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Mount Vernon Gazette

MOUNT VERNON'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER • A CONNECTION NEWSPAPER

JUNE 18, 2020



South County Task Force Statement On Police Tasing of Gum Springs Resident

The South County Task Force, an activist group in Mt. Vernon and Lee Districts, denounces the tasing and assault of La Monta Gladney, a black man in the Gum Springs community, by officer Tyler Timberlake from the Mt. Vernon Police Station. We applaud the police chief and commonwealth attorney for taking immediate action to release the body cam video, charge Timberlake with three counts of misdemeanor assault and battery, and suspend him and the other three officers involved.

OPINION

While the response of authorities modeled the behavior we expect from accountable public institutions, we think the Fairfax County Police Department should be more mindful of the everyday encounters of its officers with or black and brown residents. Black churches and the civic association in Gum Springs, as well as the Fairfax NAACP, have for years sponsored joint police-community events such as job fairs, basketball games, and meetings. Yet at a community meeting June 8 at Harvest Assembly Baptist Church — near the site of the tasing the previous Friday — about a dozen residents spoke passionately about personal experiences with police harassment and rudeness.

It is time to address the issue of how police conduct themselves with black and brown residents straight on. Having police-community social events doesn't address this issue. Also residents may not feel safe putting their name on a complaint against an officer that will be investigated by the police department itself.

We would like to see the department, or perhaps the civilian review board and auditor, review not only incidents of police physical aggression, but also incidents where police are being disrespectful and rude in interactions with black and brown people.



PHOTO BY SUSAN LAUME

Large crowd of about 500 citizens of all races gathered in Mount Vernon earlier in June to protest police brutality and support the Black Lives Matter movement.

This could be done by reviewing officers' body cam videos. At the community meeting, many residents, including Supervisor Rodney Lusk, recalled a lifetime of being stopped for driving while black. Body cams would reveal instances of rudeness and disrespect.

The county knows that police treat people of color differently. An auditor's report released in March 2020, acknowledged that the 2016 use-of-force incident data "suggests that not all individuals in Fairfax County experience police contact in the same way. This finding is consistent with a 2016 survey of Fairfax County community members in which non-whites reported more negative perceptions of the police than whites. Specifically, non-whites reported being stopped by the police in the past 12 months more often than whites. Non-whites were less likely than whites to report that they were treated fairly by FCPD officers." [1]

County officials also know that force is

more often used against Blacks. The 2019 auditor's report says that Fairfax County Police Department data indicate that use-of-force incidents involving Blacks (who make up 10% of the population) remained around 40% from 2015 to 2017 and rose to 44% in 2018. [2] In contrast, force incidents involving Whites dropped from 39% to 33% from 2017 to 2018. [3]

The county has commissioned an academic study to figure out why that is. We suggest that while waiting for the results, it should demand that police officers treat people of color with respect, review body cam footage to make sure officers are doing this, and demote those who are not. Disproportionate disrespect leads to disproportionate use of force against people of color, as exhibited in the taser video. Neither can be allowed, period.

Last year 247 complaints were filed with the auditor. Given the fear victims must overcome to file a complaint that will be

investigated by the very agency that abused them, we expect there were more incidents. The auditor and the review board need investigative powers, rather than turning complaints over to the police department.

Mary Paden, chair
South County Task Force

[1] Richard G. Schott, Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor, 2020, Public Report: A Review of the Disparity in FCPD Use of Force Incidents by Race in 2016, p. 30.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor/sites/policeauditor/files/assets/reports/oipa%202016%20uof%20disparity%20review.pdf>

[2] See the FCPD Internal Affairs Bureau 2016, 2017, and 2018 reports available on the FCPD website.

[3] Richard G. Schott, Independent Police Auditor, 2020, Annual Report of the Fairfax County Independent Police Auditor 2019, p. 15. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeauditor/sites/policeauditor/files/assets/reports/oipa%20annual%20report%202019.pdf>

Scenario 1, 2 or 3: What Will It Be? 2020-21 school plans presented to the County School Board.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) presented their preliminary recommendations for the 2020-21 school

year to the Fairfax County School Board on Monday, June 15, during its work session.

"There are a lot of moving parts to this plan, and much depends on how Virginia's Phase 2 and Phase 3 rollouts go," said FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand. "We are

considering all of the variables; foremost are the health and safety of our students and staff members along with budget considerations and support for staff members and families."

With three potential scenarios in place,

each offered different teacher-student contact time, benefits and risks. According to FCPS, considerations for fall return included the need to:

"Ensure safe learning and working environments."
SEE SCENARIO, PAGE 8

McEneaney Associates has always had one motto in mind... not to be the biggest, but the best. This year marks our 40th year in Alexandria, and we are celebrating our investment in helping to build our town into the thriving community it is today. To learn more about our Associates and our firm, visit www.WeAreAlexandria.com

#WeAreAlexandria



VIRTUAL OPEN SAT 6/20 & SUN 6/21, 11AM



Monticello Park | \$1,650,000

Monticello 6-bedroom, 5-bathroom home with 5,526 SF of total living area! Garage with entrance to a mudroom. 3 gas and 1 wood-burning fireplace. 4 bedrooms and 3 baths upstairs. George Mason Elementary. Walk to Del Ray. 417 Monticello Boulevard
Laurel Conger 703.577.6899
www.LaurelConger.com

OPEN SUN 6/21, 2-4PM



Kirkside | \$1,150,000

Absolutely gorgeous colonial on a spectacular large lot in a beautiful quiet cul-de-sac with 5-bedrooms, 3.5-baths. Incredible master and hall baths, new hardwood floors, glorious sunroom and deck. This house has it all!!! 2200 Traies Court
Robin Arnold 703.966.5457
www.RobinArnoldSells.com

VIRTUAL OPEN SUN 6/21, 12PM



North Ridge | \$1,125,000

This 4-bedroom, 2.5-bath home boasts tons of living space, four bedrooms on the upper level, a large rear yard and a two-car garage! Features include wood-burning fireplace, gorgeous floors, spacious living and dining rooms, and an office and den. 511 High Street
Jen Walker 703.675.1566
www.JenWalker.com



Old Town \$1,950,000

Completely & impeccably renovated 4-story jewel in Harborside. Stunning living room with coffered ceiling and wet bar. Fabulous culinary custom kitchen, 3 bedrooms, 3.55 baths, office with French doors opening to patio. Exquisite master suite with spa-like bath. Interior elevator and 2-car garage parking.

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
www.BabsBeckwith.com



Old Town \$1,775,000

Exquisite historic home, built in 1800, that has been fully remodeled and offers modern conveniences combined with historic charm. 3 bedrooms plus a den or office off the master bedroom, 3 full baths, and plentiful closets. Delightful brick-walled garden oasis with lush plantings.

Lauren Bishop 202.361.5079
www.LaurenBishopHomes.com



Old Town \$1,625,000

Rich in history and architectural integrity, this placqued 4 level home built in 1874 has been tastefully renovated. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, luxury kitchen, formal dining & living room, family room, rec room & courtyard. Original gleaming antique floors, exquisite millwork & 2 working fireplaces.

