

Alexandria Gazette Packet

25 CENTS

APRIL 23, 2020



The Alexandrian Hotel on King Street laid off 115 employees on March 13, then sent an official notification letter to state officials 15 days later.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
GAZETTE PACKET

that speaks to the really challenging economic conditions we're facing."

School Board members take roll call at the beginning of the online meeting on Friday, April 17.



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Alexandria Fire Chief Corey Smedley, center, listens as Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association board member Marion Moon, right, kicks off the organization's Feed the Fire/EMS meals program April 21 at AFD headquarters. Moon, along with former city councilman Frank Fannon, left, are sponsoring the initial three weekly meals for firefighters and EMS personnel.

Feed the Fire/EMS Friendship Firehouse kicks off meal donations program.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

In a show of appreciation for fire and EMS first responders during the COVID-19 outbreak, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association kicked off its Feed the Fire/EMS Donation program April 21 by delivering meals to each of the city's nine fire stations.

The program plans to deliver a meal from a local restaurant to all city fire stations once a week for the next three weeks with hopes of continuing as needed depending on future support. The first two weeks of meals are being sponsored by board member Marion Moon with the third week being funded by board member and former city councilman Frank Fannon.

"In times of emergencies, the response from local government and public safety agencies is only as strong as its connections with its community partners," said Fire Chief Corey Smedley. "We're grateful to the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association for their support and their willingness to organize meal donations for our first responders as they continue to provide the best service to our community

during these unusual times."

Fire and EMS personnel received their first meal from Foster's Grille, located at 2004 Eisenhower Ave., and owned by Bruce and Lauren Catts. As local restaurants continue to show interest, the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association is hoping to increase the number of meals they can provide with the help of the community through their donations.

"This is a program that says thanks to our firefighters and EMS personnel and also helps our local small business restaurant owners to keep their doors open," Moon said. "And donations made through Friendship Firehouse to support this program are tax deductible."

Smedley was on hand as the initial meals were delivered to AFD headquarters. He reminded the public that the best way to show that you care for first responders is to follow the guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention by washing your hands frequently, staying at home as much as possible, and wearing a mask if you have to make essential trips.

Tax deductible donations to the Feed Fire/EMS Donation Program can be made at www.Friendshipfireco.org.



Former Alexandria Little League coach David Bair with sons Matthew and Samuel in 2003. Bair died April 12 at the age of 64.



David Bair, center, with sons Matthew and Samuel. The Del Ray resident died suddenly April 12 at the age of 64.

David Bair Former Alexandria Little League coach dies at the age of 64.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

David Lee Bair, a longtime coach with Alexandria Little League, died unexpectedly April 12 at his home in Alexandria. He was 64 years old.

"This was completely unexpected," said Bair's son Samuel. "He was in fine health, doing well and very happy."

Bair was a longtime resident of Del Ray and well-known in the community.

"Dad was an adventurous guy," Samuel Bair said. "He moved around a lot and always wanted to try something new. But once he came to Alexandria in the late '80s, that was it. He loved living here and raised our family here."

Bair was born Aug. 19, 1955, in Atlanta to Mary Jane Bair and Richard Lee Bair. He was raised in Charlotte, N.C. and North Royalton, Ohio. He graduated from North Royalton High School in 1973 and went on to receive a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Photography from Ohio State University.

Known for his keen sense of humor and love for nature and gardening, Bair was also passionate about sports, photography and music. He shared his love of sports with his two sons, instilling them with a lifelong love for baseball, and with the Alexandria community where he was a coach for Alexandria Little League teams for 7 years.

"Dad was always a fair coach," Samuel Bair said. "At that age, it has its pros and cons having your father as coach. But all he cared about was having fun. He wanted to let kids experience the game and not be

focused on winning and losing. It was always a victory as long as everybody had fun."

Bair's adventures included trips to England and Ireland and countless travels across the United States. He enjoyed camping and hiking and spent many of his vacations visiting and photographing state and national parks, and various wilderness areas and nature preserves.

"Dad's big hobbies were gardening, hiking, photography and sports," Samuel Bair said. "Nature was really his passion."

Bair was employed for more than 30 years in the field of photography; specifically, at Allen Photo and Dodge-Chrome Photography, both located in the Washington, D.C. area. He was a music enthusiast and amassed a collection of more than 2,000 treasured albums, CDs and tapes.

Bair is survived by his sons, Samuel Adam Bair (Silver Spring, Md.) and Matthew Richard Bair (Lake Tahoe, Ca.); mother, Mary Jane Bair (Longwood, Fla.); brother, Richard Noble Bair (Sammamish, Wa.); sister, Julie Bair England; brother-in-law, Gary England (Deland, Fla.); and former spouse, Cheryl Beth Bair (Athens, Ohio). He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Lee Bair.

A memorial service for Bair will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the National Park Foundation at www.facebook.com/donate/2613391115653556/.

"Dave was a generous friend and this is a perfect way to remember him," Kyle Steichen posted on the Facebook fundraising page. "Someday soon, I'll take my family to a national park, take out my camera equipment and at that moment will remember Dave."

TITAN STRONG – Signs of congratulations and support have been appearing around the city for the T.C. Williams High School class of 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the remainder of the academic year, including usual graduation ceremonies, have been cancelled.



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

This Week in Coronavirus in Alexandria

Covid-19 Cases Locally

BY KEN MOORE
GAZETTE PACKET

Tuesday, April 21

Alexandria Cases: 462
Alexandria Deaths: 11
Virginia Cases: 9,630
Virginia Deaths: 324

The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Alexandria is now 462, including 11 fatalities.

The Virginia Department of Health is now counting cases that are considered “probable” in addition to positive test results in this total number. Probable cases include symptomatic patients diagnosed in a clinical setting, but not tested. This change in case categorization provides a more accurate picture of how COVID-19 is impacting Alexandria.

Monday, April 20

Alexandria Cases: 421
Alexandria Deaths: 10
Virginia Cases: 8,990
Virginia Deaths: 300

The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Alexandria is now 421, including 10 fatalities.

Sunday, April 19

Alexandria Cases: 383
Alexandria Deaths: 8
Virginia Cases: 8,537
Virginia Deaths: 277

The cumulative number of COVID-19 cases in Alexandria is now 383, including 8 fatalities.

