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Mount Vernon Gazette

HomeLifestyle
PAGE 9

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

MAY 14, 2020



PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

Employees from the Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, BrightView, EQR, and StormWater Systems meet to discuss maintenance of the newly installed Bandalong floating litter trap, which will capture floating litter in Little Hunting Creek. Social distancing guidelines were observed.

Litter Trap Installed On Little Hunting Creek

Pilot program conducted on an area creek suffering from trash infestation.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

You name it, David Gahart has seen it float by in Little Hunting Creek in Mount Vernon. The creek runs along Gahart's backyard, and throughout the 35 years he's lived along the creek, the trash floating through has amazed him. "Lots of soccer balls," he said. Along with the soccer balls are water bottles, oil drums, shopping carts, and just trash. "You name it, I've pulled it out," Gahart said.

He's done with wading through the mud though, and glad to hear about Fairfax County's latest experiment with the trash in Little Hunting Creek called the Bandalong Litter Trap. This is a floating device that collects floating trash and keeps it in screened traps and out of the water.

According to Fairfax County, Little Hunting



Little Hunting Creek runs right along David Gahart's backyard.

Creek has a reputation for being trashiest. It flows around Richmond Highway and is joined by side streams from Huntley Meadows Park. In 2016, a watershed cleanup event led by the Friends of Little Hunting Creek collected 423 bags of trash, 29 tires, and 10 shopping carts. Although the litter trap won't do much good for shopping carts and discarded tires, surface trash such as water bottles and other floating debris should go right in the trap. Gahart is a member of the Friends of Lit-

SEE HELPING, PAGE 5

First Physical Gathering Since COVID

Washington Community Church holds two services on Mother's Day.

The Washington Community Church in Mount Vernon held back to back Mother's Day drive in worship services on Sunday. Live music, gift bags for mothers, and a sermon from Pas-

tors Steve and Zury Bradcovich atop a makeshift stage on a rented flatbed truck.

The evangelical church held two services on Sunday morning at a Pear Tree Village office complex parking lot off Route 1 in Mount Vernon for its first physical gathering of members since moving to online services due to COVID-19 restrictions. The two services accommodated parking and current social distancing requirements. Worshipers listened to the praise music and sermon on a radio frequency while maintaining six feet of social distance.



Washington Community Church music group leads drive in worship service from makeshift stage atop a flatbed truck.



Steve and Zury Bradcovich, pastors for Washington Community Church

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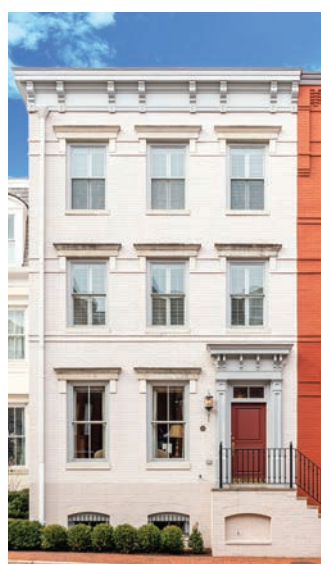
Peter Crouch 703.244.4024
www.CrouchRealtyGroup.com



River Towers | \$239,900

Light-filled 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath, corner unit with an open & airy feel. Large windows provide beautiful views, original wood floors, updated baths, kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances make this 959-SF property turn-key. 6621 Wakefield Dr #717

David Rainey 703.286.1333
www.YourAtHomeTeam.com



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Located in the desirable southeast quadrant, this Backyard Boats property makes large scale entertaining a breeze. The oversized two-car garage and private elevator to all four levels of this home provide convenience and comfort not commonly found in Old Town. 723 S Union Street

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Alexandria \$465,000

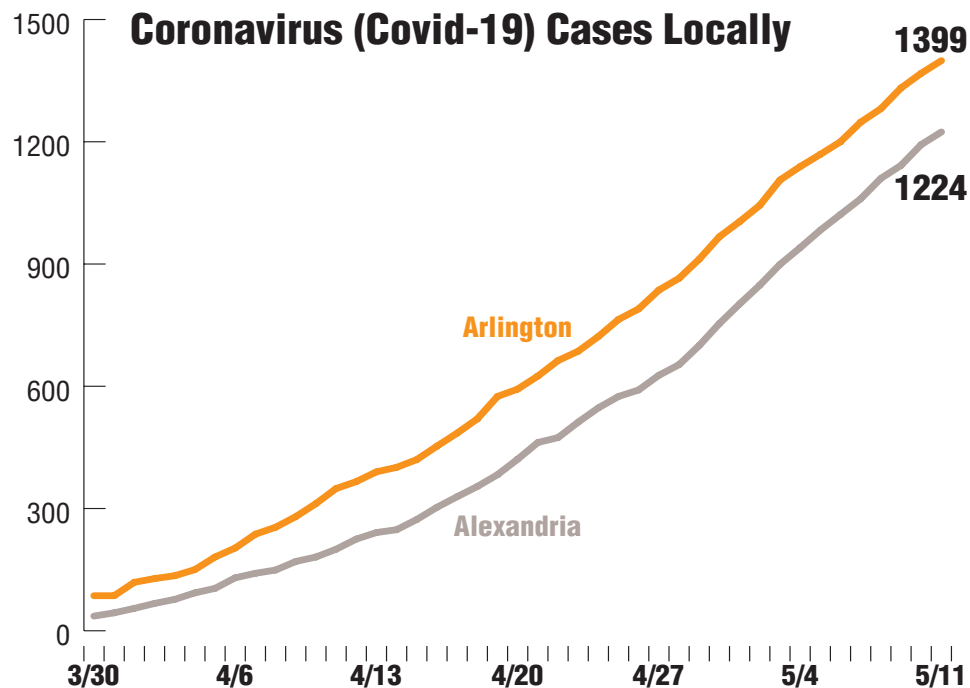
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This Week in Coronavirus in Fairfax County



