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Face of the Fight Against COVID-19 Looms Large in Mount Vernon

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

As Sen. Scott Surovell proceeded down Sherwood Hall Lane, a face in the window caught his eye, a huge picture of Dr. Anthony Fauci, reflecting support for his effort against the COVID-19 virus.

“Dr. Fauci has a big fan in the 36th Senate District. ... @KrizekForVA and I have some creative constituents,” he wrote on twitter.

It was the work of Cameron Unz Curtis, a resident who supports Fauci’s efforts as top scientist providing guidance on coronavirus. “We are huge Fauci fans,” she wrote. Curtis has supported Fauci through the years, and likes the fact that he’s worked without political bias. “He’s thoughtful and not reactive,” she wrote. Fauci is head



Dr. Fauci and his fight against the virus has earned him fans in Mount Vernon.

of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious disease since 1984, and has advised six Presidents on global health issues.

Murder of 12-year-old Karen Lee Spencer Solved

Detectives from FCPD Major Crimes Bureau’s Cold Case Squad solved the murder of 12-year-old Karen Lee Spencer – a brutal killing that occurred nearly five decades ago in the Huntington area of Fairfax County. Karen was last seen alive on Nov. 29, 1972. Her body was discovered on Dec. 2, 1972 in what was then known as Fifer’s Field – a wooded area located near what is now the Huntington Metro Station. An autopsy showed Karen died from repeated blunt force trauma to the upper body.

In the years following Karen’s murder, several persons of interest were identified including a man that some believed was Karen’s boyfriend, James “Jimmy” Edwards. He was 16-years-old at the time of the killing. He denied involvement and later died on Aug. 23, 1997.

In the summer of 2018, two in-



Karen Lee Spencer

dependent acquaintances of Jimmy revealed to detectives that in the early 90s, Jimmy confided in them he killed a girl and buried her in a field when he was a teenager. Over the next year and a half, detectives received additional tips that supported this information and other previous investigative findings that implicated Edwards. Other persons of interest were disqualified based on exculpatory information and in December of



Jimmy Edwards

2019, the Fairfax County Office of the Commonwealth’s Attorney determined that sufficient evidence would have existed to support the arrest and prosecution of Edwards.

“For nearly five decades, Major Crimes detectives remained steadfast in their pursuit of justice for 12-year-old Karen Lee Spencer and her family,” said Major Ed O’Carroll, Bureau Commander, Major Crimes. “I am proud of the work of

SEE MURDER, PAGE 6

Town Hall Highlights Local Steps on Coronavirus

“Stay home. Wash your hands.”

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE CONNECTION

At the end of U.S. Rep. Don Beyer’s phone town hall on April 2 he told the 5,371 people tuning in to the call that at the beginning of the one-hour call there had been 207,000 coronavirus cases reported in the United States and by the end of the call there were 211,408.

The town hall was organized to share information from top officials in Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, the City of Fairfax and Falls Church about the coronavirus response in each of their communities.

Beyer told the first speaker, Alexandria City Manager Mark Jinks that “you are at ground zero. You can’t print money.”

Jinks indicated the city government budget had been approved about six weeks ago, but revenues had taken a big dive since then. “We’ll have to go back and revise it substantially. It will be tight to the end of the calendar year and beyond,” Jinks said.

Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill said his staff is running on fumes after being told to redo the budget in a week due to revenue shortfalls.

“We have 234 cases [570 cases in Fairfax at presstime] in our health district and we are work-

ing well with Inova Health Center. Stay home. Wash your hands.”

Hill Beyer adds, “We put out a tax relief option for small business and hope to approve it April 14. Food distribution is a huge opportunity. We work with school districts and nonprofits.” Hill continues, “Human services is overrun. We have a 100% increase in SNAP and TANIF. We’re all going to be doing it a little different.”

Jinks said the city is attacking the coronavirus situation on multiple fronts with continuation of essential government services and allocation of resources.

“We’re planning, responding, mitigating and working on recovery. Jinks outlined the steps taken by the city in a number of areas.

“The health department is at the front line with contact tracing so that when someone tests positive, we can track it.” Schools have a take-home package for the lower grades and on-line learning, and there is school food assistance at multi-

SEE TOWN HALL, PAGE 7



Beyer

“Stay home. Wash your hands.”

— Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill

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#WeAreAlexandria



Braddock Heights | \$1,450,000

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Jen Walker 703.675.1566
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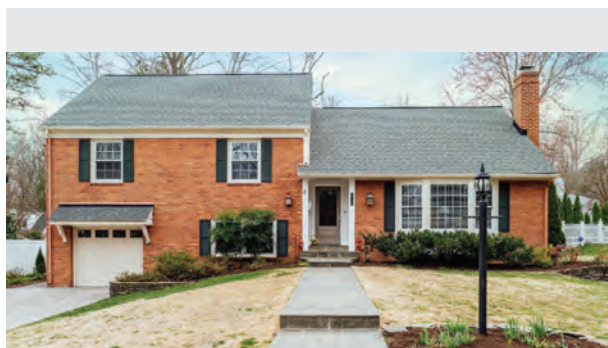
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Rosemont | \$579,000

Beautifully updated duplex with hardwood floors throughout, just a third of a mile to the Braddock Road Metro. Freshly painted. Brand new kitchen and new bath. Finished lower level and pull-down stairs to floored attic storage space. HayesWoodHomes.com

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Ideally located in Old Town's S.E. Quadrant, this charming house has been uniquely remodeled to provide a bright spacious 4th level office with bookshelves, desk and private roof-top terrace. Private walled garden off kitchen. Upstairs are 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, all with generous closets. Assigned parking space!

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News



At the birthday party of David Hardy, a former Hayfield resident, the barn can be seen in the background. This picture was taken in 1966-1967 time-frame before the barn fire in September 1967.



In a rare photo from the backyard of a Hayfield house, the barn burns. Losing the barn was a blow to the tightly knit community.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED BY THE HARDY FAMILY

A Burning Barn was Part of Hayfield Farm's Past

History of Telegraph Road, part two.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection

Heading north from Mount Air, past several gated entrances to Fort Belvoir, is Hayfield Farm, a development that was built in the 1960s in an area that was considered country at that time. Now there is the community of Hayfield Farm, as well as a shopping center, elementary and high school, and a connecting townhouse community up the hill called Hayfield View.

