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Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

APRIL 30, 2020



Alina Madalina, of Alexandria, walks past future Turning Point Suffragists Memorial site in Occoquan Regional Park.



Workers prepare for pouring cement footings.

PHOTOS BY SUSAN LAUME/THE CONNECTION

Pandemic Levels Blow to Women’s Memorial Funding

Suffragist Turning Point Memorial work proceeds with design changes.

BY SUSAN LAUME
THE CONNECTION

Women are often recognized for putting the needs of others before their own. So it's ironic that the pandemic, once again, has forced women to take a back seat. Funds have been deferred for a memorial to women's struggle for passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, in consideration of local economic needs.

A memorial, the only one in the nation dedicated to the suffragists, was fully planned and designed, with work begun after ground breaking in November 2019. The site located in the Occoquan Regional Park, calls attention to the nearby historic workhouse where suffragists' imprisonment and poor treatment lead to a turning point in public opinion about their cause. Early in March, non-profit association organizers were celebrating their successes after 12 years of planning and fundraising, with plans to open the site in August in a day-long event. They had accumulated all final pledges to cover construction costs for the memorial, called the Turning Point Suffragist Memorial. A grand opening in August would coincide with the 100 year anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment with attendees and famous personages

from across the country. At about the same time they celebrated, the pandemic arrived in Virginia with its associated economic and social gathering impacts. Significant pledged funding from government entities was soon slated for review in light of obvious revenue reductions related to the health crisis. Those entities will weigh the balance of shortfall needs now against the future revenue income from tourism that the monument is expected to generate.

FINAL BUDGET DECISIONS have not yet been made but other new funding prospects for the memorial look dire. The August opening celebration has been postponed indefinitely.

Although Occoquan Regional Park in Lorton is closed, except to foot traffic, work at the memorial site continues with available funding. Construction workers, wearing protective masks in a nod to health crisis guidelines, prepared wooden forms, checked measurements, and concrete footings were poured for the entrance and wall foundations. Funds on hand will provide for completion of three plaza areas in the next few weeks: the front, middle and round areas. An outline of the layout can be seen imposed on the area. The National Women's Suffrage Centennial Commission, created by Congress in April 2017, donated

three bronze statues being crafted in Utah, which will be included in the monument. The life sized figures depict Alice Paul, co-founder of the National Woman's Party and author of the Equal Rights Amendment; Mary Church Terrell, co-founder of the NAACP and professor; and Carrie Chapman Catt, President of the National American Woman Suffrage Association and founder of the League of Women Voters. In the open air space, the Memorial's entrance will replicate the White House gates where suffragists stood as "silent sentinels." The protesters were called "Silent Sentinels" because they protested without uttering a word, six days a week, for hours at the White House gates. They hoped to draw President Wilson's attention to their cause: the right to vote for women.

To reduce costs in light of the funding issues and high costs, the modified building plan removes the rotunda in favor of a pedestal, and eliminates water features and a small walking bridge. Without money for an irrigation system, many trees and plants envisioned in the garden style memorial will not be practical.

THE ASSOCIATION of volunteers managing the monument has expressed hope that additional donors will come forward, but recognize the country, rightfully, has a significant number of challenges now. Construction will move

toward completion in a phased approach. They will continue opportunities for donors to leave their mark on this part of history by adding their names to sections of the memorial. Major portions of the memorial still will be completed by August. The opening celebration must await a green light for crowd gatherings that can't be foreseen at present.

The memorial association's Executive Director and CEO, Pat Wirth, said, "It took millions of women from every state, creed, race and nationality 72 years to win the vote. Our association will persevere until every single one of those brave, tenacious women is appropriately recognized and honored through this national monument. It will serve as a visual symbol and educational tool to elevate them to their proper place in American history."

The Occoquan Regional Park location off Ox Road was selected for the memorial for its proximity to the Lorton Workhouse, where suffragists were once imprisoned. After arrest for impeding traffic, the ladies were ill-treated, even beaten

and force-fed during their hunger strike over worm-ridden food at the workhouse. News of their poor treatment was key to turning public opinion to favor their cause, and led President Wilson to speak to Congress in support of suffrage in 1918. Congress passed the 19th amendment the following year and its State's ratification was effective on Aug. 18, 1920.

Achieving suffrage spurred women to organize in support of an equal rights amendment (ERA). Eventually passed by Congress in 1972, State ratification of ERA lagged until Virginia became the 38th State to ratify it in the last General Assembly on January 27, 2020. Constitutional questions remain regarding the timeliness of this ratification and if the ERA process must be re-started.

Readers can learn more about the Turning Point Suffragists Memorial at www.suffragistmemorial.org including history of the movement.

Donations and sponsorships for the memorial can be made on-line or at TPSM, 5400 Ox Rd, Fairfax Station VA 22039.

