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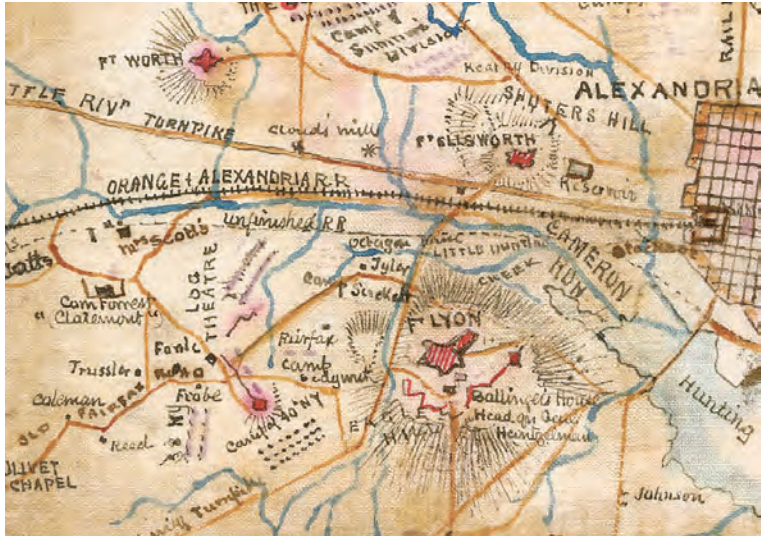
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Historic Huntley Farm.



The Belvale House off Telegraph Road.

Map by Robert Knox Sneden, a Union map maker during the war.

Time Warp Along Telegraph Goes From Revolutionary Sites to Civil War

Part three of the Telegraph Road series goes to the edge of City of Alexandria.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

As Telegraph Road creeps along towards the City of Alexandria, the community of Lake d'Evereux is highlighted by the Belvale House. Belvale is a historic structure that dates back to 1764, and is rumored to have a ghost lurking on the grounds.

The mansion was built between 1763 and 1766 for George Johnston, a friend of Patrick Henry and George Washington. Johnston was a member of the Virginia Assembly 1758-1766, and a legal advisor to George Washington, who was a frequent visitor to the home.

Johnson died in 1766, possibly in the gun room of the house. The Johnston family sold the house in 1925 to A.B. Weldeford, and then came stories of a ghost appearing in the cedar grove that used to be on the property. On the second night of each month, the ghost was said to appear in the grove, where there was a duel. The young man who lost the duel was never really identified, but it was written that George Washington might have helped bury the man and plant the cedar tree near the grave.

In 1964, the D.J. Richard fami-

ly owned the house and went up in the attic, saw the ghost out the window, and when they went to turn on the lights, all the lights in the house blew. All this was recorded in a 1964 issue of the Hollin Hills Bulletin, a local newsletter for the community off Richmond Highway.

According to a 1970 Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), there is a report of a slave burial ground on the property but the exact location could not be determined.

The Belvale house remains a residence that faces Telegraph Road and there is a historic plaque near the front door.

Historic Huntley

Bordering the rear of this neighborhood is Huntley Meadows park, which can be accessed from Telegraph Road at the fork with South Kings Highway. Historic Huntley is a house that is located on the park, and it is described on county documents as a Federal period villa built for Thomson Francis Mason in 1825 as a summer retreat. Mason was the mayor of Alexandria from 1827-30 and a grandson of George Mason IV, author of the Virginia Declaration of Rights.



There are a few strands of Old Telegraph Road that weave in and out of the current Telegraph Road.

Historic Huntley is on the National Register of Historic Places, the Virginia Landmarks Register and the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites. Over the years, Historic Huntley was used as a summer retreat, a grain farm, encampment for Civil War troops of the 3rd Michigan Infantry, and eventually was converted to a dairy farm, county records indicate. Ownership changed several times, and in later years, after being abandoned, the house was vandalized. The Park Authority obtained the house and its surrounding 2.5 acres in 1989, and a renovation of the manor house

was completed in 2012. The surrounding park is famous for a boardwalk that goes out over the wetlands that bird watchers use on a regular basis.

Civil War Rages On

As Telegraph Road leads toward the City of Alexandria, it passes Rose Hill, where Mosby's Raiders went to the Rose Hill mansion on Sept. 28, 1863, and captured Col. Dulaney, a Union officer as he was sleeping. This occurred in the Rose Hill mansion which was on the hill overlooking Greendale Golf Course and Telegraph Road. One of the raiders was French Dulaney, the son of Col. Dulaney who fought for opposite sides. This story is on a Civil War Trails marker on Rose Hill Drive.

Close to the northern end of

Telegraph Road, near present day Jefferson Manor Park, was Fort Lyon, one of the Union forts that was put in place to defend Washington, D.C. This fort was built in 1861 after the Union defeat at Bull Run, near the present-day location of Mount Eagle school in an area known as Ballenger's Hill. Since it was on the highest point around, the fort overlooked Telegraph Road, the Columbia Turnpike, the Orange and Alexandria Railroad, and the Little River Turnpike.

On June 9, 1863, there was a huge explosion in the battery of the fort which killed 25 soldiers and could be heard from miles around. In the wake of the explosion, Fort Lyon, and Alexandria were visited by many military and civilian dignitaries, including Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and President Abraham Lincoln, according to a "Voices from the Past." By Lewis Bissel, dated June 17, 1863.

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2 ❖ MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ❖ APRIL 16-22, 2020



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NEWS

Public Health Crisis or Public Hunger Crisis?

United Community expands efforts during COVID-19 pandemic.

As public health officials work to contain the COVID-19 outbreak, United Community is grappling to combat a crisis of a different kind -- hunger. Across Fairfax County, organizations have been working with haste to provide resources for those most vulnerable. Fairfax County Public Schools distributed 10,000 grab-n-go meals to students in need on March 19, alone.

Since then, 17 million Americans have lost their jobs.

