

Boy Scout Garrett Anderson created the books for the children at the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter. (From left) are Anderson and shelter's community coordinator Nurjan Ahmedova in the shelter's playroom.

'Children Are Going to Love These Books'

NEWS, PAGE 4

Garza's
Vision for
County
Schools

NEWS, PAGE 8

Expert Predicts
'A Slightly Better 2015'

NEWS, PAGE 3

TASTEFUL GIFTS!	SANDWICHES
	
FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS & CLIENTS Custom, handcrafted, delicious gifts--one of our popular selections, or assemble your own! See our website or call for more details.	Come check out our made-to-order sandwiches and paninis – simply amaaaaazing!
CATERING From 1-20,000	Call for details Advance Orders Appreciated
GREAT HARVEST BREAD CO 6030-G BURKE COMMONS RD, BURKE 9000 S. LORTON STATION BLVD 703-249-0044 B 703-372-2339 L GREATHARVESTBURKE.COM FACEBOOK.COM/BURKEGREATHARVEST.COM	

For a free digital subscription to one or all of the 15 Connection Newspapers, go to www.connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

Be the first to know – get your paper before it hits the press.

Complete digital replica of the print edition, including photos and ads, delivered weekly to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail: goinggreen@connectionnewspapers.com



THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS



RIGHTEOUS OR OUTRAGEOUS?

My boss thought our three game ticket plan was outrageous. I thought it is righteous. So what do you think: righteous or outrageous?
By Andy Ruge, Associate Athletic Director, George Mason University

Here's what you get in the three game plan:

- 1. Our very best three games.** The three game plan has our three very best games:
 - Nationally-ranked rival VCU? Yep, February 4, see you here.
 - Homecoming against Richmond? Of course, February 14.
 - Frequent NCAA tournament contestant Davidson? Check, January 24.
- 2. Free gifts.** Heck, everyone loves free stuff, so we included it. At the Richmond game you get a Mason Basketball koozie. At the VCU game you get a Bobblehead of Mason legend George Evans. At the Davidson game, you get a George Mason bobblehead. For each three game package that you buy you get those three gifts.
- 3. Best seat locations.** When buying single-game tickets to our best game, you're hoping there are good seats left. Bringing the family? For the big games it's tough to get 4 seats together. And don't forget those high service fees. With this three-game pack you know you've got the good seats, to the good games, already in-hand. No questions asked, no worrying, you know you've got 3 chances to see one of the top-5 basketball conferences in the country, right here in Fairfax. You get big-time basketball at small-time prices.

These are the games people want to see anyway. With this three game plan, however, you can lock up better seat locations than the single game buyer.

When I look at the three game plan, it is indeed outrageous. And righteous. It costs start at just \$22 per game (\$66 total) and youth (12 & under) are just \$12 per game (\$36 total). You can buy the three-game mini-plan today by calling your Personal Account Representative, Alyssa, at 703-993-3491 or visit GoMason.com/hoops today.

It's like retirement, only better.



Imagine your perfect retirement: a serene home in the country, yet near the excitement of a world-class city. Westminster at Lake Ridge is a place where family can gather and immediately feel a part of the community. This is a community defined by small town charm, a place to enjoy nature, visit a nearby quaint historic village or experience the excitement and culture of our nation's capital.

Westminster at Lake Ridge is accepting wait list reservations! Call (703) 496-5156 today to schedule your personal tour!

Westminster at Lake Ridge
Northern Virginia's best kept secret in retirement living

www.wlrva.org • (703) 496-5156
12191 Clipper Drive, Lake Ridge, VA



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

E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com for more information.



THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
703-778-9431
www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

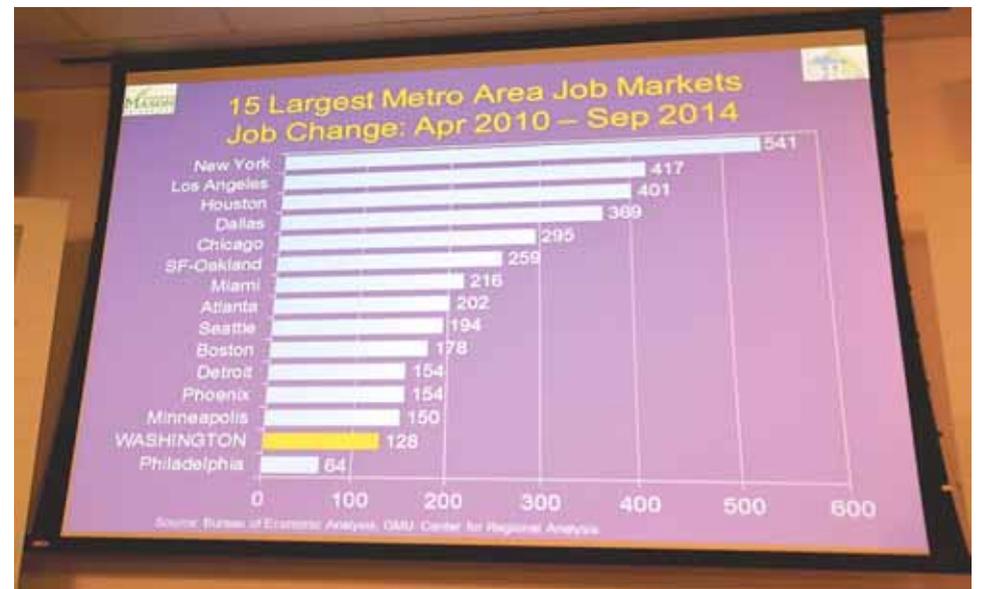
Reaching Suburban Washington's Leading Households

• Alexandria Gazette Packet	• Fairfax Connection	• Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
• Arlington Connection	• Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection	• Potomac Almanac
• Burke Connection	• Great Falls Connection	• Reston Connection
• Centre View	• McLean Connection	• Springfield Connection
• Chantilly Connection	• Mount Vernon Gazette	• Vienna/Oakton Connection



PHOTOS BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

Stephen Fuller went out into the crowd of attendees during his NVAR-hosted presentation on the past year's economy and the economic outlook ahead.