In 1761, George Washington bought the land to grow hay on for his livestock, which was how it first got the name Hayfield. After the Revolutionary War, Washington sold the

land and mansion to his cousin Lund Washington in 1785 for managing the Mount Vernon plantation and mansion at Mount Vernon while he was away in the war.

Lund Washington and Elizabeth Foote lived in the manor until her death in 1812, and was buried in a boxwood garden area, according to an old Hayfield Citizens Association newsletter. Her remains were later transported to the Pohick Cemetery at Pohick Church in Lorton.

The land was used for raising cattle in the 1950s until it was purchased by Wills and Van Metre in 1963, and the first house was built in 1965. When the community was built, there was a 16-sided barn on the property, and local lore had the barn belonging to George Washington himself. In reality, the barn was built in 1893 by William Clark, who modeled it after another barn that Washington did build on the Mount Vernon plantation a few miles away. There was a

manor house on the Hayfield land near the current park, that was built by Washington himself, but it burned down in 1916.

Barnyard Blues

County officials were considering using the barn for a theater, until Sept. 22, 1967, when the barn was destroyed in a fire. One of the children that lived in the newly built community of Hayfield was playing with matches that started the fire. There were legal wranglings in the aftermath, just before the statute of limitations expired.

The 16-sided barn was 100 feet in diameter and 100 feet high. The middle ceiling was supported by a spiral staircase that led to the cupola. There was talk of turning the barn into a theater of sorts by the county, but those plans were dashed after the fire.

At one time, Hayfield Secondary School was one of the largest schools around, and

the gym was used for many activities besides basketball games and school graduations. In the 1970s the Baltimore-Washington Cats roller derby team had a match there, the Harlem Globetrotters put on a show, and after the Washington Redskins played in their first Super Bowl in 1972, the players were part of a presentation in the gym.

Hayfield Farm has a flood plain that backed up to the woods of Fort Belvoir, and during the Vietnam War, soldiers trained in those woods and the gun shots and explosions could be heard by the residents of Hayfield.

North of Hayfield on Telegraph Road is a Coast Guard station that's been at that location since 1941. It was originally a radio transmitting station that moved over from a location in Fort Hunt, where it had been since 1934.

Currently the Coast Guard Honor Guard is stationed at this small station.

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.

CHANGES TO THE COURTS

The Fairfax County courts are making new changes to their schedules and procedures in response to the coronavirus, including further postponing dockets. While the Fairfax County Courthouse remains open to the public, the Circuit Court, General District Court and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court have changed their bond and

arraignment schedule until further notice:

General District Court: Bonds and Arraignments — 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.

Circuit Court: Bonds and Arraignments — 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court: Bonds and Arraignments — 2:30 p.m.

The Circuit Court introduced a temporary process to waive oral argument for motions in an effort to encourage social distancing. To be eligible, the waiver must meet certain conditions, including that

all parties agree and evidence is not required. The Circuit Court continues to postpone non-essential, non-emergency proceedings through Monday, April 27.

The General District Courts have now postponed most dockets through Thursday, April 30, except for bonds, arraignments, emergency motions, protective orders and attorney court.

Regular court hearings for incarcerated individuals are expected to begin Monday, April 13, as technology permits.

For people who aren't in jail, any civil, criminal and traffic court cases

that were previously scheduled for this month will be continued. Look up the specific status of your case using the Online Case Information System.

YMCA OFFERS FREE PRODUCE

The local YMCAs are offering free produce distribution during the coronavirus crisis. Produce is available for anyone, free of charge, regardless of their affiliation with the YMCA. Produce will be distributed at the following location:

YMCA Alexandria, 420 East Monroe Ave., Alexandria. Available Mondays 4-6 p.m., Tuesdays 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

METRO REDUCES HOURS

As part of its ongoing efforts to limit frontline transit workers' exposure to the public during the ongoing COVID-19 emergency, Metro's Pandemic Task Force will further reduce rail and bus hours, starting Monday, April 6, 2020. Metrorail will close at 9 p.m. every day: Mon.-Fri.: Open 5 a.m.; Close 9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun.: Open 8 a.m.; Close 9 p.m. Metrobus service also will end earlier each day, with the last trips departing at or before 11 p.m. Buses that enter service at or before 11 p.m. will continue to the end of the route before going out of service.

OPINION

State Legislature Must Make Tough Decisions

All new spending in the state's new two-year budget are on hold.

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL



Surovell

Instead of reporting on the accomplishments of the General Assembly's 2020 session, in recent weeks I have chosen to provide information about the COVID-19 crisis and its impacts. The worldwide coronavirus pandemic is likely to change much of what state legislators passed earlier this year. Many measures are in limbo, especially the state's budget. The legislature will reconvene on April 22 to consider budget changes and vetoes that Gov. Ralph Northam may propose.

This week, Governor Northam announced that he is putting all new spending in the state's new two-year budget on hold. Therefore, it appears that when we reconvene, we will consider proposed amendments to implement his proposals, pending economic analyses, projections and decisions on how the state can use the \$3 billion in federal stimulus dollars.

While Virginia has the largest cash reserve in the state's history -- \$2 billion -- it is increasingly apparent that what lies ahead is the country's greatest economic downturn since the Great Depression. Unlike the federal government, the state legislature is required by the state constitution to pass a balanced budget. If revenues decline, we must raise taxes or make cuts.

While the details are not yet public, when we reconvene, we will likely be faced with cancel-

ling raises for teachers, state employees, the Virginia State Police and local law enforcement. Increases in K-12 funding will probably be significantly reduced. Our historic investments in early childhood education and the second year of college tuition freezes will likely be eliminated.

The budget we passed in March increased Medicaid reimbursement rates for the first time in a long time -- they are probably gone.

It is unclear if the modest gas tax increase will be reversed, but it could generate hundreds of millions of dollars in new transportation and transit investments.

