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(Right) Cayce Utley, a member of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ NoVa) chants into the speaker, "White silence is violence," while a volunteer holds up the megaphone bullhorn in the demonstration in front of the Fairfax County Public Safety Building in Fairfax Tuesday evening, June 2.

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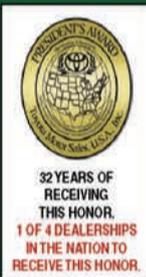
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# NEWS

# George Floyd on Our Minds

**Police use of force incidents in Fairfax County involve African Americans 48.6 percent of the time, even though they make up only 9.7 percent of the population.**

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**W**hile protests spread coast to coast, and local law enforcement condemn the death of George Floyd in police custody in Minneapolis, data show that police use of force locally targets African Americans disproportionately.

In 2018, Montgomery County police officers were dispatched to 219,162 calls for service, made 18,592 arrests, and force was reported used in 542 incidents, according to the Montgomery County Police Annual Use of Force Report for 2018, the most recent available.

Police use of force incidents involved African Americans 55 percent of the time, according to the report, even though African Americans make up just 19.9 percent of the population of Montgomery County, according to the United States Census.

Latinos also make up 19.9 percent of the county, according to the Census, and were subject to 18.1 percent of the police use of force incidents, 98 of the 542 reports.

Montgomery County Police reported that police use of force incidents involved African Americans 298 of the 542 incidents; Caucasians in 139 incidents (25.5); Latinos in 98 incidents (18.1 percent); and Asians seven times (1.29 percent).

60.2 percent of the county is white, and 15.6 of the county is Asian, according to the Census.

**FAIRFAX COUNTY**, meanwhile, reported 510 use of force incidents in 2018, according to the Fairfax County Police Department Internal Affairs Bureau 2018 Annual Statistical Report.

"In 2018, there were 491,700 contacts between officers and community members. Of those contacts, there were 510 use of force incidents which equates to 0.10% of the total contacts," according to the Fairfax County Police report.

While 9.7 percent of the Fairfax County population in 2018 was African American, police use of force incidents involved African Americans in 248 of the 510 cases, according to the Fairfax County report, which is 48.6 percent of the incidents. Fairfax County included county demographics from 2018 in the report.

The report indicates that police use of force incidents involved caucasian subjects in 186 incidents, 36.5 percent; 61.1 percent of the county population is white.

Hispanic subjects were involved in 107 of the 510 reports, 20.98 percent, when they make up 16.2 percent of the population in 2018, according to the report.

**Demographics of Community Member Population and FCPD Officers**

Fairfax County Demographics			FCPD Sworn Officer Demographics				
Race	Persons	Percent	Race	Male	Female	Total	Percent
White	704,405	61.1%	White	995	187	1,182	80.24%
Black	111,829	9.7%	Black	100	16	116	7.88%
Asian and Pacific Islander	224,810	19.5%	Hispanic/Latino	75	19	94	6.38%
American Indian and Alaska Native	3,459	0.3%	Other	73	8	81	5.50%
Other	108,370	9.4%	Total	1,243	230	1,473	100%
Fairfax County Total Population	1,152,873	100.0%					
Hispanic	186,765	16.2%					

\* Population information was derived from Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services Demographic Reports 2018

## Governor Northam Declares State of Emergency

**Assistance to localities authorized.**

**I**n Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Police assisted in Manassas when demonstrations there "became violent as some of the protesters proceeded into Sudley Rd, stopping traffic, and throwing objects at passing motorists and officers," according to Prince William Police.

Other protests in the area have been peaceful including the "I Can't Breathe - Silent Walk," in Leesburg which drew 1,000 demonstrators.

Showing up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia (SURJ) plans demonstrators with signs and practicing social distancing at police headquarters in Alexandria and Fairfax County "to hold vigils marking a week of action to end white silence" on Tuesday, June 2, from 6-7 p.m. 3600 Wheeler Ave., Alexandria, VA and 12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA

Governor Ralph Northam on Sunday, May 31, declared a state of emergency and authorized assistance to localities in response to escalating protests across the Commonwealth. The Governor granted a request from Mayor Levar Stoney to extend a curfew in the City of Richmond.

"This emergency declaration will provide the necessary support to localities as they work to keep our communities safe," said Governor Northam. "There are many voices speaking out for justice and healing across the United States and in our Commonwealth, but others are exploiting this pain and inciting violence."

Asian subjects were involved in 17 use of force incidents, 3.3 percent, while they made up 19.5 of the county population.

**DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILES** of the police forces in these jurisdictions show that the police force is whiter and less diverse than the communities they are sworn to protect.

In Montgomery County 75 percent of

officers are caucasian (60.2 percent of the population is white), 12 percent are African American (African Americans make up 19 percent of the county), 8 percent are Hispanic (Latinos make up 19 percent of the county population), and 5 percent are Asian or Pacific Islander, (who make up 15.6 percent of the population).

