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CONNECTION

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honor the staff of
Inova Fair Oaks
Hospital.



**'Circumstances
Have Changed,
and They're
On the Frontline'**

NEWS, PAGE 6

**This Week
In Coronavirus
In Fairfax County**

NEWS, PAGE 3

**Golf Courses Get
Opening Green Light**

NEWS, PAGE 10

HOMELIFESTYLE

PAGE 7

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STATION CLOSURES

Beginning Saturday, May 23:

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- The Orange Line will operate between Ballston-MU and New Carrollton.
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NEWS

This Week in Coronavirus in Fairfax County

Virginia surpasses 25,000 cases and Phase I being discussed while numbers of cases and deaths continue to rise.

Tuesday, May 12

Northern Virginia Is Different
Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay, Arlington County Board Libby Garvey and Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson made a difference: Northern Virginia numbers are different during this pandemic.

Gov. Ralph Northam issued Executive Order Sixty-Two on Tuesday, May 12, allowing specific localities in Northern Virginia to delay entering Phase One of the "Forward Virginia" plan to ease restrictions.

"While the data show Virginia as a whole is ready to slowly and deliberately ease some restrictions, it is too soon for Northern Virginia. I support the request from localities in this region to delay implementation of Phase One to protect public health," said Northam.

Virginia as a whole may enter Phase One on Friday, May 15 based on achieving certain health metrics, he said.

"I appreciate the Governor's decision to rely on professional data and metrics provided by our Health Directors and delay Phase I of his Forward Virginia plan in Northern Virginia," said McKay. "Northern Virginia is a united front, we will continue to track the statistics because we all want to reopen our economy as soon as possible based on public safety and data."

"I thank the Governor for his ... recognition that Northern Virginia is still not ready to reopen," said U.S. Rep. Gerry Connolly. "The federal government must act with similar caution when reopening federal workplaces and maximum telework must continue."

Monday, May 11, 2020

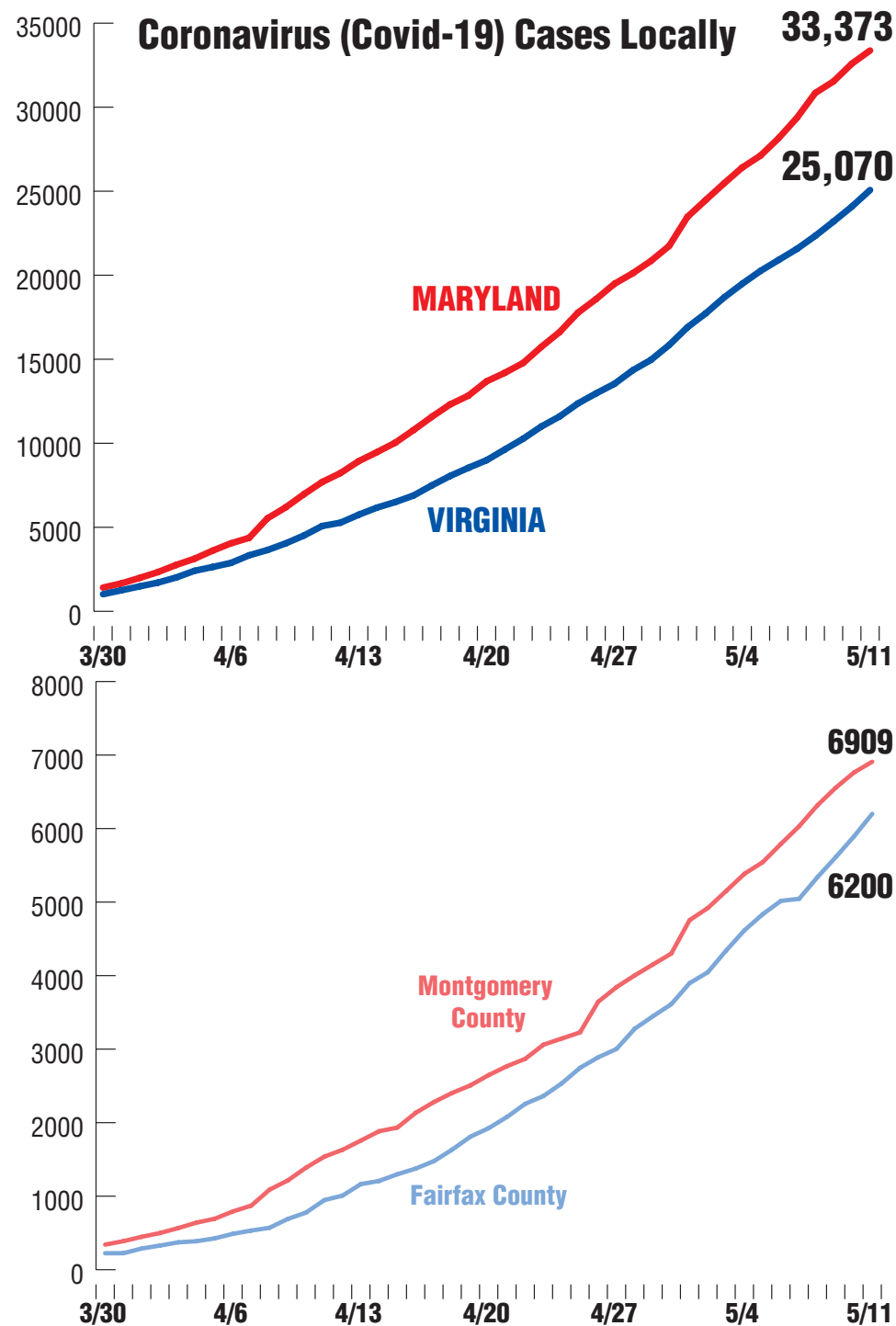
Fairfax County Cases: 6,200
Virginia Cases: 25,070
United States Cases: 1,300,696
Fairfax County Deaths: 243
Virginia Deaths: 850
United States Deaths: 78,771

