

Two-way traffic fills Main Street in Old Town Fairfax during Tuesday afternoon's rush hour. City Council discussed Old Town traffic patterns and economic development.

# 'We Need to Hear from Others'

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JANUARY 11-17, 2018

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## WEEK IN FAIRFAX

### Community Outreach Meeting

Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer will hold a community outreach meeting on Saturday, Jan. 20, from 9-11 a.m., in Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. At that time, he'll update residents on various projects in the City and will answer whatever questions people may have.

### Awesome Women Entrepreneurs Meet in Fairfax

On Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2018, women's business networking group Awesome Women Entrepreneurs Fairfax will host its first meeting of the year at jewelry retailer Kendra Scott, located at 2920 District Ave., Fairfax.

The event, from 6-8 p.m., will bring together women entrepreneurs from around the region, providing a friendly space to network and share some laughs with fellow women business owners while building new friendships, referrals and partnerships. From 8-9 p.m., attendees will be able to shop for a cause: Kendra Scott will debut its Spring 2018 line, and will donate 20 percent of its sales to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries, a local organization that provides food and financial support to those at risk of hunger and homelessness.

## 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.

The following is a list of events at **Mount Calvary Baptist Church**, 4325 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax:

- ❖ Adult Bible Study every Wednesday starting at 7 p.m., Youth Bible Study at 7:15 p.m.
- ❖ Full Praise and Baptism Service at 7 p.m., the last Wednesday of every month
- ❖ Sunday School at 9 a.m.
- ❖ Sunday morning service at 10 a.m., the 4th Sunday of every month
- ❖ Men's Ministry Bible Class, the Saturday before the 4th Sunday of every month
- ❖ Commonwealth Care Center ministry every first and third Thursday night. 703-273-1455.

**Beth El Hebrew Congregation**, 3830 Seminary Road, Alexandria, has services on Fridays, 7:30 p.m. with a pre-service wine and cheese social at 6:30 p.m., and Saturdays, 10:30 a.m. with a pre-service Torah study at 9 a.m. Religious school is on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Adult

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Jeanne Lavelle of Fairfax, with the assistance of interpreter Jessica Holt, addresses the Fairfax delegation to the General Assembly. Lavelle advocated for funding to ensure that deaf and hearing impaired children are not left “functionally illiterate” because they are not given the opportunity to learn language skills.



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Theresa Sheipe of Fairfax was one of many members of the “More Recess for Virginians” group who either spoke or supported from the audience in favor of protecting and expanding recess in Virginia schools.

## Citizens Shape Assembly Agenda

Fairfax delegation to General Assembly hears from public before heading to Richmond.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia General Assembly convenes on Wednesday, Jan. 10. Before the state senators and delegates head off for Richmond, many of the Fairfax County contingent met with constituents in a Saturday, Dec. 6, public hearing at the County Government Center.

More than 100 registered speakers and their supporters braved single-digit temperatures for the opportunity to tell their elected representatives just what they hoped to see included in the upcoming legislative agendas.

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova welcomed the delegation, and then began the hearing as “Speaker # 1,” representing the interests of the entire county.

Funding for the educational needs of the county was first on Bulova’s ask list — a theme that was often repeated during the marathon five hour-plus hearing. She followed that request with an appeal for funding for WMATA, citing that reliable and safe public transportation is critical to the economic health of the region.

**THE GROUP** “More Recess for Virginians” came out in full, green t-shirted force, asking the delegation to support legislation that would include recess as part of the “instructional hours” in elementary schools. Recess supporter Theresa Sheipe from Fairfax asked the legislators to provide the School Board more flexibility to better serve the children, and Shannon Hamilton, Ph.D., a neuroscientist from Alexandria, added “Science is on the side of recess. We hope you are, too.”

Other topics included concerns for the environment and climate change impact, with many arguing for renewable energy

sources, and several opposing what they consider the “influence of Dominion Energy” on Virginia policies. The Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, 350 Fairfax, and The Climate Reality Project put forth speakers representing their organizations, among the dozen or so individuals who also spoke on the issue.

Social services advocates were also well represented. Speakers from the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board, The ARC of Northern Virginia, Fairfax County Community Action Advisory Board, Northern Virginia Family Services, and Social Action Linking Together, along with numerous individuals, like Jeanne Lavelle with the Virginia Association for the Deaf, urged the delegation to consider the needs of the community’s less fortunate and the more vulnerable.

Several of the social service organizations also supported the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth, as did speakers from the county government employees union, SEIU Virginia 512. State Sen. Dick Saslaw (D-35) responded to the “expansionists” that they wouldn’t find many dissenters on that topic among the legislators on the dais.

Advocates for stronger gun safety laws, bipartisan redistricting and voter protection, the decriminalization of marijuana, banning solitary confinement in prisons, funding of judgeships, immigrant support, and providing more powers to the civilian police force review panel and auditor all had their turn



State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) meets with Bill Barfield, second vice president, Legislative Committee co-chair for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations. Barfield, a mathematician who lives in Fairfax, and Tim Thompson, the Federation’s president, presented their representatives with a list of 11 legislative issues for consideration.

at the microphone.

In past years, citizens had more opportunity to talk with their representatives after the hearing, but the length of this year’s event saw several of the legislators called to other duties before the close, and even the majority of the citizen activists did not make it to the moment when Saslaw called “time.”

**A HANDFUL** of the delegation did linger, including state Sen. Chap Peterson (D-34), state Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), and Del. Jennifer Boysko (D-86).

Petersen took a few moments to chat with his constituent Bill Barfield, who had testified and presented the legislative issues put forth by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association.

Boysko will be sponsoring the Dignity Act this session, and supporting in-state tuition legislation, as part of her agenda.

Favola provided information on her 2018



State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31) admits she has her work cut out for her in the 2018 Regular Session of the Virginia Legislature. She’s tackling Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, Domestic Violence Prevention, Medicaid Expansion, K-12 education reforms and improvements, and Equal Taxing Authority for Counties, to name a few.