5/1/20

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Huntington Metro \$415,000

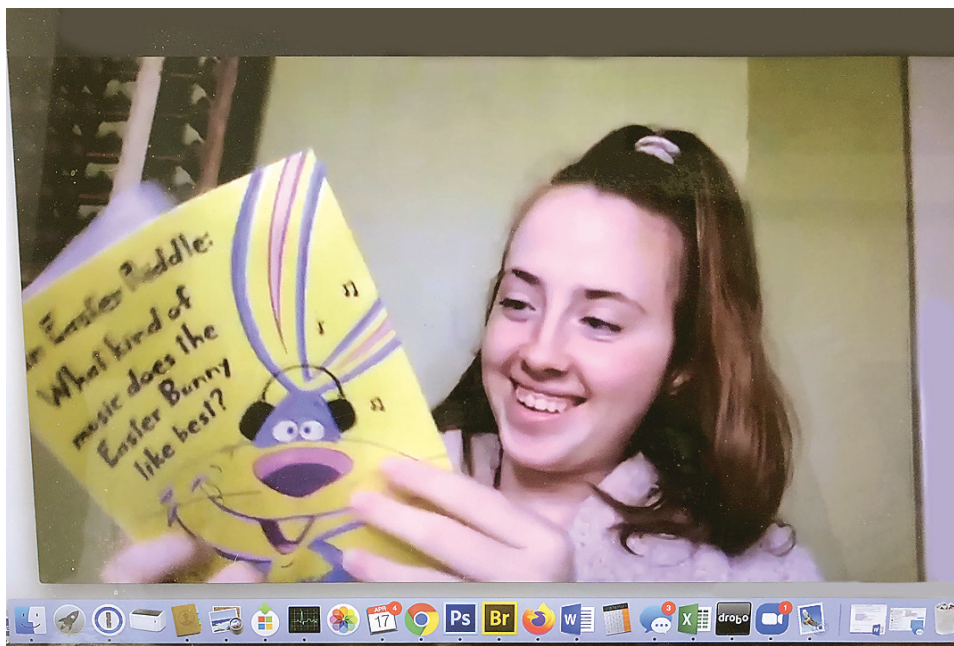
Great location 2 blocks to Metro! Updated 2-bedroom, 1.5-bath duplex with detached work studio. Main level open plan with granite & stainless kitchen. Freshly painted with hardwoods on both levels. Pull down stairs to floored attic. Spacious fenced back yard with patio. Driveway for 2+ cars.

Rachael Remuzzi 703.609.8462

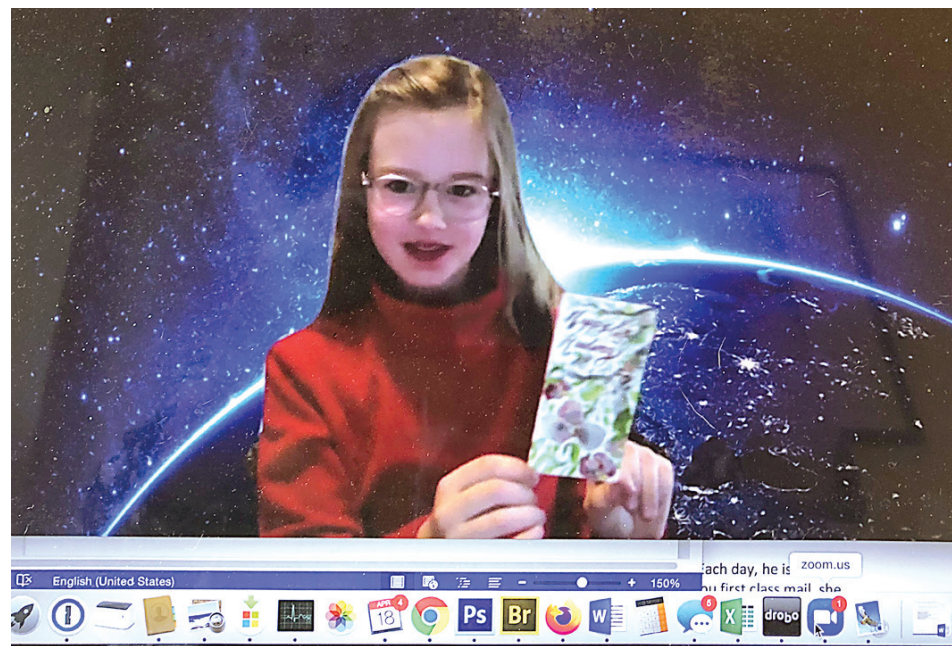
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Mia Murphy, age 15, Arlington.



Eloise Frazer, age 10, Alexandria.

Coronavirus Causes Mail Bonding

BY JOAN BRADY
THE GAZETTE

The mail hits the floor with a thwack each day and startles nine-year-old Hailey Kerr, even though she knows it's coming.

Before the virus, Hailey wasn't home when the mail was delivered. Now she watches through her window as the masked carrier hurries from her house to the next.

Hailey is especially excited when she gets mail addressed just to her, "It's so special to get a card in the mail. It means that someone has taken the time to write to you."

Hailey is at an age where she does not have a phone. And now, without school and activities, her connection to friends is limited to a parent from each family being willing -- and able -- to loan a phone for talking or texting. So the virus and lockdown have made getting physical mail even more important to her. "Now, more than ever, it's like a piece of gold," Hailey told me.

Hailey, a student at Douglas MacArthur Elementary in Alexandria, is fortunate that she has a number of friends and family who send her mail throughout the year, including a young friend who is a big letter writer and card sender. And apparently, 10-year-old Eloise Frazer, also of Alexandria, has upped her game since being on lockdown.

Eloise's recent card was newsy and topical. She thanked Hailey for cupcakes recently delivered, provided an update on the status of her cat, Bob, expressed wishes that "this," as she referred to the virus et al, would be over soon. And she suggested they start a Zoom book club.

