

Hadeed
ORIENTAL RUG CLEANING
AND IN-HOME SERVICES

A Clean Home is a Healthy Home

Keeping You Safe Is Our Top Priority So We Are Adhering to Rigorous Health and Safety Protocols Keeping Your Rugs Clean From Dirt, Allergens, and Bacteria.

WE ARE OPEN
To Serve Our Customers and Community!

- Wall to Wall Steam Cleaning
- Upholstery Steam Cleaning
- Tile and Grout Cleaning
- Wood Floor Cleaning
- Air Duct Cleaning
- Dryer Vent Cleaning
- Oriental/Area Rug Cleaning

HADEED-AYOUB
4918 Wisconsin Ave.
HADEED-HONAR
330 N. Stonestreet Ave.
301-982-1111
JoeHadeed.com



Potomac ALMANAC

Still Spring in Time of Pandemic

Polly Webster, 97,
Story of Potomac
OBITUARY, PAGE 5

Churchill Student
Is a Top Poet
PAGE 2

PAGE 3

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED
REAL ESTATE SALES, PAGE 4 ❖ KENNY LOURIE, PAGE 7

ATTENTION POSTMASTER:
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
REQUESTED IN HOME 4-16-20

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

NEWS

Book Festival Selects Poetry Finalists

Churchill student among finalists in Gaithersburg Book Festival contest.



Kiran Krishnan

BY PEGGY MCEWAN
POTOMAC ALMANAC

The Gaithersburg Book Festival organizers announced the names of ten finalists in the High School Poetry Contest last week.

Winston Churchill High School student Kiran Krishnan is among the contenders for one of the top prizes. His poem, Rhythms of Life, connects the reader with seasons from birth to death using the sense of sight. It can be viewed, with Kiran reading it, at gaithersburgbookfestival.org/poem/rhythm-of-life. Although the Festival, scheduled for May 16, has been cancelled due to the public health crisis, local high school student poets will still be celebrated.

The top three winners and a “fan favorite” will be announced in an online video featuring poetry critic and contest judge Elizabeth Lund, on Wednesday, May 20.

“During difficult times, many people turn to poetry for insight and inspiration,” Lund said in a press release. “The finalists for this year’s high school poetry contest provide that, and much more. Their poems are bold, surprising and honest, sometimes heartbreakingly so. The talent and adroitness of these young writers give me hope for the future.”

Winston Churchill High School student Kiran Krishnan is among the contenders for one of the top prizes. His poem, Rhythms of Life, connects the reader with seasons from birth to death using the sense of sight. It can be viewed, with

Kiran reading it, at gaithersburgbookfestival.org/poem/rhythm-of-life.

“This is another terrific opportunity for our future bards,”

Jud Ashman, founder of the Festival and current mayor of the City of Gaithersburg, said. “There are some genuinely talented young writers and poets in our region, and it makes us all proud to give them a big spotlight through the Gaithersburg Book Festival.” More than 100 poets submitted their work to the contest according to Serena Agosto-Cox, Festival Poetry Coordinator.

The contest was open to any high school student from across the Washington Metropolitan Area. Students were invited to submit short poems, no longer than one page, single-spaced 12-point Times New Roman. There was not a specific theme for submissions.

Finalists are listed below in alphabetical order with the school they attend and city in which they reside are:

Gabriella Allen – Quince Orchard High School (Germantown, Md.)

Solange Campos – Poolesville High School (Poolesville, Md.)

Rina Fishman – Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School (Rockville, Md.)

Darshini Babu Ganesh – Poolesville High School (Poolesville, Md.)

Kiran Krishnan – Winston Churchill High School (Potomac, Md.)

Sabrina Mei – Richard Montgomery High School (Rockville, Md.)

Sarah Patch – Poolesville High School (Poolesville, Md.)

Lucas Reynolds – The Nora School (Silver Spring, Md.)

Lucy Shen – Richard Montgomery High School (Rockville, Md.)

Trishelle Weed – Old Mill High

RHYTHM OF LIFE

By KIRAN KRISHNAN
Winston Churchill High School
Energetic eyes flutter open,
As they enter the new world,
As they enter the new world,
Fortunate to be surrounded by family and warmth,
And an unbreakable bond is built,
Not tangible, but rather spiritual.
Curious eyes observe the endless conflict,
As formidable hardships loom,
Over friendship and life,
But they are confronted and endured,
By support that heals the wounds.
Proud eyes look down, gleaming,
As a new family is formed,
Repeating the cycle again,
Observing as the years pass,
And as time takes its toll.
Tired eyes finally close,
Sinking under the weight of their exhaustion,
As the last breath escapes the mouth,
The soul ascends to its new world,
Leaving memories of love and life behind.

School (Glen Burnie, Md.)

