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WSJ30.com | 919-602-7974 **WAKE FOREST** editor@wsj30.com | ED 5 VOL 1



WSJBUSINESS

Wake Forest's Wendy's is experiencing a food shortage, just as other food businesses are, due to COVID-19. **Page 5**



WSJOPINION

Columnist David Leone takes a look back at how the Spanish Flu epidemic of 1918, which killed 20 million worldwide, shutdown Wake Forest. **Page 4**

CORONAVIRUS CASES AT A GLANCE

1,103	14,360	544	1.32M	78,829	4 M	277,944
WAKE COUNTY CONFIRMED CASES	NORTH CAROLINA CONFIRMED CASES	NORTH CAROLINA DEATHS	UNITED STATES CONFIRMED CASES	UNITED STATES DEATHS	WORLDWIDE CONFIRMED CASES	WORLDWIDE DEATHS

Statistics as of 05/09/20

Town budget: \$57 million

Tax decrease, \$21 waste user fee proposed

BY KATHY HARRELSON
For the WSJ

Changes from the Coronavirus have affected the proposed Wake Forest 2020-21 budget, if not so much in numbers certainly in expectations, based on a message given by Town Manager Kip Padgett last week to commissioners.

With a traditionally conservative approach continuing, the town's financial analysis recommends a roughly 3-cent decrease in the ad valorem tax rate from 52 to 49 cents per each \$100 in assessed property valuation based on an estimated tax base of \$6.6 billion (Wake County) and \$127 million (Franklin County).

Revenue from ad valorem taxes is projected to increase by about \$4 million due to tax base growth.

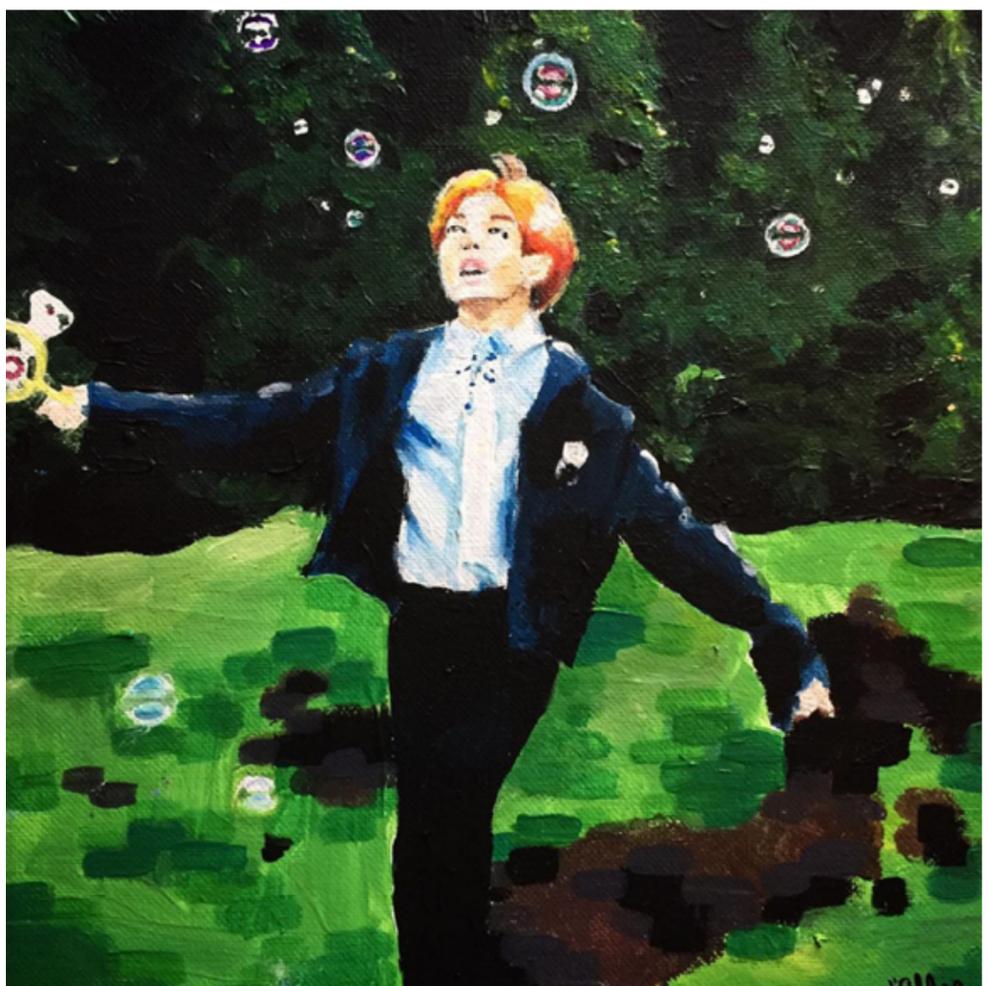
Padgett proposed \$812,400 (70 percent less than last year) out of unrestricted reserves to balance the roughly \$57 million Wake Forest budget. The unassigned fund balance is proposed at \$11.3 million. The town has a target of keeping fund balance at 20-25 percent of the total budget.

The town is expecting a 5 percent (\$422,500) decrease in collected sales tax, due to the virus. Interest income and building and inspection fees could also fall.

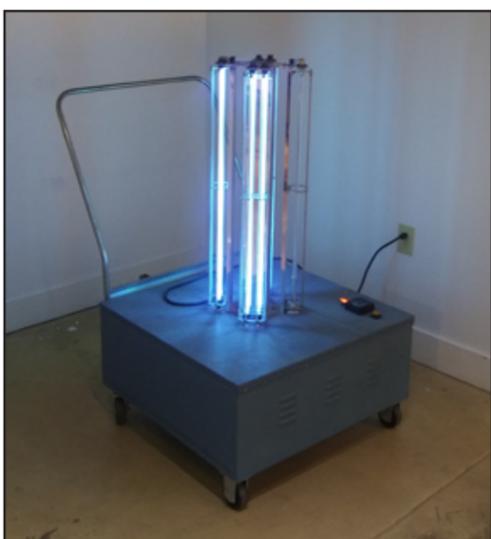
In a less apparent slice into the tax rate, the town proposes removing the residential solid waste fee from the tax rate and establishing a \$21 user fee monthly for each user. The fee would show up on customers' water and sewer bills on Jan 1, 2021. Currently, the commercial tax base is subsidizing the residential solid waste collection due to the way the costs were merged when the town merged its water and sewer system with Raleigh in 2005.

BUDGET | CONT'D ON PAGE 8

VIRTUAL ARTS SHOW



The Wake Forest Middle School Arts Booster had a Virtual Arts Day on May 2. Above, is one expression by 8th-grader Alyssa Dubiel. She calls it "Bubbles." The project was fueled by teachers, and several dozen students contributed. Organizers see Virtual Arts Day as becoming an annual event. See story and more artwork on Page 9.



Shining a light on the virus

The Cotton Company uses medical technology to sanitize

BY JAY LAMM
editor@WSJ30.com

With businesses re-opening under North Carolina's Phase 1, owners are working diligently to take the proper steps to stop the spread of the Coronavirus.

Bottles of hand sanitizer are placed in sight and in reach of customers. Employees are wearing gloves and masks. The customer must feel and be safe.

The Cotton Company in downtown Wake Forest has taken its

The Cotton Company will be using this UVC room sanitizer to sanitize the business during the Coronavirus pandemic. WSJ PHOTO | JAY LAMM

COVID-19 cautions light-years ahead.

Businessman Bob Johnson has brought in a UVC room sanitizer machine that kills all germs within the range of the rays of light.

"I bought the machine back when the country was having its Anthrax problem," he said. "The light bursts kill all germs within its reach."

The 350-pound machine will be rolled around the Cotton Company each morning, dispensing the sanitizing rays, beginning the business day with a clean and healthy space for employees and customers.

