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Mount Pernon Gazette

ount Vernon's Hometown Newspaper • A Connection Newspaper

Meals Distributed at Schools in Mount Vernon

By Mike Salmon The Connection

n response to the coronavirus pandemic, Mayra Figueroe and Marialma Gautier manned the food distribution table at Hybla Valley Elementary School on Tuesday, March 24, giving out both breakfast and lunch to area students.

A van pulled up and requested a few items. "This is very helpful," said the driver. "We're used to them being at school and daycare all day," she said.

A majority of the customers came by foot from nearby apartments and houses along Harrison Lane.

When the meal distribution started a few days ago, there were times for each meal, but now the table is just open for a longer shift. "We're serving breakfast and lunch at the same time," said Gautier. For breakfast, there was juice, a cinnamon roll, a bagel, cream cheese and a piece of fruit. For lunch, there were sandwiches or chicken tenders, with fruit and chocolate milk. Free for any children under 18; FCPS students of any age; for adults, there is a \$2 charge.

At this time, Fairfax County Public Schools are closed through the end of the academic year in June. All FCPS school buildings and administrative offices are closed until further notice. Food distribution at dozens of FCPS sites will continue as scheduled.

The May 2020 International Baccalaureate exams are canceled, the message on the FCPS website stated. Traditional face-toface Advanced Placement exams will not take place. On April 3, the full exam schedule including the specific free-response questions that will comprise each AP exam



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

School employee Mayra Figueroe receives the meals through the window at Hybla Valley Elementary School and turns around and hands them to area residents.

SEE MEALS, PAGE 11

Neon Green Creek Waters Alarm Mount Vernon Residents

Friends of Dyke Marsh were quick to respond.

By Mike Salmon The Connection

n the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, somehow this unnamed creek in the Mount Vernon area turned bright green.

It was almost neon green, so the or another plumbing entity trac-Friends of the Dyke Marsh jumped into action and brought in officials from various Fairfax County departments to monitor the incident.

Initially they attributed it to a prank, dye poured into the water,

ing a leak from somewhere up stream, but it still remains a mys-

The Dyke Marsh is fed by two creeks that flow in from the northwest direction, under the George Washington Memorial Parkway into the Dyke Marsh, adjacent to the Potomac River.

On Friday, March 20, nearby residents Laura Sebastianelli and Mike Sieriacki noticed the creek color and took a few pictures of the stream behind River Towers Condominiums, which were sent to others in the group, including Glenda Booth, the president of the Friends group.

"I was going to take a sunrise image and noticed it was green," said Sebastianelli.

The first picture was taken about 7:15 a.m. on Friday morning, and about an hour later, county officials were on site doing water samples.

Throughout the day, Booth reached out to officials from various county environmental and wastewater officials, and the National Park Service that oversees the parkway, and got various responses. Much of it led to the speculation that the green water was caused by a dye, but they don't know the source of it. Since the area is part of a tidal area, it could have flowed in from the Potomac River.

The use of harmless dye to find a leak is a common practice in the plumbing industry, although on this day near Dyke Marsh there were no reported occurrences of

"Dye is commonly used to see if a toilet's flapper is leaking water from the tank into the bowl that can cause a lot of water usage due to the leak," said Andrew H. Simpson, Master Plumber at Sagewater in Alexandria. "The leak shows that the flapper would need to be replaced," he added.

The Marsh Lives On

The Dyke Marsh is along the river bank in certain parts and is healthier now than it was years ago, but still suffers from trash, microplastics and invasive species like the hydrilla plant that can be seen in many areas of the Potomac

The water was an orange color a few years ago, but that was attributed to an influx of sediments that eroded into the creek upstream, just down the hill from Richmond Highway.

The source of the green water may never be known, but the Friends group was happy with the

SEE DYKE MARSH, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY LAURA SEBASTIANELLI

Green creek waters flowed into Dyke Marsh last Friday, March 20.

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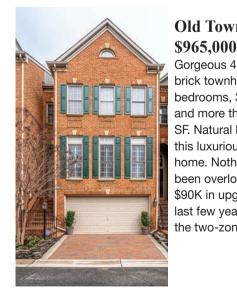
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Are Northern Virginia Hospitals Ready?

Projections show a critical lack of hospital beds and ICU beds.

By Michael Lee Pope THE GAZETTE PACKET

orthern Virginia's health care system could be overwhelmed by an influx of patients infected with the novel coronavirus, according to an assessment from the Harvard Global Health Institute. The projections show hospitals in Fairfax, Arlington and Alexandria could quickly fill their available beds with patients, forcing administrators to either expand capacity or make the kind of life-and-death decisions about care that Italy has been forced into by the crisis.

"The numbers seem very daunting," said Thomas Tsai, assistant professor at the Harvard Global Health Institute. "Our goal was to motivate collective action so we are not making decisions when the epidemic is hitting individual hospitals."

One scenario presented by the institute paints a grim picture for the Arlington Hospital Referral Region, which includes Fairfax County and Alexandria. Assuming the virus infects 40 percent of the population and social distancing allows for the disease to

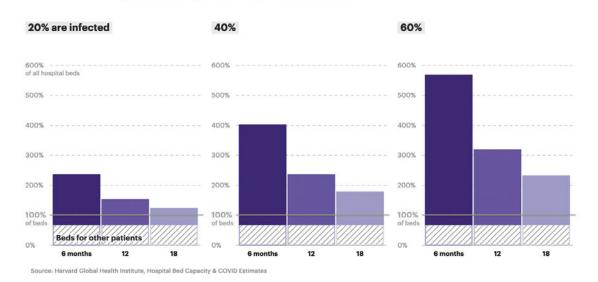
be spread out over six months, more than 10,000 hospital beds would be needed to handle the crush of new patients. That's about 1,000 percent of available beds. Even if hospital administrators cancel most elective surgeries and double the number of beds available, that's still five patients for every hospital bed.

"Nobody really knows what the disease course is going to look like," said Tsai. "So it's important to stay grounded on what we do know, which is our bed supply and our ICU supply."

even more ominous, a particularly unsettling dimension of the projections because these are the patients who would need ventilators because of the intense respiratory problems associated with the disease. Under the scenario where the virus infects 40 percent of the population and social distancing allows for the disease to be spread out over a six-month period, more than 2,000 ICU beds will be needed. Even if most elective surgeries are canceled, according to the Harvard projections, that would still put the the need for ICU beds at 700 percent. That's seven people for every available ICU bed.

According to the model, about a fifth of adults who are infected will need to be hospitalized.

This is how many hospital beds will be needed in Arlington, VA if infections are spread out over 6 months, 12 months or 18 months and...



GRAPH COURTESY OF PRO PUBLICA

"Our goal was to motivate collective action so we are not making decisions when the epidemic is hitting individual hospitals."

IF NO STEPS WERE TAKEN at social distanc-

ing, health experts say, the course of the disease would be about one month. That would totally overwhelm the system and create an un-The data on intensive care unit beds is workable crisis. Spreading the course of the disease out over six months would require a sus-

> tancing, an effort to flatten the curve that is still in the early stages. "We are moving into a period of sacrifice," explained Gov. Ralph Northam as he cancelled all Virginia schools for the rest of the academic

"This is looking exclusively at hospital beds based on predictive modeling," said Julian Walker, vice president of communications for the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. "There are also many other healthcare facilities in this state, outpatient

surgery centers for example, that are not counted in the hospital bed totals that could also be pressed into service in the event that there is a real medical surge issue here."

tained effort at social dis-

year. "We all need to take care of each other from afar because social distancing is the only path forward."

Even if the course of the disease is spread out over 18 months, which would require a massive and unprecedented effort at social distancing, the predictive model still shows the system in Northern Virginia does not have enough capacity. Assuming every elective surgery is cancelled, doubling the availability of ICU beds, Northern Virginia will have a 150 percent need for ICU beds. That's two ICU beds for three patients who need respirators in September 2021.

"We are underprepared for this kind of an event," said Kevin Peach, chairman of the Local Emergency Planning Committee in Alexandria. "That's why people are behaving the way they are and that there's such an elevated panic."

