bringing his experience and expertise to Fairfax County," said Catherine Lange, Chair of the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority Board. "After an extensive search, Fairfax County found the right leader in our own backyard. Victor will be a tremendous asset as we launch new initiatives to strengthen and broaden our workforce and grow our commercial enterprises. With his energy and wide-ranging contacts, Victor will step up our efforts to attract and retain top talent and increase business investment in Fairfax County."

FCEDA did not include Hoskins salary as its new leader with its initial release. Hoskins was paid a reported \$221,900 for his role in Arlington.

Hoskins said he is eager to start his new job. "I couldn't be more excited to join the Fairfax County Economic Development Authority as its new leader," Hoskins said. "Fairfax County is well known for its pro-growth environment and its ability to attract, train and retain talented workers. With the backing of FCEDA's excellent staff, I hope to do more of that with increased

outreach in the U.S. and abroad, especially among young people. As always, I hope to work closely with my colleagues and friends in the region. I also plan to increase our use of research and digital communications to expand the county's dynamic workforce, attract startups and grow existing businesses."

The FCEDA recently announced a new talent attraction and retention program to build on opportunities created by Amazon's HQ2 in Northern Virginia. The program, which will receive \$1 million in its first year and \$800,000 in succeeding years, will study what organizations are doing to expand the talent pipeline and will use that knowledge to create a communications effort that will include digital advertising, social media, video/multimedia and outreach to journalists.

Stephen Moret, president and CEO of the Virginia Economic Development Partnership, said Hoskins will bring innovation and cooperation to his new role. "Victor will



Victor Hoskins

bring a uniquely compelling mix of experience, savvy and collaborative spirit to the FCEDA," Moret said. "He has a deep understanding of all the elements of economic development and how they interact. Both innovative and practical, Victor energetically cultivates local, regional and state partnerships that enable collective success, just as he did in helping attract HQ2 to Virginia."

"Fairfax County is proud to have one of the best workforces and business environments in the U.S.," said Sharon Bulova, Chair of the Fairfax Board of Supervisors. "Under Victor's leadership, we will make sure Fairfax County is a place where talent and innovation want to be. We enthusiastically welcome Victor to the Fairfax team."

DURING HIS CAREER, Hoskins' work has resulted in the creation of nearly 375,000 jobs. He has led teams that negotiated more than 700 major business deals resulting in billions of dollars in private investment. Amazon's move to Northern Virginia alone will bring more than 25,000 high tech jobs to the region and will generate at least \$3.2 billion for Virginia.

Hoskins will succeed Gerald L. Gordon, Ph.D., who retired in late 2018 after being with the FCEDA for 35 years and its president and CEO since 1987. Hoskins' selection follows a national search conducted by Korn Ferry.

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CALENDAR

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

ONGOING

Art Exhibit: Somewhere Between You and Me. Through July 20, Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Olly Olly, 10417 Main St., 2nd Floor, Fairfax. In Somewhere Between You and Me, young nonbinary transgender artists intimately seek to understand and bring understanding to what it means to experience life as a nonbinary person. Call 703-789-6144 or visit ollyollyart.com for more.

Art Exhibition: Virginia Watercolor Society. Through Aug. 2, gallery hours in the McGuireWoods Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Virginia Watercolor Society (VWS) is organizing its 40th annual juried painting exhibition with about 85 paintings on display. Free and open to the public. Visit www.workhousearts.org/ or www.virginiawatercolorssociety.org for more.

Kingstowne Farmers Market. Fridays, through Oct. 25, 4-7 p.m. in the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center, Alexandria. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/kingstowne.

Wakefield Farmers Market. Wednesdays, 2-6 p.m. through Oct. 30, at Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road, Annandale. Eleven local farmers and producers. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/wakefield.

Lorton Farmers Market. Sundays, 9 a.m.-noon, through Nov. 17, in the VRE Parking Lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Lorton. The Fairfax County Master Gardeners Association will be there each week, providing horticultural information to home gardeners in Fairfax County. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/lorton.

Springfield Farmers Market. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

Burke Farmers Market. Through Dec. 21, 8 a.m.-noon at the VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke. All vendors make their own food or grow it locally within 125 miles. Call 703-642-0128 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets/burke for more.