Legislative Agenda.

High on the list is working to get counties the same taxing authority as cities. “Counties are providing the same services as cities, and the discrepancy in taxing authority is really unfair,” she said.

Paid Family Leave, Gun Safety, K-12 Education reforms and enhancements are also in her sights. Favola admits that some of her proposed legislation requires taking some “big steps,” but that on many of the issues, “many small steps have already been taken, so there’s reason to be optimistic.”

To track what state senators and delegates are up to in the General Assembly, to contact them, or to track the progress of proposed legislation, visit [www.virginiageneralassembly.gov](http://www.virginiageneralassembly.gov).



## Pulling Legal Status from Local Salvadorans

**Bad for communities, bad for the economy, bad for the families, and no upside.**

**I**t's going to hurt right here in Northern Virginia.

As this administration continues its persecution against immigrants, it will move to end protected status for more than 200,000 Salvadorans, tens of thousands of whom live among us as neighbors, coworkers, friends, business owners, homeowners.

These neighbors, Salvadorans who came here in the wake of terrible natural disaster and political unrest, have been living and working here legally since 2001 at least. Temporary Protected Status was given to approximately 217,000 Salvadoran immigrants living in the United States at the time of the disasters.

Their families have added almost as many U.S.-born children. They are intertwined with naturalized citizens and other legal residents from their country, with the withdrawal of protected status affecting a community far larger than the TPS recipients. These communities are concentrated, intensifying the overall impact, and more live here in the D.C. suburbs than anywhere else.

On average, Salvadoran TPS recipients have been in the U.S. for 21 years; one-third have mortgages. These are people who have had legal work permits, who suddenly will not be able to work legally here. Their mortgages, and the mortgages of people who depend on them, will be at risk. Removing the ability of recipients to work legally will increase the risk of foreclosure, with negative economic impact across communities.

Salvadorans with protected status pay sales and property taxes. The communities they live in will be damaged. Their children will be more at risk. Our economy will be damaged.

**THE SALVADORAN IMMIGRANT** population is most concentrated in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, where 165,000 El Salvador-born residents make up 2.9 percent of the population.

Salvadorans in the United States sent \$3.6 billion home to El Salvador in 2012, 16.5 percent of that country's GDP.

Virginia has nearly 45,000 El Salvadoran TPS residents, almost all in Northern Virginia, and

concentrated in particular neighborhoods. Arlington has identified just four census tracts with more than 1,000 Salvadoran residents each (two with more than 1,400). In 2015, the most common birthplace for the foreign-born residents of Virginia was El Salvador, accounting for 96,515 Virginia residents. Fairfax County in 2010 was home to 43,566 Salvadorans.

Analysis shows that when Salvadoran, Honduran, and Haitian workers with TPS are removed from the labor force, the United States will lose \$45.2 billion in gross domestic product (GDP) over the next decade, according to Immigrant Legal Resource Center. When TPS holders lose their work authorization, it will result in a \$6.9 billion reduction to Social Security and Medicare contributions over a decade, as calculated by the ILRC.

All of that shows why this will damage communities and the economy. It says nothing about the harm to families. But the harm is great.

— MARY KIMM

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

**Sources:** American Progress, Pew Hispanic, Center for Immigration Studies, U.S. Census, Immigrant Legal Resource Center, local government demographic data.

## Here's What Makes America Great

BY ERIC WOLF WELCH

**I**n the spring of 1937, my grandmother realized she and her family had to leave Germany. My aunt had just come home from school, her hair dyed black with ink and the words "Jew" written all over her clothes. This was the final straw. Within a matter of days, my grandmother, grandfather, aunt, and my mother (only 3 years old) snuck out of the little town of Dudelsheim, Germany, leaving everything behind and paying bribes to officials to obtain visas to exit the country. They boarded a ship to New York and were fortunate enough to have cousins who could sponsor their entry into America.

My aunt and mother were educated in America's public schools and universities. My mother became a teacher and my aunt a doctor. My grandmother worked for the Girl Scouts of America and my grandfather became a die-hard Yankees fan. They became Americans. They loved this country and had a deep sense of patriotism, which continues through their children and grandchildren today. They would not have lived and I would not exist without America opening her doors to my family.

I am a high school teacher in Fairfax County. I teach many students who remind me of my mother and my aunt. These students and their families also came to America to escape violence, poverty, and religious or political persecution. And just like my family, they are Americans (whether a document officially says it or not). They love the opportunity this country has provided to them and want to make the most of it.

Each generation, the American dream is re-

newed and continued, by the ancestors of previous immigrants and by new immigrants. What made America great, and what will make America great again, is immigration. The first European immigrants to America came with the hope of religious freedom and economic prosperity. How is this any different than a family today wanting to come to America from Yemen or Guatemala? John Winthrop, an early leader of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, said America needed to be a "city on a hill" whose light is a beacon. Leaders, such as President Ronald Reagan, have reminded and challenged us to live up to this vision that truly makes America exceptional among the nations of the world.

The current anti-immigration movement, spurred on by President Donald Trump suspending the DACA program, demanding a border wall be built, and calling for an end to so-called "chain immigration," is troubling because it attempts to move our country in a direction different than our past. "Chain immigration" is why I am alive. It's also why students from Iraq, Sierra Leone, and El Salvador are in my classroom, safely learning and thriving, rather than being killed or living in squalor. Should we stop being a beacon to these people?

Unfortunately, the anti-immigration movement is fueled by a belief that to allow others to have the opportunities we have as Americans is going to take away from our own wealth and prosperity. A prime example of this is the argument Virginia state Sen. Richard Black made against DACA students receiving in-state tuition, "Every time you give free stuff to people here illegally, you have to take it away from an American." This understanding of econom-

ics is misguided as well as selfish. History has proven that the contributions of immigrants to America improves our economy, increases our tax base, and creates more jobs and opportunities for all Americans. Our region's economy is a prime example of this. DACA students, and their families, are trying to live the American dream, and in doing so, they are contributing to, not taking away from, what makes America great.