There is no question that with everyone at home, regardless of what the gas tax rate is, revenues from gas and vehicle sales taxes will plummet for much of this year and inhibit transportation infrastructure investments.

Several local initiatives that I promoted are at risk: \$25 million to fund the infrastructure to end Alexandria's raw sewage discharges, the largest clean water investments in state history; a \$4 million grant for the new U.S. Army Museum at Fort Belvoir; and new funds to restore staffing cuts at Mason Neck State Park. The opening of the Prince William County Public Defender's Office could be put on hold. Unprecedented investments in the Affordable Housing Trust Fund are threatened.

On Sunday, April 12, the Governor is scheduled to announce his amendments and vetoes.

He has signed many bills, but he has not acted on hundreds. In addition, because the budget trumps legislation, some bills that the Governor has already signed could be delayed or defunded by the budget. This is a truly unprecedented situation. I am hopeful that the minimum wage increase bill will not be weakened. The new \$9.50 minimum wage is not scheduled to take effect until January 1, 2021, and is truly a modest increase. We also passed legislation to give counties the same taxing authority as cities. I had mixed views on the bill given that we did not give counties other new responsibilities or equalize other responsibilities such as sovereign immunity and I ultimately voted in favor of it, but I would not be surprised if that legislation is placed on hold.

Finally, as the COVID-19 crisis persists, I am increasingly concerned that many employees in the 36th District may be at increased risk as they do not hold jobs in which they can telecommute and are not given personal protective equipment (PPE). Fairfax County Health Department and Virginia Health Department data are not differentiated so we cannot determine exactly what groups of people, zip codes, or age brackets are being hit the hardest with infections and death. I have asked the Governor's office for more refined data so we can more finely tune our policy responses.

Please check my Twitter and Facebook feeds for more information or signup for my emails. If you have any feedback, please send me a note at scott@scottssurovell.org.

Our New Normal What we do this week and next week will make a big difference to ensure we do not overwhelm our healthcare system.

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

The world sure doesn't look anything like it did only a few short weeks ago. It has only been a little over one week since Governor Northam issued his 90-day stay-at-home order, but it feels like it has been much longer. The most important thing that I must emphasize is that we have not yet reached the peak of COVID-19 here in Virginia. The estimated timeline for this peak is still uncertain, but ranges anywhere from late April at the most optimistic, to late May. This changes daily as we learn more, and unfortunately, we just don't have the necessary testing capabilities to provide better data.

What is certain is that this is a critical time period in our fight against COVID-19, and what we do this week and next week will make a big difference in whether we are able to "flatten the curve" in Virginia to ensure we do not overwhelm our healthcare system. I am going to highlight and reemphasize steps we should all be taking to pitch in to this effort, which thankfully, so many people are already doing to stop the spread.

The most important of these is to stay at home unless it is absolutely essential to go out. Limiting interactions with other people is the best way to stop the spread. If you must go out for an essential purpose, such as to purchase groceries or to care for a loved one, practice so-

cial distancing and remain at least 6 feet apart from anyone you encounter, and even further apart if possible. Sneezes and coughs can travel more than six feet. Being apart from friends and loved ones is difficult and heartbreaking, especially in a crisis like this. But, we must make this sacrifice in order to protect each other. I know it is not as easy as it sounds, and for many that live alone it can be very difficult and even depressing, but it is for the best, not just for you, but for all of us. I know many of us are calling our single neighbors and friends. It can also be hard on those larger families too. I have my very fragile, elderly parents living with me and my family and that has its own challenges, but it is a blessing too. My mother has taught my daughter how to knit and we have now a number of new scarves. Other families are challenged by the loss of a job, their new homeschooling roles, balancing work at home with taking care of loved ones, some that may be ill. And, then there are many of you who are essential workers and are out on the front lines dealing with anxiety and health concerns. Every one of us has a unique circumstance and yet we must all try our best to stay optimistic and hopeful at the same time as we socially isolate ourselves.

Once again, I know this sounds like a broken record, but we must practice good personal hygiene. You should avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands. Wash

your hands frequently with soap and warm water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are unavailable, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. If you cough or sneeze, cover it with a tissue and then immediately throw it in the trash. It is also important to disinfect your belongings, clothes, and groceries when you return from trips to the grocery store. You can use disinfectant wipes to wipe down each item purchased before putting away, and wash fresh fruit and vegetables with soap and water.

As each day goes by, researchers are hard at work learning new things about the virus that will help us in our fight. Now, the CDC is urging everyone to wear a cloth mask in public. They have learned that people are most infectious when they are first infected and have few or no symptoms. Wearing a face covering in public during this time can significantly reduce the spread of COVID-19. These face coverings do not have to be medical grade. They can be as simple as a scarf or bandana covering the nose and mouth.

There are several tutorials floating around online with ideas and techniques to create face masks at home.

As Virginians, and as a nation, we are resilient and adaptive, and I have no doubt that we will take these new recommendations in stride and make the best of them. We will get through this together, but separated in our homes.

Mount Vernon Gazette

www.MountVernonGazette.com

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Two Issues of Great Importance

Two issues of great importance were addressed by the General Assembly in its most recent session. One identified by Bill Nos. HB 1211 and SB 34 would permit illegal aliens to obtain "driver privilege cards" allowing them to legally drive a vehicle. Another identified by Bill Nos. HB 190 and SB 65 would rescind the requirement to show a photo ID in order to vote. Many Virginians have expressed concern about these two issues and, as of this writing, the Governor has still not signed the bills into law. He has until April 11, 2020 to decide whether or not to do so. Many people are concerned that non-citizens will use

a driver privilege card as an ID permitting them to vote. We have been assured by our local politicians that the driver privilege card will specifically state, prominently, that it is not to be used to facilitate voting. Of course, if the Governor enacts into law the bills rescinding the requirement to show a photo ID in order to vote, issuance of driver privilege cards will not raise any issues concerning voting, although such issuance will, unfortunately, give foreigners an added incentive to enter the United States illegally.