The news could be better – according to Fuller and many of the charts and graphs he referred to during his presentation, the Washington Metro area, including Northern Virginia, is lagging well behind in many key recovery factors. Fuller discussed several reasons for the situation, not the least of which being the aftermath of 2013's “fiscal cliff” and the continuing impact of sequestration.

Expert Predicts ‘A Slightly Better 2015’

Realtors association hosts year-end economic update.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE CONNECTION

Most keynote speakers are used to a bit of fidgeting from the audience about 20 minutes into their spiel. Just goes to show the level of interest both the topic and the speaker generated when after almost two hours, the hosts of the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Year-End Economic Review with Dr. Stephen Fuller basically called the session “a wrap” to convince the attendees that the included lunch awaited them.

Fuller brings an impressive collection of credentials to the role; Ph.D., Dwight Schar faculty chair and university professor and director, Center for Regional Analysis, School of Public Policy at George Mason University, not to mention chief economist for Cardinal Bank. Adding an arsenal of graphs and other analytical data to his expertise and experience, Fuller provided insights about the closing year, a preview of what to expect in 2015, and some long-term economic expectations for Northern Virginia, the District and Maryland.

“2014 was actually softer in all categories than expected, given the strength of the economic recovery exhibited in 2013,” said Fuller, “particularly in relationship to the housing market. Fuller credited a number of factors for the reason that things slowed down in 2014. Lower wage jobs, slower immigration and reduced international transfers, lower marriage rates, limited access to credit, degraded mobility (when the jobs being created aren't worth moving for),

student loan burdens and even changing generational values and preferences were the reasons he cited.

“Perhaps most surprising is that for the first time in the memory of many, our local economy is underperforming compared to the rest of the country.” Based heavily on direct and ancillary federal government employment, the area has previously been less negatively impacted by the recession than other areas of the country. “This is new territory for us,” Fuller said. “Even more surprising, it didn't really make the headlines that our economy shrank more in the last year than it did during the recession.” He likened the situation to a luxury liner with a small leak. “It may be hardly noticeable now, but someone had better start baling and repairing soon.”

ACCORDING TO FULLER and many of the sources he consulted, the “Fiscal cliff” and the introduction of sequestration in 2013 are just beginning to make an impact on the local way of life – and not in a positive way. All of the reports on the creation and status of jobs show that most growth, particularly in this area, is taking place in industries that on average pay less and that many of those who lost their positions in government or government contracting, have yet to be “redeployed” in similar situations. “Health and education and local government were the key growth industries in the this area, and we can't sustain our economy on only these two sectors. We definitely need wage growth, something we haven't had in this recovery so far,” added



Stephen Fuller from George Mason University held the stage for almost two hours at the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors (NVAR) Year-End Economic Review. Fuller spoke to the issues that shaped 2014, as well as predictions for the coming year, and beyond.

Fuller. “During the recession, employers learned the lessons of productivity.” With higher unemployment and older workers opting out of the workforce, employers could more easily pick and choose and keep pay rates lower. The unemployment numbers are dropping, but according to Fuller, we still haven't reached the stage where employers must offer more to secure the best. And there is something else missing from the equation in Fuller's educated opinion. “Where is inflation? There isn't any. And you need it to give merchants the opportunity to provide wage growth.”

Despite a number of troubling indicators that he believes require immediate and significant attention, Fuller does predict a slightly better 2015. “We are still feeling that

pent up demand that will push things a bit higher.” Fuller does not see a repeat of the flurry of increasing house prices that many sellers enjoyed not long ago. Instead, he believes that many luxury homes will come down in price and average time from list-to-sale may increase somewhat.

WHEN ASKED during the Q&A session to comment specifically on Fairfax County, Fuller cautioned that without creation of higher-wage jobs, the county would face a “real squeeze to services – fire, policing, education.” Local government needs tax money to do its job. Lower income and property taxes coupled with an increasingly aging population could mean even more challenging times ahead. “But interesting ones,” he declared. “Downsizing or rightsizing according to your view, things

change.”

This NVAR event was sponsored by RGS Title Company and hosted by the NVAR Small Broker and Real Estate Finance and Settlement Forums. NVAR has several economic outlook programs in store for the coming year. Visit their website at www.nvar.com to keep up to date on NVAR happenings.

Fuller will speak at the 23rd Annual Cardinal Bank and George Mason University Economic Conference on Jan. 15, 2015. Pre-registration for the conference is available at www.cardinalbank.com. More on Fuller's update, review and the analytical data he presented are available on the George Mason University Center for Regional Analysis website at cra.gmu.edu.

'Children Are Going to Love These Books'

Scout donates original works to Hanley Shelter.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Eagle Scout projects are all about helping people, and Garrett Anderson's project certainly fits the bill. Thanks to his efforts, children staying at the Katherine K. Hanley Family Shelter now have 11 new and original books to read and enjoy.

The shelter's at 13000 Lee Highway in Fairfax, at the intersection of Meadow Estates Drive and Route 29, across from the Hampton Forest community. It serves mothers and young children and – although many of the women have jobs – they don't make enough money to have a home in this area. So the shelter takes them in temporarily and gives them guidance and help so they can eventually live on their own.

A Westfield High junior, Anderson, 16, belongs to Boy Scout Troop 1826 of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Centreville. And when he and his mom were discussing possible Eagle Scout projects he could do, he decided to incorporate something that would reflect his love of drawing.