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FCFRD) posts data regarding COVID-19 impacts to personnel every week. This week, 16 FCFRD personnel have tested positive for COVID-19, 10 have tested positive and recovered, and six are currently COVID-19 positive. All personnel are closely monitored by a nurse at Fairfax County's Occupational Health Center. Currently, 18 members are currently in quarantine, in addition to the personnel who tested positive for COVID-19.

Sunday, May 10, 2020

Fairfax County Cases: 5,892
Virginia Cases: 24,081
Fairfax County Deaths: 239
Virginia Deaths: 839

The top elected officials of the five largest localities in Northern Virginia sent a letter to Gov. Ralph Northam, supporting his "Forward Virginia" reopening plan in general but urg-



SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, [HTTP://WWW.VDH.VIRGINIA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/)
MARYLAND: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, [HTTPS://CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV/](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/)

ing him to implement it for Northern Virginia only once regional threshold metrics have been met. Although the metrics appear likely to be met for Virginia overall by May 15, this does not appear to be the case for Northern Virginia. The 2.5 million residents of the City of Alexandria and the counties of Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William represent nearly a third of the population of Virginia and half of the Commonwealth's COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

"We eagerly wish to rebuild our economy and help our residents recover," wrote Chairman Jeff McKay of Fairfax County, along

with others. "It is only through our regional achievement of these milestones that we will be positioned to avoid a more damaging return to business closures later in the summer."

The Forward Virginia plan requires 1) a downward trend of positive test results over a period of 14 days; 2) a downward trend of hospitalizations over a period of 14 days; 3) sufficient hospital beds and intensive care capacity; 4) increasing and sustainable supply of personal protective equipment such as masks, respirators, gloves and gowns; and 5) increased testing and tracing. According to analysis by

the region's public health directors, none of the five metrics for Northern Virginia have been achieved, or cannot be determined based on currently available data.

Saturday, May 9, 2020

Fairfax County Cases: 5,610
Virginia Cases: 23,196
Fairfax County Deaths: 230
Virginia Deaths: 827

Friday, May 8, 2020

Fairfax County Cases: 5,338
Virginia Cases: 22,342
Fairfax County Deaths: 227
Virginia Deaths: 812

EARLY GRADUATION, ONTO PANDEMIC:

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department accelerated the graduation of 53 new firefighters and paramedics to augment the department's pandemic response. Recruit Class 146 will begin working at their first fire stations on May 9, 2020, one day after their swearing in ceremony.

Thursday, May 7, 2020

Fairfax County Cases: 5,045
Virginia Cases: 21,570
Virginia Deaths: 769

PANDEMIC WILL CONTINUE: Fairfax County's Health Department gave warning after Gov. Northam announced more details on his Forward Virginia Blueprint to reopen the Commonwealth. Northam announced on May 4 that he expects that the first phase for reopening businesses and workplaces will begin on Friday, May 15.

The overall, statewide reopening plans are anticipated to be rolled out in three phases, the governor said. Each phase is expected to last about two to three weeks consistent with CDC guidelines.

