

# Chantilly CONNECTION

Fair Oaks ♦ Fair Lakes

Natasha Hashemi  
(left) and Monica  
Davis gave out  
wrapping paper to  
the volunteers  
delivering Christmas  
gifts from the com-  
munity and Our  
Neighbors Child.  
More photos, page 2.

## Delivering Joy

NEWS, PAGE 2

### Maddra Named Center's Director

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### How Does Garza Manage Change?

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# ONC Delivers Joy to Local Families

On Sunday, Dec. 14, Community volunteers helped Our Neighbor's Child deliver Christmas presents, wrapping paper and homemade cookies to nearly 800 families.



Westfield High lacrosse team members Jack Dunigan (left) and Dylan Quick gather up a bag of gifts and a tricycle for a family.



Megan Barefoot (left) and Olivia Jenkins collect family numbers to keep track of which families' gifts have been taken by volunteers for delivery.



From left: Lauren Hunt, Amy Balint and Suzy Hunt (Lauren's mom) carry cookies and wrapping paper to their cars.



Arranging bags of presents in his car's trunk before delivering them is Ron Simco of Virginia Run.



Nicole Rogers (left) hands out wrapping paper to Meredith Smith.



Kim Shelton (left) and Pam DeBell give out family addresses and directions to a gift-delivering volunteer.



Loading bicycles and toys in a vehicle's trunk is Westfield High senior and lacrosse team member Tyler Jepson.



From left: Westfield lacrosse players Duncan Roberts, Patrick Walker and Jack Tyskowski prepare to load bags into a car for delivery.



Westfield Spanish Honor Society members (from left) Ishu Sivakumar, Meghna Prasad and Joanne Tang pass out homemade cookies for delivery to each recipient family.



Ready to deliver holiday presents are Virginia Run's Nitsa Woodward (left) and Amy Jeffries.



## ROUNDUPS

### Accidental Chantilly House Fire

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department units responded to a house fire Saturday, Dec. 13, at approximately 7:10 a.m., in the Chantilly area of Fairfax County. The single-family house is located at 13500 Virginia Willow Drive.

Firefighters encountered heavy smoke and fire coming from the exterior of the first and second floors of the two-story home upon arrival. Firefighters brought the fire under control in approximately 15 minutes. The occupants escaped prior to firefighters arriving on scene. Smoke alarms activated; however, the occupants initially noticed smoke coming from the fireplace and quickly self-evacuated. Four adults and two children have been displaced. Red Cross support was offered but declined by the occupants. There were no injuries. Damage is estimated at \$120,000.

According to fire investigators, the fire was accidental. A nest on top of a zero clearance chimney caught fire, causing the fire.

### Food Donations for WFCM

Western Fairfax Christian Ministries' food pantry urgently needs donations of canned vegetables (except for green beans), canned pasta and pasta sauces, canned tomatoes, canned fruit, peanut butter, canned and dry beans, and granola bars. Also needed are toiletries, which WFCM clients cannot purchase with food stamps. Especially needed are shampoo, diapers sizes 4 and 5, deodorant, toothpaste and toilet paper.

Bring all items to WFCM's food pantry, weekdays, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., at 13888 Metrotech Drive, near Papa John's Pizza and Kumon Learning Center, in Chantilly's Sully Place Shopping Center. A volunteer stocker/bagger is needed Wednesdays, 4-6 p.m. Contact Annette Bosley at 703-988-9656, ext. 110, or abosley@wfcma.org.

### How to Hire CLRC Workers

The Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC) serves businesses and homeowners needing help with just about any home remodeling or maintenance project. And local residents who'd like to hire a worker from the CLRC may do so easily. Either call 703-543-6272 or go to [www.centrevilleLRC.org](http://www.centrevilleLRC.org) and click on the "How to Hire" link. Tell what kind of work is required, how many workers are needed and when.