HOSPITALS ACROSS VIR-

GINIA are taking steps to prepare for the potential crush of patients flooding their emergency rooms. Elective surgeries have been postponed or cancelled, placing a financial burden on the industry. Mary Washington Healthcare in Fredericksburg has already set up a field hospital, and other hospitals are exploring the idea of setting up their own field hospitals. The governor has also relaxed regulation on steps necessary to establish new hospital beds.

"During this public health emergency, government rules about establishing hospital beds are being relaxed," said Walker. "So all of the tools that are available are being explored and leveraged."

Walker also noted that the Virginia Healthcare Emergency Management Program was set up after 9/11 to prepare for prepare for a variety of public health emergencies. Participants include public health officials, state government leaders, the hospital community, first-responders and public-safety personnel. For more than 20 years, these groups have been engaged in strategic planning, operational planning, information sharing and resource coordination.

"The planning and prep work to respond to these situations is something goes on on a regular basis," said Walker. "And that kind of collaboration that has existed for the last 20 years is being brought to bear by assembling all of the stakeholders and assembling the resources to try to combat this head on."

Spring2ACTion Set for April 15

COVID-19 outbreak prompts date change.

CT for Alexandria has announced that Spring2ACTion, an online giving day originally scheduled for April 29, will now take place April 15 in an effort to meet immediate community needs in response to the COVID-19 outbreak. Early giving opportunities will begin April 3.

"Alexandria's nonprofits are on the front lines in responding to this public health crisis," said Heather Peeler, ACT for Alexandria President and CEO, in a statement announcing the change. "Like many small businesses, nonprofits are facing an existential financial threat. Through Spring2ACTion they can raise the critical funds they need to purchase supplies, pay rent and reconfigure their programs and services to support our neighbors in need."

Since its inception in 2011, the online giving day has raised more than \$10 million for local nonprofits. Last year Spring2ACTion raised \$2 million and has set a goal of \$2.2 million for 2020. While Spring2ACTion has historically featured inperson events in addition to online giving, this year all activities will take place virtually.

For more information about Spring2ACTion, visit www.Spring2ACTion.org



Recreational trails run through the park including the southern end of the Gerry Connolly Cross County Trail.



Photos by
Mike Salmon/
The Connection

'Big Ideas' Sought for Occoquan Park

Additional land open for a park element that would attract 200,000+ visitors a year.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

n an effort to catapult the south ern portion of Fairfax County further into a tourist destination, a request for proposals (RFP) was passed recently "to design, finance, construct and operate a unique regional recreational facility at Occoquan Regional Park," the RFP language read. This "unique regional recreational facility in the Park that will attract at least 200,000 visitors a year and that will offer an attraction that is substantially different from anything currently available within at least a one hundred mile radius of the park," it said.

This unique recreational facility could be a number of things that could be built on the additional 30 acres of buildable park land the Fairfax County Park Authority recently opened, and for now, the sky is the limit on what would go in the park. As long as it is compatible with the project scope, it

says in the county's document. "The Authority's vision is to create a unique destination that will complement both the planned indoor ski facility to be developed on the adjacent property and the existing facilities in the park," their document states.



The trails attract joggers, walkers and cyclists.

Paul Gilbert, the executive director at NVRPA, said there was interest by a couple of companies to build "new major attractions in the back of the park," he said in an

SEE OCCOQUAN, PAGE 5
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com



At the creek crossings, the community has put in bridges.

Officials Seeking Change for Occoquan Regional Park

From Page 4

email, but fell short of saying what the new attractions were. He hinted that they were an "aquatic type of facility," and looked forward to seeing all the proposals. "They need to be big and unique," he said.

The current waterside park is dominated by 'The River View' event facility, Brickmaker's Café, a 5K loop trail, an event pavilion and views of the Occoquan River. A facility to attract 200,000 people, as noted in the RFP, would seemingly require more parking and access roads as well. It wouldn't take much to create a traffic standstill on the one park access road from Ox Road that is currently used to enter the park. Addressing the additional traffic is one of the points on the RFP. The RFP was issued in early February and the proposals are due at noon on Friday April 3. (Dates may be changed at this point due to the coronavirus pandemic.)

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) is watching this closely as well. Storck has been behind the effort to enhance tourism in southern Fairfax County, and recently formed a tourism task force for this ef-

The park went through a renovation in June 2018,

and is close to the area where the indoor ski facility will go and right next door to the Workhouse Arts facility, so the stage is set for development in this part of the county.

"Fairfax County's economy is diversified by a significant Travel and Tourism economy, driven by our amazing tourism assets. We are so fortunate to have an amazing Parks infrastructure for both residents and visitors alike to enjoy and experience. If NOVA Parks can attract a unique and dynamic new recreational facility that will attract hundreds of thousands of people a year, the benefits will ripple throughout the economy of our area," remarked Barry Biggar, President/CEO of Visit Fairfax.

In the RFP, the FCPA is looking for a plan for the development of the project that is compatible with certain parameters. They are looking for key elements of the concept plan to include:

- ❖ A narrative explaining the architectural features of the facility and the significant components of the
- ❖ A breakout of the square footage of the facility by category of use
- Conceptual plans for road access and utility connections to serve the facility.

Area Roundups

Historic Pohick Episcopal Church Live Streaming Services Through Easter

cancelled due to the coronavirus, live-streaming of Pohick Episcopal Church worship services on the church Facebook will continue on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. for the duration. To access the services, go to: https://www.facebook.com/PohickChurch and

With the public services at the church remaining scroll down to the "Posts" section. The live video will appear in the Posts section. Holy Week services, including Easter Sunday, will most likely also be online. For the latest information and updates, visit the Pohick Church website at http://www.pohick.org or call the church office at 703-339-6572.



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Alex/ Woodleigh Woods 3709 Maryland Street

Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/a gorgeous court yard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped back yard. Numerous updates to include: kitchen w/granite counters & SS appliances, recently replaced DBL pane, energy efficient

windows, freshly painted interior, & all 3 baths. The kitchen, dining & living rooms all face out back & have a wall of picture windows looking out at the deck, hot tub & fenced back yard. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the court yard. As you walk thru this home you marvel at the open contemporary design that makes you feel like you are one w/your environment. Walkable ¼ mile to Mt. Vernon bike/walking trail along the Potomac. Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Old Town (N), 25 minutes to National Airport (N), all along the scenic GW Pkwy, each season gives you beautiful views.



Alex/Riverside Estates 8501 Wagon Wheel Road

Beautifully updated 4BR, 3BA Split w/carport -2500+ square ft. on a large landscaped .3 acre lot w/fenced-in back yard. Freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors throughout the

main level. Large family room w/wood burning FPL & 4th BR on lower level w/a refinished bath, & two large utility rooms. Perfect for workshop/storage. You can't find a better value or neighborhood for this price! 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir, (S) 15 minutes to Old Town Alex. (N) along the beautiful GW Parkway.



Alex/Riverside Estates 3026 Battersea Lane

Riverside Estates, the Biggest Bang for your Buck!! This large Virginia model offers 5BRs, 3 updated baths, a gorgeous upgraded kitchen w/granite counters, cherry cabinets & 12" ceramic tile flooring. Beautiful hardwood floors on the

main level plus upgraded, energy efficient DBL pane windows throughout. The electric panel had major upgrades in 2008, & the deck was rebuilt in 2016, it looks out at the beautifully landscaped backyard complete w/a new privacy fence & underground sprinkler system. Don't miss the 2 car garage as well – Check out the competition, then come talk with us. We're always ready to reach out with a helping hand.



Alex/Mt. Zephyr 8541 Mt. Zephyr Dr.

Great price for this lovely two level solid all-brick home with garage on 1/3 acre in Mt. Vernon community. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths. Renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious and open, with sliding glass doors to private backyard. Charming front

living room with ample windows, and wood burning fireplace with white, colonial style mantel. Spacious lower level has finished family room w/ 2nd fireplace and a bonus workroom. Conveniently located near Ft. Belvoir (10 mins), GW Parkway and Potomac River, Old Town Alexandria, Pentagon, and D.C



Mt. Vernon/Wessynton 3102 Cunningham Drive

Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessynton, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beau-

ful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessynton amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.



