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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 presented 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, including 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."



County Executive Bryan Hill at the Feb. 25 presentation of the FY 21 Advertised Budget Plan.



Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield)

**"Life as we know it has been significantly and, perhaps, to some extent, permanently altered."**

— County Executive Bryan Hill

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,



Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Jeffery McKay



Christina Jackson, Director of the Department of Management and Budget for Fairfax County, gives remarks during the Hunter Mill Virtual Budget Town Hall.

"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 County-wide 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 Herrity 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 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.

# OPINION

## Honoring Women in 2020

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORCK  
D-MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

**F**lorence 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 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 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.

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

## Here It Comes: 140 Amendments to State Budget

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

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

**O**n 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 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 Corrections 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.

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@scottsurvell.org](mailto:scott@scottsurvell.org).

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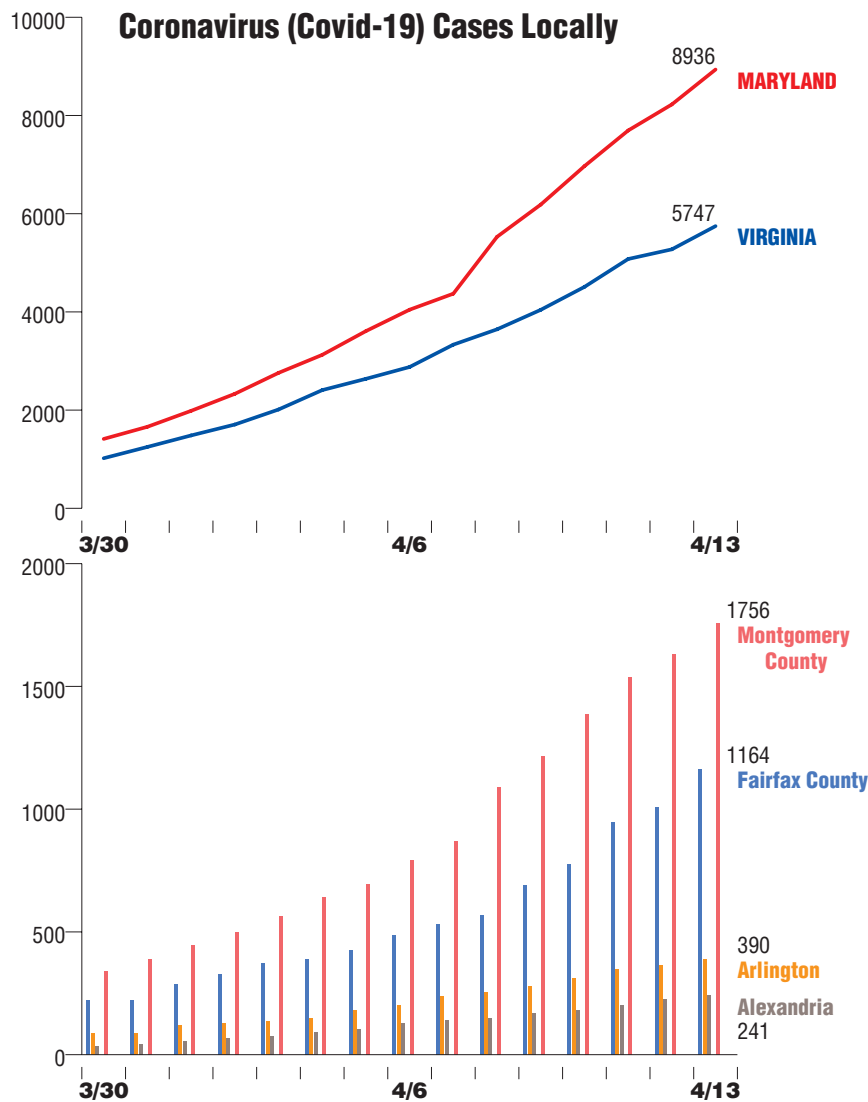
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Ready with meals to go are (from left) 29 Diner managers Patti Staples and Michele St. Johns; executive chefs Jeremy Hand and Kevin Zust; and diner business partner, Kenneth Snaidman.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN K. WOOD

(Clockwise from bottom left) Lynda Mills, Kim Luckabaugh, John K. Wood and a FACETS volunteer with meals Wood donated for the homeless when Fairfax Baptist Church hosted FACETS' hypothermia shelter in March.