From a moral argument, I am reminded of the story a Lutheran pastor recently told. He said imagine two rooms. One is well-lit and another right next to it is completely dark. When the door is opened, the light from the well-lit room enters the dark room and illuminates it. Yet, as that light spreads, the well-lit room continues to stay just as bright as it was before.

When America opens its doors, we do not lose our own wealth, prosperity, and well-being. Rather, we allow it to grow and spread and become greater than it was before. I urge you to remind Congress, our President, and all of us who make up this country to remember that immigration is what has and will continue to make America great.

*The writer, an Arlington resident, is a social studies teacher at JEB Stuart High School and coordinator of the "AVID" program, an academic mentoring program to help students attend college, many of whom are the first in their family to attend college.*

### Write

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. Letters must include full name, home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Email [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com)

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## NEWS



**Pictured here, McGrath Older winners:** Mary Kate Gareau (Manassas), Audrey Brown (Haymarket), Brigid Nalls (Manassas), Sophia Rankin (Bethesda), Lauren McGrath Dutton, ADCRG, TCRG, John Lawrence Morgan, TCRG, Ariel Raguso, TCRG, Alyssa Imorde (Bristow), Katia Torres (Fairfax Station), Emily Graves (Bristow), Katie Kelly (Montclair).

## Dancing in Florida

Local Irish dancers recently competed in the the Irish Dance Teachers Association of North America (IDTANA) Southern Region Oireachtas, in Orlando, Fla. at the beginning of December.



**McGrath Younger Winners:** Karen Nalls (Manassas), Aerin Raguso (Reston), Reilly Savage (Springfield), Ariel Raguso, TCRG, Patrick Gareau (Manassas), Lauren McGrath Dutton, ADCRG, TCRG, Aine Callahan (Haymarket), John Lawrence Morgan, TCRG, Molly Murphy (Fairfax Station), Sophia Savage (Springfield), Nicoletta Gareau (Manassas), Claire Wolstenholme (Woodbridge), Anna Weaver (Gainesville).

## FAITH NOTES

FROM PAGE 2

learning opportunities take place throughout the year. Tot Shabbat is on the first and third Saturdays at 11 a.m. Kolot Shabbat, a musical service, is the first Friday of the month at 7:30 p.m. 703-370-9400 or [www.bethelhebrew.org](http://www.bethelhebrew.org).

**The Cranford United Methodist Church**, located at 9912 Old Colchester Road, Lorton, hosts prayer and healing services on the first Thursday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Worship service is at 11 a.m., and fellowship is at 12:30 p.m.

**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 9-11:45 a.m. 7434 Bath Street, Springfield. 703-451-2900 or [www.gracepresby.org](http://www.gracepresby.org).

**First Baptist Church of Springfield** offers Sunday school at 9:15 a.m., followed by both traditional and contemporary worship services at 10:30 a.m. at 7300 Gary St., Springfield. 703-451-1500 or [www.fbcspRINGfield.org](http://www.fbcspRINGfield.org).

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# 'We Need to Hear from Others'

**Council discusses Old Town traffic patterns, economic development.**

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

In 2006, the City of Fairfax changed Main and North streets from one-way to two-way streets. Since then, new businesses have come to Old Town, while others have left, and the construction of Old Town Square has drawn even more visitors to this area.

So City staff has studied downtown traffic circulation to gather information about how well the street reconfiguration is working. City Council members then received the results and discussed them, during a Nov. 28 work session, in the context of achieving the City's goals for Old Town.

Transportation Director Wendy Block Sanford said the change improved overall vehicle flow through Old Town, but rush-hour congestion persists. She also noted the City's "significant, public expenditures to underground utilities and improve storm drainage" there. She said there's still a perception of a parking shortage and that, although there's a connected sidewalk network, it's narrow in places.

Sanford also said downtown viability can be improved via elements such as better walkability, traffic calming, economic development and vehicle flow. But she warned that "some of these concepts affect the others adversely."

**ACCORDING TO TRAFFIC COUNTS** done, in 2006, Main and North streets each received an average of 16,000 vehicles a day. But in 2016, North Street saw 21,000 vehicles daily, while Main Street saw just 13,000. And although that's a good thing for the restaurants and other businesses easily accessed via North Street, some Main Street merchants say the change has affected them negatively because less potential customers see their businesses when entering the City.

Sanford also listed some potential options for the Council to consider. They included: Creating a diagonal crosswalk at Old Lee Highway and North Street, doing sidewalk spot-widening, extending the road diet through Old Town, relocating the farmers market to the City, installing electronic parking-garage signage, and having road markings direct traffic to North Street.

Also on hand for the work-session was Kirk McCullough, a City transportation engineer. However, Councilmen Jon Stehle and Michael DeMarco both said Economic Development Authority representatives,