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

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

BY KEN MOORE
 THE CONNECTION

Tuesday, May 12

Northern Virginia Is Different

Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay, Arlington County Board chair 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 work-

places and maximum telework must continue."

Monday, May 11, 2020

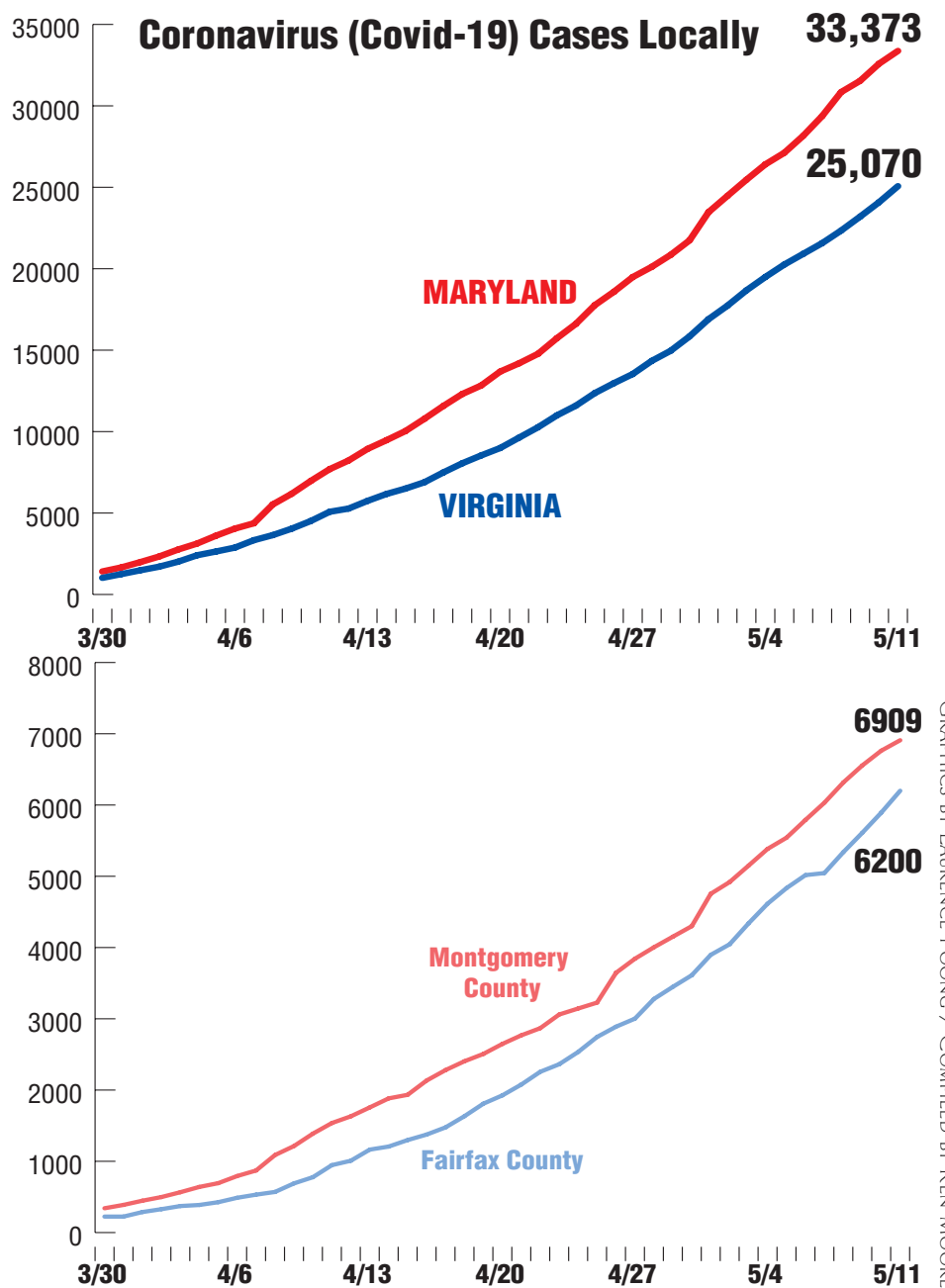
Fairfax County Cases: 6,200
 Virginia Cases: 25,070
 United States Cases: 1,300,696
 Fairfax County Deaths: 243
 Virginia Deaths: 850
 United States Deaths: 78,771

