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# Fairfax CONNECTION

Elizabeth Dennis of Fairfax gets information on Fairfax County Park Authority's Aquatics program during the Teen Job Fair held Saturday, March 10, at Woodson High School in Fairfax.



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## NEWS

# 'It's a Privilege to Serve You'

## Mayor holds campaign kickoff in reelection bid.

By BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

**B**efore a crowd of nearly 100 enthusiastic supporters, Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer held his reelection campaign kickoff, Sunday afternoon, March 11, at Historic Blenheim. And although he's only been mayor for six months – taking office after a special election – he previously served on the City Council for nine years.

“While I do not have an opponent in this election, accountability has always been central to my leadership activities over many years in our community,” he said. “And I commend all our citizen volunteers, my colleagues on City Council and our dedicated City employees for always keeping the future of our City clearly in focus and as our first priority.”

Meyer then reviewed some of the successes Fairfax has accomplished in the past year. Noting that its AAA bond rating was renewed, he said the City's fiscal strength and conservative, financial management is seen as a model for cities across the region and nationwide.

He said Fairfax is rated as one of the safest cities in Virginia and, in nearly every category, incidents of crime have decreased this year. And he said groundbreaking for Fire Station 22 will be in early 2019. Regarding the environment, Meyer said new investment in streambed restoration and stormwater management is beginning to show real improvement in water quality.

Mentioning the first, multimodal transportation plan in the City's history, he said hard data will help guide City leaders in prioritizing new transportation initiatives such as connectivity, a bike-share program and targeted congestion relief.

**AS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,** Meyer said Earth Fare has opened, Scout on the Circle construction has begun, the Whole Foods at Northfax is under design and plan reviews and permits should be finished in 2019. In addition, the Mount Vineyard (Oak Street), Enclave (Pickett Road) and Mayfair (downtown) residential developments are nearing completion.

The City is also receiving \$13 million to complete the George Snyder trail from Draper Drive and Route 50 to the north entrance to the City at Chain Bridge Road. It's also getting \$12 million to widen the Jermantown Road Bridge and create separate pedestrian and bicycle paths on both the east and west sides of this new structure. And by the end of this year, there should be a new turf field in the Draper Drive Park.

Meyer also praised the achievements of several City of Fairfax Schools' students and grads, saying, “We indeed have much to celebrate about our schools.”

However, he added, “We face significant headwinds as a City. Our historic downtown continues to struggle economically, and a sense of place and our downtown as a destination continue to elude us. While we have negotiated lower rent rates with Kimco, that is akin to an emergency room intervention. We need to discern how to strengthen our retail in the context of the new ways all of us purchase goods and services.”

Furthermore, said Meyer, “The need for senior housing and a variety of housing options for our



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

(From left) are Del. David Bulova (D-37), Mayor David Meyer and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34).

## Fairfax City Candidates in the May 1 Election

### Mayor

David L. Meyer

### City Council

Janice B. Miller  
Jon R. Stehle  
Jennifer E. Passey  
Michael J. DeMarco  
Joseph D. Harmon  
Sang H. Yi  
D. T. “Tom” Ross  
So P. Lim

### School Board

Carolyn S. Pitches  
Mitch Sutterfield  
Robert M. Reinsel  
Toby Sorensen  
Jon A. Buttram

*The only non-incumbents are in the City Council race. They are Harmon, Yi, Ross and Lim.*

workforce” must also be solved for Fairfax residents. But, he said, “I renew my pledge to work tirelessly to address these challenges. None of us has a propriety claim on what the best future is for our City. But working together, we can craft a roadmap that is bold, creative and fiscally realistic.”

“We can show our region, our commonwealth and our nation that self-governance and community building are alive and well in the City of Fairfax,” he continued. “We are not always going to agree, but we should never be disagreeable. Every citizen contributes value to our community life.”

**STRESSING** that he and his City Council colleagues are committed to open and collaborative governance, Meyer said, “Transparency and honesty are the currency of our City – it is non-negotiable.” Asking attendees for their ideas and ongoing engagement with the Council and himself, he told them, “We need you to be part of this bold experiment we call democracy. I thank all of you for being part of the City of Fairfax; it's a marvelous place to live and it's a privilege to serve you.”



Artist's rendition of Scout on the Circle showing the Giant Food store.



Artist's rendition of the residential and retail planned for Scout on the Circle.

## 'Outstanding Gateway Entrance for Our City'

### Work begins on Scout on the Circle.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

It took a while to get there but, at long last, construction has begun on the mixed-use development called Scout on the Circle. The ceremonial groundbreaking was held Feb. 22, and City of Fairfax dignitaries, residents and representatives of developer Combined Properties joined in the celebration.

"We're so excited to get to this day," said Project Manager Aisha Hill. "Our vision for Scout on the Circle, after many years of planning, is finally taking a step forward visually today."

The 551,000-square-foot, \$150 million project will replace an obsolete strip mall with 400 luxury apartment units, 29,000 square feet of restaurants and shops, plus a 54,000-square-foot, full-service, Giant Food store with pharmacy. Two parking garages are also planned.