The CLRC will match the needs to its registered workers' skills and set up the job. The price for work will be negotiated. After the job is completed, employers are encouraged to provide the CLRC with feedback to ensure that the work was done well and to their satisfaction and to make sure the workers are fairly paid.

### Meals on Wheels Volunteers

Fairfax County needs Meals on Wheels drivers in Chantilly and group Meals on Wheels coordinators in both Chantilly and Fairfax. Contact Volunteer Solutions at 703-324-5406, TTY 711, [VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:VolunteerSolutions@fairfaxcounty.gov) or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dfs/olderadultservices/volunteer-solutions.htm).

### Long-Term Care Advocates

The Northern Virginia Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program needs volunteer advocates for residents in assisted living and nursing facilities. Training is provided in March. Call 703-324-5861, TTY 711 or email [Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Lisa.Callahan@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### Give Caregivers a Break

Fairfax County needs Respite Care volunteers throughout the county to give family caregivers of a frail older adult a well-deserved break.

Volunteers visit and oversee the safety of the older adult for a few hours each month. Volunteers are matched with families in or near their own neighborhoods. Support and training is provided. Contact Kristin Martin at 703-324-7577, TTY 711, or [Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kristin.Martin@fairfaxcounty.gov).

## NEWS

# Maddra To Lead CLRC

Replaces outgoing director Roberto Fernández.

BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

There's a new director at the Centreville Labor Resource Center (CLRC), but the face is familiar. Molly Maddra, the center's coordinator and organizer, is now at the helm.

She replaces Roberto Fernández, who's moving out of state to pursue other opportunities. He led the center for the past two years.

"Roberto joined the CLRC staff in December 2012 and has been instrumental in encouraging worker ownership and leadership in both operations and programs," said Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF) President Alice Foltz. "During his time as director, the center established new staff and volunteer systems, and it began operating as an independent non-profit."

The CIF runs the daily operations of the center, which serves Centreville's immigrant population. It's gotten the vast majority of the day laborers off the streets and given them a safe place to meet employers who hire them for work.

It also ensures that the workers — several of whom have wives and children to support — receive a fair wage for their labor. And it's provided them with English lessons, budgeting information and skills training to perform a variety of jobs.

Fernández announced his departure to the CIF board of directors in late October. And during its Dec. 2 meeting, the board approved Maddra's appointment as the new center director. She's already well-acquainted with its operation and has a strong rapport with both the board members and the workers.

She joined the CIF in November 2011, before the center opened, first as part-time and then as full-time coordinator and organizer. She's developed most of its current programming, including ESOL classes, health-education programs and skills training.

"Molly has conducted regular outreach to workers in the community and on the corner to encourage participation in hiring, training opportunities and volunteering," said Foltz. "She has also been a primary spokesperson in presentations to community groups." As director, Maddra will have responsibility for the center's daily operations, plus oversight of all its programs.

"There's been a huge expansion in the scope of our work since 2011," said Maddra. "We're a community center, as well as a work center. The community trusts us; and even those who don't use our services regularly, appreciate what we're doing."

She said socialization of the workers is also an important part of her job. "My vision, the real end goal, is to integrate new immigrants in the community, and this really means building a healthy com-



**Molly Maddra is the new director of the Centreville Labor Resource Center.**



**Former center director Roberto Fernández was there for two years.**

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALICE FOLTZ

munity in every way," she said. "Immigrants need to connect all aspects of their lives and break out of the isolation that is part of their experience here."

Meanwhile, Fernández has left the center in good shape and said his work was supported by the Centreville community. "My experience in other places led me to expect conflict and hostility, but my compliments go to the Centreville community," he said.

"We have an impressive number of volunteers who come in weekly; and other organizations, including local churches, welcome us to use their space," he said. Fernández also noted that some volunteers have made major contributions; for example, high-school students have developed websites and others teach English and Korean and help with outreach.

Fernández, however, is proudest of his efforts to involve the workers in center leadership. "Leadership development takes time," he said. "But now we have many workers who step up to lead in day-to-day operations, as well as special events."