A state of emergency allows the Commonwealth to mobilize resources, including the Virginia National Guard, and pre-position people and equipment to assist localities in their efforts to de-escalate violent protests and protect public safety.

The declaration allocates \$350,000 for state and local governments and state response and recovery operations authorized and coordinated through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management.

The full text of the emergency declaration can be found at <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/media/governorvirginiagov/executive-actions/EO-64-Declaration-of-a-State-of-Emergency-Due-to-Civil-Unrest-and-Institution-of-a-Curfew-in-the-City-of-Richmond.pdf>

officers are white but the county is 61.1 percent white; 7.88 percent of officers are black and 9.7 percent of the population is black; 6.38 percent of officers are Hispanic/Latino while 16.2 percent of the county is Latino; and 5.5 percent of officers are listed as "other;" 19.5 percent of the Fairfax County population is Asian or Pacific Islander.

In Fairfax County, 80.24 percent of offi-

cers are white but the county is 61.1 percent white; 7.88 percent of officers are black and 9.7 percent of the population is black; 6.38 percent of officers are Hispanic/Latino while 16.2 percent of the county is Latino; and 5.5 percent of officers are listed as "other;" 19.5 percent of the Fairfax County population is Asian or Pacific Islander.

Of the 353 sworn personnel in Arlington, according to the Arlington County Police Department 2018 Annual Report, 290 officers are white (82.15 percent), 39 are African American (11.05 percent), 11 are Asian or Pacific Islander (3.12 percent), and 13 (3.68 percent) are "other or multi-racial." The actual population of Arlington is 75.1 percent white, 9.6 percent black, 11 percent Asian and 15.8 percent Latino, according to the U.S. Census.

**ALL JURISDICTIONS CONDEMNED** the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

"It has troubled all of us in law enforcement to observe events around this country, including what occurred in Minneapolis where the sanctity of Mr. Floyd's life was ignored and other officers did not intervene to preserve another precious life," said Fairfax County Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr. "As a reminder, we have updated our use of force policies over the years using the co-production of policing model, vetted our policies and training through the Public Safety Committee, and we continue to leverage the partnerships created with community members who were part of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission."

Roessler added: "Additionally, we are grateful for the external accountability measures from the Police Civilian Review Panel, [and] the Independent Police Auditor.

"No law enforcement officer has ever been trained to take the actions that those officers took; they have been trained to do the exact opposite," said Alexandria City Sheriff Dana Lawhorne. "This event is a tragic reminder that we, as law enforcement officers, must do more to hold each other to the high standard of conduct that is expected and demanded by those we serve."

"It is impossible for us to achieve our mission if we lose the trust of our community," said Arlington County Chief of Police M. Jay Farr.

Montgomery County didn't mince words. According to the Montgomery County Council, "Once again, America is in the crossfire, reeling from the pernicious effects of bigotry, racism and prejudice and from an inferno fueled by police brutality."

Montgomery County's report can be found at [https://montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/Resources/Files/PDF/PDResources/Use%20of%20Force%20Report%202018\\_External\\_Final\\_0319.pdf](https://montgomerycountymd.gov/POL/Resources/Files/PDF/PDResources/Use%20of%20Force%20Report%202018_External_Final_0319.pdf)

Fairfax County's report can be found at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/sites/police/files/assets/documents/2018%20iab%20admin%20and%20use%20of%20force%20report.pdf>

## A Moment to Act

## Senator Mark Warner's Open Letter

SEN. MARK WARNER (D-VA)



I'm sure folks have seen the protests this weekend in response to George Floyd's murder at the hands of police officers, and years of violence against the Black community. As of writing this email, three of the officers involved have not been charged. We need a full investigation and accountability for all involved in this crime.

Black Americans have been denied justice in our country for far too long. Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others should still be alive today — and the painful truth is that if they were white, they probably would be.

For some this moment is a wake up call. For others, this is the America they have always known — simmering just below the surface. We all have a responsibility to challenge racist systems and demand not only justice, but accountability, and meaningful change — starting at home.

It's easy to simply say hate has no place in America, but as your Senator it's my duty to do more. Throughout my time in the Senate, I've supported measures to prevent discrimination against people of color at work, at school, and at the ballot box. You have my promise that I will continue to fight for legislative changes that make our Commonwealth — and our country — a more just place.

This is a moment to act. I hope you will join me in confronting biases, hate, and discriminatory systems in place in our communities, schools, and in our justice system.

It is not now, nor has it ever been enough, to simply say we believe in equality. We have to show up and do the work to fight against injustice and racism. For some, that means joining protests, or signing a petition. For others, that may mean making a donation amid this challenging time in our country. If you're looking for ways to take action, consider supporting the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, or an organization in your community focused on securing justice.

And, I leave you with this: the fact remains that the vast majority of us want to live together and want justice for everyone in this country. We must join together to achieve that goal.

