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# The Arlington Connection

**SENIOR LIVING**  
PAGE 2



Wearing protective masks, siblings Rory, 8, Sarah, 9, and Norah, 6, Mogle visit the grave of their great-grandfather, Silas Johnson, May 25 at Arlington National Cemetery. Johnson was a Naval Aviator and served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. His wife, Lucille, is buried with him.

## Heart-rending Memorial Day With a Difference

NEWS PAGE 6

## Foster Parent Of the Year

PAGE 3

## Parents Organize To Feed Hungry Families

PAGE 7

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## SENIOR LIVING

# Organizing Boxes of Old Photos

The daunting project can be broken down in to smaller tasks.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Stacks of boxes containing thousands of photographs line the walls of the basement in Alice Denson's Fairfax home. For the past five years, the 73-year old mother and grandmother has promised herself and her family that she would begin the monumental task of sorting and organizing the photos. Still, the boxes stand, covered by layers of dust that grow thicker as the years pass.

"I even have photos of my grandparents," she said. "I want to leave them in order for my daughter and grandchildren. My daughter has been pushing me start and she's offered to help since we're not getting out of the house much these days. She's even offered to hire someone to help me, but it just hasn't happened yet."

Coronavirus-induced stay at home orders have resulted in unexpected free time, particularly for those who are most susceptible to contracting COVID19. Like Denson, many believe that this is an ideal time to sort old photos. Mustering the wherewithal to begin the project is the hard part.

Starting monumental and often emotionally charged organizational tasks like sorting a lifetime of photographs can be daunting, says organizer Susan Unger, CPO and Owner of Clutter SOS who specializes in working with seniors. "My clients are often dealing with organizational challenges, medical issues, mental health issues, perfectionism or life crises," she said.

Life experiences, the very events that photos are meant to capture and preserve, can also be the roadblocks that keep these memories stored in boxes indefinitely.

"Photos are intrinsically linked to our emotions and can be tough to get rid of," said photograph organizer Jody Al-Saigh, owner of Picture Perfect Organizing. "They can even be hard to look through if they bring up a painful memory for someone, so sticking them in a box on a shelf is just easier for some."

Unlike re-organizing a closet that's bursting with obvious clutter, photographic items like slides or film are easy to pile-up unnoticed. "Photos are often an after thought when it comes to organizing," said Al-Saigh. "Prints don't take up much room, and digital photos take up no physical space. So, they can be put to the side in order to prioritize organizing larger areas such as a garage or basement."

After deciding to begin the daunting task the first step is scouring the nooks and crannies of one's home, gathering all of the photos and bringing them together in one place, advises Al-Saigh. "You will get a true



PHOTOS COURTESY OF JODY AL-SAIGH



Tackling the task of organizing decades of photographs and storing them in acid free, archival boxes and photo albums can prevent yellowing and deterioration.

indication of what you have to work with," she said.

Knowing the amount of items that need to be organized can assist in setting a realistic goal and a deadline by which to reach it. "Don't try to take on too much

at once," said Al-Saigh. "Work in small batches over time."

Creating categories such as the year a photo was taken or the holiday it captures can be useful in the sorting process, suggests Al-Saigh. She recommends her 'ABCs' method for deciding which photos to keep and which to discard.

"A is for albums which should hold the best photos in your collection. You don't need everything to go in an album, just the gems," she said. "B is for box which hold photos that add to the story but can be saved separately as needed. 'C' is for can, as in trashcan. Discard blurry, bad or duplicate photos, landscapes and any photos you just don't like."

The 'S,' she says are for photos that are not of the best quality, but that help to tell a story. Those photos should be categorized as an A or a B.

"Save, scan and enjoy prints," said Al-Saigh. "Make albums from prints, put photos in archival storage boxes or sleeves, make back-

ups of scanned images by using a cloud storage."

To prevent another photo backlog, "Make a schedule for yourself to do photo maintenance on a regular basis. Maybe it's monthly, quarterly, or every six months," said Al-Saigh. "Digital photos are easy to get backlogged because there's no limit to how many you can take."

Use moments of unavoidable idle time, such as waiting for a medical appointment and delete unwanted digital photographs. "It's time better spent cleaning off your phone rather than watching TV in a waiting room or reading an old magazine," said Al-Saigh. "Also, be mindful of the photos you take. When on a vacation, take pictures with people that you'll cherish into the future, rather than a landscape or scenery that holds less meaning."

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## Claudia Morales Is Arlington's 2020 Foster Parent of the Year

**Arlington's foster parent program will face major need post-pandemic.**

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

**H**ow often does a young, single, professional person have the desire and capacity to become a foster parent? Claudia Morales of Arlington did. Nine times. Morales was officially approved in 2015 to become a foster parent, and since then she has had 9 children join her family. All these children, except the one currently joined with her, have successfully returned home, which is always the outcome Claudia, and the foster parent program, work for and desire.

A Guatemalan native, Morales understands some of the struggles immigrant families and children go through when trying to understand how this country works, according to Erica Serrano, the Outreach and Recruitment Specialist for the Child and Family Services Division of Arlington County.

Morales says multiple factors made her decide to become a foster parent: the first stemmed from childhood. An American family took her family in when they immigrated to the United States and that personal experience made her want to "pay it forward." Her need to fulfill the social responsibility to contribute to her community played a part, and her love for children, especially babies, made fostering a good way to do that. Claudia says she enjoys the infant and toddler stages — sleep deprivation,

tantrums — and that is why she works mainly with children infant to four. Although it can be a rollercoaster ride, she enjoys watching them grow and helping them achieve their developmental milestones.

Morales said the lessons fostering has taught her are: patience, not to sweat the small things, picking her battles wisely, and "it truly does take a village."