"There are three kinds of UV rays emitted from the sun. UVA,

LIGHT | CONT'D ON PAGE 8



Sweet music

Michael Burger, Tri-Area Ministry Food Pantry chairman, accepts a donation from Hans Boyesen of Born Again Guitars.
PHOTO | CONTRIBUTED

Yard waste collection resumes May 11

**Contributed To WSJ
From The Town of Wake Forest**

After weeks of exploring possible alternatives following the closure of its normal yard waste disposal site, the Town of Wake Forest has located a private facility willing to accept the Town's yard waste. As a result, Wake Forest will resume yard waste collection service Monday, May 11, at 7 a.m. Crews will follow the normal collection schedule beginning with Monday's route.

In late March the Town was forced to suspend yard waste collection in response to the closure of the Raleigh Yard Waste Center (RYWC) due to COVID-19. Although the RYWC reopened to Raleigh residents in mid-April, the facility remains closed to outside residents and municipalities. The location of a private facility willing to accept the Town's yard waste makes it possible for Wake Forest to resume normal yard waste collection service.

Beginning May 11, residents must bag for collection all leaves, pine needles and grass clippings or place them inside a garbage receptacle marked 'YW' (yard waste). As always, please avoid placing items on or near mailboxes, utility boxes, utility poles or other fixed objects.

Residents that currently use a 48-gallon recycling cart can upgrade to a 96-gallon cart and keep the smaller receptacle for yard waste by marking "YW" on both sides.

Similarly, residents that already have a 96-gallon recycling cart can request and obtain a free 48-gallon cart for yard waste. To learn more or request a cart, visit <http://bit.ly/CartRequestForm>.

Residents are urged to observe the following guidelines to help improve the yard waste collection process:

- Bags may be clear or opaque but must be at least 13-gallons in size – the size of a standard kitchen garbage can liner;
- Do not place yard waste in grocery store shopping bags or inside Town-issued rollout trash or recycling carts;
- Do not mix in sticks, trash, rocks or other debris;
- Place your bagged leaves, pine needles and grass clippings behind the curb by 7 a.m. on your normal yard waste collection day.

To view a map of the weekly yard waste collection schedule, visit the yard waste page on the Town's website. Wake Forest residents can track the progress of collection crews by calling the Yard Waste Collection Hotline at 919-435-9582. The hotline is updated each weekday morning by 8 a.m. with information identifying areas where crews will be working that day.

Police launch "Take Me Home Program" to protect children & adults with disabilities

**Contributed To WSJ
From The Town of Wake Forest**

According to the Alzheimer's Association, about six out of 10 people living with dementia will wander away from their homes. As the development of the disease continues, it can become increasingly difficult and potentially impossible for the person to find their way home. Many children with autism may also wander. That's why the Wake Forest Police Department (WFPD) is introducing a new program designed to help officers find and safely return home people with disabilities as quickly as possible when they wander away from their families or caregivers.

The Take Me Home initiative is designed to protect Wake Forest children, adults and the elderly with disabilities, such as autism, Down syndrome or Alzheimer's and other dementia disorders, who go missing and may be unable to communicate who they are and where they live.

The program is a free, voluntary and confidential da-

tabase offered, managed and maintained by Wake Forest Police for Wake Forest residents. It is only accessible to law enforcement via the WFPD.

When someone enrolls in the program, police obtain their basic information, a current digital photograph, family emergency contact information and other information that might help police if they encounter them.

Then, in the event a caregiver alerts police their loved one has wandered away, officers will have the immediate ability to distribute a photo and other pertinent information to law enforcement and other first responders which will save precious minutes in launching the search.

The system can also work in reverse. In the event police find someone wandering the town who's confused, disoriented and unable to say who they are or where they live, officers can check the database to determine if they are enrolled in the program.

Enrollment is easy. Caregivers can register family members with special needs by completing the online form at www.wakeforestnc.gov/police/community-out-reach/take-me-home.

POLICE BLOTTER

Man charged with larceny, breaking and entering

David Stevens Collins of 608 S. Main St., Wake Forest, was arrested by Wake Forest Police on Wednesday, May 6, and charged with breaking or entering-felony and larceny after breaking/entering.

Collins was placed in the Wake County Jail under a \$10,000 secured bond. His court date is May 7.

The Wake Forest Police Department also made the following arrests from April 30 thru May 6:

April 30

- Michael Lloyd Anderson, 36, Jennifer Ave., Wake Forest: failure to appear; \$1,000 secured bond.
- Willie Lane Burnette, 42, Cedar Street, Wake Forest: driving while impaired and identity theft; \$20,000 secured bond.
- Renee Raynor Gooch, 52, Bruce Garner Road, Creedmoor: hit and run leaving the scene of property damage; bond unavailable.
- Dannie Lee Mann, 62, Franklin Street, Wake Forest: felony possession Schedule II controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia; \$3,000 secured bond.

May 2

- Rashaud Antonio Cooley, 29, 24th St., Butner: possession of marijuana up to 0.5 oz., possession of marijuana paraphernalia and possession of tetrahydrocannabinols; \$5,000 secured bond.
- Charles Michael Dunston, 59, Spring Street, Wake Forest: failure to appear; \$2,000 secured bond; Wake Forest Police Department.
- Tashanda Lynette Nore Fisher, 28, Allen Road, Wake Forest, monetary condition; \$1,015 bond.

May 3

- Tevon Conrad McNish, 21, Brooklyn, New York: attempt to obtain property by false pretense and obtain property by false pretense, \$30,000 secured bond.
- Omar Oniel Rose, 21, Brooklyn, New York: attempt to obtain property by false pretense and obtain property by false pretense; \$30,000 secured bond.

May 4

- Michael Patrick Benoit, 24, of Lynn Hills Drive, Zebulon, possession of heroin; bond unavailable.

May 5

- Lance Douglas Breneman, 32, Bear Branch Way, Wake Forest, driving while impaired, \$2,000 unsecured bond.
- Tomas Antwan Lucas, 41, Walnut Avenue, Wake Forest, assault on a female; no bond.
- Sheldon Whitney Evans, 61, Brookhaven Place, Henderson, misdemeanor larceny and second degree trespass, \$1,000 secured bond.

May 6

- Tony Lee Scott, 495 Dick Faines Road., Henderson, driving while impaired, no bond.
- Charles Kevin Jones, 2628 Height Lane, Wake Forest, financial card theft, larceny-misdemeanor, \$13,000 secured bond.
- Tiffany Leandra Rednowers, 124 S. 7th St. A, Smithfield, larceny/anti-inv.dev., possession drug paraphernalia, \$3,000 secured bond.
- Troy William Pugsley, 105 Candlewick, Dr., Youngsville, possess., maintain place controlled sb, poss drug paraphernalia, \$4,000 secured bond.
- Charles Kevin Jones, 2628 Height Lane, Wake Forest, assault of female, larceny, larceny-misdemeanor, no bond.
- Jonathan Russell Chalfant, 2578 Primrose Lane, Creedmoor, larceny/anti-inv.dev., \$3,000 secured bond.

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Try chicken instead. The Wake Forest Wendy's off Main Street posted signs at the drive-thru window on Wednesday explaining to customers that some menu items are not available. This is due to supply challenges in the meat industry due to the Coronavirus.

WSJPHOTO | KATHY HARRELSON

Where's the beef?

Coronavirus pandemic causing food stores, restaurants to limit meat purchases

BY KATHY HARRELSON
For the WSJ

With 5,800 locations across the country, fast-food restaurant chains — such as Wendy's — have been running out of beef due to the Coronavirus.

Wake Forest's Wendy's is no exception.

On Thursday the restaurant posted a chicken nugget bag deal on the drive-thru window along with an apology that some menu items are not available right now.

This pairs with many food stores — Costco Wholesale, Harris Teeter and

Food Lion included — that are limiting meat purchases to customers. A typical limit locally is three packs of meat per customer.

The supply of meat has been in focus since late April, when the pork processor Smithfield Foods said that Covid-19 was forcing it to close some plants. Others, including Tyson Foods, repeated the warning in subsequent days. The concerns led President Donald Trump to invoke the Defense Production Act to help meatpackers keep plants open.