"In the month of March, the number of new families coming to our food pantry doubled," Stepping Stones Director Cajethan Ekeagwu said. "Eighty percent of them came in the last two weeks."

The neighborhoods surrounding United Community's food pantry are among the most impoverished in Fairfax County, with more than 15 percent of residents living below the poverty line -- prior to COVID-19. As the economic impacts of the global pandemic continue to grow, the lines outside the food pantry have grown longer and longer.

"This is only the beginning," said Alison DeCoursey, United Community's Executive Director. "The only way we can keep a public health crisis from becoming a hunger crisis is to rally around our neighbors in need and provide them the resources they need. That is where our organization is laser-focused, right now."

As part of this massive effort,

United Community has repurposed much of their employees to meet the community's rapidly growing needs.

"It's sad to see just how many people are struggling," Community School Coordinator Marcia St. John-Cunning said. "We've seen cancer patients, expecting mothers, and elderly couples risk their lives to come get help -- they have nowhere else to turn."

Like many United Community employees, Marcia's work has shifted dramatically in the past two weeks. Before COVID-19, she worked onsite supporting families at the Community School at Mt. Vernon Woods

Elementary School. Now she alternates her days between providing virtual help to those families and in-person help to dozens more at the food pantry.

United Community isn't acting alone. Working with Fairfax County Government, the Capital Area Food Bank, and other generous donors, the Fordson Road food pantry has become the Route One Food Hub for local families impacted by COVID-19. Diapers are also being distributed, thanks to a partnership with the Greater DC Diaper Bank. However, as the number of local COVID-19 cases continues to climb and neighbors continue to lose their jobs, United Community knows the supply is not enough to meet the

community's urgent needs.

"Last week our main food supplier informed us that we will



Lining up to enter the food pantry. (Note: This photo was taken prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.)



have to cut back our food order," Ekeagwu said. The news comes as United Community plans to launch a second distribution site for families in need -- many of whom lack transportation to get to Fordson Road.

"We're working with the County and other food suppliers to find the quickest and safest way to serve our community," Ekeagwu said.

United Community is asking those who would like to help to donate to United Community's COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund at www.unitedcommunity.org.

Staff wearing personal protective equipment work to make supplies available.

Mount Vernon District Virtual Budget Town Meeting

Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. Live and streaming

Next Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m., Supervisor Dan Storck hold a Mount Vernon District Virtual Budget Town Hall with School Board Member and Chair Karen Corbett Sanders. They will be joined by the County's Chief Financial Officer Joe Mondoro and School Assistant Superintendent for Financial Services Leigh Burden to discuss the revised proposed FY 2021 Budget for both the County and schools. Following brief presentations on the budgets, viewers will have the opportunity to get their questions answered. The program will air live on Facebook, Channel 16, Cox Channel 1016, Verizon/

Comcast Channel 16 and FCPS Channel 21. It will also be available on Channel 16 Video on Demand and Facebook after the program.

YOU can ask questions in a variety of ways. In advance of Monday, send email questions to MtVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov. During the program, you can email, post questions to our Facebook Live Feed, Tweet us @DanStorck or call the call-in line at 703-324-1114.

To read more about the revised proposed County FY 2021 Budget and how to provide public testimony...

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/county-executive-proposes-revised-fy-2021-budget/>

Ft. Belvoir Man Arrested for Unlawfully Filming Men in Home Depot Bathrooms -- Detectives Seeking Additional Victims

A man is facing misdemeanor charges after detectives learned he was unlawfully filming men inside Home Depot bathrooms in October 2019. Dquarious Willis, 23, of Fort Belvoir, was arrested on April 8 following a two-month-long investigation that began when videos of unsuspecting men were found on Willis' phone by Ft. Belvoir Military Police Officers.

Detectives from Fairfax County Police Department's Mount Vernon and Franconia District Criminal Investigations sections have preliminarily determined that between Oct. 13 and Oct. 19, 2019, Willis filmed approximately 19 men by occupying a stall next to victims and

placing a bag containing a recording device partially under the partition. To date, detectives have identified three adult victims and have determined that videos were taken at Home Depot stores located at 7710 Richmond Highway and 6691 Frontier Drive. The majority of the videos were taken in the morning hours. Detectives are attempting to identify other victims; all appear to be adults. Anyone with information is asked to contact Detective Carpenter with the Mount Vernon Criminal Investigations Section at 703-360-8400 or by email at Edward.Carpenter@fairfaxcounty.gov. Willis was released on a \$2,500 unsecured bond.

OPINION

Honoring Women in 2020

A look at the woman leading us through the coronavirus pandemic.

By SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK
D-MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

Florence Nightingale, Elizabeth Blackwell, Clara Barton, Virginia Apgar, Rebecca Lee Crumpler, Marie Curie are just a few of the many women who have made our lives healthier through medicine and science. While women have influenced much of our society and knowledge base, health and science seem particularly important today, as we are

COMMENTARY led by Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director of the Fairfax County Health Department. As I receive email after email and attend briefings and updates on COVID-19, I am inspired by the calm intellect Dr. Gloria displays every time she relays information or responds to questions. It is leaders such as Dr. Gloria who will guide us through this pandemic and see that we emerge a stronger and more united community.

As the County's health director, Dr. Gloria directs and manages public health programs across

the county and serves as health advisor to the County's Board of Supervisors, Health Care Advisory Board, and Human Services Council. In her 17 years of service as director, the Department has virtually been restructured from the ground up and several new initiatives and systems have been put in place. She has brought a new focus on emergency preparedness, health equity, the need to promote community health and resilience, and the importance of leveraging community assets that already exist if you want to create practical, sustainable approaches to complex challenges.