I became curious about how one currently registers to vote. I wondered how the Fairfax County Board of Elections verifies the

truthfulness of representations made by an applicant for voter registration. In this regard, I wrote the County Board and asked the following question:

"I'm writing to confirm my understanding that the Fairfax County election board has no access to Federal Social Security records and relies upon the honesty of applicants for voter registration who provide a social security number on their application and swear under felony penalty of perjury that the information they provide is true & correct. Please advise."

Gary Scott, the Director of Elections, responded as follows:

SEE SPIEGEL, PAGE 10

'It is Only Going To Get Much Worse'

By no means am I wealthy, but I am completely aware of how privileged I am and try my best to adhere to the adage of "to whom much is given, much is expected." For now, I am only lucky to still have a job and a good paycheck.

We are in a horrifically sad time, and it is only going to get much worse. If law school prepared me for anything, it is how to deal with uncertainty. In normal times, everything is debatable and at the

end of the day, sound logic usually prevails. Now grocery store workers, first responders, medical professionals, biologists, to name a few, are constantly and directly faced with threats to their physical and mental health. As a lawyer, even in these times, nothing I do puts my life in direct jeopardy.

While I am fortunate to be a labor lawyer and to work for one of the best unions in the world, this period is not without stress. It is

not stressful in the conventional sense: deadlines, shifting legal interpretations, smarmy opposing counsels, etc. The issues now are more pressing, immediate and impactful – mass layoffs, closed operations, concerns for workers' personal health and safety, unemployment compensation needs, not to mention caring for children or sick family members. The division between my work life and person-

SEE HARRIS, PAGE 10

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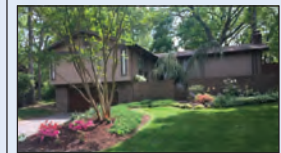
Alex/Riverside Estates \$619,000
3026 Battersea Lane

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/Riverside Estates \$579,900
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/ Woodleigh Woods \$698,500
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 1/4 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.



Manassas/Classic Springs \$651,000
12835 Classic Springs Drive

Is this huge 2 level Rambler all for me? 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 2 car garage, front & side porches & covered porch in the rear. Almost 4500 SF under roof, including about 3100 finished. Main level has Brazilian hdwds plus carpeting in the BRs. 10' ceilings w/crown molding, 6 panel doors, DBL pane windows & extra wide hallways & doors. Stunning kitchen w/dark cherry cabinets, SS appliances & dark granite counters. The bedrooms are spacious the master bedrm has a huge walk-in closet & a magnificent master bath. The lower level has a 4th BR & 3rd full BA, large family rm & approximately 1400 SF for storage, workshops & walks out to an incredible bkyd backing to woods. You have to see this home to believe it. It's stunning!!!



Alex/Mt. Zephyr \$491,000
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 \$759,900
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. Beautiful 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.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$2,800
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Town Hall Highlights Local Steps on Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 1

ple locations. “We’re making sure the food bank is organized and human services is meeting applications for SNAP and other assistance. There is also a lot of business assistance with adjustments on restaurants as the regulations change and then short-term tax relief.”

Jinks continued, “Parking is also a big issue and with people now sequestered in their homes, we’ve lessened parking enforcement.”

Jinks says the City approved a matching grant of \$100,000 to help non-profits meet demands and it has been matched several times over.

Arlington County Manager Mark Schwartz agreed, “Health is our number one issue, and our public health staff has been monitoring this closely for seven weeks. We are working closely with Virginia Hospital Center to make sure they have the protective equipment they need and make adjustments in the room configurations.”

He said there is also a focus on food, providing five school sites with school lunches with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, also to the Food Assistance Center. He said they are trying to build a new network that people can call in if they need food. “It will take a while to stand up.”

Schwartz also cited budget concerns. “Despite the \$2.5 trillion Federal appropriation, the revenue

situation is really bad for Arlington. The Lubber Run Community Center and the Aquatic Center will be postponed six months or more.”

Falls Church City Manager Wyatt Shields says his report is very similar. “The City is a member of the Fairfax County Health District. Communication on health issues is crucial for us, with the Governor, White House, Cong. Beyer.” Shields said they are delivering food to the school system, gift cards to families. “Because we are smaller, human services has direct contact with every homeless person, every senior, every senior facility. We have a system in place to get them groceries. We’ll be giving a report on our budget Monday night in a virtual meeting.”

Lastly he says, “Our businesses are suffering like everybody’s are. Federal relief is really impactful. We’re making sure they know about it and how to apply.”

Questions from the phone audience:

John from Arlington: How much do coronavirus tests cost?

Beyer: The costs of tests and care were free in the House bill but the Senate only covered the free tests, not the treatment. We need to work on this.

John from Bailey’s Crossroads: Are they ever going to tell us where the cases are by neighborhood? If I’m going to a grocery store with a

high incidence, I may want to go to another.”

Hill: I know where most of the cases are in Fairfax. I have 245, but HIPAA regs prohibit the release of that information.

Joshua: What are the next steps in refinancing of student loans?

Beyer: There was student loan deferral in the recent law that says no student loan payments are due until Sept. 30 with no interest accrued and no involuntary collection. We hope in the next bill to cancel student loans.

Mary from Alexandria: What is Fairfax doing to expand test locations? I was concerned I was coming down with something last week but there were only two sites.

Hill: There are a set amount of test kits, not an infinite amount. Unfortunately if you live in a place not considered high priority...as soon as we get more test kits, we’ll expand the sites.

Christian from Arlington: I’m wondering about future aid packages. I have a lot of friends in D.C. The recent relief package short-changed them because they are defined as a territory.

Beyer: Many of us walked out of the chamber angry and determined to treat D.C. as all other 50 states. I support statehood.

Alexa from Arlington: I work with an advocacy group for people

with disabilities. I see mental fatigue and they can’t go out to get their own groceries. Delivery systems are overwhelmed. Where can I go in the County?

Hill: We do have that ability in Fairfax County coordinated with Neighborhood and Community Services. We have a very robust plan in all delivery areas so I need to know exactly where.

Harry from Arlington: My wife works for the Arlington County public schools extended day program. Will she get paid for the rest of the school year?

Jinks answering in absence of Schwartz: In Alexandria our plan is to continue to pay permanent employees ... I hope we’ll be able to continue.