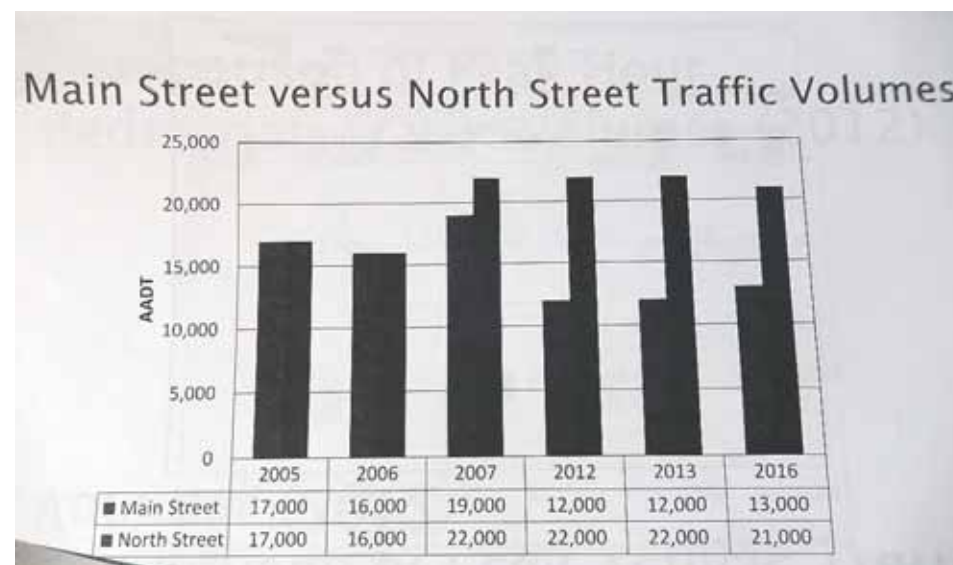
**"This is exciting to me; I've wanted to see this happen for many years."**

**— Councilwoman Jennifer Passey.**



PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Vehicles coming from Old Lee Highway drive down North Street in front of Old Town Square.**



**Comparison of Main Street and North Street traffic volumes.**

plus Old Town residents and business leaders, should also be included in this discussion in the future.

But, said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer, "Tonight's intent is just to give an update [on this topic]. There's a clear nexus between transportation and the economic viability of our downtown. And the City has invested close to \$40 million in improving the downtown infrastructure."

Since the road reconfiguration, said Sanford, "Traffic has been relatively stable. We're not seeing an increase in traffic in Old Town; and, in some instances, there's been

a decrease. There's now more traffic on North Street than on Main Street."

She also noted that the Old Lee Highway/North Street and West Street/North

Street intersections are "functioning at a lower level of service now. But other factors – such as the new library [at the corner of North and Old Lee] – influenced this. Vehicle crashes increased at first, but then went down every year."

Regarding the potential options, McCullough said a diagonal crosswalk was suggested at Old Lee and North because "this is the only pedestrian crossing in Old Town that has an exclusive pedestrian [traffic light] phase. And you need to have that for a diagonal crossing."

But Councilwoman Janice Miller was dead set against the idea and explained why. "This is the most dangerous intersection in the downtown area, so this is my least-favorite place I'd like to see a crosswalk," she said. "I wouldn't support a diagonal crossing here."

As for extending the Old Lee road diet through Old Town, Sanford said City staff would take a "comprehensive look at how this worked on Old Lee Highway during the past year." Miller wondered, "How can we encourage people to use the bike lanes?" but Sanford had no answer.

There was enthusiasm, though, for relocating the farmers market from Page Avenue to a more central location to bring more people downtown. That way, said Sanford, "They'd see the Old Town area and what's happening in Old Town Square."

"This is exciting to me; I've wanted to see this happen for many years," said Councilwoman Jennifer Passey. "We could get

people walking from many neighborhoods into downtown."

The location options recommended are: The Sager Avenue/University Drive public lot and surrounding intersection, the Amoco lot and a small portion of Main Street, the Main/University intersection, and the Bank of America lot.

"The vendors wouldn't be able to park their vehicles as close [to the market] as they do now," said Meyer. "But that's not a reason to not do it." He then had Council direct staff to talk with the farmers market leadership so that a location change could be implemented by spring.

Regarding the electronic signage for the parking garage, Sanford said, "An electronic sign could be down the street, telling people that, down the road, 200 spaces are available. And it would eliminate the perception that there's not enough parking in Old Town."

Pleased with this idea, Meyer said, "I'd like staff to pursue this and bring back some information to us on the cost, possible cost-sharing with Kimco, from whom we're leasing this lot, and a potential timeline for implementation." Passey added that the City also needs to let people know where all the downtown, surface parking lots are, too.

**AS FOR ROAD MARKINGS** to direct through traffic to North Street, Sanford said it would relieve Main Street traffic through Old Town. And DeMarco said the possibility of one-way streets – such as having Main Street go different ways during the morning and evening rush – should at least be discussed. He also asked about the potential to have mid-street, raised crosswalks.

DeMarco further wanted to know what other towns and cities are doing to address similar issues. "And we also need to do our part to bring more people downtown," he said. "We need an open house on a Saturday with the stakeholders. Our businesses may not want the road diet and other things, yet."

Agreeing, Passey said, "We need to hear from others about what's needed to get our economic development going."



# 2018 Color of the Year: Ultra Violet

## Mixed reactions from local tastemakers who offer design ideas.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

It's a moment that interior designers anticipate all year: the announcement of the Pantone Color of the Year. Ultra Violet is the selection for 2018, and local designers are giving it a mixed reception.

"Interiors have gone so neutral, I look forward to suggesting... Ultra Violet, a color [that] can bridge warm and cool gray neutrals," said Moira Denson, interior designer and assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University.

"There's nothing subtle about Ultra Violet. It's one-dimensional and difficult to decorate with, except in very small doses," said interior designer Annie Elliott of Annie Elliott Interiors and Bossy Color. "I find the color loud. 'Look at me!' It screams."

The selection by Pantone, the self-described global authority on color, is intended to be a harbinger of the hue that will be on trend in the coming year. The organization's color gurus spend about nine months observing trends in industries ranging from film and entertainment to art and fashion.

This year's pick can add a burst of vibrancy to a home's interior in impermanent ways, advises interior designer Cathleen Gruver of Gruver Cooley. "Some quick easy ways to use the color are adding throw pillows, which are relatively inexpensive and easy to trade out," she said. "Accent plates on a dining table are an option for those who may not want to commit in their home."

"Use this color in extremely small doses," added Elliott. "If you really love this color, I suggest using it as part of a larger pattern. Don't buy a solid purple pillow; choose a pretty floral that has some Ultra Violet in it."

