

The first Silver Line metro train from Wiehle-Reston East comes through Tysons Corner and arrives at the McLean station, Saturday, July 26, 2014.

# 2014 in McLean: A Year in Review

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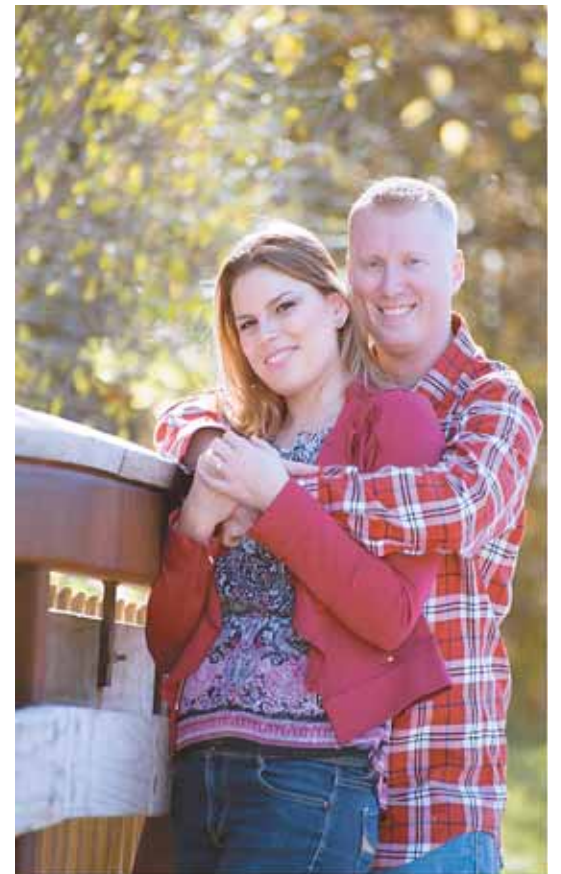


## ENGAGEMENT

### Tertell, Harrell Engaged

Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Madeleine Tertell of McLean are happy to announce the engagement of their daughter, Trish Tertell, to Tom Harrell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas and Robin Harrell of Alexandria. A May wedding is planned.

Trish studied environmental science at the University of Virginia and is a systems integration consultant for Deloitte Consulting. Tom studied psychology and aquatic entomology at Virginia Tech and is an organized retail crimes specialist.



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PHOTO BY EMMA HARRIS/THE CONNECTION

**Young residents and their parents were there for the opening of the Silver Line, Saturday, July 26, 2014.**



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Past and present McLean Citizens Association presidents were honored at MCA's centennial celebration on Nov. 20, 2014.**

## 2014 in McLean: A Year in Review

### Metro, sidewalks and the 100th birthday of MCA.

BY REENA SINGH  
THE CONNECTION

**I**n the last 365 days, McLean has gone through historic changes.

In just a year, the community has become the home of a handful of Metro stations and has begun the process of revitalizing the central area's walkability.

The Silver Line meant the opening of four new Metro stations to much fanfare in July. The stations — Greensboro, McLean, Tysons Corner and Spring Hill — are all predominantly located in Tysons.

"Bringing Metro to our area is a major transportation improvement that will provide a significant economic stimulus for the county," said Dranesville Supervisor John

Foust. "Two new interim parking lots, which were obtained as a result of my board action back in 2010, provide convenient access to the new Metro stations for nearby resident commuters."

Since the opening, thousands of people have been able to ride the Metro from their home in the suburbs to downtown D.C. with ease.

"Metro access has made Tysons accessible to everyone as a work, live, play option, and demand for all things Tysons is soaring," said Tysons Partnership Executive Director Michael Caplin.

Caplin had spent the year turning Tysons into a blossoming community rather than just the business center it is currently seen as. Just this year, a farmers market, several



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Ribbon-cutting for the Lerner Town Square and the Great Tastes of Tysons in the summer.**

parks and a laundry list of events were added, bringing people in from all over the county and the D.C. metropolitan area.

**WITH THE METRO** stations open came the growing concern for accessibility.

"Traveling by bus has become easier and more convenient with a greatly expanded Connector Bus service and the new Tysons Circulator buses," said Foust. "There are also new walking/biking routes to the Metro stations."

Plans are currently in the works to bring even more walkability and bike-friendly paths into Tysons. McLean itself has seen walking paths open up at different points over the course of the year.

"Many residents want to be able to walk or bike to schools, Metro stations, parks and commercial districts," said Foust.

**"Bringing Metro to our area is a major transportation improvement that will provide a significant economic stimulus for the county."**

**—Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville)**

Some of these paths include the completion of the sidewalk on Dead Run Drive and a paved path on Lewinsville Road.

"We now have nearly continuous pedestrian access on Lewinsville Road between Dolley Madison Boulevard and Leesburg Pike," said Foust.

More will be on the way. McLean Citizens Association President Sally Horn said she was happy to see the Board of Supervisors pass 23 of the 24 sidewalk projects locals were asking for.

**A ONCE IN A CENTURY** historical event was McLean Citizens Association's 100th anniversary. The civic group - the oldest in the county - celebrated with several talks throughout the year, ranging from transportation updates to school concerns.

"We hosted meetings on a very wide and diverse set of topics," said Horn.

The group held a party in November for their supporters, using the opportunity to honor all the past and present MCA presidents who were able to attend.

"Organizations come and go," Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova said at the event. "We do not have the opportunity often to honor an organization that has not only lasted but is also a force in the community."



PHOTO BY REENA SINGH/THE CONNECTION

**Visitors playing cornhole between shots of bourbon at the Beer, Bourbon and BBQ Festival in Tysons in September.**



# OPINION

## Merry Christmas

A message of  
peace and joy.

**M**erry Christmas. It's a magical time of year, and perhaps Connection Newspapers has over indulged in displaying the many rituals of Christmas on our pages in the past few weeks. In events around the area, a sense of community has infused holiday parades, Christmas tree lightings, menorah lightings, choral performances, singing of carols and other traditional events with warmth and joy.

We have covered performances of "The Nutcracker" and "A Christmas Carol;" covered acts of compassion and giving in almost every corner of our communities; photographed Santa in so many places arriving in so many ways — by boat at Lake Anne in Reston, by firetruck in Vienna and McLean and other places, by motorcycle around Fairfax County; religious celebrations of many kinds; gift indulgences of many kinds.