Fernández said funding keeps the center going, but "We are only here because of the workers. The CIF needs to continue to support

the underserved and marginalized community, people who are trying hard to improve their lives."

He recalled workers who've come to the center and became community leaders and successful workers. One such person came to the U.S. from Sierra Leone and was homeless. A pastor brought him to the center and asked, "What can you do for him?" Today, he's on track to obtain his visa, has a regular employer who values him highly and is able to help his family in Sierra Leone. Said Fernández: "He's one of many members who is a leader, and he thanks CLRC for giving him a start."

"Another young Central American immigrant arrived thin and scared, and seemed to have no future here," added Foltz. "Now he has learned English,

completed classes at the center and in a local church and is a valued painter."

Fernández, himself, came to the U.S. from El Salvador with his family and said he feels blessed to

have had the opportunities that have come his way. Before joining the center, he served in the Peace Corps for three years in the Dominican Republic. He now plans to get involved in new, nonprofit opportunities with national or international reach, while drawing on his experience with the CIF/CLRC and the Peace Corps.

"His ultimate goal is to find a way to serve youth in El Salvador, where violence and lack of opportunity destroy the lives of youth," said Foltz. "The board is grateful for his many contributions and wishes him well in his new ventures."

**"We're a community center, as well as a work center."**

**— Molly Maddra**

# 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 out to 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

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## Do Fairfax County Police Act with Impunity?

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



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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)

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 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 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

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## OPINION

# 'The Miracle Worker' at Paul VI

BY TYLER LARKWORTHY  
LANGLEY HIGH SCHOOL

**"H**elen, the chick has to come out of its shell sometime ... you come out too!" For Helen Keller, life was a black void of ignorance. Almost sealed off from the outside world, pampered by her parents, she understood only desire and reward. And then one day, she encountered a new woman — a stubborn woman with dark glasses — a woman who, once blind herself, nevertheless had the vision to know exactly what Helen needed: language. Annie Sullivan would change Helen Keller's life forever. Paul VI Catholic High School told her incredible story in "The Miracle Worker" on Nov. 22.

Written by William Gibson, "The Miracle Worker" premiered on Broadway in 1959 and enjoyed a revival in 2010, receiving critical praise. It was also adapted into a 1962 film. The play follows the early

life of Helen Keller, who has been deaf and blind since infancy, and as a result is completely nonverbal. Helen's parents, the traditional patriarch Captain and his softer wife Kate, have spoiled Helen, allowing her to take over the household with her tantrums. After years of chaos, Captain and Kate contact the Perkins School for the Blind to find a governess and teacher for Helen. Annie Sullivan arrives by train a few days later. Shocked by Helen's lack of manners, Annie resolves to teach her to obey — and to understand language. Despite incredible struggle, after two weeks alone with Annie, Helen experiences a breakthrough when she comes to recognize that the word "water" she can spell with her hand corresponds to the actual water she touches.

Even with no spoken lines, Isabella Whitfield brought incredible depth to Helen Keller. Immersive and realistic, her frightening tantrums and sudden transformation revealed solid commitment. Opposite her, Abigail Rozmajzl embodied the stubborn

SEE AT PAUL VI, PAGE 9

## When Police Oversight is Needed

FROM PAGE 4

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 in-

vestigates 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.



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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*



# Chantilly Charity Helps with Ebola Crisis

Helping Children Worldwide sends aid and supplies to Sierra Leone, Africa.

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

With the Ebola crisis still sending tremors of fear across the world, there's a charity based in Chantilly that is sending aid directly to western Africa. Begun in 2005, Helping Children Worldwide is a nonprofit Christian organization that works with 14 United Methodist churches locally, including Floris UMC in Herndon, St. Stephen's UMC in Burke, and Oakton UMC in Oakton, by giving money, supplies and support to a hospital in Sierra Leone.