Data from the United States Department of Agriculture show that cattle slaughter rates are down about 25 percent

from this time last year. About 100,000 cattle are slaughtered for beef on a typical day in the U.S., but the total was about 75,000 on Monday.

Companies have been challenged with employees getting the virus and with keeping their plants sanitized.

The decrease in restaurant sales due to virus restrictions has also affected the meat industry. Shifts in production, packaging and distribution have slowed down supply.

As of Monday, U.S. beef and pork processing capacity was down 40 percent from last year, according to USDA.

"It's very difficult to speculate on how

challenges to the food supply will evolve in the coming weeks, but we are doing our best to maximize our production to meet demand," Tyson Foods said in a statement.

On Wednesday, Alicia Battle was shopping at a local Food Lion.

Looking through the slim cuts of beef, peering through her glasses and over the top of a homemade face mask, she said her family would just have to cut back on eating so much meat.

"It might be healthier to eat a few less hamburgers," she laughed. "It's part of what we have to do, I guess. We'll get through."

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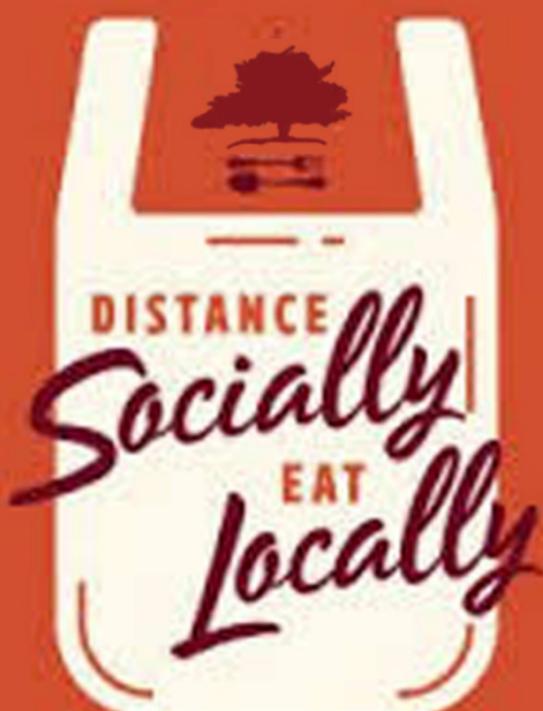
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DISTANCE Socially | EAT Locally

WSJ OPINION

EDITORIAL

This municipality budget has it going on

The Wake Forest Town finance staff and Chief Financial Officer Aileen Staples have put together an impressive budget package for the town for fiscal year 2020-21.

Getting to a balanced budget is not an easy task, and with the dynamics of the economy changing so much from the first of the year until now with the effects on the Coronavirus, the staff has proposed a roughly \$57 million budget that is conservative and reasonable for the times as well as visionary for future needs and services of the town.

This is not fluff but genuine kudos to praise a combination of years of solid budgeting that allow the town to enjoy fiscal responsibility even in times like now when state revenues are uncertain, transportation projects are getting sidelined and local business trade is under fire from indefinite health restrictions.

The amended budget of 2019-20 falls in total about \$10 million less than what is proposed for this coming fiscal year. A chunk of that — around \$9 million this coming fiscal year — is added due to the assumption of the Wake Forest Fire Department by the town, to be operated as a town department.

It seems clear that the preparation for this move was well thought out and the foresight to secure funding through the existing Fire Department's funds as well as funding from Raleigh puts the town in excellent condition for this to be a positive move for residents and not something that will be a financial burden in the near future, if ever.

About \$8 million was carved off of departmental requests, which is also a difficult decision-making process in preparing any budget yet is evident at the tips of the fingers of smart budget preparers who know the true needs of an organization.

At first glance, a \$21 user fee for residential solid waste that would be added to residential bills in January shadows over a proposed ad valorem tax decrease of about 3 cents.

Municipalities are notorious for decreasing tax rates while hitting taxpayers with added and increased fees.

This fee to customers, however, is a necessary move. Since the merger with the Raleigh water and sewer system, property taxpayers have assumed the cost of this. Moving this cost out of the tax realm and into a user fee category is the responsible administrative move and should have really been done much sooner.

A municipality does not get into a secure financial shape overnight, which is the major reason for commendation today. This budget is a continuation of excellent financial choices for the town. It builds on transportation, economic development, cultural resources and downtown district strengthening, and it pays down about \$6.8 million in debt. It increases town personnel responsibly, and correlates the new proposed positions with tangible, observable needs.

In addition, the forward vision that the Finance Department, under leadership of the Board of Commissioners and Town Manager Kip Padgett, has is reflective in a comfortable unrestricted fund balance of around \$11 million and a stable utilities fund that is not draining the life out of a general fund but is actually projected to be bringing in a gain from customer base without raising electric rates.

Even the professional preparation of the budget package itself is clear and concise and represents purpose for the good of the town.

The town budget is tight and was apparently prepared with a great deal of expertise and consideration.

The Government Finance Officers Association presented the town with a Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for the current fiscal year, and a repeat of recognition is due for 2020-21.



THE BACK FORTY

When the Spanish flu shut down Wake Forest

You might've heard the coronavirus compared to the Spanish Flu outbreak of 1918, which killed 20 million, including 500,000 Americans and 13,644 North Carolinians. Preventative measures and emergency care were not close to what they are today. But there are similarities.

"Mrs. C.R. Hudson lived near Oakwood Cemetery in Raleigh and recalled that 'they died so fast they could not have proper burials. They couldn't dig graves fast enough,'" wrote Tom Belton in a 1993 article in the Tar Heel Junior Historian. "Influenza spread when people were in close contact, so local health officers moved swiftly to close public schools and colleges, churches, theaters, fairs, and dance halls. Stores, textile mills, and other businesses were also closed. Employees were either sick, afraid of getting sick, or at home taking care of the sick."

Many communities didn't have access to medical care. Not so Wake Forest, which benefitted from its being the origin of Wake Forest

College (now University). In the early 1900s, the college's infirmary was the town's doctor, and when the Spanish Flu struck in September 1918, the college's hospital beds were filled and the school's debating society dorm had also been commandeered for patients. By the end of the epidemic, 60 percent of the students and eight faculty members had been sickened. Six later developed pneumonia and one student died. Several townspeople died as well, including town commissioner R.H. Mitchell, according to the book Connections ... 100 Years of Wake Forest History. A strict quarantine was also placed on the Henry Stallings home due to the flu. At the height of the Spanish Flu, the town banned all public gatherings, churches and schools included.

By April 1919, the epidemic was over. But the ban on social gatherings didn't last that long. The Wake Forest College newspaper, Old Gold & Black, shared news of local townfolk getting together during that February. Several parties

were held for Wake Forest's Helen Poteat, daughter of college president William Louis Poteat, upon her engagement to Capt. Laurence Stallings Jr., a Wake Forest College graduate from Atlanta. Stallings, a U.S. Marine decorated for bravery, and many local boys, had taken part in the other worldwide emergency — World War I. The newspaper also reported that town resident Louise Williams had just recovered from the flu.

In 1910, the Wake Forest Village Improvement Society became concerned about town wells as breeding grounds for mosquitoes and malaria. By 1914, with typhoid fever threatening, Dr. R.S. Rankin, dean of the college medical school, investigated the health situation and locals were urged to be vaccinated against disease. Contaminated wells were closed. These concerns led to talk of a water and sewer system for the town. The N.C. Dept. of Health urged people to install screens on their windows and to clean up areas where mosquitoes might



DAVID LEONE

breed. Waterlines were laid, and water closets (toilets) began to be installed. The town purchased 50 sanitary closets to sell to residents to stop contamination of wells. By that winter, the typhoid threat was lessened.