Viewed as a transit-oriented development, it's located at Fairfax Circle and flanked by Fairfax Boulevard (Route 50), Lee Highway (Route 29) and Pickett Road, so it has easy access to and from major highways. It's also less than a mile from the Vienna Metro Station.

Andrew McIntyre, the company's senior vice president for business development, previously explained that businesses survive in a retail development by creating a community, not just for the immediate residents, but for the city at large. So, he said, "We want people to do other things there – such as errands and snacking – besides shop for groceries. There's even an alley for entertainment, such as cooking classes, music or yoga. It's also about the experience people have there."

In addition to the Giant, the retail uses will be in two other buildings with retail on the first level and five stories of residential



PHOTO COURTESY OF COMBINED PROPERTIES

**(From left) are Fairfax City Councilwoman Janice Miller, Mayor David Meyer, Councilman Jeff Greenfield and Combined Properties personnel Chairman Ronald Haft, Andrew Nagel, CEO/President Kathy Bonnafe, Aisha Hill and Andrew McIntyre at the groundbreaking.**

above. The apartments will be one, two or three bedrooms, although most are one- and two-bedroom units. Parking-garage entrances will be from Route 50 and from a back street. All rental units, the apartments are anticipated to be open in spring 2020, and 6 percent will be affordable housing.

**DEMOLITION** of the former Fairfax Circle Plaza began the first week in March, and the project is slated for completion in 2021. And at the groundbreaking ceremony, there were smiles all around, plus heartfelt comments about what Scout on the Circle means to both the City and the developer.

Fairfax Mayor David Meyer commended McIntyre, Hill and their team who worked with City staff through their site plans, permits, engineering, financing, coordination with Fairfax County and other agencies to get approval for this project. He thanked City staff, as well, for expediting the review and processing of the necessary paperwork.

"Today is a great day for Combined Properties and a great day for our City and region," said Meyer. "On behalf of my col-

leagues on the City Council and all the citizens of the City of Fairfax, I extend hearty congratulations to Combined Properties on this groundbreaking."

He also thanked Combined Properties Chairman Ron Haft for his "commitment and leadership" in seeing this project through. "Your company has had a commercial presence in our City for a long time," said Meyer. "This project will be a signature, commercial center that sends several, huge messages to our citizens and to the business community in the Washington Metropolitan area."

"It says Combined Properties isn't a one-trick pony, but that it plans and invests for the long term, and we're pleased you are here," he continued. He said it also reinforces the fact that the City of Fairfax is open for business and welcomes new development.

Furthermore, said Meyer, "This project will be of superior design and quality and will serve as an outstanding gateway entrance for our City. It will provide high-quality residential and retail for its occupants and cus-



BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

**Ron Haft**

tomers. Combined Properties is also providing 24 affordable-housing units in its apartment complex – and this speaks volumes to Combined's commitment to commercial enterprise with a social-justice presence."

Also addressing the crowd was Combined's President and CEO, Kathy Bonnafe. "This is such a wonderful day for us," she said. "We have envisioned this project for 13 years."

**HAFT**, a longtime City resident, called Scout an exciting mixed-use development destined to be a "premier property" in the market. Noting that his company used to just be a shopping-center developer, he said, "We're now trying to build communities within these developments where young and old can get together and share their experiences."

He said Scout will enable people who left the City to come back, or longtime residents – who don't want to deal with a big house, anymore – to find a place to live right here in Fairfax.

"This gives an option I think people will appreciate," said Haft. "We have four commercial properties in the City, and we want this one to continue our tradition of success. This is a complicated project and there are a lot of people to thank for helping us reach this point. There aren't a lot of projects like this in the U.S., so we thank City staff for taking a chance and letting us do something progressive for the community."

## Successes in the State Legislature

BY SCOTT SUROVELL  
STATE SENATOR (D-36)

Last week brought an end to the regular 2018 session of the General Assembly. Once again, I had some significant successes. The legislature sent 13 of my 61 bills to Governor Northam for his signature. Legislators continued 15 to 2019 for studies and referred several to agencies for administrative consideration.

While several of my budget amendments were included in the Senate budget, including funding the first staff at brand new Widewater State Park in Stafford, we unfortunately adjourned without adopting a biennial budget due to the Senate Republican Caucus's refusal to include Medicaid expansion into their budget. Budget discussions have completely stalled out and Governor Northam will call us into special session at some point in the next two months.

This week, my amendment to a delegate's bill to prohibit operating a moving motor vehicle while drivers have a phone in their hand died after passing the Senate 29-

11. Due to fiscal impacts of amendments loaded onto the bill requiring a racial profiling study, opponents were able to push the bill into a conference committee where it died. Car accidents and deaths are on the rise nationally and in Virginia due to distracted driving and this would have saved lives. I will try again next year.

I am especially proud of successful legislation that I carried with a companion bill by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Chris Jones providing compensation to four men who were wrongfully convicted of rape after being coerced into false confessions by a corrupt Norfolk detective currently in federal prison. The four former sailors, known as "The Norfolk Four," spent between eight to 12 years in jail and another eight-plus years out of jail on the Sex Offender Registry. The legislation authorizes the state to compensate them \$3.5 million if the City of Norfolk at least matches that amount. Convicting the innocent is bad enough, but it is especially wrongful if it is achieved



through intentional law enforcement misconduct.