Annette Hinaman 571.216.4411
www.AnnetteHinaman.com



Old Town \$969,000

Built in 1900, this semi-detached 3-bedroom, 2.5-bath townhouse offers a wonderful open floor plan with finished attic room as an office. Handsome reclaimed floors, updated stainless kitchen, exposed brick walls, & family room awash in natural light. Spacious master suite with renovated bath.

Babs Beckwith 703.627.5421
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Potomac Yard \$742,000

It's Perfect! This light-filled, contemporary 3-bedroom, two-level townhouse with 2.5 baths awaits a new owner seeking snazzy space, easy living, convenient location, plus garage & driveway parking. Organized closets, private balcony, hardwood floors, and stainless appliances.

Ann Duff 703.965.8700
www.AnnDuff.com

VIRTUAL OPEN SUN 6/21, 11AM



Warwick Village \$649,900

Spacious townhome features 3 finished levels, 3 bedrooms and a full bath on second level all with ample closet space. Lower level with renovated full bath and a cozy family room. Peaceful landscaped & shaded back yard with brick patio. Steps to "The Avenue" in Del Ray. 2908 Sycamore St.

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NEWS

COVID-19: Not a Fair Fight

Regional perspective: pandemic exposes health inequality leading up to discrepancies in life expectancy.

BY KEN MOORE
THE GAZETTE

The population of Fairfax County is 16.8 percent Hispanic but Latinx individuals account for 65.3 percent of positive COVID-19 cases in Fairfax County.

By Sunday, June 14, months into the pandemic, African Americans accounted for 1,154 deaths, more than 41 percent of the total, in Maryland even though they account for 30.9 percent of the overall population.

Arlington's Latinx community makes up 15.8 percent of the county's population, but accounts for 55.5 percent of the positive COVID cases. And Arlington's black population which makes up about 1 in 10 people (9.6 percent) in the county accounts for almost 1 in 4 deaths (24.1 percent).

In Alexandria, Latinx population, which comprises 16.8 percent of the City, has had 55.5 percent of Alexandria's positive cases.

Montgomery County's black population had the highest rate per 100,000 individuals (79). And the African-American population in Montgomery County was the only demographic that had a greater percentage of deaths than its demographic predicts.

THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA Regional Commission concluded that Latinos accounted for a disproportionate number of coronavirus cases in this area.

"The Hispanic or Latino share of cases in Northern Virginia is three-and-a-half times their overall share. All health districts in NOVA have significantly higher shares [for the Latino population]. This indicates significant ethnic disparities in COVID 19 cases."

Coronavirus cases by zip code in Northern Virginia also revealed disparities by race, ethnicity and economic status. In the City of Alexandria, zip code 22305 stood out for 579 cases.

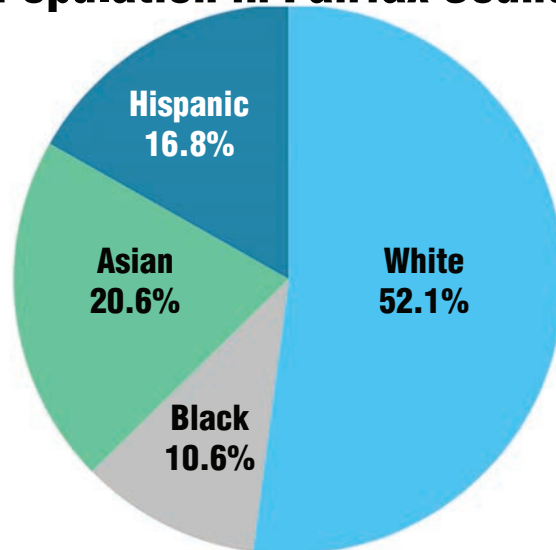
"Although viruses do not discriminate, the COVID-19 virus disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations just as other diseases and health conditions do," according to the Alexandria City Government, explaining some disparities.

The zip codes with higher concentrations of poverty, lower education levels, and crowded housing conditions tend to have the highest rates of COVID. These people are more likely to work in jobs where they are underpaid, don't get paid sick leave, depend on public transit and don't have telework opportunities, bringing more risk of exposure to coronavirus.

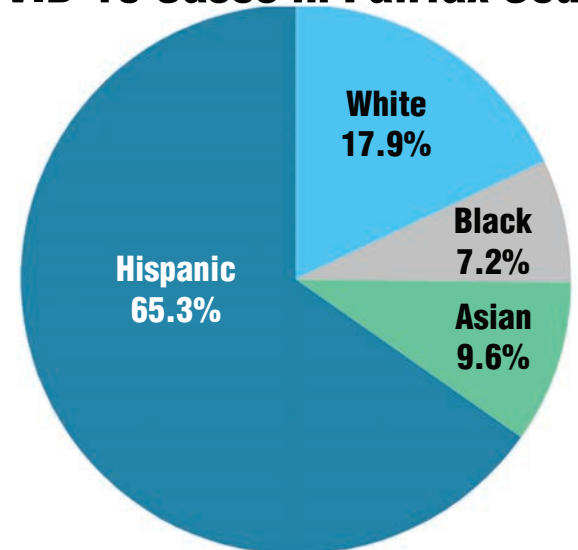
"Inequitable conditions have created disproportionate rates of chronic health issues resulting in large differences in life expectancy across Alexandria. Now, these chronic health issues also make people more sus-

www.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

Population in Fairfax County



COVID-19 Cases in Fairfax County



SOURCE: FAIRFAX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

ceptible to severe disease from COVID-19 infection," the city report said.

"AFFLUENCE in Northern Virginia masks gaps in health and economic opportunity that have been exacerbated even further by the current coronavirus pandemic," according to the Northern Virginia Health Foundation.

"Although everyone is potentially susceptible to the virus, research shows that people of color and low-income families are especially vulnerable and have higher death rates from COVID-19," said Steven H. Woolf, of Virginia Commonwealth University and the Northern Virginia Health Foundation. "They have greater exposure to the virus, are more susceptible to complications, have greater barriers to health care, are more vulnerable economically, and suffer from deteriorating health caused by deepening economic adversity." Northern Virginia is a "seemingly affluent area" with good health statistics in general, but life expectancy varies by 17 years within the region, he said. "Economically marginalized communities will face devastating wage losses, unemployment and food scarcity. Low income families will undoubtedly struggle the most to rebound."

THE PANDEMIC has magnified discrepancies that health offi-



Neighborhood Health, a local non-profit community health center serving primarily low-income and uninsured people in Fairfax County, Arlington and Alexandria held a COVID-19 testing day in the Arlandria neighborhood of Alexandria, where 236 residents received free COVID-19 tests on Saturday, May 16.

cials already knew were there.

According to the Arlington County Government, "Arlington rightfully celebrates being highly ranked in many areas, like employment, education and health. However, looking beyond aggregate data and drilling into results in different geographic, ethnic, racial and other often-marginalized groups reveals that health disparities exist among Arlingtonians in these groups. Not everyone is thriving." According to the Fairfax County health department, "The data does underscore some of the existing disparities in Fairfax which make certain populations more susceptible to exposure and to greater risks from COVID-19 infection, just as they are for other diseases and health conditions."

"Simultaneously, COVID-19 continues to showcase and exacerbate the disparities that exist in our most vulnerable communities," said Fairfax County Chairman Jeff McKay.