## 'Blessed by Kind Donations, Community Sponsors'

### Fairfax's 29 Diner: Feeding hospitals and people in need.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**O**n a recent Friday afternoon, John K. Wood, owner of 29 Diner in Fairfax City, delivered 50 lunches to Inova Fairfax Hospital for the health-care workers fighting COVID-19. The meals included pulled pork and pulled chicken sandwiches, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, potato salad and cookies.

As Allison Barole, with the hospital's Volunteer Services, placed it on a cart to take inside, she told him, "Thank you so much for delivering all this. The staff's loving it." She knew that because he's brought meals there for three weeks now.

And while leaving, Wood told her he'd return later with hot meals for the 11 p.m. shift. He then crossed the street and delivered lunches to the doctors and nurses at the Schar Cancer Institute before doing likewise at Inova Alexandria. But that's not all. He's also feeding the Inova Fair Oaks ER, Fairfax County school children, firefighters and people at The Lamb Center, Shelter House and Pathway Homes – which all help the homeless.

"Typically, we bring 200 meals/day," he said. "We're blessed by everyone's kind donations; we wouldn't be able to do this without their help and without our community sponsors. For years, we've established ourselves as a leader in the community in times of need. And it's humbling that so many people are reaching out to me during this crisis."

**WOOD** revamped and reopened the historic 29 Diner, at 10536 Fairfax Blvd., in Septem-



With items being donated are (from left) Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Union Local 2068 President Ron Kuley, John K. Wood, Union representative David Jimenez and two other firefighters.

ber 2014 with six, service-disabled veterans. He's always believed that, "If I, as a small businessman, stood with the fiber of our community – firefighters, police, veterans and teachers – and helped them form small LLCs, then they could employ their families, community and others like them."

Then, he explained, "If people saw them doing the Lord's work, leading with their hearts and taking care of our community, they'd know they had the community's best interests at heart. Then their businesses couldn't fail because the community would patronize them."

So Wood focuses on at-risk youth and people putting their lives on the line to help others. His signature, "Feed a Vet, Save a Vet" program involves his diner patrons leaving donations in jars. He uses the money to give veterans free meals while they listen to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

talk about preventing military suicides.

Now, responding to the virus, he's turned 29 Diner into a community kitchen to feed children no longer receiving food from FCPS. The Fairfax Education Assn. and Fairfax County Professional Firefighters Assn. have contributed financially, enabling him to feed firefighters, children and out-of-work teachers for free. Wood also has a school bus in front of his restaurant, where people donate nonperishable food, toiletries, first-aid items and household supplies to families in need.

The idea for his current Community First Initiative, encouraging donations so he can bring free food to hospitals, came from Fairfax's Billy Reilly, whose Shamrock Solutions Group promotes the diner. And, said Wood, "He's supported this initiative every day, connecting me with others needing help."

Also instrumental was Matt Curry, own-

er of Craftsman Auto Care in Fairfax and Chantilly. He asked his customers to donate to his "Feed a Hero" program to provide food to doctors and nurses. Those funds enabled Curry to hire 29 Diner to cater and deliver those meals. To contribute, go to <https://29diner.com> or <https://www.gofundme.com/f/44yc4-feed-a-hero>.

"My sister's an ER nurse in Illinois, and a good friend, Mark Franke, is an ER doctor at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital," explained Curry. "We were chatting, and he said they needed meals. So on March 22, I sent 20 meals to them and 20 meals to my sister's hospital, through Jimmy John's. They were super appreciative, and I decided to give hospitals 100 meals/day for 30 days. I also realized how hard restaurants were getting hammered."

**CURRY** then started a GoFundMe page, heard about Wood's efforts and partnered with 29 Diner and four other restaurants to provide the food. "It keeps their employees employed, they stay in business and the healthcare workers get fed," said Curry. "It started as a little gesture and grew into something much bigger, and we're going to keep it going as long as the donations keep coming in."

