



Religious Programming

Joel Osteen – *Sunday 10:00AM and 2:00AM*

God is doing amazing things through our television ministry. We are reaching over 100 million homes in the U.S. and tens of millions more in 100 nations. Lives are being changed, relationships are being restored and communities are being transformed by the power of God and the message of hope that is being broadcast through this ministry.

In Touch Ministries- *Sunday 6:30AM*

It all began in 1972, when a half-hour program called "The Chapel Hour" was launched on Atlanta-area television stations. Today, "In Touch with Dr. Charles Stanley" can be heard around the world via radio and television broadcasts, podcasts, the handheld In Touch Ministries Messenger, In Touch Apps, and right here on the Web. Our programs are seen and heard around the world on more than 2,600 radio and television outlets in more than 50 languages. In addition to broadcasting, the ministry continues to produce books, studies, discipleship resources, and the award-winning In Touch magazine to more than 1.5 million households every month.



BUZZR E/I Programming Descriptions

Aqua Kids

Aqua Kids is a weekly half-hour series that educates young people about ecology, wildlife, and science and how it relates to them. Viewers learn how eco-systems connect and what young people can do to make a positive difference in the world.

Dragonfly TV

Dragonfly TV is a weekly half-hour science television series that highlights children doing projects with hands-on experience and demonstrates the practical applications of mathematics and science. It introduces young viewers to a variety of scientific disciplines and challenges them in critical thinking and problem solving skills, while providing valuable information to reach answers. Each episode is engaging, entertaining, and educational in structure, allowing children to investigate science on their own.

Walking Wild

Walking Wild is a weekly half-hour reality series showcasing various wild animals at the world famous San Diego Zoo. The series focuses on the dedicated people who look after these spectacular critters. The program also gives teen viewers a unique, up-close examination of each wild animal. *Walking Wild* is a series intended to educate and inform viewers all about life in the animal kingdom.

Wild Wonders

Wild Wonders is a weekly half-hour reality series allowing teen viewers to become familiar with various wild animals at the world famous San Diego Zoo. The series focuses on various critters and examines their differences. The program also provides important information about each animal's living habits and includes interviews with people who care for them. *Wild Wonders* is a series intended to educate and inform viewers all about life in the animal kingdom.



2016-2017 SEASON

ME-TV NETWORK CHILDREN'S E/I PROGRAMMING

SERIES NAME	SYNOPSIS	RATINGS	TARGET AUDIENCE	E/I or NON
BEAKMAN'S WORLD	This live-action series based on the comic strip by Jok Church stars performance artist Paul Zaloom as the slightly nutty but never boring scientist who leads a journey of discovery while performing experiments that demonstrate how the world works. Topics are addressed with cutting-edge humor and state-of-the-art visuals that make learning fun. Joining Beakman in his quest are Josie (Alanna Ubach), his bright young apprentice, and an oversize, sarcastic rat named Lester (Mark Ritts).	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
BILL NYE, THE SCIENCE GUY	With 28 Emmys and a slew of other prestigious awards, Disney's resident way-cool scientist knows how to get kids fired up about science. From Earth science to complex discussions on genetics, Bill Nye's enthusiasm for all things science is contagious.	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
MYSTERY HUNTERS	Mystery Hunters explores some of the world's greatest myths and mysteries. Combining on-site reporting and exciting adventures, the Mystery Hunters uses science and reasoning to try to uncover the truth. The program teaches children how to gather facts, meet with experts, debunk common myths, and offer explanations for legends. 2006 Winner of a Parents' Choice Award, Mystery Hunters.	TV-G	K13-16	E/I
SAVED BY THE BELL	Saved By The Bell is a television series targeted to teens 13-16 years of age, which explores social themes and coping strategies through the daily school life of six teen-aged friends at Bayside High who help each other make the most of growing up in a complicated world. The multi-ethnic cast members serve as role models for young teen viewers as they deal with such issues as dealing with the death of a loved one, the right to say "no," the meaning of heroism, teenage alcohol use and other issues of particular concern to young teens.	TV-PG	K13-16	E/I



ON THE HILL

FOX5 News on The Hill is a half hour live political show hosted by Tom Fitzgerald along with The Hill's Editor in Chief Bob Cusack. The show airs each Sunday at 8:30am. The hosts report and analyze the big headlines and stories from the campaign trail, along with political news from the White House and Capitol Hill.

Episodes 1st Quarter 2021:

- Sunday, Jan 10
- Sunday, Jan 17
- Sunday, Jan 24
- Sunday, Jan 31
- Sunday, Feb 7
- Sunday, Feb 14
- Sunday, Feb 21
- Sunday, Feb 28
- Sunday, March 7
- Sunday, March 14
- Sunday, March 21
- Sunday, March 28



LIKE IT OR NOT

A new take on the news of the week is coming to FOX 5-- FOX 5's Like It Or Not. "FOX 5's Like It Or Not" will go beyond the headlines and provide edgy, controversial commentary, discussing the news of the week in politics, entertainment and pop culture.

"Buckle up! This isn't your typical traditional news program. It's provocative and intelligent and will present candid opinions and observations on a wide range of news of the day topics and issues," said FOX 5 Vice President and General Manager Patrick Paolini.

Program airs Monday – Friday 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. on WTTG.

From Jan 4 to March 31, 2021.