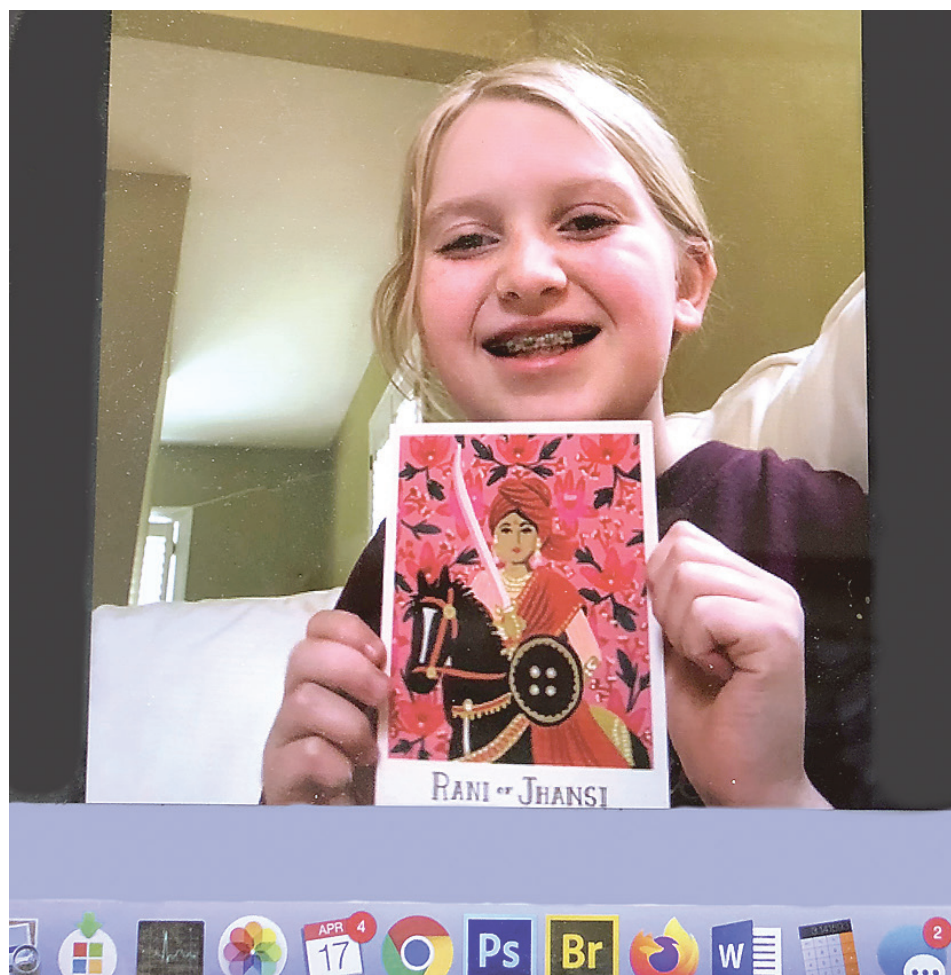
I mean, really, who wouldn't be delighted to receive such a welcome break from the sameness that the virus has brought to each day.

After hearing about Eloise and her letters and cards, I had to meet her. And fortunate-

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

"I really get excited when I get mail."

— Mia Murphy, 15, of Arlington



Hailey Kerr, age 9, student at Douglas MacArthur Elementary in Alexandria.

ly, she was available on short notice for a quick Zoom call.

Understated Eloise, seemed surprised to learn about the impact her thoughtful letters have on Hailey. She started writing letters and sending cards when she was just seven, after making a new friend at her mom's college reunion. Three years later,

Eloise has a pretty extensive list of friends and family to whom she writes to regularly.

She appreciates the value of written communications, "That's how you get to know [people] better," she says.

For 15-year-old Mia Murphy, of Arlington, receiving first class mail is also special. Mail comes mostly from grandparents, who often give her a heads up that something is on the way. Mia loves the advance notice, which gives her the opportunity to look forward to its arrival. For her, a letter or card in the mail is more personal than a text or phone call. She says that "handwritten letters are really

important, they have so much value."

Mia jokes that glitter included in the envelope from a card received years ago is still stuck between floor boards. And she laughs talking about the cursive of one grandmother that is sometimes "difficult to decipher."

An eagerly anticipated Easter card has finally finished mail quarantine and Mia opened it on our Zoom call. In the first moments after opening, it was as though Mia had forgotten I was there, as she lost herself in her grandmother's message, smiling at

"USPS will be unable to make payroll in October absent urgent congressional intervention, putting at risk the livelihoods of the Postal Service's 630,000 employees."

— Megan Brennan,
Postmaster General

the hand-drawn cartoons and stickers. "I really get excited when I get mail. It's a fun little pick-me-up," Mia says.

And Mia recognizes the value of mail carriers, "They have the power to carry human connection through letters."

That power of the United States Postal Service remains one of few areas of bipartisan consensus today,

SEE DISCOVERING, PAGE 10

MOUNT VERNON GAZETTE ♦ APRIL 30 - MAY 6, 2020 ♦ 3



Wearing my mask on Capitol Hill during the Reconvene Session.



View from above of the tent we used as our temporary "Chamber."

What Happened in Richmond During Reconvene

Legislating in a pandemic ... it's complicated.

BY DEL. PAUL KRIZEK

Last Wednesday, April 22nd, I returned to Richmond with my colleagues for the annual Reconvene Session to consider Governor Northam's over 100 amendments to the legislation we passed during session, and 144 amendments to the Com-

monwealth's budget. It was an unprecedented and historic session unlike any other in our memory, which took place outdoors in a tent in Capitol Square. Social distancing methods were in place, with our assigned desks six feet apart from each other, and with masks and gloves being used to reduce the chances of transmission of the virus. My colleagues in the Senate gathered a few miles away at the Science Museum of Virginia, instead of normally just down the hall. Even during these extraordinary circumstances, the people's business was done.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, our first order of business was to change the House rules to allow future sessions the possibility to be held remotely via electronic voting. To do so we needed a two-thirds majority, but without any support from the minority Republican caucus, this safety initiative failed. Thereafter, we continued our important work well into the evening as the sun set, and finished up around 8:30 p.m.

I want to thank our General Assembly staff who worked very hard to keep us safe and to ensure that we had everything we needed for

a successful session. Likewise, this is a difficult time for our community, especially those who have lost loved ones. We are all fearful for the future and for our health, and understandably so. I want you to know that I am here for you and equally worried and concerned, but I truly believe that we will get through this crisis a stronger nation.