Saturday, April 18

Alexandria Cases: 354
Virginia Cases: 8,053

Friday, April 17

Virginia Cases: 7,491

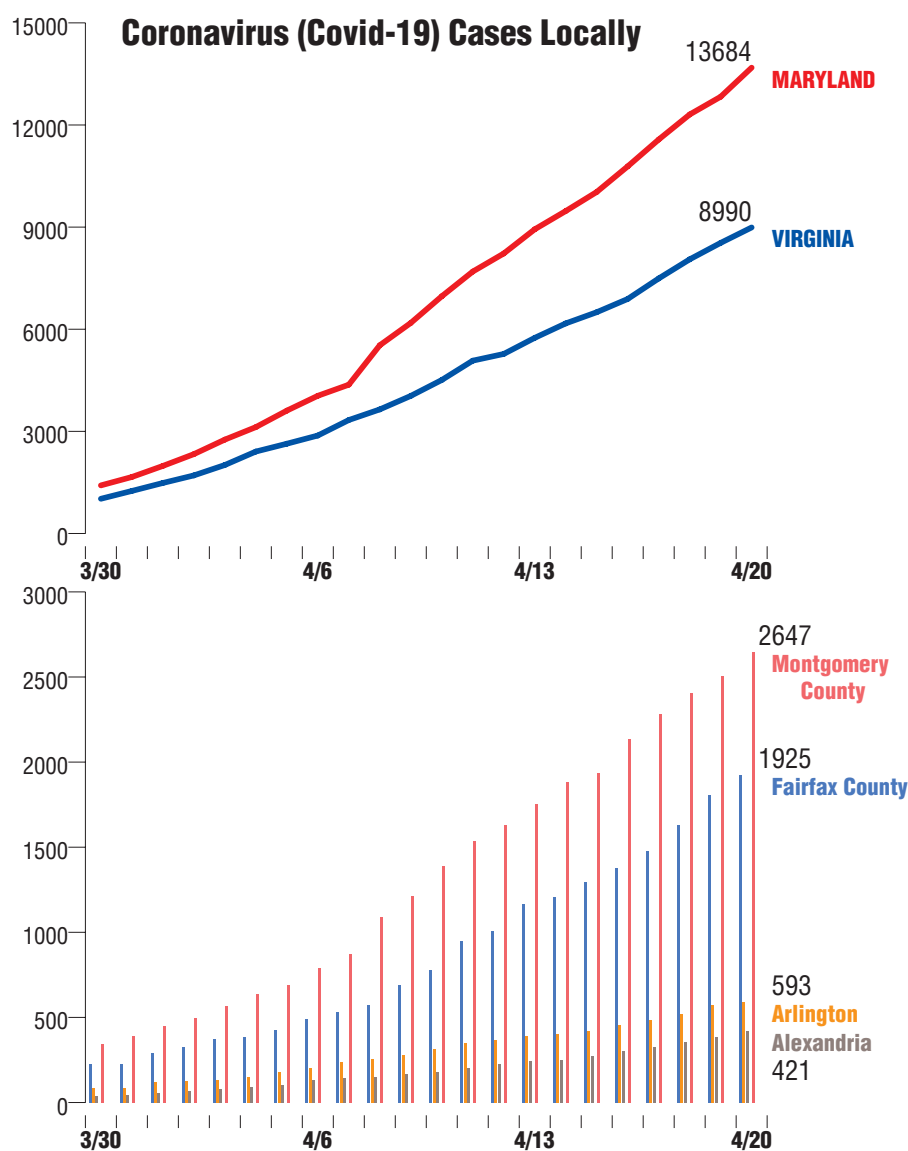
The City of Alexandria Office of Housing is offering information for homeowners, renters, property managers and landlords including housing relief programs, emergency financial assistance, mortgage relief, landlord-tenant mediation, eviction prevention,, and more. Call 703-746-4990 or see www.alexandriava.gov/Housing

The Virginia Department of Health’s COVID-19 Dashboard includes the number of COVID-19 tests, positive cases and deaths in Alexandria. The dashboard is updated daily before 10 a.m.

In addition to health care providers who already offer COVID-19 screening and testing in Alexandria, the City of Alexandria is providing support for recently expanded screening and testing by Inova Health System and Neighborhood Health.

All patients in Alexandria have access to

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

GRAPHICS BY LAURENCE FOONG / COMPILED BY KEN MOORE

necessary staff to confront a potential medical surge,” said Northam.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va) was appointed to a White House task force focused on eventual efforts to reopen the economy in the aftermath of the coronavirus outbreak. Warner was one of 13 Senate Democrats invited to participate, along with all Republican Senators except for Sen. Mitt Romney (R-UT).

“My highest priority on this task force will be to ensure the federal government’s efforts to reopen our economy are bipartisan, data-driven, and based on the expertise of public health professionals,” Warner said.

Northam reported that Virginia’s collaborative efforts to release low-level offenders from local and regional jails in response to the COVID-19 pandemic are working.

Northam recommended the following on March 19:

Allow sentence modifications to reduce populations in jails

Divert offenders from being admitted into jails prior to trial, including the use of summonses by law enforcement in lieu of arrest, and use of local pretrial programs

Consider ways to decrease the number of low-risk offenders being held without bail in jails.

Use alternative solutions to incarceration such as home electronic monitoring,

Since late February, the number of new commitments to local and regional jails has decreased from approximately 10,000 during a two-week period to just over 4,000. On April 7, the jail population in the Commonwealth was 24,000, which is a 17 percent decrease from March 1. Virginia has also seen a 67 percent decline in the number of new commitments for misdemeanors.

Northam also proposed a budget amendment allowing the Director of the Department of Corrections to release individuals with less than a year left to serve in their sentences for the duration of the state of emergency.

Thursday, April 16

Alexandria Cases: 303
Alexandria Deaths: 7
Virginia Cases: 6,889

On April 16, the Alexandria Health Department confirmed 30 additional cases of COVID-19 and one additional fatality in Alexandria, bringing the total number of cases to 303, including seven fatalities.

The City of Alexandria alerted residents to expanded unemployment benefits as part of the federal CARES Act, increasing weekly benefits by \$600 for workers with unemployment insurance claims effective March 29 through July 31.

An additional \$70 million in Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) funding through the federal CARES Act will help provide child care for essential personnel.

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testing if needed. Testing criteria are established by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Virginia Department of Health, and will expand in the future as testing capacity increases.

As of April 16, results have been reported for 1,403 Alexandria residents who have been tested. Of these, 321 or 22.9% have been positive for the virus. Of the positive cases, 36 (11.2%) have required hospitalization and 7 (2.2%) have died.

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-VA) and 37 of his Senate colleagues urged Senate and House leaders to ensure that those who have lost their employer-based benefits – and those who are uninsured or underinsured – have access to health insurance.

More than 20 million Americans have lost their jobs in recent weeks. With approximately half of all of Americans receiving their health care coverage from an employer, the COVID-19 crisis threatens to leave a vast number of people without health insurance

during the largest public health crisis in a century, adding to the estimated 27 million people in the U.S. who already did not have health care.

The Senators urged Congress to strengthen Medicaid, re-open the Affordable Care Act so uninsured individuals can immediately enroll, and provide premium reimbursement to newly unemployed Americans in accordance with the Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA).

Gov. Ralph Northam’s Executive Order Fifty-Seven increases the use of nurse practitioners, out-of-state doctors, medical students and telehealth in the state’s COVID-19 response. Up to 30,000 additional workers are needed in Virginia’s hospitals, long-term care facilities, and public health departments, should a surge occur.

“While we are seeing promising signs in our ongoing fight against COVID-19, we must continue to prepare for all scenarios, and that includes making sure we have the

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 4

The closure of K-12 schools impacts nearly 1.2 million Virginia children under the age of 12. In partnership with the Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) and the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), the stimulus funding will provide additional avenues to ensure the availability of child care services for essential personnel and cash assistance to child care providers.

Across Virginia, approximately 2,672 child care centers—nearly 45 percent—have closed, including nearly 40 percent of centers that serve children through the Child Care Subsidy Program. For more information, call 703.746.5437 or email lillian.vagnoni@alexandriava.gov. Childcare Aware of Virginia has an interactive childcare map illustrating child care programs across the state that are still operating. For essential personnel seeking child care, see Smart Beginnings Alexandria's child care providers.

A comprehensive guide to COVID-19 child care resources in Virginia, including information about how apply for the CCDBG grants, is available at www.dss.virginia.gov/cc/covid-19.html

Parents who serve in essential industries and are in need of child care services should visit Child Care Aware at VAchildcare.org or call 1-866-KIDS-TLC for an up-to-date list of child care options in their area.

the Federal Communications Commission to take immediate action to ensure that individuals all across the country have access to broadband, as more Americans are forced to rely on the internet for telework, telehealth, and online learning amid the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. According to the FCC's latest figures, more than 20 million Americans continue to lack access to meaningful broadband service, with at least 770,000 Virginians currently unserved.

"Under the current circumstances, this lack of broadband access threatens to greatly – and potentially lastingly – exacerbate disparities in health, education, and economic equity," wrote Warner. "On nearly a daily basis, I hear from Virginians who are struggling to engage in telework, supervise their children's online learning, and engage in telehealth over antiquated DSL connections that make even a single one of these activities virtually impossible."

Gov. Northam requested additional federal support for Virginia from its congressional delegations. More money for public health infrastructure; an increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits; relief for renters, home-owners and those experiencing homelessness; including expansion of unemployment benefits, health insurance, and hazard pay; small business

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You can complete the Census online, by phone, or by mail.