During the current pandemic, Dr. Gloria's mission to reorient the Health Department toward enhancing community resilience has been especially relevant and invaluable. For instance, the Bioterrorism Medical Action Team that she created in 2001—one of the first and largest local public health



Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Director Fairfax County Health Department

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

volunteer response programs in the United States—prepared Fairfax County to make a seamless transition to the Medical Reserve Corps program. MRC volunteers are presently working alongside our Health Department staff to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Disciplined, approachable, passionate, rigorous yet flexible, Dr. Gloria's leadership and work, honored through numerous awards, serve as an inspiring example to young women and men who aspire to making a substantial social impact because, no matter where they currently are in life, where there is a will, there is a way. No one, least of all Dr. Gloria herself, would have predicted that a young woman from Ghana who had to clean hotel rooms to pay her way through college would someday rise to such distinction.

One would therefore have imagined that a leader of such professional accomplishments would

never let on that, in her private moments, she still struggles with insecurities of one kind or another, and that she still gets stage fright when she has to deliver a speech. Three strengths have helped her overcome her personal struggles and achieve success.

First, Dr. Gloria sets high standards for herself and puts enormous pressure on herself, routinely waking up at 2 a.m. to begin her day. Second, she never gives up—no matter how complex or daunting the challenge. Even when overwhelmed, she tries not to show it, although you might hear it as a slight stammer in her speech when the pressure is really on, an impediment from childhood. Third, her deep faith, upon which her entire life is centered, anchors her and gives her a focus that allows her to ignore side distractions and concentrate on the most important goals.

Throughout history, leaders like Dr. Gloria both inspire and protect us in times of great challenge and times of great joy. We are all in this together and we thank you for your service, Dr. Gloria.

Here It Comes: 140 Amendments to State Budget

Veto session to consider 101 amendments to bills is next week.

By SEN. SCOTT
SUROVELL

Sunday, Governor Northam signed the remaining bills that were pending for action, proposed 140 amendments to the state budget, and also 101 amendments to bills. As of today, the plan is for the House of Delegates to meet outdoors and the Senate of Virginia



Surovell

to meet in a tent behind the Virginia Science Museum in Richmond next Wednesday at noon for our "Veto Session."

First, the good news for our area. The language requiring the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transit to study extending the Blue Line to Lorton, Woodbridge and Potomac Mills is still in the budget. In addition,

the authority and appropriations to fund the Prince William County Public Defender's Office is still in the budget and cannot be amended further at this point.

The Governor proposed emergency language to allow community associations more flexibility to meet in light of the COVID crisis. He also proposed language that would abate interest on Virginia taxes that are paid before June 1, 2020. He also proposed language to give the Department of Correc-

tions the flexibility to grant early release to prisoners scheduled to be released in the next twelve months.

He also proposed to move our local elections, including those in the towns of Occoquan and Quantico, from May to November. I doubt that will pass. He also used existing legislative authority to order our pending June primaries for U.S. Congress to be delayed two weeks to June 23, 2020.

SEE SUROVELL, PAGE 10

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We Need Coronavirus Data by Zip Code

Thanks to Congressman Beyer for hosting his Town Hall on Coronavirus, and thanks to the Gazette for its report on the meeting, which made clear that Fairfax County has a long way to go in addressing citizen concerns.

It is shocking that Fairfax County, one of the largest in the country, and home to nearly 20 percent of coronavirus cases in Virginia, has been so vague about its statistics, including the location of those affected.

County Executive Bryan Hill's response to the inquiry from "John from Bailey's Crossroads" about the location of Fairfax County cases is a case in point. His answer?: "HIPAA (the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) regs prohibit the release of that information."

A check of the HHS website shows that this is not true: patient names can't be released, but information that is important to the public can be released when it is in

the public interest.

The county's website also still has no list of testing sites (including drive-throughs), and it appears that the only testing by Inova Hospitals is in the north portion of the county. According to WTOJ, there is just one testing site in the southern part of the county, home to about half the county's population, a private clinic (Allcare) on Route 1 just south of Alexandria City. The Fairfax County website does not list this site.

A number of states, including Maryland, already provide information on coronavirus cases by zip code.

VDH statistics (updated April 14) show 16 cases at retirement communities in Fairfax county, and one in Alexandria, but we don't know which communities or their zip codes.

Why can't we get information by zip code here in northern Virginia?

Mary Tracy
Hollin Hills

Mount Vernon Gazette

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OPINION

Changed Circumstances Require Governor's Red Pen

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK



Last Saturday night at midnight was the constitutional deadline for Governor Northam to act on the 1,291 bills that we sent to him from the General Assembly this session. In total, Governor Northam signed 1,021 bills, vetoed one bill, and has sent back 102 pieces of legislation with recommendations that my colleagues and I must review and vote on during the upcoming reconvened session on April 22nd. He had a very busy weekend with his red pen making numerous edits to the budget and legislation in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the COVID-19 pandemic is ongoing and circumstances rapidly change, it is still too soon to know how much expected revenue Virginia has lost and will continue to lose. In addition, the current budget does not account for all the increased expenses that the COVID-19 response has and will cost Virginia. To reflect these unforeseen changes, Governor Northam has requested that the General Assembly approve a freeze of \$874.6 million in spending in the fiscal

year that will start on July 1st, 2020, and \$1.4 billion in the fiscal year that will begin on July 1st, 2021. He also adds an additional \$55.5 million for the Department of Emergency Management. We will also get the opportunity to vote on his helpful and important amendments to waive interest on state income tax payments submitted after May 1st, and to provide spending flexibility, and to allow virtual public meetings for Government bodies. Until we pass that amendment we must convene in person. The plan is to do so on the 22nd, but outside wearing masks and with at least 6 feet between us. Hopefully, for safety's sake, we can finish up quickly and if necessary, reconvene online from home if there are any amendments left to act upon.

With the new circumstances of life under this deadly pandemic, the Governor revisited many of our decisions and delayed some long-awaited initiatives our new Democratic majority fought for during the General Assembly session. The critical labor legislation that we worked hard to pass this session is delayed until May 1st, 2021. So, the first increase in the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$9.50 an hour, would not happen until May 1st, 2021. This is a change from the bill we passed that had it go into effect on Jan. 1, 2021. While this first increase is delayed, the remaining incremental increases will go into effect as

originally proposed, topping out at \$12 an hour beginning in 2023. As I have stated before, this comes at a time when minimum wage workers are serving on the frontlines of this pandemic.