"Now more than ever, we know it is the role of our local government to achieve true structural change in our communities. We in Fairfax County must honestly ask ourselves, 'What actions are we taking?; What voices are we lifting up?;' and for me as your Chairman, 'Are our policies affecting systemic change in our community?'"



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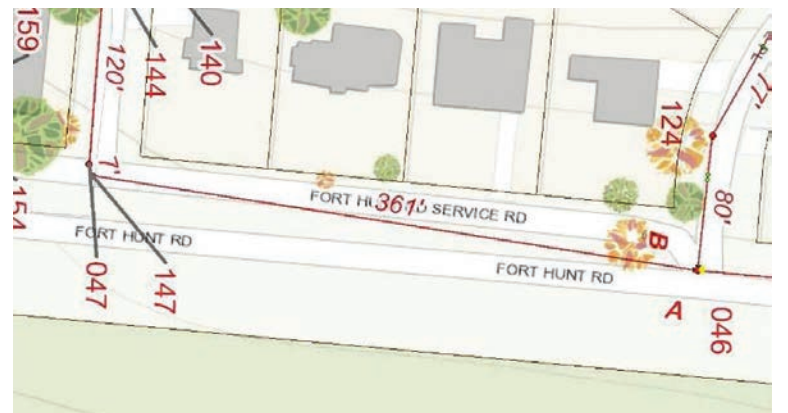


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NEWS



Intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Hunting Cove Place in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County.

Emergency Work at Fort Hunt Road and Hunting Cove Place

On Friday, June 5, 2020, a broken sanitary sewer line and other damaged infrastructure were identified by county staff during a wastewater pipe inspection at the intersection of Fort Hunt Road and Hunting Cove Place in the Alexandria section of Fairfax County.

This area of Fairfax County was deemed appropriate to proactively inspect due to results from the county's enhanced risk management approach that attempts to prevent problems before they become apparent.

As of Tuesday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m. there has been no disruption of service to residents.

Public works employees visited homes near the project on June 8 and discussed the project with residents and provided contact information. A letter to the community is being prepared.

A water valve and a wastewater line were broken. Fairfax Water Authority has been alerted; they are working to repair the broken water valve. County engineers and contractors are on site planning the repair of the sanitary sewer line.

A cleaning nozzle that was trapped in the line has been removed. There is a vacuum pump truck at the site to mitigate and prevent the possibility of a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO).

For more information please email Information Officer Irene Haske at Irene.Haske@fairfax-county.gov or call 703-324-5821, TTY 711.

Requesting Local Control For Eviction Moratorium

Chairman Jeff McKay has asked Gov. Ralph Northam to allow local control to pause eviction proceedings until expanded state and county resources are in place to help residents. As a reminder, the Governor has paused evictions statewide until at least June 28. Without the proper precautions however, McKay says that an increase in people

losing their homes could lead to a surge in the rate of infections. Not only does risk of infection increase for anyone becoming homeless, then everyone with whom they come into contact would also face increased risk.

In addition, because of the economic stressors many are facing due to this pandemic, it is simply the right thing to do.

Workhouse Arts Center Launches Community Market

The Workhouse Arts Center will launch the weekly Workhouse Community Market. Surrounded by historic buildings, the venue will allow businesses and organizations to market and sell goods and services.

The outdoor environment will provide greater exposure for brick and mortar businesses during Phase I and Phase II of re-opening the local economy. The Workhouse

artistic spirit will contribute to the great atmosphere with live music and art demos.

WHEN: Every Friday and Saturday 9am – 1p.m. starting June 26

WHERE: Workhouse Arts Center, Lorton, VA Beautiful Quad

WHO: Local business, farmers, artisans, partners and friends

SEE WORKHOUSE, PAGE 5

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



PHOTO BY MIKE SALMON/THE CONNECTION

In Mount Vernon, there were several citizen meetings before finalizing the Richmond Highway Widening plan.

Four Road Projects Move Forward In Transportation Approval Chain

Road projects are spread throughout Fairfax County.

BY MIKE SALMON
THE GAZETTE

Transportation in Fairfax County got a boost lately when the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority moved forward on four projects in the county that are designed to help traffic congestion.

The four projects are the Richmond Highway Widening from Mount Vernon Memorial Highway/Jeff Todd Way to Sherwood Hall Lane in the Alexandria section of the county; the Rolling Road Widening project from Hunter Village Drive to Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield; Fairfax County Parkway Widening from Lee Highway (Route 29) to Nomes Court; the Soapstone Drive Extension from Sunset Hills Road to Sunrise Valley Drive in Reston. The Soapstone Drive Extension is a Fairfax County DOT project, and the other three are state projects and are listed currently on the Virginia Department of Transportation webpage under "In Design."

According to the NVT, these projects were picked because they compared the congestion reduction relative to the cost of the project, and these four projects are aimed at reducing congestion which is a quantitative factor referred to as Congestion Reduction Relative to Cost (CRRC) impact of the respective projects, looking out to a 2040 horizon, NVT said. With the backing from the NVT, the funding will be in place to the completion of the project, said NVT's Monica

Backmon.

That doesn't mean bulldozers will roll out any sooner than originally planned, but funding will be in place and that "definitely helps getting to the ultimate goal which is completion," Backmon said.

The NVT regularly partners with the two state agencies that are heavily involved in surface transportation in Northern Virginia – VDOT and the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT).

Both VDOT and DRPT have their own funding sources for transportation projects and sometimes jointly fund transportation projects with the NVT, their information stated.

NVT's revenues result from legislation enacted by the Virginia General Assembly in 2013 via House Bill 2313, which taps into three existing taxes – Sales Tax, Grantor's Tax, and Transient Occupancy Tax – which were increased in Northern Virginia to generate the NVT's annual revenues of approximately \$300 million. In addition, the NVT can finance projects through the issuance of long-term bonds. NVT revenues would be used to repay debt service on the bonds.

The Richmond Highway Widening project is a \$372 million project that will widen Richmond Highway from four to six lanes, add separate bicycle lanes and sidewalks on both sides of the road, and reserve median width to accommodate Fairfax County's future dedicated bus-only lanes.

Workhouse Arts Center Launches Community Market

FROM PAGE 4

The Workhouse Community Market provides a safe, open-air place to reconnect with customers. Southern Fairfax County Chamber of Commerce Members' Fee: \$75/day. Non-Chamber Members: \$100/day.

Discount for participating both Friday and Saturday - \$140/\$185 Members/Non-Members respectively.

Spaces and tents will adhere to social distancing

guidelines and the Workhouse will monitoring traffic and cleaning guidelines. Vendors

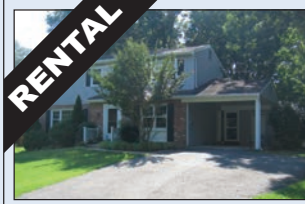
must provide their own tents. Workhouse will provide tables first come first served.