"Children's books have lots of illustrations, so I thought it'd be cool to do a project involving art," he said. "My mom regularly donates our old clothes to the shelter and, when I was researching possible beneficiaries, she mentioned the shelter. She said it's for moms and children; and I realized, if they were living there, they'd need stuff to do, such as reading books."

But Anderson didn't want to just buy some – he wanted to create them. "I knew it would be more difficult, but I could also get involved and illustrate one book myself," he said. So at the beginning of summer, he emailed flyers asking people to participate and kept in touch with all the authors and illustrators.

"The authors emailed their books to me, and I'd review them and email them to the illustrators, who'd send me their illustrations," he explained. "Then I used Shutterfly, put the pictures on different pages, cropped the words that would fit under the pictures and created the books. My dad and cousin helped so it wouldn't take so long to do them all. Each one took 45-60 minutes, depending how long each book was."

ANDERSON illustrated a book called, "The Pig and the Octopus," written by his dad's cousin. "The story's about a pig walking on a beach and meeting an octopus," he said. "The octopus thinks the pig is dirty and not smart, and the pig is surprised to see the octopus on the beach, out of the water. It's about prejudice and not stereotyping others."

The books ranged from 20-30 pages, with the stories ranging from one sentence on a



Showing the covers and some of the inside pages of the books are (from left) Boy Scout Drake Wilkinson, Braeden Anderson (Garrett's brother), Nurjan Ahmedova, Garrett Anderson, Becky and Brent Anderson (his parents), and Amy Baldwin (his cousin).

page to whole paragraphs. So there's a variety of books for readers of different ages and interests. For example, "A Dragonella Story" is a fantasy written by an 11-year-old; while "Little Jason's Big Adventure," which is more realistic, was written by an adult. And "It's a Faire Day" takes place at a Renaissance fair.

"The books turned out way better than I thought they'd be," said Anderson. "Some of the illustrators were art majors and did really high-class work. And the stories all had good flow for toddlers through elementary-school ages."

Once school started in September, it was tougher for him to supervise and coordinate the project because his time was limited. Besides doing schoolwork, he plays alto sax in Westfield's marching band, is on the school swim team and swims six mornings a week for a USA League club team.

"But once the books all came in, I felt extremely accomplished," said Anderson. "All this hard work paid off, and I was excited." He said the experience taught him good organizational skills and flexibility. And, he added, "It makes me feel like I have a purpose in my community – which will help me later on in life."

In front of his parents and brother and others, Anderson officially presented the books to the shelter on Nov. 3. "I received financial donations from friends and family all over the country to produce these literary works of art," he said. "I can't thank enough those who gave their time, talents and money. It is with great pride that I hand over these 11 books, and I hope they'll provide enjoyment to those who'll read them."

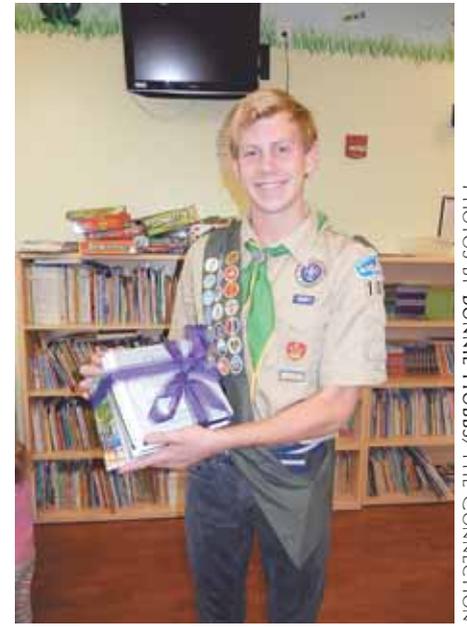
RECEIVING THIS GIFT was Nurjan Ahmedova, the shelter's community coordinator. "Thanks to Garrett, we have these wonderful, beautifully illustrated books donated to the shelter," she said. "The children are going to appreciate them; they can read the books, themselves, or a parent or

volunteer can read to them."

She was also pleased that each story is interesting and educational and has a message about various concepts, such as forgiveness.

"Being homeless is very tough, especially for the children," explained Ahmedova. "And hopefully, they can take the messages of these books and carry them with them throughout their lives."

The shelter often contains as many as 45 children. When the books were presented, 32 were living there; their ages ranged from infants to age 17. "We get a lot of help from the Scouts and we truly appreciate it," said Ahmedova. "The children are going to love these books and will feel special to have



Boy Scout Garrett Anderson holds the books that he had created for the children at the Katherine Hanley Family Shelter.

them."

One of the authors was Anderson's cousin, Amy Baldwin, who wrote a story called, "Little Jason's Big Adventure." She, too, was at the presentation and wrote a book because she "wanted to help Garrett and the children here. I wrote a family story based on true events and it was fun. It's my first book and my sister-in-law illustrated it because it was about her brother. It was exciting to see my words and her pictures come together."

"It feels great to have my book at the shelter," continued Baldwin. "When I told my 6-year-old daughter what a homeless shelter was, she ran to her toy box and got some toys to donate."



Honoring Five Decades of Service

On Dec. 9, Fairfax City Mayor Scott Silverthorne (third from left) and the City Council honored Fairfax's Board of Architectural Review on its 50th anniversary. The organization's first meeting was Dec. 11, 1964. Also pictured (back row, fourth from left) is Revenue Commissioner Page Johnson.

NEWS



Pictured are Fairfax Academy students in teacher Matthew Balthrop's Professional Television Production class, with a still scene from one of their horror films in the background.

Fairfax Academy Students Create Own Horror Films

All three levels of the Professional Television Production classes at the Fairfax Academy recently presented original horror films they created based on only two sentences given to them by their teacher, Matthew Balthrop, a new addition this year to the Fairfax Academy family. The project's goal was to fully portray these sentences via a short, horror film.