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 urging 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



GRAPHICS BY LAURENCE FOONG / COMPILED BY KEN MOORE

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:

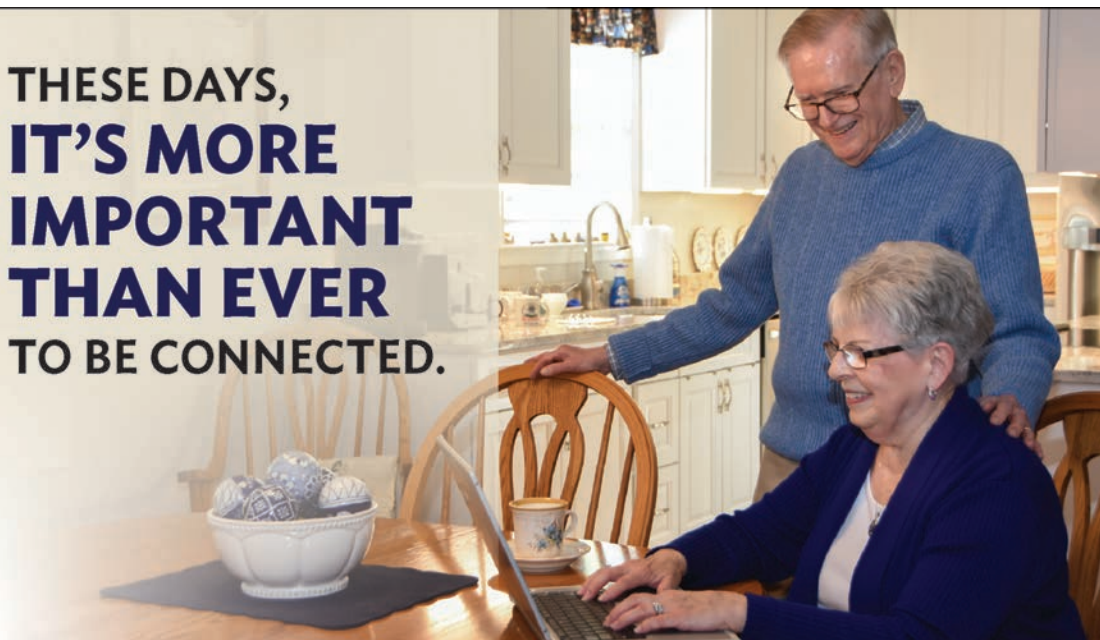
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department accelerated the graduation of 53 new firefighters and paramedics to augment the department's pandemic response. Recruit Class 146 will begin working at their first fire stations on May 9, 2020, one day after their swearing in ceremony.

Thursday, May 7, 2020

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

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 8

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OPINION

FY 2021 – The COVID-19 Budget

This is not the budget any of us were hoping to approve this year.

BY SUPERVISOR
DAN STORCK



Tuesday, the Board adopted the County Executive's amended FY 2021 Budget proposal. While this is not the budget any of us were hoping to approve this year, it is necessary as we pivot to address the needs created by COVID-19. This budget includes no tax rate increases, even as our expenses climb dramatically and our revenues fall, similarly. The Board will be reviewing the budget quarterly to closely monitor these factors and the impacts of the pandemic.

Six months ago, we were confident that our economy and community would continue to grow and prosper. Now, we are monitoring the situation closely, recognizing that these confidences are at risk and cannot be taken for granted. Many of our families and small bus

inesses are acutely aware and concerned about this and are looking for our help and support. While business support must start with each of us buying local, the Board has created new microloans and grant opportunities as well. COVID-19 recovery is going to be a marathon, not a sprint. This budget is designed to pace us and gives us the flexibility to address circumstances as they arise.

We recognize the significant impact the pandemic is having on County employees, as they adjust to new working conditions and new ways to serve the community. This has been a particularly difficult budget season for financial staff working hard to develop not just one, but two budgets this year. Through it all, they are adapting and persevering. Thank you!

Our low to moderate income communities are also deeply impacted, due to the jobs they hold and the likelihood that there are more residents per household, increasing the risk to these families. Our health is truly at risk and a key part of this funding package provides for more services and support for our health department.

Schools will always be my priority. I recognize they are having a tough year and will need to make

adjustments just as the County has done. This school year will go in the record books, and not for the reasons we would like. However, this does provide an opportunity to practice the three key student goals that we had when I was on the School

Board. These are academics, developing essential life skills and responsibility to the community. Resilience and flexibility seem to be especially important life skills now!

Interestingly, we are seeing positive environmental impacts as a result of the slowdown in our economy. While this is good for the planet, we need to invest in ways to lower our carbon footprint without shutting down the economy. We have a responsibility to find the balance between growing our economy and keeping our world healthy. Future budget investments here will bring great returns.