The 10 finalists’ poems are posted to the Gaithersburg Book Festival website gaithersburgbookfestival.org. Visitors can read the entries, see many of the poets reading their work and vote for their favorite. Fan favorite voting will close on Friday, May 8, at 11 p.m.

Prizes for first-, second- and third-place winners, provided courtesy of Johns Hopkins University Montgomery County, are \$250, \$100 and \$50. The fan favorite winner will receive \$25.

Because the Book Festival has been cancelled, some elements of the event will move to a virtual platform. Details will be posted on the Festival website.

“Sadly, circumstances have reached the point where we have to change gears on our beloved Gaithersburg Book Festival,” Ashman said. “We will not be coming together – at least not face-to-face – but we are looking at creative ways to deliver some programming that connects our loyal patrons with their favorite authors.”

Hadeed is Your Source for Deep Cleaning & Disinfecting All Your Rugs, Carpets & Floors

We Are Open!
Ready to Serve Our Customers & Community in This Uncertain Time!

Safety is Our Top Priority!
We Are Adhering to Rigorous Health & Safety Protocols to Protect You and Our Associates.

Trust the Rug Experts!
We Remain Committed to Keeping Your Rugs Clean From Dirt, Allergens, and Bacteria.

Free Curbside Pickup & Delivery!
To help protect you and our associates we are now offering to pickup and deliver your rugs to your doorstep. Our associates will wear gloves, masks, and booties when picking up or delivering your rugs.

Limited Time Only! - Free Rug Storage For Your Cleaned Rugs!*

<p>SANITIZE & DISINFECT YOUR RUGS <small>With In-Plant Cleaning. Expires 4/26/20. Not valid w/any other offers.</small></p>	50% off*
<p>IN-PLANT RUG CLEANING For Every 2 Rugs Cleaned Get the 3rd Rug Cleaned <small>Expires 4/26/20. Get 3rd rug of equal/smaller size free. Not valid w/other offers.</small></p>	FOR Free!
<p>IN-PLANT RUG CLEANING ON 1 OR 2 RUGS <small>Expires 4/26/20. Not valid w/any other offers.</small></p>	15% off*
<p>WALL-TO-WALL CARPET STEAMING <small>Expires 4/26/20. Not valid w/any other offers.</small></p>	20% off*

HADEED-AYOUB
Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services
4918 Wisconsin Ave. DC/MD

HADEED-HONAR
Oriental Rug Cleaning & In-Home Services
330 N. Stonestreet Ave. Rockville, MD

301-982-1111 | JoeHadeed.com

*Available in MD, DC, & VA. Min. order required, some restrictions apply. Doesn't include breakables. Call for details. Some addit'l fees may apply. All offers expire 4/26/20.

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online

Special Connections Calendar 2020

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

APRIL

4/15/2020.....A+ Camps & Schools Focus

4/22/2020.....Senior Living

4/22/2020.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts I

4/29/2020.....Connection Families Spring Outlook 2020

MAY

5/6/2020.....Mother's Day Celebrations, Dining & Gifts II

5/6/2020.....Wellbeing

5/13/2020.....HomeLifeStyle

5/20/2020.....A+ Camps & Schools

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

For Print & Digital Advertising Information:
Please Call 703.778.9431 or email
advertising@connectionnewspapers.com

LOCAL MEDIA CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

- Alexandria Gazette Packet
- Arlington Connection
- Burke's Connection
- Centre View
- Chantilly Connection
- Fairfax Connection
- Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Great Falls Connection
- McLean Connection
- Mount Vernon Gazette
- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Dakota Connection

We Bring the Zoo to You!