WTTG/Channel 5

Program Information Report



Fox 5 @ 4 *The First 5* – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:00 – 4:30 am and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

Fox 5 Morning News at 4:30 am – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:30- 5:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

Fox 5 Morning News at 5 – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 5:00- 6:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

Fox 5 Morning News at 6 – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00- 7:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

Fox 5 Morning News – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 7:00- 9:00am and covers local, national and international stories; weather, traffic and sports updates; interviews with local and political leaders.

Fox 5 @ 4 - A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 4:00-5:00pm and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

Fox 5 News at 5 – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 5:00-6:00pm and covers news headlines, provides sports and weather information and gives updates on local news stories.

Fox 5 News at 6 – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 6:00-6:30pm and covers news headlines, sports, weather and local news.

5 @ 6:30pm- A Monday through Friday rundown news program that airs from 6:30-7:00pm and covers news headlines, politics and local news.

Fox 5 News at 10 – A daily one-hour news program that airs from 10:00-11:00pm featuring local, national and international news headlines as well as in depth local stories, investigative reports, sports and weather information.

Fox 5 News at 11 – A Monday through Friday news program that airs from 11:00-11:30pm featuring local news, weather and sports.

The Final 5 – A Monday through Friday program that air 11:30 – 12:00 midnight featuring anchor Jim Lokay and his take on the daily current events.

Origination: Local

Issues addressed:

1. Crime
2. Local politics
3. National politics
4. Health
5. Education
6. Community
7. Housing
8. Transportation
9. Environment
10. Children

Fox News Sunday – A one-hour weekly program, airing Sundays from 9:00-10:00am that looks at the most pressing issues of the week from the White House, Congress and Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and various government agencies and conducts interviews with political newsmakers. Origination: Network

First QUARTER FOX NEWS SUNDAY GUESTS

Quarter 1
2021

January 3, 2021

GA Senate Race:

Sen. Kelly Loeffler

New Congress:

Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)

January 10, 2021

Capitol Hill Riots

Mick Mulvaney

Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC)

January 17, 2021`

Security:

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R-AR)

Economy:

Brian Deese

January 24, 2021

Impeachment/State of GOP

Sen. Mitt Romney

Sen. Marco Rubio

Covid:

Dr. Rochelle Walensky

January 31, 2021

Economy:

Jared Bernstein

Congress/Covid Relief Bill:

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Covid:

Dr. Tom Inglesby

Feb 7, 2021

GOP:

Rep. Liz Cheney (R-WY)

Impeachment:

Sen. Rand Paul (R-KY)

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)

Feb 14, 2021

Covid:

Dr. Rochelle Walensky

Impeachment:

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

February 21, 2021

Climate Change:

Bill Gates

Covid:

Dr. Anthony Fauci

February 28, 2021

Future of GOP:

Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL)

Covid Relief Bill

Jen Psaki

Intel:

Sen. Mark Warner (D-VA)

March 7, 2021

Covid Relief Bill:

Sen. Joe Manchin (D-WV)

Covid restrictions:

Gov. Asa Hutchinson (R-AR)

Covid:

Dr. Tom Frieden

March 14, 2021

Covid Package:

Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-LA)

Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)

Covid:

Dr. Anthony Fauci

March 21, 2021

Immigration

DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas

Immigration/Spending:

Sen. Tom Cotton (R-AR)

March 28, 2021

Biden Agenda:

Jen Psaki

Immigration:

Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-SC)

April 4, 2021

Biden Infrastructure Plan:

Biden Deese

Sen. Roy Blunt (R-MO)

Covid:

Dr. Michael Osterholm

SAMPLE OF ISSUE RESPONSIVE NEWS PROGRAMMING

First Quarter 2021

Crime

March 24, 2021

Arlington man threatened woman before police allegedly found shotgun, pipe bombs in his home

By FOX 5 DC Digital Team
Published 59 mins ago
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/arlington-man-threatened-woman-before-police-allegedly-found-shotgun-pipe-bombs-in-his-home>

ARLINGTON COUNTY, Va. (FOX 5 DC) - An Arlington man allegedly sent threatening text messages to a woman and made "threatening statements" about others before police found a shotgun and pipe bombs in his home on Tuesday.

PREVIOUS COVERAGE: Arlington police recover evidence of bomb-making material while conducting search warrant, suspect in custody

Police were first dispatched to the 1000 block of N. Filmore Street on March 22 after a report of a person making threats. Witnesses say a man joined them for drinks, later making threatening statements and opening his backpack to reveal "a two-piece shotgun made from metal pipes and a bag containing suspected shotgun ammunition."

The victim later revealed to police that the suspect had also been sending her threatening text messages.

A warrant was issued for the suspect for Threats of Death of Bodily Injury to a Person. Officers took the suspect, now identified as Ryan Bosnick, 34, into custody on March 23 as he was walking in the area of Fairfax Drive and N. Stuart Street.



Ryan Bosnick (Photo: Arlington County Police Department)

Officers then searched Bosnick's home in the 1100 block of N. Stuart Street and found a homemade sawed-off shotgun and two explosive devices, commonly known as pipe bombs.

The Arlington County Fire Department's Bomb Squad assisted with the removal of the devices. There is no apparent ongoing threat to public safety.