Sharon from Falls Church: I am a peer recovery specialist and what I’ve seen is a great increase in need for our services because people can’t get to the therapist or don’t have coverage or have new mental health issues. This isn’t being addressed.

Beyer: This is an inadequate answer. There wasn’t very much in the bill and we have to address it in the future. I agree it is important.

Douglas from Alexandria: My wife is a substitute teacher paid by the hour. If no work, no pay.

Beyer: Eligibility for unemployment compensation has now been

expanded to include part-time workers.

Jennifer from Alexandria: I am a retired Army combat medic and would like to volunteer my services at a local hospital but couldn’t find a place.

Jinks: This is not specific to Inova but there will be a great need. FEMA indicated retired medical personnel is exactly who they need. And there is the Medical Reserve Corps in Alexandria for fire and EMS. Email me your credentials and I’ll send them to the right people.

Patty from Fairfax: I would like to know if everyone in N. Virginia who needs a ventilator will have one and also about contact tracing as we move into recovery.

Hill: We have enough ventilators right now. Fairfax Inova and Arlington Hospital Center are in control. I’ll look up that exact number—734 ventilators at the peak projected for May 20. We’re ok on beds but a little short on [ICU] beds. With regard to contact tracing, I have added seven people to the budget for 2021. In the first case of identified coronavirus we traced two people from Boston who came to Fairfax and that was done quickly but the last coronavirus person identified recently took 41 different contacts. COVID-19 will be back again in November-December if there is no vaccine.

Murder of 12-year-old Karen Lee Spencer Solved

FROM PAGE 1

Detective Flanagan and all detectives who contributed to the closure of this case. The fact that they never gave up combined with our community’s willingness to come forward with information were critical in solving this case.”

Original release date: 06/26/2019

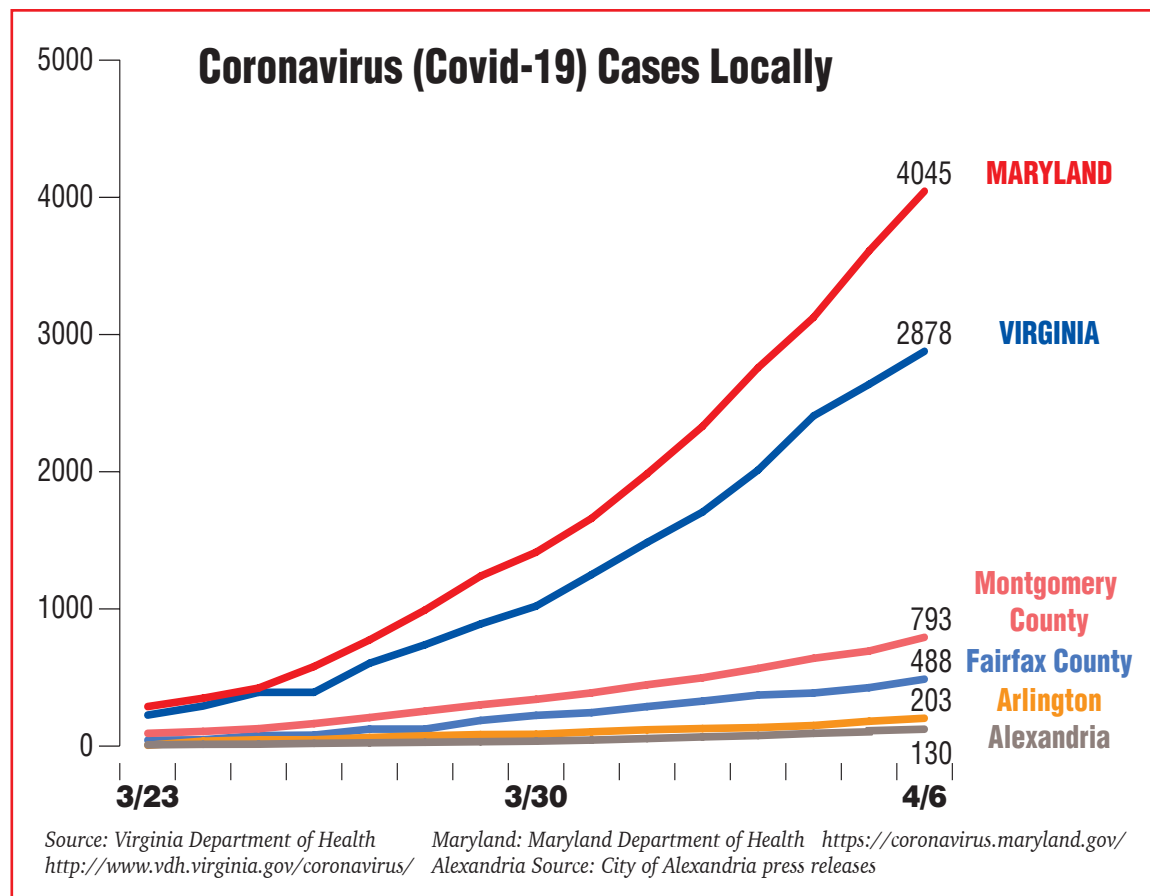
Detectives Seek Public’s Assistance in Solving 1972 Cold Case

Mt. Vernon Police District – It has been 46 years since 12-year-old Karen Lee Spencer was found dead in the Huntington area of Fairfax County. Her death remains a mystery to our Major Crimes Bureau Cold Case Squad detectives who are seeking the public’s help to solve this cold case and bring resolution to Karen’s family. Karen’s murder is one of nearly 100 unsolved homicide cases that our

detectives are investigating; this is one of our oldest cold cases.

Karen was last seen alive on Nov. 29, 1972. Her body was discovered on Dec. 2 by a group of young boys in what was then known as Fifer’s Field – a wooded area located southeast of what is now the Huntington Metro Station, between Mount Eagle Park and North Kings Highway. An autopsy showed Karen died from repeated blunt force trauma to the upper body.