About Arlington's support team she added, "It is a God-send and definitely part of my village. From coordinating respite or challenging pick-ups, to calling to check on me after a child has gone back to the birth parents, they've always been available or found a way to make things work."

Working with birth parents has been very positive, Morales said. "Birth parents almost always have a rocky start when separating from their child at the start of the fostering phase," Morales noted. She relies on the support of the social workers to slowly begin to interact with the parents with the goal of partnering with them to give the best care she can to the children and to keep the parent-child connection strong if deemed safe.

"The hardest part of working with birth parents has been to not take it personally." Usually when the birth families see that the child is well taken care of and that as a foster mother, Morales wants their child to keep the bond with the family, they put their guard down and begin to develop a relationship with her.

According to Serrano, one of the reasons Morales was nominated to be Foster Parent of the Year was that "everyone who has worked with her describes her as incredibly flexible, a true nurturer of both the children and their families, and someone always willing to go above and beyond. She is a



Claudia Morales, with two of her foster children.

young woman who lights up the room and always has a smile on her face."

Serrano added, "As children continue to be in foster care, we must continue making sure we have safe homes and foster parents for them, pandemic or no pandemic. One important issue is that we are getting a lower than usual volume of calls to our hotline. We know this is because children are not attending regular school, after school programs, camps or extra curricular activities where it is mandated to report when teachers or counselors notice something is going on with the child." Serrano said they are expecting an influx of calls once things go back to normal. "Suddenly all these children will

be noticed, and we will need to be ready with enough foster homes approved and certified to run."

Serrano and her staff have continued to work during the pandemic to offer support services to foster parents. "We have migrated several of our support services to a virtual platform so we have been offering virtual training and support groups. Some of our more seasoned foster parents have been hosting a virtual hang out and we have also hosted our first ever Zoom telehealth Information Session." Serrano depends on her webpage promotions and Facebook page to highlight the constant need for foster parents to volunteer. The next (virtual) information session can be found on the

web page. See [www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare](http://www.arlingtonva.us/fostercare) and [www.facebook.com/Arlington-Foster-CareAdoption-Program-801286416737841](https://www.facebook.com/Arlington-Foster-CareAdoption-Program-801286416737841)

As for Morales, she offers this to those considering becoming foster parents: "Go to an information session and ask questions. I would say fostering is NOT the easiest way to help your community, but it IS rewarding and has a lasting impact in the lives of children in need of a stable and loving environment. And what a privilege it is to be able to provide that for the children of our community. So if you have a desire, pursue it and become part of our team."

May is National Foster Care Month.



Claudia Morales with her mother, nephew, and one of the children she has fostered.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

## APS Plans for Fall

**A**rlington Public Schools is continuing to plan for a variety of possibilities while awaiting detailed guidance from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), which we anticipate will be issued in early June. We are working in close coordination with neighboring Northern Virginia jurisdictions to discuss and coordinate on our plans. Our focus is on developing a plan that protects the health and safety of our students, staff and families, and provides consistent, reliable and equitable access to learning resources, technology and in-

ternet connectivity at home.

At a recent School Board meeting, Cintia Z. Johnson shared a presentation that outlines key factors informing plans; scenarios under consideration; anticipated challenges; and the timeline for sharing and finalizing plans, pending state guidance. That presentation is available online.

The three planning scenarios are:

Starting the school year with distance learning, should public health officials advise us it is not safe to reopen. Based on current conditions, this is a likely scenario, and we are preparing for a distance learning

model that includes synchronous instruction of new content;

Reopening schools with a hybrid of in-person and online instruction, including multiple contingencies to meet class size limits and social distancing requirements; and

Reopening schools as normal with in-person instruction, if social distancing requirements have been lifted and conditions are met to open school buildings safely. Based on current conditions, this is the least likely scenario.

For each scenario, APS is carefully considering training, communications and op-

erational needs, and impacts on all areas including school health, instruction, facilities, special education, technology and access, transportation, food service, extracurricular activities and extended day.

Schools plan to form a stakeholder Task Force focused on reopening plans, which Johnson will co-chair with the new superintendent, Dr. Francisco Durán, who begins on June 1. The task force will include leadership and staff from various departments and schools,

SEE APS PLANS, PAGE 9



# Coronavirus in Arlington Week 11

Life goes on in Arlington through sign language.



PHOTOS BY  
SHIRLEY RUHE  
ARLINGTON CONNECTION



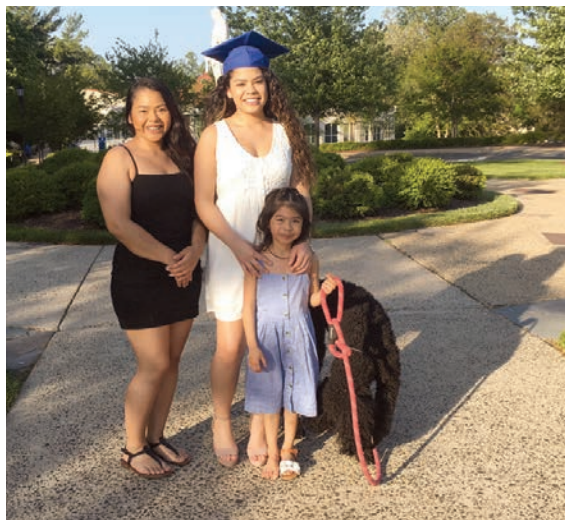
# Arlington Graduates: Can't Rain on Their Parade

Graduates cobble together a memorable event despite virus.

BY EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

A few ebullient graduates, keeping social distance, came to the Marymount campus on Saturday to pose for "graduation pictures," even going so far as to throw their mortar boards in the air and catch them to simulate one of the great joys of finally receiving a degree. They all had the same graduation glow. That, and virtual graduation speeches from figures like Oprah Winfrey and former President Barack Obama, made the day almost as much a traditional graduation as it would have been ... without the pandemic.