✓ IT'S FAST!
The Census form only asks 10 questions about your household.

Every 10 years, the US Census counts every resident in the United States. Participating in the Census brings resources into your community and guarantees you and your household will have fair representation in government.

For more information, visit alexandriava.gov/Census2020.
The 2020 Census can be completed by phone using this number: **844-330-2020**

United States Census 2020

HOW THE U.S. CENSUS AFFECTS YOUR COMMUNITY

SERVICES
Funds our roads, schools, SNAP, CHIP, WIC, school lunches, and other programs.

COMMUNITY FUNDING
The Alexandria loses \$1,200 per year for every person missed on the Census.

OUR CITY'S FUTURE
Informs the City's planning for transportation, housing, schools, and emergency response.

REPRESENTATION
Determines how many legislators Virginia has in the US House of Representatives.

3/30/2020

U.S. Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va) urged

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 9



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The Anniversary of the Lynching of Joseph McCoy

By AUDREY P. DAVIS
DIRECTOR, ALEXANDRIA
BLACK HISTORY MUSEUM

On August 8, 2019, I wrote an editorial to acknowledge the lynching of Benjamin Thomas, which occurred on that date in 1899 in the City of Alexandria. Today, I write on the anniversary of the lynching of Joseph McCoy. He was killed on April 23, 1897.

Both terrible events happened near Market Square and City Hall, then the location of Alexandria's police station. Both McCoy and Thomas were brutally murdered by mobs, just steps from the agency that should have provided them protection. Their bodies were mutilated, and they were denied the right to a fair trial. Their deaths were among the 100 documented lynchings that occurred in Virginia, 11 of them in Northern Virginia, between 1882 and 1968.

Last year, I also wrote about Alexandria's EJI Community Remembrance Project. This project launched Alexandria's formal collaboration with the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), which interprets America's history of racial terror lynchings as a tool to dominate and intimidate. The project is inspired by EJI's National Memorial for

Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. The memorial includes over 800 steel monuments, or pillars, one for each city or county in the United States where a lynching took place, with the names of the lynching victims engraved on the pillars. As a community, Alexandria will gather soil at the lynching site for display at EJI's Legacy Museum and arrange for markers in Alexandria at the lynching sites. One of the most important goals is bringing the Alexandria pillar (with both McCoy and Thomas' names) from Alabama to Alexandria for placement in a prominent public location.

Toward that end, seven committees have developed out of the Community Remembrance Project: Public Outreach; Education & Programming; Marketing; Marker and Soil Collection; Research; Fundraising; and Public Pilgrimage to Equal Justice Initiative. Each committee's mission is to educate the public and make the installation of the pillar a reality.

In the last year, much has happened. The City began with a September 2019 community meeting and a keynote speech by Kiara Boone from the Equal Justice Initiative. Her mandate from Equal Justice Initiative -- to own and learn from our ugly history -- has set the tone for the project. More

than 300 people attended this meeting, including state and City officials, faith leaders, and community organization representatives.

Subsequently, we have held quarterly community meetings featuring invited speakers such as Krystyn R. Moon and Spencer Crew. Dr. Moon is a Professor of History and the Director of American Studies at the University of Mary Washington. Dr. Crew is the interim director of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. Dr. Moon spoke on the struggles of Alexandria's African American community to gain equality, while Dr. Crew shared the social justice work being done by the NMAAHC and how social justice ethics have guided his career in museums.

This April, during the dark days of a pandemic, our social justice work moves forward. The City had planned a large community gathering at the McCoy lynching site, located at the corner of Lee and Cameron Streets, on April 23. Due to recent guidelines from the CDC, we have changed the format of this gathering, and we are using other ways to tell McCoy's story and to educate the public about lynching.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shed a spotlight on inequalities that still threaten our nation and culture and question our humanity.

Is access to health care equal? Are educational and career paths available to all? While many can shelter in place with relative ease, what of those who cannot?

Alexandria's Community Remembrance Project aims to make Alexandria a stronger community. We must face the ugliness of our past and the horrors inflicted on those with no recourse. By doing this, we stand against hate, inequality and work to embrace the humanity of everyone in Alexandria and beyond. We apologize for past injustice and use restorative justice to strengthen our ties.

Today, remember Joseph McCoy. Let his murder be more than a horrible footnote in Alexandria's history and an example of vigilante justice. Join Alexandria's EJI Community Remembrance Project and help make Alexandria the most inclusive and welcoming of cities. Our success is in these endeavors is the legacy of Joseph McCoy and Benjamin Thomas.

For more information on the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, visit alexandriava.gov/Historic.

For more on the history of lynching in Alexandria, see.

<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2017/jun/12/flashes-violence-alexandrias-history/>

Federal guidance has confirmed that the legislation prohibits states from using the aid to pay for expenses already budgeted prior to the emergency, doing nothing to replace the losses in tax and fee revenue that have disappeared and cannot be recovered.

Equally the case is the effect on local government: Without additional flexibility and support, municipalities face pressure to impose large increases in property taxes and business taxes at precisely the time those businesses will be struggling to rebuild and rehire their employees.

Congress should address this unintended outcome quickly by providing states and local governments the flexibility to use money from the Coronavirus Relief Fund to 1) offset lost tax and fee revenue that would otherwise have paid for ordinary operating expenses after March 1, or 2) provide one-time tax relief to individuals and businesses to revive the local economy.

Christian N. Braunlich
Alexandria

Thomas Jefferson
Institute for Public Policy

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hey, Old Town: Pick a Spot — And Weed!

We are all doing things during this cautionary time that we never thought we'd be doing, from taking on critical roles such as teachers to our kids at home, to treating ourselves to the simple joys of DIY pedicures and baking bread for the first time.

However, Mother Nature — the one constant during any crisis — continues on.

Which means the weeds continue to grow, grow, grow. Take a look around your neighborhood — you'll see them. Tree wells are full of them; they creep up the fronts of buildings while spreading across the sidewalk below. As an avid gardener, I know that weeds deplete soil; they spread like wildfire; and once settled in, they can become invasive to the point where it seems the only solution is chemical warfare, which should be avoided at all costs. I ask that before we get there — and to keep our city looking its best until the day when

venturing out doesn't incite panic — pick a spot or two, grab a pair of gardening gloves and a trash bag (since the city is not currently picking up yard waste), and WEED. (And, for me, there comes a great sense of accomplishment and instant gratification from weeding, making it a de-stressor we could all benefit from right now.) For those not used to weeding, it's best done after a rain shower when the soil is moist.

Pull at the base to get as much of the root as possible. Try to avoid shaking the weed when pulling to prevent spreading the seeds. If you're not sure if something's a weed, ask a gardening friend or Google it — odds are, it is.

It's even possible to social distance with friends or neighbors and pull weeds at many locations around the city — take a look at our schools, parks, and treasured historical sites, and see how weeds add to the look of abandonment and despair, which extra sets of hands could easily change.

So please, on your next walk, look for a spot and go for it. The city needs it now more than ever, and we all stand to be rewarded by

your efforts.

Ivy Whitlatch
Alexandria Gardener

More Flexibility for State, Local Governments

Congress considers additional coronavirus relief programs, it needs to provide added flexibility for state and local governments for the package already passed.

As part of the CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security) Act, Congress established a \$150 billion fund to assist state and local governments combat the pandemic. Each state will receive at least \$1.25 billion plus an additional amount based on population. Virginia's total is \$3.3 billion, \$1.5 billion of which is for local governments.

Unfortunately, the fund provides little actual relief for state budgets but instead all but compels them to devise new spending that can be attributed to COVID-19, by limiting spending to emergency expenses or newly-adopted programs.



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LIVING LEGENDS

Carol and Ryan Bailey, 2020 Living Legends

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Carol Bailey has devoted her life to improving the lives of those with special needs. It started when she refused to let her 2-year-old son, Ryan, take the school bus to John Adams Elementary School until they installed seat belts in the bus. She says John Adams was the only school in Alexandria at that time that fit Ryan's needs in special education.