Here's a brief look at what the General Assembly agreed to:

We reluctantly adopted the Governor's proposed delay of the min-
SEE WHAT HAPPENED, PAGE 9

COMMENTARY

Serving During the Pandemic

BY SCOTT SUROVELL
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Last week, the General Assembly returned to Richmond for what was probably one of the most unusual sessions we will ever have. We convened for one day to consider the Governor's vetoes of and amendments to the bills and budget we passed earlier in the year.

The Senate met in the Virginia Science Museum. The House of Delegates met in a tent on the Virginia State Capitol lawn. Men did not wear ties because we were told they are germ magnets. The Senate clerk gave all Senators masks and gloves. I wore a bandana mask



and a bolo made with a Virginia quarter that I bought for the occasion.

Each Senator sat at tables 10 feet apart in order of seniority which put me in about the middle of the room. Sen. George Barker sat in a plexiglass box due to recent heart surgery. The clerk provided box

lunches and we were prohibited from touching the drink cooler. We caucused in outdoor tents with chairs scattered six feet apart. The whole day was surreal.

Budgeting Cautiously

We passed dozens of amendments to the budget, basically putting on hold new spending that we approved earlier this session.

We will revisit the budget after revenue projections stabilize and we have a better understanding of new federal funding and any new federal funding that Congress might appropriate. Revenue collections in states like Virginia are reeling from the economy's crash and unlike the federal government, our state constitution requires a balanced budget. If revenues do not increase and federal funding is not forthcoming, states could be facing massive layoffs.

Advocating for Safe Elections

One of the major points of contention was the Governor's proposal to move local elections scheduled in May to November 2020 which I supported. In our area, the towns of Occoquan, Quantico, Haymarket, Vienna and the City of

Fairfax have elections in May. May elections are also scheduled for Norfolk, Chesapeake and Newport News.

Wisconsin held an election on April 7 and so far, 16 cases of COVID-19 have been linked to voting in that election. The average poll worker is over 70 and vulnerable to COVID-19. When people move around, they can unknowingly spread this disease to others. I did not see the need to conduct elections at the height of a pandemic when they could be moved to November. Three Democrats joined all the Republicans to kill the Governor's proposal, and two days later, he postponed the elections two weeks later to May 17 using statutory authority.

We have three elections before
SEE SERVING, PAGE 5

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Supervisor Dan Stork visiting businesses in Belle View Tuesday, April 28 – Primo's and Bread and Water.

Local Small Business Owners – We're Here for You

BY SUPERVISOR DAN STORK
(D-MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT)

Helpful Links

The COVID-19 pandemic is taking a huge toll on our economy and we will feel its impact for many months and years to come. As small business owners, we know this economic crisis may be unlike anything we have ever weathered before. The Fairfax Economic Development Authority (EDA) reports that approximately 200,000 people are employed by small businesses in the County and our office has identified almost 1,100 small businesses along the Richmond Highway corridor. I know from the Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, individual business owners and many residents that our local small businesses need our help now more than ever.

As a fellow small business owner, I have been looking for and evaluating any and all resources available to my company, including applying for the Federal PPP Loan, as I'm sure many of you have. I understand the angst and frustration that you're feeling.

As your Mount Vernon District Supervisor, I have pushed hard on the Board and County staff to find ways to assist small businesses. As a first step, we have created a MicroLoan Program, consisting of \$2.5 million to provide up to \$20,000 each to qualified applicants. I encourage you to apply for this program starting on April 28 and closing at midnight on April 30. I am also committed to increasing this application

SFCD has released a video designed to encourage support of our local businesses. Please share if you are able: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1utDpotBd67rAWi1NvGokMSBg7u2A3K5/view?usp=sharing>

Helpful links for print publications:
MicroLoan Program: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/economic-success/county-small-business-covid-19-recovery-fund>

SFDC COVID-19 Business Directory: <https://sfcd.org/directory/>

MVLCC Open for Business <https://cca.mountvernonleechamber.org/PromoListing.aspx>

Get Help, Give Help: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/get-help-give-help>

time and providing millions more in support.

For County construction permitting, we have approved the extension of the validity of all expiring Director-approved land development items until 60 days after the Board mandated COVID-19 emergency ends. I see these actions as a valuable and necessary start, but we need to do more and quickly.

As soon as the Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan improvements were approved, I launched the Strategic Economic Development Team with Supervisor McKay to proactively grow businesses; we also established a Business Retention and Expansion (BRE) team to focus on businesses

along the corridor. That team now consists of myself and Supervisor Lusk, Fairfax County EDA, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce (MVLCC), South Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), and the County's Department of Economic Initiatives. During this crisis, we have been convening the BRE weekly to coordinate our efforts to best support you.

SFDC has developed a COVID-19 Business Directory webpage to rally the community around our local businesses to buy local and help them survive. All businesses in the southern portion of Fairfax County have been asked to input their information, with questions like: Are you open for business? What type of business? What are you currently offering? This

SEE LOCAL SMALL, PAGE 8

Serving During the Pandemic

FROM PAGE 4

the end of the year: May town elections, June party primaries and the Nov. 3 general election. You can apply to vote by mail in all three today via my website at www.scottsurovell.org/vote.

The Governor also proposed amendments to Senator Adam Ebbin's marijuana decriminalization bill, including an amendment to eliminate the right to a jury trial in Circuit Court on such charges. Virginia has led the world on the right to trial by jury and I did not support this change. Neither did the Senate and the remainder of the bill passed.