PHOTOS BY  
EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION



Evelyn Esteban, center, of Arlington, wasn't going to let a virus stop her from the traditional photographs of her on campus in cap and gown. Esteban majored in Psychology. She will follow up her degree with further study of Industrial Psychology. Her sister, Karen, accompanied her as did Evelyn's daughter, Adrianna, 5. Esteban was all smiles as she enjoyed the moment. A single mother and the first person in her family to graduate from college, she was feeling very proud. She said it was hard during the last two months with "zoom" classes and isolation, but she made it.



Joseph Azurine tosses his cap in the air to celebrate his graduation from Marymount University. An I.T. major from Fort Washington, MD, he plans to apply for government jobs and remains optimistic the process won't be significantly slower with pandemic delays. His friend, Imai White, who had already graduated and had a job, was his photographer for the session.

## Arlington Schools Change Grab-and-Go Meal Schedule

Grab-and-go meals are now available only on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The intent is to make meal pickup more convenient for families and to limit potential coronavirus exposure to families and staff.

In addition to meals, parents of children in second grade and below can pick up packets of teaching materials to use at home. There will be no reduction in meals provided to families. Monday pickup will include meals for Monday and Tuesday; Wednesday pickup will include meals for Wednesday and Thursday; and Friday pickup will include meals for Friday.

Grab-and-go meals, for all children aged 2-18, can be picked up at the following locations on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11AM -1PM:

- ❖Barrett Elementary School — 4401 N. Henderson Rd.
- ❖Campbell Elementary School — 737 S. Carlin Springs Rd.
- ❖Dr. Charles R. Drew Elementary School — 3500 S. 23rd St.
- ❖Hoffman-Boston Elementary School — 1415 S. Queen St.
- ❖Key Elementary School — 2300 Key Blvd.
- ❖Kenmore Middle School — 200 S. Carlin Springs Rd.
- ❖Randolph Elementary School — 1306 S. Quincy St.

Families unable to get to a meal site can arrange for a neighbor or family member to pick up food by calling call 703-228-2129 or sending email to [food.services@apsva.us](mailto:food.services@apsva.us). See APS News Release for details.

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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# Mourning Amid COVID-19

## Arlington National Cemetery restricts Memorial Day observances.

By JEANNE THEISMANN  
THE CONNECTION

Masks were worn. Distances were kept. At Arlington National Cemetery, only those with family passes were allowed to enter the hallowed grounds May 25 to observe Memorial Day and pay tribute to fallen veterans.

President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump, joined by vice president Mike Pence and his wife Karen, paid tribute to fallen in a brief ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknowns that was closed to the public.

The COVID-19 pandemic has altered many of the solemn daily rituals at the nation's most famous veteran's cemetery. Visitors are no longer allowed at the Tomb of the Unknowns while those that execute with precision the changing of the guard wear masks as they prepare for their shift and sanitize their quarters.

Daily funerals continue with only 10 family members or friends allowed graveside. As few troops as possible participate in the ceremo-



ny and members of the Army's Third Infantry Regiment, known as the "Old Guard" that carries out funerals at Arlington, remain masked throughout.

To avoid physical contact, flags that cover a casket are no longer handed to the next of kin but placed on a table next to the grave. The ceremonial rifle platoon dons masks as they fire off their salute. The participation of the Army's elite Caisson platoon, which operates the horse-drawn wagons that carry the caskets of those killed on the battlefield as well as elderly veterans, was halted in mid-March.

The cemetery remains closed to the public until further notice.

**Rory Mogle, 8, places a rose at the grave of Sam Lombardo, a World War II veteran who participated in the D-Day invasion in Normandy.**

PHOTO BY MARK MOGLE  
THE CONNECTION

### BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at [ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar](http://ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar).  
Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

#### FRIDAY/MAY 29

Fruit Trees and Berries for the Urban Landscape. 10-12 p.m. Online. The Northern Virginia soil and temperatures are well-suited for growing fruit. Learn tips and techniques to successfully nurture commonly grown fruit trees and shrubs and cane fruit in your own yard, including apples, cherries, peaches, nectarines, figs, pears, blueberries and more. We will discuss best practices for assessing your site, pruning, watering and fertilizing, integrated pest management, and other ideas for maximizing your harvest. Online class offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. RSVP to attend at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive the link to participate.

#### Friday/May 29

Earth Day Breakfast. 8-9:30 a.m. Online. A discussion on environmental justice in Virginia with featured speaker, Karen Campbell, Environmental Justice Chair, Virginia State Conference NAACP presented by EcoAction Arlington. Suggested donation: \$15. Visit the website: <https://www.ecoactionarlington.org/get-involved/events/ecoaction-arlington-earth-day-breakfast/>

#### Arlington Parks Reopen

Arlington County last week reopened its 148 parks for limited use in accordance with COVID-19 safety guidelines from the Virginia Governor's office and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While parks will reopen, amenities in the parks such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, restrooms and

dog parks will remain closed. The County's nearly 49 miles of trails and community gardens remain open, as they have throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Arlington anticipates a phased reopening of its Parks and Recreation facilities, with open spaces as a first step. In early June, the County plans to reopen athletic fields (with restrictions), batting cages, dog parks, pickleball courts, shelters (with restrictions), tennis courts and outdoor tracks. As the County looks towards reopening additional park amenities, we will continue to monitor guidance from the national, state and local health officials.