The students were responsible for every aspect of the film from concept to completion, including directing, filming, some of the acting and the editing. The films had to be under two minutes in length

and maturely deal with a story topic, such as horror. In addition, student filmmakers collaborated with the Academy's Musical Theatre and Actor's Studio class to recruit the actors needed for some of their films. In the end, they screened their short films for the entire class and gave each another constructive criticism based on what they've learned in class so far this year. Students were also required to professionally participate in a question-and-answer interview session with Balthrop and their fellow classmates regarding their horror film and the film-making process.

AREA ROUNDUPS

Holiday Collection Schedule

There will be no trash/recycling collection on Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec. 25. Thursday customers will receive trash and recycling collection on Friday, Dec. 26. There will be no changes to the collection schedule for customers receiving service on Friday, Dec. 26. All materials should be at the curb by 6 a.m. in order to ensure that they will be collected.

The administrative office will be closed on Wednesday, Dec. 24 at noon. In addition, the administrative office will also be closed on Thursday, Dec. 25 and Friday, Dec. 26 for the Christmas holiday. The office will reopen at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 29.

The Recycling and Disposal Centers at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road) and the I-95 Landfill Complex (9850 Furnace Road) will both be closing at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 24, and will be closed on Christmas Day, Dec. 25.

Thursday, Jan. 1 and Friday, Jan. 2 are both regular solid waste collection days for cus-

tomers receiving Thursday and Friday collection service for trash and recycling and for customers with previously scheduled collections. All materials should be at the curb by 6 a.m. in order to ensure that they will be collected. The administrative office will be closed on Thursday, Jan. 1 and Friday, Jan. 2 for the New Year's holiday. The office will reopen at 7:30 a.m. on Monday, Jan. 5.

The Recycling and Disposal Centers at the I-66 Transfer Station (4618 West Ox Road) and the I-95 Landfill Complex (9850 Furnace Road) will both close at 2 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 31 and will be closed on New Year's Day, Jan. 1. However, both locations will be open on Friday, Jan. 2.

Christmas trees will be collected during the first two weeks of January for recycling (Jan. 1 - 16, 2015). Lights, decorations and stands must be removed to ensure collection.

All of the program information is available online at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/recycling.

If you have any questions about the holiday collection schedule, call 703-802-3322.

\$10.00 OFF Full Service Mobile Pet Grooming.

Outside Your Home or Work.
To New and Returning Clients, One Per Household
We groom to "Pet Breed" standards, clients preferences,
or We can customize a style.

SPECIAL OFFER



BOOK ONLINE TODAY
www.HoPPooH.com
(703)982-0208

Your Pet will have:

- Luxury Bath & Brush,
- Warm air Fluff Drying,
- Ear Cleaned,
- Nails Trimmed,
- Full Coat Clip,Cut,Shape & Style (To Owners Specific Requirements or to Breed Standards)
- Cologne,Bows or Bandana



We Fit in Your Schedule
All Products are Bio-Degradable ,Eco Friendly & Natural



Be a part of our **Wellbeing** pages, the first week of every month.

Delight in our **HomeLifeStyle** sections, the second week of every month. Peek at the top real estate sales, glimpse over-the-top remodeling projects, get practical suggestions for your home.

Celebrate students, camps, schools, enrichment programs, colleges and more in our **A-plus: Education, Learning, Fun** pages, the third week of every month.

Questions? E-mail sales@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9431



NO TWO OF US ARE ALIKE.

A memorial service should reflect that.

EACH ONE OF US IS UNIQUE, with our own story to tell. We understand this and that's why you can rely on your Dignity Memorial® professionals to capture a person's essence with a service that's both a fitting reflection and a memorable tribute.



DEMAINE
FUNERAL HOMES
DemaineFunerals.com

ALEXANDRIA
(703) 549-0074

SPRINGFIELD
(703) 941-9428

FAIRFAX
(703) 385-1110

OPINION

Merry Christmas

A message of peace and joy.

Merry 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 and sales/marketing at sales@connectionnewspaper.com.

— MARY KIMM

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

Iwould 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 OVERSIGHT, PAGE 7

Fairfax
CONNECTION

www.ConnectionNewspapers.com

@FfxConnection

An independent, locally owned weekly newspaper delivered to homes and businesses.

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Free digital edition delivered to your email box. Go to
connectionnewspapers.com/subscribe

NEWS DEPARTMENT:
fairfax@connectionnewspapers.com

Kemal Kurspahic
Editor ♦ 703-778-9414
kemal@connectionnewspapers.com

Amna Rehmatulla
Editorial Assistant
703-778-9410 ext.427
arehmatulla@connectionnewspapers.com

Bonnie Hobbs
Community Reporter ♦ 703-778-9438
south@connectionnewspapers.com

Jon Roetman
Sports Editor ♦ 703-752-4013
jroetman@connectionnewspapers.com
@jonroetman

ADVERTISING:
For advertising information
e-mail:
sales@connectionnewspapers.com
703-778-9431

Debbie Funk
Display Advertising/National Sales
703-778-9444
debfunk@connectionnewspapers.com

Karen Washburn
Display Advertising, 703-778-9422
kwashburn@connectionnewspapers.com

Andrea Smith
Classified Advertising, 703-778-9411
classified@connectionnewspapers.com

David Griffin
Marketing Assistant
703-778-9431
dgriffin@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor & Publisher
Mary Kimm
mkimm@connectionnewspapers.com
@MaryKimm

Executive Vice President
Jerry Vernon
jvernon@connectionnewspapers.com

Editor in Chief
Steven Mauren
Managing Editor
Kemal Kurspahic
Photography:
Deb Cobb, Craig Sterbutzel
Art/Design:
Laurence Foong, John Heinly
Production Manager:
Geovani Flores

Special Assistant to the Publisher
Jeanne Theismann
jtheismann@connectionnewspapers.com
@TheismannMedia

CIRCULATION: 703-778-9426
Circulation Manager:
Ann Oliver
circulation@connectionnewspapers.com



OPINION

Independent Oversight Needed

FROM PAGE 6

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.