Ginny Wagner, 37, executive director of the charity, said personal protective equipment like gloves, goggles, facemasks and boots are ordered here and shipped by air freight to the U.S. Embassy in Sierra Leone to help with the Ebola crisis. They are then picked up by a Mercy Hospital employee, and usually arrive in seven to 10 days. The charity has received \$84,000 in donations from people in Northern Virginia since August.

"It looks like this outbreak is not going to be contained as quickly as we had hoped," said Wagner, who lives in Haymarket, and has traveled to Sierra Leone five times. "So we are sending shipments of protective equipment every six to eight weeks."

The charity supports Mercy Hospital, a 25-bed primary care facility that opened in 2007, and the Child Rescue Centre, which opened in the year 2000 and offers a feeding program for 400 children. General do-



The charity called Helping Children Worldwide in Chantilly gives funding to Mercy Hospital in Sierra Leone, Africa.

nations provide food, clothing, shelter, and education for children, as well as critical primary health care to impoverished families in Sierra Leone. Last year, nearly 10,000 people received education and health care through both programs.

Wagner, who is blessed to be doing her "dream job," said Mercy Hospital has been a leader in providing education and awareness training on Ebola to the community. And because Sierra Leone is highly patriarchal, the education is focused primarily on women, who care for the home, and are at a greater risk for the disease.

"We have been partnering with the Ministry of Health to identify people who may have Ebola, and are bringing them into testing to make sure they are transported to a center," she said.

Because of the Ebola crisis, Wagner said that many hospitals are not able to keep up

and they are simply closing their doors. In the case of private hospitals, she said almost all of them are closed. This is in a country of six million people that is served by only 200 doctors.

Besides Ebola, Wagner said there are just as many people dying from pneumonia, typhoid, and malaria because the facilities are not opened. Right now, she said it's very difficult to keep the hospitals equipped with the proper gloves, face masks, goggles and other protective equipment — so the staff doesn't feel safe delivering care, she said.

In addition to helping with Ebola, Mercy Hospital also has outreach programs into the local villages outside the city to provide prenatal care to expectant women, nutritional support to severely malnourished children, malaria testing and treatment, and HIV/AIDS testing and counseling, said Wagner.

She said Mercy Hospital treats patients regardless of their ability to pay, and works with pregnant women, infants and young children, so that the poorest of the poor can receive treatment. The hospital has a pharmacy and laboratory on site, so if someone comes in with malaria, they can be tested at the lab and given medicine quickly, she said. "We are truly transforming lives of children in Sierra Leone. I have seen how that is happening first hand," said Wagner. "It is rewarding to see lives saved through basic health care and lives forever changed through access to education."

She added: "It's really powerful to see the impact that education and healthcare can have on an individual life and on children as they grow."

With a four-star rating from Charity Navigator, Helping Children Worldwide donates 83 cents of every dollar to programs, with 17 cents going to the administrative costs and fundraising. The Chantilly office, which has a staff of three full-time employees, does fundraising, development and operational support. There are three medical doctors on its board of directors who provide advice to doctors at Mercy Hospital. Local volunteers from the community provide expertise; and educators, human resource and finance professionals volunteer their time and support for the programs.

To donate, call 703-793-9521, email support@helpingchildrenworldwide.org or visit [www.HelpingChildrenWorldwide.org](http://www.HelpingChildrenWorldwide.org). The charity is located at 14101 Parke Long Court, Suite T, Chantilly, VA 20151.

## Police, Community Honor PFC Robert Bowen

Chosen November's Officer of the Month.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

Each month, the Sully District Police Station's Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) honors someone as that station's Officer of the Month. And for November, it's PFC Robert W. Bowen.

He's been with the Fairfax County Police Department for eight years — all of it served at the Sully District Station. So it was fitting that he was honored there during the CAC's Nov. 12 meeting.

