

Fairfax mayoral candidates (from left) Michael DeMarco, Ellie Schmidt and David Meyer participated in a forum held Feb. 7 at the City of Fairfax Regional Library.

# From City Council to Mayor

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Fairfax Lawmakers'  
Last Call for Input

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City of Fairfax Band  
To Perform in France  
At D-Day Ceremonies

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## Double Shooting on Okla Drive, Decedent Identified

As detectives continue their investigation into the Jan. 6 double shooting on Okla Drive, they have identified the deceased woman as 51-year-old Donna Pentek. The 53-year-old man who was shot, remains in the hospital but his injuries are now considered non-life-threatening. Detectives are attempting to piece together a chronology of the events that led to the shooting.

At 3:25 on Jan. 6, police got a call for a shooting at a home in the 9200 block of Okla Drive in Fairfax; the call came from a family member. When officers arrived, they found a woman who had been shot; she was pronounced dead at the scene. They also found a man who had been shot; he was taken to the hospital with life-threatening injuries. Detectives believe this is a domestic-related incident and that there is no threat to the community. They are conducting interviews, can-

vassing the neighborhood and gathering information. Crime scene technicians are processing the scene.

Police are asking anyone with information about this incident to contact Detective J. Vickery at 703-246-7800.

## Need Donations for Children's Coats

The local Fire Department has partnered with City of Fairfax Schools Superintendent Peter Noonan and City of Fairfax Firefighters Local 2702 as ambassadors in Operation Warm, providing new winter coats for local children living in poverty. Firefighters will personally help fit each child with a new coat. Financial donations are accepted at [www.operationwarm.org/fairfaxcity](http://www.operationwarm.org/fairfaxcity) and Operation Warm, P.O. Box 822431, Philadelphia, PA 19182-2431; if paying by check, write "Local 2702" in the memo line.

## Vietnam Veterans Host Award Winning Documentary in Fairfax

On Tuesday, January 24, at 7:30 p.m., Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 227 will host the award winning documentary film, "Thank You For Your Service," at the Angelika Film Center, Mosaic District, in Fairfax. Dealing with the mental health issues confronting many recently returning veterans, this is described as one of the best films of the year. It won best film at the 2016 G.I. Film Festival. Tickets are on sale at: <http://gathr.us/screening/18521>. There are no box office sales.

The film takes aim at the failed mental health policies within the U.S. military and their tragic consequences. It tells the stories of four struggling Iraq War veterans, along with interviews of top military and civilian leaders. Observing the systemic neglect, the film argues for significant internal change and offers a roadmap of hope.

Interviews include Defense Secretary Robert Gates, Admiral Mike Mullen, Generals David Petraeus and Loree Sutton, Sebastian Junger, Nicholas Kristof, Dexter Filkins, Senator Patty Murray, Mayor Rudy Giuliani and Colonels Lawrence Wilkerson and Dave Sutherland.

There will be a short panel discussion after the film featuring Carrie Ann Alford, Policy Director, Virginia Department of Veterans Services, Dr. Joseph Tarantolo, a psychiatrist in Washington, D.C. (who appears in the film) and Maura Levesque, a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in Vienna.

Counselors will be available in the audience in case anyone finds the film too disturbing.

Access the movie trailer at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SNJrXxHCGDU>.

### FAITH NOTES

Send notes to the Connection at [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com) or call 703-778-9416. Deadline is Friday. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

**Fairfax Baptist Temple**, at the corner of Fairfax County Parkway and Burke Lake Roads, holds a bible study fellowship at 9 a.m. Sundays followed by a 10 a.m. worship service. Nursery care and children's church also provided. 6401 Missionary Lane, Fairfax Station, 703-323-8100 or [www.fbtministries.org](http://www.fbtministries.org).

**Grace Presbyterian Church** offers Sunday school for all ages at 9:15, and a blended worship service 10:30 a.m. every Sunday morning. Coffee and fellowship follows worship. Nursery care is provided from 9:00-11:45. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or [www.gracepresby.org](http://www.gracepresby.org).



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BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Some of the overflow, standing-room-only crowd waiting for Monday night's mayoral candidates' forum to start.

# From City Council to Mayor

Candidates express their views on the issues facing Fairfax.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It was standing-room-only Monday night, Jan. 9, as some 140 residents packed a meeting room and spilled into the hall to hear the views of their candidates for Fairfax City mayor. A special election will be held Feb. 7, and City Council members Michael DeMarco, David Meyer and Ellie Schmidt are all vying for the job.

The League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area sponsored the 90-minute forum at the City of Fairfax Regional Library. Each candidate made brief opening and closing statements and answered questions posed by the audience:

**Q:** What qualities make you a good candidate for mayor?

**DeMarco:** "I'm in my third term on City Council and have 30 years' experience as an executive in finance and marketing with Exxon/Mobil. I'm a strong leader and someone who's innovative, listens, researches and finds data-based solutions to moving forward – but not extreme; usually something in the middle is the best approach."

**Meyer:** "I was raised in a family with a service ethic, so it's part of my fabric. I'm in my fifth term on the Council. And as an executive with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for 37 years, I've helped lead organizations to plan, think strategically and come to consensus. A mayor leads a group of leaders and must be able to work well with them. And I believe I have the personal temperament, openness and commitment for the job."