For those with less trepidation about Ultra Violet, interior designer Sarah Glenn of Braswell Design + Build in Alexandria, said, "The powder room is a great place to incorporate deep colors in interesting ways. Install a graphic violet wallpaper behind a bright white pedestal sink, or paint the ceiling a high gloss violet to reflect the decorative lighting in the room."

Dark and dramatic cabinetry, which Glenn says is trending this year, offers an-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MOIRA DENSON

**"Ultra violet sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded," says artist Moira Denson, who is an assistant professor of Interior Design at Marymount University**

other use for the Pantone pick. "Go bold and incorporate a deep violet island or base cabinets into a new kitchen," she said. "Incorporate a violet glass mosaic tile on your shower floor or as an accent stripe around tub walls. I especially love violet glass paired with the grey and taupe tones of

wooden white marble tile."

Some designers describe Ultra Violet as commanding, particularly when used inside a home. "This shade of purple is a powerful color and one that I would use as an accent," said interior designer Marika Meyer of Marika Meyer Interiors. "A little bit will go a long way. It is also a great color to pair with other colors, it is a very friendly complementary color."

"Good pairings include green and purple, a classic combination, but I've always liked red with purple," added Elliott. "Ultra Violet is a vivid color, so make sure you use equally strong colors with it so it doesn't dominate a palette."

Pair it with gold and yellow tones, suggests Denson, who is also an artist. "I paint skies all the time," she said. "It's what watercolorists do. To me, shades of the ultra-violet are the most pleasing sky. It works super well with what we traditionally think of skies: blue toned. It sets a mood that allows all my landscapes to feel grounded."

In announcing the selection, Laurie Pressman, vice president of the Pantone Color Institute described Ultra Violet as, "a blue-based purple that takes our awareness and potential to a higher level. Ultra Violet communicates originality, ingenuity and visionary thinking that points us toward the future."

lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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Volunteers needed for adoption events, fostering, transportation, adoption center caretaking and more.



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# CALENDAR

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Senior Line Dancing.** Mondays, 1 p.m.; Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. at Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Court, 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. Email [barbriba@hotmail.com](mailto:barbriba@hotmail.com) or call 703-524-3739.

**Fairfax Pets on Wheels New Volunteer Orientation.** An orientation for new volunteers interested in visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with their approved pets through the Fairfax Pets On Wheels program is held the first Wednesday of every month starting at 7:30 p.m. Visit [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org) for each month's location. Prior to attending, please complete the online application found at [www.fpow.org/volunteer](http://www.fpow.org/volunteer). [www.fpow.org](http://www.fpow.org), 703-324-5424 or [dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:dfspetsonwheels@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Carolina Shag.** Wednesdays, 6:30-10 p.m. at 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. at 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 Road, 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).

**Smoke Free Bingo.** 7 p.m. Every Friday. Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Free coffee, entertaining callers, \$1,000 jackpot (with breaks for smoking friends). [www.fairfaxva.com](http://www.fairfaxva.com). 703-273-3638.

**English Conversation Groups** weekly at George Mason, Burke Centre, and Lorton Libraries Practice and improve your English. Day and start times vary. Visit: [va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp](http://va.evanced.info/fairfaxcounty/lib/eventcalendar.asp)

**Funday Monday** 10:30 a.m., every Monday at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, storytelling, performances, crafts, and more. It is open to children of all ages, however especially for those who haven't yet started school. Programs are free and open to the public, donations are gratefully appreciated. There is ample free parking in the downtown area, and stroller access at the rear of Old Town Hall on Main St. 703-385-7858 [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 11

**Art and Lunch.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. The Fairfax Art League will be hosting, bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Free. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) or call 703-587-9481 for more.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 12

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) for more.

**Bonita Lestina in Concert.** 8-10 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. National Brass Quintet, part of the Old Town Hall Performance Series. Free. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 13

**Family Irish Country Dancing.** 6:30-9:30 p.m.

## Live Music

**Guest vocalist Kim Scudera will be on stage with Dave Anderson and Mike Wingo: Anderson-Wingo Duo on Friday, Jan. 26 at 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org).**

at the Green Acres Center, 4401 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. Free coffee, tea, and Irish soda bread, music by Shepherd's Pi. \$15, families \$25, GMU students \$5. Second Saturday each month. Call 703-273-6090 for more.

## SUNDAY/JAN. 14

**George Washington Lecture.** 2-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Illustrated talk by Dr. Peter Henriques, professor emeritus from George Mason University, called "I Can Not Tell A Lie: Myths About George Washington That Should Be Discarded." Free admission. Call 703 385-8414.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 18

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at the Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building will speak on the history of the building. \$10. Call 703-323-4788 or visit [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

**Friday Morning Music Club.** noon-2 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Friday Morning Music Club, Inc. is a community of music lovers and musicians dedicated to promoting classical music throughout the metropolitan area. On the third Thursday of the month they host their performances at Old Town Hall. Visit [www.fmmc.org](http://www.fmmc.org) for more.

**Burke Toastmasters Open House.** 6:30 p.m. at The Oaks Community Center, 5708 Oak Leather Drive, Burke. Improve public speaking and presentation skills. Email [pmagnuson@hotmail.com](mailto:pmagnuson@hotmail.com) for more.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 19

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) for more.

**Sherwood Family Movie.** 7 p.m. at the Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway. Featuring "Smurfs Lost Village." Participants may bring their own snacks. Britepaths will accept donations of non perishable food. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Dance Fest 2018.** 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Harris Theatre at George Mason University, George Mason University, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. The Virginia Dance Coalition presents DanceFest 2018 Gala Performance highlighting 12 member companies. Visit [www.virginiadancecoalition.org](http://www.virginiadancecoalition.org) for more.