For more information or to sign up for a booth; email Elena Romanova elenaromanova@workhousearts.org



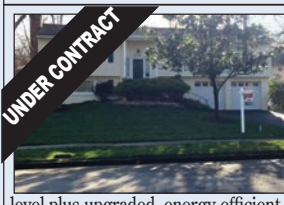
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RENTAL



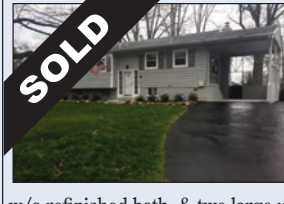
Alex/Riverside Estates \$3,000
8318 Orange Court
Beautiful Colonial with 3 finished levels in Historic Mt. Vernon. 4 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, hardwood floors, screened porch, deck, carport and large corner lot. Separate laundry & storage rooms. Scenic commute along the GW Parkway – 5 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 to Old Town, 25 to Ntl Airport & 30/35 to Pentagon/dc. Walk to elementary and high school.

UNDER CONTRACT



Alex/Riverside Estates \$605,000
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.

SOLD



Alex/Riverside Estates \$580,000
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.

SOLD



Mt. Vernon/Wessynton \$759,900
3102 Cunningham Drive
Gorgeous, newly renovated 4 Bedroom, 3 BA contemporary home in sought after waterfront community of Wessynton, 1 car garage, new deck, .34 acre lot. Large, spectacular new kitchen w/all the bells & whistles. Beautiful new bathrooms. Separate dining room. Living room w/fireplace. Large picture windows on back wall overlook private wooded setting. Family Room w/nice wood paneled ceiling. Wessynton amenities include tennis courts, swimming pool, walking paths, & boat ramp on Little Hunting Creek which flows to the Potomac River. Located just a half mile from Mount Vernon Estate & the GW Parkway, it is a mere 10 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 20 mins to Old Town, & 30 mins to D.C.

SOLD



Alex/ Woodleigh Woods \$701,000
3709 Maryland Street
Welcome to this stunning 4BR, 3BA, 2 car garage, contemporary-complete w/a gorgeous courtyard out front & a large deck & hot tub which overlooks a beautifully landscaped bkyd. 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 bkyd. The lower level offers a 4th BR, 3rd full bath & family room that opens out to the courtyard. 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 ¼ 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.

SOLD



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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Fairfax County NAACP Demands for Police Reform and Accountability

At a Town Hall meeting on Tuesday, June 16, the Fairfax County NAACP unveiled the following vision and demands for police reform:

1. Reporting Necessary Data. Within one month of the closing of each calendar quarter, FCPD must publish on its public website a statistical report covering all FCPD police stops, traffic citations, traffic stops, major crimes, arrests, misdemeanors, stops of any other kind, frisks, citations, arrests, searches and consents to search (including waivers of consent), and use of force incidents by police station, and magisterial district. The race, gender, and ethnicity of each individual in the data collected shall be analyzed and reported.

- The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BoS) and FCPD agreed that such information would be provided annually pursuant to Use of Force Recommendation 33 of the Ad Hoc Police Review Commission, Report of the Use of Force

Subcommittee, at 33 (Sept. 4, 2015). That information is not publicly available and should be reported quarterly.

2. Remove Police from Schools. Fairfax County Public Schools should end the School Resource Officer program and reconsider any use of police forces in schools.

3. Body Worn Cameras (BWCs). The County BoS must find the resources to continue the roll-out of BWCs in remaining districts without the planned one-year delay. The BWC Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) must be revised to permit zero tolerance for any officer whose BWC is not turned on during any officer interaction with the public. SWAT teams should be equipped with BWCs.

4. Reporting Officer Misconduct. To the extent permissible under state law, FCPD should

make accessible to the public a database showing when an officer is found to have violated FCPD policy or the law, committed official misconduct, or resigned while under investigation for these offenses. An annual review of reported misconduct by outside source shall be conducted and made public. To the extent FCPD believes such a database of FCPD officer misconduct is not permitted under Virginia or other law, it should advocate for change of such laws.

5. Review Use of Force Policy. FCPD should implement annual review and community input on its Use of Force (UoF) policy starting in the next 60 days.

- ❖ FCPD's UoF policy was substantially revised in 2015, and its implementation has been studied since then. Additional analysis, improvements and community input are needed to improve the policies and develop a better

SEE POLICE REFORM, PAGE 11

Economy May Be Rebounding

BY DELEGATE PAUL KRIZEK

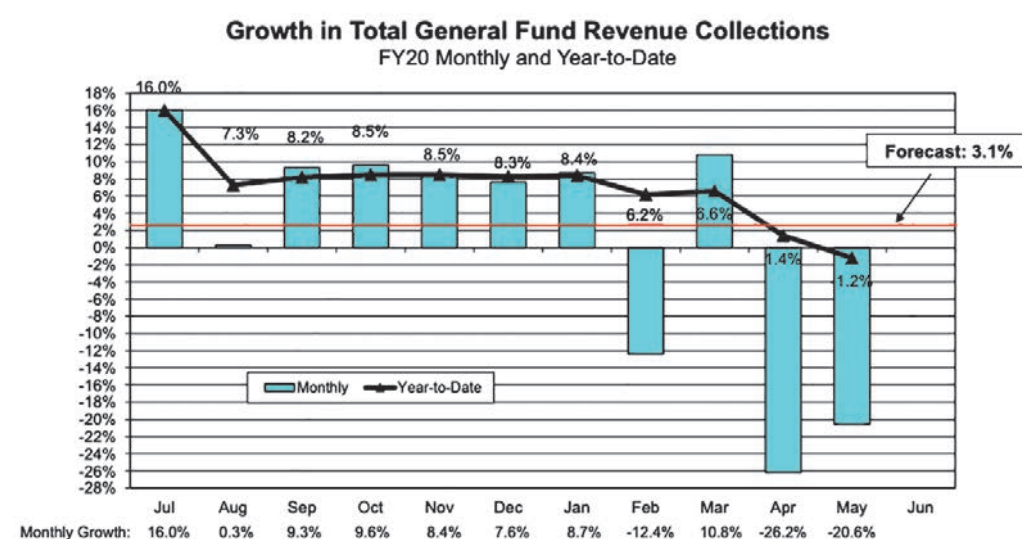
This week, I virtually attended our second Appropriations meeting since we adjourned the April General Assembly reconvene session. We received our monthly economic and revenue update from the Secretary of Finance, Aubrey Layne. This update was the first to include a full month's data reflecting the economic effects from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The good news is that the economic damage caused by the pandemic-forced shutdown to the state budget is significantly better than previously estimated: potentially \$400 million less than the \$1 billion expected deficit. This will help us as we navigate the upcoming 2-year budget, approved in March. We were forced to put most of that spending in abeyance until we return for a special session in August to tackle not only budget priorities but much-needed police reform. The bad news is that local governments dependent upon sales tax revenue are taking a much bigger hit as state sales tax revenue fell 12.5 percent in May compared to the same month last year.

Virginia has received a total of \$3.1 billion in funding from the federal Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Relief Act through the Coronavirus Relief Fund (CRF) which is a huge help. However, this funding has not been approved by the federal government to be used to fill any lost state revenues. This emergency funding must be used for COVID-19 response by Dec. 30, 2020. Since it is possible that these current regulations could be relaxed in the future to help fill in revenue gaps, one half of the state's share of funding will be distributed to state agencies immediately, and the other half of the state funding will be held back in case any future additional federal flexibility will allow us to backfill revenue losses.