Karen lived in the 2500 block of Belleview Avenue and attended Hayfield Secondary School. She would often play or hang out with many of the neighborhood children, including James “Jimmy” Edwards, who was 16 at the time of Karen’s death. Edwards died in the 1990s. Karen and other neighborhood children often spent time in Fifer’s Field and at the nearby Fairhaven 7-Eleven.



NEWS

Updated Fairfax County Court Information

Most dockets for Fairfax City and Fairfax County General District Courts now postponed.

On Friday, April 3, Fairfax County announced updated Court Information: While the Fairfax County Courthouse remains open to the public, the Circuit Court, General District Court, and Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court have changed their bond and arraignment schedule until further notice as follows:

- ❖ General District Court: Bonds and Arraignments: 8:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.
- ❖ Circuit Court: Bonds and Arraignments: 10:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.
- ❖ Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court: Bonds and Arraignments: 2:30 p.m.

General District Court-The Fairfax City and Fairfax County General District Courts have now postponed most dockets through Thursday, April 30, except for bonds, arraignments, emergency motions, protective orders, and attorney court. Regular court hearings for incarcerated individuals are ex-

pected to begin Monday, April 13, as technology permits. For individuals who are not in jail, civil, criminal, and traffic court cases that were previously scheduled for this month will be continued. Look up the specific status of your case using the Online Case Information System. Counter windows in the Civil, Traffic, and Criminal divisions are closed to the public. However, filings will be accepted through a locked drop box at the courthouse, by mail, or by email.

Circuit Court-The court introduced a temporary process to waive oral argument for motions in an effort to encourage social distancing. To be eligible, the waiver must meet certain conditions, including that all parties agree, and evidence is not required. The Circuit Court continues to postpone non-essential, non-emergency proceedings at least through Monday, April 27. Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court-While this court continues to operate on a limited docket, it is extending its COVID-19 procedures and policies through at least Wednesday, June 10. These include requiring attorney-filed papers to be dropped through the document slot in Room 303, suspending driver's license ceremonies, school court tours, intern and volunteer programs and all other non-case related events and ceremonies. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>.

Fire Chief Addresses Coronavirus Concerns

From Fire Chief John S. Butler: Fairfax County's firefighters and paramedics continue to fully staff all fire stations and apparatus and are responding to every call and doing everything they can to ensure you and our personnel stay safe and healthy, according to Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department,

Normal work continues — even though it might look a little different. The county's fire stations are closed to the public, and while we miss interacting with residents at our fire stations, this is a necessary step to ensure our personnel stay healthy and able to serve the residents of Fairfax County.

In this video, Fire Chief John S. Butler addresses the coronavirus situation and how the county's fire and rescue personnel are addressing it — and what you can do to help. <https://youtu.be/OlcVIEU4ff8>

"We may look a little different as we respond to certain 9-1-1 calls. Firefighters and paramedics are wearing an increased level of personal protective equipment (PPE) as we care for potential COVID-19 patients. This includes gowns, masks, eye protection, gloves and face shields. Do not be alarmed. This added protection ensures that members of your county fire and rescue department are able to continue providing emergency medical care

to those in need.

If you have cold or flu-like symptoms, call your healthcare provider. Please do not visit the emergency room, fire station or call 9-1-1 unless it is an emergency, for example, you are having difficulty breathing.

If you do need to call 9-1-1, the dispatcher and our responding paramedics will ask you a series of questions about your symptoms and medical history. It is important that you answer these questions accurately and completely, with as many details as possible, as it allows us to provide you with the care you need and to take the necessary precautions to protect our personnel.

We treat all who need our help regardless of symptoms or medical conditions. We ask that you answer our questions to the best of your ability so that we can keep our providers healthy and able to serve our community.

Be assured that we are preparing now so that we can provide consistency in our operations and service delivery should we begin to see increased calls for service. We hope we won't have to use these contingency plans but they are ready to go if needed. So, keep washing your hands, don't touch your face and keep on social distancing yourself. You are not alone. Let's do this together."

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LOCAL BUSINESS INFORMATION: mountvernonleechamber.org/business-resources-for-coronavirus/
FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

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HomeLifestyle

Home Office Design

Creating a professional backdrop for video conferencing.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE



PHOTO BY GREG POWERS

Create a clean and uncluttered home office environment, says interior designer Tracy Morris.

In the age of coronavirus, working from home and connecting with colleagues using video conferencing platforms like Zoom has become the new normal. From staff meetings to happy hours, virtual connectedness is keeping offices linked in a world of social distancing. For some, however, this means scrambling to give their home office a sense of professionalism moments before a meeting. Now that mad dash can become a thing of the past.

Create a dedicated work zone away from other distractions, suggests Keira St. Claire of Anthony Wilder Design/Build. "You will feel more at ease if your space is set up to work for you," she said. "It will also in turn make you feel more calm and prepared to be productive."

Organization is the first step in creating that space. "Start by cleaning up clutter," said St. Claire. "But before you start purging, set goals. What would you like to accomplish?"

A part of this thought process should include envisioning the look and feel of the space. "What type of spaces make you feel the most calm?" asks St. Claire. "A zen-inspired minimalist retreat? A library-like space to display your favorite collectibles, art work and precious things? A lush, soft room? Each of these goals will require different items in different quantities."

In fact, incorporating decorative objects from other parts of one's home can add an air of professionalism to a workspace. "Nothing puts the 'home' into home office better than antiques," said Annie Elliott, Annie Elliott Design. "An antique desk or table topped with beautifully framed drawings and photographs adds such character to a space."

"When your home office is a desk out in the open, it's critical that you tuck your work out of sight at the end of the day," continued Elliott. "Every desk should have drawers not only for pens and pencils, but also for your papers, notebooks, and ideally your laptop."

An aesthetically appealing workspace can offer a sense of serenity that can be enjoyed even when not on a video conference. "Working at home with the kids and pets can be overwhelming right now," said Pamela Harvey of Pamela Harvey Interiors. "Create an inviting work area by adding good task lighting and fresh flowers."

In fact, lighting is key when creating office-worthy backdrops for a video conference. "Lighting is everything," says St. Claire. "Natural light is the best, especially northern light. 'Open up and let the light shine in. If natural light is scarce, decide on the right artificial lighting. Is cozy warm lighting or brighter whiter lighting better for your daily work? Dimmers are great as they help to control the amount of light you may need throughout the day as the natural light changes.'"