Governor Northam also amended four of my bills. He made clear that my bill giving localities some fire-arm regulatory authority applied to parks that localities manage, not just parks they own. He extended my bill creating new penalties for drivers who injure pedestrians and cyclists to passengers on bicycles includ-

ing infant trailers. He added clarity to my community solar bill and amended my bill providing driving privileges to undocumented immigrants to provide that credentials would be identical to other limited-duration driving credentials.

All of these amendments passed and the bills will become law on July 1, 2020.

We also took action to help with the pandemic. First, we gave homeowner and condominium owner associations the ability to meet remotely during the state of emergency and clarified that local governments can as well. We also passed a 60-day emergency moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for anyone affected by the pandemic and gave the Governor authority to provide early release to many inmates who have less than one year to serve on their sentence.

I hope you will share your comments with me at scott@scottsurovell.org.



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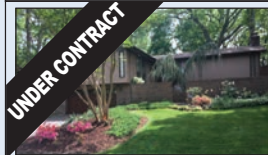
Alex/Riverside Estates \$579,900
8501 Wagon Wheel Road
Beautifully updated 4BR, 3BA Split w/ carport - 2500+ square ft. on a large landscaped .3 acre lot w/ fenced-in back yard. Freshly painted interior, newly refinished hardwood floors throughout the main level. Large family room w/ wood burning FPL & 4th BR on lower level w/ a refinished bath, & two large utility rooms. Perfect for workshop/storage. You can't find a better value or neighborhood for this price! 5 minutes to Fort Belvoir, (S) 15 minutes to Old Town Alex. (N) along the beautiful GW Parkway.



Alex/Riverside Estates \$619,000
3026 Battersea Lane
Riverside Estates, the Biggest Bang for your Buck!! This large Virginia model offers 5BRs, 3 updated baths, a gorgeous upgraded kitchen w/ granite counters, cherry cabinets & 12" ceramic tile flooring. Beautiful hardwood floors on the main level plus upgraded, energy efficient DBL pane windows throughout. The electric panel had major upgrades in 2008, & the deck was rebuilt in 2016, it looks out at the beautifully landscaped backyard complete w/ a new privacy fence & underground sprinkler system. Don't miss the 2 car garage as well - Check out the competition, then come talk with us. We're always ready to reach out with a helping hand.



Fairfax City/Lyndhurst \$169,900
3790 Lyndhurst Drive, #202
Attractively priced one bedroom condo with balcony in popular Lyndhurst community. Great opportunity to put sweat equity into this home: good bones, needs paint, carpet replacement and new HVAC so being sold "As Is." Laundry and storage unit in building. Balcony overlooks green space, providing privacy. Community pool and picnic area. Condo fee includes gas, water, sewer. Great location, close to George Mason University, downtown Fairfax, restaurants, shopping, and much more!



Alex/ Woodleigh Woods \$698,500
3709 Maryland Street
Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/ a gorgeous court yard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped back yard. Numerous updates to include: kitchen w/ granite counters & SS appliances, recently replaced DBL pane, energy efficient windows, freshly painted interior, & all 3 baths. The kitchen, dining & living rooms all face out back & have a wall of picture windows looking out at the deck, hot tub & fenced back yard. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the court yard. As you walk thru this home you marvel at the open contemporary design that makes you feel like you are one w/ your environment. Walkable 1/4 mile to Mt. Vernon bike/walking trail along the Potomac. Five minutes to Ft. Belvoir (S), 15 minutes to Old Town (N), 25 minutes to National Airport (N), all along the scenic GW Pkwy, each season gives you beautiful views.



Manassas/Classic Springs \$651,000
12835 Classic Springs Drive
Is this huge 2 level Rambler all for me? 4BRs, 3.5BAs, 2 car garage, front & side porches & covered porch in the rear. Almost 4500 SF under roof, including about 3100 finished. Main level has Brazilian hwdws plus carpeting in the BRs. 10' ceilings w/ crown molding, 6 panel doors, DBL pane windows & extra wide hallways & doors. Stunning kitchen w/ dark cherry cabinets, SS appliances & dark granite counters. The bedrooms are spacious-the master bedrm has a huge walk-in closet & a magnificent master bath. The lower level has a 4th BR & 3rd full BA, large family rm & approximately 1400 SF for storage/workshops & walks out to an incredible bklyd backing to woods. You have to see this home to believe it. It's stunning!!!



Alex/Randall Estates \$660,000
2215 Shiver Dr.
Charming 2 level Rambler w/ finished, walkout lower level, backing to a huge yard that reaches out to a rustic, lovely creek & woodland oasis. Nature is at your doorstep! Main level living w/ 3 bedrooms, 2 updated baths, stunning hwdw floors, 6 panel doors & custom wood blinds compliment the living & dining rooms. An updated kitchen w/ granite & SS appliances. Stand at your kitchen sink & soak in the beauty of your views of the bklyd, creek and woods. Downstairs offers a huge family rm, 3rd full bath, a den, huge storage & workshop area. Plenty of room for a 4th bedroom if needed. Minutes to Old town, Alexandria along the scenic GW Pkwy, 15 minutes south to Ft. Belvoir. You won't find a quality home like this - It's a bargain!



Alex/Mt.Zephyr \$515,000
4100 Woodley Drive
Lovely all brick 2 level raised/ranch ramble deep in the heart of Mt. Vernon - Large .25 acre corner lot with carport. Lovely hardwood floors on the main level, double pane windows. 2 updated baths on the main level and an updated 3rd full bath on the lower level. 2 wood burning FPLs, one on each level. Potential 4th bedroom on the lower level. Roof is 10 years old, furnace 5 months, A/C 7 years. Commute along GW Pkwy to Old Town- minutes to Ft. Belvoir.

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Catfish Fry Feeds Many in Gum Springs

The lot at the Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church is busy on Sundays.