Bosnick faces multiple charges including:

- 2 counts of Possession of Explosive Materials
- 1 count of Possession of a Sawed-Off Shotgun
- 1 count of Threats of Death or Bodily Injury to a Person

He is being held without bond at the Arlington County Detention Facility.

Download the FOX 5 DC News App for Local Breaking News and Weather

Anyone with information on the suspect is asked to contact the Arlington County Police Tip Line at ACPDtipline@arlingtonva.us, or anonymously to the Arlington County Crime Solvers hotline at 1-866-411-TIPS (8477).

Local Politics
March 22, 2021

DC officials renew push for statehood

By Tom Fitzgerald and FOX 5 Digital Team
Published 2 days ago
Updated 1 day ago
Washington, D.C.
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/dc-officials-renew-push-for-statehood-today>



WASHINGTON (FOX 5 DC) - Officials representing the District renewed their effort to make the nation's capital its 51st state again today.



DC statehood hearing

The campaign for DC statehood was able to make its case for the House Commission on Oversight and Reform today.

The newest edition of the bill carries support from some of the nation’s most powerful Democrats – including President Joe Biden and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

READ MORE: The history behind DC's push for statehood

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform held D.C. statehood hearings on Monday – with testimonies from a number of prominent figures in the District, including Mayor Muriel Bowser.

"We are here to demand that the 220-year history of US not being represented in the capital of our country be corrected and this congress has it in its authority to do that," Bowser said during the hearing.

READ MORE: South Dakota Congressman’s bill looks to ‘circumvent’ call for DC statehood



DC statehood campaign makes its case

The campaign for DC statehood was able to make its case for the House Commission on Oversight and Reform today.

The mayor's office provided a statement before the hearing began challenging a number of the criticisms leveled at the prospect of D.C. statehood, including:

- They say Washington, DC statehood is unconstitutional, even though several constitutional experts have repeatedly declared that to be false. Article I of the Constitution is not an obstacle because, as H.R. 51 makes clear a "federal district" will remain for the federal government, its buildings and its workings; and the rest of the area, where people live, will become the separate state.
- They say Washington, DC is too small, or our economy is not diverse enough. Even though we're bigger by population than two states and pay more federal taxes per capita than any state, and we pay more total federal taxes than 22 states.
- They say that Washington, DC is badly governed. This is simply not accurate. In fact, by many objective measures DC is better governed than most states. We have balanced our budget 25 times in the last 25 years. And we already operate as a state and perform the same functions that states do. During the coronavirus pandemic, we have led COVID-19 testing, contact tracing and vaccination efforts, just as states do.

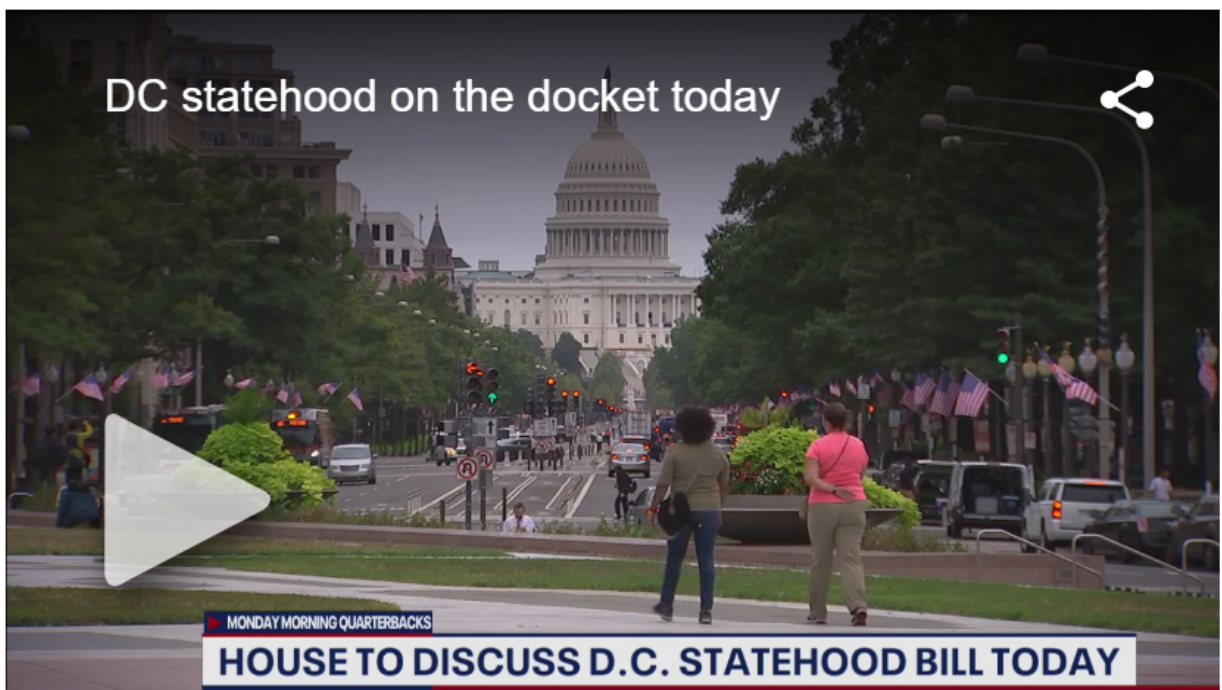
Monday's hearing was largely split along with party lines – with Republicans keenly aware that granting D.C. full representation would provide their Democratic rivals across the aisle with two additional Senate seats via the largely liberal city.

