

I don't know about you all, but I SWEAR that I just wrote very recently and now I'm at it again. I guess as one ages, the time goes faster every year. My Mom told me that years ago and I didn't listen.

Well the dismal economy is hitting our county, Fairfax, very hard. Services are being slashed and even eliminated. The library is taking a hit like other agencies. We will be ridding exempt staff in June, cutting back on materials (books) and hours and closing some days. This is the worst I've even seen it even when we lived in NYC in the mid 1970s when the bank would not cash my Brooklyn Public Library paycheck because the county didn't have the funds to back it up!

This year Jeff and I have been busy with work and extra curricular activities. Jeff was reelected President of the Fairfax County Federation of Civic Associations, his second term. He LOVES being involved in the community and County politics. The meetings keep him out late but he comes home smiling with SO many interesting stories.

The contract that his company won last year to supplement the Air Traffic Control radar system with satellite navigation data passed all its FAA milestones, and they authorized full deployment. He works in the project's Product Assurance organization, handling Quality Assurance, Configuration Management and Document Management functions. A trip to Germany to audit some vendors may be in the offering for January.

I went for and got a promotion. The draw was not the promotion but the fact that I would, once again, be working 5 minutes from home. I worked at Chantilly Regional Library when it first opened in 1995 and the kids were across the street at Chantilly High School. It was very convenient then and it is now, too.

After six months I am just now feeling comfortable with the new staff, building and the community. Seeing neighbors come on by is a hoot! We also have teen "issues" from the nearby high and middle schools. So, now my management team and I patrol the library every between 2:3-4:30 trying to head off "trouble". I am working with TWO local police captains! (We are on the line between the two precincts)

Adam and Karla are still nearby in Reston. We love having them so close to us. Adam is getting involved in the local politics also. Like father like son!

Sarah graduates from medical school in May and Andy finishes up his emergency medicine residency in June. Sarah is interviewing emergency residencies around the country. Wherever she gets accepted, then Andy will look for a job. Jeff was hoping that they would be within driving distance of us!

We rented a beach house in Kitty Hawk, N.C. in June. It was the first time since the kids were in high school! We did it to tempt them all to converge and visit together. It worked! It was so relaxing and wonderful for all of us to sit on the deck overlooking the ocean.....

Well, that's our life in a nutshell. We keep plugging along and trying to do our best. Take care and have a happy and healthy New Year!

Jeff and Daria