**Schmidt:** "My professional experience and volunteer service in the City. I'm in my fourth term on City Council, I grew up in Fairfax and, for over 40 years, I've been an active volunteer in my community and served on several boards and commissions, and I've been a banker and executive vice-president at Cardinal Bank since it began here in 1998. I believe in listening to residents and business leaders and being an inclusive and collaborative leader."

**Q:** Would you move Fairfax Boulevard development forward or stop it?

**Meyer:** "Fairfax Boulevard can be the driving, economic engine of our City. But Scout on the Circle promised a new grocery store and didn't sign a contract with one, and that's been frustrating. Within 30 days of becoming mayor, I'd bring Combined Properties to the table and ask what it would take to bring this project online."

**Schmidt:** "There are a number of stalled projects along Fairfax Boulevard, and I'm especially concerned about Scout on the Circle. We also have to look at projects' feasibility and what's realistic. I'd look at all the tools we have to deal with blighted buildings and possibly implement a fee system for those buildings to encourage property owners to move along with their development."

**DeMarco:** "I ran on a platform of success for Fairfax Boulevard, and what's happened there has been disappointing. The mayor is the face and voice of the City, and he has to negotiate with developers to make sure they do what they promise. Combined Properties also owns the Safeway shopping center, and we need to ask what they need to get these projects done. The mayor must be proactive."

**Q:** What's your position on the University Drive extension project?

**Schmidt:** "In December, I was the dissenting vote to defer the discussion. I don't think we're ready for that extension. A grid [street] system is important to Northfax, but we don't have a [development] plan, yet. And it would promote cut-through traffic in the residential end of University Drive."

**DeMarco:** "This is a learning experience for us. There's [outside] money available to us, but the street design doesn't allow for parking and frontage. It needs a lot more work; but with additional money for engineering, I think we can get there. But we don't want it to be a cut-through to Eaton [Place]. We want people to stop, get out and shop."

**Meyer:** "This is our last opportunity to create an economic engine to position this City for the next 50 years. But there's no viable plan. We were well-intentioned and got the funding, but we didn't have answers to the residents' questions. So I think we should instead ask a national firm to do a plan for the entire site."

**Q:** With a diminishing revenue base, do you have the courage to make budget cuts to avoid burdening the homeowners?

**DeMarco:** "It's static, not diminishing. But we

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 5



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are City Council members Michael DeMarco, Ellie Schmidt and David Meyer before the forum begins.

## Candidates Tackle the Tough Questions

Forum held Monday night at City library.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City Council members Michael DeMarco, David Meyer and Ellie Schmidt each hope to become the new mayor on Feb. 7. Below are more of their answers to residents' questions during Monday night's candidates' forum:

**Q:** How would you attract businesses to the City?

**Schmidt:** "I'd work with the Economic Development Office and Authority and the Chamber of Commerce to attract and retain our businesses. We need to be a business-friendly environment. We already approved a technology zone and a façade-improvement plan and improved the downtown. And we need to work more closely with GMU because those students could be customers."

**DeMarco:** "I agree, but we need a three-pronged approach involving residential, retail and commercial. To attract the kinds of businesses we want so people can work where they live, we need branding to let people know we're business-friendly. There's \$1 billion of untapped, retail business within a 3-mile radius of the City, and we need to work on our commercial centers to encourage people to spend their money here."

**Meyer:** "We need to design our communities and businesses together. The Inova facility on Gallows Road will see over \$1 billion of investment

and will be expanded substantially over the next 10 years. And the researchers, doctors and medical teams there also have private medical practices, so let's have them come into the City of Fairfax and have our City known regionally as a place where medical practices want to locate."

**Q:** How will you work with GMU to better integrate town and gown?

**Meyer:** "GMU is part of our community and a great asset. It represents the largest payroll in the central Fairfax area, and new faculty coming in has moved into the City limits. And we have open, public meetings with the university where residents can express their views."

**Schmidt:** "We work together on a number of matters, such as the CUE buses. The Mason Enterprise Center is a business incubator, and we hold a get-to-know-you picnic in August. But we need to take advantage of the entire GMU population and continue to work together and be good neighbors to each other."

**DeMarco:** "GMU is growing by leaps and bounds. The new Health and Human Services building there will create jobs, and we need to leverage that. And we need to help the Mason Enterprise Center incubate new businesses. We also need some attractions to draw students into Fairfax to spend their parents' money."

**Q:** Do you support the Rust Curve project?

**DeMarco:** "Yes, I supported it. That embankment and erosion on the right-hand side is so bad. Fixing it and the wall

SEE FUTURE, PAGE 5



## City of Fairfax Band To Perform in France at D-Day Ceremonies

The City of Fairfax Band (CFB) is headed to France June 1-8 to perform in Normandy and Paris. In Normandy, the band will provide the music for one of the year's most significant observances of D-Day (June 6, 1944): the commemoration and wreath laying at the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, which overlooks historic Omaha Beach.

The Virginians' other D-Day related performances include a ceremony at the Brittany American Cemetery and Memorial in Saint-James, France. There rest American military personnel who lost their lives in either the Normandy or Brittany campaigns of World War II. The band also will travel to the town of Sainte-Mère-Église to be part of a D-Day musical salute and parade. In 1944, U.S. paratroopers dropped in and around the town hours before the beach landings. After their Normandy engagements the musicians go to Paris for one outdoor performance.

Joining the CFB will be some members of the Main Street Community Band (MSCB), which is part of the City of Fairfax Band Association.