"DC Statehood would mean a money grab from neighboring states and a power grab for the United States Senate - all done in an impractical and unconstitutional fashion," said Georgia Representative Jody Hice.

Download the FOX 5 DC News App for Local Breaking News and Weather

Last year, the same committee passed a bill for D.C. statehood, sending it to the House floor for the first time since 1993.

The House of Representatives adopted last year's bill, but it stalled out once it reached the Senate.



DC statehood on the docket today

The House Committee on Oversight and Reform will hold a hearing regarding D.C. statehood today. In this edition of Monday Morning Quarterbacks, Democratic strategist Joel Rubin and Republican strategist Bill McGinley discuss statehood, as well as CDC school guidelines.

Norton re-introduced the bill this year, with over 200 co-sponsors.

D.C. officials advocating for statehood point out that residents in the nation's capital pay federal taxes, but lack a voting representative in Congress, which has the final say in local affairs.

National Politics
March 24, 2021

Stimulus checks: IRS says next batch of payments will be disbursed in coming days

By Megan Ziegler
Published 2 days ago
U.S.
FOX TV Digital Team

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/stimulus-checks-irs-says-next-batch-of-payments-will-be-disbursed-in-coming-days>



PHILADELPHIA - MAY 8: Economic stimulus checks are prepared for printing at the Philadelphia Financial Center May 8, 2008 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. One hundred and thirty million households are eligible to receive a tax rebate check under the \$1

Federal officials said Monday the next batch of COVID-19 stimulus payments will disburse to taxpayers this week.

For those who have direct deposit set up, the latest batch of payments began processing Friday and will have an official pay date of Wednesday, March 24, though some may see the money in their accounts earlier as pending deposits.

Many of the payments in this next round are being issued by paper check or prepaid debit card, the U.S. Department of the Treasury said.



If you don't receive a direct deposit by March 24, watch the mail carefully.

The Treasury said additional payments are expected to be disbursed on a weekly basis going forward.

No action is needed by most people to get stimulus money. You can check your status on the IRS's Get My Payment tool.

President Joe Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package was approved earlier this month, triggering the third stimulus payment amid the ongoing pandemic to Americans.

RELATED: Senate approves \$1.9T COVID-19 relief bill after all-night session

The first batch of relief payments went to taxpayers who provided direct deposit info for their 2019 or 2020 tax returns.

The stimulus payments include \$1,400 checks for individual Americans making \$75,000. Couples earning \$150,000 or less will receive \$2,800. Households will receive an additional \$1,400 for each dependent child claimed on their most-recent tax filings.

As with previous rounds, Americans who earn more will still receive a partial check, though the cut-off is stricter with this package.

Individuals making \$80,000 a year or more and couples making \$160,000 a year or higher no longer qualify for the checks. That means individuals earning between \$80,000 and \$100,000, and couples earning between \$160,000 and \$200,000, are newly excluded from a partial check under the legislation.

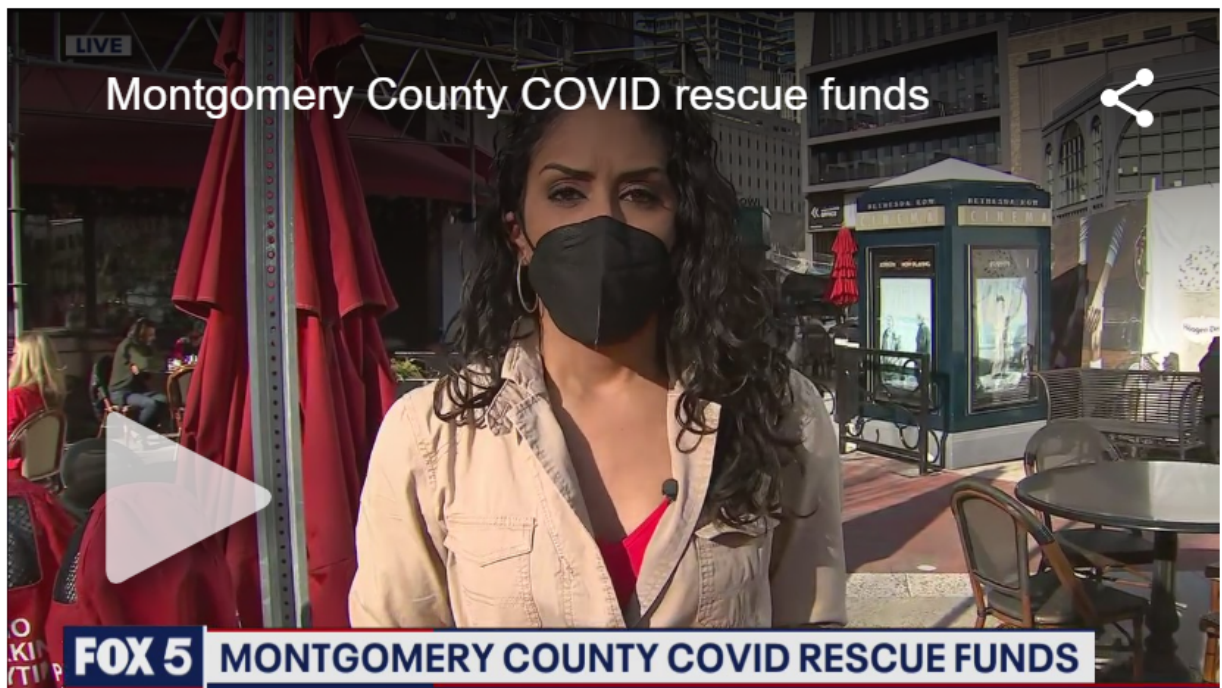
FOX News contributed to this report

Community
March 23, 2021

Montgomery County to get nearly \$204 million in COVID relief

By Stephanie Ramirez
Published 1 day ago
Montgomery County
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/montgomery-county-to-get-nearly-204-million-in-covid-relief>