SQUEALS

N WHEELS

Traveling Petting Zoo

www.squealsonwheels.us

301-765-0270

jill@squealsonwheels.us







We are licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture and Insured

This Week in Coronavirus

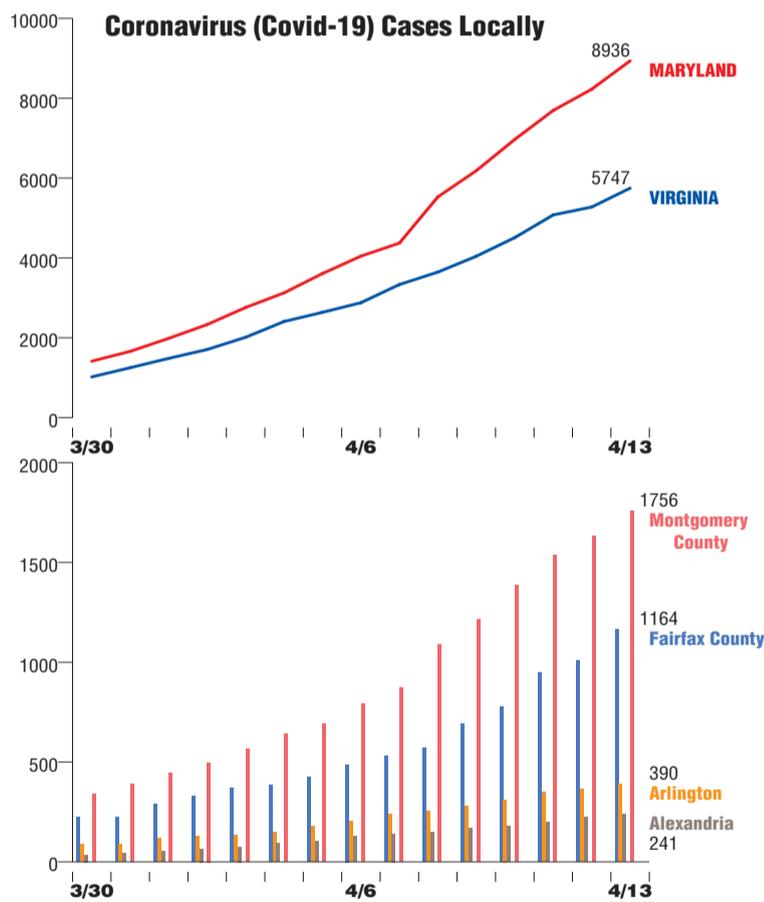
Surging unemployment claims to mandatory face masks: weekly synopsis of local news on pandemic.

BY KEN MOORE
THE ALMANAC



Maryland Governor Larry Hogan deemed the Easter Bunny an essential worker in Maryland on Sunday, April 12.

Local Coronavirus Cases



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

did not yet have data available, which included 28 people who died.

African Americans are 31 percent of the population of Maryland.

Hogan and New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo demanded \$500 billion from the federal government for states to meet budgetary shortfalls from the pandemic. "Governors across the country are leading the on-the-ground response to the national COVID-19 pandem-

ic ... While these public health strategies are working to protect the American people, they result in catastrophic damage to state economies," they said. "Despite this grave challenge, the recently passed federal CARES Act contained zero funding to offset these drastic state revenue shortfalls."

Hogan, the chair of the National Governors Association, and Cuomo, the vice chair, said Congress must provide immediate financial relief to all states.

"In the absence of unrestricted

fiscal support of at least \$500 billion from the federal government, states will have to confront the prospect of significant reductions to critically important services all across this country, hampering public health, the economic recovery, and—in turn—our collective effort to get people back to work," according to Hogan and Cuomo.

Saturday, April 11

Maryland Cases: 7,694
Montgomery County Cases: 1,537
Montgomery County Deaths: 36

Montgomery County Fire and Rescue will place additional EMS resources and decontamination capabilities into service next week, in response to anticipated COVID-19 activity surge in Montgomery County, tweeted chief spokesperson Pete Piringer.

Friday, April 10

Maryland Cases: 6,968
Montgomery County Cases: 1,388
Montgomery County Deaths: 34

The county and three unions -- firefighters, police and food and commercial workers unions -- reached an agreement on COVID-19 differential pay to recognize the unusual risks employees now face in leaving their homes and delivering vital services to the public. County Executive Marc Elrich said the unions could have insisted on "much larger benefits" under provisions of existing county bargaining agreements but "understood the importance of the ongoing fiscal health of the county."

According to Elrich: "This agreement recognizes the increased risk of the work done by our first re-

sponders – firefighters and police officers during this pandemic. It also recognizes that other employees are doing work that requires public interaction – and therefore increased risk, including work by corrections officers, bus drivers, nurses, and social workers."

Elrich said that the County has nonprofit partners serving on the front lines during the pandemic and will work with them to find possible ways to help them maintain necessary staffing.

Gov. Larry Hogan instituted a budget and hiring freeze for Maryland to help with a projected \$2.8 billion shortfall due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Effective immediately, all agencies must stop discretionary purchases of items or services not related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic or necessary to support core agency functions.

Effective Monday, April 13, all vacant positions in the executive branch of state government will be frozen with the exception of those currently subject to COVID-19 response pay. Hogan said it is unlikely any bills that require increased spending will be signed into law.

EXPANDED UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS:

The Maryland Department of Labor will double staffing at claims centers and expand hours into Saturday to handle the unprecedented surge in unemployment claims.

Starting next Friday, everyone eligible for benefits ending the week of April 4 will begin receiving an additional \$600 per week as part of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program on top of current regular benefits. Unemployment eligibility will expand to cover people who are self-employed, independent contractors, gig workers, have insufficient work history, and more. These individuals can visit mdunemployment.com and enter their email address to be notified directly as soon as this program is available.

Marylanders currently receiving benefits, as well as newly approved claimants, will receive an additional 13 weeks of unemployment insurance benefits.