In addition to our accolades, these workers deserve living wages. Pay raises for teachers and other public employees will also be put on hold, as well as the hiring of much-needed school counselors. Indeed, the Governor has proposed 83 budget amendments to freeze new spending initiatives that we approved when the economy was in far better shape.

To create a COVID-19 relief fund and ease the burden on restaurants and businesses that have had to reduce business or shutter their operations, Governor Northam has recommended a 35% tax on games of skill, otherwise known as "gray machines", which we voted to ban during the session. If approved, this tax revenue could generate somewhere north of \$100 million to go towards funding a COVID-19 relief fund for small businesses, as well as housing and nursing home assistance. After one year, the delayed ban would be implemented and the games of skill would be banned. However, the likelihood is that these small businesses, mostly restaurants, truck stops, and small convenience stores, will still require this revenue. I anticipate that we will need to pass a new bill next session to regulate them so that they are not in places where there are children and don't create a host of mini-casinos.

Also significantly, Governor Northam signed sweeping new voting access laws into law that will make voting more accessible to all Virginians. These bills included allowing Virginians the option to vote early without an excuse up to 45 days prior to an election, and ensuring that mail-in ballots postmarked on or before the date of the election shall be counted. In-person voting hours were also extended, with polls now closing at 8 p.m. instead of 7 p.m. In addition, Election Day was officially made a state holiday, replacing Lee-Jackson Day. This move will give Virginians more time and opportunity to cast their votes.

Finally, Governor Northam signed the Clean Economy Act which will accelerate Virginia's transition to clean energy. This legislation requires Dominion Energy to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2045 and Appalachian Power to be 100 percent carbon-free by 2050. It requires nearly all coal-fired plants to shut down by the end of 2024. This legislation also advances offshore and onshore wind projects. In addition to bills like my HB 502, which increased the penalty for delinquent litter taxes, these environmental actions will give Virginia a jumpstart on combating climate change and protecting our environment.

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.

MONDAY/APRIL 27

Community Conversations: Transportation. 7:30-9 p.m. The General Assembly passed momentous legislation for transportation and transit in 2020. Mark your calendars for this webinar that discusses the impact of the legislation and opportunities to move clean transportation forward in northern Virginia. Webinar address: bit.ly/NOVA-Transportation.

GOVERNOR REQUESTS MOVING MAY ELECTION

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Gov. Ralph Northam requested the General Assembly move the May General Election and all special elections scheduled for May 5, 2020 to the November 3, 2020 General Election date to further mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The Governor is also exercising his statutory authority (§ 24.2-603.1 of the Code of Virginia) to move the June primary elections from June 9, 2020 to June 23, 2020. Moving the upcoming May elections requires action by the General Assembly. The plan the Governor is proposing includes the following measures:

There will be one ballot in November. Voters who are qualified in November will be able to vote in Novem-

ber. An individual who was not qualified in May but is qualified in November will be able to vote. All absentee ballots already cast will be discarded. Virginians will have an opportunity to vote for local elected officials in November.

Those officials whose terms are to expire as of June 30, 2020 will continue in office until their successors have been elected on the November 3, 2020 and have been qualified to serve.

GOVERNOR SIGNS NEW LAWS TO SUPPORT WORKERS

Gov. Ralph Northam has signed nearly two dozen new laws to support working Virginians, including

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 8



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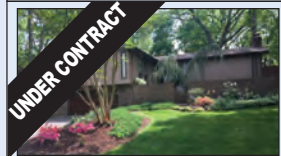
Alex/Riverside Estates \$619,000
3026 Battersea Lane

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 hwdws 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 bkdyd 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

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Revised County Budget Reflects Pandemic Realities

County's updated budget proposal strikes millions in planned disbursements.

By MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County does not have an FY 2021 Adopted Budget Plan yet. That is the annual budget approved by the Board of Supervisors for the upcoming fiscal year running from July 1, 2020, through June 30, 2021. Up until April 7, what the Supervisors did have in their hands was the \$3.2 billion FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan, County Executive Bryan Hill presented on Feb. 25. It focused on employee compensation as well as new programs and initiatives.

No more.

On April 7, Hill released the FY 2021 Updated Budget Proposal to the Board of Supervisors in response to the pandemic. In his message to the Supervisors, Hill wrote, "Life as we know it has been significantly and, perhaps, to some extent, permanently altered. ... It is imperative that our initial FY 2021 budget proposal be updated to reflect the new economic realities."

With coronavirus' impact weighing on County residents, many furloughed or laid off from jobs and businesses shuttered; the Updated Budget Proposal no longer recommends the three-cent increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate as present-

ed in the earlier FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan. Of the increase, two cents was to be utilized to fund priorities in the General Fund and, per Board Budget Guidance, one cent dedicated to affordable housing. The Updated Budget Proposal also did not recommend the previously recommended 4 percent Admissions Tax on the sale of movie, theatre and concert tickets. Revenue would have been deposited into the Contributory Fund and used for arts, cultural, and tourism activities, relieving pressure on the General Fund.

HILL WROTE that the County's most important priorities, includ-

ing schools, affordable housing, employee pay, early childhood opportunities, environmental investments, the expansion of library hours and support for arts and cultural activities, remained its priorities. "However, our residents' ability to absorb the impact of increased taxes has diminished."

According to Hill, although increased revenue of more than \$100 million was projected based on increased real estate values, this revenue is anticipated to be offset by losses as a result of the coronavirus pandemic, "resulting in no net growth in revenue for the County in FY 2021."

Hill wrote, "I am recommending that General Fund revenues be held flat as compared to the FY 2020 Adopted Budget Plan."