By MIKE SALMON
THE CONNECTION

Thanks to a fishing spot under the Route 301 bridge down south and a secret family recipe for catfish, mid-day meals were handed out last Sunday for anyone that needed them, courtesy of Deacon James Myers and others at the Greater Morning Star Apostolic Church in the Gum Springs area.

Ed Moore is the captain of the boat that makes the trip south each week to the fishing spot, and he's also one of the keepers of the secret recipe. "We have a pretty good spot near the bridge," he said, "it's near Colonial Beach."

In March, when the coronavirus pandemic started, Moore shifted from taking veteran's out fishing to reeling in the catfish for a weekly feast. Many of the residents in the Gum Springs area of Mount Vernon are working in the service industry at restaurants and stores that are closed, so they have no paycheck coming in and may not have food on the table. The catfish meals with coleslaw and other sides were being handed out to anyone that showed up in the parking lot, said Deacon Myers. "We feed anybody that comes out, last week we got 500 people," he said.



The boat draws attention from the highway.

ple," he said.

When Moore pulled into the lot with his converted fire truck pulling the big boat, which resembles a miniature version of a Navy PT boat, the event took off. Moore and a friend, Darry Cross, opened the cooler full of catfish filets. "Wait til you taste it, they're fileted perfectly, he said. "It's his grandfather's secret sauce we use," Moore said, pointing to Deacon Myers.



Ed Moore, right, and Darry Cross with the filets.

Maria DeHay pulled in the lot, which is right off Richmond Highway, and handed over a few dishes of rice, salad and mixed vegetables. She's a friend of Moore's who lives in Springfield. "We know Ed, figured we'd help out," DeHay said.

They also got a \$500 check from Beltway Drywall and Paint for the effort. "Everybody is just reaching out," said Tim Smith, a volunteer that was helping set up the tents and tables.

In better times, Moore uses the boat to take veteran's out to fish as a rehabilitation measure and has made a name for himself and the church in that regard.

"Since we can't take people out, we can help people out," Moore said. "We'll try to do it every Sunday until this thing is done," he added.

SEE CATFISH FRY, PAGE 7

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NEWS

Catfish Fry

PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION



Deacon James Myers.

There were lots of accessories with the fish.



The parking lot was the site of action for catfish lovers.



Donations were coming in from all over, including these dishes from Springfield resident Maria DeHay.

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Local Small Business Owners

FROM PAGE 5

page is growing by the day and we expect the community's use of it for shopping will, as well.

MVLCC has developed a similar webpage, "Open for Business". This page lists the local businesses open during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Chamber has also spoken with their members and several of their business consultants have graciously offered to provide free business counseling to other small business owners. Contact the Chamber at 703-360-6925.

In addition, the Fairfax County EDA has been focused on employment, by identifying companies out who are hiring at this time. Through their webpage, you can find open positions for companies who are hiring immediately. They are also working with companies who have furloughed employees to direct those employees straight to businesses with job openings.

Together, we are working hard to be innovative and to bring additional resources to our local small businesses and will continue to do so until we get through this together. I am here to help you! If you're in need of any type of assistance, please reach out to my office at 703-780-7518. If you are a resident reading this and are looking for ways to help those in our community, check out our "Get Help, Give Help" webpage for ways to support our small businesses and not-for-profit service providers during this critical time.

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

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As the uncertainty around COVID-19 continues, the demand for services at Rising Hope continues to increase. The food pantry normally receives food donations from retail stores, area food banks, and organizational food drives. These donations have dramatically declined, and some grocers are suspending their donations. They must find new sources of food for the soup kitchen and pantry at a much greater cost. Please consider helping with some of the greatest needs. Food pantry donations (dried beans, canned food, other non-perishables); Paper bags to pre-bag groceries, masks, gloves, and food takeaway containers; Monetary donations. (Financial donations provide the most flexibility to meet increasing demands and pay bills). Please visit risinghopeumc.org/donate.

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What Happened in Richmond

FROM PAGE 4

imum wage increase, from \$7.25 per hour to \$9.50 per hour, to May of next year. This measure gradually increases Virginia's minimum wage to \$12 per hour by 2023. Also approved was the delay on the beginning for collective bargaining for public employees.

We supported the proposal to create a new COVID-19 relief fund in the budget from a new tax on electronic skill games or "gray machines." This money will go towards helping small businesses, housing protection, resources for nursing home facilities, and will help pay for state response to COVID-19.

Both chambers agreed to amendments to legislation that legalizes casinos in five Virginia cities. One of these amendments dedicates the state's share of gaming revenues to a fund for school repair, modernization, and construction.

We sustained the Governor's only veto of HB 119, which would have changed the Commonwealth's official definition of milk products.

In order to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 among Virginia's prison inmates and staff, we approved the authorization of the Department of Corrections to release or move to a lower level of supervision inmates who have one year or less left of their sentence if they have demonstrated good behavior and are not a threat to public safety.

We struck down a proposal that would have expanded Governor Northam's authority to make further cuts in state spending without approval by the legislature. The Governor had agreed to withdraw this proposal, but we voted against it just in case.

We approved the addition of an emergency clause (bills go into effect immediately) on HB 1420, which caps interest rates on late rent payments at 10 per-

cent. We also adopted the Governor's amendments to HB 340 to extend the eviction relief to furloughed federal employees to all renters impacted by COVID-19. These amendments prevent any eviction lawsuits from being heard for at least two months after state courts re-open (scheduled for May 17) and halt any foreclosure proceedings for 30 days. This legislation is key to protecting renters during this difficult time and to make sure that people can stay in their homes while social distancing remains incredibly important.