FOR RECOVERED PATIENTS,

COVIDConnect, is a new registry for Marylanders who have recovered from COVID-19. This registry will serve as a community platform to share experiences and lend sup-

SEE HELPING, PAGE 7

The Council is expected to officially pass the new Board of Health regulation requiring employees and customers of essential businesses to wear face coverings when interacting with customers or coworkers on Tuesday, April 14, after the Almanac presstime.

"Workers at grocery stores, pharmacies, hardware stores and other essential businesses are putting their lives at risk to keep us all fed and cared for during this emergency," said Councilmember Hans Riemer. "We must do everything we can to protect them."

Monday, April 13

Potomac, 20854 COVID-19 Cases: 68

Maryland Cases: 8,936
Montgomery County Cases: 1,756
Montgomery County Deaths: 48

Sunday, April 12

Maryland Cases: 8,225
Montgomery Cases: 1,631
Montgomery County Deaths: 42

Covid cases will now be posted at www.coronavirus.maryland.gov by zip codes in Maryland as well as by counties, and by gender and race. "We are being as proactive as anyone in the country on this so that Marylanders can better understand the spread of this deadly virus," said Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan.

According to statistics posted Monday, April 13:

Potomac had 68 positive cases. 3,202 people in Maryland who are African-American tested positive and 104 died;

2,305 who are white tested positive and 83 died;

190 people who are Asian tested positive and 8 died;

861 people who tested positive and 12 who died were listed as "other" and 1,667 positive cases

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

GRAPHICS BY LAURENCE FOONG / COMPILED BY KEN MOORE

Potomac REAL ESTATE

PHOTOS BY DEB STEVENS/THE ALMANAC

February, 2020 Top Sales

IN FEBRUARY, 2020, 43 POTOMAC HOMES SOLD BETWEEN \$2,550,000-\$650,000.

4 11217 River View Drive — \$1,950,000



2 10115 Bencross Drive — \$1,950,000



3 9904 Potomac Manors Drive — \$1,900,000

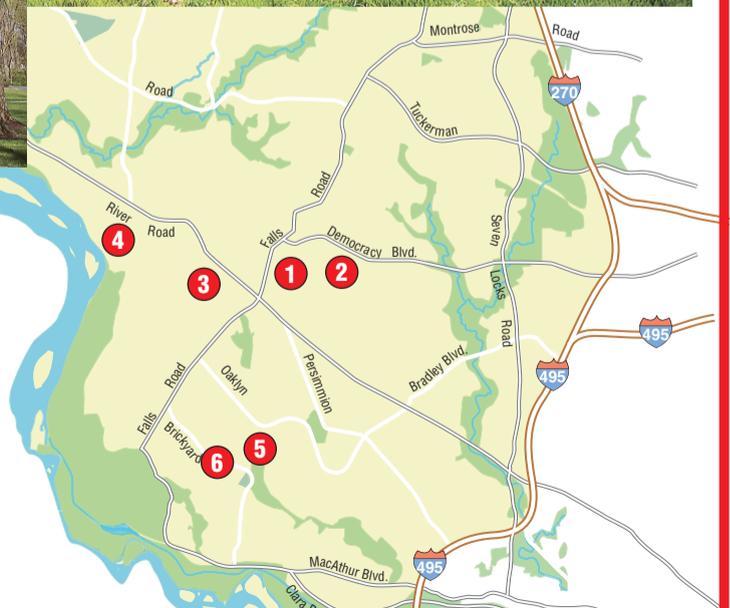
1 1131 Counselman Road — \$2,550,000



6 8586 Brickyard Road — \$1,486,000



5 10032 Avenel Farm Drive — \$1,620,000



Address.....	BR	FB	HB	Postal City	Sold Price.....	Type.....	Lot AC	Postal Code.....	Subdivision.....	Date Sold		
1 1131 COUNSELMAN RD ..	6	...	6	...	3	POTOMAC	\$2,550,000	.....Detached	0.96	.....20854	POTOMAC VILAGE	02/28/20
2 10115 BENCROSS DR....	6	...	6	...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,950,000	.....Detached	2.00	.....20854	CAMOTOP	02/12/20
3 9904 POTOMAC MANORS DR6	...	6	...	3	POTOMAC	\$1,900,000	.....Detached	1.13	.....20854	POTOMAC MANORS	02/18/20	
4 11217 RIVER VIEW DR....	6	...	5	...	1	POTOMAC	\$1,860,000	.....Detached	1.47	.....20854	MARWOOD	02/03/20
5 10032 AVENEL FARM DR 5	...	4	...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,620,000	.....Detached	0.53	.....20854	AVENEL	02/03/20	
6 8586 BRICKYARD RD	5	...	5	...	2	POTOMAC	\$1,486,000	.....Detached	0.41	.....20854	FAWCETT FARMS	02/07/20

COPYRIGHT 2020 MARKETSTATS FOR SHOWINGTIME. SOURCE: BRIGHT MLS AS OF FEBRUARY 29, 2020.