In addition to seeing France and showcasing their musicianship before an international audience, the ensemble is drawn in a special way to honoring those who fell during and after D-Day. A significant number of CFB members are either retired ca-



PHOTO COURTESY OF CFB

### The City of Fairfax Band in concert.

reer military, former military musicians, or relatives/descendants of those who served in the D-Day operation.

The band of community musicians is led by former U.S. Air Force officer Robert Pouliot, whose posts included the conducting staff of the U.S. Air Force Band in Washington.

"I salute the members of the City of Fairfax Band Association for making this trip. They will honor well those who made history and gave all to defend liberty, equality, and brotherhood. It is a high honor and

great privilege for these musicians from our community to represent our city and our country overseas, to perform in an international setting, and to strengthen even more the strong ties between our people and those of another freedom-loving nation," said Fairfax Mayor Steve Stombres.

On D-Day, military forces from the USA, Great Britain, and Canada conducted history's largest amphibious landing to invade Nazi-occupied France at its Normandy beaches along the country's north coast. The Americans hit two sections, codenamed

"Omaha" and "Utah." The D-Day operation opened a second fighting front against Germany, who surrendered in less than a year after simultaneously fighting the Allies in the west and the Russians in the east.

The band will set the stage for its France trip with a D-Day linked concert in Fairfax on May 13 at W.T. Woodson High School. It will remember those veterans with John Williams' moving "Hymn to the Fallen" from the film "Saving Private Ryan," Paul Anka's "The Longest Day" march from the epic D-Day movie, and a medley of tunes by the famous 1940s bandleader Glenn Miller. Colonel Arnald D. Gabriel (ret.), legendary U.S. Air Force Band conductor emeritus, will guest direct.

In addition to the France trip, CFB and MSCB musicians regularly honor U.S. veterans visiting Washington. Band members provide music at Reagan National Airport for former service members arriving as part of "Honor Flights" to see the memorials of the respective wars they fought in.

Upcoming concerts include a Main Street Community Band performance on Feb. 26 at 4 p.m. at Lanier Middle School. The City of Fairfax Band performs a "Barber, Bernstein, and Broadway" concert on March 25 at 7:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School. George Mason University's Mason Cabaret will join the band to perform a variety of Broadway numbers. Details: [www.fairfaxband.org](http://www.fairfaxband.org).

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# City's Future Debated

FROM PAGE 3

and the hill are the most expensive parts. The sidewalk will promote walkability and make it attractive."

**Meyer:** "I, too, supported it. There were a lot of heartfelt views about that project, and I believe safety is the overriding concern. All our infrastructure projects are costing more, but we have almost 100-percent surety that we'll get the funding needed [to complete this one]. This design, its engineering components and undergrounding of utilities will make it a nice project."

**Schmidt:** "I voted no; it's a steep hill and putting pedestrians there puts them in harm's way. And it has a big price tag, and we've not identified the full funding for it. We should repair the [existing] sidewalk and the erosion."

Q: What have you done to support Fairfax City schools?

**Meyer:** "I have a strong commitment to our schools. My wife teaches chemistry at Fairfax High. I got funding for a second late-bus there, and I'm proud of that accomplishment."

**Schmidt:** "I'm a product of the City schools. I'd continue to support our strong schools through the budget process."

**DeMarco:** "We rely on the School Board to help us manage the schools. It's half our City budget, and I support our schools. But I wonder if there's something we could do to improve the quality of education with less money?"

Q: What's the most important issue facing our City right now?

**Schmidt:** "The redevelopment projects. We need to make sure they fit in size and scale with their surrounding neighborhoods and don't adversely impact traffic. We have to evaluate each opportunity in light of how it impacts current residents and the future of the City."

**DeMarco:** "We need to rebuild our values around collaboration, problem-solving and decision-making with the community. We need to change the culture of how we govern in the City – embracing economic development to support the way of life we're use to, and our diverse population."

**Meyer:** "We're becoming an older and younger



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Hoping to become the City's next mayor are (from left) Michael DeMarco, Ellie Schmidt and David Meyer.**

population at the same time. We have more students in our schools and the cost of education is growing. So we need to make the kinds of long-term investments that will keep us viable."

Q: Closing statements from each candidate:

**DeMarco:** "We must continue our steady progress with strong leadership; without change, there's no growth. We need to preserve our neighborhoods and retain our City's character. We also need to maintain our safe, healthy and secure environment to attract the next generation of residents and businesses. As mayor, I'll be attentive, thorough and diligent. Effective leadership is the only way to follow through on our promises."

**Meyer:** "I offer leadership focused on the future. I'll be honest and transparent and ensure that all voices will be heard for the public interest. And I will jumpstart Fairfax Circle and create a process for Northfax to complete our Comprehensive Plan. Our greatest asset is our residents, and we need to work on the big-ticket items together."

**Schmidt:** "I have a thoughtful, balanced approach on the Council and am visible, honest and approachable. I'm committed to inclusiveness with the community and my colleagues. I have experience in finance, strategic planning, leadership and communication and will participate in the community and listen to and involve you all."

## Candidates Debate Fairfax Projects, Priorities

FROM PAGE 3

need to grow our commercial-revenue base by having these commercial centers get that retail in there. Increasing property taxes should be a last resort."

**Meyer:** "We want to bring that commercial level up to get the resources to balance our budget. We need to invest in our commercial base to grow our resources."