## SATURDAY/JAN. 20

**African American Museum.** 1-3 p.m. at Kings Park Library, Large Meeting Room, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Dr. Johari Rashad will give an inside look at the new National Museum of African American History and Culture, located in Washington, D.C. Free. Visit <http://Sprann-va.aauw.net> for more.



## Making History

**Burke Historical Society is meeting Sunday, Jan. 28 at 8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org), for more.**

## MONDAY/JAN. 22

**Funday Monday.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Movement Monday-Kids Zumba. Free. Call 703-385-7858 for more.

**Qigong and Tai Chi Easy.** 2-3 p.m. at King of Kings Lutheran Church, 4025 Kings Way, Fairfax. This six-week class will include Tai Chi Easy and other Qigong practices, with a focus on balance, flexibility and vitality — in all aspects of life. The class is suitable for all levels. Movements can be modified to suit individual needs. New students are welcome. Cost \$90. Pre-registration required. Call 703-378-7272 or email [churchoffice@kofk.org](mailto:churchoffice@kofk.org). Questions about the class contact Pauline at [reidpr@hotmail.com](mailto:reidpr@hotmail.com).

## THURSDAY/JAN. 25

**Fall for the Book.** 5:30 p.m. at the Great American Bistro, 10427 North St., Fairfax. Fall for the Book's New Pop Up Lit Nights invite the community to happy hour appreciations of literature and storytelling. Visit [fallforthebook.org](http://fallforthebook.org) for more.

## FRIDAY/JAN. 26

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) for more.

**Old Town Hall Concert.** 8 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Dave

Anderson and Mike Wingo: Anderson-Wingo Duo with guest vocalist Kim Scudera. Call 703-385-7858 or visit [www.fairfaxarts.org](http://www.fairfaxarts.org).

## WEDNESDAY/JAN. 27

**Irish Dancing Show.** 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. "Stepping Out" by Dublin Irish Dance, an exploration of the Celtic experience through the fast footwork of Irish step-dancers and an eight-member traditional Irish band. Call calling 888-945-2468, or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) for more.

## THURSDAY/JAN. 28

**Railroad Story and Craft.** 1:15 and 2:30 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a day of fun for younger visitors with a railroad-theme story and a related craft. The Museum is open that day from 1-4 p.m. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2, 16 and older, \$4. Cost of activities included in admission. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

**Birdland All-Stars Concert.** 7 p.m. in the George Mason University Center for the Arts' Concert Hall, 4373 Mason Pond Drive, Fairfax. With drummer Tommy Igoe for a high-energy performance. Call 888-945-2468 or visit [cfa.gmu.edu](http://cfa.gmu.edu) for more.

**Burke Historical Society.** 8 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6450 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Visit [www.burkehistoricalsociety.org](http://www.burkehistoricalsociety.org), for more.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 2

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Call 703-273-3638 or visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) for more.

## FEB. 2-4

**Chocolate Lovers Festival.** Various times in Historic Downtown Fairfax. Chocolate-oriented activities all weekend, including a Kiwanis Chocolate Chip Pancake Breakfast. The "love of chocolate" is the unifying theme. Visit [www.chocolatefestival.net](http://www.chocolatefestival.net) for a current schedule of activities or call 703-385-7858.

## SUNDAY/FEB. 4

**Railroad Story and Craft.** 1-4 p.m. at Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have railroad theme activities and crafts with a Valentine's Day twist. Museum members and ages 4 and under, free; ages 5-15, \$2; ages 16 and older, \$4. Activities and craft supplies included in admission. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org) or call 703-425-9225.

## MONDAY/FEB. 5

**Funday Monday.** 10:30 a.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. There will be music, movement, story telling, performances, crafts for children of all ages. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) for more.

## FEB. 7-MAY 9

**Exercise Classes.** 9-10 a.m. at Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, 6304 Lee Chapel Road, Burke. \$35. Call 703-323-4788 or visit [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

## THURSDAY/FEB. 8

**Art and Lunch.** 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Bring lunch and enjoy the company of other artists. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) for more.

**Artist Reception.** 7-9 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Come and enjoy refreshments, meet the featured artist and be a part of your local artist community. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts) for more.

## FRIDAY/FEB. 9

**Bingo.** 7 p.m. at Old Town Hall, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com), or call 703-273-3638.

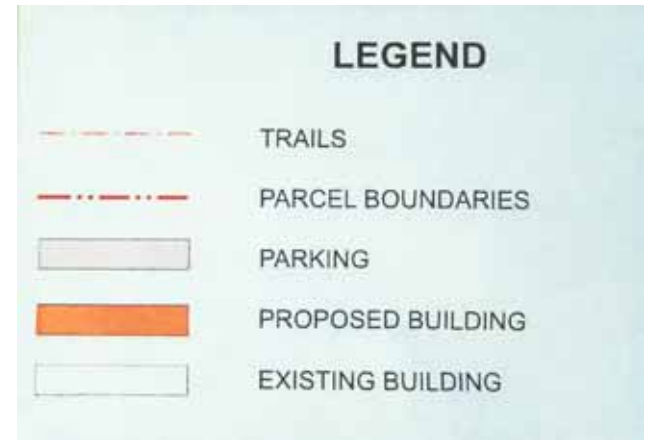




Option 1 site plan, with a parking deck behind the police station.



The Option 2 site plan features half-below-grade parking.



Legend for both site plans.

# Variety of Services under One Roof

Council considers two plans for Sherwood-Willard site.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax City and County are currently working on a joint, master-plan for the City's Sherwood Community Center and the county's Joseph Willard Health Center. Two options are on the table, and the City Council discussed both of them during a recent work session.

❖ **OPTION 1** proposes a two-story, community-center addition to Sherwood, along with a separate, three-story Willard Center.

Parking would include a deck on the current police-station lot, behind the station, with access to Layton Hall Drive, plus additional surface parking.