While it is not in the budget, I need to mention 2020 is the Year of the Woman and the 100th Anniversary of women's right to vote. It is with a heavy heart that I recognize we will not be able to support additional funds for the Suffragist Memorial at this time, but I am hopeful this is an adjustment we will be able to make later this year.

I know many residents are upset about the cancellation of yard waste services. I advocated for and have been advised these services should be restored in May. In addition, those serviced by County waste management will receive a \$15 credit, with a commitment to keeping rates lower in the future.

We have much more work to do and this is not the end of this conversation. Going forward our Board and Budget Committee will need more regular reporting and meetings to consider the changing impacts and adjust budgets. Bringing our economy roaring back, will have a positive impact not only on schools, budgets and our health, but also on jobs, wages and communities overall.

I look forward to having these conversations with you as we continue to address the many challenges COVID-19 has brought to our lives.

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PHOTOS BY FAIRFAX COUNTY

The litter trap works its magic.

Litter Trap Installed on Little Hunting Creek

FROM PAGE 1

tle Hunting Creek group. "I'm glad they are doing it," he said of the project.

"The Bandalong is a proven, cost-effective solution for floatables control and is the answer to the growing problem of litter in our waterways," according to Storm Water Systems, the company behind the Bandalong Litter Trap, located in Cleveland, Georgia. The Bandalong Litter Trap is the ideal in-stream solution for floatables where combined sewer overflows are concerned. The Bandalong Litter Trap has been cleaning waterways in Australia and Asia for more than 18 years. The traps are also used in Waycross, Georgia, and Little Rock, Arkansas.

A few years ago, there was one installed in the Anacostia River in Prince George's County, and it helped to remove 170,628 pounds of trash from the watershed, according to Storm Water Systems.

Filling it up is not a problem, it's emptying it so it won't get clogged that can be a challenge, said the county. The recommended clean-out schedule they received from Storm Water Systems and from the operators of Bandalong installations on the Anacostia tributary and another in Mount Airy, MD are as follows: once a week inspection, clean out every other week, clean out after significant rain events and floods, clean out after holidays, and weekly clean out may be necessary during leaf drop in the fall, said Fairfax County spokesperson Matthew Kaiser. Fairfax County will see how that schedule works with their available manpower. The pilot program will evaluate the effectiveness of the trap, the effort needed to maintain it, and the return on investment, the county said. The trap itself cost \$104,500, and other project costs, such as design, permitting, site access, easements, and construction, totaled \$587,000. Routine maintenance costs are estimated at \$45,000 annually. The pilot project is funded by Stormwater Service District fees. Currently, no plans exist to install a second trap.

"Stream litter is a problem throughout the county, so there are plenty of candidates," for another litter trap if they want to extend the program, said Kaiser.

According to Kaiser, the county puts much effort



At one point in Little Hunting Creek, the debris piles up.

into the trash problem but it's more than just a stormwater management issue. Capturing floating litter in streams only addresses a symptom, not the cause. Addressing the sources of litter requires a coordinated effort from all watershed stakeholders, including local and state governments, elected officials, business owners, nonprofit organizations, community groups, schools, and residents. Education, outreach, and broad support for environmental stewardship can help prevent trash from becoming litter in the first place. "There are a lot of people/orgs involved in trying to prevent and reduce litter. County ecologists work with Fairfax County students. Solid Waste code compliance officers work with business and multi-family property owners to right-size their trash/recycling bins. Park Authority has watershed cleanup events. VDOT has the adopt-a-highway program. The list goes on and on," said Kaiser.

While the Bandalong won't catch shopping carts that can be particularly damaging in a stream, new legislation passed by this year's General Assembly might. Sen. Scott Surovell backed a bill that allows Fairfax and Arlington counties to pass local regulations to fine retailers for as much as \$300 per wayward cart.

Little Hunting Creek is the site of many past clean up attempts by various citizen groups, Supervisor Dan Storck's office, and even the scouts, but somehow it still gets full of water bottles and household trash from upstream.



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Alex/Riverside Estates \$605,000
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Alex/Riverside Estates \$579,900
8501 Wagon Wheel Road

Beautifully updated 4BR, 3BA Split w/carport - 2500+ square ft. on a large landscaped .3 acre lot w/fenced-in back yard. Freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors throughout the main level. Large family room w/wood burning FPL & 4th BR on lower level w/a refinished bath, & two large utility rooms. Perfect for workshop/storage. You can't find a better value or neighborhood for this price! 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir, (S) 15 minutes to Old Town Alex. (N) along the beautiful GW Parkway.



Fairfax City/Lyndhurst \$169,900
3790 Lyndhurst Drive, #202

Attractively priced one bedroom condo with balcony in popular Lyndhurst community. Great opportunity to put sweat equity into this home: good bones, needs paint, carpet replacement and new HVAC so being sold "As Is." Laundry and storage unit in building. Balcony overlooks green space, providing privacy. Community pool and picnic area. Condo fee includes gas, water, sewer. Great location, close to George Mason University, downtown Fairfax, restaurants, shopping, and much more!