The legislature also approved a bill to provide a \$154 million dedicated funding stream for Metro. This money will now need to be matched by Maryland and the District of Columbia, but it is desperately needed to make up for 20 years of funding neglect. Metro funding is good news, but I am very disturbed that the Senate's proposal to increase the Northern Virginia hotel tax and grantor's tax (the tax on home sales) was omitted. Because of this, an additional \$50 million per year will be diverted from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority (NVTA). This means that those NVTA funds may not be available for U.S. 1 improvements in Fairfax and Prince William counties. I will urge Governor Northam to amend the bill.

Last week, I met with several state officials. First, I met with Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) officials to address the pending U.S. 1 widening between Fort Belvoir and Hybla Valley. You can read an update in my

online newsletter at [scottsurovell.blogspot.com](http://scottsurovell.blogspot.com). I also met with VDOT about granting them authority to regulate large signs on our interstates to avoid the debacle last week when some I-95 lanes were shut down for three days by a Potomac Mills' 140-foot sign that fell down.

I also met with state economic development officials to discuss Virginia's designation of areas to be included in the federal Opportunity Zone Program, which would incentivize redevelopment in low-income or high-unemployment areas.

Prince William County has refused to share their submission to the state with me and Fairfax County prioritized the Amazon site in Herndon over U.S. 1 although I am not aware of any low-income areas around the Amazon site. I hope to provide persuasive information to the state about the 36<sup>th</sup> District's U.S. 1 Corridor, a designation that could yield significant benefit to this highway's future.

Please let me know if you have any feedback on this session at [scottsurovell@gmail.com](mailto:scottsurovell@gmail.com). It is an honor to serve as your state senator.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### Keeping Kids Safe

To the Editor:

Thank you for your excellent work, Connection! I was happy to see approximately half of the March 7-13 issue of the Oak Hill / Herndon Connection devoted to the conversation on keeping kids safe from shootings.

A law to restrict purchasing of guns to one per month only was passed in 1993 in Virginia, and

then repealed in 2013. Statistics about gun violence at the time showed that having that particular law on the books prevented so much tragedy. Statistics show that gun violence went back up when the law was repealed; gun traffickers take advantage of Virginia's weaker gun laws and illegally traffic guns to other states.

I did a small amount of research

on the one-handgun a month law, and I understand it was repealed, but this legislation needs to be revisited.

I was also surprised to learn about Virginia Law SB 288 - a common sense law that was going to require citizens who legally own guns to report if their gun was stolen or transferred.

This law failed in committee and

was never voted on. It's a common sense gun law, I can't understand how something so simple could not even go to a vote in the Senate?

We need to enact common-sense laws that protect our nation's children.

**Jodi Beatty**  
Herndon

#### Costs and Benefits of Arming the Teachers

To the Editor:

The lead editorial by Monte F. Bourjaily, IV ("No Guns in the Classroom," Connection March 7-13, 2018) warns of many ills that would attend the arming of school personnel. Whether that is a good idea or not, it bears consideration that hundreds of U.S. school districts have done so for some years, apparently without untoward consequence (at least so far), as detailed by a recent New York Times news article (available at <http://nyti.ms/2oLEem0>). That experience should not be overlooked in forming a necessarily probabilistic judgment as to whether the benefits (such as more rapid re-

sponse to active shooters and general deterrence) are likely to outweigh the costs (such as the potential for accidental shootings and general unease). As for the supposed "gag rule," the Dickey Amendment does not prohibit research into the effects of gun violence, only CDC advocacy for gun control, reading in relevant part: "none of the funds made available for injury prevention and control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) may be used to advocate or promote gun control" (available at <http://bit.ly/22zCqKD>, pdf page 245).

**Griselda Farthing**  
Great Falls

### Write, Respond, React

The Connection welcomes views on any public issue. The deadline for all material is noon Friday. Letters must be signed. Include home address and home and business numbers. Letters are routinely edited for libel, grammar, good taste and factual errors. Send to:

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# Spring 2018 HomeLifeStyle

The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. One garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. [fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for tickets. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

PHOTO BY DONNA MOULTON/FAIRFAX GARDEN CLUB

Fairfax  
CONNECTION

## 85th Virginia Historic Garden Week in April

**M**ark your calendar for Tuesday, April 24, 2018, as the Garden Club of Fairfax invites you to this year's Historic Garden Week Tour in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna.

Experience 250 years of history in the once agricultural hills of northern Fairfax County. In Great Falls is the William Gunnell home built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax. Stroll through a quilt garden designed by the current owner, a well-known quilter, and enjoy carefully tended fruit and vegetable gardens as well as landscaped vistas.

In the historic town of Vienna, explore an 1892 home built on the grounds of the Grange Camp and a charming cottage designed by a couple as a "sensible home" to retire-in-place.

A transitional executive home with a waterfall garden is showcased in McLean.

Tour headquarters are at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna, where admission and refreshments are included.