#### 2020 SUMMER CAMPS CANCELED

In accordance with the health and safety guidelines of state, national and camp officials during the COVID-19 pandemic, Arlington County is cancelling summer camps for 2020. This decision was reached after County staff considered many options to determine if camps could be held with proper social distancing, appropriate cleaning protocols and other safety measures. The health and safety of campers and staff is the County's No. 1 priority, and ultimately, the County was not confident all campers and staff would be able to safely enjoy an even modified camp experience. If you registered for an Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation camp, you will receive a full refund. If you signed up for a camp with one of the County's contractors, contact the contractor directly regarding their refund policy. The 2020 Guide to Summer Camps in Arlington County lists all County camps, along with information for contractor camps. County refunds will be issued in the form of a household credit. After

the refund has been applied to an account, contact the Department of Parks & Recreation to request the refund be processed back to the original form of payment. Questions regarding cancellation should be directed to [registration@arlingtonva.us](mailto:registration@arlingtonva.us).

#### POVERTY DURING COVID-19

As Arlington's safety net nonprofits and public sector respond to changing needs associated with the coronavirus crisis, the Arlington Community Foundation is hosting a free three-part webinar series that explores lessons learned and the experiences of our neighbors in poverty during the crisis.

The first session, on Thursday, May 28 (1-1:45 p.m.), is "State of the Crisis: How has Arlington County helped low-income residents weather the storm, and how does poverty complicate the efforts to keep people healthy?" Panelists will be Arlington County's Director of Human Services Anita Friedman and a representative to be named from the Arlington Free Clinic. Krysta Jones will moderate the entire three-part series.

The remaining webinars will take place on upcoming Thursdays:

- ❖ "Back to Basics: How are we getting food to people who need it?"; Thursday, June 4, 1-1:45 p.m.;
- ❖ "Day to Day: What is the experience like in a low-income household during this crisis?"; Thursday, June 11, 1-1:45 p.m.

Register at the Arlington Community Foundation website at [www.arlcf.org](http://www.arlcf.org).

#### FRIDAY, JUNE 5

Climate Conscious Gardening. 10-11:30 a.m. Online. As our changing climate brings more unpredictable weather patterns, gardeners play an increasingly important role in serving as stewards of the environment. Learn about five categories

of practical actions homeowners can take in their own backyards to either mitigate or adapt to changes in our climate. Online class offered by Extension Master Gardeners. Free. RSVP at <https://mgmv.org/events/> to receive link to participate.

#### BOARD ACCEPTS \$20.66M FEDERAL GRANT

The Arlington County Board last week accepted and appropriated a \$20.66 million federal grant to help support County programs and services affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding can also be used to cover expenses related to complying with COVID-19 public health precautions. The Board allocated \$500,000 of the funding for a joint County/School Internet Essential Grant Program to provide broadband internet access to APS students in need. Some 5,000 to 8,000 families could qualify for the program, which will be administered by APS through a contract with Comcast. The Board also funded prior expenditures from the Manager's Contingent combined total of \$400,000 to the Arlington Food Assistance Center and to THRIVE, the Arlington non-profit that provides emergency cash to those in need, and allocated an additional \$500,000 to THRIVE for emergency assistance, including rental assistance, to residents in need.

The remaining funding from the FY 2020 County Manager contingent will provide continued support for unanticipated funding needs through the beginning of the 2021 fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2020.

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# Parents Rally to Fill Arlington Food Gaps

By Shirley Ruhe  
Arlington Connection

It began with the discussions at the regular Wednesday morning mom's meeting at Kenmore Elementary and morphed into an effort to provide food to needy families in Arlington. The group raised the alarm as they saw the economy affect a number of families. The idea was to serve hungry families regardless of school, neighborhood or the need for special documentation or requirements.

Janeth Valenzuela, one of the chief organizers of this effort, said their initiative began in March when she heard the story about a mother of four who was denied food by Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) because she didn't have two proofs of residency. "She left crying, and we didn't want that to happen to anyone else. Anyone who is hungry should be able to eat."

Charles Meng, CEO and President of AFAC says, "I haven't heard about that. If an Arlington resident is denied food at AFAC, they should contact Lily Duran who is the head of Client Services at lily.duran@afac.org. We want to know." He continued, "Very simply if you are in need of food and are an Arlington resident (including the undocumented) we are here to help."

Meng explained AFAC requires both proof of residency, which can be done in numerous ways, and also almost any form of ID so they can connect the person to the referral made by the Arlington County of Department of Human Services, the Arlington County Public Schools (ACPS) or one of their 20 community partners. He says AFAC has been very liberal with the forms of ID that are acceptable.

Valenzuela says when several parents decided to launch their plan they first went to the Kenmore PTA. According to Jenny Ozawa, another organizer, "We were having a lot of challenges on what we could spend money on. The PTA had a lot of bureaucratic rules. For instance, we couldn't give out individual gift cards because it would be favoring some children over others." They couldn't distribute food without a food pantry and couldn't keep a pantry because of mice.

So the group decided to organize a food drive on their own. The Kenmore PTA wanted to help so they set up a PayPal account and that way were able to reach all of the Kenmore families with the in-



**Claudia Cuellar and her husband Hector Ramirez, with children at Campbell Middle School and Washington-Liberty High School, have been delivering free groceries since the parents' group began in March.**

formation. "Valenzuela had a list of families who need help. We got a list of staples from Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church who run their own pantry, and the first time in March we fed 67 families."

Valenzuela says, "The sacks are heavy with 30-35 pounds of food, enough to last three weeks." Today's bags are loaded with staples such as rice and beans, cereal, fruits and vegetables, snacks for the kids, applesauce, bread, fudge-striped cookies, spaghetti sauce, and Northwest Airlines deli picnic pacs. She says, "One issue has been the bags." In the beginning they asked the families to save the bags to be refilled but when the coronavirus progressed, they needed to find a source for new bags every time.

The effort quickly grew as other schools learned about the food distribution. In April they served 75 families and in May expect to feed over 100.

Three Yorktown High School teachers set up an "opt-in one pantry at a time" Go-Fund Me campaign that raised \$200,000 for gift cards to be given to the needy families.