FAITH NOTES

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

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 or call the office: 703-281-4230.

Bluegrass Christmas Eve service on Wednesday, Dec. 24, at 5 p.m. in Franconia Hall at Fire Station #5, 6300 Beulah Street, Alexandria. The community is once again invited to find meaning in the mayhem of the season. The familiar Christmas story will be celebrated in a new way with traditional carols by the acclaimed Big Hillbilly Bluegrass band. Join your friends and

neighbors at the firehouse this Christmas Eve. The service is sponsored by Aldersgate Kingstowne, a United Methodist Church that invites people to follow Jesus through the shared practices of worship, learning in groups, and hands-on service to the poor. For more information, go to www.aldersgate.net or call 703-660-2600.



Cremation arrangement from the comfort of your own home!

Cremation Society of Virginia now allows you to handle every aspect of the cremation arrangement process from the comfort of your own home.

Our website provides valuable information about cremation, allowing you to make an informed decision about your final wishes. You even have the opportunity to complete all arrangements online, from the comfort of your home.

In addition, our licensed staff members specialize in cremation, and are always ready to fully explain our services, answer your questions, and treat you with dignity and respect.

For more information or to arrange a cremation, please visit our website today.

www.VirginiaCremate.com

14014 Sullyfield Circle Unit F Chantilly, VA 20151 | (703) 449-8288
386 Greenbrier Drive Suite B Charlottesville, VA 22901 | (434) 244-0046
1927 Westmoreland Street Richmond, VA 23230 | (804) 355-3360





Instant Download!
Or call for your **FREE** copy.

INJURED?

Before you talk to the adjuster

Before you hire an attorney

Before you sign any forms

Download this **FREE** consumer guide today

TheAccidentBook.com

or call 703.991.4880 for a **FREE** copy

Thousands have relied on the information in this book. See what others say: JustReadTheReviews.com



"I wrote this book to level the playing field between you and the insurance companies." Ben Glass

BENGLASSLAW™

FREE Books Before You Sign ANY Form

Looking for a New Place of Worship?

Visit Antioch Baptist Church!



All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 8:00, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children & Adults 9:30 a.m.
Married Couples Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

Rev. Dr. Marshal L. Ausberry, Sr., Senior Pastor

Antioch Baptist Church

6531 Little Ox Road
Fairfax Station, VA 22039
703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org

PROFILE

How Does She Do It? Karen Garza's vision: the irresistible force moving the immovable object of Fairfax County Public Schools?

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-



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."



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,"

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.

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



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.

PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS

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-

nings. 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."

ing 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.

- 1986-1991:** Elementary School Teacher, Yoakum, Texas (1,539 students, 38% white and 50% Latino and spends about \$8,000 per pupil).
- 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.
- 1994-1996:** 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).
- 1996-1997:** Curriculum Supervisor K-12, El Campo ISD, El Campo, Texas (3,465 students, \$9,735 per student, 67% economically disadvantaged).
- 1997-1999:** Associate Executive Director for Governmental Relations, Texas Association of School Administrators.
- 1999-2002:** Executive Director for Curriculum, Staff Development, and Accountability, Katy ISD, Katy, Texas (58,444 students, \$7,740 per student, 29% disadvantaged).
- 2002-2004:** Associate Executive Director for Governmental Relations, Texas Association of School Administrators.
- 2004-2005:** Deputy Superintendent, Corpus Christi ISD, Corpus Christi, Texas (38,041 students, spends \$8,240, 68% disadvantaged).
- 2005-2009:** Chief Academic Officer, Houston ISD, Houston, Texas. (200,944 students, \$9,231 per student, 80% disadvantaged).
- 2009-2013:** Superintendent of Schools, Lubbock ISD, Lubbock, Texas (28,476 students, \$8,163 per student, 62% disadvantaged).
- 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

GRAPHICS BY LAURENCE FOONG/ THE CONNECTION

Reconfiguration Makes for Holiday Family Fun

Transitional-style interior solution improves 30-year-old floor plan.

BY JOHN BYRD

The most dynamic possibilities for an interior design solution may only be revealed in unexpected ways and over time. Denise Kidd, for instance, who has occupied a 30-year-old center hall colonial in Fairfax Station with husband Scott for more than 20 years, was certain the couple had “made the house their own” when they remodeled the kitchen 14 years ago.

The makeover had everything Denise wanted: a u-shaped counter with easy access to stove, refrigerator and clean-up; pleasant maple cabinets; and a pantry in an adjacent family room.

Moreover, the plan discretely partitioned the kitchen from the family room; the cook’s work space from the breakfast nook.

The cook’s work triangle — according to the accepted space-planning wisdom of the day — needed to be protected. Yes, some parts of the floor plan were a bit boxy — but isn’t setting perimeters what good design is supposed to do?

Flash forward a few years, and what a difference a stunning realization can make.

Now empty-nesters, the Kidds had been gradually looking at ways to deepen their satisfaction with their home — which is situated in a lovely leafy setting, and frequently the site of extended family entertaining.

The large screen porch off the family room, for instance, was designed to segue into well-landscaped acreage complete with decking, hot tub and sports court. The window wall in the breakfast room, likewise, exists principally to emphasize natural surroundings.

All these matters considered: why then



Scott and Denise Kidd of Fairfax Station are starting off the New Year with a kitchen-centric entertainment suite.

shouldn’t Denise’s kitchen also be an “open” affair, a place where the cook can interact with guests while still enjoying a beautiful day?