4100 Woodley Drive Lovely all brick 2 level raised/ranch ramble deep in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Large .25 acre corner lot with carport. Lovely hardwood floors on the main level, double pane windows . 2 updated baths on the main level and an updated 3rd full bath on the lower level.

2 wood burning FPLs, one on each level. Potential 4th bedroom on the lower level. Roof is 10 years old, furnace 5 months, A/C 7 years. Commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town-minutes to Ft. Belvoir.



Alex/Riverside Estates

8506 Wagon Wheel Road Beautifully remodeled 4BR, 3BA Split – Kitchen w/granite, SS & ceramic tile floor opens to the living & dining rooms- hardwood floors on main level, 6 panel doors – replacement double pane windows-lower level w/large family room & wood

burning fireplace w/large 3rd & 4th bedrooms & 3rd full bath- walkout to large fenced bkyd - deck overlooks bkyd- Carport w/large storage shed-Close to Ft. Belvoir-Walk to elementary, high school & Mt. Vernon Estate - Great commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town, - Owner is Realton

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Leave a positive review for a hotel that left an impression	Get a DIY project from one of the local shops	Go on a virtual tour of the National Gallery of Art	Call a friend that you haven't talked to in a while and catch up	Order delivery from one of your favorite ALX restaurants and leave a big tip!
Buy a gift card to one of your favorite ALX restaurants or coffee shops	Re-watch the Washington Nationals win the 2019 World Series Championship	WASH YOUR HANDS	Practice social distancing on one of the local trails	Watch the Panda Cam courtesy of the National Zoo
Clean out your closet and donate clothes to the American Experience Foundation	Watch an NPR Tiny Desk concert	Re-watch the Washington Mystics win the 2019 WNBA Championship	Tour some of the Smithsonian Institution's collections in 3D	Set up a virtual happy hour with friends
Find ALX makers on Etsy and Pinterest	Have a living room dance party to 80s music	Create an ALX bucket list for the future	Donate or help out a local charity	Check out online collections courtesy of the Library of Congress



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'Our Priority Is to Save Lives'

Governor Northam orders statewide closure of certain non-essential businesses: all public and private schools K-12 closed for the rest of the academic year.

By Mercia Hobson The Gazette

OVID-19 is serious, and we must act. Unfortunately, the virus does not respect national borders or state borders. It is now everywhere, or it will be soon. That is what happens when a global pandemic hits a nation. With this pandemic, states have been left to figure out this on our own, and I'm acting to protect Virginians," said Virginia Governor Ralph Northam who issued statewide Executive Order Number Fifty-Three (2020) in response to the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic on Monday, March 23. It ordered the closure of certain non-essential businesses, bans all gatherings of more than 10 people, and closes all K-12 schools for the remainder of the academic year. The Order goes into effect at 11:59 p.m. on Tuesday, March 24, 2020. It remains in place until 11:59 p.m. on Thursday, April 23, 2020.

Northam said, "Nonessential retail establishments can remain open if they allow 10 or fewer patrons and adhere to social distancing and increase sanitizing procedures. Essential services like grocery stores, health services and businesses in our supply chain will remain open, but they must adhere to social distancing and increased sanitizing procedures. Gatherings of more than 10 are banned. We do not make these decisions lightly." He stressed there would be expectations for essential businesses that remained open. Social distancing mattered, and businesses that remained open had a responsibility to adhere to social distancing recommendations. "You need to step up sanitizing practices on common service surfaces...Make no mistake. If you are essential and open, you have a special responsibility to do the right thing," he said.

AS FOR SCHOOLS, Northam said that closures were necessary to minimize the speed at which COVID-19 spread and protect the capacity of the healthcare system. Northam said, "By tomorrow, our Department of Education will issue guidance to help school divisions think through those decisions and ensure that every student is served equitably. We're already working on waivers to relieve testing requirements and ensure that our students who were on track to graduate can do so." He added that according to a Yale study estimate, 80,000 of students statewide may be the children of health care workers and urged a public-private response. "Today I'm calling on our local communities, private daycare providers, community childcare partners, and



Gov. Ralph Northam, COVID-19 Briefing. March 23

public schools to rally together to provide childcare for the young children and schoolaged children of essential personnel. Our childcare providers are also essential personnel," Northam said.

Northam said individuals were moving into a period of sacrifice. "Most of us have already begun to experience this. Many businesses are closed already because their owners have done the responsible thing...Today, thousands, thousands of people are without work here in our Commonwealth. About 40,000 people have filed for unemployment just last week. That number will, unfortunately, go up. More families will be out of work that has serious health consequences too. It will lead to anxiety; it will lead to fear. It is difficult to live with uncertainty. We can expect to see more depression, alcoholism and domestic violence. But the sooner we all take these necessary steps to slow the spread, the sooner we will all get through this," said Northam.

In closing, Northam acknowledged the health crisis and economic crisis and said that the sooner that we can get this health crisis under control, the sooner our economy will recover. "So I asked every Virginian to stand with me as we fight this battle. Do your part. Stay home, when you can, and social distance and wash your hands when you must go out for supplies. I know that the next several weeks, the next several months will be difficult. They will require everyone to change the way that we live and the way we interact with each other.

We have not been called upon to sacrifice this in many, many years. But I am calling on you to do just that. We must put aside what we want and replace it with what we need... It will take time, but we can, and we will get through this together."

According to the Executive Order, violation of paragraphs 1, 3, 4 and 6 of the Order shall be a Class 1 misdemeanor pursuant to § 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia.

Paragraph 1-Effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until 11:59 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2020, all public and private in person gatherings of 10 or more individuals are prohibited.

Paragraph 3-Closure of all dining and congregation areas in restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, and farmers markets effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until 11:59 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2020. Restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, tasting rooms, and farmers markets may continue to offer delivery and take-out services.

Paragraph 4-Closure of all public access to recreational and entertainment businesses, effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until 11:59 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2020 as set forth below:

- Theaters, performing arts centers, concert venues, museums, and other indoor entertainment centers;
- ❖ Fitness centers, gymnasiums, recreation centers, indoor sports facilities, and indoor exercise facilities;
- ❖ Beauty salons, barbershops, spas, massage parlors, tanning salons, tattoo shops, and any other location where personal care or personal grooming services are performed that would not allow compliance with social distancing guidelines to remain six feet apart;
- ❖ Racetracks and historic horse racing facilities; and
- * Bowling alleys, skating rinks, arcades, amusement parks, trampoline parks, fairs, arts and craft facilities, aquariums, zoos, escape rooms, indoor shooting ranges, public and private social clubs, and all other places of indoor public amusement.

Paragraph 6 Effective 11:59 p.m., Tuesday, March 24, 2020 until 11:59 p.m., Thursday, April 23, 2020, any brick and mortar retail business not listed in paragraph 5 may continue to operate but must limit all in-person shopping to no more than 10 patrons per establishment. If any such business cannot adhere to the 10 patron limit with proper social distancing requirements, it must close.

Paragraph 5

- Grocery stores, pharmacies, and other retailers that sell food and beverage products or pharmacy products, including dollar stores, and department stores with grocery or pharmacy operations;
- Medical, laboratory, and vision supply retailers:
- * Electronic retailers that sell or service cell phones, computers, tablets, and other communications technology;
- ❖ Automotive parts, accessories, and tire retailers as well as automotive repair facilities;
- Home improvement, hardware, building material, and building supply retailers;
 - Lawn and garden equipment retailers;
 - Beer, wine, and liquor stores;
- Retail functions of gas stations and convenience stores;
 Retail located within healthcare facili-
- ties;
- Banks and other financial institutions with retail functions;
 - Pet and feed stores;
 - Printing and office supply stores; and
 - Laundromats and dry cleaners.

To read Executive Order visit https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-53-Temporary-Restrictions-Due-To-Novel-Coronavirus-(COVID-19).pdf

Worried about not being able to get food or unsure where your next meal will come from, text "food" or "comida" to 877-877 to connect with nearby resources & help.