We adopted all of the Governor's amendments to the budget, including freezing or "unallotting" about \$3 billion in what was budgeted as new spending across all agencies, as the COVID-19 crisis has sent state revenue to historic lows. I supported the Governor on all of his budget amendments to un-allot new spending as it was prudent and necessary under these dire circumstances.

As much as it pained me, it had to be done. As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I had fought hard for the funding of teacher and state employee raises, the First Lady's early childhood education initiatives and its benefits to locally led programs like United Community's Early Learning Center, money for mental health, higher education, programs for those with disabilities, hiring of school counselors, and adult dental benefits.

The Governor has plans to call the General Assembly into a special session later this year, probably later in the summer, after the administration creates an updated revenue forecast that incorporates the many negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. Hopefully, we can unfreeze some of this spending when we have a clearer understanding of all the economic ramifications of this crisis.

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-Werner Heisenberg

Obituary



ALEXANDRIA VA. - **Eunice Yellman**, 98 years young, a longtime Fort Hunt area resident, died Sunday, April 19, 2020 in Alexandria VA. She was born in Lowell, Massachusetts on March 7, 1922. Eunice is preceded in death by her parents, Lewis and Josephine Palmer, her sister Phyllis, her brother John, and her husband, Col. Edward K. Yellman. Eunice graduated from the Academy of Notre Dame in Tyngsboro, Massachusetts and the Bradshaw Business School in Lowell.

Eunice met the love of her life Army officer Edward K. Yellman while working at the registrars office of Lowell Technological Institute. They married in 1955 and raised five children including triplets. Eunice and her family accompanied Ed on his military assignments throughout the U.S. and overseas including three years in Paris, France while Ed worked for the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. The Yellman family settled permanently in Alexandria, Virginia in 1967 with Eunice and Ed living in the same home in Riverside Gardens for 53 years.

Starting in 1970 Eunice held various administrative positions in the front office and the library at Fort Hunt High School until 1985 and then at West Potomac High School allowing her to "keep an eye on her children". Most importantly, Eunice made the Yellman home in Riverside Gardens the center of her life where her children, friends, neighbors, and family were always welcomed with open arms. She developed many lifelong friendships, was an active member of St. Louis Catholic Church, and volunteered at Riverside Gardens Civic Association and was awarded the 1990 Volunteer of the Year award. Eunice enjoyed entertaining friends and family by organizing gatherings and neighborhood parties. Eunice was a lively tennis player at Riverside Gardens Swim & Tennis Club as well as an active member of the Garden Club.

Eunice retired from Fairfax County Public School system in 1990 after twenty years of service. Eunice and her husband Ed traveled the world extensively and spent winters in their second home in Bonita Springs, Florida. Eunice continued playing tennis, entertaining new and old friends, and hosting her ever-growing family during their visits to sunny Florida. She was a devoted wife, a wonderful mother, the best mother-in-law, loving grandmother, and great-grandmother. Eunice was loved by all and will be greatly missed.

Eunice is survived by her five children: Edward Jr. of Panama City, FL; James and his wife Carol of Leesburg, VA; Michael and his wife Nelly of Fairfax Station, VA; Gregory and his wife Kimberly of Leonardtown, MD; and Donna Vásquez and her husband Fausto of Alexandria, VA; nine grandchildren: Valeri, Eric (wife Kayla), Kevin (wife Sara), Morgan (husband Mike), Daniel, Taylor (husband Connor), Alison, Cristian, Jessica; and six great-grandchildren: Charlotte, Tanner, Grant, Avery, Nicolas, and Wyatt.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Louis Catholic Church, 3019 Popkins Lane, Alexandria VA 22306. A mass of Christian burial and celebration of her life is planned for late summer at St. Louis Catholic Church followed by her burial at Arlington National Cemetery where she will be laid to rest next to her husband of 60 years.

Obituary

OBITUARY

Erika Vogel

(27 September 1939 - 17 April 2020)



Erika Vogel, a long-time resident of the Alexandria area, passed away on 17 April 2020 at Silverado Memory Care, Alexandria, Virginia. She was born on 27 September 1939 in Hamburg, Germany, to Herr and Frau Carl Meyer and Margaretha Vogel Meyer. Erika and her sisters, Rosemarie and Margret, were raised in the Baltic Sea town of Eckernförde. Erika graduated from the University of Göttingen, Germany, as a physical therapist.

Erika, her mother, and her sisters immigrated to the United States in the early 1960s. Erika, as a divorced mother, raised alone a wonderful son named Matthias Vogel. His death at the age of 33 years and 11 months in October 2003 from leukemia was a devastating loss for her. Erika and Matthias had adopted her mother's maiden name Vogel.

Erika for many years was a highly respected, home-visiting physical therapist in the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Her personality reflected honesty, empathy, and lack of pretension. She loved working and recreating outdoors in nature. The Billy Goat Trail at Great Falls, Maryland, was a special place for her, as was her garden. She was an independent soul who was exuberant about life.

Erika was a loving daughter, sister, mother, and friend. She had a difficult but rewarding life and is loved and missed.

Erika is survived by her sister Margret Janello, Margret's husband Martin Janello, her nephew Eric Hochadel, his wife Claudia Hochadel, her grandnephew Rutger Hochadel, her cousin Christian Sueverkruep, his wife Claudia Sueverkruep, and many friends, including Daniel Leubecker, Waldi Crawford, Stefan Crawford, Owen Keegan family, David Deal, Bard Malovany, Marie Benoitte, Meriwether Rumrill family, Richard Locasso, Serge Liros, Dale Brown, Stacey Andrews, Sheryl Hudson, Eileen Deymier, Steve O'Brien, Eileen O'Neil, Dick Christensen, Dieter Roesler, Jeane and Loren Larson, Erna Harris, Jane and Don Butler, Christine Gretsche Genner, and Christa Malek Mohamadi among others.