"We are still in the exponential growth phase of our epidemic curve - that means that COVID-19 cases in our health district continue to increase," according to the Fairfax County health department. "For now we can still expect to see growth in cases, hospitalizations and unfortunately, deaths." Significant community-wide transmission still is happening in the Fairfax health region, especially in congregate settings like nursing homes and assisted living facilities, where clusters of cases can occur quickly.

The Virginia Black Caucus wrote to Gov. Northam calling for overtime work, hazard pay and paid sick leave for essential workers; access to PPE and free testing for essential workers; to bolster safety of food supply during the crisis.

SCALE UP PRODUCTION: U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) joined Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and seven other senators to tell President Trump it is imperative that the federal government fully use its authority to support and expand production of personal protective equipment and testing supplies.

"An analysis by Harvard University researchers found that the United States must,

SEE THIS WEEK, PAGE 11

OPINION

Battling the Coronavirus - Efforts Must Be Expanded

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)



COMMENTARY

It has been four months since the Centers for Disease Control confirmed the first case of coronavirus disease, called COVID-19, in the United States. As of May 11, more than 800 Virginians have died, 3,200 hospitalized and more than 25,000 Virginians have tested positive for this virus.

Only about 1.7 percent of Virginians or 147,000 have been tested. Our hospitalization rate has continued to climb with more than 1,500 people currently in the hospital. The rate of infection has slowed, but this virus has hit our community very unevenly.

While nearly every Virginia locality has seen infections, infections have mostly been concentrated. While Northern Virginia has the highest raw number of infections, outbreaks on Virginia's Eastern Shore, Shenandoah Valley and Northern Neck are proportionally more severe than they are here. Several of our prisons, local jails and juvenile detention facilities have experienced outbreaks and four inmates being held for non-violent offenses have died.

DISPROPORTIONATE IMPACTS

The Hispanic community has been disproportionately, adversely affected. Neighborhood Health operates a clinic on U.S. 1 on Beacon Hill. Although only 50 percent of their patients are Latino, 90 percent of their positive tests have been Latinos and 74 percent of those tested lack health insurance. The Northern Virginia zip codes with the highest concentrations of positive tests also have largest numbers of Latino residents including the U.S. 1 Corridor,

Manassas, Herndon, and Bailey's Crossroads.

This week, I will be working with other legislators who represent significant Latino constituents to ask our state and local governments to target more resources on these communities. For example, one recent study showed we could reduce infection rates by 80 percent if everyone simply wore a mask. We can deploy mobile clinics and can also improve communications.

Unemployment has also been uneven. Friday's unemployment data showed that the unemployment rate in the Latino community is 18.9 percent, 16.7 percent among African-American workers and 14 percent for White and Asian workers. However, for people with a high school degree or less, unemployment is between 17-21 percent while for people with a college degree, it is 8.4 percent.

While over \$12 billion of Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loans have been approved for Virginia businesses, the funds for those loans will be exhausted by mid-June and with consumer spending declining, our economy will likely struggle to recover.

All pandemic experts say that we cannot have economic stability without controlling the virus and we cannot control the virus without sufficient testing and contact tracing. Daily testing in Virginia is averaging up, but was mostly below what Gov. Ralph Northam says we need. Virginia has hired only 325 of 1,275 needed contact tracers.

Although I feel it is premature to reopen our

economy at this point, the Governor issued an executive order lifting a few restrictions on May 8. Personal care services such as barber and hair styling can proceed with limitations. Restaurants, craft breweries and wineries can allow outdoor seating, and farmer's markets can reopen with restrictions. Gyms and recreation facilities must remain closed although outdoor activities can proceed. Pools can open but only for lap swimming. Beaches remain closed except for fishing and exercise. Summer camps, schools and colleges must remain closed except for distance learning.

I believe hospitalization numbers should be consistently declining plus adequate testing and contact tracing in operation. It appears that the Governor may give regions the authority to keep existing restrictions in place and that is likely to be announced by the time this goes to print so check the news.

INFORMATION AND TESTS

You can continue to see real time updates and links to the Governor's newest orders on my blog – The Dixie Pig – at scottsurovell.blogspot.com. You can locate a clinic to be tested for COVID-19 on the Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 website, <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>. There are seven locations in the 36th Senate District that offer testing.

Thank you for your patience as we continue to respond to this evolving threat and its consequences. Please look out for your neighbors and those in our community who need help. Please consider others and wear a mask if you are in public.

In the meantime, if you have any feedback or have any questions, please send me an email at scott@scottsurovell.org.