But Christmas is about the birth of Jesus Christ. Whether you believe the Christmas story literally or in spirit, you know it is the story of joy, hope and love, the promise of redemption. So here, let us share the verse from the Bible, Luke 2: 4-19:

"So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the

house and line of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.' Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom his favor rests.'

"When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the

manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart."

## Happy Hanukkah

Happy Hanukkah, which lasts for eight days and this year began Tuesday evening. While Hanukkah is not one of the most important Jewish religious observances, it is a celebration that gets added attention from timing. Hanukkah celebrates the miracle of a one day supply of oil for the temple lasting eight days.

### Editor's Note about the Rest of 2014

This is our last regular edition of 2014. Next week, after Christmas, we will publish the children's edition, devoted entirely to the artwork and writing of local students. Our next regular editions will publish Jan. 7-8, 2015, with deadline for content and advertising of Jan. 2. In the meantime you can reach the editors at [editors@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:editors@connectionnewspapers.com) and sales/marketing at [sales@connectionnewspaper.com](mailto:sales@connectionnewspaper.com).

— MARY KIMM

[MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](mailto:MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## Do Fairfax County Police Act with Impunity?

**Fifteen months, after the shooting of John Geer, no officer has been identified, no charges have been filed, no grand jury has been convened.**

BY JEFF STEWART

**I**would like to begin by saying that I have always and still do support the police as a whole. I appreciate the job that they do and the risks they take on a daily basis in an effort to keep the public safe. The ongoing policy in Fairfax County of police self-investigation, when officers are involved in possible crimes, has to change.

I am willing to bet that all of you have heard of Michael Brown and Ferguson Missouri? How many of you have heard of John Geer? Probably not near as many. I would like to share a story about another life taken by police. It happened right here in Fairfax County over 15 months ago.

On Aug. 29, 2013 I witnessed the homicide of my best friend of over 25 years by a still unidentified Fairfax County police officer. Late that morning John had found out that his partner of 24 years and mother of his two children was moving out. John became distraught and began to throw some of her property in the front yard. One of John's daughters called their mom and she immediately came home from



# 483

**days since a still-unnamed Fairfax County police officer shot unarmed John Geer standing in the doorway of Geer's home in Springfield, then let him bleed to death on Aug. 29, 2013. No information has been released about the incident, officers involved not named, no explanation, no grand jury, no charges. (as of Dec. 10, 2014)**

work. After a heated discussion the police were called. John kissed his daughters and sent them to a neighbor's house. Nobody was in the home with John when police arrived. I arrived shortly after the police to find several officers on the scene. Two officers were holding John at gunpoint as he stood in the doorway of his home talking calmly with his empty hands resting on top of the storm door. John, feeling he had committed no crime, refused the officers' orders to come outside. The police were told that John owned firearms and reportedly he had expressed a willingness to use those firearms if the police tried to enter his home without a warrant. After around 40 minutes of what appeared to be calm conversation, John began to lower his hands almost deliberately slow, with his clearly empty palms pressed against the screen. I thought for a second that this confrontation was ending and John was coming out of the home. When John's empty hands were about even with his face, he was shot once in the chest from less than 20 feet. John had made no quick or aggressive moves of any kind and appeared to be no threat to police, to others or to himself. John quickly hunched over, grabbed his wound and retreated into the house. He

SEE POLICE, PAGE 11

McLean  
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## NEWS

**Sean Yongjoo Lim practices the violin for close to six hours a day. Here, he plays Brahms's Contemplation by Heifetz, a romantic piece.**

PHOTO BY  
MARISSA BEALE/  
THE CONNECTION



# Looking at the Sky

**McLean High School sophomore Sean Yongjoo Lim prepares for violin competition in Switzerland.**

**H**ours of practice are adding up and paying off for Sean Yongjoo Lim, a McLean High School sophomore who was recently selected to compete in the International Boris Goldstein Violin Competition in Bern, Switzerland. The 15-year-old will be among the youngest in a group of 30 violinists chosen from around the world to compete, and he will be the youngest competing from the United States. Currently, Lim studies with Amy Beth Horman in her in-home studio, which attracts dozens of talented young violinists, who must audition to get in.

"I still remember the first thing he said during his audition," said Horman. "I could tell he wanted to tell me something other than hello. He said, 'Oh I'm sorry, have you seen the sky today?' And I had not been outside all day! He was only 13 at the time and I thought, this is a very different kid. When he plays, he has a dreamer way about him that is very captivating, and as soon as he played, what he said made sense. It's nice to have people in your life that remind you to slow down."

A serious musician but still a kid at heart, Lim is lighthearted about the stresses of competing in January.

"I'm most looking forward to the food – my mom and I love cheese and chocolate!" laughed Lim, who was also surprised to learn he was the youngest competing from the States. "I'm really excited for the experience."

He started playing the violin when he was 8 years old but said he did not become serious about the instrument until he joined the Horman Violin Studio. He has performed at notable venues that include Carnegie Hall, the Lincoln Center, Kennedy Center, the Smithsonian National Gallery of Art and others. He made his solo musical debut two years ago with the Kostrama Symphony Orchestra in Russia, and this past summer was accepted into the Meadowmount School of Music, the same music camp that educated



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE HORMAN VIOLIN STUDIO

**Sean Yongjoo Lim**

world-renown violinists Joshua Bell, Itzhak Perlman and many others.

He practices an upwards of six hours of day, and takes two of his high school classes online to accommodate his practice schedule.

"He's practicing an impressive amount of hours," said Horman, "but it is not unheard of. It is what students who are competing nationally and internationally do to prepare this much literature."

"I'm currently working on Devil's Trill by Tartini, Beethoven's Sonata, Bloch's Sonata No. 1 by Heifetz, and Paganini's Caprice, No. 4 and No. 23," said Lim naming just some of the pieces, and he becomes very serious when he starts to play.

"My friends really push me. As we get better I don't want to get left behind. I incorporate memories I have of them into my music."

Lim plans to continue with music in the future. To follow Lim's progress and learn more about the competition in January, visit <http://www.boris-goldstein-competition.com/english/02/index.htm>.