Desk lamp lighting shouldn't be overlooked, added Tracy Morris, of Tracy Morris Design. "Leave behind the harsh fluorescents of a traditional office and add



PHOTOS BY JENN VERRIER

Every desk should have drawers, not only for pens and pencils, but also for your papers, notebooks and ideally your laptop, advises interior designer Annie Elliott.



Create an inviting work area by adding good task lighting and fresh flowers, advises Pamela Harvey.

in warm light from a lamp," he said. "This will also better illuminate your desk than overhead light and help prevent eye strain."

"Just because you're doing real work doesn't mean your desk can't be attractive," said Elliott.

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Coalition to County: Reduce Number of Inmates

County responds to NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition initiative.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE GAZETTE

Exactly when and how coronavirus first entered the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center remains unknown. According to a March 30, 2020 statement on the Sheriff's Office website, an inmate in his 20s at the Center tested positive for COVID-19. "While we are doing everything we can to prevent the spread of illness, it is possible that additional cases will occur since individuals already could have been exposed," the statement said. Incarcerated since Jan. 29, 2020, the man is quarantined at the Adult Detention Center.

"Jail and prison populations across the Commonwealth and the country are extremely vulnerable to contracting the coronavirus ... [and] challenged to consistently preserve the recommended hygiene practices. ... Inmates at the ADC [Adult Detention Center in Fairfax] were sentenced to be detained, not sentenced to death," said Kofi Annan, CEO of The Activated People LLC.

On March 31, in a statement from Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano's office, Descano said, "In the pursuit of justice, we always take the health and well-being of our community into account when making prosecutorial decisions — that includes the wellbeing of incarcerated individuals." Descano detailed measures taken ahead of the first confirmed case at the detention center. "I proactively sought and received a list from our Sheriff of inmates scheduled for release in the next 60 days. ... Wherever possible, we've begun recommending the release of individuals who have adequately paid their debt to society and do not pose a threat to community safety," Descano said.

KOFI ANNAN of Herndon is CEO of The Activated People LLC, one of 18 organizations comprising the NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition. On March 31, he emailed Fairfax County Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Jeffrey McKay, all Supervisors, Sheriff's Office, Chief Edwin Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police, and Peter Flynn. "The purpose of this communication is to urge the County to take more deliberate short-term measures to reduce the number of inmates housed at the Center until COVID-19 abates. This is even more pressing in light of the revelation that an inmate tested positive."

A March 31 letter emailed by Annan on behalf of NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff's Office and Police Department said in part: "While the [Sheriff's] Department is taking meaningful measures to protect inmates, it is not clear that Fairfax County as a whole is taking holistic, aggressive measures necessary to reduce the number of inmates housed in the county detention facility. ... To reduce the risk of exposure ... all must work together

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Kofi Annan of Herndon is CEO of The Activated People LLC, one of 18 organizations in the NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition.



PHOTO COURTESY FAIRFAX COUNTY
Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid, Fairfax

er to both reduce the current jail population and the in-flow of new inmates. We urge Fairfax County to ... reduce pre-trial detention. Only make arrests for violent offenses and issue other citations for non-violent offenses. Release older inmates and those currently being held for non-violent offenses. Limit the number of check-ins (for) people on parole and probation have to make or implement virtual check-ins. Eliminate medical co-pays in jail."

The Coalition raised an important issue involving those who are incarcerated and those who operate the facility, said Supervisor John W. Foust (D-Dranesville). "I know the Sheriff and Commonwealth's Attorney. I'm sure they share this concern ... [and] will do everything they can to protect the inmates as well as the employees who work in the jail," he said. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said that any effort to reduce the time convicted criminals spend in the



Dr. Vernon C. Walton is Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Vienna, one of the 18 organizations in the NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition.



PHOTO VIA FACEBOOK.COM
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

jails "should take into account the impact on the victims, public safety and the severity of the crime." He added the County needed to ensure its Sheriff's deputies had the protections to stay safe "and do what we can to keep the inmates that remain in jail safe during the pandemic."

"Fairfax County follows procedures set forth by the Code of Virginia and Department's General Orders," said Lieutenant Stephen R. Wallace, Commander for Media Relations Bureau Fairfax County Police Department.

As for steps and measures taking place as well as information and best practices during the pandemic, Sheriff Stacey A. Kincaid said, "We have worked tirelessly with the medical professionals in the Health Department to stay informed and to implement the best protocols to help fight the spread of this invisible threat. ... Transfers of inmates to the

Virginia Department of Corrections has been suspended. ... We are also working with the courts to limit the transfer of individuals between jurisdictions for court hearings. ... We have also proactively arranged through the courts for video hearings to be held to limit traffic within our facilities."

Dr. Vernon C. Walton is Senior Pastor at First Baptist Church in Vienna, one of the organizations in the NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition. "Crowded, confined spaces leave those incarcerated particularly vulnerable to the spread of the COVID-19 virus," Walton said.

Annan echoed Walton's words and added they were pleased that the Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney's office was taking steps to reduce the inmate population at the Adult Detention Center. "However, these unprecedented circumstances demand bold, innovative solutions that are singularly focused on saving as many lives as possible," Annan said. "While the release of 36 inmates is a very good start, we continue to urge the County to take the additional steps we highlighted in our original [March 31] letter."

A JOINT RESPONSE from Sheriff Kincaid and Chairman McKay regarding the March 31 letter Annan emailed on behalf of NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition said: "The recommendations of your group merit consideration as we are all working toward a common purpose — preventing the spread of COVID-19 and keeping our community healthy and safe. ... The Police Department is making fewer arrests. On April 1, the ADC population was 589 compared with March 1, when it was 731. ... Only the courts, through magistrates and judges, have decision-making authority regarding who goes to jail and the length of their sentence. If a court issues orders to release certain inmates, the Sheriff's Office will comply with those orders. The terms of probation also fall under the courts. Commonwealth's Attorney Steve Descano indicated he has reviewed case files and will petition the courts to release selected non-violent inmates with limited time remaining on their respective sentences."