But more epidemics would come. For instance, 62-year-old resident W.S. Holding died at home following a bout of jaundice in 1916. That same year, Forestville teen Julian Bobbitt died of pneumonia. His high school mates were pallbearers at the funeral. In September 1917, the college infirmary reported

LEONE | CONT'D ON PAGE 5

END OF STORY

Circle, circle, dot, dot, — Now you've got the Cootie shot

Good morning. Well Phase 1 of Gov. Cooper's reopening of North Carolina has gone into effect. To many business owners, that's the first step to pull out of the economic nosedive that the Super Cootie has caused. To others, it means throwing a scarf around your face and heading out to buy plants and seedlings, like a herd of cattle stampeding through the hole in the fence they just found. To

me, it means I can now play pickleball, that is if I knew the rules and had the proper equipment.

In the Town of Wake Forest's update on their stay-at-home order and what they are allowing with the beginning of Cooper's Phase 1, I can now play tennis or pickleball. A sport if played correctly, you are never close to the government mandated 6 feet apart. Unless you rush the net or play doubles with an out-of-control partner, you

should be at least 6 feet away from any other human being. But strange how you could congregate at the dog park, all along, were most of your time is spent making sure a dog's sniffing another dog doesn't turn into a free-for-all for you and the other dog's owner — pulling them apart. I guess somebody had to write the rules.

LAMM | CONT'D ON PAGE 5



JAY LAMM



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WSJ LETTER TO THE EDITOR GUIDELINES
 Letters to the editor must be typed or in email form when submitted. Name, address and phone number must be included for verification. Letters must not exceed 250 words.



Lines at the DMV office in Wake Forest were long Monday, the same day Gov. Roy Cooper announced extensions for residents seeking DMV services.
WSJPHOTOS | KATHY HARRELSON

DMV deadlines extended

BY KATHY HARRELSON
For the WSJ

On first glance at the Wake Forest Department of Motor Vehicle office any morning this week, a head-numbing line formed beyond the front door and into an adjoining parking lot.

"You have got to be kidding me," Matt Leonard mumbled as he closed his car door and glanced down the path of about 25 people already in line at 9 a.m. — most of them masked and ready to do the business of title transfers, registrations and such.

The line was deceptive, however. The three employees helping customers inside were prompt, courteous and efficient. Waiting times outside did not much exceed 15-20 minutes. Because of the Coronavirus restrictions, customers were prompted to stand 6 feet apart, and they were let in no more than five people at a time.

Leonard had brought a plate to turn in and soon found out that he did not have to wait in line at all — just simply hand the plate to a worker at the door.

"That ended up being much easier than it looked," he laughed.

Easier could be the exact way the DMV and state legislators have decided to make it for North Carolinians during the

stay-at-home restriction times because of COVID-19, which extend at least until March 22.

Gov. Roy Cooper — as part of a COVID-19 bill signed Monday — granted a five-month extension of the expiration date on more than two dozen DMV credentials.

The bill also allows the DMV to waive any penalties for a late registration renewal during the extension period. Customers who already paid a \$15 fee for a late renewal in March or April will be reimbursed.

The five-month extension applies to any credential that expires on or after March 1, and before August 1.

The credentials are:

- Learner's permit.
- Limited learner's permit.
- Driver license.
- Limited provisional license.
- Full provisional license.
- Commercial driver license.
- Commercial learner's permit.
- Temporary driving certificate.
- Special identification card.
- Handicapped placard.
- Vehicle registration.
- Temporary vehicle registration.

- Dealer license plate.
- Transporter plate.
- Loaner/dealer plate.
- Vehicle inspection authorization.
- Inspection station license.
- Inspection mechanic license.
- Transportation network company permit.
- Motor vehicle dealer license.
- Sales representative license.
- Manufacturer license.
- Distributor license.
- Wholesaler license.
- Driver training school license.
- Driver training school instructor license.
- Professional house moving license.

The bill extends the due dates for motor vehicle taxes that are tied to vehicle registration to correspond with the extended expiration dates.

There is also an extension of the expiration of an intrastate medical waiver for up to five months.

The local DMV office off Main Street opens at 9 a.m. and closes at 4 p.m. Even if a customer is in line just before 4 p.m., he will not be able to enter after that time.



The Wake Forest DMV Office has poted restrictions for going inside the building, including waiting outside while five customers at a time are served.

LEONE | CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

that of 330 students, 16 had had smallpox, 47 typhoid and 64 malaria. Many students' health was poor, college medical faculty noted. And quite a few people had no sense of personal hygiene (wash those hands!).

In 1920, a statewide flu epidemic led Wake Forest Mayor J.G. Mills to order a 10-day ban on social gatherings, shutting down theaters, churches and schools. A decade later in 1928, the Christmas break started early for the college due

to a nationwide flu outbreak. Twenty people were treated at the college infirmary the following January. The newspaper recommended that people: "get plenty of fresh air; keep regular hours of sleeping and eating; keep your system cleaned out as much as possible; stay out of crowds, and in general keep yourself in as good physical condition as possible."

That's good advice, then as well as now.
 — David Leone is a writer, photographer and raconteur who has worked in Wake Forest since 2007 and lived there since 2012.

LAMM | CONT'D FROM PAGE 4

On the other hand, I think the Town of Wake Forest has done an exceptional job in taking actions that provided safety for all, as they still kept the town running efficiently. To my knowledge they never tried to hide anything from anyone and always stayed in front of the situation. If only they used the same intelligence when dealing with the Christmas Parade.

When things get close to normal and Cooper has developed a phase for it, I would be happy to eat a hot dog, drink a beer, cup of coffee, wine or a mixed drink with any town official or employee and pat him or her on the back for doing their best to keep us safe from the Super Cootie.

During my first day of Phase 1, I saw some wearing masks. Some properly and some around their necks or dangling from one ear.

When this Coronavirus pandemic started, I wasn't all that concerned. I'm the kind of person who will show up to work with a gaping chest wound and a fever of 104 degrees. If the Wake Forest police officers who patrol

downtown don't wear masks, why do I have to worry? Or do they know something I don't know? But anyway, soon I realized the people around me were concerned, very concerned about the spread of COVID-19. So, I started wearing a bandana as a mask. It usually stayed around my neck. After a while, I didn't mind the makeshift mask, it made me feel like John Wayne without the six-gun and Stetson. Later, FRIENDS said they had ordered masks from a lady off of FACEBOOK who lived in Rolesville. With masks probably becoming a bigger part of the governor's next phases, I ordered a few. Very comfortable, great quality and even better price.

I miss feeling like John Wayne, but others seem more comfortable when I'm waiting for Chinese takeout or getting a smoothie from Albert and his baristas at the Wake Forest Coffee Company.

I'm wondering, what is next? Maybe mandated bike helmets in case the virus makes us fall directly on the top of our heads. That will keep us safe.

But really, I hope the next garment the government mandates us to wear is a cowl. Because everyone who knows me well, knows...I'm Batman.

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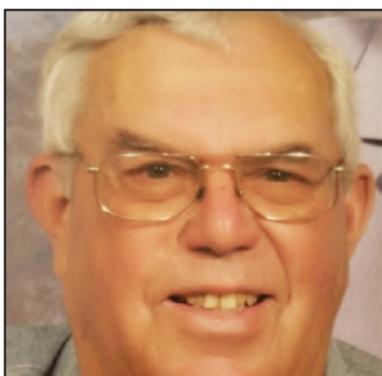
October 27, 1926 ~ May 3, 2020

Willie Cearnas Arnold, better known as Cearnas, 93, of Louisburg went home to be with the Lord, Sunday, May 3, 2020 at his home.

He was born in Franklin County on October 27, 1926, to the late Jonah and Girdie P. Arnold. He was an active member of Leah's Chapel Methodist Church. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and great-great grandfather. He loved fishing, gardening, and spending time with his family and friends. He is now reunited with the love of his life, his wife, whose birthday is May 4. We know there will be a big birthday celebration in heaven.

He was preceded in death by his loving wife of seventy-three years, Mary Helen, a daughter Charlotte Alford, a grandson, Larry Alford, sisters Dolly Arnold and Gracie Medlin, and brothers, Buddy and Carlton Arnold. He is survived by his daughter Linda Layton (Gordon), sons, Willie Arnold (JoAnn), Nelson Arnold (Evon), and Donald Arnold (Connie), eight grandchildren, eleven great grandchildren, and four great-great grandchildren, and two siblings, Harold Arnold (Donna), and Clay Arnold (Stella).