Yet, interestingly, the revolution in Kidd’s thinking about her kitchen has humble origins, beginning when she decided that she simply wanted a wider, deeper refrigerator.

Seeing plainly that a larger model would not fit the tall, narrow cavity holding the current unit, she contacted a remodeling firm they had previously hired to upgrade their bathrooms in search of advice.

In short order, designer Liz Lee of Sun Design Remodeling proffered a plan that would accommodate a deeper refrigerator, yet also pointed to larger horizons that might feasibly be pursued.

“Liz pointed out that we could increase the height to several rooms in the back of the house a full 12 inches by eliminating the dropped ceiling,” Kidd said.

“I was intrigued at once, and when she worked up perspective drawings, I realized

that the plan would open up sight lines and dramatically alter the dynamics of the entire space. It seemed right for Scott and I in this new phase of our life.”

Lee said, “Raising a ceiling usually makes a space seem much larger. Especially when you have the kind of indoor/outdoor connectivity this house was designed to profile.”

WORK WITH ROOMS that suddenly seemed expansive, even generous, Lee’s plan reconfigured the 90-square-foot galley kitchen to better flow with the breakfast nook and family room.

To gain floor space for new appliances, the designer relocated the doorway between the kitchen and dining room to the middle of the wall, installing a pair of frosted glass pocket doors for both privacy and added natural light.

Deleting the cumbersome pantry that had served as a space divider between the kitchen and the family room, Lee next

Details

Sun Design Remodeling frequently sponsors tours of recently remodeled homes as well as workshops on home remodeling topics. Headquartered in Burke, the firm recently opened a second office in McLean. Call 703-425-5588 or visit www.SunDesignInc.com.

opened up the space by wrapping an interior wall with custom-designed floor-to-ceiling cabinetry.

Situated between a pair of archways linking the house from front to back, the piece features two glass-faced, back-lit cabinets. As the new home for Denise Kidd’s stemware and fine china, the built-in displaces a bulky, space-consuming hutch in the breakfast nook. Better yet, its 8-foot-by-2-foot’ bianco romano granite surface more than triples the kitchen’s horizontal serving capacity.

“It’s a great serving station for the entire first floor including the screened porch,” Kidd said. “It’s created logical, uncluttered circulation patterns we simply didn’t have before.”

Meanwhile, a substantially larger refrigerator, wine cooler and microwave now occupy formerly restricted kitchen floor space which opens invitingly into the family room.

Roughly paralleling the new cabinet console, a multi-level surface that curves into the breakfast nook replaces the existing L-shaped counter. Equipped with a pair of stainless steel clean-up sinks and a dining counter with two stools, the new design functions as a casual mid-room gathering spot — steps from the breakfast table, an easy stride from the mudroom, new pantry and laundry room.

“People were always gathering at the counter anyway,” Kidd said. “Liz’s plan simply makes it a lot easier for friends to drop in for a chat while I keep an eye on the meal.”

Better yet, the new interior allows Denise to take in the backyard views while standing at the sink.

Balancing the panoramic sight lines, Lee’s thoughtful finishwork gives the space its panache and brighter, lighter ambiance. A stone and glass tile backsplash unifies kitchen walls with the elegant new china cabinet. Crown molding and other detailing marry the bold new built-in to the home’s fundamentally formal interior design elements.

“The execution is pretty consistent with what has come to be known as transitional design style,” Lee said. “Formal elements carefully integrated into an open plan allow for easier interaction within a cohesive aesthetic presentation.”

For Kidd, that also means it’s easier to tend to the kitchen while also entertaining...and the timing couldn’t be better.

“We’re having 15 for Christmas, and I’m ready,” Denise said. “It’s a good feeling.”

John Byrd (byrdmatx@comcast.net) has been writing about home improvement topics for 30 years.



An L-shaped kitchen counter has been replaced with a multi-level surface that curves into the more open family living area.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MITRO HOOD



The two stainless sinks have eased clean-up, owner Denise Kidd says. She also now has an unobstructed view of the backyard.

SPORTS

Parent Coaches Searching for Balance

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

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

Keith 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.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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.



PHOTO BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

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



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Hayfield's Molly Overstreet, middle, is a two-time VHSL state champion gymnast. Her mother, Kristin Overstreet, right, is an assistant coach with the Hawks. Also pictured is Hayfield head coach Michelle Pennow.

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.



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.

"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.

SEE PARENT COACHES, PAGE 15

Four Plays to Offer Drama and Comedy

Fairfax High presents Winter One-Act Festival.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Both comedy and drama will take the stage when Fairfax High presents its student-directed, Winter One-Act Festival. The curtain rises Thursday-Friday, Jan. 8-9, at 7:30 p.m. Four plays are offered; tickets are \$5 at the door.

'Opening Doors'

A mix of comedy and drama, "Opening Doors" is directed by senior Mykael Hyman. "It's about some people living in the same apartment in New York City," he said. "They each give a monologue about their personal stories and how they connect with other people; but they interrupt each other and talk over each other."

Hyman said the play's coming along well for his eight cast members. "They've all been working hard and tried to make this production their best work," he said. A first-time director, Hyman said the toughest part is "getting an image of what you want initially. But that also allows you to be more creative. You need good organizational skills but, on the whole, directing has been easier than I thought it would be." He said the audience will especially like this play's "visual aesthetic. They'll see the side of a building with graffiti representing each character's personality traits and what they're going through. And we're using lighting to portray those concepts, as well."

'Anybody for Tea?'