## Virus of Racial Injustice

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM  
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)



The image of a man in a uniform pressing his knee down on the neck of a hand-cuffed black man while being protected by three other uniformed individuals is so revolting and repulsive that I cannot get it out of my mind. The picture joins those in my mind of black persons being shot in the back by uniformed individuals without just cause, photos of black persons hanging by ropes around their necks while white persons hidden by white sheets and masks cheered, photos of the backs of black slaves scarred by whip lashes to keep them in their places, and others.

How loud does a black man have to cry out for his already dead momma or for his being able to breathe before the message of racial justice is heard? How many black parents must bury their children before we say that enough is enough? How long can a civilized society be tolerant of such blatant injustices?

Is there any wonder that when these basic questions cannot be answered that people take to the streets with demonstrations to have their voices heard? While some few seek to turn demonstrations into opportunities to loot and burn, we cannot lose sight of the basic message that is being conveyed by the persons in the streets that it is way past time for change in America.

For those who have been involved in the civil rights movement throughout our lifetime, the incidents of brutality by persons

who are supposed to protect us and the hate actions and speech of those who see themselves in some kind of superior position to others are deeply distressing. We can continue to strengthen our laws that protect minorities even as the laws have clear limitations to deter violence. We can support educational programs since so many of the offensive actions come about because of ignorance. We can continue our work to ensure that our laws reflect the kind of justice and fairness that we expect of others. We can speak out in public places to make it clear to all that we stand for justice and fairness for all and that we reject racial superiority. We can join demonstrators who stand for these principles.

Before the brutality in Minneapolis occurred, the pandemic had already pulled off a scab on American society showing economic and racial injustice. The economic injustices that exist in our society have become more obvious, and the inequities of our economic system are becoming more severe. We clearly want the threat to our health from the COVID-19 crisis to pass, but we need to think twice before we seek a return to the unfair system that has developed in our country. We can learn a lot from the observations of our society during a quarantine to seek to improve it as we leave our period of isolation.

With destructive leadership at the national level, we must all step up to fill the breach. We need to work together to stamp out racial injustice in our country.



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

### Showing Up for Racial Justice

A family from Reston takes part in the Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia protest at Public Safety Headquarters Tuesday evening, June 2.

## 'We Must Work to Remove Racist Policies'

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area stands with millions of Americans in grieving the senseless murder of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, Sean Reed, and countless other Black lives at the hands of law enforcement officers. These past few weeks have served as a stark reminder of this country's pervasive systems of oppression and inequality. It is also worth noting that these protests come in the midst of a pandemic that is affecting African-American communities at a drastically disproportionate rate.

However, it is not enough to simply grieve and mourn—we must all work to remove racist policies and continue to educate ourselves. We will continue to work to amplify Black voices and empower voters. "It is time for us as a nation to do some introspection and see who we are and who we really want to be," stated Anu Sahai, co-president of the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area. "We need to use the power of the ballot this November." Check Vote411 to make sure your voter registration is up to date so you can vote. Your vote is your voice.



# NEWS

Members and supporters of Showing Up for Racial Justice NoVa protest at Public Safety Headquarters in Fairfax.



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/  
THE CONNECTION

## A Call to End 'White Silence'

**Demonstrators converge at Public Safety Headquarters in Fairfax.**

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

After seven days of nationwide protests, escalating riots and looting by some in the fallout from the death of African-American George Floyd while being arrested by a white officer in Minneapolis, Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ) Northern Virginia held protests at two northern Virginia police headquarters. One was in Alexandria, the other at Public Safety Headquarters in Fairfax. With police barricades and officers behind them surrounding the gathering area, officers on the roofs of buildings and helicopters in the air, protesters of all races safely and without incident rallied demanding an "end to white silence on issues of racial injustice."

SURJ NoVa organizer Karen Wolf said, "While tragedies like the death of George Floyd make the news, they're the tip of the iceberg in a larger pattern of racialized harm and violence." Cayce Utley, a member of SURJ NoVa, handled the microphone. Addressing the crowd, she said, "We are here to break white silence around white people supporting our police...We are keeping it peaceful, but we need to make it good for others."

Chief Edwin C. Roessler Jr., Fairfax County Police, stood at the barricades and watched. "We are fortunate to have a very engaged community with robust support and partnership between officers, residents



Karen Wolf, SURJ NoVa (Showing Up for Racial Justice) organizer, participates in the demonstration in front of the Fairfax County Public Safety Building, 12900 Government Center Parkway in Fairfax.

and business owners. Regarding potential demonstrations, we are in communication with various stakeholders and are working together to ensure events in Fairfax County are peaceful and safe for voices to be heard while also maintaining public safety in our neighborhoods," he said.



"Black lives matter," is the rallying cry in Fairfax during the Showing Up for Racial Justice Northern Virginia protest at Public Safety Headquarters.

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# Fairfax Helps Restaurants Serve Customers Outdoors

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith Northern Virginia now in Phase I of reopening – and rapidly heading toward Phase II – the Fairfax City Council last week approved two emergency ordinances to help local restaurants serve customers outdoors.