Wood feels likewise. In addition, with so many people now out of work, his demand to deliver to individual families in need is surging. "I'm getting 50 calls/day asking for help," he said. As of Monday, he's served more than 7,500 free meals – including 200 on Easter.

So, said Wood, "I'm going to partner with Summit Church in Springfield to provide nonperishable food, plus healthcare and household items, and do pop-up locations with our community food pantry to distribute it. We'll post them on social media and work with Britepaths, FACETS and Food for Others to spread the word. I won't stop until the last person in Fairfax County is fed and well taken care of."



# NEWS



PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

## Easter Bunny Gives a Spring Wave

**C**OVID-19 prevented Fairfax City from holding its annual Easter Egg Hunt, but it didn't stop the Easter Bunny – sporting a pink, polka-dot mask – from greeting children throughout the City. Organized by the Parks and Recreation Department, the Spring Wave Parade was held Saturday, April 11. It traveled 30 miles through local neighborhoods so the Bunny – escorted by fire and police vehicles – could wave to the delighted children and their families from the bed of a truck.



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# Working from Home with Children

Juggling the role of parent and employee.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

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."

**"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."**

— Stacie B. Isenberg, Psy.D.



## Images of Kindness At Lake Accotink Park

Mary Keeser, President, Friends of Lake Accotink Park - FLAP in Springfield shared these photos of the children's project creating words and images of kindness, hope, compassion and hugs. "The kids did all the artwork and posted around the lake and at the marina Monday, March 30. We posted on our flapaccotink.org Friends of Lake Accotink Park media. A big thank you to the VanBrunt family (dedicated FLAP and Community Volunteers) for their artwork. Wonderful job kids," - Keeser said.

Flapaccotink.org





# Local Author Tackles Cat and Mouse Chase with Soviets

By MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

With roots in Czechoslovakia, it was only natural that Springfield resident Robert Tecklenburg's recently published novel, titled "PRAGUE: Darkness Descending," is a historical mystery set in Central Europe after World War II. The book was published in March by Blue Water Press and is the sixth book Tecklenburg has written.

The story follows Charles Stanek, a former American OSS agent as he returns to Czechoslovakia in 1948 to rescue a former lover and her child. "In Prague, and in the mountains of eastern Czechoslovakia, the Soviets and Stanek play a cat and mouse game. Maria, his former lover, uses her position in the newly installed Czech government to keep the Russians off-balance and help Stanek match wits with the Soviets in a life or death battle," as the publisher Blue Water Press describes it.

He must do battle to outwit Soviet agents, Czech security, and an American double agent to accomplish his mission and return to Australia where he had been hiding for two years. "The Russians were looking for him and the outback of Australia was the most remote place he could hide out in," Tecklenburg said.

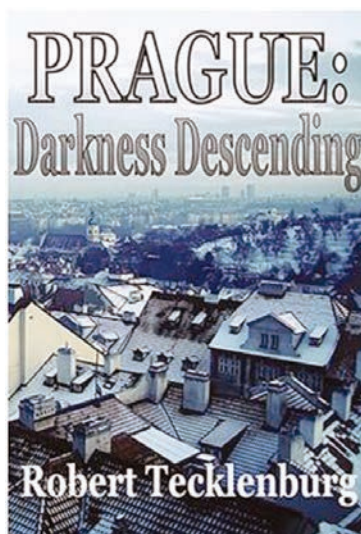
TECKLENBURG is a former Ma-



Robert Tecklenburg at the Vietnam Veteran's memorial.

rine that was raised in Iowa, but moved to Springfield when he took on a job as manager of a Veteran's center. He is a Vietnam veteran with experience working for

the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs as a Readjustment Counseling Specialist in the Vet Center Program providing mostly therapy for post traumatic stress disorder



"PRAGUE: Darkness Descending" is in hard copy now, and will be online soon.

(PTSD,) in Iowa and West Virginia. Post traumatic stress disorder is an anxiety disorder that develops following frightening, stressful, or distressing life events. PTSD came to light with the Vietnam veterans and the issues surrounding that war, which ended in 1975.