In lieu of flowers, please feel free to donate to your favorite charity in his memory. Due to current restrictions, a private graveside service will be held at Oakwood Cemetery in Louisburg on Wednesday, May 6th at 11:00 am with the Rev. Paul Mitchell officiating. A service of Bright Funeral Home 405 S. Main St. Wake Forest, NC 27587.



Andrew Clifford Hall, Jr

December 12, 1935 ~ May 4, 2020

Andrew Clifford Hall Jr. (A.C.), of Wake Forest, went to be with the Lord suddenly on May 4th, 2020 at the age of 84 while residing at Hillside Nursing Center. He was born December 12, 1935, and spent his early childhood in Louisburg, North Carolina until moving to Wake Forest at 15 years of age. He proudly served in the U.S. Army, then attended his Alma Mater Chowan College. Eventually, A.C. got a job selling fire engines which took him across much of the State to many Fire Departments which he passionately did until retiring after nearly 40 years. A.C. also devoted 20 years as a volunteer fireman with the Wake Forest Fire Department. He was also one of the original members of the Wake Forest Rescue Squad back in the 1960s. The memories gleaned from all the experiences from the emergency service no doubt made an impact on his view of life, especially the fragility of it.

A.C. enjoyed reading and had a vast and meticulous memory. He enjoyed sketching such things as animals, and churches with many of them inside his Bible, most likely drawn during actual Church services. He also liked to carve all kinds of creatures out of blocks of wood. A.C. had a different sense of humor and was known for joking around and making facetious or negative comments, though he was really a kind person.

It is natural for the passing of a loved one to be viewed as a time of sadness. But mostly, it is also a time of rejoicing to those who have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Many verses in the Bible make this promise to those who believe. John 14: 1-4 states "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going."

Those left to cherish his memory are his wife of 56 years, Gloria M. Hall of Wake Forest; son Stephen (Lorinda) Hall of Zebulon NC; daughter Suzanne (Brad) Blankenship of Tumwater WA; and two grandchildren, Samuel and Silas Hall of Zebulon NC. He is preceded in death by his parents, Andrew C. Hall Sr. and Virginia Hall, and granddaughter Selah Grace Hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in his honor to Wycliffe Bible Translators located at PO Box 628200, Orlando FL 32862, or www.wycliffe.org.



Mary Donald Winstead

June 14, 1920 ~ May 4, 2020

Mary Donald (McLawhorn) Winstead, 99, of Raleigh passed away peacefully Monday afternoon, May 4, 2020, at Sunrise of North Hills in Raleigh where she had been a resident for the past years.

She was born June 14, 1920, in Winterville and was the daughter of the late Kathleen (Jolly) McLawhorn and Larry Austin McLawhorn of Greenville, NC. She was predeceased by her loving husband of 48 years, John Sidney Winstead, a sister, Doris (Minges) Richardson, of New Bern, a brother Ed Jolly McLawhorn, of Morehead City and a brother William Austin McLawhorn of McKormick.

Mary Donald graduated from Rose High School in Greenville, NC and attended East Carolina University. After World War II, she and her husband moved to Raleigh where she worked as Secretary for the Psychology Department, the School of Education and the Alumni Office at NC State University. She was a 65 year member of Hillyer Memorial Christian Church in Raleigh where she was very active in Christian Women's Fellowship and visiting shut-ins who were unable to attend services. She worshiped time spent with her family. Trips to the beach or anywhere in eastern North Carolina to visit family members were something she talked about nearly every day during her later years. Nothing brightened her day more than to sit down and view pictures of family and talk about how everybody was doing. She wished so much that her wonderful husband, Sid, had lived to see the birth of her beautiful twin great grandchildren.

She felt so blessed to be survived by so many family members that loved her dearly including a son, Donald Sidney Winstead and wife, Karen Keith Winstead of Wake Forest, a granddaughter, Dawn Winstead Croissant, her husband Chris and two great grandchildren, Kameryn and Kayden Croissant, of Wake Forest and numerous nieces and nephews.

The family would like to issue a special thanks to the staff at Sunrise of North Hills in Raleigh, NC, for all of their loving care over the years, Hillyer Memorial Christian Church whose staff and members visited Mary Donald every Sunday bringing her Communion, Dr. Anant Soni of Raleigh for his special care, Dr. Jeff Lafuria with Doctors Making House Calls and Heartland Home Health and Hospice for their special assistance.

In lieu of flowers, because of her love for our youth, memorial contributions can be made to Hillyer Memorial Christian Church, Youth Programs, 718 Hillsborough St, Raleigh, NC 27603.

Private graveside services will be held for the family on Friday, May 8, 2020, at Raleigh Memorial Park.

A service of Bright Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Wake Forest, NC.

Lynette Ware

February 4, 1958 ~ May 6, 2020

An obituary is not available at this time for Lynette Ware.

Lois E Kibler

August 15, 1924 ~ May 6, 2020

An obituary is not available at this time for Lois E Kibler.

Obituary submissions

Once we have lived a full life, comfort is needed to those left behind after death. The WSJ respects this. Local people should be remembered in a record for generations to come. The WSJ accepts obituaries, at no cost, that describe who your beloved really was. Did he have a best friend to mention? A faithful pet? Did she have the best apple pie ever? In the notice, be free to tell his/her story like it should be. Keep the length to about 750 words. Photos of the deceased with family are welcomed. We will accept one portrait photo and one photo of your choice. Please identify those in the photos as best as possible. Send obituary submissions to editor@wsj30.com.



Frances Pugh Griffin

March 4, 1944 ~ May 4, 2020

Frances Pugh Griffin, 76, passed away on Monday May 4, 2020 at her residence. She was born in Norfolk, VA the daughter of the late Eddie and Ruth Pugh. She was a graduate of Great Bridge High School where she graduated in 1962. After graduation she attended Old Dominion College.

Frances married her childhood sweetheart on January 26, 1963. They were devoted to one another for 62 years and mar-

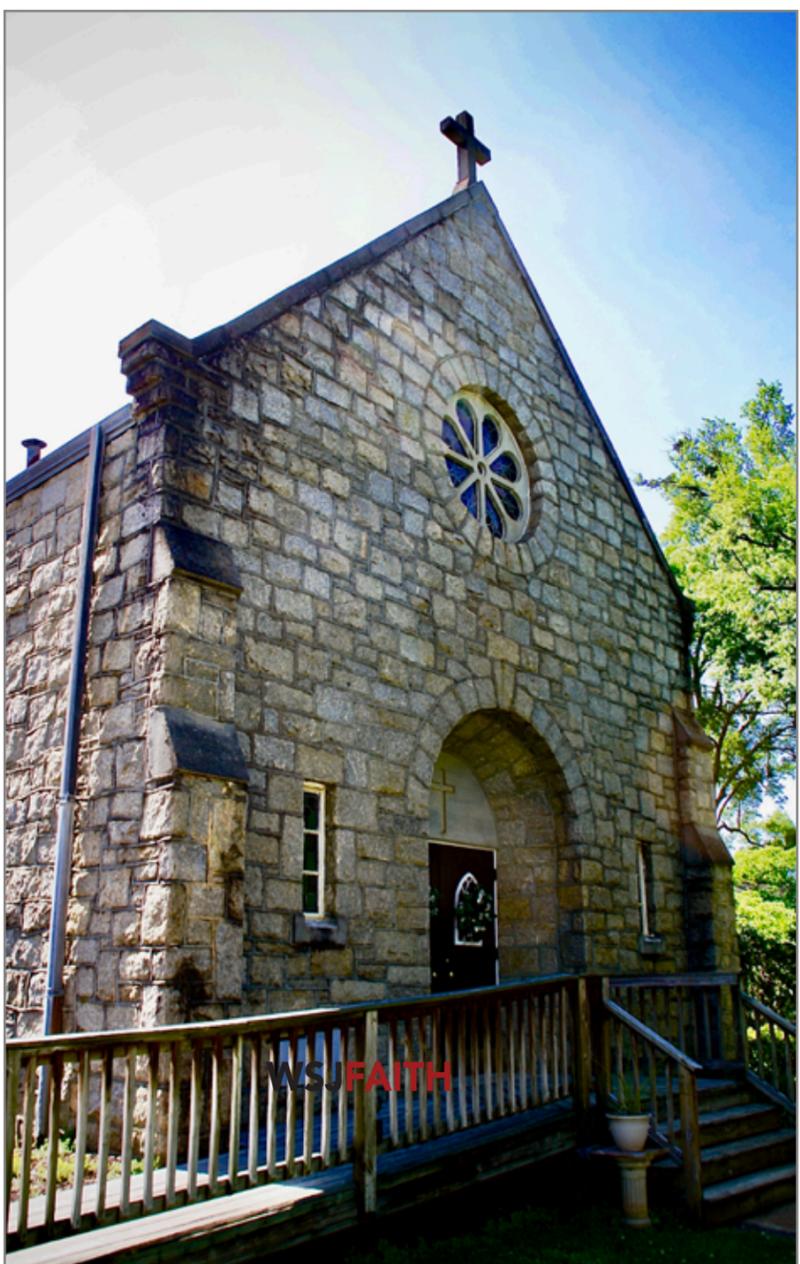
ried for 57 years. She was a Godly woman and the matriarch of the family who fiercely loved her children and grandchildren. In fact, she was their greatest cheerleader and encourager. There truly was nothing Frances couldn't do.