THURSDAY/JULY 11

Evenings on the Ellipse: Doc Scantlin and his Imperial Palms Orchestra (big band). 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Government Center's backyard will be alive with fun, music and good company this summer as the Evenings on the Ellipse concert series returns. Stop by and relax in style with generous tastings and sales from Fairfax County's two Wineries, Paradise Springs and Bull Run. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse for more.

FRIDAY/JULY 12

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

Old Town Village Performances: Sior Org. 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The weekend starts here – Friday night on the Old Town Village Plaza – music and dance to relax by. Fridays, June-September, weather permitting. Performances are free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.oldtownplazafairfax.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 13

Children's Entertainment Series. 10-10:45 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring Rocknocos (children's songs). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights.



Railroad Museum

The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum holds events most Sundays, 1-4 p.m. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.



Springfield Farmers Market

Vendors include Cascade Beverage, Celestial/Fossil Farms, Chilanga Tortilla, Conecopia, Greenwich Farms, Iganacio's Produce, Kingdom Gourmet, Lola's Kusina, Lund's Produce, Smiths Mecklenburg, Taste Old Country, Three Puppies, Tyson Farm, and Windmill Meadows. Saturdays, through Nov. 23, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit www.community-foodworks.org or call 202-697-7768.

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.

SUNDAY/JULY 14

Chair Yoga. 3-4 p.m. at Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St Germain Drive, Centreville. Gentle and mindful chair yoga for adults and older adults. Free. Call 703-830-2223 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/5312868.

Films in the Park: Christopher Robin (2018). 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup has something for the whole family. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/.

MONDAY/JULY 15

Open House: Sentimental Journey Singers. 9:30-11 a.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. A chorus for those diagnosed with early or beginning moderate Alzheimer's and other memory impairments, along with their care partners, Sentimental Journey Singers offers the fun and social aspects of singing in chorus together. Learn more about this new choral program at Insight before rehearsals begin in September. Contact Christi Clark at 703-204-4664 or christi.clark@insightmcc.org.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 17

Springfield Nights: The Reagan Years (80's Tribute Band). 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Springfield Nights returns for a second summer season with free musical performances on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park ranging from bluegrass and pop, to rock and R&B. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights.

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

Free Tea Day. 10 a.m.-9 p.m. at McAlister's Deli, 10691 Braddock Road, Fairfax. McAlister's annual Free Tea Day. Enjoy a free 32-ounce fresh-brewed iced tea, no purchase necessary. Visit www.mcalistersdeli.com or call 703-278-8117.

Lunch N' Life. Noon-2 p.m. at Saint Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Those 50 and older are invited to join the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. The guest speaker will be Paul Severance, a historian who will speak on The Lincoln Assassination Trial. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by July 12. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-273-5730. Visit www.scfbva.org for more.

Evenings on the Ellipse: Maybe April (country). 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Government Center's backyard will be alive with fun, music and good company this summer as the Evenings on the Ellipse concert series returns. Stop by and relax in style with generous tastings and sales from Fairfax County's two Wineries, Paradise Springs and Bull Run. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/evenings-on-the-ellipse for more.

THURSDAY-SATURDAY/JULY 18-20

Mamma Mia. Thursday-Friday, 7 p.m.; Saturday, 2 and 7 p.m. at Hayfield Secondary School, 7630 Telegraph Road, Alexandria. Based on a 2008 jukebox Musical Romantic Comedy, the story follows a young bride-to-be who invites three men to her upcoming wedding, each one with the possibility of being her father. \$10-\$12. Call 703-505-9955 or visit www.hayfielddrama.com for tickets.

FRIDAY/JULY 19

B-I-N-G-O. 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638 for more.

Old Town Village Performances: Main Street Clarinet Quartet. 7-8 p.m. at Old Town Plaza, 3955 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax. The weekend starts here – Friday night on the Old Town Village Plaza – music and dance to relax by. Fridays, June-September, weather permitting. Performances are free. Call 703-385-7858 or visit www.oldtownplazafairfax.com for more.

SATURDAY/JULY 20

Electric Vehicle Show. 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Daniels Run Peace Church, 3729 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Learn how Fairfax County can be a leader in electric car technology and test drive several EV models. Environment Virginia, Daniel's Run Peace Church, and The Climate Reality Project are hosting this event. The church has an electric vehicle charging station, solar panels, and a community garden. Free. Visit environmentvirginia.org for more.