"Most of our families don't drive so we take the food to them." They had packed the grocery bags on Thursday evening and today they have stopped at the Serra-



**Janeth Valenzuela, one of the chief organizers of an Arlington parents' group, hands out food at Serrano Apartments on Columbia Pike on Saturday, May 23. This is one of several delivery stops, and she expects to hand out groceries to 125 families today.**

Valenzuela agrees, "If you don't have a kid at Randolph, you don't get the food distribution there. But we don't have particular schools. We just know they need food. Carlin Springs Elementary, Campbell Elementary, Washington Liberty and Wakefield High Schools." Valenzuela says she has lived in Arlington for 25 years and, "I know this community. I know who is who. Yesterday Barnett, also the north side—who are those families? Kids fall through the cracks. Everybody needs to have food."

Diane Kresh, Co-chair of Cooperative for Hunger Free Arlington (CHFA), says the County came to her after schools closed down in March and asked her to help set up this group to address the food needs of everyone. She says the Cooperative is a set of informal relationships between the County, APS, AFAC and groups such as PTAs, faith-based food pantries, restaurants offering food to the needy, and expanded Meals on Wheels.

Kresh says, "By connecting the various players we can identify gaps to make sure we're not overlooking a neighborhood. We check in twice a week to make sure everyone is covered." She explains, "If people lack understanding on what is available, it is our job to get the information to them. We're pushing messages out in Hispanic."

She says while APS and AFAC have records, there is no overall database in place that allows the Cooperative for Hunger Free Arlington to track what is going on; is one group getting an overabundance of food while another is short? "That would be great but there are privacy issues. For instance, do people want others to know they are getting food assistance?"

She says they are using GPS to pinpoint the location of the nine ACPS "grab and go" sites, the low-income housing, the AFAC sites "so we have a good idea about need. But we're still looking at who is still in need, like the west end of Columbia Pike, and how we can get to them."

Kresh says people come and want to help. She says it is important to get in touch with the Cooperative for Hunger Free Arlington if you know someone in need so they can fill in the pieces in the overall picture to make sure they are reaching everyone. "This is a time to be flexible. The point is to get food to people."

If you need food assistance call Cooperative for Hunger Free Arlington at 703-228-1300.



**A car drives up playing Latin music while Ana O. and other residents of Serrano apartments walk down to the parking lot to pick up large bags of free groceries and gift cards that they receive once a month. Nelly Hernandez checks off the food list and makes paso le this distribution.**

no Apartments on Columbia Pike mid-afternoon and are headed to the Greenbrier Apartments, Arbor Heights and several other sites before wrapping up about 7 p.m.

Ozawa says the funds have petered out for now but every time you look for help there are so many interested groups. "Tuckahoe Elementary reached out and are helping us this month." She says they have now rolled in Boston-Hoffman families "who are providing assistance and sending families for help. And Arlington Community Corporation is helping

with diapers. All the help is heartwarming.

"I am so happy to live in Arlington; there is a lot of trust, even among people who don't know each other."

But what Ozawa worries about is that some kids have completely dropped out with online public school, and there is no contact. "We can't reach the families by phone." She is also concerned about coordination of food distribution. "Does anyone have a list of everyone who is getting help and who is providing it to them?"

PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY RUHE/ARLINGTON CONNECTION



# Arlington Week in Coronavirus

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

## Monday, May 25

Arlington County Cases: 1,897  
Virginia Cases: 37,727  
United States Cases: 1,612,114  
Arlington County Deaths: 101  
Virginia Deaths: 1,208  
United States Deaths: 97,049

**OPENING NOW:** Northern Virginia will open into Phase 1 on Thursday, May 28.

Arlington County Board Chair Libby Garvey, Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson and the mayors and chairman of towns, cities and counties of Northern Virginia, wrote Gov. Ralph Northam on Memorial Day.

"We have enclosed the updated May 24th assessment by the five public health directors. They

have noted the regional attainment of four of the critical metrics and assessed the need for

continued focus on expanding our contact tracing capacity and developing sustainable supplies

of PPE. We appreciate the increased testing capacity the Commonwealth has provided for our region and realize that your assistance with testing and tracing in the future will be important to assist us as we move into subsequent phases.

Each of our jurisdictions have been making preparations to support a transition into Phase 1 at midnight on May 28th. We do have two requests for your consideration:

1) As you have stated, we believe there is value for the Commonwealth moving forward together. If the data supports it, we would like the Northern Virginia region to move to