OPINION

Keep Calm and Social Distance!

Ways you can help in COVID-19 time.

By Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt Vernon)

eave nothing for tomorrow which can be done today," said Abraham Lincoln. Well, today, our community needs your help.

It is a strange and ever evolving new reality we find ourselves in

as a result of the Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19). Three weeks ago, we never imagined we would find ourselves with schools, parks, libraries and businesses closed; being asked to stay home; empty groceries store shelves or financial instability. However, we are all in this together and we will work to get through this together. Adversity drives us to find new ways to do things and that is just what

the County is doing. As our Board Chairman Jeff McKay said last week, "I don't believe there's any better place in this country or this world to make it through trying times than in

Fairfax County." We have the resources and we are prepared. For updates on all the County is doing and resources available, visit: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/ and sign up for text alerts by texting FFXCOVID to 888777.

There is also much you can do in this time of great uncertainty and need. Look out for your neighbors, offer to pick up groceries for the elderly or facetime those you

might normally visit. In our broader community, many are facing financial or food insecurity. As our human services and non-profit providers are seeing increased demand, they are also receiving less donations. Blood banks are running low and many organizations still need volunteers – with safety and social distancing precautions. We have put together a comprehensive list of those offering services in our

community, both for those in need and those looking to help on our website: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/. We will continue to update this information as we receive updates.

Businesses are also facing hardship and uncertainty, especially our small, local businesses. Please consider continuing to support those you can through ordering take out and delivery, purchasing gift cards or making donations to their employees.

We have a very strong, engaged and caring community. It has been amazing to see so many great examples of charity and assistance. It is also encouraging to see so many wonderful new healthy habits – families jogging and riding bikes daily, spending family time playing board games and using social media to connect with each other. These new habits, enhanced interactions and pathways will make each of us and our community stronger when this crisis is over.

Our destiny is in our own hands.

P.S. Don't forget to complete the 2020 U.S. Census: https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/census!

Photos by Susan Laume/The Connection



VIEWPOINTS

Life in a Time of Health Emergency

The Connection asked two questions of people met in area parks this week: "How is the health emergency impacting you" and "What positive have you noticed during these changed times?"

–Susan Laume



Walter Nockett, portfolio manager, Alexandria

"Working from home, which we had not done before. {Our] business is based on face to face interaction, but transition has been seamless. Like being able to separate from work and have more time for walks with the dog."



Michael Crossin, systems engineer, Dumfries

"Now on mandatory work from home, but otherwise not much has changed. More family time and neighborhood coming together to help each other, and the school system providing meals for those who need them.



Karin Drinkhall, new mother, Springfield

"I was already isolating and on leave, having a newborn with having to build up her immune system. So I'm a little paranoid, like a lot of people. Not really seeing any positives."



Heather Filipunas, surgical dental assistant, Lorton

"Surgical procedures are on hold except for emergencies. Hours at work are cut back which leads to stress and the worry of how you're going to pay your bills; it brings financial burdens to families. I have more family time at home. The most likely one to bring it [the virus] home would be me, so it's keeping me [taking precautions] from catching it and giving it to my family."



Chuck Dereck, Retired Environmental Engineer, Fairfax Station, and wife Joan

"We had a number of planned trips cancelled, and can't go to the gym every day. Can't go to brew pubs. Can't go back to finish dental work."

Joan added, "Yard looks amazing with gardening hours every day; our relationship with the little girl next door who comes over to read, and bake, and play cards while her mom works at home; and time for watching movies every night."



Danny Reighard, graphics designer, Alexandria

"Working from home now, but other than that not much effect. More time to go for walks outdoors and exercise."



Terri Everett, registered nurse anesthesiologist, Alexandria

"Educating people about social awareness and how serious this is. We think about bad things but people mean the most and we want to keep them safe."

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

@MtVernonGazette

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A Connection Newspaper



OPINION

Commonwealth's Coronavirus Response

By Sen. Scott Surovell

his week, I had planned to write about some of the major bills that we passed in the 2020 session of the General Assembly, but in light of the coronavirus risk and its impacts, I decided that updating the community on the Commonwealth's responses is a priority. Here is where things stand as of Sunday, March 22. Please keep in mind this will be published later and things change daily.

Multiple websites offer guidance and updates on the coronavirus and how to address it. The state's website is vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus and I post updates on my scottsurovell.blogspot.com.

I have spent most of the entire week home with my family like many other people. My law firm decided to remain open with a skeleton crew, four people versus 30 in the office every day, until further notice. I had my shift on Friday. Otherwise, I worked on my constituents' problems and my legal responsibilities from home and had some quality family time.

Coronavirus infections in Virginia continue to rise at a logarithmic rate. The increases on Saturday and Sunday were 37 percent and 55 percent over the prior day's a couple of days is going to be down close Disaster Loan declaration which makes total. The virus is continuing to expand its reach in Virginia at rapid rate and we still do not know the complete infection rate due to a lack of testing. The state and most of the rest of the country have moved beyond containment. We are now focused on miti-

Virginia Governor Ralph Northam requested our share of the national stockpile of personal protective equipment (PPE) early. Virginia received 10 percent of what we requested and that was 50 percent of the national stockpile. The country was clearly unprepared.

The state government has been requesting test kits, but the reagents for the kits are in limited supply as 50 states and 130 countries chase the same materials and our existing laboratory capacity is insufficient to process large volumes of tests. We have asked our university medical centers to step up their capacity to process tests. So far, the University of Virginia was able to help, but they are only able to process 80 tests per day starting this past weekend.

Again, the country was unprepared for this even though we had around 60 days to prepare for it before it arrived in the U.S. On Feb. 26, the President said we had 15 cases in the United States and that "within

to zero." That is a quote.

Here is a summary of some of the major actions taken by the state of Virginia:

The Governor has prohibited from being in the same place at once. This means that gatherings of more than 10 people at most restaurants, churches and other places cannot occur. A violation is a Class 1 misde-

The state has extended the deadline to file and pay your state taxes from May 1 to June 1. We could not extend it 90 days like the federal government due to implications for the next fiscal year that begins July 1. (The federal government extended the deadline for paying 2019 federal taxes to July 1, 2020.)

The state has extended all deadlines to renew state vehicle licenses and state vehicle inspections by 60 days. Both Fairfax County and Prince William Police Departments have indicated that they will not enforce violations of overdue vehicle licenses and inspections during that period.

The state has cancelled all remaining Standards of Learning Tests and is seeking a waiver from the U.S. Department of Education which requires the test.

The state received an Economic Injury

small businesses eligible to apply for loans of up to \$2 million each.

Unemployment claims spiked by 1,500 percent last week after 30,000 applications came in. Virginia has eliminated the oneweek waiting period; expanded eligibility to those who are quarantined, sick or caring for a child whose school or childcare was closed; and eliminated the requirement to continue seeking work.

The State Corporation Commission granted Attorney General Mark Herring's petition to prohibit utilities from terminating utility services for 60 days.

The state Supreme Court has extended all filing deadlines for any proceedings to April 6 and most area courts have continued all cases until after that date. That has effectively temporarily postponed all eviction cases, for a short period of time.

We are still assessing the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the state budget. It will be significant.

Strong, clear, consistent federal leadership in this crisis is critical and that has been lacking. In its absence, your state officials will continue to step up, but this is a national problem that requires national solutions. If you have any feedback, please email me at scott@scottsurovell.org.

Global to Local: Coronavirus Defines Us

Week Two 03/15-03/21- feeding children is priority for FCPS.

By Mercia Hobson The Gazette

he week of March 8-14 ended with an outdoor sign at Pots & Plants on Georgetown Pike in Great Falls reading, "What a week this year has been."

On March 21, Johns Hopkins University of Medicine confirmed the United States now placed 3rd globally in the total number of confirmed COVID-19 cases with China and Italy preceding.

Phrases such as "wash your hands," "social distancing," and "flatten the curve," became the norm. Locals changed how they lived, learned, worked, played and worshiped. Many, but not all took proactive measures protecting themselves, their families and the community.