According to the Revised Proposal, based on the actions of the Fed to lower interest rates to 0 percent, the FY 2021 estimate for interest income should be reduced by \$25 million. Major revenue sources relative to the FY 2020 Revised Budget Plan estimates indicated reduced tax revenues — decreases in Sales (\$26.7 million), Transient Occupancy (\$7 million) Business, Professional, and Occupancy License (\$17.2 million), Personal Property (\$9 million), Interest on Investments (\$36.7 million) and more. Hill added: "With the significant impact to revenues, most of the recommended spending adjustments that had been included in my original proposal will need to be deferred. All increased disbursements in this proposal are paid for by savings in fringe benefits and required reserve contributions."

Hill recommended to only fund items critical to maintaining the health and safety of county residents and the continued function of essential services.

The Updated Budget Proposal cut nearly all new spending. It eliminated all pay adjustments for County employees. Hill wrote, "Protecting the jobs and current pay levels of the County's existing employees continues to be of the utmost importance." The proposal did recommend 19 new positions for the Health Department to address COVID-19 and one in the Office of Elections.

Other areas recommended to receive funding: \$0.58 million to the Community Funding Pool, which provides funding to community organizations to meet human services needs; \$1.77 million to support the workload for the County's Police Body-Worn Camera program; and \$0.58 million to

support the information technology requirements of the Office of Elections and needs for the 2020 Presidential election. Additionally, \$9.84 million was set aside as an appropriated reserve for potential requirements to address the pandemic.

According to the Updated Budget Proposal: "In the absence of solid data and with so much uncertainty about the outlook, General Fund revenues are projected to be \$4,457,199,539, which represents no change from the FY 2020 Adopted Budget Plan level. This level of revenue is based on the assumption that by July, the health crisis is over, and gradual recovery in consumer confidence leads to the resumption of economic activity." Estimates for FY21 revenue were anticipated to be revised as more data became available.

As with the FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan, the Updated Budget Proposal recommended equal growth of county disbursements and school transfers; however, that meant a drastic growth reduction from 3.65 percent to 0.32 percent over the FY 2020 Adopted Budget Plan reducing the transfer to the Schools Operating Fund from \$85.52 million to \$7.31 million.

Hill recommended the FY 2021 budget be shifted back one week to May 12; public hearings, except the Effective Tax Rate public hearing, moved back two weeks to April 28-30; approval of the CIP be postponed until June and Board approval of the Countywide Strategic Plan also be delayed.

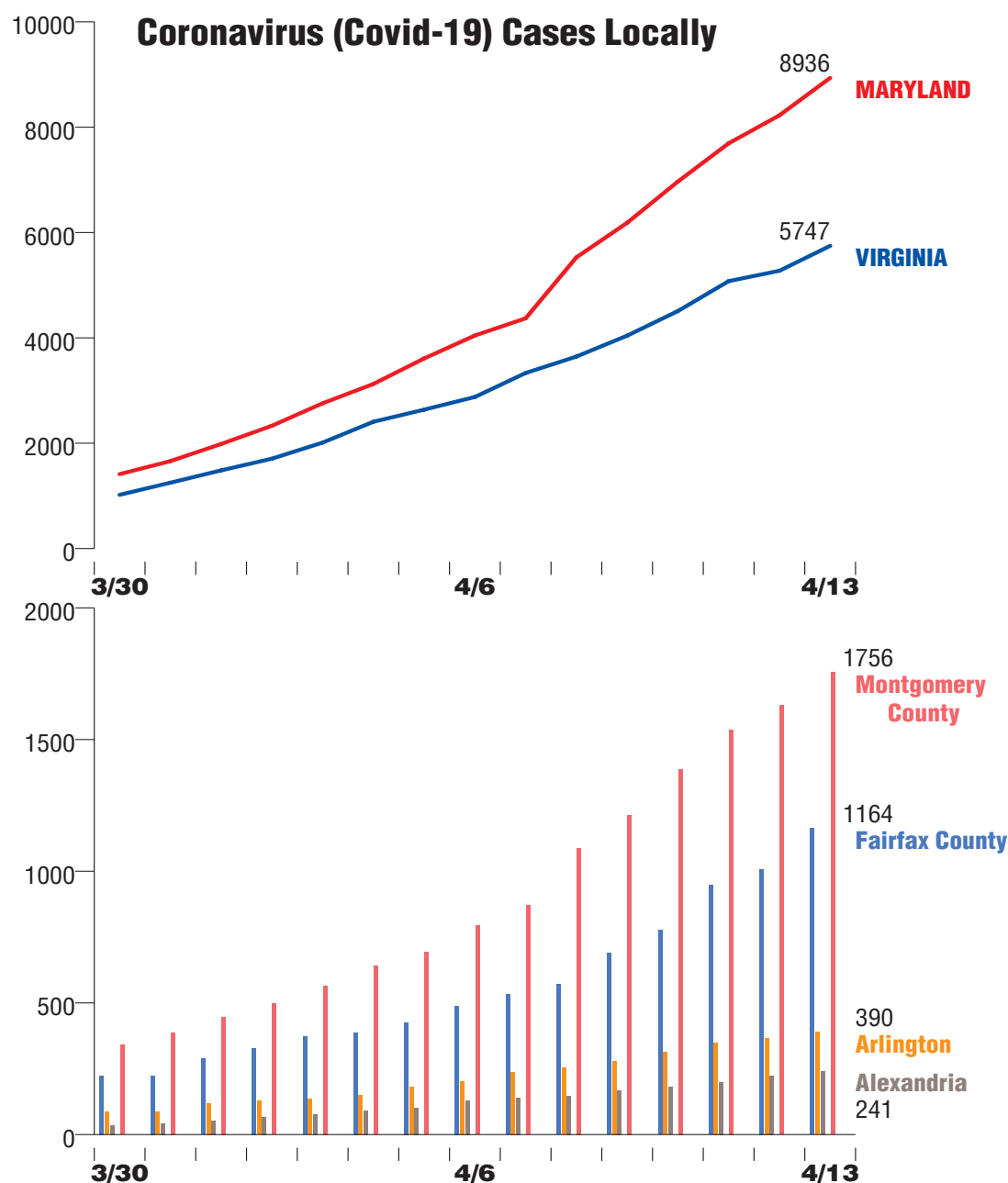
Jeff McKay, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors said: "Our priorities remain our priorities... We're committed to finding creative ways to get them done." McKay added the County Executive's amended proposed budget did not yet include emergency funding provided by the federal and state governments.

Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield) said in The Her-rity Report, April 9: "I'm glad to see most of these changes were included in the revised budget, including limiting the rollout of the police body camera program and focusing the resources of the Consolidated Community Funding Pool on pandemic-related efforts."

SUPERVISOR Walter Alcorn (D-Hunter Mill) held a Hunter Mill District Virtual Budget Town Hall on April 8. It featured Christina Jackson, Director of the Department of Management and Budget

SEE COUNTY BUDGET, PAGE 7

Local Coronavirus Cases



Sources:
Virginia Department of Health <http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
Maryland: Maryland Department of Health <https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/>
Alexandria Source: City of Alexandria

GRAPHICS BY LAURENCE FOONG / COMPILED BY KEN MOORE

NEWS

County Budget: 'Back to Basics'

FROM PAGE 6

for Fairfax County, Alcorn's input and a Q & A opportunity. Data on the screen reported 116 people attended. Jackson said, "A lot has been stripped out [of the budget] ... It's almost like a back to basics budget."

Alcorn reassured listeners that his priorities and values had not changed. "I'm still committed to helping our most vulnerable. I'm still committed to doing everything possible to address the affordable housing crisis. I also am committed to our Schools... many of the things... that we were keyed up to do before this public health crisis hit, I still am committed to doing," Alcorn said. View the video with Jackson's 8-minute budget summary, comments from Alcorn and questions from the public at <https://www.crowdcast.io/e/hunter-mill-district>. Residents can provide testimony on the budget via video, phone or online for upcoming budget hearings, scheduled April 28-30. After a planned mark-up meeting on May 5, the Board of Supervisors is expected to adopt the budget on May 12.

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FAIRFAX COUNTY INFORMATION: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/information-businesses-impacted-coronavirus/
VIRGINIA INFORMATION: www.virginia.gov/coronavirus-updates/

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BULLETIN BOARD

FROM PAGE 5

legislation to combat worker misclassification and wage theft, ban workplace discrimination, and prohibit non-compete covenants for low-wage workers. The Governor proposes to increase the minimum wage starting May 1, 2021, and to advance prevailing wage, collective bargaining, and project labor agreement legislation then as well. This will ensure workers get the support they need while allowing greater economic certainty in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, Governor Northam is proposing amendments to prohibit apprenticeship discrimination on the basis of gender identity and to create a work-sharing program to support workers impacted by COVID-19.

GOVERNOR SIGNS CLEAN ENERGY LEGISLATION

Gov. Ralph Northam is accelerating Virginia's transition to clean energy by signing the Virginia Clean Economy Act and by amending the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act that requires Virginia to join the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. The Virginia Clean Economy Act was passed as House Bill 1526 and Senate Bill 851, which were sponsored by Delegate Richard C. "Rip" Sullivan Jr. and Senator Jennifer McClellan, respectively. The Act incorporates clean energy directions that the Governor issued in Executive Order Forty-Three in September 2019. It results from extensive stakeholder input and incorporates environmental justice concepts related to the Green New Deal.

LEGISLATION DECRIMINALIZING MARIJUANA POSSESSION

Gov. Ralph Northam has approved legislation (Senate Bill 2 | House Bill 972) decriminalizing marijuana possession offenses. Northam also recommended technical amendments which must be approved by the legislature before the new law takes effect July 1,

2020. The law reduces penalties for offenses involving the possession of up to one ounce of marijuana to a civil violation – punishable by a maximum \$25 fine, no arrest, and no criminal record.

GOVERNOR SIGNS VIRGINIA VALUES ACT

Gov. Ralph Northam today announced he has signed the Virginia Values Act, making Virginia the first state in the South to enact comprehensive protections for the LGBTQ community against discrimination in housing, employment, public spaces, and credit applications. Senate Bill 868, sponsored by Senator Adam Ebbin, prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in housing, public and private employment, public accommodations, and access to credit. The legislation also extends important protections to Virginians on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, age, marital status, disability, and status as a veteran.

RELIEF FOR RESTAURANTS, DISTILLERIES

Gov. Ralph Northam issued an executive directive authorizing the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority (ABC) to defer annual fees for licenses and permits that would be up for renewal through June. The Governor also directed the Virginia ABC to allow establishments with mixed beverage licenses, such as restaurants and distilleries, to sell mixed beverages through takeout or delivery, effective last Thursday. Under the Governor's executive directive, the Virginia ABC will defer the collection of license renewal fees for 90 days from original expiration date for establishments with licenses expiring in March, April, May, and June. Any penalties that would normally be associated with the late payment of such fees will be waived.

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Working from Home with Children

Juggling the role of parent and employee.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

It's been nearly one month since the coronavirus pandemic led to school closures and teleworking. With most schools closed for the remainder of the academic year, parents are left with the dual responsibility of teacher and employee.

"Times have greatly changed and now everyone is trying to adjust to a new reality," said Bethesda therapist Carol Barnaby, MSW, LCSW. "I have heard from many patients who feel that they are currently a bad parent, worker, and spouse."

"Couples are fighting daily about whose career is more important in regards to who will watch the children during conflicting conference calls," continued Barnaby. "Others feel bad that their children are on their own all day while they are locked in a room working."

For those who are struggling with this balancing act, reality testing your self-expectations can offer relief, suggests Barnaby.