**Schmidt:** "We need to fill up the empty commercial spaces and be business-friendly. And we need to live within our means, while prioritizing things like fire and police."

Q: How would you encour-

age diversity in City government?

**Schmidt:** "To encourage diversity in our City boards, commissions and activities, we should use our many communication methods to communicate [the available opportunities] to people."

**DeMarco:** "Fairfax in the 1970s was 2-percent diverse, and it's about 38-percent diverse now. But it's virtually zero on our boards and commissions, so we have to actively recruit and encourage them."

**Meyer:** "Fairfax's diversity is twice the national percentage, but our leadership doesn't reflect that. We need to get our diversities to participate in our government to

learn leadership and democracy."

Q: When will streetlights be installed on George Mason Boulevard?

**Meyer:** "I hope as soon as possible. We have a lot of students walking from campus to downtown and back, and I'd like them to have extra safety. I've asked [City] staff for cost estimates and want it in our budget."

**Schmidt:** "We need to have the information so we can have enough light for our pedestrians."

**DeMarco:** "Lighting there needs to be a priority and needs to be done ASAP"

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# OPINION

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**H**appy New Year. We need your help in 2017. As local, weekly newspapers, the Connection's mission is to deliver news that readers need close to home, to help readers enjoy great local places and events, to advocate for community good, to call attention to unmet needs, to provide a forum for dialogue on local concerns, and to celebrate and record milestones and events in community and people's lives.

If you know people or organizations doing important work, something newsworthy or something that might make a good feature story, let us know.

We want to know if someone in your family or your community published a book, became an Eagle Scout, raised money for a good cause, accomplished a feat like running a marathon or having an art show.

We publish photos and notes of a variety of personal milestones and community events, including births, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, awards and obituaries. Send a photo and tell us about it in 200 words or less to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

We feature events in our weekly calendars. We are also interested in events at your church, mosque, synagogue, community center, pool, school, club, etc. To have the best chance of getting an event included in our calendar ahead of time, email us the details of the event (who, what, where, when, why) three weeks ahead of time. Email to [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com).

After your event, email us a photo and a note so we can consider including it in our coverage. Be sure to include the names of all the people who are in a photo, and say when and

where the photo was taken.

We also publish notes about news and events from local businesses. Notes about openings, new employees, anniversaries are welcome.

Of course we are interested in your news tips and your questions about what is happening in your community.

We are always looking for contributing writers and photographers.

The Connection Newspapers are published by Local Media Connection LLC, an independent, locally owned company.

### EDITORIAL

The publications and websites include the Alexandria Gazette Packet, the Mount Vernon Gazette, the Centre View, the Potomac Almanac and individual Connection papers and websites serving McLean, Great Falls, Vienna/Oakton, Oak Hill/Herndon, Reston, Springfield, Burke, Fairfax, Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton, Arlington, Centreville, Chantilly/Fair Oaks, Alexandria and Mount Vernon. The publications and websites have won hundreds of awards for news and community coverage just in the past few years, including the Virginia Press Association Award for Integrity and Community Service for coverage of efforts to prevent and end homelessness, and Best in Show for information/art for coverage of local parks.

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## Republican Repeal Plan Promises Health Care Chaos

BY GERALD E. CONNOLLY  
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (D-IL)

**O**ver the course of a normal week, my office receives thousands of letters, emails, phone calls, and tweets from Northern Virginians. Each message is important to me, but recently one really caught my attention. It came from Liz Salter, a 29-year-old woman from Northern Virginia. Liz suffers from a rare genetic condition, Fabry Disease. Fabry Disease can cause intense pain throughout the body, kidney failure, and heart disease.

Every two weeks, Liz receives an enzyme replacement therapy to prevent her disease from progressing. Each treatment costs more than \$16,000, for a total of \$400,000 per year. Before the Affordable Care Act, someone like Liz had to worry

that her insurance company would impose arbitrary annual or lifetime limits on care, consigning her to bankruptcy or worse. Before the Affordable Care Act, someone like Liz had to worry that if she ever lost her job or chose to find a new job, she could be denied coverage due to her pre-existing condition. For Liz Salter, the Affordable Care Act means peace of mind.

### COMMENTARY

"When the ACA passed and included the ban on annual and lifetime limits, it was such a relief because, at 29, I could easily reach these limits. Not being able to get these treatments could have a lifelong effect on my health," she told me. "I also was relieved that if I ever lost my job and needed to purchase insurance, I wouldn't have to worry about being denied due to a pre-existing



condition, as most insurance wouldn't want to cover me."

For Liz Salter and so many of our friends and neighbors, the Affordable Care Act means peace of mind when it comes to health care. Could we improve it to expand benefits to more Americans and continue to bring down the cost curve? Of course we could.

But that's not what the Republican Majority in Congress is about to do. What they plan to do is repeal it before even introducing a plan to replace it. This reckless approach would raise the deficit, hurt Medicare, bring chaos to the health care market, and put the health insurance of millions of American families in jeopardy.

Here in Virginia, thanks to the Affordable Care Act, 327,000 individuals have gained access to health care, the uninsured rate has

dropped by nearly one-third, and annual and lifetime limits have been eliminated for 2,974,000 people, including Liz Salter. Children can stay on their parents' plan until they turn 26 and more than 114,138 seniors have saved an average of \$1,015 on prescription drug costs. Make no mistake, all of that is at risk if Republicans repeal the Affordable Care Act.