As I mentioned in my article following last month's Appropriations meeting, May is typ

SEE REBOUNDING, PAGE 11



WATERMARK

THE FINAL FABULOUS

FEW.



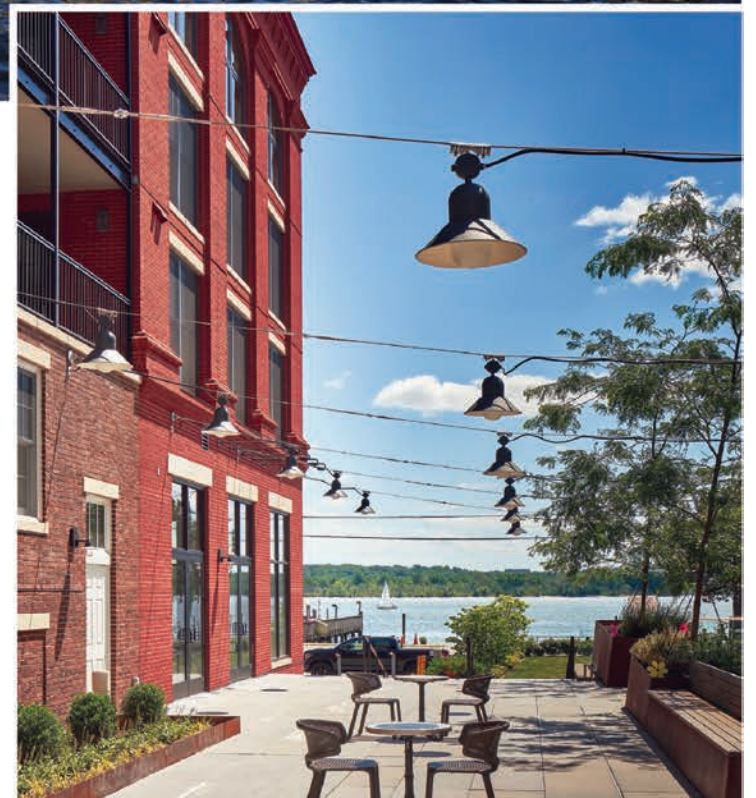
Final Opportunity To Own The Waterfront In Old Town Alexandria. Move In Now.

From Watergate to Watermark, IDI, the developer with a history of creating iconic waterfront condominiums presents Watermark in the heart of Old Town Alexandria.

With the homeowners moving into their new homes, discover for yourself the Watermark lifestyle in the heart of the Historic District.

Up to 2,900 SF of one level living. One half block to King Street. Own today from \$2.6M.

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NEWS

Scenario 1, 2 or 3: What Will It Be?

FROM PAGE 1

vironments for students and staff

Provide options for students and staff that are unable to return to school/work

Comply with any social distancing requirements from state

Address continued access and connectivity inequities

Provide staff with adequate time and training to prepare for new school year

Make decisions as soon as possible for scheduling and communication with families

Involve all stakeholder groups in the planning process."

"We all want our schools to return to 'normal' operations and we're hopeful that will be permitted and feasible during the upcoming school year... This report also includes contingency plans should there be a resurgence of the virus in the fall at the onset of flu season or if ongoing waves of the infection occur. In those cases, we could see a return to distance learning for all students or blended learning," said Brabrand.

The final goal is to reach an agreed-upon reopening of the school plan by June 26. Aug. 25 is the first day of school. Share your thoughts on return to school by email: returntoschool@fcps.edu.

Scenario 1: Virtual Learning: No students allowed back into schools but instead continue distance learning at home with expanded digital access and curriculum. Staff would have access to the buildings for instructional purposes following health department guidelines.

Scenario 2: Reopening with Health and Social Distance Protocols in Effect: According to FCPS, "In-school instruction may be prioritized for high-needs populations such as special education students, English language learners, or students in grades K-2." Some students would be allowed in school. The plan

BULLETIN BOARD

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

CHAMBER JOINS NATIONAL INITIATIVE ON INEQUALITY OF OPPORTUNITY

Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce has joined the National Initiative to Address Inequality of Opportunity launched by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. This initiative will address inequality of opportunity through education, employment, entrepreneurship, and criminal justice reform. The Chamber will participate in a national town hall on June 25 and will provide more information on how local businesses may participate as it becomes available. More information may be found at [https://cca.mountvernonleecham-](https://cca.mountvernonleecham-ber.org/NewsListing.aspx)

ber.org/NewsListing.aspx

RISING HOPE'S VIRTUAL 5K

Rising Hope United Methodist Mission Church is holding its first Virtual 5K on Saturday, June 27, to raise much needed funds to help those in greatest need during the current pandemic.

More than 300 families depend on Rising Hopes food pantry each week- that's more than 200,000 meals provided each year. For a \$25 registration fee, participants get access to weekly training and mission tips through a private Facebook group and great swag. There's also an opportunity for participants to donate additional funds through the same site. The first \$5,000 raised will be matched by a generous donor. Sign up for the Virtual 5K at: <https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/rising-hope-virtual-5k>.



Aug. 25 is the first day of school for students in Fairfax County Public Schools. Please submit your comments by email returntoschool@fcps.edu.

may involve students coming to school buildings on alternating days or every day for a half-day only (AM/PM shifts). The majority of students would be served virtually. Fridays would be set aside as in-person support days for students with IEPs, English Language Learners, or other selected students in need of additional support. Busing children to school in this scenario would be a challenge.

Scenario 3: Online Learning by Need: This could be within either of the other scenarios, as well as in a "routine"

return structure. It would require alternative instructional delivery for students opting out of in-school instruction. It could involve Online Campus, Virtual Virginia. Full-time online enrollment would be offered to students with documented medical needs (personal or family). FCPS is asking parents who choose to opt-out to announce that decision by July 10.

Online Comments

Isn't a global pandemic enough of a medical reason to keep children at home?

Until there is at least some sort of successful treatment for COVID19, we do not feel comfortable sending our child to school.

If non-disabled peers are provided opportunities for distance learning, all special education students must be provided equal opportunities; mandating that all special education students return to in-person school simply because they are disabled is discriminatory.

It's too soon to open up schools. It puts our children at risk and so many still need to be tested young and old. How can we take the lives of others and put them at risk? This is crazy!

I am hoping that the FCPS board takes into account the psychological health of the children in addition to the physical health. For many kids, the social isolation and lack of opportunities to develop emotional-social intelligence is detrimental to their progress and mental health. (Source: www.fcps.edu/node/41287)

COMMUNITY MARKET AT WORKHOUSE

The Workhouse Arts Center announces a new Community Market initiative in partnership with the South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce every Saturday beginning June 27 from 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. The Community Market is designed to help businesses rebuild during Virginia's Phase II reopening in a unique setting all while keeping local arts alive. Surrounded by historic buildings, the Workhouse offers a unique venue for Fairfax and Prince William businesses and organizations to market and sell goods and services. The outdoor environment provides greater exposure to traditional brick and mortar businesses as well as a way for community to shop in a safer way during Phase I and Phase II of re-opening the local economy. Spaces and tents will

SEE BULLETIN, PAGE 14

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM



Congratulates the Class of 2020!