Fairfax County Public Schools remained closed. Parents found themselves with an unexpected job description: educator. Social distancing meant working from

A second crisis, locally, spun off from the coronavirus pandemic food insecurity for the 55,000 school-aged children in Fairfax County who are poor enough to qualify for subsidized meals during the school year.

While those in medical, safety and military professions had long been termed first responders, a new group of individuals took to the front lines. In grocery stores, cashiers such as the one at Safeway in Great Falls rung up purchases for his neighbors but with limited protection gear, not unlike most other cashiers and shelf stockers.

Nonprofit organizations, including Cornerstones in Reston, told volunteers not to show up; staff took to the frontlines.

Monday, March 16 - Food is priority #1 for school-aged children in Fairfax County.

All Fairfax County Public school buildings close. The school system announces food distribution sites.

Financial markets crater. Both the Dow Jones and the S&P 500 have their most significant oneday falls since Black Monday 1987. S&P 500 drops 11.9 percent. Nasdaq drops 12.3 percent. All three indexes are down more than 25 percent from their highs, according to Dow Jones.

Tuesday, March 17- Virginia governor urges those over 65 to self-quarantine.

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors holds an Emergency

Special Meeting and declares a local state of emergency. Gov. Ralph Northam, a pediatrician, adopts federal government guidelines of limiting gatherings to 10 people. However, he does not order restaurants and bars to close; instead, he says, "We're encouraging that they use takeout ordering so that people won't be inside the confined space."

Wednesday, March 18 -Amazon donates a local \$1 million for COVID-19 relief to four area nonprofit organizations, including the Community Foundation of Northern Virginia.

Thursday, March 19 - Evidence of community spread in

Fairfax County Health Department releases the words no one wants to read: "Today, public health officials noted evidence of community transmission of the COVID-19 coronavirus in parts of Northern Virginia." It urges, "vigilant social distancing," staying at least six feet from others in all situations. FCPS expands grab-and-go food distribution sites, begins popup sites and buses deliver graband-go meals along select bus

Friday, March 20 - New first responders. Cornerstones in



Reston Town Center is deserted Wednesday, March 18, following action by V.A. Governor Ralph Northam to adopt federal government guidelines limiting gatherings to 10 people in a confined space.

Reston, self-described as an "ad- ranks 4th worldwide vocate for those struggling to make ends meet in northwestern Fairfax County and the Dulles corridor," requests shelter volunteers, refrain from coming in for the next two weeks. The staff performs the

Saturday, March 21 - U.S. rockets to 3rd place.

At 4:43 p.m., Johns Hopkins reports 156 confirmed cases of coronavirus COVID-19 for Virginia with two deaths: That afternoon, the United States ranks 4th worldwide - 24,148 confirmed cases. By evening, the United States sky-

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Mount Vernon Gazette & March 26 - April 1, 2020 & 9

The New Normal City adjusts in wake of COVID-19 mandates.

By Jeanne Theismann Gazette Packet

he Royal Restaurant has weathered economic challenges before. Since opening in Old Town in 1904, it has maintained operations through two World Wars, the Great Depression and the more recent recessions of the 20th and 21st centuries. But the COVID-19 pandemic has altered life across the city for businesses and residents alike in a way never experienced in recent memory.

"No one expected this," said Chris Euripides of The Royal Restaurant. "I've had to cut some staff and no one likes to do that. But even though it would save some money, I won't completely shut down. I'm trying to get creative to keep people working, to keep paying them. They are like family."

Euripides and other business owners are adjusting to Virginia Governor Ralph Northam's executive order announced March 23 that mandates strict guidelines during the state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Executive Order 53 took effect at 11:59 p.m. March 24 and remains in effect through 11:59 p.m. April 23 unless otherwise modified. The order bans all gatherings of more than 10 people; closes non-essential recreation and entertainment businesses; permits food service establishments to remain open only for takeout and delivery; permits essential retail businesses to remain open only with social distancing and enhanced sanitizing practices; limits non-essential retail businesses to no more than 10 patrons per establishment with social distancing and sanitizing; and requires nonessential professional businesses to use telework as much as possible.



Du Choe, owner of The Uptowner on King Street, will continue to serve take-out customers but has lost 80 percent of his business.

Businesses across the spectrum are being forced to modify services or close completely.

"We are taking this situation very seriously," said Scott Sanderford, managing partner of Everly-Wheatley Funeral Home. "Nothing is more important than the health and well-being of clients. Our associates are following all directives of the CDC and Virginia Department of Health and we are limiting gatherings to no more than 10 people. In making arrangements, we are trying to handle details over the phone or by email and fax but we want everyone to know that we are open and here for the community."

Law enforcement and first responders are also implementing procedural changes.

The most visible effects of the statewide mandates are the empty streets of Old Town and Del Ray.

"King Street and Mount Vernon Avenue look like ghost towns, by design," said Bill Reagan, Executive Director of the Small Business Development Center. "We want people out of the flow so that the virus does not peak too heavily."

Reagan and Small Business Development Center staff are assisting small businesses in applying for Small Business Administration Economic Injury Disaster Loans. which were made available this week. "The most tangible thing a business owner can do today is apply for the EIDL. These are 30year loans at 3.75 percent interest with the first payment not due for a vear."

"We're really in the early stages of dealing with this," Reagan said. "Information is changing rapidly – a week ago seems like a month ago. The EIDL program might be what makes the difference in keeping people employed and businesses running for a while longer."

With restaurants under tight restrictions, some, like those oper-



A shopper wears a protective face mask while using selfcheckout March 23 at the Giant grocery store on Duke Street.



An employee sanitizes empty shelves prior to restocking March 23 at the Giant grocery store on Duke Street.

ated by Alexandria Restaurant Partners, have temporarily closed their doors. The ARP group, which owns Vola's, Mia's Italian Kitchen, Riverside Taco, The Majestic, Lena's, Theismann's and Palette 22, is selling gift cards to raise money for an employee relief fund. So far more than \$30,000 has been collected and ARP has offered fresh produce, milk and toilet paper to over 80 employees free of charge.

the Bradlee Shopping Center can come in for meals free of charge. "Customers can get carryout and

Servers at Atlantis Restaurant in

we are following closely the rules and regulations of the health department," said Atlantis owner Bill Patrianokos. "We are doing what we can and hoping for the best."

As the situation continues to evolve, Euripides is heartened by the way people are coming together during this unprecedented crisis. "All across the country, we are seeing people working together," Euripides said. "This is the America that I appreciate - Americans coming together to solve a problem. I hope and pray this comes and goes but we are in this together and will survive."



OF COMMERCE

Connecting Business and Community

Find local businesses at www.MtVernon-LeeChamber.org 703-360-6925

Monthly Networking

Second Thursday Business Breakfast 2nd Thursday of each month 8:00 am to 9:30 am Belle Haven Country Club

MOUNT VERNON-LEE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 6821 Richmond Highway / Alexandria, VA 22306





Area children arrived by rollerblades to get their food.

Рното ву Mike Salmon

Meals Distributed at Schools

From Page 1

will be published by the College Board.

SOL tests are expected to be canceled this year. The Virginia Department of Education is preparing an application for the testing waiver from the U.S. Dept. of Education.

FCPS offers grab and go food distribution sites, including pop-up sites in the community, curbside pickup at two schools, and meal delivery along some bus routes.

Go to https://www.fcps.edu/news/coronavirusupdate-food-resources for more information.



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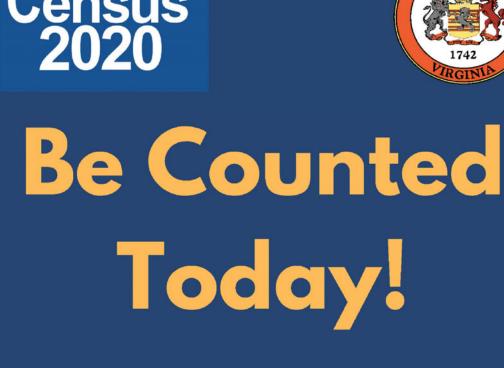
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Entertainment

Restaurants Offering Takeout, Delivery Options During Pandemic

By Hope Nelson

s the effects of the covid-19 pandemic continue to bear down on Alexandria, the city's restaurants are pivoting with the times (and the orders of city and state government). Just like that, gone are the days of loitering at a table in an eatery's dining room; in are the days of curbside pickup and delivery. And, thanks to some new regulations by the city government, restaurants can also offer

APPETITE

beer, wine and cocktails for carryout or delivery (within VABC parameters, of course).