Alex/ Woodleigh Woods \$701,000
3709 Maryland Street

Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/a gorgeous court yard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped back yard. Numerous updates to include: kitchen w/granite counters & SS appliances, recently replaced DBL pane, energy efficient windows, freshly painted interior, & all 3 baths. The kitchen, dining & living rooms all face out back & have a wall of picture windows looking out at the deck, hot tub & fenced back yard. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the court yard. As you walk thru this home you marvel at the open contemporary design that makes you feel like you are one w/your environment. Walkable 1/4 mile to Mt. Vernon bike/walking trail along the Potomac. Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Old Town (N), 25 minutes to National Airport (N), all along the scenic GW Pkwy, each season gives you beautiful views.



Alex/Mt. Zephyr \$491,000
8541 Mt. Zephyr Dr.

Great price for this lovely two level solid all-brick home with garage on 1/3 acre in Mt. Vernon community. 3 Bedrooms, 2 Baths. Renovated eat-in kitchen, spacious and open, with sliding glass doors to private backyard. Charming front living room with ample windows, and wood burning fireplace with white, colonial style mantel. Spacious lower level has finished family room w/ 2nd fireplace and a bonus workshop. Conveniently located near Ft. Belvoir (10 mins), GW Parkway and Potomac River, Old Town Alexandria, Pentagon, and D.C.



Mt. Vernon/Wessynton \$759,900
3102 Cunningham Drive

Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessynton, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beautiful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessynton amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.



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

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

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Battling the Coronavirus - Efforts Must Be Expanded

BY SEN. SCOTT SUROVELL

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, over 800 Virginians have died, 3,200 hospitalized and over 25,000 Virginians have tested positive for this virus. Only about 1.7% of Virginians or 147,000 have been tested. Our hospitalization rate has continued to climb with over 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 Bea-

con Hill. Although only 50% of their patients are Latino, 90% of their positive tests have been Latinos and 74% 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%, 16.7% among African-American workers and 14% for White and Asian workers. However, for people with a high school degree or less, unemployment is between 17-21% while for people with a college degree, it is 8.4%.

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 col-

leges 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 scottsuovell.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@scottsuovell.org.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Plan Many Years in the Works and Supported by Majority of the Community

[My Gazette was delivered late this issue; but I write anyway, to object to the "reporting" cited below.]

The value of a community newspaper lies in its ability to treat local issues in some depth and with fairness and accuracy. Mike Salmon's May 7 article about the Hollin Hills creek plan manages to do none of this. As any residents and any members of the civic association board could have told him, this is a plan many years in the works and supported by a wide majority of the community. It was not devised by one community member and the project manager, but was developed by numerous county staff and contractors with ongoing community input. There

has been transparency, community meetings, plan availability, walks through the parks involved.

The small group of detractors apparently circulated a petition, but it has not been made public. The "fact sheet" also has not been widely circulated. At the very least, why did photos not show the gully that is now so dangerous the county has fenced it off. Frankly, who cares about the three odd photos that filled half a page? I encourage a real reporter to interview those Hollin Hills residents who are involved in this project and then encourage the editor to print a report that details the county environmental efforts that are of benefit to us all.

Lee Ann Kinzer
Mount Vernon

Role of Local Newspapers?

Local newspapers play an important role in our community life because they identify local issues that are often overlooked by national news but which nonetheless impact our day-to-day lives.

We look to local newspapers to provide a balanced presentation of these local issues. The Gazette failed to meet that standard in its report concerning the restoration plans for Hollin Hills' parks. The Gazette article failed to report that these two parks are owned by the Civic Association; there is no statement from the Civic Association's President, or the chairperson of the Parks' Committee, who with others has worked for more than 2 years with County officials to develop the County's plan.

It is impossible to develop a plan that will please everyone.

But, the plan developed reflects adherence to federal regulations, provides for the replanting of the parks and meets the Civic

Association's responsibility to ensure the long-term viability of the parks. Those of us who favor the plan realize that there will be some immediate loss, but given the flooding and ongoing damage to the parks, we are willing to suffer that loss to insure that 20 years from now the parks remain a community asset.

Nor was this some decision made in the dead of the night

without community input or support. Rather, information has been continually provided and County employees have held community meetings to explain the plan and answer questions. All of this culminated in a very well-attended Civic Association meeting at which the members of the Civic Association voted in overwhelming numbers to accept the County's proposal.

I look forward to reading the Gazette's explanation for its failure to include these facts in its report.

Barbara Ward
Hollin Hills

Wrong Approach for Stream Restoration

To the Editor:

The biggest problem with the so-called natural channel design approach to stream "restoration" for us in the greater Washington, D.C. region is that it is planned and implemented in completely

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 7

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An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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A Connection Newspaper



LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6
the wrong places: small order, interior forested, upper headwater streams and wetlands. Natural channel design (Rosgen method) is mainly applicable to large order streams and rivers, especially the kinds one find in the American west. Applying it to small order, upper headwater stream channels of the deeply dissected Fall Zone of our area is a misuse of the methodology, a misunderstanding of eastern Fall Zone hydrology and stream geomorphology, a sure recipe for failure, a mismanagement of public funds by inappropriately targeting sediment-control projects in places with low levels of the very nutrients for which funding is based, and an unacceptable loss of irreplaceable native forest, wildlife, and landscape memory.