It may have made good politics to demagogue the Affordable Care Act, but stories like Liz's are common throughout Northern Virginia and they demonstrate that our health care system is far better today than it was before we acted. I support improvements to the law including expanding Medicaid in states like Virginia, creating even more choices for consumers, and continuing to drive down the cost of care. But just repealing the law is no plan at all; it will just make America sick again.

Fairfax  
**CONNECTION**

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## NEWS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF FAIRFAX

**Congressman Gerry Connolly has a house full of animals that include a cat, dog and a 40 year old parrot.**

### Connolly, Bulova Visit Humane Society of Fairfax

The Humane Society of Fairfax ([www.hsfc.org](http://www.hsfc.org)) had two special visitors over the holiday come spend time with the animals. Both of them are animal supporters and have been instrumental in pushing animal welfare initiatives in Fairfax. Congressman Gerry Connolly has a house full of animals that include a cat, dog and a 40 year old parrot. Chairman Bulova has two cats in her family now and has always had felines in her home. They both expressed their understanding of the special bond that families have with their companion animals and the important role that animals play in providing comfort especially for senior citizens. Bulova was very appreciative of the Humane Society's Pet Food Pantry and the temporary assistance that is provided to fami-

lies that have fallen on hard times. Without the assistance many families would have to face the painful decision of perhaps having to give up their cat or dog, but with the help of the Pantry they can continue to have their pets included in their families. Donations from the local community provide so much of the assistance. Congressman Connolly continues to receive the highest rating in Animal Welfare legislation in the many bills that he champions in Congress. He was delighted that the Humane Society has a robust community (feral) cat program that plays a critical role in the community by spaying or neutering and vaccinating cats thereby reducing the population of cats who live their lives outside and are cared for by wonderful caregivers.

**Chairman Bulova has two cats in her family now and has always had felines in her home.**



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PHOTOS BY MORGAN HOWARTH

This new home office by Anthony Wilder Design/Build incorporates a custom-designed cord control system.



PHOTO BY ROBERT RADIFERA

Storage solutions such as those in this office by Megan Padilla help make home offices aesthetically appealing.

## Organizing a Home Office

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

Whether located in a basement, spare bedroom or kitchen corner, one of the keys to creating a functional home office is organization. Local designers offer suggestions for styling a space that is both practical and aesthetically appealing.

“Start by thinking about how you would like to use your home office and plan accordingly,” said Megan Padilla, senior designer at Aidan Design. “Will it be a desk that easily converts to a homework station or craft area or a dedicated home office for the everyday telecommuter?”

Keeping office equipment out of sight will give the space a home-like feel, says Padilla. This can be accomplished by using storage solutions like printer drawers.

### Design ideas for workspace order.

Practical home office organizational solutions include roll-out trays for computer accessories like printers and a wire management system above and below the desk for power cords and computer cables both on top of the desk, advises Chuck Khriel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement, a division of Case. “Create a Bluetooth operational office space,” he said.

“Organizing all of the smaller office supplies can be accomplished with a series of coordinated containers for tools such as

pencils, scissors and markers ... or within drawers,” added Padilla. “Consider a mix of drawer heights to allow ample storage for smaller desk supplies as well as your typical file folders.”

Use open shelving to allow for quick access to frequently used items and book storage. “[It] can also make a smaller space feel more expansive,” said Padilla.

If a home office is in a spare bedroom, closets can be repurposed and organized to hide copy and fax machines, says Shannon

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## New Year, New Order Organizing an unruly

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
THE CONNECTION

If retrieving an item from the top shelf of one's linen closet sets off an avalanche of mismatched sheets and tattered towels, it might be time for a linen closet reorganization. With a plan and a few tools, tackling the mess won't be a daunting task, say local organizers and designers.

To start, take inventory of existing linens and toiletries to determine storage needs, says Kelly Emerson, designer/showroom

manager at Aidan Design. “Begin by organizing like items together,” she said. “For example gather bedding and towel sets for specific rooms [like] the guest, master and kids rooms, in groupings so that they are easily identified. If you have the space, consider labeled bins to identify the rooms to which each set belongs.”

Install an LED light inside the closet operated by an automatic switch, so that the light turns on when the door is opened, suggests Chuck Khriel, vice president of Fred Home Improvement, a division of

Case. “Create multiple depth shelves, such as deeper shelves on the bottom, shallower shelves higher up,” he said. “Deeper lower shelves will allow more efficient use of space.”

Organize storage so the most frequently used items are most easily accessible. Allot extra space on upper shelves for seldom-used supplies, like extra blankets and pillows. “Dedicate a shelf to toiletries,” said Emerson. “Group tall bottles together ... and use trays or decorative baskets to organize smaller items.”

“If one closet is used for multiple bathrooms, consider creating a

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PHOTO BY ROBERT RADIFERA

**Organizing small office supplies, like this one by Aidan Design, can be accomplished with a series of coordinated containers for tools such as pencils, scissors and markers.**

**“Custom built-ins make a huge difference [because] you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”**

**— Shannon Kadwell, Anthony Wilder Design/Build.**

Kadwell, interior designer at Anthony Wilder Design/Build.

“Add fabric bulletin boards in prominent locations and in a complementary color for

visual appeal,” she said. “Custom built-ins make a huge difference as you can tailor the storage space to individual needs and create more functional spaces.”

## linen closet.

dedicated shelf for each bathroom,” added Kheil.