Top Row: Aidan Bain, Jackie Beauregard, Ella Bennett, Raegan Bonner, Kyle Burner, Laura Duffield, Brooke Dunton

Second Row: Claire Engelhardt, Elizabeth Eskew, Robert Greenberg, Shiane Heiber, Preston Heilig, Kyla Johnson, Kelsey Mathieson

Third Row: Ellie McNulty, Nikolas Mercader, Jack Nagtzaam, Anthony Noufal, Brian Peguero, Steven Peguero, Channing Pinkos

Fourth Row: Rylie Reid, Keenan Reynolds, Daniel Rowe, Jack Ryder, Reeves Versaggi, Sawyer Weiss, Jeremy Young

Members of the Class of 2020 have been offered admission to and/or will be attending the following high schools:

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OPINION

Police Reform

FROM PAGE 6

understanding of these issues (and reduce improper uses of force) across our community.

6. Demilitarize the Police Force. The BoS and FCPD must establish local restrictions to prevent the Department from purchasing or using military weaponry.

❖ Although we understand FCPD has not participated in the so-called 1033 program, a report should be published on the Department's website making clear what, if any, military equipment has been obtained by FCPD under any such program. By BoS ordinance, FCPD should be precluded from obtaining or using military weapons against citizens.

❖ The Federal Government's 1033 Program under which military weaponry has been provided

to local police departments should be ended.

7. Strengthen the Police Civilian Review Panel (PCRP). Fairfax County's CRP should be given independent investigatory power, including the authority to review UoF complaints; it should not be beholden to IAB investigators, and the panel should be allowed to choose its own counsel; the CRP should be permitted to petition the BoS independently and publicly; and it must be given access to all relevant documents electronically so that panel members can review materials most efficiently.

8. Mandatory Counseling and other early intervention. The FCPD must require counseling and other appropriate early intervention for any officers involved in violent confrontations or other incident.

Rebounding

FROM PAGE 6

ically a significant month for revenue collections. This is due to regular collections of withholding and sales taxes, as well as estimated and final payments for individuals being due on May 1. This deadline was extended by Governor Northam this year to June 1. As a result of COVID-19's effects on revenue generated from payroll withholding and retail sales, combined with delaying the individual tax payment deadline, we can now determine that total general fund revenue collections fell 20.6 percent in May. Due to the new June 1 due date, full data from the month of June will be needed to help determine an updated revenue forecast for the state budget.

On a positive note, in May, payroll employment increased by 2.5 million jobs nationwide, while expectations were for a decline of 7.5 million. The unemployment rate also fell from 14.7 percent to 13.3 percent. Also, the number of people filing for initial unemployment benefits is steadily declining. Initial claims for unemployment fell by 249,000 to 1.9 million during the week ending May 30, and the four-week moving average fell from 2.6 million to 2.3 million.

In Virginia, payroll employment fell by 365,000 jobs in April, a drop of 9.0 percent compared with April of last year. Employment in Northern Virginia fell by 8.4 percent.

The Virginia Employment Commission (VEC) has received 820,000 claims since March 15, with over 620,000 claims paid out—an all-

time record. That number compares to 11,000 claims per month prior to the pandemic. The calls answered by the call center have more than quadrupled to over 28,000 per week, and the weekly claim volume through the automated phone system is over 530,000 compared to 28,000 prior to the pandemic. Total payments to Virginians will total more than \$4 billion this week, compared to less than \$25 million per month prior to the pandemic. What is striking is that the week before the COVID-19 crisis began, we had the week with the lowest unemployment rate in the last 50 years! Imagine the huge increase in work volume for the VEC office and you can understand why there have been many delays in processing claims. Look at the claims chart and you can see the huge spike at the end: no previous recession in the past fifty years was even close.

As this was the first full financial report under the pandemic, we can now see much of the effect it has had on our economy. While we are seeing some positive changes from just a month ago, and there is a sense that things may be bottoming, the key will be the public's confidence, which won't be at 100 percent until we either get a vaccine or therapeutic treatments for the virus. That consumer confidence is also undermined by the big hit to small businesses, like the bead and jewelry store my wife has in Alexandria, and to lower-paying jobs. The trend is that large businesses are getting people back to work faster than the smaller ones.



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Northern VA Family Service; More than a Safety Net for 100 Years

During the Great Depression, they handed out coal and coats. Now, it's an array of services.

BY EDEN BROWN
THE GAZETTE

Ninety-five years ago, Northern Virginia Family Service handed out coats and coal in Alexandria. Today, the organization has a much broader mission and geographic reach throughout Northern Virginia and – in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic – an increased need for its services. Those services include providing food to those experiencing hunger and shelter to those experiencing homelessness, offering mental health counseling to individuals and families including mothers with postpartum depression, offering legal services including to families separated at the border, helping young children get off to a good start, teaching job skills, connecting graduates to employers, and supporting foster care families.

NVFS has evolved over its nearly 100-year history, always remaining true to its mission of helping neighbors in need. That was true after 9/11 when it provided case management support to survivors of the Pentagon attack, it was true after Hurricane Katrina when residents of the gulf relocated to this region, it was true during the Great Recession and during last year's government shut down.

"The remarkable thing is, since the pandemic began, even as most of our staff transitioned to working from home and offering our services remotely, there was never an interruption in those services," said Kathleen McMahon, NVFS's executive vice president for development and communications. "This is what we do. We help individuals, families, and communities in crisis. So, when COVID-19 arrived, we had the infrastructure, the staff, the programs, and the expertise to jump in."

NVFS IS EVERYWHERE in the Northern Virginia area. With headquarters in Oakton, NVFS runs a Hunger Resource Center and SERVE family shelter in Manassas, a Multicultural Center and thrift shop in Falls Church, job skills center in Tysons Corner, and Early Head Start and Head Start programs at multiple locations from Arlington to Loudoun, for example.

During the pandemic, the Hunger Resource Center and SERVE shelter are open while other services are being offered virtually including tele-mental health. The largest food distribution center in the region, the Hunger Resource Center provides food on site and by food transportation trucks to more than 4,000 individuals, as well as to the 92-bed SERVE Family Shelter, annually. "As the HRC operations adjust to the pandemic, food distribution procedures have been modified to streamline the eligibility process, ensuring that our neighbors' needs will be met quickly, while preparing support for new clients to ensure families do not go hungry," said McMahon. "Additional food pick-up hours have been added to accommodate growing de-



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED BY NVFS

Volunteers distribute food at the NVFS food truck.



Stephen Safoschnik and Claude DeHart, on the day in May that they moved out of the SERVE shelter and into their own apartments.

mand, and designated hours for seniors have been implemented to lower risk for those more susceptible to the virus."

McMahon said they used to get more food donations, but current shortages are having an impact and the organization has had to purchase food. She is grateful for the support of the Capital Area Food Bank, and U.S. Foods, which donates excess food. Given the increase in new clients, NVFS is trying to balance the demand for food donations with the supply of food. Each family in need receives two weeks of food and hygiene supplies.