Regarding medical care and co-pays in the Adult Detention Center, Kincaid and McKay said: "There is no co-pay for the care they provide nor for over-the-counter medication. We have on contract, a medical doctor, dentist and optometrist. Co-pays apply only with these contracted providers and not in every case. ... Please know that together we are taking every possible measure to ensure the wellbeing of those entrusted to our care and the community at large."

Valerie Slater, Esq. is the executive director of RISE for Youth, another organization in the Coalition. She works with incarcerated youth. Slater said, "We must strive now more than ever to support community youth in trouble who pose no threat to others. After reviewing the cases of all youth held at the NOVA Juvenile Detention Center, two youth were successfully released to community care, according to Parisa Dehghani-Tafti, Commonwealth Attorney of Arlington... We must not forget about the children."

Manual Labor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently received in the mail the three-ring binder/manual on the dos, don'ts and what-fors concerning the upcoming treatment for my stage II papillary thyroid cancer; and information as well (including a cookbook) about the low iodine diet I am instructed to start two weeks before my actual treatment begins, my takeaway is that it is going to be long and hard six weeks from start to post-quarantine finish.

The reason for my apprehension is twofold. First and foremost is that I am an extremely picky/limited eater. There's only a handful of foods that I will eat on my best day ('best day' meaning completely normal circumstances where cancer is not involved), let alone on my worst day ('worst day' meaning in the midst of cancer treatment where what I eat is restricted). As a direct anticipated result, I fear there may be some heavy lifting - metaphorically speaking, ahead, specifically between April 27 and June 4.

The second reason which compounds the problem referred to in the previous paragraph is that we happen to be in the midst of a pandemic. Accordingly, the pandemic and the associated stay-at-home directives will minimize casual visits to the supermarket, restrictions intended to prevent the spread of the virus. Moreover, due to panic buying and the likely employee/staffing shortages at the supermarkets as the virus continues to take its toll, there may be more and more food shortages which will further eliminate what few food choices I had in the first place, before I even start this specialized diet.

This second reason is made even problematic because I am very much in an at-risk category: over 60, underlying medical condition with a compromised immune system, which prevents me or rather empowers my wife to prevent me from doing what I have done (the shopping) primarily, for the entirety of our marriage. That process never suited my wife, but it has always suited me. Consequently, I have become dependent on my wife to perform many of the tasks I have spent a lifetime perfecting: what to buy where, and when, and how to save some money doing it. Let's just say I am, as Sy Sims and his daughter Marci used to say, "an educated consumer." In our marriage, I have always described my role as the one taking care of the "business side," whereas my wife has always been the one taking care of the "social side." However, as we all try to navigate this pandemic, she is fulfilling both roles.

Now, as I roll the dice, so to speak, and plan/purchase for the present and the low iodine diet in the very near future, I am, to a certain degree, at her mercy. Given that the shopping process is hardly the adventure for her that it has always been for me, I have to rely, a little bit, on her benevolence and hope she keeps an open mind while in-store on the various indulgences that I require. Indulgences which, unfortunately, are very different from hers. As but one example, she loves a tuna fish sandwich whereas all I ever need is a cheese sandwich (and let's not even discuss the chocolate issue which is likewise not her priority as it is mine); and to quote my father: "the twain will never meet on the twack."

What many of us in this country have long taken for granted: 100 percent availability of food, medicine, health and miscellaneous household products is presently not so true anymore. Not purchasing some of these products until they go on sale is a pattern I likely won't be able to follow. If I do, their purchase may be too little, too late. The last thing my future diet/medical treatment can tolerate is 'too little, too late.' And I would imagine that unless I stay on track, the "twain" will be the least of my problems.

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

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LETTERS

Harris

FROM PAGE 5

al life is blurred, and the constancy of being at home means that I am never off the clock. There is no such thing as a true break. The persistent problems are never out of my mind. It is mentally draining. Every day is the same. The legal advice I now give is usually prefaced with "I'm not completely sure."

Still most of my sorrow comes from the absolute horror and anxiety that too many citizens are facing or soon will be facing. There is no way to sugar coat the extent of this dread. My hope is that each of us has developed workable coping methods. When I think of unforeseeable chaos of an unimaginable degree, I think of an ill-nourished and ill-clothed slave crossing the North Atlantic and seeing snow for the first time, perhaps on the deck of a ship. What went through that person's mind? What was that person's idea of certainty? How much strength did it take to cope for that person based on that person's new reality?

Or for a more contemporaneous analogy I reflect on the struggles of a family on the streets without shelter, a job, medicine, food, money, or the slightest degree of optimism.

I am not sure why I write these words. It is not to offer hope. I am fairly confident that things will be okay for me and my wife Tracie. The lasting question is whether things can ever be good for you and me, when it is so bad for so many others? At the end of the day, we all do need to look out for those we know and for those we don't yet know.

Matt Harris
Alexandria

Spiegel

FROM PAGE 5

"Fairfax County does not have access to Social Security records. Registrants provide their SSN when submitting their applications which we accept as given. Only if there is a conflict with an existing registration record is the information questioned. Registrants are never asked to provide proof of their number."

In Fairfax County, as of February 1, 2019, there were 766,226 registered voters, each of whom provides a social security number when they register. What this means is that if a person seeking to register to vote fabricates a social security number on their application, there is only a 1 in 766,226 chance that the social security number they provide will match up with a social security number of a registered voter in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County citizens should be extremely concerned that there is little safeguarding of the voter registration process in our County, and likely State-wide. The process of registering to vote must be significantly tightened up so that, at minimum, the first time a voter registers to vote, they must provide a birth certificate or a certified copy of their naturalization papers as well as their original social security card so that we can be assured registered voters are actually citizens, are actually the person they claim to be, and they are actually using their own social security number and not one they have fabricated for the purpose of illegally voting. These requirements equally apply to anyone seeking to register to vote.

H. Jay Spiegel
Mount Vernon

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9115 McNair Dr | \$795,000

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OUR BUYER & SELLER!



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