Devise a solution that is adjustable and flexible enough to handle future changes. “Consider custom built-ins where possible for a more de-centralized storage approach,” said Emerson. “This allows for easy access to everyday items and takes some pressure off the main linen closet.”

One final recommendation, for those with limited space, a clear over-the door shoe holder is a tool that professional organizer Susan Unger of ClutterSOS in Vienna advises, “It changes dead space — the back of the door — into a fabulous space [by] ... holding toiletries. Unger and fellow organizer Lauri Mennel co-authored the book, “Fifty Shades of Organizing.”

**“Consider custom built-ins where possible for a more de-centralized storage approach.”**

**— Kelly Emerson, designer/showroom manager at Aidan Design**



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# NEWS



PHOTOS BY TIM PETERSON/THE CONNECTION

**More than 80 Fairfax County residents spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.**

## Fairfax Lawmakers' Last Call for Input

**More than 80 speak at General Assembly public hearing.**

BY TIM PETERSON  
THE CONNECTION

**“W**e’re not letting teachers do their jobs,” was the plea from Jo Neuber of Vienna

Co-chair of the organization Class Size Counts. Neuber thanked Del. Jim Lemunyon (R-67) for developing three class size bills for the 2017 session of the Virginia General Assembly, including HB1498. Neuber said she was in favor of putting a cap of 24 students in science labs.

Neuber was one of more than 80 Fairfax County residents who spoke directly to members of the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly at a public hearing on Jan. 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

The General Assembly is set to convene in Richmond at noon on Jan. 11, when they will begin work on new or amended legislation for the Virginia Code.

The public hearing was the last chance local constituents had to voice their hopes or concerns for pending or potential legislation in person without traveling to the state capital, though most lawmakers have already all but finalized their legislative agenda for the session.

Education was once again an important topic for many speakers, beginning with Board of Supervisors chairman Sharon Bulova.

“Of the \$21 million in additional state

funding the county was expected to receive in FY2017, \$4.4 of that is already at risk due to the cancellation of funding for raises for teachers and other instructions personnel,” Bulova said. “We must get that funding back and we must make sure that funding for those raises is included in the FY2018 budget.”

Bulova and Fairfax County Public School Board vice chair Jane Strauss said the Virginia Retirement System rates were accelerated by one year last year, which increases the costs for FCPS by more than \$25 million in FY 2017.

“We ask for help in avoiding funding reductions to our local programs and services,” Bulova said, “and opposing restrictions on our local revenues.”

Several education advocates echoed Neuber’s call to reduce class size, and Bulova’s concern for competitive teacher salary levels.

Other topics with numerous speakers included legalization of marijuana for medicinal use; funding for disability services waivers; transportation and congestion reduction; funding for the court system; and the tax on toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products.

Holly Seibold of Vienna is founder and executive director of the group Bringing Resources to Aid Women’s Shelters that provides donated feminine hygiene products to who have insufficient access to them. She urged the delegation to support the “Dignity Act,” introduced by Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86), that would make toilet paper, adult diapers and some feminine hygiene products tax exempt.

For more information on the General Assembly, to track a bill or find out who your representative to the assembly is, visit [virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://virginiageneralassembly.gov).

**Frank Stephens of Fairfax said it was his job to “put a face” on the request by several speakers that lawmakers vote against cuts to disability services waiver slots. “In my case, an unusually handsome face,” Stephens said. “These services really do make a difference.”**



**Maya Simbulan of Fairfax is in tenth grade and is living with the effects of a traumatic brain injury. She has limited use of her right hand and her memory is disabled, she said. “Brain Injury Services gave me support and confidence to become the person I am today,” said Simbulan. “I want to continue to become part of the community and a successful person.”**



**Diane Tuininga of Fairfax spoke on behalf of the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board. Tuininga said the increase in CSB services for individuals with mental or physical disabilities such as Diversion First and Crisis Intervention Team training is hastening recovery and saving lives.**



**Bruce Neilson of Fairfax, representing Vienna-based Social Action Linking Together (SALT), advocated for putting unspent Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant money to good use.**



**Anna Jullien of Fairfax spoke out against gerrymandering. One-hundred twenty-two incumbents were re-elected in a recent election, she said. “That’s not much incentive to get out and vote,” said Jullien. Advocating for non-political redistricting reform would provide “a real shot at legitimate accountability to voters,” she said.**



**Calvin Rizek of Fairfax is a student at Virginia Tech and spoke on behalf of the group Decoding Dyslexia Virginia. “My own school didn’t teach me how to read,” he said. “I worry about other dyslexic students who give up, who aren’t diagnosed until later.” Rizek encouraged the delegates to support HB842 that would impact teacher preparation and licensure with regards to dyslexia and other learning disabilities.**







Annabel Ingson, Grade 5.

## Mantua Elementary Artwork

These two pieces of artwork from Mantua Elementary were printed under the same name in Fairfax Connection children's edition December 29, 2016—January 4, 2017. They are reprinted here with proper artists' names.



Zosia Ridley, Grade 6.