Linda Brown
Vienna

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Don't Let Public Input Fall Victim to COVID-19

To the Editor:

At an electronic public hearing on April 14, 2020, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors discussed the Uncodified Ordinance to Establish Methods to Assure Continuity in Fairfax County Government and Conduct of Board of Supervisors Meetings during the Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19) Emergency and other items.

The Virginia General Assembly has expressly provided that public bodies may meet electronically, provided three requirements are met:

(a) "the Governor has declared a state of emergency...";

(b) "the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location";

and

(c) "the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency." [VA. CODE ANN. §2.2-3708.2(A)(3)(2019)]

Assuring "Continuity in Fairfax Government" appears to include public hearings related to zoning, planning, and land development applications.

Land-use applications were on the agenda on April 14. In fact, the board approved three land-use rezonings. Only one citizen was able to make a public comment.

Virginia Attorney General Mark R. Herring recently issued an opinion on electronic hearings. Herring stated, "Code §2.2-3708.2(A)(3) does not permit all meetings of a public body to be conducted elec-

tronically—only those where 'the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.'"

He also stated that public bodies are permitted to "meet electronically to make decisions that must be made immediately and where failure to do so could result in irrevocable public harm."

Electronic hearings severely limit public input. Rather than addressing supervisors eye to eye, citizens are reduced to passive input, hoping supervisors heed their testimony. Citizens can't dialog with staff or supervisors, make site visits, verify or rebut information, and actively contribute. What about citizens without access to or expertise with technology?

Do land-use decisions "address the emergency?" Would their de-

lay result in "irrevocable public harm?" We need an equitable process for citizens and businesses. Prudence dictates delaying such decisions until citizens can actively engage with the board.

The country is experiencing a health crisis not seen in 100 years.

People are rethinking their priorities. Why not postpone land-use decisions until citizens can research county plans and ordinances, gather with neighbors, analyze proposals, prepare testimony, and "be in the room" when important land-use decisions are made?

Do you agree? Let your supervisor know.

CONNECTION

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NEWS



A Starship robot chugs up University Drive on a food-delivery mission.

Robots Bring Meals to Fairfax Residents

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

There's a robot invasion in downtown Fairfax! Well, no, not really; but friendly robots delivering delicious meals to City residents have definitely become part of the local scene.

They're the Fairfax City Starship Robots, and they're doing their best to keep the City's businesses and customers connected. And it's all possible because of a partnership between Fairfax and Starship Technology, a robot delivery-system.

City residents just have to download the app at www.starship-fairfaxcity.com. It's a free app and is available for use on Apple and Android devices.

"We know our businesses are struggling during COVID-19," said Fairfax Economic Development Director Chris Bruno. "And, while not a solution to every challenge, we hope that this partnership will provide just one more tool to help support our City's businesses."

The City's Economic Development Authority officially launched the delivery program on April 17 and, since then, it's proved to be a big hit with Old Town restaurants and local residents alike. On any given day, the square, squat, covered containers may be seen zipping throughout the City, en route to their particular destinations.

Starship has a fleet of 20, white robots on six black wheels that

are autonomous and travel easily through the City on demand. Each day, from 9 a.m.-10 p.m., they'll bring food and other essential items, including groceries, to customers living in a one-mile radius from Old Town. The boundaries are: Roberts Road to the east, Chestnut Street to the west, GMU to the south and Fairfax Boulevard to the north.

Customers order meals from Old Town restaurants – including Coyote Grille, Hamrock's, Havabite Eatery, High Side, UBar and The Wine House – or groceries from stores such as Safeway, and then wait for the robot to arrive at their door. They'll receive an order confirmation and estimated arrival time and can then track the robot during its journey. The order is locked inside the robot until it reaches its destination – where it may only be unlocked and retrieved via the app by the person who placed the order.

The robots first became popular in this area last year, when they began delivering food from restaurants on the GMU campus to students in their dorms. And now, they've expanded into the City.

Still, that's not the only way to obtain a meal in Fairfax during the pandemic. While local Fairfax restaurants are currently closed for inside dining, nearly all of them are offering curbside pickup and delivery options. Go to their Websites for information or look for the big, blue-and-white, "Grab-and-Go" banners outside their buildings.

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) Fairfax County police applaud the medical staff while GMU police Cpl. Brian Morrison and Lt. Patricia Millan hold encouraging signs.



Inova Fair Oaks staff – including President Susan Carroll, in light gray, in front row – watch the first responders' salute outside the hospital.