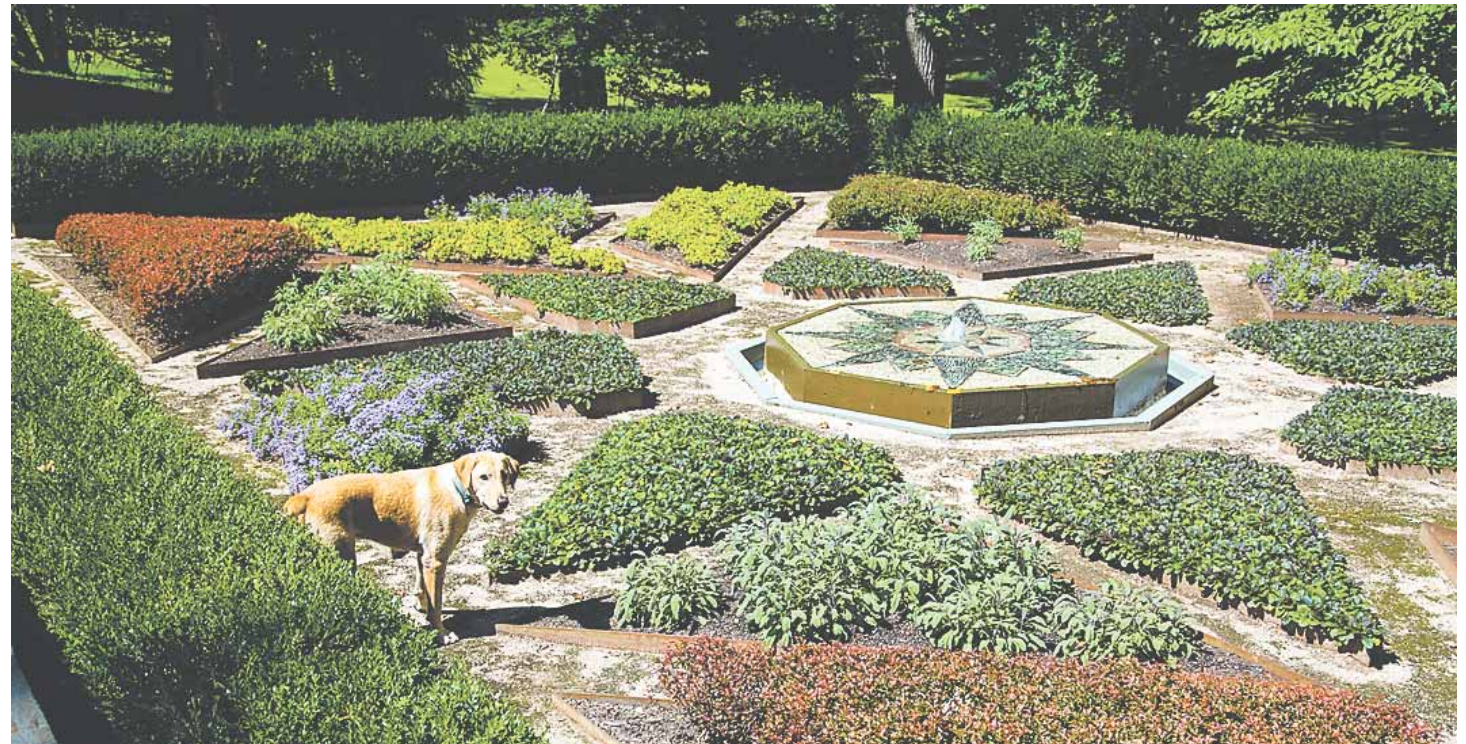
Access to William Gunnell House is only by shuttle bus. Pick-up and drop-off at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Tickets available at the Library.

As part of the Garden Club of Virginia's 85th Historic Garden Week, this tour will be one of thirty statewide tours held April 21-28, 2018 featuring nearly 200 of Virginia's most picturesque gardens and private homes.

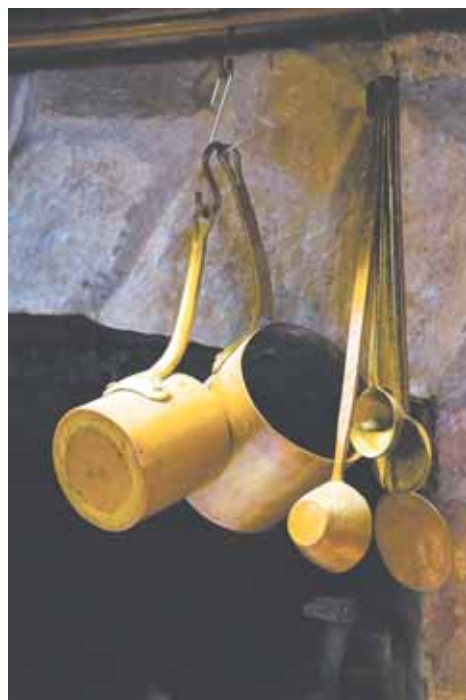
Proceeds from the event fund the restoration and preservation of more than 40 of Virginia's historic public gardens and landscapes, a research fellowship program, and a new partnership with the Virginia State Parks. Iconic landmarks such as Mount Vernon, the Pavilion Gardens at the University of Virginia and the Woodrow Wilson Presidential Library have been restored to their original splendor due to the hard work of thousands of volunteers, the generosity of countless home and garden owners, and the nearly 30,000 visitors from around the world who have enjoyed the tours.