The controversial Hollin Hills stream construction projects in the Little Hunting Creek watershed of Fairfax County, Virginia embody the worst elements of these misguided land use projects at virtually every level, from land giveaway to project planning to backing by elected officials.

Rod Simmons,
Environmental Scientist
John Field, PhD,
Stream Restoration Specialist and Fluvial Geomorphologist
Tony Fleming, Hydrogeologist
Barbara Southworth,
Environmental Science and Policy Specialist
Greg Zell, Natural Resource Specialist
Edd Barrows,
PhD, Georgetown University Biology Professor
Andrew Macdonald,
PhD, Geologist
Laur Anderko, PhD,
Georgetown University Professor, Public Health and Climate Change
Jim Long, PhD, Physicist and past president of the Mattawoman Watershed Society
Ken Bawer,
Vice President, Watts Branch Watershed Alliance

Dismayed

Dear Editor: I was dismayed to read the very one-sided and mostly inaccurate version of an event taking place in my neighborhood.

The article "Creek Plan in Hollin Hills Generates Push Back by Mike Salmon" does not represent anyone who supports the project. It especially lacks the obvious appropriate input from the Parks Chair who has very responsibly and ably brought this project to near fruition.

This project has been in the works for several years with very transparent processes providing for multiple meetings and frequent ability for input into every phase.

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 8

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This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 3

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, 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, 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 test-

ing 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 busi-

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 10

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM PAGE 7

The latecomers to this stream restoration only started complaining at the very end of the project.

Worse, their "solution" has no way of funding it nor any details on who or how it would be done. It seems a moot point anyway since Supervisor Storck has approved the project. I would have expected better reporting from our local newspaper.

Pam Williams
Mount Vernon

'Dubious Agreement'

Dear Gazette staff,
Today's article by Mike Salmon about

the Hollin Hills Project is very well written, explaining carefully the issue. You should expect a lot of letters coming to your newspaper, some will be angry that "their side of the story is misrepresented." It is not the case since the phony meeting of the Association was intended to legitimize a dubious agreement with the County without informing the large community. They brag of the vote outcome, but in essence the vote was unnecessary as proven by the obscene 100-10 result. It was pre-arranged by the CAHH. A few want to impose their view. The truth is that a revision is mandatory. Above is a reply I sent to one of the HH association members. Congratulate Mike Salmon with this article.

Susana H.P. de Unger M.A.,
A.M.S.C.A



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Another Mount Vernon Gazette Community Partnership



PHOTO BY STACY ZARIN GOLDBERG

The sunlit and airy kitchen by Winn Design + Build includes a Claridges Thassos Water Jet tile backsplash and pendant lighting by Shades of Light.

Island Vacation Inspires Kitchen Remodel

A dark and cramped Alexandria kitchen gets sunny makeover.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

During a vacation to the Maldives, Lesli and Daniel Creedon found inspiration for the design concept behind their newly remodeled kitchen. The family, which includes two 15-year-old children, wanted to capture the aesthetic of the powder-white sand and glass-blue lagoons that characterize the strand of islands.

The kitchen in their home — located in Alexandria's Warwick Village neighborhood — was dark and cramped, quite unlike the sparsely populated stand of islands where sunlight glints on placid water.

"[It] didn't function or flow properly," said Lesli.

"It was basically donut-shaped. We had a load bearing wall right in the middle of the space."

To create the serenity they craved, the Creedons sought help from the team at Winn Design + Build. "Two of our goals for the kitchen were to have it provide dining options and better engage the outdoor living space," said Michael Winn. "The previous kitchen

... had only a single door with limited views of the backyard. The feeling we were going for was up-scale yet comfortable and functional."

White, glass-front cabinetry surrounded by white quartz countertops and a blue and white backsplash harmonize to create the Maldivian aesthetic the Creedons sought.

The soft blue cabinetry on the island streamlined the sand-and-sea color palette.

"The mother-of-pearl, wavy backsplash was my splurge, my favorite component," said Lesli. "I also wanted a little glam, hence the crystal pendants."

An Avallon wine cooler, Sub-Zero refrigerator, and Thermador range give a nod to high-end practicality.

"Both kids have started to take an interest in cooking," said Lesli. "We love to have family and friends over and now we have a great space to entertain and cook together."

The breakfast room, which seats the entire family, is encased in large windows and a set of French doors.

"This design provided easy access to a new deck and dramatically lightened the entire space by allowing a large amount of natural light to filter into the kitchen," said Winn. "We are spending so much time in the kitchen during this crazy pandemic," said Lesli. "I can't imagine having to spend eight weeks in self-quarantine in my old, cramped, dark kitchen."