‘Circumstances Have Changed, and They’re on the Frontline’

First responders salute healthcare heroes at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

It's nice to be appreciated – and, last Tuesday, May 5, at Inova Fair Oaks Hospital, local first responders let healthcare workers there know exactly how much they're valued. At the 6:30 p.m. shift change, staff members walked outside and were greeted by fire engines, police cruisers, a gigantic American flag and about 100 first responders applauding them and holding signs and banners of appreciation.

"It's wonderful," said Inova Fair Oaks President Susan Carroll. "We're partners with all public-safety personnel, and we support each other through all hard times. So for them to do this for us really means a lot."

"This is the community we serve," added Chief Nursing Officer Deb Fulbrook. "So it's great anytime we have the opportunity to connect with them."

Carroll said the hospital has had COVID-19 patients there for the past six weeks and has seen a steady increase. Many have been admitted, while others were treated in the emergency room, but were well enough to go home. Although a small percentage of the inpatient COVID-19 patients died, more than 100 were admitted and more than 100 were discharged.

"Debbie and her team have done a tremendous job," said Carroll. "Some nurses are being repurposed, helping out in the ICU [Intensive Care Unit] and elsewhere."

And, said Fulbrook, "That's one of the

great things about healthcare workers – they respond wherever the need is greatest. Overall, morale here is positive. The clinical staff is very resilient, and we promote self-care so they can take time away for a respite and for a manageable work/life balance."

"Patient and team-member safety is our number-one goal," said Carroll. "So we use the appropriate PPE and technology so our staff can take care of their patients. Initially, we talked via baby monitors from room to room. And we're using donated iPads so patients can communicate with their families."

"We've also increased the rounding on team members by Inova administrators," said Fulbrook. Carroll explained that the senior leadership team makes sure the doctors and nurses have everything they need. They're also asked if they feel safe and, if not, what the administrators can do about it. Said Fulbrook: "We make sure they know we hear them and we're here to support them."

TOUGHEST, said Carroll, is the fact that, in early January, just 44 people in the world had this virus. Now, she said, "We're looking at millions. Understanding the disease's progression has been challenging for every-



(From left) GMU Police Chief Carl Rowan and MPO Ali Tarad show their support for Inova Fair Oaks' healthcare workers.

one. And we don't have a lot of historic data about it, so it's hard to manage through it because it's so new."

But there are also some bright spots. "The learning is amazing because everyone is sharing their knowledge," said Carroll. "The first COVID-19 patient at another Inova hospital came March 7 and stayed 25 days. Now, the average length of stay is seven days. Physicians are partnering to learn the best protocols from all over the world, to learn what works best – so it's been a huge collaboration."

Fulbrook gets the greatest satisfaction "seeing our patients improve and be discharged to go home."

"And seeing what we mean to the community is so gratifying," added Carroll. "We see ourselves as the guardians of community

health, so we want to be here to provide that for them in their time of need."

Last Tuesday, with fire engines' sirens blaring, police cruisers' blue lights blinking – and a huge American flag hanging from Fairfax City Fire Station 3's tower ladder truck – what these healthcare workers mean to the residents they serve was on full display. Units from Fire Stations 21 in Fair Oaks and 40 in Fairfax were there, too, as were Virginia State, GMU and Fairfax County police – including officers from both the Fair Oaks and Sully district stations.

MEDICAL STAFF walked around the loop in front of the hospital's main entrance, while the first responders applauded them. And a Black Hawk helicopter did several flyovers – complete with wing dips in salute – much to the crowd's delight.

GMU Police Capt. Mike Lighthiser organized the whole shebang. "We've worked with INOVA on some other projects, and I feel like our responsibility as first responders is to help those we work with, hand-in-hand, every day," he explained. "But now, the circumstances have changed, and they're on the frontline."

He organized similar celebrations at four other Inova Hospitals and at the Reston Hospital Center. The best part, he said, is "seeing the medical providers feel like they're supported."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS & BATHS

The island gives the Boland family a place to prepare meals, eat and spend time together playing games or crafting.

Comfy Kitchen Amid COVID-19

A gloomy, dark space gets a light and bright update.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

When Joe and Sarah Boland moved into their colonial-style home in Burke, they were drawn to the skylights, soaring ceilings and picture windows that allowed in streams of natural light. The house had one blemish however: the kitchen.

Dark wood cabinetry, paired with black countertops worked to create a gloomy space, while a cooktop-covered peninsula disrupted the flow of the kitchen. The family of four, including two daughters ages 8 and 10, longed for a sunny gathering spot that harmonized with the breeziness of the rest of their home.

"We spend a lot of time in the kitchen preparing meals and just hanging out," said Sarah. "I wanted a bright space that inspired me to want to cook more. I knew I wanted mostly white with pops of color. I knew I liked the warmth of brushed brass accents."