Children's Entertainment Series. 10-10:45 a.m. at Burke Lake Park Amphitheater, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Featuring Blue Sky Puppet Theater (puppets). Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights.

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.

SUNDAY/JULY 21

NTRAK Model Train Show. 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge Train Display. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

Films in the Park: Incredibles 2 (2018). 7 p.m. at Strawberry Park in Mosaic, Fairfax. Mosaic's summer movie lineup has something for the whole family. Grab a blanket, friends and family and watch favorite films underneath the stars. Visit mosaicdistrict.com/events/event/films-in-the-park-2/.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Springfield Nights: The Woodshedders (Roots Rock). 7-8:30 p.m. at Burke Lake Park, 7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station. Springfield Nights returns for a second summer season with free musical performances on Wednesday evenings at Burke Lake Park ranging from bluegrass and pop, to rock and R&B. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/springfield-nights.



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



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

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

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Fire Chief John Butler To Set Vision

The road from Liberia to Fairfax County, with vision to regain the reins of an organization bruised by claims of bullying and harassment.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax 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 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.

"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 administrative 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 combat 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



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.

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 work-

place, 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 from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Leadership in Crisis Program.

IN 2014, Butler was the recipient of Johns Hopkins University's Global Achievement Award for his humanitarian work in Africa. He has made multiple 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."

Legals

**PUBLIC HEARING CONCERNING
APPEAL OF NOTICE OF VIOLATION**
RELATING TO 7151 MAIN STREET,
CLIFTON, VIRGINIA

Notice hereby is given that the Town of Clifton Board of Zoning Appeals will hold a public hearing on the application of the legal owner of 7151 Main Street to contest the Notice of Violation, dated April 12, 2019, of the Zoning Administrator of the Town of Clifton concerning (i) failure to obtain a use permit for construction of a structure on the property prior to the erection of such structure and (ii) construction of a structure on the property that does not comply with the setback requirements of the Town of Clifton zoning ordinance. The hearing will be held at 7:30 p.m. at 7135 Main Street, Clifton, Va (the first floor of the Acacia Masonic Lodge) on July 24, 2019. Persons affected may appear and present their views at the hearing, and members of the public are welcome to attend.

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PEOPLE & PETS

**Foster Families
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Temporary fosters are needed for dogs and cats at Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation's animal care center in order to make space for newly rescued pets. The rescue's shelter partners are completely full and Lost Dog is being asked to transfer in more adoptable pets in order to save their lives.

"Several of our longtime shelter partners are really struggling this summer to keep saving lives," said Barbara Hutcherson, Executive Director of Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation. "When they become overcrowded, they have to make hard choices. Our help in taking dogs and cats relieves some of that pressure, and allows them to keep saving lives."

Fosters are needed for pets of all sizes and ages. Dogs can be fostered for as little as one week. To apply to foster, visit www.lostdogrescue.org.

"Foster homes are absolutely critical to our mission. If we know we have foster families at the ready, we can save more lives. It's really that simple," Hutcherson said.



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**Local Company Supports
'Take Your Pet to Work Week'**

CSI DMC's love for animals came through for "Take Your Pet to Work" week last week, an extension of National Take Your Pet to Work Day, where employees from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, and Washington, D.C. raised \$300 for the local Homeward Trails Animal Rescue, which adopts dogs and cats from high-kill shelters to homes in the DC metropolitan area.

Amberlee Huggins, CSI DMC president, has fostered four puppies from Homeward Trails Animal Rescue and several of CSI DMC employees have volunteered with the organization by fostering and adopting dogs. CSI DMC even arranged a "puppy break" activity at CSI DMC's Fairfax County, office, in which Homeward Trails brought adoptable dogs to meet the CSI team.

"We love supporting the local efforts of Homeward Trails in finding homes for our furry friends," said Huggins.

For more information on CSI DMC, please visit www.csi-dmc.com.



PHOTO BY SARAH PETERSON

**Sue Jeon and Momo of Fairfax:
CSI DMC employees take their
pets to work to support Home-
ward Trails Animal Rescue.**

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