One granted the city manager or his designee the ability to temporarily close streets and public right-of-way areas during the pandemic. The other granted temporary waivers of zoning regulations and review requirements regarding outdoor commercial activity.

“Ideally, we’d like to use private property,” said City Manager Rob Stalzer. “But we might have to use the public streets.”

Both actions were considered and approved during the May 26 Council meeting. And they’ll provide the City with the necessary flexibility during Phases I and II to accommodate outdoor-seating requests coming from restaurants struggling financially in the wake of the COVID-19 restrictions.

“It’s a positive step so the City can be nimble and respond quickly to requests from the business community,” explained Councilmember Janice Miller. City Attorney Brian Lubkeman said these emergency ordinances would both expire 91 days from May 26.



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Freddy’s on Fairfax Boulevard already has outdoor seating – which customers enjoyed, Saturday afternoon.**

However, Mayor David Meyer noted that they could then be extended, if desired.

Economic Development Director Chris Bruno said the City restaurants are interested and eager to participate in the outdoor-seating opportunity. Councilmember So Lim asked how long it would take for

restaurants to get the needed permits, and Bruno replied, “A couple of days.”

“The point is to allow us to move as quickly as possible,” said Stalzer. “We’re trying to mobilize and anticipate as much as possible.”

Councilman Jon Stehle said he’d talked

**“We’re going to do everything we can to make it work for everyone.”**

— City Manager Rob Stalzer

with representatives of three other cities and “learned the value of consistent signage [for all the restaurants]. Also important is access and egress to and from restrooms. This is a great opportunity to know what success means to them.”

Councilman Sang Yi said that, if a restaurant appeals something about its permit, he’d like the Council to have the final say. But, replied Lubkeman, “It’s temporary. And if there’s an appeal and it has to go to Council, there could be a significant delay until you meet again.”

“But the person issuing the permit would also handle the appeal,” said Yi. “I think there should be more other people involved.”

But, countered Miller, “If it gets too complicated, we’ll lose the ability to move quickly. We’ll have to take a leap of faith that [City] staff will do the right thing.”

The Council then unanimously approved both ordinances. And, said Stalzer, “We’re going to do everything we can to make it work for everyone.”



## Envision Life at The Woodlands Take a Virtual Tour

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PHOTOS BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

At Maggie McFly's, a few doors down from the main entrance, Maria Calabrese, left, and Ashley Vu are ready for customers.

# Springfield Town Center Reopens

The center is using all precautions in the midst of the pandemic.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION



Laura Feinschil, the Marketing Director at PREIT, the property management company at the town center.

As Virginia entered phase one of reopening in the wake of the coronavirus, Springfield Town Center opened their doors on Friday, May 29, with facial masks and hand sanitizer in place, hoping to attract some shoppers but not too many. The town center, as with other retail establishments in the area, is limited to 50 percent capacity, as stated in the rules put out by Gov. Ralph Northam's (D) office.

"We're following the State of Virginia policy," said Laura Feinschil, the Marketing Director at PREIT, the property management company at the town center.

They did a "very extensive cleaning, especially high-touch areas," said Feinschil, and there are standing marks on the floors in some areas where people might wait to ensure social distancing as well. The seating which could be seen throughout the center before the pandemic was all taken out. The restaurants shifted gears to allow outside seating only, curbside service for phone orders, and delivery.

"We've been in constant communications with our retailers," Feinschil added.

The maximum capacity for the town center is 14,000 in the common areas, but under phase one, they can only allow 7,000 people at one time.

Woodbridge resident Tony Tucker was among a few people at the main door on opening day, waiting

for the green light. He heard about the town center opening online, and was confident the cleaning was efficient. "I believe they are going to be very cautious," he said.

The Town Center recently started a "Mall2Go," program where people can order food and goods online and have them delivered outside the door, or in the parking lot. "We're encouraging our retailers to use this whenever possible," Feinschil said.

At Maggie McFly's, a few doors down from the main entrance, Maria Calabrese was with fellow employee Ashley Vu at the wait stand out front. Since the pandemic, some of the staff could not work, but in mid-May, they brought back two servers to handle the to-go orders, and possibly more in the near future. "Hopefully we can bring back more in phase 2," said Calabrese.

Just after the doors opened to the town center, an outside table to one of the restaurants had diners, and the wait staff was at the table, business as usual with all masks were in place.

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# Fairfax County Week in Coronavirus

Facemasks mandatory, outdoor seating in restaurants, retail stores start to open.

BY KEN MOORE  
THE CONNECTION

**Monday, June 1**

Fairfax County Cases: 11,219  
Virginia Cases: 45,398  
United States Cases: 1,761,503  
Fairfax County Deaths: 387  
Virginia Deaths: 1,392  
United States Deaths: 103,700

**LIBRARY, TO GO:** Fairfax County Library will operate a Curbside Pickup service at all branches. And library staff is still providing many programs, events and services you can participate in from the comfort of your own home. See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/>

**FIRE AND RESCUE:** 23 members of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department have tested positive for Covid-19, and 17 have recovered. Six are currently positive, and four are currently in quarantine. All personnel are closely monitored by a nurse at Fairfax County's Occupational Health Center.