OBITUARY

Mary Ragan “Polly” Webster, 97, Dies

Potomac Almanac co-founder, founding member of St. Francis Episcopal Church.

Mary Ragan “Polly” Webster, 97, died on Wednesday, April 8, 2020, of a brief respiratory ailment at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living residence in North Bethesda, MD.

She was part of the transformation of 1950s rural Potomac into today’s vibrant community by helping organize St. Francis Church, create the Potomac Almanac news-paper and participate in a variety of civic improvements.

She was born in Baltimore to William Hughlett Naylor and Mary Ragan Macgill Gary, who met during World War I, when her father served in the Navy. He ended the war in the Azores and a tattered American flag from the subchaser he commanded is a family heirloom.

After mustering out, her father, who was raised in rural Trappe, Md. on the Eastern Shore, moved to Baltimore to find better-paying work in order to support his mother and sisters. He sold soft coal for Davis Coal & Coke in that city, as well as in Philadelphia, and his young family lived in Devon and Wayne, PA. They returned to Baltimore, living in a rented house on Wickford Road while their house was built at 912 Belvedere Avenue. Polly lived there from age four until she was 26.

She started first grade at the Calvert School on Tuscany Road in Baltimore. She took dancing classes at the Elkridge Club and learned to play tennis on the courts at St. Mary’s Seminary, which was across the street from her family’s home on Northern Parkway (originally called Belvedere Avenue). However, after she reached puberty, the seminary asked that she not use the courts to avoid distracting the seminarians.

One of her Roland Park playmates and a schoolmate at the Calvert School and the Bryn Mawr School was Scottie Fitzgerald, the daughter of F. Scott and Zelda Fitzgerald.

She attended Pinelands camp on Squam Lake in New Hampshire for six years, as both a camper and counselor. There, she met her good friend, Ferdinandine Széchenyi, known as Bubbie, who was the granddaughter of Cornelius Vanderbilt II. The two girls used to roller skate in the massive halls of the Breakers, the Vanderbilt’s summer mansion in Newport, Rhode Island.

She also spent many happy weekends and summers at the Catonsville home of her grandparents, Mary Ragan Gary and E. Stanley Gary, a Baltimore businessman who was the first chair of the McDonough School. The estate was known as Ups and Down. Her great-grandfather, James A. Gary, who owned the cotton mill town of Alberton, MD., was the Republican party candidate for



Polly Webster sitting on a concrete toadstool at Bruce Adams’ home in Bethesda, September 2, 2012. The toadstool was at her childhood home in Baltimore at 912 Belvedere Avenue. It then moved to Rock Bottom in Potomac from 1952 to 2012. It was at the base of a tree that fell on the house in the June 29, 2012 derecho, and then moved to Bethesda.

governor of Maryland in 1879. He served as Postmaster General of the U.S. under President William McKinley in 1897-98.

In the seventh grade, Polly began studying at the Bryn Mawr School in Baltimore. It was a feeder school to Bryn Mawr College, where she attended freshman year until World War II interrupted her schooling. She made her debut at the Bachelors’ Cotillion in 1941 and was a member of the Junior League of Baltimore.

During World War II, she worked three years at the Bendix Radio Research Lab in Towson, which assembled the nation’s first ground control approach system. She worked both in its research lab and, in the summers, on the assembly line because she was adept at soldering. Flight commanders visited the plant to thank her and the other women who put together the radar systems that allowed them to succeed in the war’s aviation battles. She also volunteered for the Red Cross Motor Corps, driving a blood mobile truck. She was scheduled to go overseas as a Red Cross driver just days before the war ended.

She met Lt. Tinsley Adams, who was stationed in Baltimore for the Coast Guard, at a party at the Hamilton Street Club for local officers. They courted at the Owl Bar in the Hotel Belvedere. Both were avid dancers.

They were married on March 30, 1946, at St. David’s Episcopal Church on Roland Avenue and Oakdale Road, the church Polly attended as a child. Her husband joined his father’s insurance firm, Johnson & Adams, located in the Investment Building in



September 10, 2010 at Rock Bottom in Potomac, Polly Webster with her children. Pictured: Bruce Adams, Ragan Adams, Polly Webster, and Macgill Adams.

downtown Washington. They first lived in the gatehouse of the Marwood estate on River Road in Potomac. The couple then built a house on Piney Meeting House Road in Potomac, largely designed by Polly and her mother, which they named Rock Bottom.

She, along with her husband and their three children, Bruce, Ragan and Macgill, were among the early families to populate Potomac, when its commercial center was little more than a crossroads containing Mitch & Bill’s Esso station and a neighborhood ballfield.