In his nomination letter, his supervisor, Sgt. Patrick O'Hara, described Bowen as "truly an outstanding officer who takes great pride in his work and holds himself to the highest standards and work ethic."

He said Bowen retired from the Prince William County Police Department after 29 years of service and "still maintains the motivation and enthusiasm of a young officer willing to do what it takes to get the job done. He makes the best of each and

every day."

According to O'Hara, Bowen is a top producer among his peers when it comes to the education and enforcement of the traffic laws. Not surprisingly, added O'Hara, "Bowen is a leader in the issuance of traffic citations."

In 2013 and 2014, the Sully District Station implemented a program called "Intersection of the Month," which was a direct result of Bowen's identification of a traffic concern. The program identified high crash areas throughout the Sully District and resulted in an increased officer presence and partnership with the Traffic Division to help reduce the amount of automobile crashes.

"In addition to Bowen's proactive approach to traffic safety, he has an incredible ability to interact with the public and follow through with complainants on a variety of cases," wrote O'Hara. "He utilizes his training and experience to its fullest extent with his daily duties as a patrol officer. He does not hesitate to follow up and works tirelessly to conclude his cases to a successful closure."

O'Hara also noted that Bowen cares for the citizens of Fairfax County and, specifi-



PFC Robert Bowen (on left) receives his award from Capt. Bob Blakley.

cally, the Sully District. "When many officers would conclude their investigations with the arrest, PFC Bowen goes beyond the arrest and follows up with victims to look toward a long-term solution," wrote O'Hara. "His passion is second to none in this area, and I again commend him for his overall compassion and diligence to duty."

Besides Bowen being an "extremely confident and well-rounded police officer,"

wrote O'Hara, "He also performs any duty assigned to him and volunteers for extra assignments without hesitation or complaint. I have come to know him to be the type of officer who will do what it takes to get the job done."

O'Hara stressed that "this sort of demeanor and work ethic is commendable, as it alleviates the sometimes daunting task of supervisors having to select someone for an undesirable assignment. Bowen's positive attitude and willingness to help has resulted in his peers eagerly accepting additional assignments, and it has greatly aided in the entire squad having a positive attitude toward their duties."

All in all, wrote O'Hara, "PFC Bowen is an exceptional employee and a strong worker. He is extremely dependable and highly respected by his peers — not only at the Sully District Station, but throughout the Department and throughout the Northern Virginia law-enforcement community. He has proven to be an invaluable asset to the Sully District Station and, even more, to the men and women of the Fairfax County Police Department, and is most deserving of this recognition."



PHOTO COURTESY OF KELLY LAVIN



## Wrapping Up a Bright Holiday

**During Our Neighbor's Child's gift set-up day, students from Centreville Dance Center help match scarves and mittens with coat donations. Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, ONC provided toys and clothing to almost 1,800 children in Centreville, Chantilly and the area west of Fair Oaks Mall.**



**Christmas Eve:**  
The Nativity Story, 2pm  
Candlelight Worship, 9pm

**Christmas Morning:**  
Worship, 10am



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## At Paul VI, 'The Miracle Worker'

FROM PAGE 5

Annie Sullivan. From her first encounter with Helen, Rozmajzl established the monumental difficulty of her task and her inner conflict over her dead brother Jimmie. Whitfield and Rozmajzl cleanly executed numerous difficult fight scenes, further enhancing their engaging performances.

As Captain Keller, Nathaniel Smith boasted an imposing stage presence and stoic expression. His fierce demeanor contrasted perfectly with the more gentle nature of Kate (Madelene Whitfield). Meanwhile, Joey Arzeno created a volatile relationship within the family as James. Arzeno captured the pained obstinacy of his character, adding both valuable comic quips and explosive moments of frustration.

While some scenes could have been more poignant

in a darker setting, overall lighting clarified scene transitions and greatly strengthened the show's emotional atmosphere. Make-up, which included life-like mustache and goatee pieces, tooth blackening and diseased eye shadow for the decrepit crones, and subtle age lines for several characters, allowed actors to come to life on stage. An ensemble of costumed servants served as the show's tech crew, creating nuanced characters, including a memorable senile old man (Tommy Kelleher), while moving set pieces safely and quickly.