**Sunday, May 31**

Fairfax County Cases: 11,110  
Virginia Cases: 44,607  
United States Cases: 1,737,950  
Fairfax County Deaths: 383  
Virginia Deaths: 1,375  
United States Deaths: 102,785

**Saturday, May 30**

Fairfax County Cases: 10,906  
Virginia Cases: 43,611  
United States Cases: 1,719,827  
Fairfax County Deaths: 383  
Virginia Deaths: 1,370  
United States Deaths: 101,711

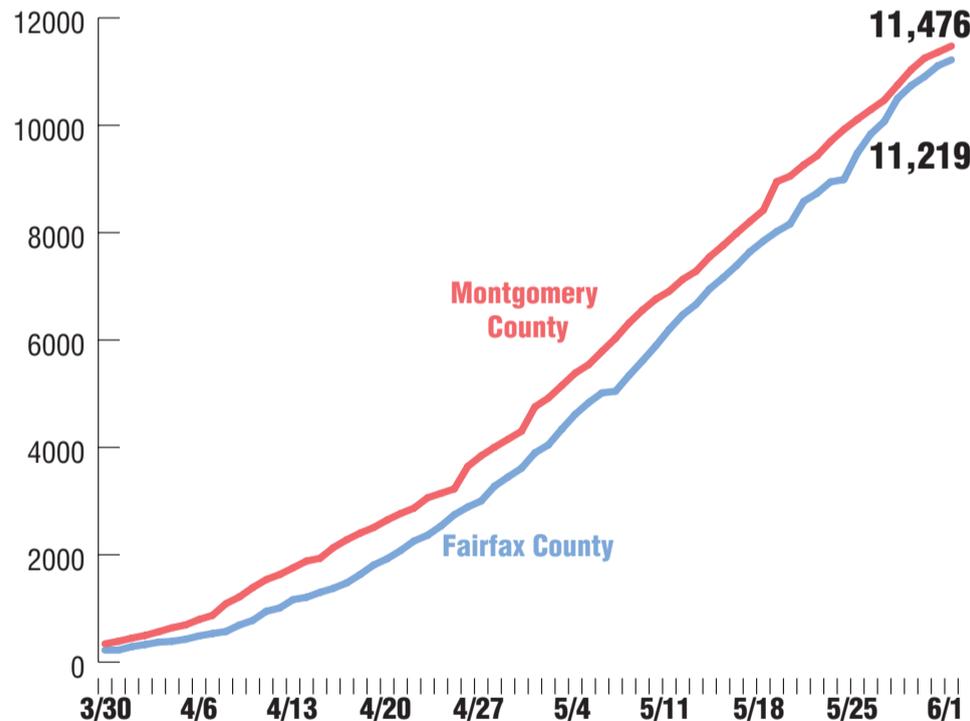
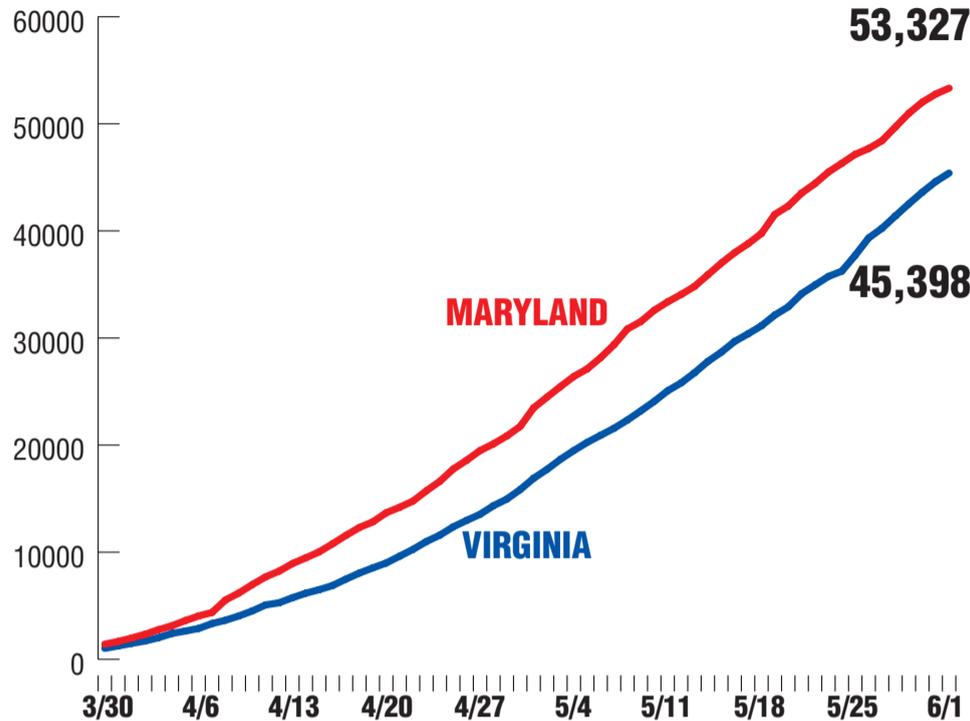
**UP TO DATE:** For up to date reports on reopenings, see:

<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>  
<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/>  
<https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/faq/>

**ZIP CODE ACCURACY:** Virginia Department of Health (VDH) began reporting COVID-19 data on testing encounters by health districts using more accurate ZIP Code information. The new data will impact 37,362 test results that were previously not assigned a health district designation because incomplete patient address information was reported to VDH.

Beginning May 30, VDH will report test encounter data using a tiered approach. If a test record is missing a patient address ZIP Code, the ordering provider's ZIP Code will be used. If neither ZIP Code for the patient or ordering provider is available, the testing laboratory's ZIP Code will be used.

By using the new data reporting method, testing encounter numbers will increase the health district figures as follows: Alexandria



SOURCE: VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, [HTTP://WWW.VDH.VIRGINIA.GOV/CORONAVIRUS/](http://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/)  
MARYLAND: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, [HTTPS://CORONAVIRUS.MARYLAND.GOV/](https://coronavirus.maryland.gov/)

by 699; Arlington by 187; Fairfax by 3,072.

**Friday, May 29**

Fairfax County Cases: 10,738  
Virginia Cases: 42,533  
United States Cases: 1,698,523  
Fairfax County Deaths: 378  
Virginia Deaths: 1,358  
United States Deaths: 100,466

**FACE MASKS:** Virginians are now required to wear face coverings in public indoor settings as businesses slowly resume operation. Face coverings are in addition to public health guidelines to maintain six feet of physical distancing, to increase cleaning and sanitation, and to wash hands regularly.

"Science shows that face coverings are an effective way to prevent transmission of the virus, but wearing them is also a sign of respect. This is about doing the right thing to protect the people around us and keep everyone safe," said Gov. Ralph Northam.

A face covering includes anything that covers your nose and mouth, such as a mask, scarf, or bandana. Under the Governor's executive order, any person age ten and older must wear a mask or face covering at all times while entering, exiting, traveling through, and spending time in the following public settings: personal care and grooming businesses; essential and non-essential brick and mortar retail including grocery stores and pharmacies; food and beverage

establishments; entertainment or public amusement establishments when permitted to open; train stations, bus stations, and on intrastate public transportation, including in waiting areas; state and local government buildings and areas where the public accesses services; any indoor space shared by groups of people who may congregate within six feet of one another or who are in close proximity to each other for more than ten minutes.

Exemptions to these guidelines include while eating or drinking; exercising; children younger than 10; when communicating with a hearing-impaired person when lips need to be visible; and anyone with a health condition that keeps them from wearing a face covering. Children over the age of two are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering to the extent possible.

**RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS:** Under Virginia's Phase One guidelines, churches, synagogues, mosques, and temples may hold services in their houses of worship at 50% of their normal capacity. With the exception of families, congregants must sit six feet apart. Items should not be passed around during a religious service. Social gatherings remain limited to no more than 10 people. Additional guidelines for houses of worship at <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/#856622>

**BUSINESS REOPENING GUIDELINES:**

**RESTAURANTS,** breweries, distilleries, and wineries may serve dine-in customers at tables outside, at 50 percent of their normal indoor capacity. Tables must be spaced six feet apart and no more than 10 people may sit at a table. A restaurant's indoor bar area must remain closed. Disposable menus are required and servers must wear cloth face coverings.

**GYMS, POOLS,** recreation centers, sports centers, may open for outdoor activities only. Customers, trainers, and instructors must stay 10 feet apart from each other and equipment also must be spaced 10 feet apart. Exercise classes are limited to 10 people. Outdoor swimming pools may be open for lap swimming only, with one person per lane. Indoor pools, hot tubs and spas, and outdoor basketball and racquetball courts must remain closed.

**PERSONAL CARE:** Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons, and tattoo shops are limited to 50% of their normal capacity and customers must make appointments to come in. Customers and employees are required to wear face coverings. These businesses must keep a record of all clients served, including name, contact information, and date and time of service.

**RETAIL:** Other retail businesses may reopen at 50% capacity and employees must wear face coverings. Essential businesses, such as grocery stores, should follow the state's guidance for all businesses. <https://www.virginia.gov/coronavirus/forwardvirginia/#856418>

# Springfield High Schoolers Start a Coffee Business

**First consumers: area high schoolers.**

BY JESS KIRBY  
THE CONNECTION

**W**ith many coffee shops closed or their business hours shortened during the COVID-19 pandemic, two high schoolers have fulfilled locals' coffee cravings. DMV Drinks, a coffee business founded by Lars Griffin and Josh Putz, creates and delivers coffee and frappes to Burke and Springfield residents.