For more information about the tour and to buy tickets online, go to [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org). The statewide schedule for Historic Garden Week is also listed. Advance Tickets: \$40 per person online or by mail before April 17. Send a self-addressed stamped envelope and check made out to The Garden Club of Fairfax to Marty Whipple, 11508 Yates Ford Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039. (703) 978-4130 or [Fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:Fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for questions. \$50 day of tour.

**WILLIAM GUNNELL HOUSE**, Innsbruck Avenue, Great Falls The original home is a hall-and-parlor structure built in 1750 on 12,588 acres owned by Thomas, sixth Lord Fairfax, for whom the county is named. The now 10-acre property includes a large farm pond, Virginia's fifth oldest measured hemlock, boxwood lined paths, flower, fruit, vegetable and herb gardens, and grape and



**The 85th Historic Garden Week in Virginia includes tours of homes and gardens around Virginia, as well as in Great Falls, McLean and Vienna hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. The featured historic home was once the Hunting Lodge for Lord Fairfax for whom Fairfax County is named, a privately owned home, beautifully preserved and not often open to the public, dating to the mid 1700s. This garden is designed like a quilt because the owner of this historic house is a world renown quilter. [fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for tickets. [www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)**



**Details from the William Gunnell home in Great Falls built in 1750 as a hunting lodge for Lord Fairfax.**

rose arbors. Accessible only by shuttle bus.

**MONTVALE WAY, McLEAN** Located within a 255-acre wooded community of 166 homes in McLean, known as "The Reserve," this two-level executive style home was built in 2001 by one of the premiere builders in Northern Virginia. A sunroom is the perfect spot to enjoy the backyard koi pond and extensive landscaping.

**THE GRANGE CAMP**, Redwood Drive, Vienna The exterior front of this Folk Victorian home with a Federalist front porch is

essentially unchanged from its 1892 appearance. Alexander Wedderburn, a successful printer and publisher in Alexandria, purchased the property and built a summer home on 42 acres previously owned by the post-Civil War Grange movement and used for annual summer fairs. Mature trees provide shade and privacy to enjoy an array of flowering shrubs and specimen trees on the 1.7 acre property.

**CENTER STREET NORTH**, Vienna. Custom built, 2011 modern Cape Cod cottage in historic Vienna. As the owner of REfind,

a Vienna boutique, the homeowner mixes vintage with fresh accessories throughout.

More than 2,300 fabulous arrangements, using greenery and flowers grown in members' own gardens, will decorate the featured homes on this year's tours.

### Great Falls, McLean, Vienna House & Garden Tour

Tuesday, April 24, 2018, 10-4 p.m.  
Hosted by the Garden Club of Fairfax,  
Contact: Claudia Lewis, Garden Club of Fairfax PR  
[Fairfax10618@verizon.net](mailto:Fairfax10618@verizon.net) or  
[fairfax@vagardenweek.org](mailto:fairfax@vagardenweek.org) for tickets.  
[www.vagardenweek.org](http://www.vagardenweek.org)

# How 'Open Floorplan' Enhances Classic Home

North Arlington residence open to public 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 24.

BY JOHN BYRD

When does a house become dated? The answer may be subjective, but 60 years is a long time in the life of a kitchen. When an older home becomes antiquated, you want to revitalize — not just the house — but your enjoyment of it. It's a situation that calls for inspired thinking.

Such are the personal revelations driving many a sweeping makeover, says David Foster, president of Foster Remodeling Solutions, and the professional whose design team rehabilitated the 1,200 square foot north Arlington rambler being featured in an open house Saturday, March 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Located in Arlington's Boulevard Manor neighborhood, the three-bedroom circa 1950s brick rambler has been owned by Chris and Megan Tighe since 2009. To make the house more suitable for a family that includes a school-age daughter, the remodeling entailed joining two small rooms (kitchen and dining room) and incorporating the footprint of a rear-facing sunroom.

The new 350-square-foot suite is configured as an open floor plan that includes a gourmet kitchen, family dining zone and mudroom.

Meanwhile, the suite's eye-catching transitional-style interior is enhanced by a custom-designed food prep island, built-ins and a stunning view of a leafy backyard brimming with mature trees.

To make the plan feasible, Foster Remodeling Solutions removed 16 feet of rear elevation bearing wall, raised the former sunroom floor to level with the kitchen and installed matching hardwood throughout.

To augment available light, a 10-foot-by-6-foot window wall, insulated with Argon-filled double ply glass, provides a spot-on view of the Tighe family garden.

"We learned early on that an open house can help neighbors find ideas for improving their own homes," says Foster. "People can see for themselves what design

styles are being introduced, and what technologies are proving practical, even life-enhancing."