Her efforts to support Ryan's special needs continued up through high school at T.C. Williams. She remembers the high school wanted to get a life skills room. So, she helped raise money for the room to assist the challenged students to learn life skills like folding towels, making beds and cooking. Ryan graduated from T. C. Williams in 2011.

As a result of Ryan's experience in the after-school program, Therapeutic Recreation, Carol became involved and eventually chaired the Therapeutic Recreation Advisory Council for over 10 years. During her tenure as chair, the Miracle Baseball Field and League were organized to provide a field for people with disabilities. It allowed wheelchair access to round the bases for softball and established Angels in the Outfield volunteers to assist players when they needed help. Carol says Ryan has a special bench named for him at the park.

Following the founding of the Kelley Cares Foundation in 2006, Ryan began participating in various fundraisers, including the Kelley Cares 5K runs. Carol pulls out a picture of Ryan, #22, who was running to raise money for Kelley Cares. "He raised a lot of money at that event," Carol said. "Ryan loves to help people."

Another project initiated during Carol's tenure at the Therapeutic Recreation Center was a mobile sensory unit located at the Nannie J. Lee Center. She explains it was designed mostly for individuals with autism with sensory items to soothe the users. Ryan's picture running a Kelley cares race is displayed on the side of the mobile unit.

Another of Carol's initiatives was working with the Alexandria Sheriff's Office on Project Lifesaver, which uses GPS tracking wrist bands to locate at-risk persons in an emergency. Her passion for the program came about after Ryan's school lost him during a job sampling trip in 2006. Now Ryan wears the large white band 24 hours a day. The Sheriff's Office inspects the device and changes the batteries monthly.

Carol and Ryan became a team promoting Special Olympics, with Carol organizing and Ryan participating in the events. She says it began many years ago when Ryan played Challenger League baseball in Fairfax. They eventually were able to play games at Simpson Field with assistance from buddies. Therapeutic Recreation formed a basketball team named Youth Opportunity Sports, where they had their own basketball team (Alexandria Titans) which led them to the Special Olympics in 2004.

Carol became a Special Olympics coordinator and Ryan played basketball for several years. He then moved into track and field events, participating in Special Olympics from 2004-2015. Carol said it involved coordinating practices, assuring the athletes had physicals and turned in paperwork for both Basketball and Track & Field. "Ryan has a lot of ribbons for Area 26, and we both have plaques from the Special Olympics."

In addition, Carol and Ryan are deeply



PHOTO BY STEVEN HALPERSON/TISARA STUDIOS

Ryan and Carol Bailey are 2020 Living Legends of Alexandria.

involved in the community activities of Del Ray, providing major support for the Del Ray Business Association (DRBA) through assistance with events including the Turkey Trot, Taste of Del Ray, First Thursdays, Music Festival, Art on the Avenue and more. Together they do set up, monitor the events throughout the day and then break down and clean up. Carol annually files the city permits for all of DRBA's events along with other Del Ray events. This usually involves over 20 events each year. Carol adds that their favorite event is the Halloween Parade, which is in its 24th year and which she co-chairs with Gayle Reuter every year.

In addition to the regular organization-

al activities associated with the event, she assists in organizing the stuffing of 2,500 goodie bags, giving out Halloween costumes to children in need, serving the free hotdogs and purchasing lots of candy, cookies and apple juice for the participants. Ryan serves as the strong muscle man doing the heavy moving and setting up tables. "He just loves to volunteer." He received the Service Award from the Optimist Club of Alexandria in 2008. "He has participated in so many events."

Carol says the Annual Tree Lighting is always a joyous event that she loves. She received a lifetime award for all her efforts volunteering with Del Ray Business Association. For close to 25 years, she has been a leader and has volunteered to make sure

events run smoothly and are successful in Del Ray and the City.

Ryan worked at a doggie day care from 2010-2014 and continued in Special Olympics. In 2014, Ryan had a medical issue and took a break from sports. Now he is in the city day program a couple of mornings a week where he works at the Capital Food Bank. Carol adds, "he can't just sit; he loves doing that type of stuff."

Carol says she has spent her life paving the way for Ryan. She and her family still live in the house her grandfather bought in Del Ray in 1900. It has a historical marker on the front column and a sign in the front yard that says, "Spread Kindness, Build Community."

A Sign of Thanks

Neighbors rally to support Inova Alexandria Hospital.

BY JEANNE THEISMANN
GAZETTE PACKET

Residents of the Vauxcluse neighborhood surrounding Inova Alexandria Hospital wanted to show their support for the health care providers and staff during the COVID-19 crisis. With one resident serving on the board of the hospital's foundation and another a chef and restaurant owner, a plan was quickly put into action.

"The hospital is one of our neighbors and an email went out asking what we can do to support them," said Eric Ziebold, chef and

owner of DC's Kinship Restaurant. "The decision was made to raise some money to put together a grocery basket for them. Since the hospital has stipulated that any prepared food has to come from a restaurant and not a home kitchen, we are able to use Kinship and wholesale pricing to buy supplies and make some prepared meals."

Another neighbor, Janet Hawkins, serves on the hospital's foundation board and was able to relay any hospital needs to the residents.

"Janet and Dave [Wormser] really spearheaded this," said Laurie Drysdale. "They let us know that in addition to monetary sup-

port, hospital staff and line members could use break food – something easy to grab and easy to eat."

In addition to the snack bags, neighbors put up signs outside the hospital to let staff and passersby know how much those working there are appreciated.

"The doctors, nurses, aides, support staff, cleaning crews and everyone else at Inova are on the frontlines during this difficult time," said Hawkins, who provided the signs of appreciation along with Wormser. "We don't have the opportunity to thank them in person, so this seemed like a small way to express our appreciation for all they do."



PHOTO BY JANET BARNETT/GAZETTE PACKET

Kinship restaurant owner Eric Ziebold, top left, his daughter Adele, center, and Celia Laurent, top right, are joined by fellow Vauxcluse neighborhood residents John Allen and Laurie Drysdale in collecting donations to supply Inova Alexandria Hospital workers with snacks and meals in a show of appreciation during the COVID-19 crisis.

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NEWS

North Potomac Yard Phase 1 Development - Virtual Community Meeting

The Virginia Tech Foundation and JBG SMITH will host the first of two virtual community meetings, on Wednesday, April 22 to provide information on the design of the proposed buildings and site-wide updates for Phase 1.

With a live presentation format, representatives from the applicant's architectural and project teams will present an overview and be available to answer questions from the community through the online forum posted on the project website <https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=110553>:

Wednesday, April 22, 7-8:30 p.m. A recording of the presentation will be posted on the project website and community members will have an opportunity to comment through Monday, April 27.

Applicants will provide an overall project update

and describe plans for the northern group of buildings, including Block 7W (Virginia Tech, Academic Building), Block 10 (Office), and Block 14 (Office).

A CDD Concept Plan Amendment, Text Amendment, Preliminary Infrastructure Site Plan and Pump Station Development Special Use Permit are anticipated for a June public hearing cycle.

In response to CDC guidance related to COVID-19, there will be no in-person public meetings and all engagement will be conducted virtually through online platforms until further notice. Once restrictions on physical distancing are lifted, in-person community meetings will occur throughout this process to supplement the online engagement prior to the public hearings. For more information, please visit the [alexandriava.gov/Planning](https://www.alexandriava.gov/Planning) or contact Sara Brandt-Vorel, Urban Planner, 703-746-4666.

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 5

relief, including a federal recovery loan fund and expansion of the Paycheck Protection Program; and infrastructure investment, including funding to achieve universal broadband.

The Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Task Force warns the public of financial scams regarding Economic

Impact Payments currently being distributed by the IRS.