Montgomery County COVID rescue funds

Money from the latest COVID-19 stimulus relief act passed and is already going out, which begs some questions on how the government plans to account for the \$1.9 trillion in the American Rescue Plan Act.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY, Md. (FOX 5 DC) - In a Monday virtual news conference, Maryland Senator Chris Van Hollen announced Montgomery County is slated to receive nearly \$204 million in American Rescue Plan Act funding.

Montgomery County Council President Tom Hucker also said municipalities will get around \$100 million. This includes areas like the City of Rockville, the City of Gaithersburg, the City of Takoma Park and so forth.

Van Hollen told reporters the county's around \$204 million is on top of the school funding the county is already slated to receive.

The nearly \$204 million will come in two waves. The first half is expected in around 90 days according to Senator Van Hollen, who also said the county would have to provide an accounting for where the money was spent in order to receive the second half next year.

When asked about transparency and whether it would be up to the states or counties to share where the money is going, Van Hollen answered FOX 5 by reminding reporters that the Biden Administration plans to have executive oversight over the American Rescue Plan. That was after referencing CARES Act.

"First of all, the original CARES Act established an oversight commission for the pandemic response. And that commission will also resume responsibility for tracing funds provided under the most recent American Rescue Plan," said the Senator.

READ MORE: Stimulus checks: IRS says next batch of payments will be disbursed in coming days

FOX 5 did reach out to the County Executive's Office to see whether American Rescue Plan Act spending information would be available through an online dashboard.

The County Council will be taking-up Marc Elrich's proposed budget over the next few weeks, which is supposed to also consider federal assistance.

Hucker mentioned areas where funding could go, like childcare, mental health funding and the Department of Health and Human Resources – not exact details just yet.

The Council President did say a lot of the county funding will go toward costs FEMA has not reimbursed the county for yet (last month [FEMA announced](#) it will be picking up 100% of the COVID response costs).

A county spokesperson sent FOX 5 a budget sheet (see below) that shows since September, Montgomery County appears to have documented over \$120 billion since

last September in police and fire, non-union, transportation and health and human services personnel costs, as well as PPE costs, to submit for reimbursement.

At the March 15th virtual meeting on County Executive Marc Elrich's FY22 budget proposal, it was discussed that FEMA has already reimbursed \$31.8 million to Montgomery County. The county's Office of Budget and Management is assuming another \$74-to-\$75 million in FEMA reimbursements.

Health
March 23, 2021

Northern Virginia leaders send governor letter requesting more vaccines

By Natalie Rubino
Published 1 day ago
Virginia
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/northern-virginia-leaders-send-governor-letter-requesting-more-vaccines>



Northern Virginia requests more vaccines

Northern Virginia is asking for more vaccines as hundreds of thousands of eligible people sit on the waitlist. In a letter sent to Governor Northam, local leaders say they have the ability to vaccinate all the people on the waitlist but need the supply.

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (FOX 5 DC) - Northern Virginia is asking for more vaccines as hundreds of thousands of eligible people sit on waitlists. In a letter sent to Governor Northam, local leaders say they have the ability to vaccinate all the people on the waitlist but need the supply.

Arlington County Council Chairman Matthew de Ferranti, Loudoun County Council Chairwoman Phyllis Randall, Prince William County Council Chairwoman Ann Wheeler, Fairfax County Council Chairman Jeffrey McKay, P. David Tarter, Chairman of the Northern Virginia Regional Commission and Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson all signed the letter.

The four-page letter, sent via email, asks Governor Northam to send more vaccines to Northern Virginia before moving the state to priority group 1c in a few weeks.

"We have the capacity, we have the demand and we have the commitment and structures to ensure equity. Our message to the Governor is all we need is one thing, it's the doses," Mayor Wilson said.

While waitlists in Virginia are full, other jurisdictions in other parts of the state are running out of people to vaccinate in priority groups 1a and 1b.

"It just didn't seem fair to us that while we're vaccinating more people than anyone else, our problem is not that we've run out of people, our problem is that we have hundreds of thousands of people on the waitlist ready to get their shots. If they could send us the vaccines we can get rid of the waiting list," Chairman McKay said.

Currently, 102,000 eligible people in Fairfax County alone are awaiting appointments.

"Frankly we can probably get rid of the waiting list in a week. If they sent me 100,000 new vaccines this week, we can figure it out. We have a network in place to get those in people's arms this week," McKay said.

In the letter, they emphasized the region's focus on diversity and distributing the vaccine equitably.

"Each of the jurisdictions are doing different things. We are partnering with non-profits, we are going door to door in neighborhoods that are hard to reach and have been harder hit by COVID. We have a lot of residents in this region who are very

eager for vaccination. They want it done now. We don't have to convince a lot of folks," Wilson said.