"Is it realistic to expect that you are going to be able to conduct business as usual while you have toddlers needing constant entertainment, school children who need school help or are fighting over devices or teens who want to sleep all day and stay up all night?" Barnaby asks. "The answer is no, it is not realistic. In normal times we would not expect someone to watch their toddler while trying to conduct business meetings. We would think that it was an absurd expectation."

Distance learning with children while simultaneously working from home is a new experience for most. Parents cannot work, teach and parent all at once. "Parents and children should develop a flexible schedule and specify locations for each to do their work," said Jerome Short, Ph.D. Associate Professor of Psychology, George Mason University. "Parents should discuss with their work colleagues the specific times each day they can do work-related communications."

Since the usual boundaries that separate settings and activities throughout the day are absent, it's important to create them, advises psychologist Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D. "Set hours for school or work and hours for leisure and family time," she said. "This allows for quality time and experiences in each camp. Of course the ability to do this will depend upon the age of your children and the type of work you do."

"Communicate about times when quiet and lack of



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

Working from home in the age of coronavirus is stressful for parents.

interruption is essential, and clearly distinguish from times when you are available for questions and helping your child," continued Isenberg. "Identify specific activities that your kids can do on their own [such as] drawing, reading and throwing a tennis ball against outdoor steps."

Once a routine or schedule is established, writing and posting can create organization, says Barnaby. "This will allow children to interrupt parents less and to know when it is a good time to seek help," she said. "It will also give them a plan for their days."

If possible, designate a workspace for each family member, suggests Isenberg. "In order to stay organized and feel in control of your work, it is important to have your own work area in which to keep your belongings," she said. Scheduling time for physical activity can help minimize the impact of not having access to playgrounds, movie theaters and museums. "Have exercise time every day," said Isenberg. "Not only is it good for your overall health, but it helps with mood and we all need a little extra moving

and stretching from all of the sitting in front of computer screens. "Even if you don't have much space, getting outside every day is therapeutic. The sunshine, fresh air, and change of scenery will help everyone decompress and improve their moods."

— Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D.

"Is it realistic to expect that you are going to be able to conduct business as usual while you have toddlers needing constant entertainment, school children who need school help or are fighting over devices or teens who want to sleep all day and stay up all night?"

— Bethesda therapist Carol Barnaby

"Getting outside every day is therapeutic. The sunshine, fresh air, and change of scenery will help everyone decompress and improve their moods."

Obituary

Obituary

Herbert A. (Pete) Holt



On April 5, 2020, Herbert A. (Pete) Holt, age 74, died peacefully at home surrounded by his family. Pete had courageously battled a four year illness with pulmonary fibrosis. Pete was born on June 24, 1945 in Virginia Beach, Virginia and was the son of Mattie and Herbert A. Holt, Jr., who were the owners of Holt Buick. Pete received his Bachelor's degree in City Planning from the University of Virginia in 1969 and his Master of Public Administration from George Washington University in 1977.

Pete had a distinguished career as a Senior level executive with over thirty years of progressively responsible leadership in government and the private healthcare industry. He

served as the Director of the Department of Mental Health Services in Montgomery County, Maryland from 1986-1995. Pete led the creation and establishment of a 350 person staff.

Pete served as the President of the National Association of County Behavioral Health Directors. Additionally, he served on the Executive Board of the Maryland Association of Community Mental Health Programs. He was also named as a Fellow to the American College of Mental Health Administration.

Pete is survived by his loving wife of 53 years, Cheryl Adams Holt; daughter Hillary Vasquez; grandsons Conner and Peyton Vasquez; and sister-in-law Dr. Rebecca Cobb Adams.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations in Pete's memory may be made to: The Twig P.O. Box 26324, Alexandria Virginia 22302

There will be no funeral service.

Legals

Legals

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Notice is hereby given that Mr. Toby Zhu has requested authorization from the Virginia Marine Resources Commission to install approximately 125 linear feet of riprap revetment, immediately channelward of a failing timber bulkhead and extending a maximum 7 feet channelward of MLW, in Gunston Cove adjacent to riparian property situated at 11371 River Road, in Fairfax County. Send comments/inquiries within 15 days to: Marine Resources Commission, Habitat Management Division, 380 Fenwick Road, Bldg. 96, Hampton, VA, Virginia 23651.

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Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

I don't know, really. Money comes in. Money goes out. But since I stay in and don't go out, cash is no longer king. Credit reigns supreme and since the accounting/budget system for the Lourie family business is rarely written down/planned for, I don't know from one expenditure to the next, where the money goes, unlike John Prine knew when he sang about "Sam Stone" when he came home.

As the spouse responsible for the business side of the marriage, it has been my job to financially plan what the family can and cannot afford. And since both earners were commission/tip recipients, the task of managing that cash flow, unpredictable as it occasionally was, took some emotional wherewithal. Nevertheless, we survived the ordeal, mostly, and now, as it has happened that all of us are consumed by pandemic-related pressures/procedures, our compensation history/experience has prepared us to ebb and flow with the times. But instead of spending money when we may have it, now we're spending money when the goods and services we need are available, which is similarly unpredictable as our dual incomes used to be.

The result of this inconsistent and 'unpredictable' availability is that when any of the goods and services are available one must buy immediately regardless of cash on hand/in-wallet or credit balance in tow or risk being shut out completely: "No soup for you," from a long-ago Seinfeld episode, so to speak (although my wife, Dina does like soup and therefore it is a regular item on our shopping list.) Accordingly, during these pandemic days, one must strike (buy) when the iron is hot, cash on hand be damned, and worrying about your credit card balance also be damned. We all need what we need in our homes/for our families and lack of paper money is not going to stop any of us from purchasing what staples and peace of mind a piece of plastic can offer. And thank God for those pieces of plastic with the magnetic strip. They're certainly getting a work out these days providing aid and comfort - of a sort, to all of us non-essential people staying at home.