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



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PROFILE

# How Does She Do It?

BY TIM PETERSON  
& EDEN BROWN  
THE CONNECTION

Karen Garza is a good listener. And once she's listened, she is, admittedly, not very patient.

"If there's a real issue, I don't think it has to be debated for 10 or 15 years," Garza said in an interview. "Either we're going to do something about it or not."

In May and June 2014, less than 12 months after taking the helm as superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools, Garza and her staff hosted eight community meetings on the topic of later start times for high schools. According to FCPS, 1,000 people participated in person, another 2,000 weighed in online.

By October, the School Board voted in favor of changing the start times, something it had been considering for years but never pushed forward. For the 2015-2016 school year, all county high schools will start classes between 8 a.m. and 8:10 a.m.

Another entrenched issue: moving from half-day Mondays at elementary schools to full-days. The half-day weekly teacher work period dated back to the 1970s.

"Once we identified we really have an issue here, we don't have enough time built into our elementary schedules, I met with the team and I said, 'Can we get this done?'" said Garza. "These are the reasons why we need to change it, our timeline is aggressive, but can we get it done? And they said, 'Yes we can.'"

The School Board broke with 40 years of half-day Mondays with a vote in June 2014. The change went into effect at the beginning of September.

"She looked at these with a new eye and was very eager to move on them," said Ryan McElveen, an at-large School Board member who was part of the group that hired Garza, "so we could get on with dealing with other issues."

McElveen said Garza's face-time at additional "listening tours," meetings she's been hosting around the county since she came to Fairfax from Lubbock, Texas in July 2013, have helped re-establish critical community ties.

"Under the previous superintendent," McElveen said, "there were perceptions the board and the central office had precipi-

## View from Texas

### In Houston

"When I hired Karen in 2005," former Superintendent of Houston Independent School District (HISD) Dr. Abelardo Saavedra said, "the position of chief academic officer had been open several months. I went looking for her. I'd never met her but I'd heard about her. There is a big difference between a mid-sized district and a larger one; the dynamics are completely different. I was taking a risk because she came from a mid-sized one of about 40,000 in Corpus Christi, and ours was much bigger. She adjusted very quickly."

As Chief Academic Officer, Garza was responsible for the educational programming and the academic performance of 200,000 students and the administration of 300 schools. Saavedra said one of their most lasting accomplishments at HISD was the Performance Pay initiative. "I had decided we'd do this, but honestly, I had no idea how to do it. Ordinarily I'd put it under HR but they weren't moving fast enough. Karen quickly took ownership. Of course I didn't have to ask Karen to take ownership," he said laughing. "This thing wasn't moving and she stepped up to the plate. It was tied to academics, so she figured she could do it as well as the HR folks could, and she did. That program continues today and is why Houston did so well."



PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH

**New Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Karen Garza speaks to parents and teachers at Sunrise Valley Elementary School Monday, Oct. 28, 2013.**

tously been removed from the viewpoint and perspective of the community. That was key in our hiring of Karen. We were looking for someone who could bring the community back into the fold."

**FORMER FCPS** Superintendent Daniel Domenech still lives in Fairfax County, and his perspective differs somewhat from McElveen. "It didn't seem to me there was a distance with [Garza's predecessor] Jack Dale," he said. "I always felt that Fairfax as a school system was very responsive to the community, very much in tune with what's going on."

The two men agree that community involvement is crucial to moving the school system forward. In a county of 180,000 students that's growing by 17 a day (according to Garza), that's a lot of parents with a lot of voices to listen to.

Debbie Kilpatrick, vice president of membership with Virginia PTA, is impressed so far with Garza being "inclusive" and having "contagious high energy."

formance Pay initiative. "I had decided we'd do this, but honestly, I had no idea how to do it. Ordinarily I'd put it under HR but they weren't moving fast enough. Karen quickly took ownership. Of course I didn't have to ask Karen to take ownership," he said laughing. "This thing wasn't moving and she stepped up to the plate. It was tied to academics, so she figured she could do it as well as the HR folks could, and she did. That program continues today and is why Houston did so well."

Saavedra was referring to the district's educational improvement and performance management model, called ASPIRE (Accelerating Student Progress. Increasing Results and Expectations). The ASPIRE program paid over 18,000 teachers and instructional staff more than \$70 million in performance bonuses over three years based on the academic improvement of children.



PHOTO BY RENEE RUGGLES

**Dr. Karen Garza, incoming FCPS Superintendent and Dr. Daniel Domenech, former FCPS Superintendent, both in robes at Bryant Alternative School graduation, June 13, 2013, where Domenech was the graduation speaker.**

"She has a schedule not many people could keep up with and she really doesn't say no to anyone who wants her time," said Kilpatrick. "On the contrary, she says, 'No, I want to listen.'"

Tina Hone, a School Board member from 2007 to 2011 and founder of the advocacy group Coalition of the Silence, disagreed with Garza over her first budget proposal for the county.

"We had a little crossing of swords," said Hone. "What I really respect about Karen: I publicly made a statement, then she called me. I looked at the phone, pulled it away from my head and looked at it again. I was blown away by that."

Hone sees Garza in stark contrast to previous FCPS leadership that exhibited "very much an effort to control rather than respond." She cited the controversial closing of Clifton Elementary School in June 2011, when she said the board did little to consult

with the public first.

"There was this sense there were members of the School Board who said they don't want to meet with people who disagreed with them," she said.

"It takes courage to be a problem-solver,"

After Garza's first year, the average reading scores of HISD students on the SAT test increased five points while the Texas and national averages fell.

Saavedra noted that one of the most unusual things about Garza was her relationship with the Houston Chief Financial Officer Melinda Garrett. "Usually in those jobs," Saavedra said, "there are silos formed between the financial folks and the academic folks. Not between Garza and Garrett. They became good friends and worked together to make positive changes happen."

Garrett confirmed Garza's achievements: "People in Texas miss her but realize Texas' loss is Virginia's gain. They were all happy she got this major superintendent's job. It is something she really wanted and deserved. She will be great for Fairfax. She is not afraid to make decisions. She always has her hand on the pulse of the people she is working with."