"When we do the best that we can, we never know what miracle is wrought in our life, or in the life of another." Paul VI Catholic High School certainly fulfilled Helen Keller's words in their near miraculous production, bringing many in the audience to tears.

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



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## SPECIAL CONNECTIONS CALENDAR

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursday unless noted.

### JANUARY

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  
3/25/2015 ..... Spring Fun, Food, Arts & Entertainment  
FCPS Spring Break 3/30-4/3

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PHOTOS BY RAKHEE S. MANKAR

## World Market

As part of Colin Powell Elementary School's "World Market," first grade students travelled Dec. 17 with their passport to each classroom to learn about different countries. Students had an opportunity to purchase, with tickets provided by the teachers, items created by students — games, crafts, etc. — from the country of origin in each classroom. Students were allowed to dress in their native country's attire, countries of choice or the colors that represented the country of choice.



This statue was created by Piper Coughlin. It represents the Wooly Rhino God from the student-created-culture the "Rohinians."

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED

## DIG Simulation at Bull Run Elementary

Fifth grade Advanced Academic classes at Bull Run Elementary in Centreville completed The Dig, an archaeological problem-based simulation. Using the scientific technique employed by archaeologists, students examined the artifacts to make inferences about the culture's background and themes.

## SCHOOL NOTES

Email announcements to [centreview@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:centreview@connectionnewspapers.com). Photos are welcome.

JMU students **Erin Mordhorst** and **Whitney Roberts** participated in the annual study abroad program called the Urbino Project in Urbino, Italy, and the surrounding Marche Region. Mordhorst is a senior media arts and design major. Roberts is a junior media arts and design major.

**Mary Masterson**, of Centreville, is a member of the University of Iowa's class of 2018.

Fifty-nine Fairfax County Public Schools teachers have been recognized with the Gold Star Award from Working in Support of Education (WISE) for their students' performance on the 2013-14 WISE Financial Literacy Certification Test. The test—a national, standardized test—measures students' knowledge of personal finance and pronounces them financially capable when they graduate from high school. The Gold Star Award designates that the teacher achieved a 90 percent pass rate in at least one of his or her classes on the 2013-14 WISE Financial Literacy Certification Test. FCPS Gold Star Award winning teachers are:

**Catherine Casares, Janice Findley, Melissa Guerro, Janet Johnston, Scott Loube** and **Marcella Setness** of Chantilly High; and **Cathy Cespedes, Sonja Clelland, Rhonda Dumont, Cheryl Edwards** and **Anthony Whitten** of Westfield High.

**Addyson Santese**, of Centreville, received the New Mexico Reciprocal Scholarship for the fall 2014 semester at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Co. Santese's major is English - general option.

Centreville's **Bull Run Elementary School** is one of five Virginia schools among the nation's 255 state finalists for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. Solve for Tomorrow encourages teachers and students to solve real-world issues in their community using classroom skills in science, technology, engineering and math. The state finalists will receive technology as well as a professional development class from PBS TeacherLine for the teacher who entered the competition. Next, the five finalists will submit a lesson plan outlining how they will address the challenge with their students while working with their communities to address issues like water pollution and street safety.



On "Wear Your Bright Smile Day," everyone wore yellow to remember to share the "bright light" of friendship. Principal Patti Brown celebrates Inclusive Schools Week with Bull Run students.

## Inclusive Schools Week

Bull Run Elementary School celebrated Inclusive Schools Week Dec. 1-5. Throughout the week, students engaged in experiences that focused on recognizing the uniqueness in each person. They celebrated the diversity of the school community's varied tapestry of cultures, languages, and abilities.