The energetic and fun-loving couple asked designer Kate Couchman of Nicely Done Kitchens & Baths to bring their musings to life. "They were adventurous and open to colors, patterns and doing fun things," she said. "They love spending time together, but there was no room in the kitchen for them to do things together."

Deriving inspiration from the family's request for light and spaciousness blended with practicality and functionality, Couchman conceived a colonial blue and white kitchen accented with champagne-hued hardware. "This was the first blue kitchen that I've done," she said. "We used a lot of touches that many people would be unsure about."

The former kitchen's dark slate flooring was replaced with wide-plank wood and the peninsula swapped for an island. "I knew I liked an updated, transitional farmhouse feel with a farmhouse sink," said Sarah.



Sarah Boland wanted a farmhouse kitchen design, complete with a farmhouse sink.


White Silestone accented with ribbons of blue and gray now tops the counters and island. The updated workspaces give Laura inspiration that sparks her culinary aspirations, and she shares those with her daughters.

"The island is a workstation, but it's also an eating station and fits six people," said Couchman. "It's multi-functional, which we're seeing a lot of now. People are doing away with breakfast tables in the kitchen."


The kitchen not only makes efficient use of space and lets in sunshine, but provides a venue for lively family togetherness.

"The vast island table is great for crafting, playing games, baking and doing homework," said Laura. "The kitchen has such a clean, bright feel, which is part of the reason we are always in there."

The COVID-19-induced social isolation gives the Boland family a renewed appreciation of their kitchen. "The kitchen is pretty much the first space we are in after we wake up," said Laura. "It is ... always very welcoming. I feel fortunate that I get to spend time, especially these days, in this homey and beautifully functional space."




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NEWS

Chick-fil-A Coming to Kingstowne, Sooner or Later

Spot is picked but public meetings and COVID-19 are obstacles.

By Mike Salmon
The Connection



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION
A mobile order taker works the Chick-fil-A line in Springfield.

The plans for a new Chick-fil-A in Kingstowne are moving forward, which is good news to the lunch crowd but not so good for the traffic or other eating establishments in the area, as Kingstowne takes another step, becoming a dining and shopping destination in southern Fairfax County.

Plans are for the new Chick-fil-A to have indoor and outdoor seating, and a drive-up window. Currently, it's early in the planning process, and with the COVID-19 quarantine, it might be months or longer before there would actually be food on the fryer, but wheels are in motion to make it happen. There is chatter in Kingstowne as well.

"My mom told me yesterday," said Sarah Johnson, a nearby resident who was getting something from the Subway store a few doors down from the proposed Chick-fil-A location. Melissa Mireni just found out too. "The food is really good," she said.

This new Chick-fil-A would be the second in Lee District, and the other one is across I-95 in the Backlick Shopping Center in Springfield. It has a drive-up window too, but is in a cramped area that gets much congestion at times, and during lunch hour, it's common to see Chick-fil-A drive up traffic clogging the whole parking lot and extending out into Backlick Road.

Paper Trail

There is a standard county process for applications such as this, and Supervisor Rodney Lusk (D-Lee) is looking at the application, but all things are on hold for now due to COVID-19 and dates could change due to the virus restrictions. "It's just a proposal right now," Lusk said. "It's got a whole bunch of steps it has to go through," he added. Lusk is familiar with the Chick-fil-A parking lot situation over in the Backlick Shopping Center, and is looking to prevent something like that. Ideas to prevent a traffic problem include having a mobile order taker along with a dual-line ap-

proach to keep things flowing. "It's a pretty popular place," he said of the Springfield location.

Having another Chick-fil-A in Kingstowne might also help the situation over off Backlick Road. "It would reduce the demand," Lusk said. The two locations are about five miles apart.

Lusk's office will be putting together a staff report over the summer, which is due on Oct. 6. There are a series of meetings that need to be conducted before moving forward though, and as the county has it now, the first one is a public comment hearing scheduled for Oct. 21.

Chick-fil-A History

When a new Chick-fil-A opens there is a certain amount of hysteria because the company offers free food for the first 100 customers. This happened at Backlick and the Burke locations a few years ago, and some camped out all night, so Kingstowne can probably look forward to the same. At Chick-fil-A random events, folks throw on the cow outfits to get into the spirit. Most times, a free sandwich is involved.