Tecklenburg spent 1968-1969 with the First Marine Division, stationed near Danang and Phu Bai, and noted that the PTSD was not new to soldiers but "it was called different things in different wars," he said. The Vietnam Veterans repressed issues unlike other wars. "You can't repress everything forever," he said. As a result PTSD

was being addressed more in the later 1970s, he mentioned.

Tecklenburg's mother has roots in Czechoslovakia and he's wondered about the country since he was a child. His great grandparents came from Prague, so the stories he heard as a youngster spawned his interest in the "old country," as it was known. He has a master's degree in history. "I've always loved history, and in college I studied the WWII era of European history in considerable depth," he said. When Tecklenburg is not writing, he has a boat and sails on the Chesapeake Bay from time to time, and has read "Chapman Piloting," which is described on Amazon as a comprehensive reference to all that a captain could be expected to know. It's a bible to sailing that Tecklenburg recommends any new boaters to read.

ALTHOUGH HE IS QUARANTINED like everyone else in Springfield, he's working on another novel about World War II and post-war, but not in the same setting. He takes on tasks around the house, reads and helps with the cooking. He had a book signing scheduled on Fort Belvoir coming in June, but it might have to be rescheduled, and plans on another book signing at Fort Myer in Arlington sometime in the near future.

The book is now available in hardcover, but will be in paperback and online soon.

## The Storytelling Show Must Go On

Better Said Than Done takes live shows and workshops to Zoom.

Better Said Than Done, Northern Virginia's premiere storytelling organization, is keeping the lights on during the pandemic by moving its previously scheduled April and May storytelling shows online. Though the venues for the organization's monthly storytelling shows are closed (The Auld Shebeen in Fairfax on the last Saturday of the month; and Drafthouse Comedy Theater in Washington, D.C., on the third Thursday of the month). For now, both venues are closed. April and May shows will be livestreamed on Zoom.

The theme for Better Said Than Done's April and May shows is "Come As You Are." Based on the same concept as

parties from the '50s and '60s, when teenagers would await a call announcing a party and then show up in whatever they were wearing, Better Said Than Done expects the audience and storytellers to show up in whatever they are working-from-home, sheltering-in-place in. Clothing, however, is not optional – at least, not from the waist up!

"One great advantage of hosting events online is that we can expand our audience to include people on the West Coast, for example, or anywhere in the world," explains Jessica Robinson, Better Said Than Done's founder. "And, of course," Robinson continues, "the other wonderful benefit is that we can have performers join us from all over the world to tell their stories. Alton Chung, whom I met at

the National Storytelling Festival resides in Hawaii. Thanks to our shows being online, we will get to see Alton perform live, all the way from Hawaii. And, in addition to our local Maryland, D.C., and Virginia performers, we will also have Donna Washington joining us from North Carolina, Megan Hicks, from Pennsylvania, and, in May: Andy Offutt Irwin, from Georgia; Simon Brooks from New Hampshire; Kim Weitkamp, from Ohio; Bil Lepp, from West Virginia; and Norm Brecke and Anne Rutherford, from Washington.

Better Said Than Done is addressing the current economic crisis by offering pay-what-you-can tickets for online access on a sliding scale. Contributions of \$15 per person -- the usual ticket price -- are suggested, with a minimum contribution at \$5. Proceeds from each show will be split with the storytellers from that show. Contributions are encouraged to help



Jessica Robinson, Better Said Than Done's founder.

support the performers and Better Said Than Done, as both arts organizations and artists are struggling during this time.

On April 16, 9 p.m., join host and Better Said Than Done founder Jessica Robinson and storytellers Natalie Amini, Sheila Arnold, Nick Baskerville, Jack Scheer, Meghann Shutt, Sarah Snyder and Donna Washington. [Storyteller bios follow the release.]

On April 25, 9 p.m., join host and Better Said Than Done founder Jessica Robinson and storytellers Noa Baum, Alton Chung, Dustin Fisher, Bonnie Gardner, Megan Hicks, Desaray-Tamar Joachim, Len Kruger, and Cyndi Wish.