However, because of the desire to connect the two parcels for parking and access, the community-center addition wouldn't be connected to the current Sherwood Center. This is not the preferred option, but it's being retained in the event that the City and county can't come to an agreement to jointly construct a combined health and human services center/community center.

❖ **OPTION 2** proposes a two-story facility

co-locating the community-center addition and the Willard Center, while still being connected to the Sherwood Center. It also provides below-grade parking under the joint facility, as well as direct access to Layton Hall Drive through the middle of the site. The property lines would be combined, making one shared parcel. A third story could be used for senior housing, and this is the option preferred by both the City and county.

"In Option 1, the community center would contain a senior center, gym and associated space," said City Parks and Recreation Director Cathy Salgado during the

Nov. 28 work session. "There would also be outdoor space for the community center and a 10,000-square-foot playground for the Willard Center childcare center. The City and county would share the access, but maintain the buildings separately."

Option 2, said Salgado, would be about 104,000 square feet total, including the existing Sherwood Center. "There's enough outdoor space for the senior center, and this plan provides the main entrance at Sherwood. The half-below-grade parking area would still have daylight, and there's

SEE TWO PLANS, PAGE 10

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**Employment**

**Legals**

According to the Lease by and between unit #1142 William Steffenhagen and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: tubs, chairs, vacuum, boxes, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 19, 2018 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

**Legals**

According to the Lease by and between unit #3080 John Fisher and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: bed, tubs, clothes, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 19, 2018 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

**Legals**

According to the Lease by and between unit #4183 Valerie Washington and TKG-Storage-Mart and its related parties, assigns and affiliates in order to perfect the Lien on the goods contained in their storage units, the Manager has cut the lock on their Unit(s) and upon cursory inspection the unit(s) were found: boxes, luggage, microwave, furniture, etc. Items will be sold online via iBid4Storage.com or otherwise disposed of on Friday January 19, 2018 at 12:00 PM, or thereafter, at the location listed below to satisfy owner's lien in accordance with state statutes. StorageMart 1851, 11325 Lee Hwy Fairfax, VA 22030, 703.352.8840 Ext 2.

**Legals**

**ABC LICENSE**  
FRC Balance LLC to be trading as True Food Kitchen, 2910 District Avenue, Suite 170, Fairfax, County, Fairfax, VA 22031-2284. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) for a Wine and Beer On Premises, Mixed Beverage (seating capacity 151 seats or more) license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Allison N. Schuler, CFO, authorizing advertisement. NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. Objections should be registered at [www.abc.virginia.gov](http://www.abc.virginia.gov) or 800-552-3200.

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**THE CONNECTION**  
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# Two Plans Under Consideration

FROM PAGE 9

nice connection between the two parcels. And if we want senior housing, Option 2 is the best way to go."

She told the Council members that she and City staff hope to bring their comments back to county staff and address them in the next rendition of these proposals.

**MAYOR DAVID MEYER** and the Council then discussed both options.

"Under Option 2, removing the parking deck behind the police department gets the users closer to the building," said Meyer. "And it makes for a more secure police facility."

Salgado said the Option 2 addition would have a 50,000-square-foot footprint, with Option 1 being slightly smaller. But both would be some 104,000 square feet total. Councilwoman Ellie Schmidt asked what the police thought about the parking deck proposed to be so close to the station in Option 1. Salgado replied that the police had "safety concerns" about keeping the police station secure if a parking deck were built behind it.

"With a shared agreement with the county, we'll need a strong contract detailing who's responsible for what," said Schmidt. And Salgado said that's one of the next steps that would be taken.

Some 36 extra parking spaces are proposed, but Councilman Jon Stehle said he'd "like it to be elsewhere, so we can preserve the large, green space where this additional parking is now proposed to go."

Councilman Michael DeMarco also weighed in. "In Option 2, I'm assuming the cost of one building is probably less than two, separate buildings – and the same for the operating costs," he said. "So that's important to consider, as well. But we should also cost-out Option 1

**"We're talking about something with multigenerational programs, from daycare to affordable senior housing to healthcare – and a variety of services under one roof."**

— Councilwoman Janice Miller

to help inform us about the cost of each building and how much of the cost should be paid by the City and by the county."

**MEYER** said Option 1 "may not meet the long-term needs of the community; I have some serious concerns about it. And I think Option 2 is pretty exciting – especially the possibility of senior housing."

"We need to open the discussion about senior housing with the county, in the next few weeks," said Salgado. "I'm curious what the county Board of Supervisors thinks about both options."

And, added Meyer, "We need to let them know that Option 2 is preferred."

"This is exciting," agreed Councilwoman Janice Miller. "We're talking about something with multigenerational programs, from daycare to affordable senior housing to healthcare – and a variety of services under one roof."

Schmidt then noted that Green Acres and the Main Street Child Development Center – which operates out of Green Acres – should be included in the discussions. "We'd promote Main Street as the childcare provider in this facility," said Miller. "They've done a fantastic job, and there's no reason they should leave this community."

**SCHOOL 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.

**Mary McEntire**, of Fairfax, qualified for the fall 2017 dean's list at Belmont University (Nashville, Tenn.).

**Camille Gullotta**, a senior accounting major of Fairfax, was named to the

fall 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

**Carlos Maldonado-Hurtado**, of Burke, has been named to the Champlain College (Burlington, Vt.) dean's list for the fall 2017 semester.

**Hannah Zakaria**, a senior business administration major of Burke, was named to the fall 2017 dean's list at Bob Jones University (Greenville, S.C.).

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## BULLETIN BOARD

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

### FY 2019 SCHOOLS BUDGET

FCPS Superintendent Scott S. Brabrand will present the **2018-19 school year (FY 2019) Proposed Budget** at the School Board meeting on Thursday, Jan. 11, at Jackson Middle School at 7 p.m. The School Board plans to hold a budget work session on Jan. 22, and a public hearing on the Proposed Budget on Jan. 29, with additional hearings on Jan. 30 and Jan. 31, if needed. Get more information on the FCPS budget at [www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019](http://www.fcps.edu/about-fcps/budget/fy2019).