She was lifelong service to Bible Study Class - Joy IV, a servant at Bay Leaf Baptist Church for 40 years and a member of God's family for over 65 years.

Mrs. Griffin is survived by her husband ; Luther Bunch Griffin, a son; Richard Bret Griffin and wife Evelyn and their children; Rebecca Eaddy, Matthew, Sam Griffin, Lauren and Rachel Stearns, a daughter; Wendy Luann Coffey and husband Bertram and their children; Dalton, Bailey, and Lindsay Coffey, a son; Robert Eric Griffin and wife Keeton Crowder Griffin and their children; Declan and Charlotte Griffin, 3 great grandchildren; Glory, Aaron and Abby Eaddy, a brother; Robert E. Pugh of Ohio.

A graveside funeral service will be held on Thursday May 7, 2020 in the Bay Leaf Baptist Church Cemetery with Rev. Will Gatlin officiating.

A service of Bright Funeral Home & Cremation Center, Wake Forest, NC.



We Want Your Church News

Having a guest speaker? Or having a fundraiser to help out a building fund? Wake Forest is brimming with churches and religious activities, and we will publish your news, complimentary. Photos of programs and other activities are welcomed. Please include names of those in the photos and limit your information to about 250 words. Send to editor@wsj30.com. Above is the Wake Forest Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

WSJ PHOTO | KATHY HARRELSON

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EVERY 4th SATURDAY | **SPRING ST. CHRISTIAN CHURCH**
320 E. SPRING ST., WAKE FOREST

10:30A - 12:30P

If you are home bound, lack transportation, are feeling unwell, or have no way to get to the pantry, you may designate someone else to pick up for you with signed permission. You may pick up food 1 time per calendar month. Unable to get to Spring St. Church? Contact Tee Caudle (919-271-1275) so that you can be registered in advance.

PHASE | CONT'D
FROM PAGE 1

“COVID-19 is still a serious threat to our state, and Phase 1 is designed to be a limited easing of restrictions that can boost parts of our economy while keeping important safety rules in place,” said Cooper during a press briefing. “This is a careful and deliberate first step, guided by the data, and North Carolinians still must use caution while this virus is circulating.”

Cooper said the decision to go to Phase 1 was made based on data and science. The phase should last two to three weeks, based on the state plan for reopening. The stay-at-home order is extended until May 22.

“We must continue to protect our families and neighbors as we take this cautious step forward. When you leave your home, follow the three Ws: Wear a face covering, wash your hands, and wait six feet apart,” Dr. Mandy Cohen, secretary of the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, said during the press conference.

Monday’s order removed distinction between essential and non-essential businesses. Retail businesses are allowed to open at 50% capacity and will be required to direct customers to stand 6 feet apart, perform frequent cleanings, provide hand sanitizer when available, screen workers for symptoms and more. The order allows people to leave their homes for commercial activity at any business that is open.

All workers at retail and other businesses are recommended to wear cloth face coverings. Teleworking is still encouraged for businesses that can practice it.

Though small outdoor gatherings will be allowed in Phase 1, gatherings of more than 10 people are still prohibited. The order encourages cloth face coverings to be worn when outside the home and in contact with others.

During Phase 1, childcare facilities will be open to serve families of parents who are working or looking for work. Summer day camps can operate in compliance with DHHS guidelines.

In explaining the order, Cooper and Cohen reported North Carolina remains stable on the following key metrics (as of May 4):

- 1) Trajectory in COVID-Like illness surveillance over 14 days
North Carolina’s syndromic surveillance trend for COVID-like illness is decreasing.
- 2) Trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over 14 days
North Carolina’s trajectory of lab-confirmed cases over the last 14 days is slightly increasing.

- 3) Trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over 14 days
North Carolina’s trajectory in percent of tests returning positive over the last 14 days is decreasing.
- 4) Trajectory in hospitalizations over 14 days
N.C.’s trajectory of hospitalizations over the last 14 days is level.

In addition to these metrics, the state continues building capacity to be able to adequately respond to an increase in virus spread. These areas include:

- Laboratory testing: North Carolina has doubled the daily testing rate.
- Tracing capability: The Carolina Community Tracing Collaborative has received over 4,000 applications and is hiring 250 new contact tracers.
- Personal protective equipment: Supply chains continue to improve with the exception of gowns. This includes face shields, gloves, N95 masks, and surgical and procedural masks. Currently the state has less

What’s new in Phase One?

On **Friday, May 8 at 5pm**, North Carolina will move into Phase One. The **Stay at Home order** remains in place with some modifications. Here’s what Phase One means for our state:

	Through May 8	Phase One
Commercial activity	People should only leave home for essential purposes (food, medicine, etc)	People can leave home for commercial activity and more businesses are open
Retail	20% capacity allowed	50% capacity allowed with cleaning and social distancing
Gatherings	10 person limit	10 person limit-gathering outdoors with friends allowed
Childcare	Childcare centers open for essential workers only	Childcare centers open for working parents or those looking for work
Teleworking	Encouraged	Encouraged
Bars and Restaurants	Take-out and delivery	Take-out and delivery
Barbers/Salons/Massage	Closed	Closed
Theaters, Music Venues, Bowling Alleys	Closed	Closed
Gyms	Closed	Closed
Playgrounds	Closed	Closed
Visitation at Longterm Care Centers	Not allowed	Not allowed
Worship Services	Outdoor services allowed	Outdoor services allowed
State Parks and Trails	Local discretion	Opening encouraged
Face Coverings	Encouraged	Encouraged

GRAPHIC | N.C. GOVERNOR’S OFFICE

than 30 days supply of gowns and N95 masks. Availability of PPE is calculated based on the average number of requests for the last 14 days compared to the supply that the state has on hand.

The Phases:

Phase 1:

- Modify the stay-at-home order allow travel not currently defined as essential allowing people to leave home for commercial activity at any business that is allowed to be open, such as clothing stores, sporting goods stores, book shops, houseware stores and other retailers.
- Ensure that any open stores implement appropriate employee and consumer social distancing, enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols, symptom screening of employees, accommodations for vulnerable workers, and provide education to employees and workers to combat misinformation.
- Continue to limit gatherings to no more than 10 people.
- Reopen parks that have been closed

subject to the same gathering limitation. Outdoor exercise will continue to be encouraged.