After the letter was sent, leaders from the region met with state health officials to discuss their concerns and were told the state will work on getting more vaccines to Northern Virginia.

Housing
Jan 12, 2021

Pandemic sends rental property costs down nationwide

By Tisha Lewis
Published January 12
COVID-19 and the Economy
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/pandemic-sends-rental-property-costs-down-nationwide>



Pandemic sends rental property cost down

Many of the most expensive housing markets nationwide are seeing a drastic drop in the cost to rent. A housing economist says the coronavirus pandemic is a contributing factor.

ARLINGTON, Va. (FOX 5 DC) - Many of the most expensive housing markets in the country are seeing a drastic drop in the cost to rent.

The pandemic is helping fuel the price drop nationwide and in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

Arlington is filled with leasing communities and one woman we spoke with says her rent is down hundreds of dollars.

It boils down to supply and demand.

Ultimately, unemployment and underemployment caused by closures and cutbacks due to the coronavirus pandemic is reportedly impacting demand which is leading to a decrease in rent costs.



(Photo by Justin Sullivan/Getty Images)

As first reported by [InsideNova](#), [ApartmentList.com](#) says rent in Arlington, Virginia, is down by nearly 15 percent right now compared to March when the coronavirus pandemic struck.

Arlington ranks seventh with a 14.8 percent rent decline since March.

Meanwhile, D.C. ranks fifth with a 15.3 percent rent decline since March.

ApartmentList.com Housing Economist Chris Salviati talked with FOX 5's Tisha Lewis about what's driving the decrease.

"I think a lot of folks are facing new and sudden hardships," said Salviati.

The average cost to rent a two-bedroom apartment in Arlington is around \$2,000 — that's even down by about two and a half percent compared to a month ago.

Transportation
Jan 21, 2021

Biden's transportation secretary nominee Buttigieg says DOT can help 'build our economy back'

Travel restrictions by state: DC, Maryland and Virginia

By Hope Yen and Tom Krishner
Published January 21
Politics
Associated Press

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/buttigieg-touts-generational-opportunity-in-confirmation-hearing-for-transportation-secretary>



Pete Buttigieg delivers opening remarks at confirmation hearing

Transportation Secretary nominee Pete Buttigieg delivers his opening statement at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee.

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Joe Biden's nominee for secretary of transportation, Pete Buttigieg, was headed down a smooth path to quick confirmation, pledging to senators on Thursday to work with them to carry out the administration's ambitious agenda to rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

A Senate committee vote on his nomination could come as soon as next week.

Speaking at his confirmation hearing with his husband sitting nearby, Buttigieg pointed to a "generational opportunity" to create new jobs, fight economic inequality and stem climate change. Often sidestepping specifics, Buttigieg hinted at a broad climate-centric role for the department that will require significant investments, on top of Biden's proposed \$1.9 trillion COVID relief plan.

"We need to build our economy back, better than ever, and the Department of Transportation can play a central role in this," the 39-year-old former mayor of South Bend, Indiana, told the Senate Commerce Committee.

RELATED: Biden introduces Pete Buttigieg as his transportation secretary pick

He indicated he would reverse a Trump administration rollback in federal automotive fuel economy standards to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, work to stiffen oversight of aviation safety as the troubled Boeing 737 Max makes its return to the skies and encourage use of electric vehicles, such as by adding a half-million charging stations nationwide.

Buttigieg did not specify where money could come from for big investments in infrastructure, and wouldn't rule out a tax increase. He floated the possibility of a major change in how highways are funded, such as by converting from the current Highway Trust Fund, which is paid for through the gas tax, to a "vehicle miles traveled" alternative that would tax drivers based on their road mileage.

Republican Sen. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, who chaired the hearing Thursday for a last time as the Senate finalized its transfer of power to Democrats, signaled likely challenges in finding ways to pay for a costly infrastructure overhaul, but said he looked forward to working with Buttigieg.

"I'm quite certain he will be confirmed," Wicker told the hearing.



Pete Buttigieg, nominee for US Transportation Secretary, testifies at his confirmation hearing before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation committee in Washington, DC, on January 21, 2021. (Photo by Ken Cedeno / POOL / AFP) (Photo by KEN

Buttigieg, a former Democratic presidential candidate, would be the first openly gay person confirmed by the Senate to a Cabinet post. He was among the first batch of Cabinet selections getting hearings this week as Biden urges the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim majority, to quickly confirm his nominees.

Buttigieg would take over at a critical time for transportation. The coronavirus pandemic has devastated many modes of transportation, with airlines, city subway systems and Amtrak seeking federal aid to help keep afloat until ridership recovers.

Biden is mandating mask wearing on airplanes and public transportation systems to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and Buttigieg made clear that would be a priority at the department.

"We must ensure all of our transportation systems — from aviation to public transit, to our railways, roads, ports, waterways and pipelines — are managed safely during this critical period, as we work to defeat the virus," he said.

Still, it's Biden's infrastructure plan, the full details of which are expected to be released next month, that is likely to pose the biggest challenges. Biden has yet to say how he intends to pay for new spending.