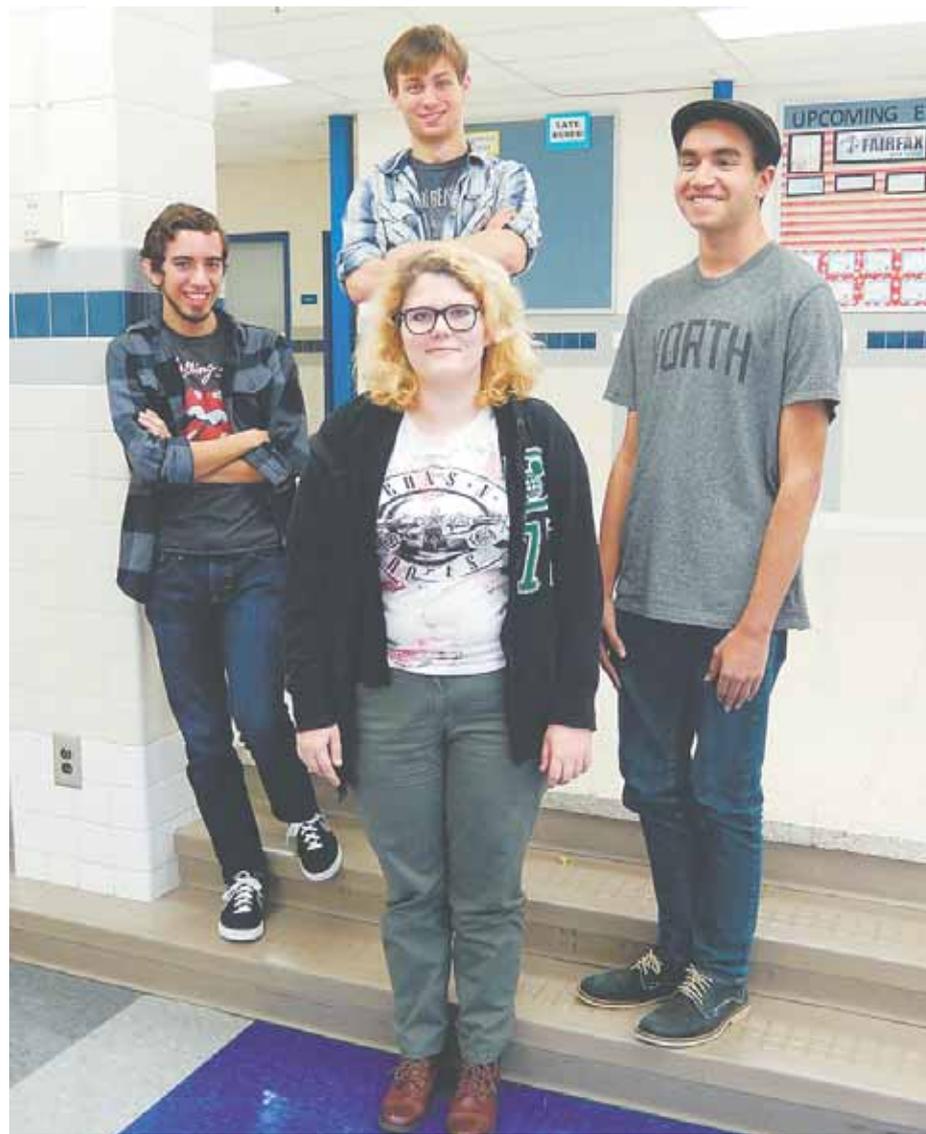
Senior Allison Grainge is directing a nine-person comedy led by a student who just goes by ZJ. "He plays a homicide detective investigating a murder at a house where six, elderly women live," said Grainge. "They see him through their window every day and they're in love with him. So they kill one of the six to get him to come over."

"It's such an absurd concept that it's really funny," she continued. "And everyone in the cast is so talented; I've really enjoyed working with them."

Grainge said directing taught her the importance of good communication with a show's management team. She also much prefers directing to acting. "I'm a perfectionist and I like being able to change stuff and be in control," she explained. The hardest part, she said, is "realizing that everything can't be as you first imagined it. Things change and, usually, it's for the better."

'Tracks'

Directing a drama called "Tracks" is se-



Excited about Fairfax High's upcoming, one-act play festival are the directors (back row, from left) John Vazquez, Doug Klain and Mykael Hyman, and (front) Allison Grainge.

nior John Vazquez. "Eleven people find themselves together in a subway station – and none of them are exactly sure how they got there," he said. "They're all from different places and they have to figure out where the next train is going."

This show features an ensemble cast and, said Vazquez, "It's surprising to see how fast these actors have come into their characters, and they're really talented." A first-time director, he's discovered he likes doing it.

"In acting, you're just concerned about your own part," he said. "But as a director, you control the entirety of the show and get to project your vision on all of it. And by the end, you get to see the big picture and what you've created." However, he added, "The toughest thing is learning to be the leadership figure with people you know so well and commanding their respect." As for the audience, said Vazquez, "They'll like the twist this story takes and the message behind it – how your past actions affect your future."

'First Lady Suite'

Senior Doug Klain is directing the musical drama, "First Lady Suite." It's taken from a full play with various vignettes about four American first ladies. This one focuses on Jackie Kennedy aboard Air Force One while she and her husband, President John F. Kennedy, are en route to Dallas on the day

he's assassinated.

"I think people will like it because it's about such a pivotal, defining moment of the 20th century, and we take an interesting look at it," said Klain. "That's one of the reasons I picked this show."

There's a cast of five, with junior Abigail Johnson portraying the lead character, Jackie's secretary. "She's excited to be going to Dallas and riding in the motorcade," said Klain. "But during the flight, she falls asleep and has a premonition of something bad happening there. So people will see this historic event told from a different point of view than normally."

Regarding his actors, he said, "It never ceases to amaze me how professional they are, considering they're high-school seniors. They're doing in two weeks what professionals take two months to do. And I selected my cast members because I knew they could do an astounding job."