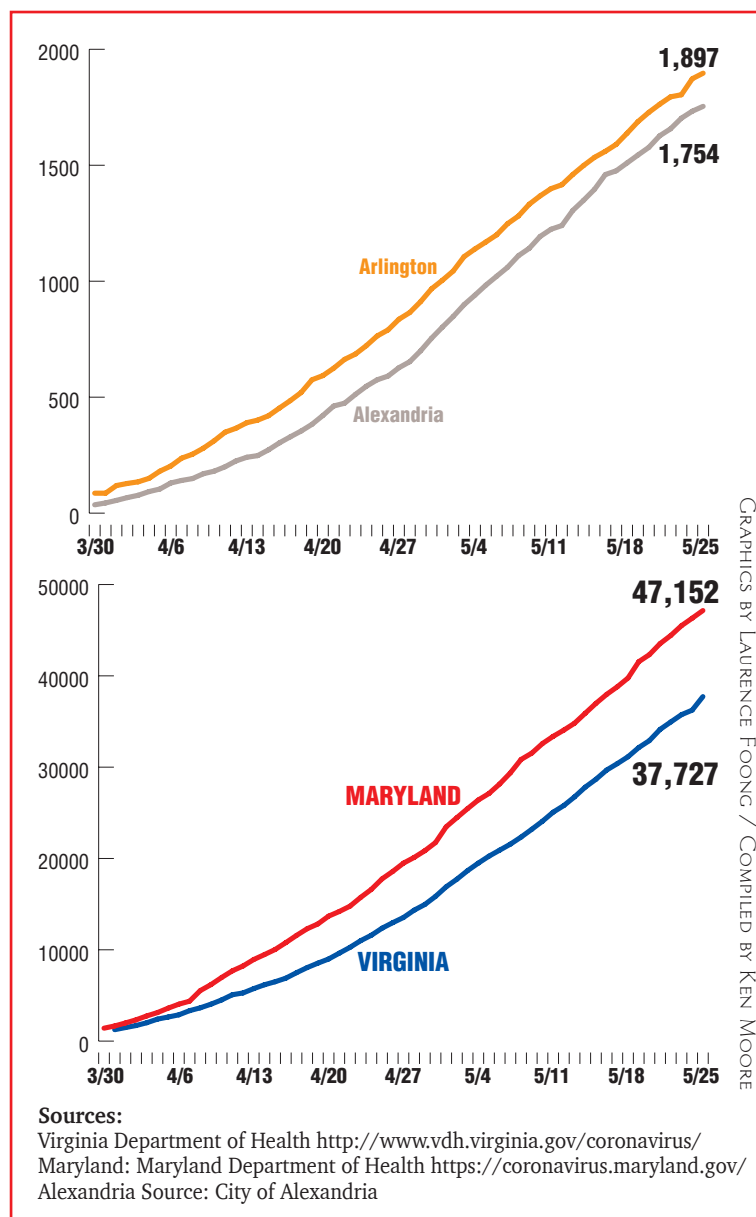
Phase 2 in concert with the rest of the Commonwealth when that date is established.

2) The "Stay-at-Home" phase has been especially hard on Virginians with Mental Health

Diagnoses, particularly veterans. We ask that you establish distinct, accelerated

availability of those services immediately for this group."

The letter was signed by Libby Garvey, Chair, Arlington County Board of Supervisors; Jeff McKay, Chair, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors; Phyllis J. Randall, Chair, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors; Ann B. Wheeler, Chair, Prince William County Board of Supervisors; Justin Wilson, Mayor, Alexandria City Council; David L. Meyer, Mayor, City of Fairfax; Derrick Wood, Mayor, Town of Dumfries; Lisa Merkel, Mayor, Town of



Herndon; Bridge Littleton, Mayor, Town of Middleburg; and Laurie A. DiRocco, Mayor, Town of Vienna.

**FREE TESTING:** Arlington County hosted a one-day free COVID-19 testing event to limit community spread in areas that are disproportionately affected by COVID-19 on Tuesday, May 26 from 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. at Barcroft Fitness and Recreation Center after the Connection's presstime. Tests will be conducted on both a drive-through and walk-up basis.

"Hosting testing in this location is a conscious effort to concentrate resources in an area easily reachable to those residents who may not otherwise be able to access testing and information," said Dr. Reuben Varghese, Arlington Public Health Director. "We hope to reach as many of these residents as we can through this effort."

Arlington County opened its first walk-up COVID-19 sample collection site at the Arlington Mill Community Center earlier this month. It began a drive-through sample collection site in partnership with Virginia Hospital Center in March.

**GRADUATIONS:** In early June, Arlington Public Schools will begin featuring Class of 2020 graduates from each high school/program, and schools and families are encouraged to share memories, images and messages honoring seniors using hashtags #APS2020grads #Classof2020

The ceremonies will be aired on Comcast Xfinity Channel 70/1090 (HD) and Verizon FiOS Channel 41 and online via YouTube (with closed captioning) and Vimeo. Each ceremony will be broadcast multiple times.

Arlington Career Center, Thursday, June 11, 6 p.m.,  
Eunice Kennedy Shriver Program, Friday, June 12, 12 p.m.

H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program, Wednesday, June 17, 6 p.m.  
Washington-Liberty High School, Thursday, June 18, 10 a.m.  
Yorktown High School, Thursday, June 18, 4 p.m.

Wakefield High School, Thursday, June 18, 8 p.m.

Arlington Community High School, Friday, June 19, 9:30 a.m.  
Langston High School Continua-

tion, Friday, June 19, 1 p.m.

## Sunday, May 24

Arlington County Cases: 1,873  
Virginia Cases: 36,244  
Arlington County Deaths: 98  
Virginia Deaths: 1,171

## Saturday May 23

Arlington County Cases: 1,804  
Virginia Cases: 35,749  
Arlington County Deaths: 95  
Virginia Deaths: 1,159

**PARKS REOPENED:** Ninety nine percent of Arlington County residents live within a 10-minute walk of a park. Arlington County reopened its 148 parks on May 23 for limited use. While parks will reopen, amenities in the parks such as playgrounds, picnic shelters, athletic courts, restrooms and dog parks will remain closed. At this time, organized sports are not allowed in parks.

The County's nearly 49 miles of trails and community gardens remain open, as they have throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We need the community's help in practicing safety guidelines so we can keep our parks open, and to allow staff the necessary time to prepare to open even more facilities and programs, when it's safe to do so," said Parks & Recreation Director Jane Rudolph. "As long as the community stays safe, we can stay open."

Park visitors are asked to adhere to the physical distancing and small group guidelines – keep at least six feet of distance from others and groups should not exceed 10 people. Don't use any closed park amenities. Face masks in public are recommended. Don't use parks if you are sick or recently exposed to COVID-19.

While park open areas, community gardens and trails are open, park amenities will remain closed due to health safety concerns.

All Arlington summer camps, classes and programs are canceled.