- Continue to recommend face coverings in public spaces when 6 feet of distancing isn’t possible.
- Encourage employers to continue teleworking policies.
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.
- Local emergency orders with more restrictive measures may remain in place.

Phase 2

- At least 2-3 weeks after Phase 1
- Lift stay-at-home order with strong encouragement for vulnerable populations to continue staying at home to stay safe.
- Allow limited opening of restaurants, bars, fitness centers, personal care services, and other businesses that can follow safety protocols including the potential need to reduce capacity.
- Allow gathering at places such as hous-

es of worship and entertainment venues at reduced capacity.

- Increase in number of people allowed at gatherings.
- Open public playgrounds.
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

Phase 3

- At least 4-6 weeks after Phase 2
- Lessen restrictions for vulnerable populations with encouragement to continue practicing physical distancing and minimizing exposure to settings where distancing isn’t possible.
- Allow increased capacity at restaurants, bars, other businesses, houses of worships, and entertainment venues.
- Further increase the number of people allowed at gatherings.
- Continue rigorous restrictions on nursing homes and other congregant care settings.

UPDATE | CONT'D
FROM PAGE 1

ing town facilities will be announced as the state gets closer to Phase 2.

- The town will resume yard waste collection Monday, May 11. Crews will follow the normal schedule beginning with Monday’s route. Residents must bag for collection all leaves, pine needles and grass clippings or place them inside a garbage receptacle marked ‘YW’ (yard waste). Avoid placing items on or near mailboxes, utility boxes, utility poles or other fixed objects.
- Bulk waste collection remains suspended until further notice.
- Wake Forest Parks, Recreation & Cultural Resources offices and buildings, including Joyner Park Community Center, will remain closed to the public during Phase 1. All greenways and parks remain open.
- Beginning Saturday, May 9, at 8 a.m., all tennis

and pickleball courts will re-open.

USA Pickleball Association (USAPA) COVID-19 Return to Play Guidance on Safe Return to Play: www.usapa.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/COVID-19-RETURN-TO-PLAY_USAPA.pdf

USTA for Player Tips & Recommendations: www.usta.com/en/home/stay-current/national/usta-statement-on-safety-of-playing-tennis-during-the-covid-19-v.html

■ Park bathrooms will also re-open, but other park amenities, including playgrounds, water fountains and picnic shelters remain closed.

■ All PRCR Department in-person programming has been canceled through the end of May. Staff is evaluating the viability of summer programs and camps, along with the possibility of opening the Holding Park Aquatic Center and Taylor Street Sprayground. In Phase 2 of Gov. Cooper’s plan, the town may reopen recreational ac-

tivities, including the Joyner Park Community Center. Stay tuned for more information.

For complete information about town services during the COVID-19 pandemic, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/covid-19-coronavirus.

Easing Restrictions

Phase 1 does not make major changes to the stay-at-home order. However, it allows more businesses to open, including clothing stores, sporting goods stores, book shops, houseware stores and other retailers. Any open stores must provide education to employees to combat misinformation and implement:

- Appropriate employee and consumer social distancing.
- Enhanced hygiene and cleaning protocols.
- Symptom screening of employees.
- Accommodations for vulnerable workers.
- Gatherings are limited to 10 or fewer people. In

public spaces where 6 feet of distancing isn’t possible, face coverings are recommended. Employers are encouraged to continue teleworking policies, and long-term care facilities and other congregant care settings will continue rigorous restrictions.

Funerals

To promote human dignity and limit suffering, funerals are permitted to include no more than 50 persons.

Guidance for Businesses

Highlights of Phase 1 include:

- Any retail business may open at up to 50 percent capacity (according to the building’s occupancy rating). Businesses must practice social distancing, perform frequent cleanings, provide hand sanitizer when available, screen workers for symptoms and more.
- Certain businesses will remain closed, including bars, personal care businesses, entertainment venues and

gyms.

■ Restaurants may only continue drive-through, take-out and delivery.

■ Teleworking is encouraged for businesses that can practice it.

■ People may leave their homes for commercial activity at any open business.

The N.C. Department of Health & Human Services created materials for businesses in Phase1, including:

- Checklist for Business Owners.
 - Interim Guidance for Owners, Staff, and Patrons of Businesses.
 - Symptom Screening Checklist.
 - Templates to Meet Required Signage.
- Materials are available at ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/covid19/covid-19-guidance#phase-1-easing-of-restrictions

Helpful Links

What is new in Phase One: <https://files.nc.gov/governor/>

[documents/files/Phase-1-Side-by-Side.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/Phase-1-Side-by-Side.pdf)

■ FAQ about the Executive Order from the Governor: <https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/FAQs-for-Phase-1-EO-FINAL.pdf>

■ Executive Order 138: <https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO138-Phase-1.pdf>

■ Frequently Asked Questions on Cloth Face Coverings: <https://files.nc.gov/ncdhhs/documents/files/covid-19/FAQs-Cloth-Face-Coverings.pdf>

Stay Informed

For COVID-19 updates on Town of Wake Forest operations, programs and services, along with links to official health resources, visit www.wakeforestnc.gov/covid-19-coronavirus.

North Carolina updates its COVID-19 case count dashboard daily at 11 a.m. For health-related questions, call the NCDHHS (24/7) at 1-866-462-3821.



Left, Wake Forest businessman Bob Johnson and Marisa DeMarco, manager of The Cotton Company, stand with the UVC room sanitizer machine that emits light that kills germs. The machine will be used at the Cotton Company to sanitize the business during the Coronavirus pandemic. Above, DeMarco uses a wound lamp to sanitize money. WSJ PHOTOS | JAY LAMM

LIGHT | CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

UVB and UVC. UVA and B cause cancer. UVC is filter out by the Earth's atmosphere and never reaches us. UVC does not cause cancer and kills germs," Johnson explained.

"The machine's function is aligned with current medical practices.

"UVC lights are used in operating rooms to prevent germs from causing infections during surgery (such as Mersa.) Our machine has eight, 150-watt bulbs. Just a few

seconds of light will clean a room," he said.

The machine runs on a timer, so no one has to be in the room when it's on.

The machine is FDA approved and is perfectly safe, Johnson added.

The Cotton Company also has a hand-held unit to sanitize money, debit cards and masks. The unit is about the size of a large surge protector.

"Customers can come in, and we will sanitize their money or their debit cards after they use them to make a purchase.

We can also sanitize your masks," Johnson said.

In the medical industry, the machine is typically used to kill germs in open wounds.

"Next week we will be getting a larger wound lamp that's about twice the size of our current one," he said.

At about 4 watts, the light from the wound lamp will not harm credit or debit cards.

In these days that have brought a temporary darkness to retail, The Cotton Company is shining a light to guide customers back to a safe and healthy shopping experience.

BUDGET | CONT'D FROM PAGE 1

A \$25 vehicle fee is proposed (no change) — \$5 for the general fund and \$20 for the debt service fund for transportation improvements debt services.

The tax rate for the Downtown Municipal Service District is proposed at 14 cents per \$100 of real property valuation to generate \$99,300 for improvements in the downtown district.

"Alongside land use policy, our financial strength is key to a vibrant and growing community," Padgett said. "It is important we remain financially sound, so that our residents and business owners feel confident in our ability to manage and use the resources they provide."

Despite the upheaval from the Coronavirus, Padgett said, necessitates focus on the town providing sound budgeting and tending to business.

"Our role is to provide as much normalcy as we can and continue providing services and innovation that makes Wake Forest what it has always been ... a growing, vibrant community that retains its small-town feel."

Padgett emphasized that it is important to recognize the virus has caused an economic downturn and not a problem within the

economic system, a different situation than the housing crisis and bank folding of 2009. Investment in solutions is the guiding factor, he said.

Fire Department

One of the largest projects for the town is making the Wake Forest Fire Department a department of town government. While the assumption had been projected to increase the tax rate as much as 3 cents, the recent revaluation of real property has made the financial impact to residents less than expected.

The largest capital expenditure for the town will be for the Fire Department — a \$1.4 million aerial drawn ladder. The town proposes six new positions for the Fire Department. The department is proposed to operate on \$9.8 million.