**Superintendent Karen Garza shares a moment with Debbie Kilpatrick, president of Fairfax County Council of PTAs at the Listening Tour on Dec. 6.**

PHOTO BY EDEN BROWN/  
THE CONNECTION



PHOTO BY BONNIE HONES

**Senior Robyn Smith explains Active Minds while Lindsay Laiks, Rachel Chalkley, Karen Garza and Kim Dockery listen at a March 2014 assembly at Woodson High School. More than 1,100 people gathered for comfort and advice in the aftermath of two student deaths.**

Hone continued, "to try to turn the ship against the tide, with courage and grace to get this stuff done."

That courage, grace and increased input from the community are helping Garza get traction on the issues she prioritizes with the School Board, still in its honeymoon phase with Garza.

"We are all happy with her, the board members," said at-large member Ilryong Moon. "I can say that with confidence. We made a right decision bringing her to Fairfax. She's been helping the members to look at issues in a certain perspective that we otherwise wouldn't have an opportunity to take advantage of."

Garrett noted that she and Garza shared the same background as school teachers; that love of working with children is something they both brought to their work in funding schools and making sound decisions for school districts.

### In Lubbock

As Lubbock's Independent School District's superintendent, a job Garza held for four years before coming to Fairfax, her accomplishments include implementing a standardized curriculum for the 29,000-student district, focus on student achievement, and financial stability. She left LISD with the largest fund balance they had ever had and worked through some hard times with state funding, getting gains for teachers, students, and taxpayers. Garza helped lead the effort to win voter approval of a \$198 million bond in 2010, the largest bond in the district's history. As

**BUT GARZA** is not a one-woman show, and she attributes her accomplishments in part to the cabinet and administrative structure she realigned within her first year. Unlike most new superintendents, Garza brought zero staff with her from the Lone Star State. Instead, she spent her first fall and winter assessing the team she inherited, before reorganizing in the spring.

Garza nixed the old eight-cluster administration group in favor of five regions and split the department of Professional Learning and Accountability roles among other departments. This eliminated five staff positions and saved \$637,000, according to John Torre, public information officer for the

Lubbock superintendent, Garza narrowed the achievement gap, increased the graduation rate and helped reduce the number of students who drop out.

Linda DeLeon, a Fairfax County resident who had served as a school board member in Lubbock, was delighted to see Garza come to Fairfax.

She was asked by someone to attend one of Garza's early public hearings in Fairfax. When her name was announced to the group, Garza lifted her head and gave DeLeon a big smile: "Well, here is Linda, someone I knew from Lubbock." DeLeon had been a school board member for 18 years in Lubbock under five different superintendents (but not during Garza's tenure) and had kept track of the things Garza did while there.

She was impressed: "Karen Garza was up to the challenge. What made her positive was she was willing to sit with groups of people and have discus-

## Bio

### KAREN GARZA

**Current Position:** Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent

**Salary:** \$265,000

**Age:** 51

**Hometown:** Canyon, Texas

**Spouse:** Louis Garza

**Children:** Four, grown

**Education:** Ph.D., University of Texas-Austin, May 2002; M.Ed., University of Houston-Victoria, May 1994; B.S., University of Houston-Victoria, 1986.



schools.

"It's my view that to better align a large system, you have to narrow the number of people at the highest levels making the decisions," Garza said. "I can create stronger, better alignment with five people than I can with eight people."

One of Garza's hires was Marty Smith as chief of staff, to whom she delegated the lead role on full-day Mondays. Smith was previously the superintendent of Cluster 1.

"He understands and knows the system," said Garza. "He knows the players, the right people to bring to the table to get it done. And he's a good listener, which I appreciate."

"The biggest thing with Dr Garza is trust," said Smith. "She places a lot in the individuals who work for her. While I carried out her vision, she was able to really build consensus with the board in terms of an individual approach. She did much of the same with teacher and principal associations."

Even with a streamlined and realigned support team, "Obviously Dr. Garza is the CEO for them to execute the vision," said Moon. To be a passionate captain of the ship, Garza is motivated by her lifelong love of schools and learning. She started her career as an elementary school teacher, aspiring to be like her father, a college English professor.

"I love being in classrooms, and I'm amazed at how gifted our students are," said Garza. "I'm very mindful of the fact that we have such an opportunity for a positive impact on students' lives. I try to never lose sight of the fact not only are you setting students up for success at that next level, but in many cases making a memory. Make it a positive one."

Hone said the teacher in Garza is apparent and one key to her current success. "Everything she does, it's how a teacher approaches things," Hone said. "It's clear, explained, pulling people in instead of telling them what to do. That dictatorship thing doesn't work. There's always someone run-

sions. Decisions were made that were very tough, but she never wavered from being able to sit down with a group even if they were against the decisions she was looking to move forward with."

DeLeon said Garza made positive changes in Lubbock. One was to consolidate schools. "Closing the schools was the hardest issue for her. So many parents came to these hearings, and complained that closing schools was not right, that the school was the nucleus of the neighborhood. But Garza worked with them until you could see a transformation from those parents. It's true that now the kids have to go a little further, but what they did make it possible for 2-3 teachers to teach a 3rd grade class. They coordinated, they worked together, and they did a much better job serving the needs of the kids. You could also actually see the gap close between minority and 'anglo' kids."

## Schools Need Community's Help

Superintendent Karen Garza begins and ends her Listening Tour meetings with a plea to those in the room — parents, teachers, employees, unions — to help her achieve what needs to be done for their school system.

"I am going to need your help," she says to audiences who voice concerns about class size, resources for special education, and teacher salaries.

Garza says she hopes to have a lot more people engaged during the budget process this spring. "Come and testify. Talk with your Board of Supervisors at those meetings. It's usually filled with folks. But we need a lot more parents and advocates for our public schools to be in that room."

Garza explains: "We grow by 17-20 students every single day. We have grown by 20,000 students in six years. This is a huge strain on our budget. We spend \$25 million a year to support new students. We aren't happy with teacher salaries. We need to help people in our area understand our budget. Help us as we enter this next budget year."

"Read our 'Citizens Guide'," says Garza. "There's lots of good information in there to help people understand how the system works and how they can help. This year it includes a section on why your year-end balance ends up

being what it is. The more we can get people to read that document, the more people will follow how the system works and make solid inputs."