This week's "Appetite" column is less of a column than it is a listing of some – but decidedly not all – restaurants offering up delivery or carryout options in the face of the pandemic. From bagels in the morning to margaritas with dinner, the area's eateries have you covered.

Please note that while these listings are accurate as of press time, the landscape is changing quickly, so give restaurants a call or check out their social media pages before making a special trip.

Aslin Beer Company: Aslin's West End tasting room is closed, but the brewery is keeping the beer flowing with curbside pickup and home delivery. During tasting room hours, simply order and pay via Aslin's website and set a pickup time; or, for orders greater than \$75, request delivery to your home for an additional \$10 fee. https://www.aslinbeer.com/online-ordering

Chop Shop Taco: Let the taco shop make dinner for you and the family with Chop Shop Home Meals. Simply order the meal – which is suitable for a half-dozen

people and includes a quart of pork posole, a half-pound of chorizo-beef, a half-pound of chicken and all the side items – online and set your pickup time. Each order comes with a \$25 gift card – and two rolls of toilet paper. https://www.chopshoptaco.com

Elizabeth's Counter: The new plant-based outpost, which recently began its transformation from Sugar Shack, is offering in-store pickup as well as delivery. Order your meal online at https://www.elizabethscounter.com/ for pickup, or order through UberEats for delivery.

Holy Cow, Pork Barrel BBQ and The Sushi Bar: The trio of restaurants situated next to each other on Mount Vernon Avenue offers tented curbside pickup. Order your meal online and then arrange a time for contactless pickup. Reach all three restaurants by going here: http://www.holycowdelray.com

Hops n Shine: Hops n Shine is offering a very limited number of dine-in tables as well as carry-out food and beer. Bring your growler for a fill-up or take home cans from the restaurant. Want to stay home instead? Order through Grubhub. http://hopsnshine.com

Jeni's Splendid Ice Cream: Order four or more pints of Jeni's ice cream, and the shop will deliver to your home. Or pick up a pint to go from the shop – order online before you head over. https://jenis.olo.com

Lost Boy Cider: Alexandria's only cidery is offering curbside pickup for both six-packs well as 19-ounce stovepipes. Order online and arrange a pickup time between 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily. https://

lostboycider.com

Lost Dog Café: Order ahead and pick up your pizza – or sandwiches, or beer – from Lost Dog, or select delivery and have the goodies come to you. https://www.lostdogcafe.com/

Michael's Little Italy: Want to be pampered like a VIP? Choose the best table in the house at Michael's Little Italy – which is, incidentally, now the *only* table in the house. Reserve the table and feast on a private chef's dinner with wine pairing for two (\$200). Each reservation the restaurant receives will be matched and a second one given to two people who work in Old Town's hospitality industry. The restaurant's takeout menu and family meals are also on offer; delivery is available via Slice or UberEats. Call 703-548-9338 or visit the website at https://www.michaelslittleitaly.com/temporarymenu

Misha's Coffee: Misha's has switched over to carryout-only as self-distancing has taken its course, and it's also offering mailorder coffee beans. Visit the shop's website to place an order. https://mishascoffee.com

Port City Brewing: Port City's tasting room is closed during the self-isolation, but its curbside pickup business is picking up speed.

Order your beer ahead of time, set a pickup time and then swing by the brewery to snag your order without ever leaving your car. https://www.portcitybrewing.com/events/curbside-pickup-at-port-city/

Spice Kraft: The beloved Indian restau-

rant in Del Ray is offering both curbside pickup and delivery, along with a gift certificate special: Purchase a \$100 gift certificate and get an extra \$10 certificate, or buy a \$50 certificate and get \$5 extra. https://www.spicekraftdelray.com

Table Talk: Right now, the diner-style restaurant on Duke Street is earmarking 100% of all profits from curbside and takeout orders to support Table Talk's employees. Call 703-548-3989 to arrange curbside pickup. For delivery, order through UberEats, Grubhub or DoorDash.

Taqueria Poblano: Did someone say margaritas? Si, si! Taqueria Poblano is now offering take-home margaritas to accompany your dinner.

Order from the eatery's full menu – and take advantage of the city's revised alcoholsale policies if you're so inclined. Call 703-548-8226 to order.

The Italian Place: Belly up to the window for pick-up service. Pack a picnic of sandwiches, desserts and maybe even a soup and enjoy the springtime weather from an appropriate social distance. Order online or at kiosks at the shop. https://theitalianplace.com

Yunnan By Potomac: North Old Town's noodle shop is offering takeout with curbside pickup while its dining room is closed; restaurant delivery is an option for a very limited immediate area. For homes outside the immediate area, order delivery from UberEats, Doordash or GrubHub. https://www.yunnanbypotomac.com

Hope Nelson is the author of "Classic Restaurants of Alexandria" and owns the Kitchen Recessionista blog, located at www.kitchenrecessionista.com. Email her any time at hope@kitchenrecessionista.com.

CALENDAR

Editor's Note: Be aware that most events could be cancelled as precaution to the spread of COVID-19. Please check before heading to events. Submit entertainment announcements

www.connectionnewspapers.com/ Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

NOW THRU APRIL 4

"By the Seashore." Wednesdays thru Saturdays, 10 a.m.; 10:30 a.m.; 11:30 a.m. At the Convergence Main Building, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. "By the Seashore" takes us on a magical journey to a place children love to visit — the beach! Young audience members are invited to explore all the amazing things we find on the shore, in the ocean, and in the sky; from birds and fish, to sand and water, and everything in-between. Using an imaginative mix of puppetry, movement, and sound, this sensory-filled production is specifically designed for babies and young toddlers. Tickets are \$8. Discounts for groups and active duty military families are

available. Purchase tickets here: http://www.artsonthehorizon.org/by-the-seashore-2020 or call 571-549-1270.

NOW THRU APRIL 19

"Henry the Fifth." Presented by Brave Spirits Theatre at the Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The final chapter of The King's Shadow is about to begin. "Henry the Fifth" completes the first season in Brave Spirits Theatre's two-year project to stage Shakespeare's eight history plays about the Wars of the Roses. Tickets are \$35. Visit www.bravespiritstheatre.com

NOW THRU APRIL 25

High School Art Exhibit. At The Gallery @ Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. The Alexandria All City High School Art Exhibition hosted by the Convergence Arts Initiative returns for its fifth year. 2020's experience will feature over 90 Alexandria high school students representing six high schools including public, private, and independent spanning 10 different mediums of art. Returning for 2020's collaborative event are students from

Likely Cancelled

Bishop Ireton, Episcopal High School, T.C. Williams, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, Commonwealth Academy, and The Howard Gardner School. Each year, these exhibits are overwhelmingly successful in bringing together students and faculty from the city of Alexandria's high schools for a friendly and collaborative event focused around the arts.

NOW THRU APRIL 26

Tell Me a Story Exhibit. At Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria. Narrative art tells a story, either as a moment in an ongoing tale or as a sequence of events unfolding over time. In the "Tell Me a Story" exhibit, visual art and literary works will take you on an imaginative journey. Visit: www.DelRayArtisans.org/event/tell-me-a-story

NOW THRU MAY 31

"Looking Up" Art Exhibit. At the Veterinary Clinics of America Alexandria Animal Hospital, VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke St., Alexandria. This exhibit features artwork by local artists depicting objects seen above our horizon, as well as artwork that creates an optimistic or uplifting response, conveys an inspiring message, or represents an aspirational goal or standard. Artwork by Del Ray Artisans members. Details: DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww

THURSDAY/MARCH 26

Key Success Factors For Sales &

Business. 12-1:30 p.m. At Intelligent Office of Alexandria, 2800 Eisenhower Ave., Suite 220, Alexandria. Steve Smith, owner of a Fairfax Sandler Training Center, will discuss key factors for achieving success in sales and business. Topics will include the Success Triangle of Behaviors, Attitude and Techniques, the Sandler Selling System, and the interaction of buyers and sellers. Cost is \$20. Call 703-224-8800.