Visitors searching for direct professional input, on the other hand, are free to explore ideas with Dory Clemens, the Foster designer who executed the Tighe makeover.

"This is an exceptional transformation," said Clemens pointing to the many original built-ins and distinctive interior elevations. "The ideas implemented here respond to a broad range of owner requirements, yet colors and textures work together to create a warmly habitable living space."

Looking back, Chris Tighe says he and wife, Megan, started thinking about remodeling not long after moving into the house nine years ago.

"A childhood friend with an architectural background initially helped us sketch out some perspectives on a CADD system," Tighe said. "We routinely discussed ways we might make the new house feel larger, more functional and more personal."

The Tighes learned about Foster Remodeling from neighbors, and decided to set up a meeting. "I showed our drawings to Dory and she immediately began pointing out options that improved the plans in ways I hadn't even considered," Chris Tighe said. "This quickly became a very productive process for the whole family."

The resulting space is expansive, yet intimate. A two-level food prep island and dining counter sets up thoughtful work triangles. There are custom cubbies for favorite wines, a shelf for cookbooks and a built-in microwave. The island's topmost surface serves the dining table — and doubles as a lunch counter.

Owing to limited space, persons interested in attending the open house should call 703-550-1371 and ask for the address; or RSVP online at <https://www.fosterremodeling.com/resources/free-educational-seminars/>

John Byrd has been writing about home improvement for 30 years. He can be reached @ 703/715-8006, [www.HomeFrontsNews.com](http://www.HomeFrontsNews.com) or [byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com)

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Shafer Dobry at her antique Ashford spinning wheel converting wool into yarn.

## A Stitch In Time

With the children out of the nest, Shafer Dobry is embracing her passion for fiber arts in a basement studio.

BY JOHN BYRD

Nothing inspires re-newed hobbying interests like children leaving the house. Parents — affectionately dubbed “empty-nesters” by demographers — are now left to their own devices, and there’s new square footage to conjure with. Maturity being a precious commodity, one doesn’t dawdle.

Certainly Shafer Dobry of Herndon ascribes to this theory. An artist who has worked with fibers since college, Dobry had maintained a basement space for her sewing projects for years, even selling her work online and at crafts shows. It was workable space, but shared with accumulated oddments, a designated TV-viewing zone and clutter.

When a son moved out last year though, Dobry seized the day: a chance to convert the 620-square-foot basement into a productive artist’s studio with dedicated workstations devoted to key phases in a sequential process, and a library of fabrics, threads and yarns filed for easy access.

To this end, Dobry called in Dory Clemens, a designer at Foster Remodeling Solutions, whom she had met at a home show. Approaching the studio makeover proposition, Clemens was intrigued by the question of exactly what is entailed in custom-designing a fiber arts studio.

“There are essential pieces of equipment that require a dedicated workstation,” Clemens said. “But Shafer has her own techniques regarding which phases are to be hands-on and which aren’t. I soon realized there wasn’t a patented tool for every task. Fiber art is something of a folk art ... where technique follows inspiration.”

“We would discuss how she worked,” Clemens said, “and I would suggest built-ins our carpenters could create that might advance her process.”

Chief among these is a cutting table which now occupies a back corner of the room.

Three feet high and with a top that measures 8

feet by 1 foot, the work table has been designed as a modular platform that provides the waist-high flat surface needed for cutting fabric, and for assembling the combinations that might be employed in the final art piece.

There are three panels — each with a 2-foot by 2.5-foot surface. Panels can be raised independently, or linked together as a three-part unit for cutting larger pieces. The base also provides shelving for storing bolts of fabric. When the cutting is over, the panels can be folded down to form a sliding door on an otherwise nondescript credenza.

As a space plan, the room has been zoned to support the two primary phases of Shafer’s creative process. A 10-foot by 10-foot work cubicle formed by U-shaped laminate counter-surfaces and situated on LVP (Luxury Vinyl Plank) flooring is set up to facilitate sewing and knitting. An ergonomic office chair on casters allows Shafer to roll from sewing machine to knitting machine, retrieving threads and yarns at will, and scrutinizing fabric bolts ... all without standing.

Old mattress springs (“found objects,” as Shafer calls them) mounted on the two walls offer buttons, threads, curiosities, notions into the artist’s hands. Meanwhile, overhead task lighting provides the illumination needed for close-in work.

Shafer says she is in the studio daily and that the environment is conducive to producing her art which she mostly sells online at [www.etsy.com/shop/needleclicksEtc](http://www.etsy.com/shop/needleclicksEtc).

Foster Remodeling Solutions will be sponsoring a seminar March 7 at 10 a.m. titled “Big Impact, Small Space.” The event will be held at its offices and showroom in Lorton. For information call 703-550-1371 or sign up now at [www.fosterremodeling.com/remodeling-resources/seminars-and-sign-up/](http://www.fosterremodeling.com/remodeling-resources/seminars-and-sign-up/).

An open house of an Arlington home recently remodeled by Foster Remodeling Solutions will be held on March 24. Call for details and to register.

John Byrd ([byrdmatx@gmail.com](mailto:byrdmatx@gmail.com)) has been writing about home improvement for 30 years.