It all started in 1946 when Truett Cathy opened a diner called the Dwarf Grill, in the Atlanta suburb of Hapeville. He tested various chicken recipes and finally came out with the current formula in 1964. The restaurants were a staple in many malls, but the first Chick-fil-A opened its first stand-alone restaurant on North Druid Hills Road in Atlanta in 1986, company literature stated. The cow became their logo, with the saying "Eat mor chikin," in 1995. In 2014, Cathy died at age 93.

If the county passes everything for the Kingstowne location, they can count on a gala event for the opening.

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The registration deadline to vote in the June 23, 2020 Democratic or Republican Primary Elections is May 26. Applications must be postmarked by this date or received in-person by 5 p.m. You may also apply online by 11:59 p.m. at www.vote.virginia.gov. Office hours: M-F 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m. 10455 Armstrong Street, Suite 300 Fairfax, VA 703/385-7890.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 28.4' metal street light pole with a new 29' metal street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 34.3' near 9100 Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA (20200652). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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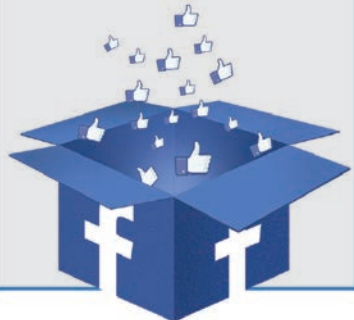
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NEWS



Opening day brought full tee times and renewed traffic to cart lanes.

PHOTOS BY
SUSAN LAUME/
THE CONNECTION

Golf Courses Get Opening Green Light

Members happy to return to the greens.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

When Fairfax County Park Authority announced its phased reopening would open golf courses on May 8, Laurel Hill Golf Club members Kelly Towns, of Burke, and Jim Poodiack, of Springfield, were among the first to get tee times. Towns enjoyed coming during work breaks before the club closure due to the corona virus outbreak. Poodiack was there because he had not played for a while and hoped the activity would aid his overall fitness. He participates in triathlons; many scheduled for this Spring have been cancelled.

Club manager, Ryan Carmen, notes that it has been 55 days since the club was open before this phase in. He's happy to see members readily returning, with full tee times; at least on the

good weather days. The courses at Burke Lake and Greendale also re-opened on May 8. The remaining courses open on May 15: Pincrest, and Twin Lakes (Oaks); and on May 22 for Jefferson, Oak Marr, and Twin Lakes (Lakes). Disc golf courses, unlike their traditional sport cousins, remain closed to group use.

Carmen noted several provisions have been made to keep golfers and staff safe. New plexiglass separates golfers checking in from the cashier, flow arrows mark clubhouse routes to assure social distancing, masks are worn, towels and disinfectant is used on carts, and non-family cart use is restricted to one driver for transporting club bags while the second person walks to maintain social distancing on the course.

The county's golf facilities are among the first to reopen. Select farmers markets and garden plots have seen phased opening as well.

The Park Authority had closed parks, facilities, and parking lots in the virus response.

Only trails remained open for individual, not group, use.

Golf provides an important revenue source for the Parks Authority. Rates at Laurel Hill range from \$49 off peak in twilight times to \$104 for prime time play.



Volunteer Joe Gigilo, of Springfield welcomes golfers back to the Club.



Laurel Hill Golf Course reopens May 8.



Jim Poodiack, of Springfield, a senior triathlon competitor uses golf to stay race ready.

THIS WEEK IN CORONAVIRUS

FROM PAGE 3

at minimum and under the best-case scenario, double the number of tests being conducted each week,” wrote the Senators.

“From the outset of the pandemic, the United States has been dogged by testing shortages and supply chain issues—and Virginia is among the states where that testing shortage has been most severe,” according to Warner. Sen. Warner has been outspoken about the need for a cohesive, national coronavirus testing strategy and has fought to secure additional funding for coronavirus testing—including \$8 million for Virginia.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M.) and 30 other senators urged Secretary of the Treasury Steven Mnuchin to reject politically motivated conditions on financial relief for the U.S. Postal Service. The senators also expressed their strong opposition to the use of coronavirus as a pretext to pursue privatization of the United States Postal Service, which is unpopular with the American people. The senators called the postal service a critical lifeline for many Americans, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

CASH THROUGHOUT: Virginia Rep. Don Beyer and Rep. Madeleine Dean (PA-04) sent a letter to House Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy with recommendations on how to provide Americans with direct cash support throughout the duration of the Covid-19 pandemic and economic crisis.