FRIDAY/MARCH 27

Mt. Vernon Swing Band. 7:30-9:30 p.m. At Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Live music and dancing presented by the Hollin Hall Senior Center Advisory Council. Cost is \$4 at door. Open to the community.

MARCH 27-28

Spring Children's Consignment

Sale. 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. At Cameron United Methodist Church, 3130 Franconia Road, Alexandria. Come shop on Friday, March 27, from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to noon. Many items are half price on Saturday. To become a seller, email:

CUMC.CCS@gmail.com.

SATURDAY/MARCH 28

Past Lives Workshop. 1-2:30 p.m. At Sacred Circle Books, 919 King Street, Alexandria. Ever wonder if you have lived before? You are invited to experience an engaging and highly participatory workshop that explains the need for many lifetimes in Soul's evolutionary journey and offers take-home techniques for recalling your past

This workshop is sponsored by
Eckankar, The Path of Spiritual
Freedom. Open to the public, free
of charge. Call 703-916-0515 or
visit www.eck-va.org/localevents/ and select Northern
Virginia on the left.

BULLETIN BOARD

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

COVID-19 CLOSURES

- Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam this week announced a number of COVIDrelated actions that impact Fairfax County and the entire Commonwealth, including:
- ❖ All schools (public and private) to remain closed at least through the end of the academic year. Fairfax County Public Schools is still considering some form of continuity of learning for its students. The School Board will meet in an emergency session on March 23 to discuss further.
- Restaurants may only provide curbside, takeout or delivery service.
- Recreation and entertainment facilities like gyms, bowling alleys and theaters must close.
- Personal care services like spas, massage parlors and barber shops must close.
- Essential businesses such as grocery stores, pharmacies and banks may remain open while maintaining social distancing guidelines; grocery stores must increase sanitizing procedures.
- Non-essential brick and mortar establishments can stay open if they can maintain the 10-person limit, otherwise, non-essential businesses must close.
- Gatherings of more than 10 people are still banned across Virginia.

FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS CLOSED

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Be a part of our

All FCPS school buildings are now

- closed through the end of the year. All FCPS administrative offices are closed until further notice.
- Only essential personnel as defined by FCPS will be asked to report to work until further notice. All other employees will work remotely.
- Food distributions will continue through the closures. Breakfast will be available from 8 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and lunch will be available from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., Monday-Friday at the following locations:
- ❖ Fort Belvoir Upper ES, 5980 Meeres Rd., Fort Belvoir;
- Hybla Valley ES, 3415 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria;
- Mount Vernon Woods ES, 4015 Fielding St., Alexandria;
- ❖ Weyanoke ES, 6520 Braddock Rd., Alexandria.
- All students enrolled in FCPS and other County children 18 years and under receive one meal at no-cost; and, may have additional meals at no-cost upon request. Adults may purchase breakfast and lunch meals at a cost of \$2.00.

FARMERS' MARKETS SUSPENDED

The Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, which regulates farmers' markets, announced that the agency has interpreted the state emergency order regarding restaurants to apply to farmers' markets. As a result, markets may not operate with more than 10 patrons present. Because it is not practical to enforce such a limit in an open market, the Del Ray, Four Mile Run, Old Town, Old Town North and West End markets will be suspended until further notice.

RISING HOPE IN GREAT NEED

During this COVID 19 Virus epidemic,

Rising Hope Mission Church, at 8220 Russell Road, Alexandria, needs your support now more than ever. They are balancing the need to keep the staff safe and socially distanced from those coming with need. Yet still hundreds of families depend on the food pantry because the jobs they have do not pay enough to feed their families. Now their jobs are in jeopardy and many have already started to lose their service jobs. The demand for food from the pantry will increase as employees are laid-off and furloughed. This hits low-wage, hourly paid workers who have no resources to get over this period the most. Rising Hope serves nearly 300 families a week with its food pantry. The food they supply provides for more than 200,000 meals a year in our community. The demand is only going to get worse.

Rising Hope Needs:

- An increase in food pantry donations from all sources.
- Paper bags to pre-bag the groceries to limit contact.
- Volunteers to bag food. (You do not have to come into contact with those coming for food).
- Volunteers to deliver food to shut-ins. (You can leave at their door)
- Volunteers for the hypothermia shelter.
- Financial denotations always give the most flexibility. They need extra supplies and extra hours for custodial staff to do a deeper cleaning

FAIRFAX CORONAVIRUS INFO

Fairfax County activated a Joint Information Center in response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) on March 13.

***** Fairfax County Health

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

Obituary

Obituary

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

Wellbeing pages, the first

week of every month.

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

gestions for your home.

Questions? E-mail sales@connection newspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



Elaine Elizabeth Vosburg (nee Fredricks), 93, passed away in Alexandria, VA on March 21, 2020. Elaine was married to the late Karl William "Bill" Vosburg for fifty-eight years. Elaine is survived by four of her six children: Linda Marie Javorski (Joe), Carol Ann Horn (John), Elizabeth Louise Welsh (Mark), Pamela Jeanne Tirrito (Bob). She was predeceased by her daughter, Trisha Marie Knuth (Tim), and her son, John Jay Vosburg (Ellen).

Elaine had 17 grandchildren, Jennifer Marino, Jamie Deppe, Joseph Javorski, Kathryn Coneway, Kimberly Fazio, Brian Horn, Mark Welsh, John Welsh, Matthew Welsh, Elizabeth Welsh, T.J. Knuth, Billy Knuth, Patrick Knuth, Robert Tirrito, Christopher Tirrito, and Michael Tirrito, She was predeceased by her granddaughter, Brianne Marie Knuth. Elaine also had twenty-three great grandchildren.

Born in New York City, Elaine graduated from Cathedral High School in New York. After graduation she worked for IBM. She met Bill Vosburg during WWII. Bill grew up on a dairy farm in East Smithfield, PA, joined the US Navy, and was sent to Navy Flight Engineer School in Jackson Heights. He served in the Pacific and they married right after the war. After his discharge from the Navy, Bill became a flight engineer for American Airlines. His first assignment was Boston, Ma and they bought a small Cape Cod house in Natick. Later Bill was transferred to New York and they settled in Oyster Bay where they raised their growing family.

Once the children left home, and Bill retired, they started spending their winters in Naples, Florida. They lived in a golf community six months of the year and thoroughly enjoyed the golf, the beach, and many good friends. They also loved to travel and visit their children and grandchildren both here and abroad.

Elaine was an award winning artist who painted over 200 works in oil and acrylics. Her paintings reside in the homes of family and friends throughout the United States. She won numerous awards for her paintings to include the prestigious Salmagundi award. Her subjects are varied and include florals, sailing ships, grandchildren, country scenes,

Elaine was a devout Catholic. She attended mass and was active in the choir and guild of St. Dominic Church in Oyster Bay for much of her life. After moving full time to Naples, FL, she became actively engaged in all aspects of the golf community, from fashion shows and golf events to beautification projects and art shows. Those who knew Elaine knew of her love for Bill, her family, the beach, birds, seashells, and flowers. She was a beautiful, creative soul with boundless energy, enthusiasm, and a love for life that will continue to live on in her children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

A memorial service and Arlington burial will be scheduled as soon as the current restric-

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to: Army Retirement Residence Foundation – Potomac 9140 Belvoir Woods Parkway, Fort Belvoir, VA 22060



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Risking a Reward

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In my 11-plus years as a lung cancer "diagnossee," I've done a pretty good job of facing the facts and acting/planning accordingly. I've accepted my reality and somehow managed to live so long beyond the original "13 month to two year" prognosis I was given by my oncologist that he has introduced me to some of his students as his "third miracle." Unfortunately, this characterization is not the end of the story.