She was one of the founders of the Potomac Almanac newspaper and many issues were assembled and stapled at the family’s dining room table. She helped found a women’s garden club in Potomac, a cooperative whose members would plant, weed and improve their neighbors’ yards, pooling their knowledge of local trees, shrubs and flowers.

She served as chair of the board of directors of Homemaker Services, a charity promoted by the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare that gave assistance to low-income families in the District of Columbia. During the riots that engulfed the city in the late 1960s, she would drive to its headquarters in the riot zone, attired in a tweed suit, to check that the building was safe and services were functioning.

She taught Sunday school at Christ Church in Rockville and was one of the nine founding members of St. Francis Episcopal Church in Potomac. She researched the life of St. Francis to convince the other members to choose him as the church’s namesake. She was a member of the original Chapel Committee in 1955 and later served as President of the Women of St. Francis, chair of the Potomac Country House Tour, Garden Committee Chair, and a member of the Vestry and Lay reader, among other parish leadership roles.

She was active in activities at the Landon School, where her sons attended and her husband was member of the board of trust-

ees and chair of its executive committee. She headed the school’s famed azalea festival in its early years.

She was a longtime member of the Sulgrave Club and the Chevy Chase Club, where she won golf championships. Later, she played paddle tennis there.

She and her husband held memorable Christmas Eve parties at their home, with dozens of guests helping trim the family tree, including a moat of moss Polly gathered each year from their yard.

The couple divorced in 1976. Adams, then president of Johnson & Adams insurance agency, died March 13, 1978.

On December 21, 1978, she married John Rouse Webster, who had been her fifth-grade teacher at the Calvert School, some four decades earlier. A gregarious pair, the couple lived at Rock Bottom and spent summers in Sandwich, NH, and winters in Hobe Sound, FL. He died May 7, 1993. In subsequent years, she was the companion of Lyttleton Gould Jr., a longtime family friend who also was widowed.

She lived in her Potomac home for 62 years, until a derecho storm on June 30, 2012, crashed two trees into the structure. She then moved to Bartholomew House in Bethesda and later to Brighton Gardens. Her friends and devoted companions and caregivers in the last two decades were Ellavee Cook, of Potomac; Wilbert and Jackie Cross of Poolesville; and Letty Diamena, of Silver Spring.

She died on the night after the pink supermoon, the largest full moon of the year, appropriate for the dedicated sky watcher. She had a passion for clouds, gardens, animals and the rest of the natural world. As a child, she often sailed in the Chesapeake with her father, an expert sailor. For years, she helped her daughter, Ragan, care for her daughter’s horses and faithfully transported young rider and horse to equine competitions in several states. At age 72, she happily sat in the

SEE POLLY WEBSTER, PAGE 6

Virtual Budget Hearings During Covid

Residents testifying during the County Council's public hearings on the proposed \$5.9 billion 2021 Operating Budget will do so virtually this year on Thursday, April 16 at 1:30 and 7 p.m.

County Executive Marc Elrich presented his recommended operating budget to the Council on March 16. The Council will adopt the FY21 County budget in late May. The budget will take effect on July 1.

The Council encourages comments and suggestions online at <https://www2.montgomerycountymd.gov/CCL>; via email at county.council@montgomerycountymd.gov; by sending regular mail to County Council, 100 Maryland Ave., Rockville, MD 20850; or by calling the Council's budget hotline at 240-777-7802. Residents can also provide comments on the operating budget via social media using #BudgetVoices2021.

Town Hall During Covid

Maryland Sen. Brian Feldman will hold a District 15 Online Legislative Town Hall Meeting on Sunday, April 26, 2020, with Delegates Kathleen M. Dumais, David Fraser-Hidalgo, and Lily Qi. The meeting is scheduled to take place on Zoom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m..

While this year's legislative session was adjourned early and it is unsafe to gather in person, the District 15 team will discuss the work of the 2020 General Assembly, the work of the upcoming Special Session currently scheduled for the end of May, and provide updates regarding the #Coronavirus pandemic from a legislative perspective.

The online event is free and open to the public.

See <https://mcdcc.org/calendar/list/> to sign up for information on attending the online meeting.

Tax Returns During Covid

Maryland will temporarily stop processing paper tax returns on April 15 in an effort to keep essential employees safe amid the spread of COVID-19, according to Comptroller Peter Franchot. He urges Maryland taxpayers seeking refunds to file electronically as soon as possible.

The deadline for individuals and businesses to file and pay state income taxes has been extended until July 15.

The decision to temporarily stop processing paper returns after April 15 will further reduce staff who are required to work on site, according to Franchot.