PHOTOS  
CONTRIBUTED



Bull Run students wore "crazy socks" to recognize that each person is unique and special. Here is the Bull Run News Team, celebrating the one-of-a-kind contributions of each member of the team.



# 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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## GUTTER

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**ANGEL'S HAULING**  
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240-603-6182

One man with courage makes a majority.  
-Andrew Jackson

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**Leaf Removal Gutter Cleaning**

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24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

**Quality Tree Service & Landscaping**  
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Tree removal, topping & pruning, shrubbery trimming, mulching, leaf removal, planting, hauling, gutter cleaning, retaining walls, drainage problems, etc.

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# EMPLOYMENT

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**TELEPHONE**  
A great opportunity to WORK AT HOME!  
NATIONAL CHILDRENS CENTER  
No sell! Salary + Bonus + Benefits!  
301-333-1900  
Weekdays 9-4

## BUSINESS OPP

**TELEPHONE**  
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## EMPLOYMENT

**DEADLINES**  
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## ZONES

- Zone 1:** The Reston Connection  
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
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The reward of a thing well done, is to have done it.  
- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## 26 Antiques

## 26 Antiques

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Email announcements to [chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:chantilly@connectionnewspapers.com). Include date, time, location, description and contact for event: phone, email and/or website. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

## ONGOING

**Polar Bear Reading Club.** Dec. 6-Jan. 31. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Read any five books between Dec. 6-Jan. 31 and get a prize. Up to Grade 6. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

### Fairfax County Public Libraries

**Close at 1 p.m.** Fairfax County Public Libraries close at 1 p.m. for the Christmas holiday. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/)

**Lights Festival.** Through Sunday, Jan. 4 at 7700 Bull Run Drive, Centreville. Almost two and a half miles of light displays and a Holiday Village to celebrate the season. Visit [www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com](http://www.bullrunfestivaloflights.com).

**Workbook on Display.** 9 a.m.-5 p.m. at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, 5040 Walney Road, Chantilly. The exhibit is open through January 2015, in the park's visitor center and admission is free. The highlight of the exhibit is an original workbook created by Lewis

H. Machen who purchased Walney in 1843 and lived there until his death in 1863. This is the first time the workbook has been shared publicly. Contact 703-631-0013 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/eclawrence) for more.

The **Airbus IMAX Theater at National Air and Space Museum Udvar-Hazy Center**, 14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway, is showing movies including "Interstellar", "D-Day: Normandy 1944", "Hubble," "Fighter Pilot" and "Hidden Universe". Visit [airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy](http://airandspace.si.edu/udvarhazy) or call 703-572-4118 for the movie schedule or to schedule an IMAX On Demand show for groups of 50 or more.

**Exhibit of Colorful Nutcrackers at Historic Sully.** Through Jan. 31. Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. See an array of nutcrackers, both old and new, in a colorful case exhibit. This holiday exhibit is included in a guided tour of the 1794 house. Sully, the home of Richard Bland Lee, northern Virginia's first congressman, will be decorated for the holiday season from Dec. 3-22. 703-437-1794 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully)

**Singing.** 7:30 p.m. at Lord of Life Lutheran Church, 13421 Twin Lakes Drive, Clifton. The Fairfax Jubil-Aires rehearse every Wednesday which

includes training by an award-winning director. Visit [www.fairfaxjubilaires.org](http://www.fairfaxjubilaires.org) for more.

## PET ADOPTIONS

**Adopt a Dog.** Fridays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. and Saturdays, 1-4 p.m. at PetSmart, 12971 Fair Lakes Center, Fairfax. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [www.lostdogrescue.org](http://www.lostdogrescue.org) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Saturdays, 12-3 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Highway. Visit [hart90.org](http://hart90.org) for more.

**Adopt a Dog.** Sundays, 1-4 p.m. at Petco, 13053 Lee Jackson Memorial Hwy. Adopt a puppy or dog. Visit [aforeverhome.org](http://aforeverhome.org) for more.