## Friday, May 22

Arlington County Cases: 1,795  
Virginia Cases: 34,950  
Arlington County Deaths: 91  
Virginia Deaths: 1,136

**SELF CHECK:** COVIDCheck is a new online risk-assessment tool for Virginians to check their symptoms and connect with health care resources. COVIDCheck can help individuals displaying symptoms associated with COVID-19 self-assess their risk and determine the best next steps, such as self-isolation, seeing a doctor, or seeking emergency care. See <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covidcheck/>

[vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covidcheck/](https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/covidcheck/)

**CENSUS:** More than 68 percent of Arlington households have responded to the 2020 Census, but close to 30,000 households have not been counted, according to a presentation shared with the Arlington County Board.

The areas with the lowest response scores, as reported by the Census Bureau's Response Rate Map, make up slightly more than 20% of Arlington's total population, including 40.7% of Arlington's Black or African American population, one-third of Arlington's Hispanic or Latino population and 27.4% of Arlington's Asian population. Apartments and condos make up 94% of housing in the low response tracts.

**COURTHOUSE:** Beginning May 22, 2020, cloth face masks will be available for all people who do not have one as they enter the Arlington County Courthouse. All courthouse patrons are required to wear a cloth face covering or face mask in the courthouse.

**SNAP ONLINE:** More than 740,000 Virginians who receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits will be able to pay for their groceries online and have them delivered, after the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) approved Virginia to participate in an innovative online purchasing pilot program. The program will launch statewide in Virginia on Friday, May 29 with online shopping access available through Amazon and Walmart online.

**FLAGS LOWERED:** Flags of the United States of America and the Commonwealth of Virginia were flown at half-staff over the state Capitol and all local, state and federal buildings and grounds in the Commonwealth of Virginia to honor the victims of the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic.

**NICKEL AND DIMING:** U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL) introduced legislation to ensure that all National Guard troops activated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic receive full benefits. "While the Trump Administration gave an extension, it cynically chose a peculiar date that was later revealed to result in a hard deployment stop at 89 days for thousands of National Guard members – one day short of the 90-day threshold to re-



# Arlington Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 8

ceive additional federal benefits, like access to Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits,” according to Warner.

## Thursday, May 21

Arlington County Cases: 1,763  
Virginia Cases: 8,580  
Arlington County Deaths: 89  
Virginia Deaths: 309

**40 PERCENT HURTING:** U.S. Sens. Mark R. Warner (D-VA), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Doug Jones (D-AL) and Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the Paycheck Security Act to cover the wages and benefits of employees of affected businesses and non-profits until the economic and public health crisis is resolved.

“Right now nearly 39 million Americans are out of work due to the coronavirus. This is hitting working class folks particularly hard, with 40 percent of all workers making under \$40,000 out of work right now,” said Warner.

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, nearly 39 million workers have filed for unemployment. More than 20 million people lost their jobs in the month of April alone, the most in a single month on record. An estimated 27 million people have already lost their employer-provided health insurance coverage, and millions more could lose cov-

erage before this crisis is over. The unemployment rate is likely close to 20 percent, and could exceed the depths of the Great Depression in the coming months.

The pandemic has also devastated small businesses and sole proprietors. A recent study found that more than 100,000 small businesses have already closed permanently as a result of the health and economic crisis.

**REGIONAL TEAMWORK:** Connected DMV is a non-profit regional collaboration across Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia--the DMV.

Its participants include local jurisdictions, federal agencies, industry, community, and academia who work together to advance the region’s opportunities, generate economic development, and shape a stronger future for the well-being of our region. TTask Force will stand up a sub-group dedicated to developing a detailed regional contact tracing position and recommendation. The group also discussed the need for a responsible reopening of public transportation that gradually and safely restores bus and rail service ahead of demand.

The Task Force will continue to meet monthly through October with meetings facilitated by Greater Washington Board of Trade President and CEO Jack McDougle. See <https://www.connecteddmv.org/strategic-renewal-task-force>

## Wednesday, May 20

Arlington County Cases: 1,728  
Virginia Cases: 32,908  
Arlington County Deaths: 81  
Virginia Deaths: 1,074

**SUMMER CAMPS, NOPE:** Arlington officially cancelled summer camps. Questions regarding cancellation should be directed to [registration@arlingtonva.us](mailto:registration@arlingtonva.us).

**UNTOLD SUFFERING:** Rep. Don Beyer (D-VA), Vice Chair of the Joint Economic Committee, made a statement on Republican opposition to extending further assistance amid the economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic: “This economic collapse is an emergency. Tens of millions of Americans – one in five workers – just lost their jobs, and government aid is the only thing preventing many from losing their homes or starving. Yet, Republicans want to shut off unemployment benefits, force states to make further, disastrous cuts to crucial services, and sharply reduce access to food programs like SNAP ... Removing that support while eliminating access to food, shelter, and health care would inflict untold suffering and could cause widespread civic unrest.”

**SNAP CARRYOUT:** U.S. Senators Mark R.

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 11

# APS Plans for Fall

FROM PAGE 3

as well as designated staff, student and parent stakeholder representatives from established APS advisory groups.

Additional details about the task force and opportunities for community input will be announced in early June.

Community members with questions about reopening can send them to APS Engage, [engage@apsva.us](mailto:engage@apsva.us). As new information is received from public health officials and the VDOE, schools will provide regular updates and engage with staff, students, parents and community members.

In the next few days, school principals will be reaching out to school communities to provide information on year-end activities, how to retrieve belongings and other details.

“We are an excellent school system with incredible staff and a supportive, engaged community, and we are truly in this together,” said Johnson. “As we close out this school year and transition to the new superintendent in June, I want to thank you for all you continue to do to support each other and our community.”