For more information on upcoming shows, storytellers, or workshops, visit [www.better-saidthandone.com](http://www.better-saidthandone.com).



#### Legals

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to build a steel monopole communications tower with an overall height of 150 feet at the approx. vicinity of 7200 Ox Road, Fairfax Station, Fairfax, VA, 22039. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Arron, a.rhea@trileaf.com, 8600 LaSalle Road, Suite 301, Towson, MD 21286, 410-853-7128.

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**-Werner Heisenberg**

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#### 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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## News

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED



On April 12 (Easter) Joe Fay, FACETS executive director, helping distribute food to those in need.



FACETS case manager and medical outreach worker going into the woods to provide medical screenings and advice to clients about protecting themselves.

## FACETS Continues to Provide Hot Meals

FACETS works to provide basic services for neighbors who suffer the effects of homelessness, poverty, and hunger in Fairfax County. COVID-19 has made this even more challenging. These photos were taken on Easter, April 12 at FACETS Hot Meals Program, which continues to operate every night of the week, and twice on Sundays in partnership with the faith community, serving meals to those experiencing homelessness. Over the past month, the number of people they are serving has already doubled. The "encampment" photo reveals other work FACETS is doing related to the virus. The photo depicts a FACETS case manager and medical

outreach worker who are going into the woods to provide medical screenings and advice to clients about protecting themselves, case management, housing (if wanted), and meals to those living outdoors. This is a population where many have underlying health problems, making them more at risk of getting the virus. For those not wanting to move inside, FACETS is also collecting and providing tents to help people shelter in place and maintain social distancing.

FACETS needs more volunteers, food donations, and funds to continue meeting the need. People can learn more by visiting [www.FACETSCares.org](http://www.FACETSCares.org).

#### AREA ROUNDUPS

## Mount Vernon District to Hold Virtual Budget Town Hall

On Monday, April 20 at 7 p.m. Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mt Vernon) will be hosting 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](mailto: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.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Wendy and Benton Beach with Michael Weyler

## Sons of the American Revolution Honor Fairfax Family

The Colonel William Grayson Chapter, Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution, honored Benton and Wendy Beach, a Fairfax family, with a Certificate of Commendation: "In Recognition of Exemplary Patriotism in the display of the Flag of the United States of America."

The Flag Certificate Program is a nation-wide effort by the Sons of the American Revolution. It seeks to find and recognize those citizens who properly display our flag, which includes display 24/7 with illumination of the flag at night.

The Certificate was presented by Dr. Michael E. Weyler, Pres-

ident of the Colonel William Grayson Chapter, who, while presenting the certificate maintained a "social distance" from the certificate recipients.

Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution is open to the lineal descendant of a Revolutionary War soldier, sailor or Patriot. This includes persons who not only fought in the military or militia, but who also may have provided supplies, medical aid, signed oaths of Faith and Fidelity and similar acts. Contact the chapter's registrar Michael Blythe [mblythe@comcast.net](mailto:mblythe@comcast.net) for help in applying for membership.



## Community Connect Comes to Fairfax

Fairfax City's Fire and Police departments invite City residents and business owners to use Community Connect, a database allowing users to create and maintain online, life-safety profiles made available to first responders at time of dispatch. Registered users provide relevant information, including: Occupant names and contact phone numbers, building structure details, presence of security system and Knox Box, pets and any occupants with functional needs.

The database updates information about current, public-safety issues, such as allowing subscribers to self-report critical, COVID-19 related information. Registered users create and maintain their account based on their address, which the system verifies. All individuals at a single address are included in a single account.

This voluntary program lets users choose what information to include in their profile. All information is secure and accessible only to first responders. For questions or more information, email [CommunityConnect@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:CommunityConnect@fairfaxva.gov) or call 703-385-7940.