“So many Americans need help right now, and Congress must not fail them. This is not a time to hold back – leaving people at the mercy of this crisis would be immoral and would hurt, not help, the broader economy,” said Rep. Beyer. “We should make [payments] rapidly and get assistance to those who need it, especially the millions worried about making their rent payments or buying food.” They emphasize the importance of ensuring all adults and all dependents receive payments, including getting payments out to those who were left out of the last disbursement. “These payments are a necessary vehicle to help American families weather this economic crisis.”

PAYCHECK PROTECTION PROGRAM: U.S. Reps. Jimmy Panetta (CA-20) and Don Beyer (VA-08) unveiled a proposal to improve the newly created Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). The PPP created by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, provides forgivable loans to cover up to eight weeks of payroll and related expenses. However, structural and regulatory issues have hobbled the program, making it difficult for many small businesses, especially in the hospitality industry, to use the loans effectively. The Paycheck Protection Program Improvement Proposal provides dedicated funding for the smallest businesses and prevents publicly traded companies from receiving PPP funding; provides more clarity and flexibility for loan forgiveness and payroll requirements; allows small businesses to spread out payroll payments over a longer period; provides \$660 billion for the PPP program overall, with amounts reserved for businesses with fewer employees, including; provides banks increased processing fee incentives for the smallest loans and lowers fees banks receive for processing the largest loans.

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What's Today?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

After six weeks or so of isolating at home and working hardly at all, I believe it's time to invoke Violet Crawley (a.k.a. Maggie Smith), “the Dowager Countess of Grantham” and wonder aloud: “What’s a weekend?” Every day feels like some other day or no day at all because the days in and of themselves are meaningless/indistinguishable. I mean, you can’t go anywhere, you can’t do anything; thankfully you can use your phone and access your computer, but at the end of the same-old-day, you’re basically nowhere man, with apologies to “The Beatles.”

If it weren’t for the trash pick-up on Thursdays and the recyclable pick-up on Fridays, and of course, no mail delivery on Sundays, there really is very little to separate one day from the next (the four-week schedule relating to my thyroid cancer treatment notwithstanding). Actually, if it weren’t for the thyroid treatment beginning May 11th and the very specific requirements/activities for the following 23 days, ending June 2nd when I return to the hospital for a post-script scan, I would be totally betwixt and between; so much so that I might not know the difference between “Downton Abbey” and “Belgravia.” But I still do, thank God, even though they were both written by Julian Fellowes. I haven’t completely fallen through the cracks.

Although sometimes I do fear that if I indeed have a crack in my psychological armor, it likely would occur in the middle/late beginning of a pandemic when a possible lack of sanity might be exposed.

And since I’m not really allowed out of the house and retail stores and service providers are mostly unavailable, this would be a heck of a time to need any kind of help from outside one’s house. You’re not supposed to go anywhere and neither is anybody else so you’re sort of left to fend for yourself. Now, generally speaking, I don’t mind fending for myself or others for that matter, but at present, in the midst of pandemic pressures, we’re all supposed to mind our own business (and/or others if we stay six feet apart) and watch our “ps” and “qs” as we’re doing it.

And as well consider what other letters to ‘watch.’ The problem with living through a pandemic, aside from listening to all the opinions on “a” to “z” is believing any kind of reliable timeline. No one, despite their credentials and learned experience, can say with any accuracy or certainty when this pandemic will end, when the virus will stop spreading and/or whether and when a second viral wave will hit in the fall, when a safe and effective vaccine will be ready and when we can return to whatever the new normal will be. And though there’s no shortage of hopes and prayers on the subject, unfortunately neither are there any simple solutions or definitive end to this mess. Somehow, we have to persevere in the present to get to the future by presuming nothing except more of the same. I guess it’s an updated version of a definite-maybe or a “confirmed I doubt it” as BJ Honeycutt frustratingly said on a M*A*S*H episode 25-plus years ago.

However, life went on for BJ and the rest of M*A*S*H characters as they all got to leave South Korea and return to The United States (except for Klinger who ironically enough chose to stay and marry a South Korean woman). And just as it seemed that the suffering they all experienced during the police action in South/North Korea would never end, it did. And so too will this pandemic end. Probably not by magic as President Trump has suggested, but likely through the collective efforts of the medical and scientific communities as well as our own mitigation and social distancing behaviors. As my Auntie Irene used to say decades ago, and as so many others say all the time now: “This too shall pass.”

But not knowing exactly when ‘it shall pass’ is sort of the problem. As my late mother would say: “It’s enough already.” I imagine we’ll have a better idea of whether it’s ‘enough already’ when we see the effects of the 45-plus states which are “opening.” If the virus reasserts itself, and thousands more are diseased and ultimately die, then we’ll know exactly what day it is: a day of reckoning.

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

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