"We realized with this quarantine that it would be a lot harder for people to get their daily coffee, and we saw an opportunity in a doorstep coffee delivery service," said Putz of Springfield, a junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School.

People can order by messaging them on their Instagram or Facebook, and they deliver every day from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.

"We average about one order per day so far, but usually orders are two or three drinks. We get about seven to nine orders per week with about 24 drinks per week," said Griffin, a West Springfield High School junior and Springfield resident. "We're hoping for those numbers to go up once our website is functional."

According to Griffin, most of their customers are high schoolers, but a few adults have ordered as well. Many who have ordered from them have been happy with the quality of the drinks and delivery.

"The drinks are really good and Lars is a really nice, fun, friendly guy who will adjust to you. He made a special drink for me with no caffeine and called it the 'Cooper Special,'" said Washington Irving Middle School eighth grader Cooper Metz, a Springfield resident. He's ordered from them ten times.

"They are efficient with delivery and quick to answer when you order. The drinks are outstanding! I don't enjoy coffee all that much but they have an option without coffee, so that's nice," said Abi Dorey, a junior at West Springfield High School from Springfield.

"They have quality drinks for small prices, and they're fine delivering even if it's a far drive," said Lake Braddock Secondary School Cali Dudek, a Springfield resident. Her favorite drink is their caramel frappe.

They came up with the idea for DMV Drinks in April, when they heard people complaining about coffee shops closing.

"What originally was just mindless chatter turned into a real idea that we took to," said Griffin. "We started to look into creating coffee recipes that would rival those of big coffee brands. My mother used to work as a barista in Starbucks a long time ago, so she helped us with developing the recipes. Josh's mother works with supplying coffee to corporations like Pete's Coffee all throughout the DMV, so she helped us find the best coffee to use and gave us insight to how the whole industry was run. I am the one who prepares the drinks and I usually am in charge of buying the supplies, while Josh usually runs deliveries. We both equally work on our social media presence."

"We decided to start with making iced drinks and played around with a couple recipes. It took a couple days for us to get the right ingredients down, but in about a week's time we had our first frappes ready to sell," said Putz.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

From left -Springfield residents Josh Putz, junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School, and Lars Griffin, junior West Springfield High.



Abi Dorey, junior, WSHS, Springfield



Cooper Metz, 8th grader, WIMS, Springfield



Cali Dudek, sophomore, LBSS, Springfield

**"We realized with this quarantine that it would be a lot harder for people to get their daily coffee, and we saw an opportunity in a doorstep coffee delivery service."**

— Josh Putz, junior at Lake Braddock Secondary School

Griffin and Putz are waiting for verification for their new website, DMVDrinks.org. They estimate the website will be functional by June 5.

"Right now we're waiting for the IRS to verify our EIN, which allows us to function as a business online," said Griffin.

Griffin and Putz are enjoying learning how to run a small business, and they hope to expand their menu in the future.

"Personally I've really enjoyed doing delivery since I take care of the majority of that aspect. To me it's another adventure into a new area that I've never been to before," said Putz.

"There's so many small things you have to keep track of if you want to succeed. The experience is definitely fun and will be beneficial in the future no matter what," said Griffin.

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

**-Werner Heisenberg**

**BULLETIN BOARD**

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

**SHARE THE LOVE FOOD COLLECTION**  
The Loyal Order of Moose in District 4 will be conducting a "Share the Love" Food Collection Drive at their Moose Lodge in Fairfax on Saturday, June 6. This will be a Drive Up/Drop Off Collection of non-perishable and canned-good items. Donations of paper products, personal hygiene and other essential items may also be donated. Details: June 6, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. -- Centreville Moose Lodge, 3529 Chain Bridge Rd., Fairfax VA 22030.

**GOVERNOR ANNOUNCES PHASE 2 OPENING**  
Gov. Ralph Northam this week signed Executive Order Sixty-Five and presented the second phase of the "Forward Virginia" plan to continue safely and gradually easing public health restrictions while containing the spread of COVID-19. The Governor also amended Executive Order Sixty-One directing Northern Virginia to remain in Phase One. Most of Virginia is expected to enter Phase Two on Friday, June 5, as key statewide health metrics continue to show positive signs.

Restaurant and beverage establishments may offer indoor dining at 50 percent occupancy, fitness centers may open indoor areas at 30 percent occupancy, and certain recreation and entertainment venues without shared equipment may open with restrictions. These venues include museums, zoos, aquariums, botanical gardens, and outdoor concert, sporting, and performing arts venues. Swimming pools may also expand operations to both indoor and outdoor exercise, diving, and swim instruction.

The current guidelines for religious services, non-essential retail, and personal grooming services will largely remain the same in Phase Two. Overnight summer camps, most indoor entertainment venues, amusement parks, fairs, and carnivals will also remain closed in Phase Two.