"We have reports of criminals attempting to use various phishing techniques, including text messages, emails, and letters delivered through the mail, all attempting to steal your personal information or swindle you out of your economic impact payment. ... Hang up on robocalls, do not provide your

personal identifying information to anyone, and always confirm you are accessing legitimate links from IRS.gov," said G. Zachary Terwilliger, co-leader of the task force and U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia in Alexandria.

If you think you are a victim of a scam or attempted fraud involving

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 10



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Guest House Balances Serving Clients with Protection of Health

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
THE GAZETTE

Kari Galloway walks in the door of Guest House and has her temperature taken, just like she does every day. “We closed off Guest House right away when they announced the pandemic; women at Guest House couldn’t move in the community.” Galloway, Executive Director of Friends of Guest House says, “We had 30 in the program. Now we are down to 25 with three more leaving tomorrow. I expect it to get down to 20, 10 in each place.” Guest House is a residential facility that helps women successfully reenter the community from incarceration.

Galloway says Guest House recently made an exception to give six women early successful completion from the program so they can keep working.

Between the 24/7 staff at the two Guest House locations, they have over 30 employees, some part-time. Most of them aren’t able to work remotely. She says it’s a little scary that they have so many people coming and going every day.

Galloway goes in every day “because it is important for the women to see me, to normalize the situation. It shows the women they are important. And,” she adds, “it’s important to the staff for me to be part of the team.” She says she can’t say enough good things about the staff. “They could say ‘I don’t want to work and expose my family’ but they don’t.”

Guest House is graduating some of the clients from their program early in order to keep the remaining women safe. “We take all of the precautions but we don’t have a separate quarantine facility here. We’re just not set up like that.” They are using cleaning supplies judiciously but Personal Protective Equipment has been on backorder for a month.

Normally when a woman gets a successful completion from the program, her spot is filled by another applicant, and Guest House has been at 97 percent capacity.

Galloway says they get 400 applications a year for their 30 slots.

But Guest House isn’t taking new people in, just as the Department of Corrections is not allowing transfers between prisons or jails since the coronavirus outbreak in a medium security prison. “We got our last new person at Guest House

March 13.”

Galloway says, “What breaks my heart is that all of the women due to come in

“What breaks my heart is that all of the women due to come in, can’t.”

— Kari Galloway, Executive Director, Friends of Guest House

can’t.

They have to wait in jail or at their home; hopefully it is safe.”

In order to keep things as regular as possible for the women who are inside all day, the daily Workforce and Development classes have been offered virtually “so women could have the same schedule day to day.” Galloway says it was challenging getting a facilitator and rebuilding the program. But

people have volunteered to lead meetings, as well as offer therapy

to do some coping plans and and a couple of people to be temporary sponsors for AA.

In addition, they have the usual classes once a week sponsored by Jane Collins’ organization, HEARD, which was set up to foster creativity, confidence and self worth in the marginalized, underserved, unheard.

Last year HEARD offered 176 in-person classes to a number of organizations including Guest House. Galloway says, “it is a phenomenal program.”

Collins says they have been able to continue with two virtual classes at Guest House including improvisation taught once a week. This class is taught by a woman actively involved with the Little Theatre of Alexandria. Poetry is taught by the former poet laureate of Alexandria using poetry therapy. “These women at Guest House are so engaged. They want to share; we give them a chance to be heard and we publish their work. There is so much creativity.”

Galloway says, “Some women are doing better than others. Some are really upset because they can’t work. We’re not letting people get new jobs right now.” She says sev-

eral employees have lost their jobs at restaurants, one at Good Will and others at doggie day care places. “Hopefully they can get unemployment.

The application process has been a lot easier so far than I thought it would be.”

In addition, Galloway is currently filling out application forms for the recently enacted Payment Protection Program allowing small business to apply for a loan to cover payroll costs.

Guest House gets about two-thirds of its funding through the Virginia State Department of Corrections. Galloway says their revenue stream has been greatly interrupted by having their residents reduced by nearly 1/3 with no new residents coming in and others leaving early to continue working and not infect the rest of the residents.

She said they have tried to maintain all of their staff to date but it’s tough.

Galloway says some local donors have really stepped up and along with grants from ACT for Alexandria and Arlington Community Foundation, they have been able to make the tough decisions for now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We’re All In This Together

Maribeth’s Bakery has its humble beginnings at the Old Town Alexandria Farmers Market 34 years ago, back when farmer’s markets weren’t the cool, trendy thing. From those roots, we have grown into a wholesale company serving Washington DC metropolitan area hotels, caterers, museums, professional clubs, etc. employing up to about 40 people.

Since the onset of the pandemic, Maribeth has committed to all her employees that she will pay them their full wages and benefits until things resolve.

This necessitated a quick, and I mean QUICK, pivot into an online retailer/delivery company. Thank goodness Maribeth had taken a website design class just this January! The idea of online sales has been something on our minds for a



few years now, but who knew that our thriving 34-year-old wholesale company would have been put in the position of a daily gross of \$0.00 overnight to necessitate such a move.

Please check out our website www.mbbakeryonthego.com to see what we’re up to. You can see

by the above snapshot that we have a voice here at our formerly anonymous wholesale company that is beckoning an audience. Can you hear our voices?

**The Team at
Maribeth’s Bakery
Alexandria, VA**

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 9

COVID-19, contact the National Center for Disaster Fraud Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via email at disaster@leo.gov.

For more information about the Virginia Coronavirus Fraud Task Force, please visit:

<https://www.justice.gov/usao-wdva/covid-19-fraud>

Wednesday, April 15

Alexandria Cases: 273
Alexandria Deaths: 6
Virginia Cases: 6,500
Virginia Deaths: 195

On April 15, the Alexandria Health Department confirmed 26 additional cases of COVID-19 and two additional fatalities in Alexandria, bringing the total number of cases to 273, including six fatalities.

All unfenced City of Alexandria parks, trails and fields remain open to the public to provide opportunities for safe, physically distant exercise. Access to outdoor exercise is crucial to physical and mental health, according to the City

of Alexandria and the Alexandria Health Department. However, public areas have continued to attract groups of more than 10 people despite Governor Northam’s ban on gatherings.

When visiting parks, take the following steps based on guidance from the CDC for how to protect yourself and others from COVID-19: stay at least 6 feet away from others; don’t visit parks if you are sick or were recently exposed to COVID-19; don’t visit crowded parks; don’t use playgrounds; don’t participate in group activities or sports.

To encourage physical distancing and slow the spread of the COVID-19 coronavirus, the City and the Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) have implemented the following service adjustments: all recreation, nature and art centers are closed; all activities, events and private rentals are canceled; all reservations and registrations are suspended; all public playgrounds are closed; all public sport courts, fenced fields, fenced dog parks, outdoor fitness sta-

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 13

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SENIOR LIVING



Virtual classes and gatherings are keeping seniors engaged during this period of social isolation.

Staying Active in Social Isolation

A variety of local offerings allows for days filled with activity.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

Cora Foley, an active 68-year-old of Burke, Virginia, has been able to maintain her social life while coronavirus stay-at-home orders are in effect. She's using her predilection for innovation to help other seniors do the same. Foley co-founded the Senior Center Without Walls of Burke, West Springfield and Great Falls, which offers social programming to seniors in those communities. She created a corresponding website to include online social offerings.

"When the coronavirus 'stay home' lockdowns were imposed, "I expanded the website to include other classes that are usually offered on-site, like line dancing and Zumba," said Foley. "From April 1st through the 17th, the website has recorded 451 visitors and 1,789 views, so it has been a daily help to many residents, particularly seniors."

The new normal of not leaving home except for emergencies can leave many, including seniors and others who are most susceptible to contracting coronavirus, with a social void in their lives. Seniors can join classes and activities ranging from yoga and fitness classes to concerts and lunch with friends.