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with Evelyn Samuel, DMD

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## CALENDAR

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### ONGOING

**"Ispirazione Italiana"** Inspired by Italy Dec. 17 - Jan. 16, Bodzin Art Gallery 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Watercolors by acclaimed artist and J member Judy Wengrovitz and special guest artist Eliana Strauss. [sarah.berry@jccnv.org](mailto:sarah.berry@jccnv.org), 703-537-3075

**Senior Line Dancing 1 - 2 p.m.** Little River Glen Senior Center 4001 Barker Ct, Fairfax. Line Dancing is a gentle, social form of aerobic activity. Studies have shown it aids in warding off Alzheimer's disease. No previous experience needed. Cost: \$5 per 8 week session. [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) 703-524-3739

**Fairfax Rotary Club Meeting** 12:15-1:30 p.m. Mondays. American Legion, 3939 Oak St., Fairfax. Meetings with luncheon and program. [fairfaxrotary.org](http://fairfaxrotary.org).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays. 6:30-10 p.m. Arlington/Fairfax Elks Lodge, 8421 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax. Free lessons at 7:30 p.m. No partners needed. Dinner menu. \$8. Under 21 free. [nvshag.org](http://nvshag.org).

**FUN-Exercise** Thursdays, noon - 12:50 p.m. Grace Presbyterian Church Family Room, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. Inova certified exercise instructor leads a moderate level exercise class with music and current events conversation. Muscle, Balance, Strength Training using stretch bands and weights both standing and seated exercises. Instructor donation is \$5. [moorefitt@yahoo.com](mailto:moorefitt@yahoo.com) or 703-499-6133.

**EXERCISE PROGRAM** Mondays and Fridays at 9:30 a.m. year-round at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 5114 Twinbrook Rd. Fairfax. The exercises are for strength, balance and maintaining limberness. Contact SCFB office at 703-426-2824 for more information.

**Cafe Ivrit (Hebrew Cafe).** Wednesdays. 8:15-9:15 a.m. Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Shalom (hello) Did you always want to converse in Hebrew? Join Na'ama each week for conversational Hebrew. You will learn and practice Hebrew in a fun and interactive way while learning more about Israel. Free, however we ask that you try to attend regularly. RSVP [Naama.Gold@jccnv.org](mailto:Naama.Gold@jccnv.org).

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PHOTO COURTESY OF WORKHOUSE ARTS CENTER

## Mystery at Workhouse

**Jason Krage, featured in the mystery 'Solitary Confinement' at the Workhouse Arts Center, W-3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Performances: Jan. 13-Feb. 12, 2017. Friday & Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: \$20 (students/seniors) -\$30 (general admission). Call 703-584-2900 or visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org)**

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### SUNDAY/JAN.15

**WVMGRS G-Scale trains at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum** noon - 4 p.m. 11200 Fairfax Station Road in FairfaxStation. The Washington,Virginia & Maryland Garden Railway Society (WVMGRS)

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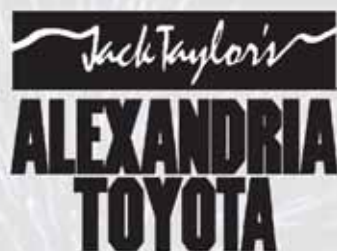
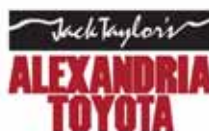
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of a thing  
well done, is  
to have done it.  
- Ralph Waldo  
Emerson

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## 21 Announcements

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M. Steven Ellis, Manager  
NOTE: Objections to the  
issuance of this license must  
be submitted to ABC no later  
than 30 days from the publish-  
ing date of the first of two  
required newspaper legal  
notices. Objections should be  
registered at  
**www.abc.virginia.gov** or  
800-552-3200.

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with today!  
-Elizabeth  
Barret Browning

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements

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## 21 Announcements



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**Saturday, January 21 at 9:00 A.M.  
Presentation begins at 9:20**

Learn more about teaching at our school and finding jobs in private schools. Teachers of diverse backgrounds and experiences are encouraged to attend.

Register online: [www.sssas.org/educator](http://www.sssas.org/educator)  
1000 St. Stephen's Rd., Alexandria, VA 22304  
703-212-2284

## PRESCHOOL CLASSROOM AIDE POSITION

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- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
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The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection
- Zone 3:** The Alexandria Gazette Packet  
The Mount Vernon Gazette
- Zone 4:** Centre View North  
Centre View South
- Zone 5:** The Potomac Almanac
- Zone 6:** The Arlington Connection  
The Vienna/Oakton Connection  
The McLean Connection  
The Great Falls Connection

# CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

members will have a G-Scale train display running at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. 703-503-9711 [jmitulla@verizon.net](mailto:jmitulla@verizon.net) [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org)

## TUESDAY/JAN. 17

**CSB Info Forum on Launch of New Opioid Recovery Program** 7 p.m. CSB's Merrifield Center 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax. All are invited to come to a free, open session to learn about a new CSB opioid dependency treatment group that starts in February. Resolve to help those you love start their journey to recovery in 2017. Attendees will also learn about: How to help someone confront and face the reality of an addiction, the assessment process, signs and symptoms of drug use, detoxification and treatment options, CSB's REVIVE opioid overdose reversal training, the important role of the CSB Peer Support staff. The number of people now facing heroin and opioid dependency has grown dramatically, and the crisis has been labeled as a "public health emergency" in the Commonwealth of Virginia. According to most recent statewide data, the number of fatal opioid overdose deaths is expected to increase by 77 percent.