## MONDAY/DEC. 22

**ESL Book Club.** 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities. Build an early literacy foundation for the child while enjoying time together. Birth-11 months with caregiver. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 11:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities. Build an early literacy foundation for the child while enjoying time together. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 23

**Lego Block Party.** 3 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Come show off Lego building skills. Grades 3-6. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

## SATURDAY/DEC. 27

**Peaceful Paws.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Children on the autism spectrum or with other developmental challenges meet and read to a trained therapy dog. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**All About Hedgehogs.** 2 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Learn about hedgehogs. Age 5-10. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

**Local Musician.** 7 p.m. at Electric Maid Community Exchange, 268 Carroll St. NW, Washington, D.C.

Nick Cabrejos, of Centreville, aims to inspire others through his music. Visit [www.reverbNation.com/nickcabrejos](http://www.reverbNation.com/nickcabrejos) or [electricmaid.org](http://electricmaid.org) for more.

## MONDAY/DEC. 29

**Thriving Three to Fives.** 11 a.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Stories and activities. Ages 3-5 with adult. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

**Clay Sculptures and Creatures.** 2 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Teens will make clay creatures and creatures using a variety of techniques from Japanese kawaii to mixed media armatures and wraps in this 90-minute workshop. Age 12-18. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

**Bouncin' Babies.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities. Build an early literacy foundation for the child while enjoying time together. Birth-11 months with caregiver. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**Small Wonders.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Rhymes, songs, stories and activities. Build an early literacy foundation for the child while enjoying time together. 12-23 months with caregiver. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**Holiday Concert.** 1 and 2 p.m. at Sully Historic Site, 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly. In their annual holiday visit to Sully, IONA treats its audiences to traditional Celtic music, blending songs, dance turns and airs in a lively and entertaining presentation. \$12, includes tour of house. Refreshments are served in the 18th century kitchen. Limited seating. Register at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes). Call 703-437-1794.

**ESL Book Club.** 7 p.m. Centreville Regional Library, 14200 St. Germain Drive, Centreville. Adults learning English meet to discuss a book chosen by the group. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ce/) or 703-830-2223.

## TUESDAY/DEC. 30

**English Conversation Group.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Practice English with other students. Adults. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**Toddlin' Twos.** 10:30 a.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Early literacy storytime with stories, songs and activities. Age 2 with caregiver. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

**Lego Block Party.** 11:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly. Come show off Lego building skills. Grades 3-6. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/library/branches/ch/) or 703-502-3883.

## WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

**Fairfax County Public Libraries Close at 5 p.m.**

## THURSDAY/JAN. 1

**Fairfax County Public Libraries Closed**

## FRIDAY/JAN. 2

**Fairfax County Public Libraries Closed**

# CENTREVILLE

## The Anglican Church of the Ascension



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**Holy Communion 10 A.M. Sundays**  
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meeting in Lees Corner  
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Multi-cultural, Bible-believing congregation  
sharing the love of God  
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11am Sundays  
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[www.fairfaxfellowship.org](http://www.fairfaxfellowship.org)

## Communities of Worship

To highlight your faith community,  
call Karen at 703-917-6468

## Celebrate Christmas at Centreville Baptist Church

**Dec 24** 5:00 pm & 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Service  
5:00 pm for families with young children  
7:00 pm Candlelight Service

**Sundays** Worship Services and Community Groups  
9:15 & 11:00 am ~ Something for all ages



15100 Lee Highway, Centreville, VA 20120  
703-830-3333 [www.cbcbva.org](http://www.cbcbva.org)

## Christmas Eve Centreville Presbyterian

December 24  
3 and 5pm Family Services  
with LIVE NATIVITY

December 24  
5 and 7pm  
Candlelight service

December 28  
Healing Service  
at 11am

[Centrevillepres.com](http://Centrevillepres.com)  
703.830.0098

15450 Lee Highway Centreville, VA 20120