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5/27/2020.....Senior Living

### JUNE

6/3/2020.....Wellbeing

6/10/2020.....Father’s Day Dining & Gifts

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### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 15.5' metal street light pole with a new 19' metal street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 27' near 1210 N. Highland Street, Arlington, VA (20200241). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 17.3' metal street light pole with a new 19' metal street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 27' near 400 Army Navy Drive, Arlington, VA (20200244). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 32' metal street light pole with a new 31' metal street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 38.8' near 1616 Fort Myer Dr, Arlington, VA (20200723). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Legals

### PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 17.3' metal street light pole with a new 19' metal street light pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 26.8' near 256 North Glebe Road, Arlington, VA (20200091). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

## Employment

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An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.

**-Werner Heisenberg**



# Arlington Week In Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 9

Warner and Tim Kaine cosponsored legislation to increase the ability for Americans struggling with food insecurity to receive restaurant meals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, the COVID-19 Anti-Hunger Restaurant Relief for You Act of 2020 — or the SNAP CARRY Act — would expand eligibility for the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program (RMP) and would make it easier for states and restaurants to participate in the program during emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.

## Tuesday, May 19

Arlington County Cases: 1,688  
Virginia Cases: 32,145  
Arlington County Deaths: 77  
Virginia Deaths: 1,014

**COVID IN CHILDREN:** The Fairfax Health District confirmed the first case in Virginia of Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children (MIS-C).

MIS-C, previously called Pediatric Multi-system Inflammatory Syndrome may cause problems with a child's heart and other organs. Most children with MIS-C have fever lasting several days and may show symptoms of irritability or decreased activity, abdominal pain without another explanation, diarrhea, vomiting, rash, conjunctivitis, lack of appetite, red or cracked lips, red or bumpy tongue, or swollen hands and feet.

The first reports of this syndrome came from the United Kingdom in late April. U.S. cases were first reported in New York City in early May.

The CDC Health Advisory on May 14 said the syndrome may include persistent fever, hypotension, multisystem organ involvement and elevated markers of inflammation. It is not currently known how common it may be for children to experience these symptoms. "I urge all health care providers in Virginia to immediately report any patient who meets these criteria to the local health department by the most rapid means," said Virginia Health Commissioner M. Norman Oliver, M.D. "All Virginians should take steps to avoid exposure to COVID-19 by practicing social distancing, frequent hand washing and wearing cloth face coverings if appropriate." Cloth face coverings are not recommended for children under 2 years old.

**\$20.66 MILLION:** The Arlington County Board accepted and appropriated a \$20.66 million federal grant to help support county programs and services affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding can also be used to cover expenses related to complying with COVID-19 public health precautions.

**INTERNET FOR STUDENTS:** The Board allocated \$500,000 of the funding for a joint county/school Internet grant program to provide broadband internet access to Arlington public school students in need. Some 5,000 to 8,000 families could qualify for the program.

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## Time Will Have Been Told



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

In two days I will have completed four weeks on my low iodine diet (no chocolate, no salt, no dairy, no bread) with four days remaining until my one-night hospital admission and subsequent seven-day medical quarantine at home. If I remember correctly the substance of the hour-long phone conversation we had with a doctor from the Nuclear Medicine department previous to my beginning this thyroid cancer treatment process, on Friday the day after my "radioiodine therapy," my eating can return to its previous abnormal. I just have to hope that the supermarket shelves are fully stocked that day. Unfortunately, in our present pandemic pressure cooker, the chances are above average that my hearts of desire will be missing and not in action.

To assuage any anxieties I have concerning this non-military "D-Day"-type invasion by yours truly, perhaps I should try and set an appointment with the store manager for my local Giant Food to prepare them for the onslaught and provide a list of my demands. I know they're open and sensitive to customer requests as under vastly different circumstances, I have made them with excellent results.

These requests would not be for items unfamiliar to their inventory. It would be more about dotting all the "Is" and crossing all the "Ts" and avoiding any slip-ups to guarantee as much as possible the delivery of my future prized possessions. Though I'm not a commercial customer, I am nonetheless in the desired demographic, the one who primarily makes the food-buying decisions in our home and who's interest and consumption of said items would make me most definitely a person of interest.

The items to which I finally refer are branded by Nabisco, Keebler, Hostess, Drakes, M&M/Mars, Entenmann's and Tastykakes. I won't self-indulge myself any further by offering any more specifics as I'm still almost a week away from "the return." But suffice to say, it's likely any adolescent would offer fairly similar details if asked. However, in addition to the availability issue, there is one extremely important challenge remaining: the actual shopping. Given my underlying lung cancer and/or thyroid cancer, I am an ideal target for the covid-19 virus: over age 65, lung disease and a weakened immune system. In fact, I hit the trifecta. As a result, and according to Dr. Bix's most recent press briefing about the virus, Maryland, my state of residence, is one of the few states not exhibiting the kinds of statistical declines that many other states are. Ergo, by order of Dina Lourie, I am under lock and key. And while under lock and key I will not be doing the shopping - and buying, and therefore will be unable to soothe the savage beast raging inside me.

That's not to say I won't see a family size bag of Nabisco's Double Stuf Oreo Cookies on her shopping list, it's more that I won't see any other Kenny preferences on that list. Nor is it likely that while in-store, she'll wander around the pertinent aisles - as I might, and update me by phone on what other potentially interesting items might be stacked on the shelves/end caps. And quite frankly, if she were to surprise me with some other Kenny necessities, she would likely monitor my intake ("Kenny, what happened to that bag of Oreos I brought home yesterday?") and my joie de vie would be mort. Not exactly would she be denying a dying man his last wish, but for a few weeks at least, after such a long, world-record-breaking interval (for me, anyway) of not eating any of my go-tos, let me have some time to myself. Granted, it won't be pretty, but it's not entirely your business.

After all, if the roles were reversed, I would definitely do the same for you. Desperate times call desperate/uncharacteristic measures. What's good for the gander would certainly apply to the goose. Please don't fowl up this future feasting. Just leave me to my own devices, for a bit, anyway?

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



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