## BULLETIN BOARD

### SALVATION ARMY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

The Salvation Army remains open as the Coronavirus crisis continues into a second month. Officers are on the frontlines serving the needs of families and individuals across the DMV. This week, thanks to a generous donation from major food distributor Sysco Baltimore, The Salvation Army Fairfax Corps is distributing grocery bags to families in need of help. Sysco sent three tractor-trailers filled with fresh and nonperishable food to the center located at 4915 Ox Road, Fairfax. The Salvation Army is practicing no-touch, safe distancing to ensure the safety of families and staff. Interested families must call at 703-385-8700, Ext. 10, to arrange a pick-up.

### RESIDENTS ASKED TO REDUCE WASTE

Fairfax County is asking residents to reduce the waste they discard, in order to help protect collection crews. As residents heed the call to stay home, an increase of up to 40 percent in residential trash tonnage since mid-March has placed strain on regional waste management systems. Refuse and recycling collection are vital to the region's health and safety, and localities are committed to providing this essential service. Every morning, collection crews report to work while facing the same life challenges as the rest of the community. To help ensure crew health and safety, as well as daily completion of routes, residents are asked to follow these guidelines:

- Dispose of used wipes, tissues and paper towels in trash bags that are tied shut.
- Minimize setting extra bags outside the cart.
- Refrain from generating large amounts of waste – Keep your spring cleaning pile in the basement, attic or garage until normal operations resume. (Bulk item pickup is suspended.)
- Flatten cardboard boxes to create more room in recycling carts.
- Consider backyard composting or grasscycling lawn clippings.

### 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](https://bit.ly/NOVA-Transportation).

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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."

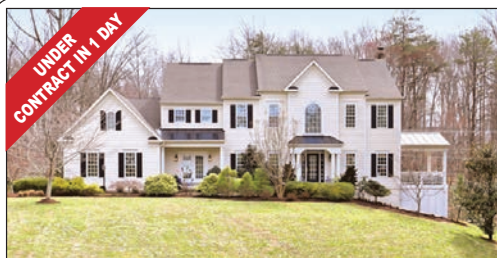
Three months plus into this pandemic and our new normal has become fairly familiar. The problem is that familiarity has bred some contempt.

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





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just let us know  
how we can help you!



**Catie, Steve & Associates**  
Direct: 703-278-9313  
Cell: 703-362-2591  
Life Members, NVAR Top Producers  
Multi-Million Dollar Sales Club



**Fairfax, VA  
Robinson  
School  
District**  
Two new listings  
coming soon in  
the Robinson  
School District,  
Middleridge &  
Country Club View. Beautiful colonial and lovely Split Foyer.  
Hardwood Floors throughout both of them. Updated  
kitchens and baths. Both have 5 Bedrooms and 3 Baths  
and 2 Car Garages. Colonial will be around \$689K and Split  
Foyer will be \$650K. Call Catie & Steve to learn more!



**MARSHA WOLBER**  
Lifetime Member NVAR, Top Producers  
Top 5% of Agents Nationally  
[www.marshawolber.com](http://www.marshawolber.com)  
Cell: 703-618-4397



**Manassas  
\$699,500**  
Signal Hill Farm  
is a private 7  
acre horse  
farm in nearby  
Manassas.  
Featuring a  
renovated  
cape cod owner's home with 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths,  
and a main level master suite. Extensive outdoor living  
options include front porch, multilevel decks, patios, and  
in ground salt water pool. Center aisle barn with hayloft,  
water, electric, 4 fenced pastures and so much more.



**JUDY SEMLER**  
703-503-1885  
[judys@lnf.com](mailto:judys@lnf.com)



**Falls Church** **\$1,090,000**  
Luxury and location all in one place. Exquisite end townhome  
offering distinctive architectural features. An easy walk to the  
West Falls Church Metro. Call Judy for more information.  
Visit: 7720magpielane.com



**Springfield** **\$529,000**  
Beautiful open design split level home on .46 acre lot in cul-de-sac.  
Updated throughout, this home features 4 bedrooms, 2 full baths,  
hardwood floors, fireplace, fresh paint, new carpet in walk out lower level.  
The dining area opens to a brick patio and the huge, private fenced back  
yard. Call Judy for more information. Visit [www.7501NottowayPlace.com](http://www.7501NottowayPlace.com)