"We need to get more business and community leaders to understand: Poverty is growing, our county is definitely changing. We started some outreach this year with our superintendent round-tables."

The president of the Fairfax County Council of PTAs, Debbie Kilpatrick, underlined the need for more community involvement: "Karen Garza cannot do this on her own. Parents need to get more involved so they know what they can do to support Garza and their schools. They should look at the websites, come to PTA meetings, know what the issues are and vote on them. Can she get smaller classrooms achieved? If she says it, she will do it. But she will need help."

Steven Greenburg, president of Fairfax County Federation of Teachers, echoed Garza's plea. "Do we know as a group of people, as average citizens living in Fairfax County, how to take action? If this community sees value in education then voters have to make their views known. Karen Garza won't get what she wants without more involvement by the community," Greenburg said. "People will have to reach out to public officials and let them know where the voters stand."

ning a rebellion."

Garza will be tested when she and the board tackle the \$63.9 million deficit she projected for FY2016 — and it gets worse in FY2017.

"She is such a good diplomat and everyone likes her," said Fairfax County Federation of Teachers President Steven Greenburg. "But there is an expectation on the part of some stakeholders that she will generate revenue and hold county or state officials accountable for the decisions they take. The only thing that would limit what she wants to accomplish is lack of funds."

If she can manage the funds, Garza has a Texas-sized list of goals for the county.

## The Road to Fairfax County

*A timeline of Superintendent Karen Garza's career in education.*

**1 1986-1991:** Elementary School Teacher, Yoakum, Texas (1,539 students, 38% white and 50% Latino and spends about \$8,000 per pupil).

**2 July 1991-1994:** Education Specialist, Region III Education Service Center, Victoria, Texas. Victoria ISD has 13,680 students and spends about \$7,500 per pupil annually.

**3 July 1994-July 1996:** Principal, East Side Elementary School grades 5-6, Palacios Independent School District (ISD), Palacios, Texas (1,508 students, \$10,269 per student, 68% economically disadvantaged).

**4 July 1996-July 1997:** Curriculum Supervisor K-12, El Campo ISD, El Campo, Texas (3,465 students, \$9,735 per student, 67% economically disadvantaged).

**5 July 1997-July 1999:** Associate Executive Director for Governmental Relations, Texas Association of School Administrators.

**6 July 1999-October 2002:** Executive Director for Curriculum, Staff Development, and Accountability, Katy ISD, Katy, Texas (58,444 students, \$7,740 per student, 29% disadvantaged).

**7 October 2002-August 2004:** Associate Executive Director for Governmental Relations, Texas Association of School Administrators.

**8 August 2004-June 2005:** Deputy Superintendent, Corpus Christi ISD, Corpus Christi, Texas (38,041 students, spends \$8,240, 68% disadvantaged).

**9 June 2005-July 2009:** Chief Academic Officer, Houston ISD, Houston, Texas. (200,944 students, \$9,231 per student, 80% disadvantaged).

**10 July 2009-June 2013:** Superintendent of Schools, Lubbock ISD, Lubbock, Texas (28,476 students, \$8,163 per student, 62% disadvantaged).

**11 July 2013-present:** Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent, Fairfax County Public Schools (186,785 students, \$16,880 per student, 26.4% free/reduced price meal eligible).

*Sources: Fairfax County Public Schools, Washington Area Boards of Education, Texas Tribune*





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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

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1/7/2015 ..... Wellbeing, Renewal, Resolutions

1/14/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle

Martin Luther King Jr. Day is Jan. 19

1/21/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

1/28/2015 ..... Neighborhood Outlook

1/28/2015 ..... Winter Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment;

Valentine's Preview

### FEBRUARY

2/4/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts I

2/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing – National Children's Dental

Health Month

2/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle

2/11/2015 ..... Valentine's Dining & Gifts II

Valentine's Day is Feb. 14 • Presidents Day is Feb. 16

2/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

2/25/2015 ..... Pet Connection Pullout

### MARCH

3/4/2015 ..... Wellbeing

3/11/2015 ..... HomeLifeStyle Real Estate Pullout

3/18/2015 ..... A+ Camps & Schools

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## CALENDAR

Send announcements to [north@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:north@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged.

### THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 24

#### Santa HQ at Tysons Corner

Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. Visit Santa's Magical Workshop & Observatory, presented by HGTV - for photos and family activities, located in Fashion Court on level one between Nordstrom and Bloomingdale's - beginning November 14th. Reserve your space online to see Santa. Ongoing event.

#### Tysons Plaza Christmas Market.

1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons Corner. 11 a.m. - 9 p.m. Lured by the scent of roasting nuts, bratwurst, mulled cider, and baked goods, shoppers will also find an excellent selection of gifts, warm hats, leather, wood and other crafts. The market will close at 4 p.m. on Dec. 24.

### THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 28

#### Holiday Model Train Display.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Every Saturday and Sunday. Fun for all ages. Watch G-gauge trains wend their way through a miniature western town in the Colvin Run Barn. Free.

### THROUGH SUNDAY/JAN. 4

#### Meadowlark's Winter Walk of

Lights. 5:30 p.m. Meadowlark Botanical Garden, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Court, Vienna. A winter wonderland, including a flowing stream of softly glowing lights, a two story animated fountain and a Gingerbread Village. Admission: \$13 adults, \$8 children ages 3-12; children under 3 are free.

#### Bull Run Festival of Lights &

Holiday Village. 5:30-9:30 p.m. Bull Run Regional Park, Centreville. The Portal Wreath signifying the official start of the beautiful Bull Run Festival of Lights, this display has been part of the show since 2006. Each year a new ornament representing a display in the show will be added to this collection, and the portal wreath is the first in the series. Santa's Enchanted Lights, with over 40,000 animated lights set to music! This great feature is merely a fraction of what you'll find at this season's Festival of Lights. Admission: \$20 per car.

### THROUGH TUESDAY/JAN. 6

#### Christmas at Mount Vernon.

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, Mount Vernon. Themed decorations (including 12 Christmas trees) and historical chocolate-making demonstrations will be offered. Tour the rarely-open third floor of the Mansion and learn how the Washingtons celebrated Christmas. In 1787, George Washington paid 18 shillings to bring a camel to Mount Vernon for the enjoyment of his guests. During Christmas at Mount Vernon, visitors can meet a camel on the grounds.