Beyond standard transportation fixes, which are easier to promise than to get through Congress, Biden wants to rejuvenate the post-coronavirus pandemic economy and create thousands of green jobs by making environmentally friendly retrofits and public works improvements.

Expanding on Biden's vision, Buttigieg hinted there could be new regulations or legislation governing self-driving cars to boost development, which would transform the industry. Because technology is advancing quickly, he wants to ensure "that we're acting so that on the policy side, we are ready for all of the things that automated vehicles will bring to our roads and to our economy."

RELATED: Biden adds Buttigieg as transportation secretary, Granholm as energy chief

Buttigieg pointed to his past experience as a veteran of the Afghanistan War as well as city mayor as valuable in taking a ground level approach to improving transportation. He described initiating a "smart streets" program to make South Bend's downtown more pedestrian- and bicyclist-friendly while spurring hundreds of millions of dollars in economic investment.

Buttigieg would not step into the job with extensive experience enacting federal transportation policy, though advocates hope his public stature and loyal following from the 2020 presidential campaign could help push through broad changes long unachievable on Capitol Hill. Biden this week nominated Polly Trottenberg, a former commissioner of New York City's transportation department, to be deputy secretary.

On Thursday, Wicker jokingly asked Buttigieg if the Senate hearing might pale in comparison to his high-profile media stops, including the night before on "The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon." He's slated to appear Friday on ABC's "The View."

"I would characterize this as a unique experience," Buttigieg responded with a smile.

During Donald Trump's four years in the White House, his administration often held "Infrastructure Week" events and touted transportation improvements. But it was not able to push Congress to pass any broad plan to update the nation's roads and bridges, rails and airports.

Krisher reported from Detroit. Associated Press writer David Koenig in Dallas contributed to this report.

Education

March 16, 2021

DC Board of Ed survey says nearly 45% of teachers considered leaving profession during pandemic

By FOX 5 Digital Team
Published March 16
D.C. Public Schools
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/dc-board-of-ed-survey-says-nearly-45-of-teachers-considered-leaving-profession-during-pandemic>

WASHINGTON - According to a survey conducted by the D.C. State Board of Education, 43% of teachers said they've considered leaving the profession during the coronavirus pandemic.

READ MORE: DC nurses union claims city ignored recommendations amid reopening process

The survey results, the board said, are part of a full report slated to be released on Wednesday.

More than 1,000 teachers were surveyed for the report in January 2021.



The COVID-19 pandemic has been particularly challenging for educators and students.

In the D.C. region, virtually all jurisdictions employed virtual learning in an effort to stall the spread of the virus.

READ MORE: Special needs students were physically abused at DCPS schools, according to lawsuit

In 2021, more schools in D.C., Virginia, and Maryland have taken steps to re-open under orders from state and local officials – a process that has met with resistance from teachers’ unions.

Download the FOX 5 DC News App for Local Breaking News and Weather

The Board of Education says the survey was conducted in an effort to understand teachers’ thoughts and experiences during virtual teaching and their perceptions of their student’s success in virtual learning."

Environment
March 22, 2021

New River Gorge: Sprawling 73,000-acre national park and preserve the 1st of its kind on the East Coast

Snow storm forecast: DC region braces for midweek winter weather

By Catherine Park
Published 4 days ago
Updated 23 hours ago
Environment
FOX TV Digital Team

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/new-river-gorge-sprawling-73000-acre-national-park-and-preserve-the-1st-of-its-kind-on-the-east-coast>



New River Gorge: East coast gets 1st nature park and preserve

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, located in West Virginia, received its dual status in January 2021 which gives the nearly 73,000-acre area federal protection as well as defends the wildlife and ecosystem from being destroyed by manmade means.

America just got a new national park and preserve and it's only one of two in all of the lower United States.

New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, located in West Virginia, received its dual status in January 2021, which gives the nearly 73,000-acre area federal protection as well as defends the wildlife and ecosystem from being destroyed by manmade means.

"When it was established, though, there are a few national parks and preserves but most of those are in Alaska because Alaskans have always allowed traditional use for hunting and fishing. So many of the parks in Alaska were parks and preserves like Denali National Park and Preserve," Lizzie Watts, superintendent of New River Gorge National Park and Preserve, said.



Grandview at New River Gorge. (National Park Service)

RELATED: Warm spring ahead: NOAA predicts above-average temperatures across most of US

There is only one other national park and preserve in the lower U.S. and that's the Great Sand Dunes National Park and Preserve in Colorado.

Watts said achieving dual status was a long time coming and is pleased to have this sprawling area preserved for future generations.



Grandview overlook. (National Park Service)

"This last major effort was started about 18 months ago, almost two years ago," Watts explained. "Senator (Shelley Moore) Capito would introduce it and Senator (Joe) Manchin came on board very quickly and then they formed a team to say, 'This is special. Not just special for West Virginia but special for the whole country and let's go ahead and highlight how unique it is and let the world know that we do have a new incredibly gorgeous national park here in the east.'"

According to Watts, there are not many forested or canopied areas that are federally protected, but this past legislation changed that.

RELATED: US officially rejoins Paris climate accord as Biden administration works on new 2030 emissions goal

Watts also mentioned how important creating this national park and preserve was because it protects about 124 miles of natural water, which, according to Watts, is one of the most important resources in the world.

"We all depend on it (water). Now we have areas where we really put energy into keeping our water clean. Learning to make sure it's clean and making sure it's preserved for future generations," Watts added.