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 18

**Normal Aging vs. Dementia** 1 p.m. Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, Suite 100, Fairfax. Join us for a discussion on what normal aging is versus what is dementia, the different types of dementia, and what testing is currently available – and when it's time to seek help. [christi.clark@insightmcc.org](mailto:christi.clark@insightmcc.org), 703-204-4664 [InsightMCC.org](http://InsightMCC.org)

**Color Me Happy** 7 p.m. Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive. Relax, unwind, and turn loose your inner artist in our adult coloring session. Coloring pages, pens and pencils provided. Adults only. Cost: Free. Register online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library)

## SUNDAY/JAN. 22

**Nutrition Workshop** 12:30 - 3 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. "Nutrition WS "Recovery, Restoration & Food." Presented by Deb Fitzgerald O'Connell BS in Human Nutrition and Food and an MS in Human Nutrition and Public Health. Tickets include lunch and childcare up to age 8. Multi Purpose Room, Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Take Presbyterian Way off of Main Street. Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch. [nutrition@fairfaxpresby.com](mailto:nutrition@fairfaxpresby.com) 703-766-5657. For online registration through January 15: [fairfaxpresbyterian.org](http://fairfaxpresbyterian.org).

## Plan Ahead Events

## SUNDAY/JAN. 22

**Nutrition Workshop** 12:30 - 3 p.m. Fairfax Presbyterian Church 10723 Main Street, Fairfax. "Nutrition WS "Recovery, Restoration & Food." Presented by Deb Fitzgerald O'Connell BS in Human Nutrition and Food and an MS in Human Nutrition and Public Health. Tickets include lunch and childcare up to age 8. Multi Purpose Room, Fairfax Presbyterian Church,

## BULLETIN BOARD

## THROUGH JAN. 18

**Community Forums on Superintendent Search.** Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA), the firm hired by the FCPS School Board to conduct a search for a new superintendent to replace Karen K. Garza, will be holding ten community forums in January to allow Fairfax County residents to share their ideas and feedback on the characteristics they are seeking in a new superintendent. Meetings in our area include:

- % **Monday, Jan. 9** 1 p.m., Gatehouse Administration Center, room 1600, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church, VA 22042.
- % **Monday, Jan. 9** 7 p.m., South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton, VA 22079.
- % **Tuesday, Jan. 10** 12:30 p.m., Virginia



**A Community Service Board Info Forum on Launch of New Opioid Recovery Program will take place on Tuesday Jan. 17 at the Merrifield Center 8221 Willow Oaks Corporate Drive, Fairfax starting at 7 p.m. Resolve to help those you love start their journey to recovery in 2017. Attendees will learn about: How to help someone confront and face the reality of an addiction, the assessment process, signs and symptoms of drug use, detox and treatment options.**

**Virginia Dance Coalition Dance Festival will take place on Sunday Jan. 29 at the . Ernst Cultural Center on Northern Virginia Community College's Annandale Campus 8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The program includes three Master Classes along with dancer wellness and career seminars. There will also be two performances. Scholarships for two graduating high school dancers who are pursuing professional careers will be presented - \$1,000 from the VADC, and another \$1,000 from the Arts Council of Fairfax County. The winner of the Emerging Choreographer Competition will be announced. Registration info at [www.VirginiaDanceCoalition.org](http://www.VirginiaDanceCoalition.org) 703-409-7988.**



10723 Main Street, Fairfax. Take Presbyterian Way off of Main Street. Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch. [nutrition@fairfaxpresby.com](mailto:nutrition@fairfaxpresby.com) 703-766-5657. For online registration through January 15: [fairfaxpresbyterian.org](http://fairfaxpresbyterian.org).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 26

**Lake Braddock Secondary School's**

**production of Carousel** 7:30 p.m. 9200 Burke Lake Rd, Burke. This classic musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein was once named "the musical of the century" by Time magazine. Opening night is January 26 and the cast will have a dress rehearsal on Jan. 21st if you would like to get some photos of students in costumes. Cost: Tickets start at \$12 and are available from [www.brownpapertickets.com](http://www.brownpapertickets.com).

Send notes to the Connection at [connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/) or call 703-778-9416. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

Hills Center Library, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria, VA 22310.

- % **Wednesday, Jan. 11**, noon, Providence District Office and Community Center, multipurpose room 2, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax, VA 22031.
- % **Wednesday, Jan. 11**, 7 p.m., Mount Vernon High School Little Theater, 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309.
- % **Tuesday, Jan. 17**, 1 p.m., Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds
- % **Tuesday, Jan. 17**, 7 p.m., Chantilly High School Lecture Hall, 4201 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151. An online survey will be posted on [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu) on January 9, which will allow community members to submit their opinions electronically. Additional information on the superintendent search will be posted

online as it becomes available. Interpreters will be available at select locations to be determined.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 14

**Blanket Drive, 2017.** Drop Off location: Outback Steakhouse, 6651 Backlick Rd/ Springfield, from 11 a.m. to 5 pm. (Free Cocoa offered). Requesting: Blanket donations, new or clean used. Share the warmth – our community can make a difference. Blanket distribution date: Monday, Jan. 16, Martin Luther King Day .(MLK). The blankets will be distributed to the homeless who are currently on the streets, in the D.C and Virginia areas first; any extra blankets will be given to the homeless shelters.





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Finest one level living in 55+ community with resort style amenities. 2BR/2BA villa is move-in ready with new appliances/granite/carpet. Golf lot & views. See listing at: [www.MaryLaRoche.com](http://www.MaryLaRoche.com)



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