**Sheila Adams**  
703-503-1895  
Life Member, NVAR Multi Million Dollar  
Sales Club  
Life Member, NVAR Top Producers



**David Levent**  
703-338-1388  
[davidshomes@lnf.com](mailto:davidshomes@lnf.com)  
Experienced Agent – Amazing Results  
6 Year Member, NVAR Multi Million  
Dollar Sales Club

**Please Stay  
Safe and Healthy!**

**A Safe Greeting today:  
a smile,  
a wave,  
a nod,  
or a bow**



**Fairfax TH  
Just Listed  
\$460,000**  
Recently remodeled  
3 bedroom 2.5 bath  
TH in popular Cedar  
Lakes. Brand new carpet  
and paint. All baths  
remodeled. Stainless  
appliances and granite countertops. Gas cooking, heat, and hot water. New LVP flooring  
main level. Huge master bedroom w/cathedral ceilings, walk in closet, and luxury master  
bath. Water heater and HVAC replaced 2015. 1 assigned parking space w/plenty of guest  
and street parking. Community has outdoor pool and tennis courts. Close to Fair Oaks  
Mall, Wegmans, Whole Foods, Costco, 166, Rt.29, and the Fairfax County Parkway.



**DAVID & VIRGINIA**  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producers  
703-967-8700  
[www.BillupsTeam.com](http://www.BillupsTeam.com)

**BEST  
WASHINGTONIAN  
2019**



**KINGS PARK WEST** **\$619,900**  
Beautifully landscaped yard! Queen model w/ 2 story addition.  
Family room w/ built-ins walks out to brick patio. Oversized  
master BR has vaulted ceiling! Remodeled kitchen. Walk to bus  
stop. Close to GMU! [www.10009econstablecourt.info](http://www.10009econstablecourt.info).



**FAIRFAX ROBINSON SCHOOL DISTRICT** **\$774,900**  
Over 3,100 SF above grade! Refined elegance. High-end kitchen  
renovation. Huge master BR with sitting room, remodeled  
luxury bath and an enormous closet! Deep lot on a private cul-  
de-sac. Close to VRE and GMU!



*Celebrating*  
Joyce Wadle  
Top Producer

**BEST  
WASHINGTONIAN  
2019**

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**Military move PCS  
season is here, thinking  
of selling or buying?**

Call me today and let's talk  
about your next move.  
**703-403-3058**



**Just Sold!**  
Multiple  
Offers  
\$34K Over  
List Price



**DIANE SUNDT**  
703-615-4626  
Military Relocation Specialist  
Over 20 Years Experience



**Springfield \$489,900**  
Cute 5 Bedroom/2 Bath cape cod home on nice corner lot.  
Screened-in porch. Hardwood under carpet on main level. Freshly  
painted. Walk out basement. Sold 'as is' but systems work. Call  
Diane at 703-615-4626 to schedule an appointment. Don't miss out.



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- Helping others achieve their Real Estate Goals
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**ELLIE WESTER**  
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L&F Founder's Club  
Lifetime NVAR Top Producer  
Life Member, NVAR Million Dollar  
Sales Club  
[ellie.wester@longandfoster.com](mailto:ellie.wester@longandfoster.com)



**Fairfax  
Ridges of  
Glendilough  
\$669,900**  
Come and visit  
the home with  
the floor plan  
everyone loves  
and available below market so you can make it your own.  
1/2 acre level lot backs to community owned wooded  
area with a lovely sprawling deck to enjoy the view.  
Four bedrooms, some hardwood flooring and an  
unfinished basement waiting for you to finish.  
Frost Woodson and Oakview Pyramid.



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Professionalism and Exceptional Service While Supporting Our Community.”**





# CONNECTION

Burke ♦ Fairfax ♦ Springfield ♦ Fairfax Station



# Easter Bunny Gives a Spring Wave

# Revised County Budget Reflects Pandemic Realities

NEWS, PAGE 3



**'Blessed by Kind Donations, Community Sponsors'**

NEWS, PAGE 6

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:  
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.  
REQUESTED IN HOME 4-17-20

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U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
EASTON, MD  
PERMIT #322