"Isolation and loneliness has been one of our ongoing concerns for older adults prior to coronavirus and we remain committed to help older adults establish and maintain meaningful social connections during this time and beyond," said Rachel Coates, Director of the Agency on Aging Arlington Aging and Disability Services Division.

Arlington County is also working collaboratively to keep the social lives of area senior intact, says Coates. "In partnership with Arlington Adult Day Program, Developmental Disability Services and other County programs [including] Parks 55+ programs and libraries, we are making phone calls, mailing activity kits... and hosting music and socialization skills classes virtually," she said.

Such initiatives offer options and an outlet from consuming the often-conflicting news of coronavirus

happenings in solitude.

"Every one-in-7 individuals living in Fairfax County right now is 65 and over," said Evan Braff of the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services in Fairfax County co-founded the Senior Center Without Walls of Burke, West Springfield and Great Falls. "We recognize that this is a scary time for all of us especially for older adults. "Since we've been in this situation, we've gotten creative and innovative."

Part of that innovation is creating virtual versions of the activities that seniors enjoyed in brick-and-mortar settings. "It is truly a collaborative effort to develop the virtual senior center," said Amanda Rogers of the Fairfax County Neighborhood & Community Services. "Everything is being developed in coordination with other county agencies as well, such as Family Services, Libraries, Housing, and the Health Department."

In addition to routine services such as delivering meals and providing transportation to medical appointments, local seniors have options for virtual opportunities for social and recreational activities.

For example, the Care-giver Program in Montgomery County now has two online sources of information for seniors. "Rather than disconnect at home during the COVID-19 uncertainty, it is important that we...develop new social connections...and nurture personal health and wellness," said Lylie Fisher,

Caregiver Support Program, Area Agency on Aging, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services.

That effort, says Fisher, includes the County's Engage@HOME, YouTube channel as well as an e-newsletter and blog where seniors can find services including community support groups, telephone and online activities as well Covid-19 updates.

For seniors who need technical assistance, Fairfax County has technicians who are only a phone call away to assist with needs ranging from downloading a video conferencing app to understanding the basics of the Internet. "Technology can be scary for older adults, but we've actually been teaching older adults how to use Skype and Zoom for a while" said Braff.

Those lessons have led to success stories that have given seniors the skills necessary to weather the current storm of uncertainty. "What's really exciting to see was a 98 year old woman posting on Twitter," said Braff. "It's great that you have someone who's 98 and who's able to post on Twitter."

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Mounting Layoffs

FROM PAGE 1

is now receiving are for layoffs that might end up being temporary, and businesses are trying to figure out the best way to handle all their requirements in a rapidly changing environment.

For example, the Alexandrian Hotel on King Street laid off 115 employees on March 13 then sent an official WARN notice 15 days later.

“While we believe the layoff will be temporary and may not trigger state or federal WARN Act notice requirements, we do not know what the future will hold,” wrote Nicole Pinkham, Human Resources director at the hotel. “The COVID-19 pandemic has crippled the company’s business and businesses around the country, causing notice to not be foreseeable at the time that notice would have been required to be given.”

THE LAYOFF NOTIFICATIONS show some industries are being hit harder by the pandemic than others. Restaurants, hotels and other consumer-oriented businesses that rely on face-to-face transactions are seeing the sharpest declines in employment. Payroll at food services and drinking places declined more than 3 percent from February to March, according to an analysis from the Stephen Fuller Institute at George Mason University’s Schar School of Policy and Government.

“Leisure and hospitality firms — hotels and restaurants and entertainment venues — are really the majority of the affected firms,” said Jeanette Chapman, director of the Fuller Institute. “But there are a few other industries, things to do with manufacturing or moving supplies, that seem to have been affected a little bit as well.”

The biggest layoff in Northern Virginia was at OneWeb, a British company that had a U.S. headquarters in McLean. Before

the pandemic hit, the company had plans to use low-earth orbiting satellites to provide high-speed internet access across the globe. In late March, the company announced the launch of 34 satellites in Kazakhstan. Now the company has gone bankrupt and alerted the Virginia Employment Commission of 301 layoffs.

“Our current situation is a consequence of the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis,” OneWeb CEO Adrian Steckel wrote in the bankruptcy announcement. “We remain convinced of the social and economic value of our mission to connect everyone everywhere.”

UNIONIZED EMPLOYEES are faring much better than employees in companies where nobody is engaged in collective bargaining on their behalf. For example, the 171 employees who were laid off from the Sheraton Tysons Hotel are represented by Unite Here Local 25, an organization that’s still negotiating a severance package with the hotel’s operator, Crescent Hotels and Resorts. Workers there are getting one week of pay for each year of service up to 10 weeks, plus they’ll be compensated for any vacation time or sick leave they’ve accrued.

“It goes beyond just the wages and benefits and soft landing package. It also speaks to what happens if the business does, in fact, decide to continue,” said John Boardman, the executive secretary-treasurer of Unite Here Local 25. “And that’s simply not true in non-union situations, where workers are at-will employees and have no rights whatsoever to return to their place of employment.”

Another key benefit for unionized members is health insurance. The 121 food service workers at National Airport who were laid off still have health insurance because the union that engages in collective bargaining for them negotiated the contract with

Company Name	Location	Employees Affected	Notice Date	Impact Date
OneWeb	McLean	301	04/03/2020	03/20/2020
Go Rentals	Dulles	275	03/20/2020	03/21/2020
Fred's Food Group	Vienna	225	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Washington Golf and Country Club	Arlington	188	04/06/2020	04/06/2020
Bartaco	Fairfax & Reston	175	04/01/2020	03/21/2020
Mike's American Grill	Springfield	174	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Crescent Hotels & Resorts	Tysons	171	03/31/2020	04/03/2020
Sweetwater Tavern	Centerville	140	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Jackson's Mighty Fine Food & Luck Lounge	Reston	137	03/30/2020	03/20/2020
Coastal Flats Tysons	McLean	135	03/30/2020	03/30/2020
Coastal Flats	Fairfax	134	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Fantastic Frizbe's Flying Food Factory	Arlington	128	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Alamo Drafthouse Cinema	Winchester	122	03/19/2020	03/20/2020
OTG DCA Venture II, LLC	Arlington	121	03/31/2020	03/16/2020
Earl's Restaurant	Tyson's Corner	119	03/25/2020	03/25/2020
Sweetwater Tavern	Sterling	118	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
The Alexandrian Hotel	Alexandria	115	03/28/2020	03/13/2020
Sysco	Front Royal	111	04/08/2020	03/20/2020
Cinemark USA, Inc.	Centreville & Fairfax	103	03/26/2020	03/26/2020
Trump National Golf Club Washington, D.C., LLC	Potomac Falls	102	04/02/2020	04/02/2020
Patsy's Italian	Fairfax	100	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Artie's	Fairfax	99	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Westwood Country Club	Vienna	90	04/03/2020	04/06/2020
Uncle Julio's Ballston	N. Fairfax	82	03/19/2020	03/19/2020
HMS Host	Dulles International Airport	80	03/25/2020	03/16/2020
Silverado	Annadale	80	03/20/2020	03/20/2020
Hyatt Centric	Arlington	79	04/13/2020	03/18/2020
NortonLifeLock, Inc.	Herndon	73	03/03/2020	03/18/2020
DTI Management, LLC	Arlington	70	04/01/2020	04/01/2020
BridgeStreet Corporate Housing LLC,	Reston	68	03/24/2020	03/24/2020
G2 Secure Staff	Arlington	66	04/07/2020	03/27/2020
Mynd Spa and Spa	Fairfax Corner	64	03/20/2020	03/19/2020
Martin-Bower Company	Manassas	61	04/01/2020	04/01/2020
Hooters of America, LLC	Chantilly	45	03/23/2020	03/16/2020
Hooters of America, LLC	Fairfax	45	03/23/2020	03/16/2020
Hooters of America, LLC	Manassas	45	03/23/2020	03/16/2020
Hooters of America, LLC	Woodbridge	45	03/23/2020	03/16/2020
Paper Source	Fairfax, Alexandria & Reston	44	03/27/2020	03/29/2020
Case Architects & Remodels	Falls Church	24	03/25/2020	03/24/2020
Benihana National Corporation	Dulles	22	04/02/2020	03/17/2020
Suit Supply Inc.	McLean	19	03/26/2020	03/29/2020
Sysco	Front Royal	17	04/08/2020	03/20/2020
Allied Aviation Fueling Co.	Arlington	7	04/10/2020	04/10/2020
Avianca	Dulles	4	04/07/2020	04/01/2020

OTG DCA Venture II, the operator who runs several establishments in Terminal A. United Here Local 23 bargained for union-controlled health-care plans for all those workers, so now that they’ve been laid off they’ll be able to keep health insurance until the union-controlled funds are depleted.