Nearly 86 percent of the more than three million returns processed annually by the agency are filed electronically, while approximately 450,000 returns are manually submitted, costing the state about \$5 each to process. It takes an average of 2.2 business days to process an electronically filed return compared to the average of 22 business days to process a paper return, according to Franchot.



Spring scenes around Potomac



A sign at Potomac United Methodist Church encourages loving your neighbor from a distance.



Unemployment During Covid

The Maryland Department of Labor has received an unprecedented number of unemployment insurance claims in the past few weeks.

While over 94 percent of claims are currently processed online, aggressive steps are being taken to improve service for those who attempt to file by phone. The Maryland Department of Labor is in the process of more than doubling staffing at claims centers across the state. The Claims Center telephone lines are open from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and additional Saturday hours are set to open this week. To contact a Claim Center, call 410-949-0022. If you are having difficulty placing a call or accessing the website, e-mail ui.inquiry@maryland.gov. In addition, many individuals who have not previously been eligible for unemployment insurance will now be eligible for benefits through the CARES Act's Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program.

Small Business During Covid

Small business owners are eligible to apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Call 1-800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov



Polly Webster

FROM PAGE 5

bow of an inflatable raft captained by her son, Macgill, during a 12-day trip across the north slope of Alaska's northernmost mountain range. She flirted with the bush pilot who joined the group on the first evening and identified several new species of cloud from her bow seat. She summed up her experience the day after completion by saying, "I'm glad I did that when I did, because I could never do it now."

She is survived by her sons, Bruce Adams (Peggy Engel), of Bethesda, and Macgill Adams (D.D. Van Vliet), of Anchorage, AK, and her daughter, Dr. Mary Ragan

Adams (Frank Garry), of Fort Collins, CO.; three grandchildren, Emily Adams (Alex Thompson), of Takoma Park, MD, Hugh Adams of Washington, D.C., and Sam Garry, of Denver, CO., and a step-daughter, Betty Webster (Ben Bullard), of North Sandwich, NH; and nieces Louisa Naylor (Kimberly Rose) of Punta Gorda, FL, and Emily Naylor (Ben Dyches) of Wildwood, FL. Her brother, William Hughlett Naylor Jr., died in 2005.

She will be memorialized at St. Francis Church in Potomac at a later date. Gifts in her name may be made to St. Francis Church, the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, the Maryland Historical Society or UNICEF.

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 3

port to others who are coping with the recovery process. COVIDConnect will also provide opportunities for these recovered patients to learn about potential research or clinical studies. See health.maryland.gov/covidconnect.

STRIKE TEAMS are expanding for nursing home facilities to include assisted living facilities and group homes for medically fragile children.

LARGE-SCALE TESTING INITIATIVE. Governor Hogan announced that the state is investing \$2.5 million in a joint partnership with the University of Maryland School of Medicine to provide the technology to launch a large-scale COVID-19 testing initiative.

NEW DECONTAMINATION SITE FOR PPE. The Maryland Department of Transportation, in coordination with FEMA, is setting up a new site at BWI Marshall Airport to decontaminate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The site will give Maryland the ability to clean and sterilize up to 80,000 N95 masks per day.

JUNE 2 PRIMARY. Hogan approved the State Board of Elections' comprehensive plan to hold the June 2 primary by mail. All registered voters in Maryland should receive an absentee ballot in the mail, and everyone who can is encouraged to cast their ballot by mail. Be sure your voter registration information is current with your correct address and party affiliation. Text "CHECK" to 77788, or go to <https://voterservices.elections.maryland.gov/VoterSearch>

REMOTE WITNESSING. Governor Hogan enacted an emergency order to allow wills, powers of attorney, and advance directives to be witnessed remotely, i.e. by video conference. Currently, the law requires witnesses to be physically present when these documents are signed.

A fire rescue recruit tested positive for the coronavirus and two others recruits are experiencing possible symptoms. As a precaution, all 47 members of the current recruit class at the Montgomery County Public Training Academy in Gaithersburg and the seven instructors were sent home and put in self-quarantine. The training academy is a shared facility between the MCFRS and the Montgomery County Police Department. The current police recruit class was training off-site and was not impacted, according to a county press release.

In addition, the county reported that an inmate at the county correctional facility also tested positive for the virus. Other inmates with possible exposure are receiving daily temperature checks until the completion of the recommended 14-day exposure period.

Thursday, April 9

Maryland Cases: 6,185
Montgomery County Cases: 1,214
Montgomery County Deaths: 29

Shoppers in Montgomery County will be required to wear face coverings in grocery stores, pharmacies and large-chain retail establishments, according to a health order that went into effect on Monday, April 13. "We are working on many fronts to slow the spread of COVID-19. Protecting shoppers and store employees is critical," said County Health Officer Travis Gayles,

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

on April 9.