Visitors can not only enjoy the biodiversity offered by New River Gorge, but hunting is encouraged in the preservation areas of the park.



Sandstone Falls at New River Gorge. (National Park Service)

RELATED: Biden signs sweeping climate orders targeting US oil, gas and coal emissions

Watts said that hunting is beneficial to the ecosystem as the larger predators who normally keep wildlife populations in check are no longer the main gatekeepers keeping animal life at manageable numbers. That's where humans come in to help.

One unique part of the park that Watts highlighted was the old, former coalmining town of Thurmond.

"Thurmond is a little railroad town. It historically was truly an important part of the world because it's where all of our coal mining and railroading and logging history took place. And that's where people came from all over the world to work in the coalfields, to work on the railroad and that's what built America," Watts said.



Thurmond at New River Gorge. (National Park Service)

RELATED: [The largest ‘potentially hazardous asteroid’ of 2021 will pass by Earth on March 21](#)

Trails around Thurmond offer a blast from the past as visitors not only can enjoy scenic views but can even get a chance to see old structures such as the first Baptist church of Thurmond, old mining trails and the railroad.

"That's the American part of history that people literally from many walks of life came to work in those coalfields. And it's that coal that we shipped around the world, as well as the United States, to build Pennsylvania and our industrial heritage," Watts added.

Not only is the park rich in history but it's rich in biodiversity as well. "We have over 1,500 species of plants and animals that call the park home and that makes it pretty special as far as the ecosystem," Watts said.

And as the Sequoia National Park is known for its giant trees, New River Gorge has two main attractions: the gorge and the New River itself.

RELATED: [Scientists say 1-2% of bugs lost every year due to climate change, agriculture, pesticides](#)

"I would say two things. First, it's the river itself. Watersheds are truly the most remarkable ecosystems anywhere and we all depend on them. So, first and foremost it would be ensuring that we keep this river, which is so unique and so gorgeous. If you're a boater or a hiker that just wants to walk beside it or somebody that just wants to watch boaters boating or fishermen fishing, it's quite a remarkable river. And the second I would say geologically would be the gorge. It's beautiful to see from the car, or from taking a hike up on the rim but it's a magnificent ecosystem to see from the river itself," Watts said.



Boats on New River.

The gorge is about seven miles long and it is very deep, very narrow and has very powerful water rushing through it.

"It has been known for the last 45 years or so as some of the best whitewater boating in the world," Watts said.

"Adventuresome is the right word," Watts said for those who wished to brave the rapids.

[RELATED: COVID-19 linked to biggest drop in US greenhouse gas emissions since WWII, report finds](#)

Visitors might get the chance to see deer, bears or even an otter family when they come to the park.

"It is mother nature at her best," Watts said with a smile.

Watts believes New River Gorge is a nature mecca and there's something for everyone from whitewater rafting, rock climbing and hunting to leisurely hikes fit for the whole family.



Sunset on New River Gorge. (National Park Service)

"People experience parks in different ways and our request is leave no trace, protect the environment you're using, stay on the trails, make sure these days that you're wearing a mask and that you make sure you're social distancing. But it is, these belong to all of us. America forgets sometimes that the rest of the world gives us credit for having America's best idea by creating a national parks system and this really is a place that you can come and be inspired," Watts said.

Watts said that being part of this new park and preserve is not only a privilege for her but she and her staff take great pride in upkeeping a place where people can come and enjoy what nature has to offer them.

RELATED: Bill Gates warns coming climate crisis will be deadlier than coronavirus

"We are public servants. I think American people know that but I think sometimes we forget to remind them - we work for them," Watts said. "We have the best jobs in the world, preserving just remarkable places but it really is the public service that my team takes to heart. That's what we're supposed to do. We are lucky that we get to educate and inspire and assist people in all kinds of ways. If it's search and rescue or river rescue, and my staff is very devoted to that.

You can learn more about New River Gorge by visiting the [National Park Service website](#).

Children
Jan 1, 2021

2021 New Year's Day babies bring signs of hope to DC region

Published January 1
News
FOX 5 DC

Link: <https://www.fox5dc.com/news/2021-new-years-day-babies-bring-signs-of-hope-to-dc-region>

ROCKVILLE, Md. - Several D.C. area hospitals rang in 2021 with some of the first New Year's Day babies in the region.

Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring welcomed their newest addition - a baby boy - at 12:21 a.m.



Baby boy Jordan was born on New Year's Day 2021 at 12:30 a.m. at Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center in Rockville.

Adventist HealthCare Shady Grove Medical Center helped Annapolis parents Michele Vicino-Coleman and Ricardo Coleman welcome six pound, 12 ounce baby boy Jordan into the world around 12:30 a.m. A few hours later, the staff at Adventist HealthCare

White Oak Medical Center in Silver Spring delivered a seven pound, three ounce baby boy to a Hyattsville family.

The hospitals say the babies and their parents received special gift baskets filled with bibs, books, a blanket and other essentials to help them celebrate being 2021's first arrivals.

"The first baby of the New Year is always so exciting at our Birth Center," said Nan Troiano, Shady Grove Medical Center's director of Women's and Infants' Services.

"This special occasion is a blessing and marks the many new beginnings to come this year," said Patricia Hudson, manager of the Birth Center at White Oak Medical Center.