“Many people lost healthcare coverage on April 1 or are having to pay healthcare premiums in order to retain their coverage while they’re out of work,” said Sarah Jacobs, an organizing director for Unite Here Local 23. “It’s sort of inconceivable to lose healthcare coverage during a pandemic.”

Pass or No Grade

FROM PAGE 1

ers are only allowed to teach content that was already learned before the COVID-19 closure. The fourth and last academic quarter will begin April 28 without letter grades. If they complete 60 percent of the work assigned, students will receive a “pass grade” that will be recorded as 100 percent in the grade book. If students fail to complete 60 percent of assignments, they’ll receive a “no grade” for quarter four that doesn’t negatively impact their grade point average. Only grades from the first three quarters will be averaged to calculate final grades.

Final exams are being scrapped. “One of the things I really love about this grading proposal is that it was really thoughtful about achieving a balance where students have an opportunity to improve their grade but also not penalizing students who may not

have as much access or resources while we’re doing remote learning,” said School Board member Chris Suarez.

GRADING POLICY WAS controversial among high school students at T.C. Williams. Some students wanted credit for all the review assignments they were doing during the school closure so they could increase their GPAs. Other students wanted to maintain an equitable grading policy similar to the one the School Board approved.

Before the vote, students petitioned T.C. principal Peter Balas and Hutchings through email to exempt some classes from the “pass/fail” option that was originally under consideration, as they believed not having grades would hurt their GPAs and class rank.

“I was deeply concerned with the potential of a pass/fail option,” said junior Reeseey DuPont,

who petitioned school officials. “Allowing students to have the option to be graded for the fourth quarter for a 100 percent completion grade eases anxiety of the unforeseen future. As juniors, we don’t know what will come of the college admissions process next year, but it’s comforting to know that ACPS is in our corner.” There are also some students who are frustrated with the lack of communication between teachers, administrators and students about the new grading policy. For the first month of the school closure before the Board vote, students were given optional assignments that did not count towards their quarter 3 grades to ensure students were still learning. However, not every teacher was clear on what assignments would be graded and how the work affected students’ grades.

“The teachers gave us too much work in the beginning, then as-

signments didn’t have due dates,” said junior Kate Casper, a critic of the new grading system. “Then we were told nothing could be added to quarter 3, then teachers eased up on the work and stopped giving late penalties. ... The real headache here is the messiness of the new grading system. I’ve gotten the same amount of work, just my teachers aren’t expecting everyone to do all of it. The work we did for this past month is really all for nothing.”

Board members Veronica Nolan and Suarez expressed concerns about the ability of schools to reach out to and communicate expectations with all students.

Problems include food insecurity, inconsistent internet access and other barriers that prevent students from being able to engage online with their teachers. “In ensuring that no student slips through the cracks, we’ve been keeping spread-

sheets on data,” said Hammond Middle School Principal Pierrette Peters. “We’ve spoken to everyone either by phone or email making contact.”

All ACPS secondary students now have internet access and Chromebooks, according to the schools. Equitable access to the internet has been something the school system has been working on to try to ensure students are able to continue their education while school buildings are closed. They were able to identify families who did not have Wi-Fi at home and come up with a solution which involved purchasing and mailing out Kajeet personal hotspots, funded partly by Spring2ACtion donations. At Hammond and T.C. Williams High School, teachers are contacting students and reaching out to those with grades of a C or lower in their classes.

OBITUARY

Thomas M. Parkins, 70, Dies

Former Registrar of Voters and Elections for the City of Alexandria.

Thomas M. Parkins, of Millville, DE, Alexandria, VA, Des Moines and Winterset, IA passed away on April 11, after a brief illness, eight days after celebrating his 70th birthday. Tom led a rich life blessed with family, friends, Democratic politics, golf, the Iowa Hawkeyes, Baltimore Orioles, and the Tony Kornheiser Show. Golf was his passion and he could often be spotted on the course sporting his signature black and gold Iowa Hawkeyes golf bag. He was a member of the Bishop's Landing (DE) "Dream Team" who won the group golf tournament last October. He loved the monologues of late-night talk show comedians, Mel Brooks movies, and authentic journalism. As charming as he was humble, Tom had a great laugh, wonderful sense of humor, razor-sharp wit with a comic's timing, and loved to entertain people with his spoonerisms and funny walks. He believed passionately in social justice, and that fruit should never be put in a salad.

Tom was born in Des Moines but spent a memorable childhood in Winterset, Iowa. Tom and his family later moved to Urbandale, Iowa where he graduated from Urbandale High School. He attended Grand View University before enlisting in the U. S. Army on April 4, 1969.

Parkins spent 19 months fighting the war in Vietnam in the 11th Armored Cavalry - Blackhorse, before returning home Nov. 6, 1970. Tom returned to Grand View College but didn't graduate. He referred to himself as a "20-year college senior" when he finally completed his BA degree at Drake University in December 1989.

Tom loved democracy, history, and revered the Constitution of the United States. He worked on numerous national, state, and local democratic campaigns, while becoming an expert on election organizing. After serving as president of AFSCME Local 1868, he was elected Chair of the Polk County Iowa Democrats from 1981-1982.

In 1987 Tom was elected Polk County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections and served nearly ten years. Among his achievements there, Tom helped to



Thomas M. Parkins

change legislation so that early voting could be expanded in Iowa through satellite voting sites prior to Election Day.

After his wife, Judy Parkins, accepted a position in Alexandria, Va., Tom joined her after completing his elected term. He became Senior Election Consultant with The International Foundation of Election Systems, working in the Balkans including post-war Bosnia and former Soviet Union.

Upon returning to Alexandria, he was appointed Registrar of Voters and Elections for the City of Alexandria. During that time he implemented the national Voter Registration Act, bringing "motor-voter" registration to Alexandria, making registration more convenient for all residents; the Help America Vote Act which systemized provisional voting and made voting equipment more accessible; and the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act, which made it easier for residents who are serving in the military or living overseas to register and vote absentee.

Shortly after his retirement in 2014, Tom and Judy moved to the Bethany Beach, DE area where he enjoyed his time golfing, entertaining grandchildren, and traveling in the US, Canada and Europe. He was an active member in good standing in several 12-step groups.

Tom leaves his wife, Judy Parkins of Millville, DE; mother, Shirley Parkins of Winterset, Iowa; two daughters from his first marriage to Patty Iogha, Casie Parkins of Washington, DC and Kelly Grunhvd of Northwood, Iowa; Kelly's husband Andy and grandchildren Andrew 13, Jackson 11, and Avery 8; and two children from his marriage to Judy, daughter Lisa Connor, her husband Ashford, and grandsons Traa 17, and Marley 13; and son, Marc Fitzgibbon of Alexandria. He also leaves behind the best dog he ever had, Bailey.

Tom is survived by many other aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews. His father, Dale Parkins, and his sister, Susan Parkins, predeceased him.

A celebration of life will be scheduled in the future when family and friends can gather.

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 10

tions, restrooms and parking lots are closed; transient boater access to City Marina piers is prohibited (open to license holders only).