THE SERVE SHELTER is also still "client-facing," said McMahon. "While most of the country has been advised to stay home, SERVE shelter staff have remained on the front lines and client-facing to ensure the

shelter remains a safe, healthy, and stable environment for families. We work very closely with the Department of Health," McMahon said. "We've added a lot of protocols with PPE's [Personal Protective Equipment] and cleaning. Clients have been cooperative, and on the rare instance that someone tests positive with COVID-19, they are safely moved into a hotel, through a partnership with Prince William County. To date, there have only been a couple cases of people who needed to quarantine."

Beyond its food center and shelter, NVFS has moved to virtual services for many of its programs during the pandemic. "We have been able to serve 200 of our clients with tele-mental health that is HIPAA compliant, for instance," said McMahon. "We are transitioning our workforce programs to become virtual as well."

More people need emergency assistance right now, which is why NVFS set up a special fund at the start of the pandemic. Its emergency financial fund was created in response to residents struggling to cover rent, medical bills, and utility bills because they had lost their jobs, had their hours reduced or faced other challenging circumstances, and could not make their payments. NVFS is grateful to its partners who have contributed to the fund including, so far, the Community Foundation for Northern Virginia, the Arlington Community Foundation, and United Way of the National Capital Area.

At no time since the Depression has the need for NVFS been as great as it is under COVID-19. With the "can-do" attitude that appears to be a hallmark of NVFS staff, McMahon says: "Though we cancelled our in-person spring 'Road to Resilience' gala, our online campaign demonstrates how eager residents of our community are to help their neighbors in need."

Adds NVFS President and CEO Stephanie Berkowitz: "We have received overwhelming support from individual donors, corporate sponsors, and foundations. And while the online campaign has been very successful, we are still a long way from meeting the escalating need in our community."

NVFS's APPROACH is holistic. "We might see a client for one thing, but he or she may end up getting referred to another part of the organization because they need something else," McMahon said. For instance, families seeking asylum may benefit from legal services as well as mental health counseling. Or a family in need of food may also benefit from job training. NVFS won't abandon its clients midstream, either. As Bianca Molinari Anez says, (see adjacent story), "... we wrap up when we feel the client is at a healthy place."

Many of NVFS's clients are living with trauma, whether they have lost their job, experienced a mental or physical health challenge, or are facing deportation. Essential NVFS programs like family reunification or gang prevention lead to positive outcomes that are not only good for the individuals, but good for families and for the community.

In much of its work, NVFS uses a case management approach. They also frequently collaborate with other local nonprofits, government agencies and others to ensure clients have access to a broad range of resources. Donors appreciate these partnerships because it helps their donations go further.

"Our work never stops," said McMahon, "particularly since we are seeing the mental health of everyone exacerbated by the virus."

In addition to its dedicated staff of experts, NVFS depends heavily on thousands of volunteers who serve on the board and its committees, and in many other capacities. The organization currently has volunteers reading stories to young children virtually and cooking meals on weekends and dropping them off at the SERVE shelter. The website lists volunteer opportunities.

Jessica Clark, a Vienna resident who started out volunteering with NVFS and is now on the board of directors, said, "I started out working with them as a volunteer on the Marketing Committee, but they turned out to be such a great group of people doing such important work that I decided I wanted to make more of an impact and joined the board." This is an organization where the director of the Healthy Families program, Nanci Pedulla, gets out and does deliveries to families herself, and who regularly encourages her staff to take mental health days so they don't burn out.

NVFS sustains its operations with government grants and private contributions. It has received the Platinum Seal from Charity Navigator - which means it has the highest level of fiduciary responsibility and transparency. But with no gala this spring, and a full plate of COVID-19 crisis cases, it will lean heavily on the support of Northern Virginians who can afford to help. To learn more about NVFS, to volunteer, or to donate, see: www.nvfs.org.

Discussing Racial Injustice with Children

Books and visual art can help begin difficult conversations.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE GAZETTE

As horrific scenes of police brutality and images of passionate protesters fighting for racial justice are ubiquitous in a smartphone and social media obsessed society, parental control over information that children receive can be limited. Framing and discussing such issues can be equally as challenging.

Children pick up on racial injustice earlier than parents might think, so toddlers can begin to learn about injustice early in very basic terms, says Glenda Hernández Tittle, Ph.D. Montgomery College, School of Education. "I think it's really important to start talking to children about racism and biases early and why it's wrong that people are mistreated," she said. "Ask how they would feel if they were treated that way themselves. Research shows that as early as two to three years old, children are quite aware of biases."

Parents can create a safe environment in which children and young adults can express their thoughts. "Conversations about racial injustice can be difficult, but they are necessary," said Karen Bentall, a librarian at Oakridge Elementary School in Arlington. "Books can help, [but] I must stress the importance of reading a wide variety of books where children can see themselves and others."

Reading can give children an appreciation of the experiences of those whose lives are different from their own. "Books can be windows into the lives of others, mirrors to reflect our own experience, and sliding glass doors that allow us to step into other worlds," said Bentall. "They help develop empathy."

Literary classics such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* can offer a springboard for lively discussions on race, suggests Bentall. "Many parents feel a sense of nostalgia toward their childhood books, but looking at them through a social-justice lens can spark conversations about the insidious bias that has crept into our language, thoughts, and patterns," she said.

Movies can also give children an opportunity to understand the lives of others. "You can ask questions about characters and why they did what they did," said Tittle. "You can also ask children about their own peers and who sits with whom at school and how they feel about that."

The types of characters that children see in books, movies, television and other types of media can have an impact on their cultural and racial understanding. "It's important for children to see diverse characters in positions of leadership and power," said Tittle. "Be cautious in selecting. Some classics often perpetuate biases and racist attitudes."

Visual art is another medium by which children can see and absorb beliefs about the characteristics

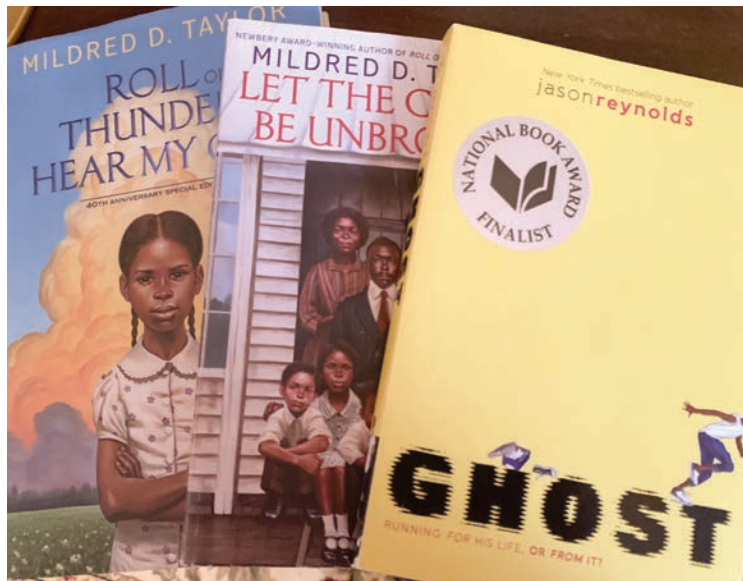


PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The types of characters that children see in books, movies, television and other types of media can have an impact on their cultural and racial understanding.

"Conversations about racial injustice can be difficult, but they are necessary."

— Karen Bentall,
Oakridge Elementary School

of others. "Looking at art can also be a powerful part of raising awareness of racism and calling for needed change," said Kathryn Horn Coneway.