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(From left): Supervisor Pat Herry (Springfield); Jennifer Rose, Executive Director of Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce; and Supervisor Linda Smyth (Providence), who helped organize the Job Fair at Woodson High School.



PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

Matthew Bakonyi of Springfield gets information from Leidy Nolberto on life-guarding for the City of Fairfax.

# Teen Job Fair Held at Woodson High

About 400 people attend job fair featuring 40 businesses, sponsored by Supervisors and Fairfax Chamber.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

About 400 people attended a Teen Job Fair featuring about 40 businesses on Saturday, March 10, at Woodson High School in Fairfax. The event was co-sponsored by Supervisors Pat Herry (Springfield), Linda Smyth (Providence), John Cook (Braddock), The Connection Newspapers, and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, which conducted a resume-building workshop.

Supervisor Herry started the job fairs four years ago with one at West Springfield High School; he will be doing six this year along with other co-sponsoring Supervisors. "I just think first jobs are so important to our teens in their developing work ethic and personal satisfaction and personal responsibility," he said. "This is one of the funnest things I get to do as Supervisor, and that is provide an opportunity for these kids to go out and talk to employers."

Braddock District Supervisor John Cook added: "It's great to see so many of our youth out here looking for summer jobs, looking for jobs during the school year. And a lot of great businesses – school camps, community pools, everything from camp counselors to pizza deliverers to moving and storage companies. It's great to be able to provide that opportunity to our kids and great to see so many kids coming out wanting to work in the community."

Providence District Supervisor Linda Smyth said teens getting a job is what every parent wants to see. "And for some people, it's the first job they've ever had. And that's a great experience. We want kids to be able to get that kind of experience. It's good for them to know that work is part of life. So, we're trying to help here."

Jennifer Rose, Executive Director, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, said: "Our purpose as a Chamber is to support the needs of the business community in the City of Fairfax, so being able to provide them

with great employees — even if they're teenagers — is a great service we can provide. And offering the resume-writing workshop was a bonus for us. Helping these young people understand the importance of the resume and what to put on it when they don't have a lot of information to go with will serve them well not just in their teen years, but beyond as they really get into their employment opportunities in the future."

Aidan Morris, 17, of Burke, who attends Lake Braddock, came looking for a summer job. "One of the reasons that I came here was to look for a job and also something that I could think of a career for later. I've seen some interesting things like Domino's and some uniform companies," he said.

Carson Hopkins, 18, of Falls Church, who attends Falls Church High School, added: "I'm just trying to find a job for this summer and maybe the end of this school year. And there's a lot of options here that I've found so I've really enjoyed the experience

## Future Teen Job Fairs

**Saturday, March 17, 1-3 p.m.** — South County High School, Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, South County Federation, and South County High School;

**Saturday, April 7, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** — Chantilly High School, Co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, Chantilly HS STEM Academy, and Dulles Regional Chamber of Commerce;

**Saturday, April 14, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** — Mount Vernon High School, Co-sponsored by Supervisor Dan Storck, Supervisor Jeff McKay, Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce, and Mount Vernon High School;

**Saturday, April 21, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.** — South Lakes High School, Co-sponsored by Supervisor Cathy Hudgins and Reston Chamber of Commerce;

**Saturday, April 28, 12 noon-2 p.m.** — West Springfield High School, Co-sponsored by West Springfield HS Student Government Association and Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

so far...This will be my first official job; I do a little volunteer work at my church but this will be my first real one."

Jack Burrer, 16, of Annandale, who attends Woodson High School, added: "I hope to get a job. We just started looking but I hope to (find something interesting). The moving company looks pretty interesting," he said.



Jennifer Rose, Executive Director of the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, leads the Resume Writing Class at the Teen Job Fair.



About 400 people attended the Teen Job Fair at Woodson High School on Saturday, March 10, 2018.



# BULLETIN

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.

## SOBER-RIDE FOR ST. PATRICK'S DAY

**Free Sober Rides.** Saturday, March 17, 4 p.m. through Sunday, March 18, 4 a.m. Area residents, 21 and older, may download Lyft to their phones, then enter a code in the app's "Promo" section to receive a no cost (up to \$15) safe ride home. WRAP's St. Patrick's Day SoberRide promo code will be posted at 2 p.m. on March 17 on [www.SoberRide.com](http://www.SoberRide.com). The SoberRide code is valid for the first 1,500 Lyft users who enter the code.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

**Child turning 5 years old by Sept. 30?** If so, contact your child's school to make arrangements for kindergarten enrollment. Most schools begin getting information together now for parents of incoming kindergartners, and many host an orientation or open house. All kindergarten programs are full-day and located in FCPS elementary schools. Check your school's webpage or contact the school directly for specific enrollment information and dates of orientation or visit [www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration](http://www.fcps.edu/registration/kindergarten-registration).

## THURSDAY/MARCH 15

**Lunch N' Life.** Noon-2 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Church, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Are You 50 or Better? Join the Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke for the next Lunch N' Life: a presentation by the VA Task Force 1, Fairfax County's - Global Search and Rescue Team. For reservations, call Bea Stephenson at 703-273-5730 by March 9. 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).