Retailers must limit the number of customers in stores at a single time and lines outside a store must promote physical distancing spaces for customers while waiting. The stores also must allow employees to wash their hands at least every 30 minutes.

Businesses who use shared equipment, such as baskets or hand carts, are encouraged to provide sanitation equipment such as disinfectant wipes or alcohol swabs, for individual use. Businesses are also encouraged to install clear physical barriers between cashiers and customers, where possible. "And remember; my mask protects you, your mask protects me," according to County Executive Marc Elrich.

Wednesday, April 8

Maryland Cases: 5,529
Montgomery County Cases: 1,088
Montgomery County Deaths: 21

Montgomery County launches its website for its \$20 million Public Health Emergency Grant (PHEG) program designed to benefit for-profit and nonprofit businesses with 100 employees or fewer. The website provides information for businesses to prepare their grant applications for the program.

In addition to for-profit and nonprofit businesses, the program is open to businesses with no employees including sole proprietors and independent contractors.

County Council and County Executive Marc Elrich intended their program to supplement Federal and State programs designed to help businesses survive the current COVID-19 health crisis. In advance of applying for a County grant, businesses are asked to review other assistance programs and apply to those for which they are eligible. More information on the PHEG program is available at www.montgomerycountymd.gov/Biz-Resources/pheg/.

Tuesday, April 7

Maryland Cases: 4,371
Montgomery County Cases: 871
Montgomery County Deaths: 21

Gov. Larry Hogan directed the Maryland Department of Health to release additional information on the racial and ethnic breakdown of COVID-19 cases.

"With more comprehensive Coronavirus data collection and reporting that includes data by race, ethnicity, and place, local governments such as ours will be better positioned to advance equity by supporting individuals and communities at highest risk for health inequities and disparate impacts," according to the County Council. The Council asked for the following data:

Number of individuals tested for Covid-19 by place defined as election district and/or zip code of residency.

Number of individuals tested for Covid-19 by race and ethnicity across seven recommended classifications: White, Black, Latinx, Asian, Native American, Multi-racial, and Other.

Number of confirmed Covid-19 cases by race and ethnicity.

Number of confirmed Covid-19 related inpatient hospitalizations by race and ethnicity.

Number of Covid-19 recoveries by race and ethnicity.

Number of Covid-19 deaths by race and ethnicity.

Money For What, Exactly?



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

POTOMAC ALMANAC

www.PotomacAlmanac.com

Newspaper of Potomac
A Connection Newspaper

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

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

EDITOR & PUBLISHER

Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

EDITORIAL

PHONE: 703-778-9415
E-MAIL: almanac@connectionnewspapers.com

PRODUCTION EDITOR

Jean Card
jcard@connectionnewspapers.com

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Susan Belford, Carole Dell, Cissy Finley Grant, Carole Funger, Colleen Healy, Kenny Lourie, Peggy McEwan, Ken Moore

Contributing Photographers

Harvey Levine, Deborah Stevens

Art/Design:

Laurence Foong, John Heinly, Ali Khaligh

Production Manager

Geovani Flores

ADVERTISING

For advertising information
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Display Advertising:

Kenny Lourie 301-325-1398
klourie@connectionnewspapers.com

Debbie Funk

National Sales & Real Estate
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin

Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Jerry Vernon

Executive Vice President
703-549-0004
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

CIRCULATION

circulation@connectionnewspapers.com

Potomac Almanac is published by Local Media Connection LLC

Five Time First Place

Award-Winner
Public Service
MDDC Press Association

Four Time

Newspaper of the Year
An Award-winning Newspaper in Writing, Photography, Editing, Graphics and Design

POTOMAC PIZZA LUNCH COMBOS

\$9.99 PIZZA COMBO

- ANY TWO SLICES OF PIZZA WITH UP TO 3 TOPPINGS EACH
- CHOICE OF ONE:
 - SMALL TOSSED SALAD
 - CUP OF SOUP
 - SMALL FRIES
- SMALL FOUNTAIN DRINK

\$10.99 SUB COMBO

- ANY SUB, SANDWICH OR WRAP*
- CHOICE OF ONE:
 - SMALL TOSSED SALAD
 - CUP OF SOUP
 - SMALL FRIES
- SMALL FOUNTAIN DRINK

*Additional charge for Tuna Steak.

Combos available Monday thru Friday, 11am–4pm.
Additional charge for priced condiments and Tuna Steak.
Good for dine-in and carryout only.
Not valid with other offers.

POTOMAC PIZZA®

www.potomacpizza.com

Dine-in, Carry-out, Delivery & Catering
Serving Our Communities Since 1978

IT'S TIME
FOR LUNCH!



CHEVY CHASE CENTER
301 951 1127

COLLEGE PARK
240 582 5242

POTOMAC PROMENADE
301 299 7700

TRAVILLE VILLAGE CENTER
301 279 2234