"The mother-of-pearl, wavy backsplash was my splurge, my favorite component. I also wanted a little glam, hence the crystal pendants."

— Lesli Creedon

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

RIISING HOPE'S VIRTUAL 5K
Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church is holding its first

Virtual 5K on Saturday, June 27, to raise much needed funds to help those in greatest need during the current pandemic. More than 300 families depend on Rising Hopes food pantry each week- that's more than 200,000 meals provided each year. For a \$25 registration fee, participants get access to weekly training and mission tips through

a private Facebook group and great swag. There's also an opportunity for participants to donate additional funds through the same site. The first \$5,000 raised will be matched by a generous donor. Sign up for the Virtual 5K at: <https://charity.go-fundme.com/o/en/campaign/rising-hope-virtual-5k>.

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Obituary

Obituary



Marlene Willa (Fallbeck) Carriker passed away on April 6, 2020 at the Paul Spring Retirement Community. She was 88 years old. She was preceded in death by her husband Wendell on December 25, 2012, her only sister Wilma (Fallbeck) Mann of Alliance, NE, and her parents Otto and Emma Fallbeck of Alliance, NE.

Marlene is survived by four children and their families – Gordon Carriker of Ozark, MO, Judith and Michael Jurkowski of Alexandria, VA, Bradley and Cynthia Carriker of Alexandria, VA, and Roger Carriker (Lisann, 2013) of Jessup, MD. She has seven grandchildren (Danielle, Diana, Daniel, Sarah, Anna, Natalie, and Andrew), and six great grandchildren, and nieces and nephews in Nebraska, Connecticut, and Virginia.

Marlene was born on March 28, 1932 in Hemingford, NE. At 3 years of age, her parents, Emma and Otto Fallbeck, moved to Alliance, NE, where they remained until their passing. Marlene attended Nebraska Wesleyan University in Lincoln, NE for two years and transferred to Denver University, Denver CO, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Business Education in 1954. Marlene and Wendell came to Washington in 1954 after their wedding in Nebraska on October 3, 1954. Wendell's selection for a Physicist position at the Naval Research Lab (NRL) brought them to Washington, DC. Marlene worked for five years (1955-1960) at NRL and in 1960 became a stay at home mom. After the children finished elementary school, she applied to and was selected for a position with the Contracts Division at the Environmental Protection Agency and remained with the Division until she retired in January 1995 with 27 years of government service.

Marlene and Wendell resided in Washington, DC for six years. They purchased their first home in Alexandria, VA (Mt. Vernon/Ft. Hunt area) in 1960, their second home in 1971, and have lived in the area ever since. Marlene moved into Paul Spring in July 2014. After Marlene and Wendell moved to Alexandria, they continued to attend services at Mount Vernon Methodist Church in Washington, DC. However, with four children, they decided to look for a church closer to home. They found Aldersgate United Methodist Church in the Ft Hunt area and it became their place of worship.

Marlene and Wendell, were members of Aldersgate UMC since 1966. Marlene and Wendell raised their children in the Ft Hunt area, where they attended Hollin Hall Elementary, Stratford Landing Elementary, Stephen Foster Intermediate, and Fort Hunt High School.

Marlene was a member of the Aldersgate United Methodist Women (UMW) group since 1995. She donated her time to updating the UMW directory for about nine years, made pillows for the UMW bazaar, and participated in the annual project by cutting, sewing, and stuffing heart shaped pillows for heart surgery patients. Marlene and Wendell were responsible for getting the INOVA Blood Drives started, which was a local blood drive collaboration between Aldersgate UMC and other area churches. Blood drives by some of the original churches are still being held today. The family wishes to thank staff and caregivers at Paul Springs for their assistance during Marlene's residency there. They also want to thank the Aldersgate United Methodist Church community for their love, care and support for Mom and Dad over the years. Aldersgate was a major part of their life.

In lieu of flowers, love offerings may be sent to Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, Virginia. Due to the current situation, the community is dealing with as part of COVID-19, services will be private and reserved for immediate family only.

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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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News

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 8

nesses, 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.

During a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee hearing, U.S. Senator Tim Kaine pressed Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH), on the Trump Administration's response to the coronavirus and the differences in the death toll in the United States and in South Korea. He asked Dr. Collins why South Korea's death toll increased from 28 on March 3 to 256 today while the United States' death toll increased from 9 to 74,665 in that same time period.

"The numbers are large, but we can't forget that each one is a tragedy," said Kaine.

Wednesday, May 6

Fairfax County Cases: 5,016

Following Governor Northam's easing of stay-at-home restrictions in the state, County Supervisor Chair Jeff McKay, Loudoun County Chair Randall, Prince William County Chair Wheeler expressed the need to coordinate any future re-openings with Northern Virginia localities. "This is important, because we know a one-size-fits-all approach in the Commonwealth simply doesn't work. We also communicated our desire to coordinate with DC and Maryland to avoid confusion for our residents and businesses," said McKay.

"Just because there are parts of the economy re-opening, does not mean you should or have to go out. It will still be safer to stay home.