One example, says Coneway, is the Four Freedoms Project co-founded by Hank Willis Thomas. "[It] includes multiple versions of images that focus on freedom from fear, freedom from want, freedom of worship, freedom of speech," she said. "Families can view the original images created by [artist] Norman Rockwell 70 years ago and reflect on how the recreated versions made by the Four Freedoms Project both signify and call for change."

Parents can encourage their children to be agents of change, suggests Tittle. "Such as, 'What do you think we should do if we see something like that?' These prompts go beyond what we've typically done and help to develop a culture beyond awareness but also of advocacy and activism," she said.

Conversations around race should be ongoing, advises Tittle. "Parents will have different comfort levels about talking to kids about these topics and that's okay, she said."

An examination of the past can inform current conversations on racial justice. "Though parts of American history can be difficult and even heart wrenching, remain honest about our history, and that while we are proud of some of our history, there are things we didn't do right and that we need to work to change," said Tittle. "These conversations should be ongoing."

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Taking the Results in Stride

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Apparently, I'm back in the lung cancer business. According to the video visit I had June 8 with my endocrinologist, my thyroid cancer has not moved into my lungs where my oncologist thought it might have - given the results of a previous biopsy and some surprising tumor inactivity in my lungs. The 'surprising inactivity' the tumors didn't kill me. Living, as they say is the best reward. And it sure beats the alternative.

Nevertheless, I can't say I'm thrilled with the outcome. All the tumors in my lungs still being non small cell lung cancer squashes my dream that those tumors were curable papillary thyroid cancer (as it had been suggested by my oncologist in a previous phone call) that had moved rather than the originally diagnosed incurable lung cancer which itself had metastasized. In fact, papillary thyroid cancer is called "the friendly cancer," according to one of my oncology nurses at the infusion center. There's nothing friendly about non small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

I was hoping that the diagnosis of thyroid cancer was going to change my life from being cancer-centric to being thyroid-cancer-are-you-kidding? You mean to tell me, after 11 years and four months living as, and being treated for, lung cancer, the actual diagnosis is thyroid cancer? But alas, poor Yorick, 'twas not to be. If what I've been told recently is the absolute-without-a-doubt truth/accurate diagnosis, than I am back on the emotional precipice waiting for the other shoe to drop or at the very least, have one of my socks fall down around my ankles and get all balled up in my sneakers. (Which I hate by the way; when socks get all rearranged like that. I like the heel of the sock to be lined up properly with my heel and the toe of my sock not twisted away from the toes and so forth.)

Once again, I suppose I'll have to pull myself up by my own boot straps, which I don't even own, and step lively, putting one foot ahead of the other and trying not to back up one step for every two I take. I've progressed too far for too long to backslide now. And even though my working thyroid-cancer-instead-of-lung-cancer narrative is now a thing of my medical past, it was sort of fun and uplifting - while it lasted. Now, I have to reconnect with my previous lung cancer reality and try to find some new approaches to living with a "terminal" disease.

It reminds me of what Cpl. Klinger (Jamie Farr) the cross-dresser from the television series M*A*S*H once did when he returned to camp after assisting the doctors off-site at an aid station. He was all business away from the 4077th, but upon his return, a few hundred yards outside "the upholstered toilet seat" as Trapper John (Wayne McIntyre) once called it, Klinger put his female nurses cap back on and reverted to his previous form as a skirt-wearing Section 8 wannabe, and life for him and all the other M*A*S*H personnel returned to their abnormal.

So too must I return to mine: as a stage IV, non small cell lung cancer patient who hasn't died and somehow has managed to keep under the reaper's radar. I mean, how else does one live so far beyond one's original "13 month to two year" prognosis? Granted, I have a good attitude and have made some changes to my diet and lifestyle, but hardly would I characterize my behavior as any kind of poster-boy status. Sure, I've tried to make light of an extraordinarily heavy burden and made lots of jokes in the face of what I was led to believe was certain premature death (what death isn't premature?), but that's more about personality than procedure. I was up for the challenge is all. Not everybody is. As Kenny Beatrice, a long time sports-talk-show host in the Washington DC area used to say: "You can't teach height." Lucky for me, as my late father often said, I was "born with broad shoulders."

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

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adhere to social distancing guidelines and the Workhouse will monitor traffic and cleaning guidelines for optimal safety. Interested vendors should contact Elena Romanova at elenaromanova@workhousearts.org for more information.

PARK AUTHORITY OPENS MORE AMENITIES

The Fairfax County Park Authority began opening additional amenities to the public on June 12, 2020, as the region moves into Phase Two of Gov. Ralph Northam's Forward Virginia Blueprint for reopening. State COVID-19 safety guidelines will now permit these actions to occur. Park staff have already started to implement these changes. However, the Park Authority has 427 parks, and changes will occur over the next few weeks. Openings include:

Athletic Fields – Athletic fields will open for organized and permitted use based on the governor's and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines pertaining to use of athletic fields.

Basketball Courts – Outdoor courts will open, but users must stay 10 feet apart.

Volleyball Courts – Outdoor courts will open, but users must stay 10 feet apart.

Dog Parks – Dog parks will open with users urged to maintain social distancing.

Marinas – Marinas will open for rentals at lake-front and riverfront parks.

Mini-golf – Miniature golf courses will open at all locations, except Jefferson District Park (due to construction).

Restrooms – Permanent outdoor restrooms and portable restrooms will open system-wide. We encourage visitors to bring hand sanitizer since these facilities are often without running water.

Picnic Shelters – Shelters within parks will open for permitted use with 50% capacity of regular occupancy limits, not to exceed 50 people.

Playgrounds – Playgrounds will open system-wide including Clemjontri Park and Chessie's Big Backyard at Lee District Park. There is no special cleaning; visitors should use at their own risk and must adhere to social distancing guidelines.

RECenters and other Park Authority facilities, such as nature centers, pools and historic sites remain closed currently. For more information, call 703-324-8662 or email parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov.

SUMMER CAMPS, REC-PAC, SACC CANCELED

The Fairfax County Park Authority and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services are announcing the cancellation of 2020 summer camp programs due to the COVID-19 crisis. Included in these cancellations are all FCPA sponsored summer camp programs, REC-Pac programs held at local schools, summer camp programs sponsored by NCS and SACC programs.

Collectively, these programs represent childcare and recreational opportunities for thousands of families across Fairfax County. Impacted NCS programs include RECQuest, SACC summer programs, Therapeutic Recreation Camp, Value in Prevention Camp (V.I.P) and Teens in Action. Senior Centers and Adult Day Health Care Centers remain closed to all participants until further notice. Additionally, community centers, neighborhood centers, resource centers and teen centers are closed.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACKS, TENNIS COURTS OPEN

Fairfax County Public Schools is following the Fairfax County Park Authority's phased reopening process and will be allowing individuals to exercise on high school tracks and tennis courts beginning May 22. All visitors are urged to practice health department safety guidelines, including social distancing, and to keep groups to 10 people or less. No scheduled or organized team activities are permitted at this time. Playgrounds, basketball courts, and athletic fields are to remain closed in alignment with the Park Authority until further notice.

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