In retrospect, dealing with/being treated for one type of cancer (non small cell lung cancer) seemed easy enough. Soon, I'll be getting treated for two types of cancer: papillary thyroid cancer stage 2, in addition to my pre-existing stage 4 lung cancer. And since the treatments are not identical and cannot occur simultaneously, I'll be receiving treatment for my thyroid cancer first and deferring treatment for my lung cancer until at least mid April. That's when I have my next scheduled appointment with my oncologist when no doubt we'll discuss strategy and all

In the interim, to address the thyroid cancer, I will be spending a night at the Washington Hospital Center. This will occur after I receive a dose of radioisotopes, a type of nuclear medicine designed to target and kill any remaining thyroid cancer in my body wherever it might be located. What happens after my "overnight" and subsequent follow-up appointment with my endocrinologist has yet to be discussed. What little I know is that I'll need a pre- and post-procedure CT scans and that upon release from the hospital, I'll need to be quarantined for a few days (away from children and pets primarily).

Hoping my body responds as anticipated, I'll presume there will be some kind of maintenance-type of treatment for my thyroid cancer which will likely be combined with the restart of my lung cancer treatment. But I don't really know. But what I really do know is that doctors. generally speaking, don't want to consider scenarios about what might happen if such and such or so and so happens, or not. Though $I^\prime m$ sure there's a reasonable expectation of something or other happening, my experience has been that doctors divulging what might happen (treatment/procedure etc.) next, since there are so many variables/results yet to be considered, is unlikely. Though I will still ask my fair share of questions about my future, ultimately, all I can do is wait and see.

Ordinarily, as in how I've managed since my diagnosis, being uncertain about the next medical step has been no problem. I realize that answer would likely be somewhere between a house of cards and definite maybe anyway, always depending. Now add to the mix of uncertainty, the coronavirus that has "pandemicked" the country. As a result of its spread, will I be prevented/rescheduled because the hospitals are overwhelmed? After all, I am the poster child for possible victims: male, over 60, weakened immune system with a severe underlying medical condition. I'm the exact person they don't want to see at the hospital. Yet, if I don't go/receive approval to go, I doubt I'll get any better at home without treatment. In my case, I don't believe leaving well enough alone is going to work very

Still, my choices feel almost counterintuitive. I have to risk my life (leave my home) in order to possibly save my life (cancer treatment) away from home. I can't do one without the other. To receive treatment, I'll have to expose myself, potentially, to the exact complication that my lung cancer diagnosis makes me most susceptible to: breathing issues. However, if I don't/can't, I'll be worse off than if I hadn't. Nor do I feel as if I can wait until the virus is more under contro Control which seems unlikely in the near term. And in every term (short, medium or long), the cancer is not going to wait. I sure hope I won't

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



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CONNECTION



News

Dyke Marsh

response. If it was toxic, it could have had long lasting impacts.

"The Friends of Dyke Marsh appreciate the prompt response of all of the authorities. We understand that they are speculating that the source of the neon green color was some kind of dye, but we are not aware that anyone tested for dye. Nor did they eliminate algae, benign or harmful, or report on the health of microscopic aquatic organisms. The good news is that the visually detectable discoloration is gone, but questions remain," said Glenda Booth, president of the Friends of Dyke Marsh.

Restoring Dyke Marsh

Source: National Park Service

The National Park Service is working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to restore Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve. Construction of a 1,500 foot breakwater to help protect the marsh from erosion, shield the marsh from storms and encourage the accumulation of sediment, which is necessary for marsh regeneration. Located just a few miles south of Alexandria, Va., Dyke Marsh is one of the largest remaining freshwater tidal wetlands in the Washington metropolitan area. Dyke Marsh is viewed as a national treasure that holds extensive value not only for plants and animals, but for its recreational, educational and cultural purposes. It is estimated that the southern marsh has existed for 2,200 years, and the northern marsh has existed for 500 years.

Dyke Marsh provides a storm buffer for the George Washington Memorial Parkway, a natural filter for the Potomac River, and habitat for a variety of plants and wildlife, including six state-listed species of special concern (two bird species and four plant species).

It is critical to act now to protect and restore Dyke Marsh. Approximately 270 acres of marshland were damaged from the 1940s to the 1970s through the dredging of sand and gravel. In 2009, NPS partnered with USGS to investigate the state of Dyke Marsh. USGS found that the post-mined marsh is rapidly shrinking as a result of erosion caused primarily by storm waves driven northward up the Potomac River. Erosion in the marsh averages between 6 and 8 feet per year.

BULLETIN BOARD

From Page 13

Department COVID-19 webpage www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/novelcoronavirus

- ***** Emergency Information Blog (you can subscribe by email or follow by RSS) www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog
- * Coronavirus (COVID-19) Call Center The community may call 703-267-3511 with questions. The call center is open from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Residents may also text FFXCOVID to 888777 to receive updates from Fairfax County about ❖ Twitter – @fairfaxcounty and @fairfaxhealth
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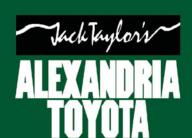
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What's going on in the housing market? An update from the Whites':

- Interest rates still historically low, hovering around 3.5%*. *as of 3/20/20
- Buyers are still looking, just waiting for the right home.
- Inventory levels are still extremely low.
- Curious as to what your home is worth given today's conditions? Have
 questions about the current real estate market or where it's headed?
 Wondering how we will market your home and maintain health protocol like social distancing? We are happy to discuss by phone or email!
- Most importantly, we hope you are staying healthy and safe during these unique times. As always, we are here to help in any way we can. Please feel free to call or email at any time!





9304 Maybrook P

Enormous classic colonial in the hear of Mt. Vernon with long list of special features to include: refinished hardwoods throughout main and upper level, large room sizes, bright and light sunroom on main level, 5 bedrooms on upper level including huge master suite featuring fireplace, 2 walk in closets, & large bath,

spacious lower level has built in bar, 2 potential guest rooms, full bath, and unfinished storage area. Multi-tier decking overlooks rear grounds creating a private oasis. Garage parking. Most space for the money in the Mt. Vernon area and priced to provide your own personal touches and to make this property truly your own!



4413 Dolphin Ln \$775,000

Uniquely attractive property combines the most highly sought after yet hard to find features - large fully updated rambler, generous room sizes, luxurious main level master suite, and true oversize 2 car garage. Premier setting on gorgeous over half acre lot in Yacht Haven Estates! Home features. 5

bedrooms on 2 levels (main level has 3 bedrooms/2 full baths), fully updated interior including bright white kitchen with granite countertops, newer roof, newer windows, newer HVAC, hardwoods throughout main level, lower level with living room and 2 bedrooms/1 full bath, 2 car garage, extensive hardscaping including brand new front walk/steps and entertainers dream back patios overlooking a fully fenced over half acre flat yardf Just steps to the river!

JUST LISTED:OPEN SUN 1-4PM!



3249 Woodland Ln \$1,050,00

Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room,

Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

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3159 Woodland Ln \$1,085,000

Meticulously maintained 5 year old home provides rare opportunity to have all the new home amenities and floor plan without having to pay new home prices! Exceptionally spacious home offers over 5,500 sq ft of tuxurious appointments and builders custom upgrades. Fabulous special features include: open floor plan, high

ceilings, dramatic two story family room, Chel's kitchen, 5 bedrooms including breathtaking master suite. Finished lower level and oversize 3 car garage. Premier setting with the most amazing fenced rear yard around. Easy walk to nearby private neighborhood park/water access. Combination of features and location that can't be matched at this price!



\$1,650,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining

wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!

JUST LISTED!



3600 Riverwood Rd \$895,000

Best of all worlds! Classic styling and character with new home amenities in desirable Riverwood community just steps to the Potomac River. No expense spared for this turn key gem. Brand new features include: roof, siding, windows, kitchen, kitchen

appliances, bathrooms, hardwoods, finished basement, exterior and interior paint, incredible covered back patio/screened porch, gas furnace, gas hot water heater, and list goes on and on! Incredible value for a virtually brand new home with all the classic charm you're looking for!

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