**GOVERNOR ORDERS PHASE 1 OPENING**  
Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam announced last week that Northern Virginia can enter Phase I under the state's Forward Virginia plan. Fairfax County began the first phase to reopen businesses and houses of worship on May 29. The Forward Virginia plan provides guidelines that all businesses must follow in the first phase but eases previous restrictions on restaurants, fitness facilities, barbers and beauty salons, other retail businesses and houses of worship. Movie theaters, concert halls, bowling alleys and other indoor entertainment businesses remain closed.

In general, the first phase eases restrictions as follows:  
Restaurants: Restaurants, breweries, distilleries and wineries may serve dine-in customers at tables outside, at 50 percent capacity of their normal indoor capacity. Tables must be spaced six feet apart and no more than 10 people may sit at a table. A restaurant's indoor bar area must remain closed. Disposable menus are required and servers must wear cloth face coverings.

Fitness Facilities: Gyms, recreation centers, sports centers and pools may open for outdoor activities only. Customers, trainers and instructors must stay 10 feet apart from each other and equipment also must be spaced 10 feet apart. Exercise classes are limited to 10 people. Outdoor swimming pools may be open for lap swimming only, with one person per lane. Indoor pools, hot tubs and spas, and outdoor basketball and racquetball courts must stay closed.

Personal Care: Beauty salons, barbers, spas, massage centers, tanning salons and tattoo shops are limited to 50% of their normal capacity and customers must make appointments to come in. Customers and employees are required to wear face coverings. These businesses must keep a record of all clients served, including name, contact information, date and time of service.

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-Thomas Fuller

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**Night and Now Daze**



By **KENNETH B. LOURIE**

That wasn't so bad. Approximately 29 hours in the hospital in a private room and all I had to do was drink as much water as possible and shower half a dozen times. The goal being to rid myself of the radioiodine I had been given at the beginning of my admission. This "therapy" is used to measure the iodine related to my papillary thyroid cancer and to determine presumably, whether in fact the tumors in my lungs are thyroid cancer which has moved or whether it's still lung cancer or both.

To say my life depends on the results of this finding and the interpretation of the follow-up gamma camera scans this Tuesday is perhaps a bit much. But my life expectancy sure depends on it, as well as my treatment life going forward. There's too many ifs, ands or buts to present here, but suffice to say, my future, yet again, is sort of up for grabs.

For the moment however, I feel mostly fine. I'm back eating the foods that I love, after a 31 day lull when I was on the low iodine diet, so all is semi back to normal. Being able to satiate once again does soothe the ravenous beast inside me. Nevertheless, there are bigger problems/possible solutions in the offing that M&Ms, Double Stuf Oreos and Entenmann's Marshmallow Devil's Food Iced Cake can really address. Still, if I'm going to go down, I can now go down with a smile on my face and a delicious dessert/snack in my mouth.

In a way, I'm back on the precipice. Are the tumors in my lungs all lung cancer which has previously led to my being given a "terminal diagnosis/prognosis: "13 months to two years" back in late February, 2009 or are they papillary thyroid cancer, stage II; not terminal, and not just treatable, but curable? Or are they something in between, as yet undiagnosed? Maybe I've developed new tumors? Maybe I'm to be diagnosed with a third type of cancer? Maybe, maybe, maybe. That's how I have to roll for the next few weeks (thyroid cancer) and the next six weeks (lung cancer) when I will have the usual upper torso CT scan of my lungs, the first one I will have had in over five months (all my lung cancer-related treatment was stopped while we addressed the thyroid cancer). Perhaps in mid-July I'll know the "end of the story" as radio icon Paul Harvey used to sign off; "Good day!"

For now, all I can do is wait and not "smoke em if I got 'em" but "keep my powder dry" and "keep my eyes on the prize." It's really no different than pretty much how I've managed to live my life since I got the diagnosis 11 years and over three months ago. Although, oddly enough it feels different than it did before as if I didn't have as much at stake then as I do now. Almost as if this is my last chance to catch a break, especially considering that living nearly a decade past my original prognosis I've already received a lot of breaks. Somehow though, this medical-diagnosis-to-be conjures a kind of inexplicable finality.

I don't want to go back. I want to go forward. Unfortunately, which direction I'm headed is out of my control. The endocrinologist and the oncologist will tell me whether I "Return to Jail" or "Pass Go and Collect \$200." They will be monopolizing my future and in so advising, will indirectly determine my covid-19 risk as well. Will I be visiting my healthcare provider/facility regularly for treatment and possibly exposing myself to the virus

(which would be a major complication for a patient like me: over 65, with lung disease and a weakened immune system) or will I be able to live my life without any of the life-ending-type fears I've had since 2009, and the world has had since the first quarter of 2020?

So even though I don't know for sure that my life is at stake, I think I can definitely say that my living is. Will it be cancer-centric or not? Either way, I'll live with the outcome. The only question is: for how long?

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



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