### FRIDAY/JAN. 12

#### Lee-Jackson Day

**City government offices** open; all services provided as usual. Call 703-273-1776.

**General District Court** will be closed. Call 703-385-7866.

### SATURDAY/JAN. 13

**Office Hours.** Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will host Saturday office hours. Email [mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov).

❖ 9-11:30 a.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton.

❖ 12:30-3 p.m. at the Mount Vernon district office, 2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon.

### MONDAY/JAN. 15

#### Martin Luther King Jr. Day

**Schools Closed.** All Fairfax County Public Schools will be closed. Classes will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 16. See the 2017-18 school year calendar at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu).

**City government offices** closed. Call 703-273-1776.

**General District Court** closed. Call 703-385-7866.

**Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center** open. Call 703-385-8414.

**Refuse and Recyclables Collection** no service; regular Monday and Tuesday routes collected 1/16; yard debris collected week of 1/16. All city neighborhoods may experience atypical delays in yard waste collection this week. Leave items at curb until they are collected. Call 703-385-7837.

**CUE Bus** runs on modified weekday service. Call 703-385-7859.

### TUESDAY/JAN. 16

**Refuse and Recyclables Collection.** Regular Monday and Tuesday routes collected. Call 703-385-7837.

### WEDNESDAY/JAN. 17

**Women's Business Networking.** 6-8 p.m. at Kendra Scott, 2920 District Ave., Fairfax. Awesome Women Entrepreneurs Fairfax will host its first meeting of the year at jewelry retailer Kendra Scott. The event will bring together women entrepreneurs from around the region, providing a friendly space to network and share some laughs with fellow women business owners. From 8-9 p.m., attendees will be able to shop for a cause — 20 percent of sales will be donated to Western Fairfax Christian Ministries. Visit [fairfax.awesomewomen.org](http://fairfax.awesomewomen.org).

**Public Meeting.** 7 p.m. in Room 106 of the Herry Building located at 12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold its annual public comment meeting on the agency's proposed fee adjustments. The public meeting agenda includes a brief presentation on the fee process followed by an opportunity for public comment. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/feemeeting) for more.

### THURSDAY/JAN. 18

**Lunch N' Life.** noon-2 p.m. at Fairfax Presbyterian Church, 10723 Main St., Fairfax. **Are You 50 or Better?** Join in the next Lunch N' Life sponsored by the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke. John Cox, who was a guide at the U.S. Capital Building, will speak on the history of the building. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 **by Jan. 12**. The cost is \$10; checks payable to SCFB. If transportation is needed, call the SCFB office 703-323-4788. See [www.scfbva.org](http://www.scfbva.org) for more.

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## Litter Box Humor



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

We have five indoor cats: Biscuit, Chino, Twinkle, Sloan and Andrew, ranging in ages from 11+ years to 5+ years. We live in a two-story converted log cabin with approximately 1,750 square feet, closets not included. Closets in which you're bound to find cats, especially in the winter.

A few moths back, we contracted to have our two full bathrooms, one on each floor, renovated. Given that our house is over 250 years old, not likely a normal renovation. So far the renovation has taken months, as we were told, and as such, we wanted to employ some kind of strategy where we weren't constantly worrying about cats coming and going, sneaking outside, disappearing, and getting in the way of the workman and/or possibly suffering some kind of injury in the process. (Particularly true of Andrew and Biscuit who, uncharacteristic of many cats, are not the least bit put off by unknown people wandering about the house.)

And sure enough, after dinner on the first night FOLLOWING DEMOLITION, Andrew and his sister, Sloane, managed to break through some protective plastic surrounding the door blocking entrance to the upstairs bathroom where they managed to get into the house through an internal wall which had been torn down to the studs. It was their faint meowing which led to their discovery — in the downstairs attic above the kitchen. Their subsequent rescue confirmed that we would need to be extra vigilant to prevent further ado.

To secure the perimeter, we decided to segregate the cats on one side of the house on the first floor: including the kitchen, dining room and my office, with two sets of doors connecting to the living room and to the hall leading past the downstairs bathroom. This disconnect works perfectly because it prevents any escape and it enables the workman to walk in and out of the front door to ply their trade without needing any access to either of the three rooms where the cats are confined.

The cats food and water remains in its usual place in the kitchen. However there is one item (two actually) which has required a major move. You recall I said our cats are 'indoor,' right? And we're confining them to three rooms, right? Have I mentioned their litter boxes yet? Well, I am now.

Not a Herculean task by any means because once cats are shown their litter box's new location, they figure it out. But now their litter boxes which had previously been out of sight and sort of out of mind — one on each floor, have now been placed in two of the three rooms where they've been living most days and they are now most definitely in sight and on my mind.

One box was placed in the dining room where we rarely go at present since it's somewhat cluttered due to the renovation, and the other box was placed in my home office — which box seems to get the most use. (We sort of figured that the kitchen was out of the question.)

My office is approximately eight feet wide by 20 feet long, a space which separates the dining room from the outside wall. The litter box is on the floor at the far end of the room, not at all under foot, but neither out of sight nor out of smell. Where I sit, I am a well-positioned observer of the cats visits to their litter box.

As a consequence of this segregation - designed to secure their safety, and for the subsequent relocation of their litter boxes, in effect, I am now sharing a bathroom with five indoor cats.

All day long I am witness to their litter box proclivities; their arrival and departure, the sights, sounds and smells; their individual tendencies and habits, and of course, their comparative interest in visiting me on my desk before and/or after the paperwork is finished.

Soon we'll have to decide whether to return the boxes to their original location, and risk disrupting yet another new routine. Perhaps we'll leave well enough alone. After all, as any devoted cat owner knows: it's not about us, it's about them.

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



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