And while we're staying/consuming at home, we're no longer letting our fingers do the walking through our local Yellow Pages. Instead, we're Googling our way instead, pointing and clicking, and then entering our credit card information while trying to keep our respective family business afloat. The evolving problem for me however is accounting for all these purchases and wondering if we're ever going to receive them, how much was actually charged and was the purchase even worth it, given the wait. Still, since we're all housebound, there are so many more purchases that have to be made over the phone/online that what control I used to have when in-person, spending the cash in my wallet, I no longer have. Now, I have to charge almost everything and then wait for the monthly credit card statement for an accounting of what financial damage I may have done. And by that time, 30 days or so later, I likely can't undo any of the damage because the customer-service operators are not available like they were during the pre-pandemic days or in some cases, not even taking calls. Resolution, clarification, compensation? Heck no. All you're likely to get is frustration, and that's after "extended waiting times."

And that previous paragraph's presumption is that I even know what I'm talking about (what I bought, where, when, how much, etc.). But the real point of this column, which concerns me more, is accounting for the purchases that I don't know about/haven't received. It reminds of a joke I once heard, David Brenner, a comedian from Philadelphia and a regular on The Johnny Carson Show tell: "It's not the mosquitoes I hear that I worry about, it's the ones I don't hear."

Three months plus into this pandemic and our new normal has become fairly familiar. The problem is that familiarity has bred some contempt.

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

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OPINION

Surovell

FROM PAGE 4

Governor Northam also signed several of my bills. My "Do Not Sell Registry" allows Virginians to voluntarily place themselves on a list to be prohibited from purchasing a firearm. This measure will prove helpful to people suffering from periodic mental illness where they can spiral into temporary but deep depression such as bipolar mood disorder. Suicides are the leading cause of firearm death in Virginia and this goes directly at the mental health aspect of the problem.

The Governor proposed amendments to my legislation to allow more people to benefit from the low-income component of my community solar legislation. This bill will allow people in neighborhoods with heavy tree cover, apartments, condos, or small businesses to purchase access to solar panels to count against the home electricity usage.

He also proposed to amend my legislation to increase penalties for drivers who seriously injure pedestrians and cyclists to also include injuries to passengers of cyclists such as children who may be riding in trailers or on bike seats.

Unfortunately, the \$3 million grant that I helped secure with Delegate Mark Sickles and Paul Krizek was proposed for cuts along with the funds that Delegate Sickles, Delegate Kathy Tran and I obtained for Mason Neck State Park to restore staffing.

The Governor also proposed defunding monies for a new Fairfax County General District Court Judge position along with over 50 new Public Defender Positions and 50 new District Court Clerk Positions. Probably 10 positions each would have served Fairfax, Prince William and Stafford Counties.

All raises for state employees were proposed for cuts including court staff, law enforcement, and other state workers such as those at George Mason University, probation and parole staff, ABC Store workers, or other state agencies with a Northern Virginia presence. Increases in K-12 spending were cut by \$50,000,000 over the biennium and will flow through to the 36th District if approved. The college tuition freeze was proposed for cancellation along with the Governor's new free community college program and some early childhood education funds. If you have college age children, like me, you can expect tuition increases.

While we all continue to adjust to this new "normal," I would encourage all to shop locally and buy take out locally from those businesses that remain open. Please consider giving to one of our local food banks who are overwhelmed right now. We will all get through this together with the collective strength of our community.

Please email me if you have any thoughts or feedback before the session at scott@scottssurovell.org.

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Between April 5th to April 10th we sold 5 Mount Vernon/Ft Hunt area properties!



JUST SOLD

9346 Mt. Vernon Circle
\$798,500

Excellent opportunity in Mount Vernon on the Potomac, the area's premier waterfront community! Unique three level colonial with stately columned front portico, reminiscent of the neighboring Mt. Vernon Estate. The interior presents exceptionally large room sizes and excellent floor plan. Additional special features include: gorgeous stained hardwood floors, "Marvin" replacement windows, 2 fireplaces, newer gas heat and hot water heater, true oversize two car garage, large deck off family room overlooks private rear grounds. Walk to nearby marina & community waterfront area which features, tennis courts, large grassy area, fire pit, docks and bathrooms. Mt. Vernon on the Potomac is the only community in the area with these facilities for the exclusive use of its residents!

OUR SELLER!



JUST LISTED

8419 Masters Ct
\$715,000

Unique opportunity to acquire one of Riverside Gardens most spacious and popular models for remarkably reasonable price to allow for your custom touches! Four level home in premium setting on gorgeous landscaped grounds fronting quiet cul-de-sac. Special features include: large room sizes including family room with wood burning fireplace, fabulous kitchen configuration with large bright breakfast bay, spectacular screened in porch and brick patio, 4 bedrooms including large master suite with private bath and two closets, beautiful hardwoods throughout main and upper levels, fresh interior paint, huge laundry room, huge back yard, and garage parking. All the major components are virtually new! Roof replaced 2018, HVAC replaced 2019, Hot water heater replaced 2018, hardwoods refinished and full interior paint in 2020. Priced to accommodate your custom touches!

OUR SELLER!



JUST SOLD

9115 Mcnair Dr
\$795,000

Sold by the Chris White Team on 4/5/20 to a buyer from our prospect list interested in Mount Vernon area properties! We have more qualified buyers ready to purchase! If you're interested in selling, call us first as we likely have a buyer ready for your home!

OUR BUYER!



JUST SOLD

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 counter tops, newer roof, newer windows, newer HVAC, newer electric panel, new lower level carpet, 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 yard! Just steps to the river!

OUR BUYER & SELLER!



FOR SALE

3249 Woodland Ln \$1,050,000



FOR SALE

3159 Woodland Ln \$1,085,000



FOR SALE

4296 Neitzey Pl \$1,550,000



FOR SALE

9304 Maybrook Pl \$695,000



SOLD

8807 Teresa Ann Ct



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3600 Riverwood Rd



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7715 Midday Ln



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3251 Woodland Ln



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