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And So It Begins



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

The six-week schedule/treatment for my stage II papillary thyroid cancer began on Thursday, April 23 with an hour-long telephone appointment with one of the doctors from the Nuclear Medicine department. He was confirming, clarifying and preparing yours truly for the arduous task at hand: a commitment to a month-long, low iodine diet beginning April 27 (no salt, no sugar, no dairy, no normal-type bread and a bunch of other less impactful nos) and 15 on-site hospital-related visits (in lab, in doctor's office and in scan area) followed by an overnight in late May when I receive my final treatment. After which, for the following week, I am to be quarantined at home (unsafe for children, pregnant woman and pets) with miscellaneous other quarantine-associated behaviors/advisories (changing bed sheets every other day, using one bathroom exclusively, flushing toilets twice, using plastic silverware and paper plates, among others) with the fun and games ending June 5th when the quarantine period ends. Then I can resume my normal/familiar routine for the treatment of my underlying/pre-existing stage IV non small cell lung cancer. Treatment for which will likely begin again in mid July after I've had a CT scan to assess the damage/success of my thyroid cancer treatment.

By then, it will have been about six months that I've actually had any current treatment/medicine for my lung cancer. Once given a clean bill of health (so far as the thyroid cancer is concerned), I'll likely restart my bi-weekly treatments for my non-small cell lung cancer (which as my oncologist said; he could treat but never cure). Treatment which began in early March, 2009 and has continued for nearly 11 years. Pending the results of that July CT scan, my life will likely return to abnormal. Still, it's way too early to speculate on life going forward. Six months (dating back to my last treatment in Jan., 2020) is an eternity in the cancer world (heck six days is an eternity).

And aside from the obvious, that planning for or even predicting scenarios two to three months hence, it has never been my oncologist's style. Then consider, as he said during our most recent phone appointment (April 17), that he's no longer certain if the tumors in my lungs are non small cell lung cancer, papillary thyroid cancer which has moved and/or, wait for it, that my lung cancer tumors have gone into remission. Can you quote the late Phil Rizzuto: "Holy cow!" None of which will be known until a week or so after my July CT scan. And not that wondering/waiting isn't already the hardest part but before I will have learned the status of my tumors, I will have been in and out of hospitals being treated for thyroid cancer right smack in the middle of the coronavirus pandemic when I'm supposed to do the exact opposite: isolate at home and stay away from hospitals. I couldn't be looking for more trouble if I planned it. Nevertheless, I just hope the old adage applies: "Time flies when you're having fun." (And I suppose I should add: flies safely.)

I don't really feel the fun? Maybe it's the needles you feel, or the fear/anxiety associated with being in and out of hospitals multiple times in a comparatively short period of time? Or maybe you feel the worry and difficulty I'll have maintaining a low iodine diet for 31 or so days, and the hunger pains and chocolate withdrawal I'll experience during that month. I'd like to think that the time/treatment will pass quickly, but I'm guessing that the demands of the diet will slow me down to a crawl and that the experience will be an extremely challenging transition/return to normal. (Particularly so for me since food has always been the bane of my existence.)

But so what? My health status, which originally had been a terminal one: "13 months to two years" has improved dramatically. I'm still likely to die from cancer but instead of the two years maximum I had anticipated (been "prognosed"), I am now living and breathing two months into year 12, post diagnosis. And depending upon what is interpreted from my upcoming CT scan, I may yet have a bit more life to live.

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

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NEWS

Discovering Mail

FROM PAGE 3

as evidenced by Pew Research's recent government agency favorability survey, which showed that 91 percent of adult respondents have a favorable opinion of the USPS, with no differentiation in opinion between party leanings.

The USPS is the largest employer in the United States after Walmart, employing roughly 630,000 people directly and another 7.3 million in the larger mailing industry, according to U.S. Rep. Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Operations.

Postal workers are deemed essential, helping to ensure all Americans have delivery access to everything from prescriptions to essential medical equipment to those day-brightening letters and cards, always and especially during this crisis. The Postal Service is a particularly important resource for seniors and people in rural areas, who often have less access to other delivery services.

A representative from the American Postal Workers Union said the USPS is actually more prepared than most organizations for this pandemic, because they have to be prepared for emergencies like hurricanes and anthrax in order to continue and resume operations quickly in times of crisis.

Even still, people outside the postal office want to show support and it's hard to know what to do.

Lillian Sun Tadlock, 49, of Vienna, has always had a soft spot for her letter carrier. In the summer she shares cold drinks and even popsicles.

In the era of coronavirus, she made special masks for her mail carrier and the clerk at her local post office.

Unfortunately, as much as her local postal workers appreciate her kindness, the U.S. Postal Service is going to need more than kindness to ensure its continued existence.

The USPS, already struggling prior to this year, are at risk to become a casualty of the virus. According to Connolly's website, Megan Brennan, Postmaster General, informed the Congressional Subcommittee during an April 9 briefing that "The Postal Service anticipates "a \$13 billion revenue loss directly to COVID-19 this fiscal year. ... USPS will be unable to make payroll in October absent urgent congressional intervention, putting at risk the livelihoods of the Postal Service's 630,000 employees and the 7.3 million people who are part of the larger mailing industry."

It's pretty unthinkable to visualize a future without the U.S. Postal Service. When presented with the very idea, Hailey responded, "[The USPS] is important... people around the world have pen pals and need to be able to write to people they love ... because letters are cool."

If you have an opinion on the future of the U.S. Postal Service, contact your members of Congress. And share your letters with and experiences with the Connection. editors@connectionnewspapers.com

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Yacht Haven Gem!



6000 Walhaven Dr \$769,000

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Calling all history buffs!



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OUR SELLER!



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