About \$700,000 will be received from the Fire Department as part of merging with the town, according to the proposed budget. The town also expects Wake County to provide \$1.62 million as part of a cost sharing agreement for fire coverage outside corporate limits.

With other personnel, 11 additional, staggered-hired positions are requested. Padgett said these are all directly related to services.

New positions proposed include: a deputy town clerk, an assistant town manager, a long-range planning manager, a solid waste sustainability coordinator, an engineer and an economic development coordinator.

Vehicle additions and replacements are proposed at \$2.6 million.

The sale of power to more than 6,300 residents and commercial businesses is projected at a 3.6 percent increase, and no rate increase is proposed.

"As a town we need to step in and provide the funding and improvements where NC-DOT cannot or provide matching funds at an increased monetary value that will move our projects up in priority with the state," Padgett said.

The proposed tax rate includes a cent and a half for transportation, an area where the anticipated tax revenues on the state level because of the virus are expected to decrease.

The cent and a half will generate \$996,000 annually for a fund, he said.

Not intending to go into the subsidized housing business, the town manager proposed an affordable and workforce housing fund to continue initiatives through public and private partnerships. A proposed half cent would generate more than \$332,000 annually, paying for a new position and supporting the initiative, which would involve

developing a housing plan.

Debt service is projected at \$6.8 million (12.2 percent of the general fund expenditures.). All the town's general fund debt in placed in the debt service fund. Most of the debt to repay in from the construction projections approved by voter referendum in 2014.

"Although we are in an economic downturn, we are always projecting revenue and planning expenses out past our current budget. This allows us to be flexible in the movement and assignment of programs and services when unanticipated events like the current pandemic arise," Padgett said.

Budget Onward

Padgett presented the budget to the Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, May 5.

The public is invited to view a digital copy of the proposed budget through Tuesday, May 19.

A public hearing is scheduled during the regular Board of Commissioners meeting to receive public comment on May 19. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. in the Town Hall board chambers, 301 S. Brooks St. Final budget approval by the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for the June 16 meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE | WE ARE OPEN & OPERATING DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS FOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION, VOLUNTEERS AND FOOD DISTRIBUTION.

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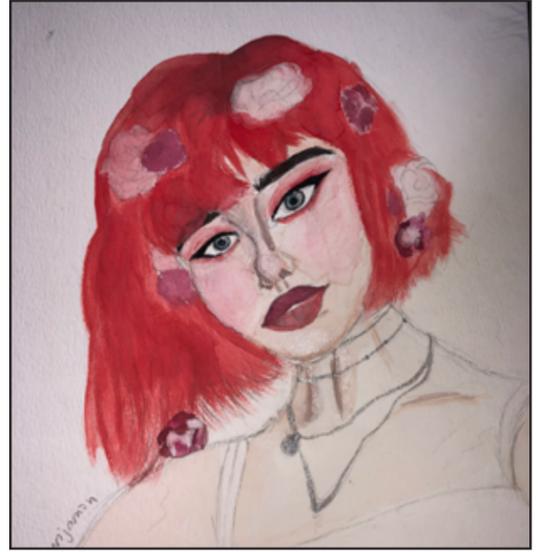
We're open for food pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays and the third Saturday of each month from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m | **YOUR SUPPORT IS VITAL AT THIS TIME!**



Ultimate Gohan/Future Gohan by 6th-grader Jose Pereira.



"There are endless possibilities of how someone can view space and I view it as a wonderful place to see." – "Space Lights" by 8th-grader Evan Silker.



"A Moment Suspended in Time" – 8th-grader Sydney Benjamin.



"Untitled" – by 7th-grader Edward M.



Digital drawing by 7th-grader R. Wurster of Billie Eilish.



Surrealism Fish – represents being able to build something back up no matter how broken it is – 6th-grader Makayla Redman.



"Cliff Branch" – by 8th Grader Cristain Fillion



Mandara Uchiha by 6th-grader Jose Pereira.

VIRTUAL IMAGINATION

BY KATHY HARRELSON FOR THE WSJ

Students at Wake Forest Middle School have channeled some of their restlessness born from staying at home due to Coronavirus to create multiple art forms for the school's first Virtual Arts Day.

The "day" was May 2, but like all great works of art, the images, sounds and motions endure. There is an Instagram page, and a link to the page on WRAL — both sending the creations into homes throughout the state and beyond.

"It is a really awesome project," said Amanda Springer, president and founder of the 2-year-old Wake Forest Middle School Arts Booster. "It has given the students a chance to celebrate each other ... and to show some hidden talents for some of them. Some kids don't want to get up on a stage. It can be difficult. But this way they can express themselves."

To encourage participation, eight or so teachers submitted art projects before the student deadline.

Several dozen students displayed paintings, sketches, music and poetry. The project was developed by brainchild and theater instructor Michelle Henderson. It was reviewed by teachers, who selected the body of work. Visual arts teacher Anne Hayes also rallied students and teachers to get involved.

"When we originally realized that school was going to be canceled until at least May, my

immediate thoughts were about the canceled performances," Henderson said. "We discussed how to make it work virtually using social media, modified everything, and made a plan. The idea just sort of hit as we were talking about how we could keep the arts visible at WFMS through this crazy time."

Henderson said there was no hesitation to move forward.

"We are all obviously invested in promoting the arts with our students. Our administration approved and helped with promoting it on our school's social media pages, and students ... were excited," she said. "The beauty of an event like this (is) students do not have to be directly tied to a program to participate. Any student is able to "audition" and showcase their talent."

The Artists

For 13-year-old Alyssa Dubiel the project has been one of self-expression.

"If you are never given the chance to express yourself, it could really affect you as a person a lot. When given the chance to express yourself ... you feel a sense of importance and feel you don't have to keep everything all to yourself," she said.

The 8th-grade singer and painter said people should realize that art is not "just paint poured on a canvas. It is someone's heart, someone's emotions, poured and hand crafted into a beautiful piece of art."

Another musician in the project, Sully Springer, said he can be himself through his

music and can make people happy.

Also, art translates into everything learned, he said.

"Art it is such a beautiful part in life. It combines all the things we know and love. It also combines all that we learn. It incorporates social studies by singing historic songs made in our history. It combines science with how the vocal cords work and what our body can do with sound."

"In English language arts we learn lyrics and the different symbols in the musical language. And ... math is in music because of the beats and different counts when we sing."

He said the project has come at a really good time.

"I think that since everyone is at home with nothing to do, artists all over the world are working very hard to do what they do best - make art," the 7th-grader said.

Reilly Brummett, a 14-year-old 8th-grader, appreciates the happiness that art can bring.

"I do love to sing and draw because it brings me a lot of joy," she said. "I love to see people listening to my music and feeling happy, inspired, and hopeful."

Brummett has an appreciation for self-expression.

"It's a way for others to see what my personality is versus what others may say. Self-expression also gives me a way to show myself with or without words. It is something that can come naturally because it is who I am, not someone else."

All three students said their greatest motivations with art come from their teachers at WFMS, noting that the actions of the teachers and how they express themselves as well as how they treat students inspires many.

The teachers and Arts Booster members involved have also gained from the project, Amanda Springer said.

Mostly, the project has given WFMS' students an opportunity, she said.

"So many kids want to have a voice, but they might not be able to express it in traditional ways (of performance)," she said. "They are deep in thought — so much is going on inside their heads, and with this we can experience it in art form."

The project has been so successful that it will definitely be a repeat, Springer said, adding to a very active arts program that brings to the community fall and spring theater productions, "Poetry Slam," art galleries and "ArtsFest."

"I think, in general, you won't find bigger advocates for arts in education than arts teachers. In light of the world right now, there's no better time to try and make sure we are still connecting with one another and doing things together to try to promote some sense of celebration in our students," Henderson said.

"Art lends itself to this goal inherently just by being what it is. I think very few people in this quarantine can say that they have made it this far without consuming something by an artist, so why wouldn't we try to do our best to get our students' art out?"