Visit alexandriava.gov/ParkLink to view the current operating status of park amenities.

Tuesday, April 14

Alexandria Cases: 248, four deaths

Virginia Cases: 6,171

The Alexandria Health Department confirmed two additional fatalities in Alexandria, bringing the total number of cases to 248, including four fatalities.

Alexandria City Council called on the U.S. Congress and the Governor of Virginia to address the immediate crisis of rent and mortgage payments through a potential moratorium, and to suspend the reporting of negative credit information by credit bureaus.

City Council allocated \$220,000 to ALIVE! to ensure adequate food supply for food distributions and food pantries through the end of May, following an initiation contribution of \$20,000 on March 14. ALIVE! provides nutritious staple foods to Alexandrians in

need through direct distribution to clients and by supporting Alexandria's food pantries, meal kitchens, public schools, recreation centers and other community partners.

The ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund provides a rapid-response grants process to help community organizations provide critical services including emergency food, rental assistance, financial assistance, child care, household and medical supplies, medicine, and more. The Alexandria City Council approved an additional \$100,000 contribution

SEE CORONAVIRUS, PAGE 14

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Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

AT&T proposes to replace an existing 30' wood utility pole with a new 40' wood utility pole and install a top-mounted antenna at 44.7' at 317 N. Columbus St, Alexandria, VA (20200379). Interested parties may contact Scott Horn (856-809-1202) (1012 Industrial Dr., West Berlin, NJ 08091) with comments regarding potential effects on historic properties.

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-Werner Heisenberg

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Legals

Legals

PUBLIC NOTICE

VOLUNTARY REMEDIATION PROGRAM (VRP) ACTIVITY

VRP Project Number VRP00693
1200 N Henry Street
City of Alexandria, VA 22314

Participant

Mr. Joseph Kim
1200 N. Henry LLC
1200 North Henry Street
Alexandria, VA 22314

The subject property is participating in the Virginia Voluntary Remediation Program (VRP) administered by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). The property is improved with an L-shaped, approximately 17,000-square foot office/warehouse structure. The property was formerly used as a cooled storage facility for the west-adjacent railroad prior to 1928, when the original portion of the existing structure was constructed. Previous environmental investigations identified petroleum compounds, volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs, including PAHs), and metals contamination in soil and groundwater. Elevated concentrations of VOCs were detected in a sub-slab soil gas sample taken from beneath the former auto repair shop tenant space on the southern portion of the property. Remedial actions to mitigate potential risks to human health and the environment from the contaminants have been proposed by 1200 N. Henry LLC and accepted by DEQ. The remedial actions consist of: the removal of certain contaminated soil, an Impacted Material Management Plan, an Environmental Health and Safety Plan, and vapor mitigation controls or clearance by a vapor intrusion investigation/risk analysis. A Certification of Satisfactory Completion of Remediation will be requested of the VDEQ VRP for the site. Questions or comments regarding this notice will be accepted for 30 days from the date of publication and should be addressed to the contact below:

Thomas Hardy
Environmental Consultants and Contractors, Inc.
43045 John Mosby Highway
Chantilly, VA 20152
tom.hardy@eccfirst.com
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Wholesale Change

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Since I'm not doing the food and pharmacy out-of-the-house shopping anymore, as I have for the last 40 years (as I may have mentioned in last week's column: "Money For What") I am no longer in control of what we buy and how much we spend. The pandemic and my upcoming thyroid cancer treatment have combined to empower my wife, Dina, to set fairly strict guidelines. Primarily that I am to stay put in the house ALL THE TIME and that during my isolation, she will fill the purchasing vacuum. The effect being that all my years of experience reducing our grocery expenses has led to this: we're paying re, re, retail for nearly all of our purchases. Not impoverished because of it but not very happy about it either.

I derived a certain pleasure in wandering around the stores, advertising circular and coupon book in hand, looking for sale items, checking the 50% off/discontinued merchandise rack, occasionally looking at the day-old bakery cabinet, using miscellaneous paper and digital coupons, buying in bulk/quantity, getting rain checks when products were sold out, as well as being open to any other in-store incentives I might find. The process, as tedious as it may sound, was not nearly so for me, especially considering that over the course of a year, according to the stores' own online tally, I saved the Lourie family business upwards of \$1,000. Now it seems as if we're paying it all back since product availability — due to pandemic pressures, has often laid waste to the stores' shelves. And also laid waste to stores' interest in offering products on sale. And why should they? Consumers are buying anything they can get their hands on, price be damned.

Moreover, the stores themselves, at least the ones where I have been a regular buyer, are providing fewer digital coupons on their sites than ever before and the advertising circulars, typically 10 to 14 pages, have now been reduced by one half or so. In addition, there are also fewer coupon inserts in the Sunday newspaper editions. The net effect of this is that the supermarket/pharmacy budget has been blown to smithereens. And the outlook for the future (immediate future anyway) is more of the same, or rather less, if you catch my drift.

Now further combine the fact that yours truly, a strategic shopper of some repute is not doing the in-store shopping anymore, and perhaps you can do the metaphorical math. Can you say through the roof? Let me be clear; this situation has nothing to do with control. It has to do with cash flow. I feel as if we're being taken advantage of, like we're sitting ducks almost, and there's not a thing I can do about any of it other than to take solace in the fact that our stimulus checks will most definitely have somewhere to go, even if I don't.

Still, I realize there are many others who are not complaining about what they're paying for groceries because they're too busy trying to make withdrawals from their local food bank. I would imagine their challenge is identical to mine, only much worse: hoping to find necessary items in limited supply without the proper money and means to do so. Means, unfortunately which are not leading to satisfactory ends. Ends which will either bust their budgets, overwhelm public-type assistance or swell credit card balances; thereby increasing future minimum payments and exacerbating pressures to even make monthly payments. A vicious circle and cycle if there ever was one, or two.

But I don't have one or two so I am very lucky. Now I do have two types of cancer but that wasn't the point of this column. The point was more narrow than that. It was simply to make a little fun at a predicament not of my own choosing but one that is impacting my life and totally out of my control. I wouldn't say that it's food for thought but it is something to chew on.

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

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News

This Week in Coronavirus

FROM PAGE 13

of City matching funds for the ACT Now COVID-19 Response Fund, following an initial contribution of \$100,000 on March 14.

The Virginia Department of Health's COVID-19 dashboard now shows the total number of cases, fatalities and hospitalizations by state health district. The dashboard also includes two "outbreaks," which represent any single facility with two or more confirmed cases. Note that data on the dashboard lag slightly behind the case and fatality counts.

The City reminds residents to consume alcoholic beverages responsibly and at home. Even though the Virginia Alcoholic Beverage Control Authority has temporarily allowed licensed restaurants and bars to sell beer, wine and mixed drinks for carryout and delivery, the Alexandria City Code still prohibits carrying open containers of alcohol in public. This includes parks, streets, sidewalks, alleys, and any other public or private property open to the public, and includes vehicles in those locations.

WHERE ARE THE TESTS: Sens. Warner and Tim Kaine joined 44 other Senators in calling on the Coronavirus Task Force and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to conduct a national inventory of the coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnostic testing supply, publicly release data on testing results, and provide a detailed plan and timeline for addressing future shortages and gaps in the testing supply chain.

DATA: Following reports across the United States of stark racial disparities in COVID-19 cases and fatalities, Sens. Warner and Kaine joined Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA) to introduce the Equitable Data Collection and Disclosure on COVID-19 Act. The bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to collect and report racial and other demographic data on COVID-19 testing, treatment, and fatality rates, and provide a summary of the final statistics and a report to Congress within 60 days after the end of the public health emergency.

While Virginia has received \$3.3 billion to support its COVID-19 response, Sens. Warner and Kaine are pushing for the next emergency coronavirus relief package to provide assurances that funding can be used to prevent potentially devastating budget cuts and that localities of all sizes will receive dedicated funding.

Data 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 and Virginia Department of Health
<http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>

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