**PTA Member Advocacy Event.** 7-9 p.m. at Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Fairfax County Council of PTAs hosts an advocacy event with the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to discuss how the FY2019 county advertised budget impacts students, teachers, school leaders, school support staff, schools, and families. Visit [fcepta.org](http://fcepta.org).

## SATURDAY/MARCH 17

**Children's Consignment Sale.** 8 a.m.-noon at Grace Presbyterian Church, 7434 Bath St., Springfield. All types of infant and children's clothing, toys, furniture and maternity items at amazing affordable prices. Free. Call 703-451-3314 or visit [www.gracepresby.org/preschool](http://www.gracepresby.org/preschool).

**Teen Job Fair.** 1-3 p.m. at South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road, Lorton. Employers will gather, take applications and resumes for part time jobs. Email Michael Pflugrath: [MAPflugrath@fcps.edu](mailto:MAPflugrath@fcps.edu); Deb Boullianne at [DBoullianne@fcps.edu](mailto:DBoullianne@fcps.edu) for more.

## WEDNESDAY/MARCH 21

**Education Recruitment Day.** 9-11:30 a.m. at George Mason University, Johnson Center, Dewberry Hall, Office of Admissions, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. This education-focused career fair is an opportunity for graduating students (Mason or non-Mason) or any community member interested in education. Education recruiters may offer a 30-minute interviews in the afternoon. Interviews are invitation only, and participants MUST attend the morning session to receive an invitation. Free, no registration required. See who's going to be there at [ow.ly/9xHj30iCLGs](http://ow.ly/9xHj30iCLGs).

**Springfield District Budget Town Hall.** 7 p.m. at Springfield Governmental Center, Community Room, 6140 Rolling Road, Springfield. The new County Executive and CFO will be in attendance. Visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2019-budget-town-hall-meetings](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2019-budget-town-hall-meetings).

## MONDAY/MARCH 26

**Learn About Becoming a Foster Parent.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Lorton Library, 9520 Richmond Highway, Lorton. For those who have made the decision to open their home to a child or simply want to learn more. To foster or adopt, people must be 18 or older; may be married, single, or divorced; may work outside the home; and must be able to provide a safe, loving home. Call 703-324-7919.

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## "Introspections"



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

According to my oncologist, it's time, way past time in fact (not so much 'fact,' more like his experiences with other cancer patients) that I make more significant changes in my cancer treatment than I have diagnosis to date. What he means, specifically - and what we regularly discuss - is extending the interval of my CT Scan, which currently occurs every three months.

Not so much to minimize the radiation exposure, more so due to my continuing survival. No one's ready to characterize me as "N.E.D.," (no evidence of disease), but neither does it appear, based on the last five years - since I was hospitalized and began my alimta infusions, that my tumors are growing and/or moving; at least not as indicated with any clinical significance.

Nevertheless, the prospect of waiting longer to find out if any tumor action has occurred is unsettling. Currently, given that I am generally asymptomatic, the primary way that I learn if there's been "progression," is by the computerized tomography of my lungs/upper torso. Rarely have symptoms manifested themselves otherwise. And when they have, they've as often indicated nothing as something - and vice versa; meaning, sometimes no symptoms still showed growth. So it's confusing, counter intuitive and contra-indicated, and I'm stuck in the middle.

While maintaining this quarterly scan schedule, I have extended the interval between infusions however: from every three weeks originally to every six weeks now. Which means I've reduced the amount of chemotherapy I receive by 50 percent per quarter. Still the scans have showed "stable." Given that I'm starting my 10th year post diagnosis, perhaps it's time to scan less and live more?

Our concern has been that if the CT Scan continues to be the first real indicator/confirmation that tumor growth has occurred - and if so, presumably different/more aggressive/life-sustaining tactics would need to be employed (immunotherapy comes to print, which I have not yet utilized), why wait through the fourth month to find out? Maybe that month's-long delay in scanning would matter in possibly nipping my tumor growth in the bud?

My oncologist's thinking is that so little change has occurred during the past five years that perhaps it's reasonable to take advantage of my amazing good fortune and extend the interval?

Moreover, with respect to my quality of life, reducing the weeks of stress we experience leading up to the scan, and of course the stress the week after, waiting for results, would enhance our lives; and eliminating that stress and improving the quality of our lives has always been an interest/concern of my oncologist.

And I appreciate his concern for our overall well being; and I would like to have less cancer-related impact on my life but, yes, there's always a 'but.' If I extend the scan interval, I might worry about what's happening in my lungs during the month after I would have already been scanned? What if? I mean, it's not as if we can't go back in time, sort of. We can always restart, re-interval, re-scan, re-everything; so I've been reassured. Why not re-engage more with life and rearrange less because of cancer?

Maybe I've survived nine-plus years with a terminal form of cancer because I'm meant to? Why not leverage my many good results and better manage my cancer commitments? Perhaps it's time to take control of my life and live like I'm not dying? Heck, I've done alright so far. Who's to say I can't do better?

If my oncologist characterizes me as his third miracle, then maybe I should start living more miraculously?

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

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