As I noted last week, Fairfax County saw a spike in cases. We are in the exponential growth period of our epidemic curve and will see more cases and deaths in the coming weeks. I encourage you to not change what you are doing. We can't see our friends and go to concerts yet, that's the reality."

NAVIGATING THE CRISIS: The Northern Virginia Economic Development Alliance offers a series of webinars designed to help small businesses navigate the COVID-19 crisis.

The next webinar is scheduled for Thursday, May 14th, at 2 p.m., and will offer guidance on how to keep your current customers, and find new ones, in the current economic climate. See <https://www.novaeda.org/events/>

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5609 Old Mill Rd
\$554,950

Incredibly spacious property situated on flat and private .63 acre lot creates the perfect setting. This well maintained home features 3 levels, 4 bedrooms, 2.5 baths, upper level with 3 bedrooms/1.5 baths, main level living room with gleaming hardwoods, spacious kitchen and dining area, sunroom addition, lower level with large family room with fireplace, bedroom with full bath, laundry, low maintenance tile flooring, and walk out stairs to rear yard. Enormous detached 2+ car garage is perfect for a multitude of uses. Ideal for storage, car lovers, hobby space, she shed, you name it! Incredibly good value for a home of this size and condition on ideal lot. This one won't last long!

Just Listed!



9420 Forest Haven Dr
\$829,000

Completely refreshed inside and out! Bright and spacious split level in highly desirable Yacht Haven Estates, just steps to the Potomac River and Mount Vernon Yacht Club. Prominently positioned on a huge .61 acre lot surrounded by beautiful landscaping and mature trees. Huge wrap around concrete patio allows for a multitude of uses for enjoying the outdoors or adding additional living space. The home features 4 bedrooms/3 full baths, 2 wood burning fireplaces, gleaming hardwoods, living & dining room with French doors allowing tons of natural light, large family room with new stone tile flooring, spacious laundry room, extra storage/workshop space, new interior lighting, interior and exterior paint (2020), huge concrete patio (2020), new washer/dryer (2020), new screen doors (2020), all trees pruned (2020), new exterior siding (2019), new AC (2019), new hot water heater (2019), new roof (2018). All the work is done, time for you to move in! Mount Vernon Yacht Club features a clubhouse, 25 yard swimming pool, marina with boat slips (*membership required).

Yacht Haven Gem!



3159 Woodland Ln
\$1,060,000

Meticulously maintained 6 year old home provides rare opportunity to have all the new home amenities and floor plan without having to pay new home prices! Exceptionally spacious home offers over 5,500 sq ft of luxurious appointments and builders custom upgrades. Fabulous special features include: open floor plan, high ceilings, dramatic two story family room, Chef's kitchen, 5 bedrooms including breathtaking master suite. Finished lower level and oversize 3 car garage. Premier setting with the most amazing fenced rear yard around. Easy walk to nearby private neighborhood park/water access. Combination of features and location that can't be matched at this price!

Incredible Grounds!



3249 Woodland Ln
\$1,050,000

Stunning opportunity! Custom home by Wakefield Homes, the area's leading luxury home builder. No expense was spared in this estate caliber property which was built with numerous upgrades and expanded floor plan. Special features include: stunning bright and open floor plan, 2 story entry foyer and family room, Chef's kitchen open to family room, huge master suite, gorgeous hardwood floors, finished lower level w/ full walk out, side load 2 car garage. Gorgeous setting on half acre lot in neighborhood with community access to Little Hunting Creek. Same home build today would cost thousands more!

Many Upgrades!

Why do your neighbors pick the Chris White Family Real Estate Group when it's time to sell? Every home has a story and here is some direct feedback from some of our recent sellers:



3600 Riverwood Rd

"Incredibly helpful in helping us sell our father's house after his death. The house was in very poor condition & we were at a loss as to what to do. Chris, Michael & Mark are extremely personable, & knowledgeable about the neighborhood & the housing market. Was able to tour the house after renovation & could not be more pleased at their accomplishments. The house sold quickly, which made us, & the neighbors, very happy"



3111 McGeorge Terr

"The Chris White Team exceeded expectations. If we had not lived it, my wife and I would not have believed that within one week we could prepare our house to sell, list the house, and receive multiple offers, even above the listing price! We also went to settlement in less than three weeks! This could not have happened without the market acumen of Chris and family and their vast network of contacts, who breezed through the "make-ready" and the minor repairs from the home inspection. If you want your house sold, go to Chris, Peggy, Mark and Michael!"



7715 Middy Ln

"Chris White & The White Real Estate Team listed/sold/settled our home in 50 days (in the midst of coronavirus)! The White Team offered very unique advantages in the sales process. The White Team puts together a complete sales brochure which offers specific dates of all updates to your home enabling home buyers to understand the state of the home they are buying. Additionally, part of the sales process was "virtual staging" which enables potential buyers to see what the rooms of the home look like online thus enabling home buyers to cull which homes to visit. The White Real Estate Team has the experience and creativity to move your home as efficiently as possible."

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