### THROUGH SATURDAY/JAN. 31

#### Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers.

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed on Tuesdays. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an amazing array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. Did you ever wonder where the craze for collecting nutcracker dolls came from? Nutcrackers have a fascinating history. The first nutcrackers were produced to crack nuts more effectively and the oldest known metal example, on exhibit in Tarent, Italy, is from the third or fourth century B.C. The Leavenworth



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Watch The Capitol Steps on 8 p.m. on Jan. 3 at The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The Steps have never needed new material... they always have an endless supply just down the road! This show always sells out when McLean gathers to find out who will be the butt of bipartisan jokes this time. Tickets: \$35-\$45.**

Nutcracker Museum in Leavenworth, Washington, shows a bronze Roman nutcracker dated between 200 B.C and 200 A.D. German nutcrackers, made as decorative pieces, were developed around 1500. Early nutcrackers were in the shapes of animals, birds and people. Later, they were made in the likeness of kings, soldiers, church leaders and ruling class figures. Fine wood carved nutcrackers were created across Europe, especially in France and England by the 15th and 16th centuries. Admission: \$7/adult, \$6/student, \$5/senior or child.

iSchool workshop. Registration required for this event. Ages 8-12.

### WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

#### New Year's Eve in Entyse Wine

Bar & Lounge. 9 p.m. to Midnight. The Ritz-Carlton, Tysons Corner, 1700 Tysons Boulevard, McLean. Celebrate the New Year with live musical entertainment provided by The Christopher Linman Jazz Ensemble and culinary delights. As the clock strikes midnight, welcome 2015 with a complimentary champagne toast. \$100 minimum food & beverage purchase per person.

#### First Night Vienna.

7 p.m. - midnight. Town of Vienna, Church Street. A family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration. Featuring music, food, kids entertainment, and more. Four free music venues, a dance party, glitter tattoos, face painting, arts & crafts, balloon twisting, fire pits, corn hole, s'mores, popcorn popping, hot chocolate, hot apple cider, party hats, and much much more.

#### Jammin' Java's Good Vibes New

Year's Party Featuring Melodime. p.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple East Avenue, Vienna. MELODIME, a rock band that blends haunting bittersweet melodies with emotionally rich vocals atop a bed of Southern-flavored alt rock, is not like most bands. Tickets: \$25-\$35. <https://jamminjava.com>

### SATURDAY/JAN. 3

**The Capitol Steps.** 8 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. The Steps have never needed new material... they always have an endless supply just down the road! This show always sells out when McLean gathers to find out who will be the butt of bipartisan jokes this time. Tickets: \$35-\$45.

**Cars and Coffee.** 7-9 a.m. 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find an amazing gathering of cool cars at Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls, Virginia. Antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here.

### SUNDAY/JAN. 4

**Chamber Music Concert.** 3 p.m. The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Avenue, McLean. Free chamber music concerts cosponsored by the Music Friends of the Fairfax County Public Library and The Alden. All concerts are open to the public. Tickets are not required.

### THROUGH WEDNESDAY/MARCH 11

#### Ice Skating at Tysons Corner

Center. Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m. - 9 p.m.; Friday-Saturday, 11 a.m. - 11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m.- 7 p.m. Tysons Corner Outdoor Center, 1961 Chain Bridge Road, Tysons. Adults, \$10; Child/Senior/Military, \$9; Skate Rental, \$6; Group of 10+, \$12 and includes skates

### FRIDAY/DEC. 26

#### Friday Morning with Rocknocos.

10:30 a.m. Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Avenue East, Vienna. As every family with youngsters in the D.C. area already knows, Rocknocos (pronounced like rhinoceros) is three guys: Coach Cotton, Williebob, and Boogie Woogie Bennie, who make wildly popular, award-winning music for the whole family. Admission: \$5.

### SATURDAY/DEC. 27

#### Cars and Coffee.

7-9 a.m. 760 Walker Road, Great Falls. Early on Saturday mornings you'll find an amazing gathering of cool cars at Katie's Coffee House in Great Falls, Virginia. Antique, custom, hotrods, exotic, sports cars, they're all here.

#### Colvin Run Dance for Everyone.

6:30-11:30 p.m. Colvin Run Community Hall, 10201 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. DJ music mix of contemporary and classic dance music including west coast swing, east coast swing, hustle, Latin, country western 2-step, walltz and more. \$12 per person includes optional lesson, dance, soda and snacks.

### TUESDAY/DEC. 30

#### Winter Science Workshop for

Kids. 3:30 p.m. Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Children will learn hands-on in this



# SPORTS

## Parent Coaches Searching for Balance

**Coaching one's own child can be stressful, rewarding.**

BY JON ROETMAN  
THE CONNECTION

**K**eith A. Kaufman, Ph.D., a sport psychologist with offices in Washington, D.C. and Old Town Alexandria, said two potential issues stand out for a young athlete coached by a parent.

"I think two issues that jump out to me are the athlete feels like they can never escape talking about the sport," Kaufman said in a phone interview, "or they feel too much scrutiny or not enough; like they feel like they're treated differently [than other members of the team]."

Kaufman said "it's absolutely essential there are boundaries," when a parent is coaching his or her child, and it's important the child is treated in the same manner as his or her teammates. While each case is different, he said the relationship can be beneficial.

"I would say most coaches are harder on their own kids than they are on the regular kids," Madison assistant volleyball coach Christine Zanellato said. "We tend to point out when they mess up more than you would with another kid."

Zanellato and head coach Carrie Hall each have a daughter on the Madison volleyball team, which was one point away from capturing the VHSL 6A state championship in the fall. Zanellato coached her daughter, Natale, when she was young, but stopped when Natale was in middle school.

Their relationship had some rough spots.

"When I was in [sixth] grade, I hated it," Natale said. "I would cry most nights. I would cry on the way home [from volleyball]. I was very sensitive. I would get a little upset when she would tell me to suck it up or do this and that. I wasn't as good with her criticism."

After a few years playing for other coaches, Natale started to appreciate her mom's volleyball knowledge. Zanellato played collegiately at LSU and coached the Fairfax High varsity from 2007-2011. When it came time for high school, Natale, who attended Lake Braddock as a freshman, wanted her mom as a coach. Zanellato joined the Bruins' staff as an assistant in 2012.

"I think what has worked out well for us is that we have a really solid relationship and she trusts that

when I am working to improve her skills, I'm looking at her as an athlete," Zanellato said. "My criticism is all based on what she needs to do on the court. It's not about her personally. I think that's the hardest thing [about being a parent/coach] is kids sometimes personalize the comments."

Natale would later transfer to Madison. After not playing high school volleyball her sophomore year, Natale joined the Warhawk varsity as a junior and was a key contributor at outside hitter for the 2014 state runners-up.

"I love working with my mom," Natale said. "I respect her. I know that she played great. She's a great coach. When I was younger, it was a little rougher. I was just like, 'I don't want to listen to you,' that kind of stuff. I respect her judgment and I respect what she's saying. I really respect her opinion. I love having her on the coaching staff."

Hall said she treats her daughter, Kendal, a standout junior setter for the Warhawks, no differently than any other member of the team.

"It's not hard to me at all," Hall said. "I've been here 14 years and to me it's about the program. ... It's the program first, then my daughter."

Hall said the two talk about volleyball at home, but don't discuss strategy.

"We talk about if we think we had a good game or not that night, but nothing too elaborate," Hall said. "... That way she's part of the team, I'm part of the coaching staff. She doesn't need to know anything that's going on."

Kendal said she's appreciative of her mom's volleyball knowledge.

"It's definitely nice," Kendal said, "coming home and having someone to talk to who definitely knows what they're doing."

Langley football coach John Howerton started his sons on a path toward gridiron success at a young age. Jack, now a sophomore at Stetson University in DeLand, Fla., and Tyler, now a sophomore at Langley, started strength and skill training before the age of 10. However, they did not play organized football until high school.

Howerton, who was inducted into the Shepherd University athletic Hall of Fame after garnering All-American status as an offensive tackle, taught his sons the basic fundamentals of offensive line play, such as getting in a proper stance. He also showed them the basics of strength training, including 15-minute workouts with a lightweight aluminum pipe.

Jack earned all-state honors during his time at



**Natale Zanellato, left, helped the Madison volleyball team finish state runner-up in the fall. Her mother, Christine Zanellato, is an assistant coach for the Warhawks.**

PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION



**Madison head volleyball coach Carrie Hall's daughter, Kendal Hall, is a setter for the Warhawks.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**Langley offensive lineman Tyler Howerton, left, is seen as a freshman in 2013. His father, John Howerton, right, is the Langley head football coach and is a member of the Shepherd University athletic Hall of Fame. Tyler's grandfather, Cig Howerton, is a member of the Randolph-Macon Hall of Fame.**

SEE PARENT COACHES, PAGE 11

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## The New Normal

By KENNETH B. LOURIE



Loosey goosey, I suppose. As much as one might prefer some predictability in their life (certainly a cancer patient would – I know I would), I may be entering a cycle of permanent unpredictability. Whereas my previous schedule was chemotherapy every three weeks, a CT Scan every three months, followed up by a face-to-face appointment/examination/assessment with my oncologist sometime during the next week (in effect, every three months as well), my most recent abnormal lab results may very well be upsetting my apple cart. However, rather than change my infusion schedule to every four weeks due to recurring high creatinine levels showing up in my current every-three-week, pre-chemotherapy lab work, my oncologist wants to keep me on the same track. His thinking is, since my most recent CT Scan showed “shrinkage,” he wants to continue treating my cancer as aggressively as possible, since we’re having some success – so long as my body tolerates the drug, that is. My worry is that, from what little I understand, these last two lab results are indications that my body (kidneys) may in fact no longer be tolerating the treatment and that my future treatment is subject to change, shall we say.

For the moment however, the change will not be in the drug I’m infusing but with the frequency. I will still be scheduled for my chemotherapy every three weeks, with my usual pre-chemotherapy lab work the Wednesday before the Friday. If my creatinine level is too high on that first test, we will delay the infusion by one week and I will return to the lab the following Wednesday and hope for an improved result. What this means to me is, I can’t ever know, given the variability in my last two lab results, whether I can plan on chemotherapy every three weeks, every four weeks or some reasonable facsimile thereof. What little control I thought I had over my life: the predictability/regularity of my infusions, apparently is over. Now, so long as my creatinine goes down on the subsequent retests, I will live with the consequences – happily. Still, I have lost something very important in my life, something with which I have become quite accustomed these last few years: knowing who, what, when and where. Why this is happening, and whether or not a slope has become slippery all of a sudden (“all of a sudden” – after six years, nothing is all of a sudden) is the big question, a question/scenario that my oncologist will likely blame the cancer for causing (simple, isn’t it?). Because, that’s sort of what cancer does, he’ll probably say.

Part of me understands that “If It Ain’t Broke” there’s no need to fix it; we just need to work in some flexibility. And if the flexibility keeps me alive, I’m all for it. Nevertheless, this change will affect my life, my future. I can never know – for sure, and anticipate accordingly – what my lab results will be (as I have been able to these last few years) and plan/schedule/arrange my non-cancer activities. I will once again become a victim of my own circumstances. I will never know until I’m told (e-mailed actually; I’ll know by the results whether that next chemotherapy appointment will be put off) whether I’m busy two days hence or not. Moreover, I’ll likely repeat the cycle the following week and beyond. Maybe the regularity of the irregularity will become my new routine? Maybe breaking up the every-three-week schedule – sometimes – will give me and my body some much needed/appreciated rest. I can only hope so. I don’t want to think that it’s not so. I’ve gotten used to my life. And though this is definitely a blip, I’m thankful to still be showing up on the radar.

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

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# FAITH

Faith Notes are for announcements and events in the faith community.  
Send to [vienna@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:vienna@connectionnewspapers.com). Deadline is Friday.

**Christmas Eve Services** at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. 4:30 p.m. on Dec. 24 – children's service with Christmas pageant; 6 p.m. – family service with Christmas pageant; 8 p.m. – a wonderful, contemplative service with the Adult Chorale singing. For more information, go to: [www.uucf.org](http://www.uucf.org) or call the office: 703-281-4230.

**Christmas Eve Service.** 4, 7 and 10 p.m. on Dec. 24 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

**Oakton Church of the Brethren** welcomes the community to a Christmas Eve service with lighting of candles and Holy Communion on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at 7 p.m. The theme of the message will be "The Response to the Knock" and there will be congregational singing, soloists and instrumentalists. The church is located at 10025 Courthouse Rd. in Vienna, Va., at the intersection of Route 123 and Courthouse Rd. near Oakton. For more information, call 703 281-4411 or go to [www.oaktonbrethren.org](http://www.oaktonbrethren.org).

**Christmas Day Service.** 10 a.m. on Dec. 25 at St. John's Episcopal Church, 6715 Georgetown Pike, McLean.

**St. Francis Episcopal Church**, 9220 Georgetown Pike in Great Falls, offers musical, educational, outreach and fellowship ministries in addition to worship services, including a 7:45 a.m. worship service without music; 9 a.m. worship service, children's chapel and children's choirs; 10 a.m. Sunday school and adult forum; and 11 a.m. worship service with adult choir. 703-759-2082.

**The Antioch Christian Church** offers a time of Prayer and Healing on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. for anyone wanting encouragement and healing through prayers. People are available to pray with you or for you. Antioch Christian Church is located at 1860 Beulah Road in Vienna. [www.antiochdoc.org](http://www.antiochdoc.org)

**The Jewish Social Services Agency** (JSSA) offers a wide variety of support groups for those with emotional, social, and physical challenges. [www.jssa.org/growth-learning](http://www.jssa.org/growth-learning).

**HAVEN of Northern Virginia** offers a variety of free bereavement support groups, meeting on a weekly basis. 703-941-7000 or [www.havenofnova.org](http://www.havenofnova.org).

**McLean Bible Church** Fitness Class at Body & Soul Fitness. Gain balance, energy

and strength at 9:45 a.m. Mondays and Fridays. Free childcare for registered students. [bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org](mailto:bodyandsoul@mcleanbible.org).

**St. Dunstan's Episcopal Church**, 1830 Kirby Road in McLean, holds a third Sunday service every month at 10:15 a.m. which allows children to play active roles in the music and as greeters and ushers. Traditional services are every Sunday at 8:15 and 10:15 a.m.

**Vienna Christian Healing Rooms** are open, every Saturday, 1-5 p.m., at 8200 Bell Lane. A team of Christians is available to anyone requesting prayer. Free and open to the public. 703-698-9779 or [www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com](http://www.viennachristianhealingrooms.com).

**Chesterbrook United Methodist Church** is at 1711 Kirby Road, McLean. Worship service is at 11 a.m. Sunday school is at 9:30 a.m. for adults and children. 703-356-7100 or [www.ChesterbrookUMC.org](http://www.ChesterbrookUMC.org).

**Centering Prayer Group** meets Fridays, 9:30 a.m. at Andrew Chapel United Methodist Church, 1301 Trap Road, Vienna. The hour includes a brief reading related to Centering Prayer, followed by a 20-minute prayer period. E-mail Martha Thomas at [mmthomas211@hotmail.com](mailto:mmthomas211@hotmail.com) or call the church at 703-759-3509.

# Do Fairfax County Police Act with Impunity?

FROM PAGE 4

pushed the door shut as he retreated and immediately collapsed on the floor less than 5 feet from the door.

This tragedy only gets worse. John lay just inside the door reportedly yelling for help. Despite his pleas for help, the officers on scene stood outside and did nothing while waiting for SWAT to arrive. The SWAT team entered an hour later to find that John had bled to death. It should be noted that the patrol officers on the scene had an entry shield and could have entered the house to rescue John with minimal risk yet chose to do nothing.

After 15 months, no officer has been identified, no charges have been filed, no grand jury has been convened and no reason has been given to the family or the public. In fact the Fairfax County Police Department, up until a recent legal action filed by the Federal Justice Department, had refused to provide requested information to anyone including the Virginia State Attorney. The attorneys for the Geer family have filed 127

requests for documents and in response, 122 objections have been filed by the county. Despite the incredible lack of cooperation from the Police Department, local county officials, the State Attorney General and the Governor have remained silent. It took over one year for Fairfax County supervisors to write a gently worded letter requesting that the case be resolved.

The case was turned over to federal prosecutors last January. The FBI conducted interviews in March. Still, no information has been released to the public and no resolution has been achieved. It has taken recent involvement from U.S. Sen. Grassley of the Senate Judicial Committee and legal action by Federal prosecutors to get the Fairfax County Police Department to only recently provide the requested information, information that should have been made public a year ago. It would appear that this police department does not feel compelled to answer to any Virginia or federal official. This has to change. The family, friends and the public have yet to be told anything about John's death.

When possible crimes have been committed by police officers such as police shootings, nobody investigates the case but the police. There are no independent oversight procedures of any kind. Fairfax County supervisors endorse this policy and along with the Police Department, have rejected every attempt to create any kind of independent oversight procedures. It should be noted that the Fairfax County supervisors hire the police chief. They also control the money dedicated to the department. This policy of self-investigation, no oversight and the inevitable obstruction that occurs as a result will continue until the public demands better from its elected officials.

To date, no officer in the 75-year history of the Fairfax County Police Department has ever been charged in a wrongful shooting. These include the deaths of John Geer and at least two other unarmed citizens since 2006, all shot by police under questionable circumstances.

*Jeff Stewart, a Chantilly resident, witnessed the shooting of his friend John Geer on Aug. 29, 2013.*

# Parent Coaches Searching for Balance

FROM PAGE 9

Langley. He could bench press 500 pounds and squat 675. He is now an offensive lineman at Stetson. Tyler recently completed his sophomore season as a starter on the Langley varsity. Both played right guard for the Saxons.

Howerton said he has tried to treat Jack and Tyler in an equal fashion to other players on the team, but admits he has higher expectations for his sons.

"I try to treat them as any kid out there," Howerton said. "As a parent, you probably have more expectations for your own sons. I try not to yell at them any more or less

than anyone else. I do expect them to excel as much as possible because they've been exposed to me as a coach more than the other kids have."

Howerton was coached by his father, Elton "Cig" Howerton, in youth football. Cig Howerton was an





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