Klain also enjoyed directing. "The toughest part is the stress," he said. "As an actor, you worry about yourself and getting your scene right. But as a director, you worry about everyone and everything. But when I see the actors doing fantastic work – and I get chills seeing it – then I'm so proud of them. And if I feel that way, knowing the script so well, I think the audience will feel that way tenfold."

Send notes to the Connection at south@connectionnewspapers.com or call 703-778-9416. The deadline is the Friday prior to the next paper's publication. Dated announcements should be submitted at least two weeks prior to the event.

THROUGH SUNDAY/DEC. 28

Sparkling Wine Tastings. 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Paradise Springs Winery, 13219 Yates Ford Road, Clifton. Recurring weekly on Sunday, Friday, Saturday. Taste all three sparklings from Paradise Springs as well as a unique Pineapple Sparkling from Maui. Ten percent off all sparkling wines purchased for anyone who does the tasting. Admission is \$20/person. Call 703-830-9463 for more information. No reservations necessary as tastings will be done at our main tasting counter. Ongoing event.

THROUGH WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

War on the Doorstep: Fairfax Militia in the War of 1812. Exhibition. The Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Open Tue.-Sat. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Free tours at 1 p.m. 703-591-0560.

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 MONDAY/JAN. 19

Dada Re-Discovered. Building W-16 Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Dada Re-Discovered explores how contemporary media and ideas can filter past Dada concepts and artwork. The exhibit will feature sound, video, performance and other visual mixed media. 703-584-2900. www.workhousearts.org.

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 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/

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 13

WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12
student, \$5/senior or child.

THROUGH SUNDAY/FEB. 8

Dressing for the Occasion: An Exhibition of Costumes and Textiles Representing Fairfax Personalities and Events.
Exhibition, Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center, 10209 Main Street, Fairfax. Open daily 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 703-385-8414.

THROUGH MONDAY/FEB. 9

"Synesthetic Landscapes." Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia, 8900 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. Andy Ilachinski describes his colorful, powerful and magically manipulated images as "Synesthetic Landscapes," referencing the psychological, creative – even mystical – experience of synesthesia, a joining of the senses (smelling sounds, hearing colors, feeling shape) to communicate a point of view to another through his photographs. Showcase artists: Marcia Gordon, "Gems by Meg;" Piper Strong, Metal Works/Judaica; and Joyce Zipperer, metal sculptor/mixed media/metal shoes and jewelry. www.jccnvarts.org.

TUESDAY/DEC. 23

Stories from Strawberry Park. 10 a.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather story time will be held in Angelika Film Center.

THURSDAY/DEC. 25

Third Annual Christmas Day of "Giving Back." 1-5 p.m. Kilroys, Ravensworth Shopping Center 5236 Port Royal Road, Springfield. The event this year has expanded to include packing Care Packages for our deployed Service Members, accepting Thank You Letters and Cards for our Veterans in Veterans Homes and Hospitals and accepting, clean gently used or new Winter Coats for our local Homeless Veterans. http://www.americasadoptsoldier.org/

SATURDAY/DEC. 27

"A Christmas Carol." 1 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. LIVE onstage! When Scrooge, the owner of a hotel, decides that his employees can't have the day off to enjoy Christmas with their families, Santa (in disguise), decides it is time for a change. Santa sends The Spirit of Christmas to visit Scrooge and show him his past, present and future. Will Scrooge's



Directing the one-act plays are (back row, from left) John Vazquez, Doug Klain and Mykael Hyman, and (front) Allison Grainge.

heart change? You will have to come and enjoy this wonderful original adaptation by the well-known Producer/Director/Playwright, Vianlix Mestey, to discover the answer. Let's make this Christmas one that Scrooge will never forget! Running time 75 minutes with one intermission, appropriate for all ages. Tickets: \$9-\$13. workhouse.org.

Kaydee Puppets. 2 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Kaydee Puppets present "A Visit to Santa's Workshop" cosponsored by Friends of the city of Fairfax Regional Library. All ages.

MONDAY/DEC. 29

Brain Games at the Library. 3 p.m. City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax. Have fun and win prizes with our board games and card games that challenge your thinking and build your skills. Ages 8-12.

Tuesday/Dec. 30

Stories from Strawberry Park. 10 a.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather story time will be held in Angelika Film Center.

WEDNESDAY/DEC. 31

Small Wonders. 10:30 a.m. Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Build your child's early literacy skills with stories, songs, and play. Ages 1-2 with adult. 703-249-1520.

Cool Cow Presents: Jeff Maurer NYE Special Engagement. 7 & 9 p.m. Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. Cool Cow Comedy's headliners and featured performers take the stage in the W-3 Theatre

once again! Host and Comedian Rahmein Mostafavi (who has performed stand-up as such venues as DC Improv, Richmond Funny Bone and Caroline's on Broadway) leads regular sold out shows, making Cool Cow a staple of the entertainment options in Lorton! This month, headliner Jeff Maurer appears on the Workhouse stage. Your ticket will include performance, light snack fare and complimentary admission to the New Year's Eve Concert and Dance in the McGuireWoods Gallery featuring The 6th Generation. A la carte beer, wine, soft drinks are sold before performance. Due to ABC regulations, guests are not permitted to bring outside alcoholic beverages to performances. Due to mature subject matter, patrons under the age of 18 must be accompanied by parent or legal guardian. Tickets: \$35-\$40. http://www.workhousearts.org/

New Year's Eve Masquerade Ball. 8 p.m. Empire, 6355 Rolling Road, Springfield. Live performances by Ego Likeness and Bella Morte. Doors at 8 p.m. 18+. http://www.empire-nova.com/event/728885-new-years-eve-masquerade-springfield/

Fairfax Four Miler. 6 p.m. Pacers Fairfax, 10427 North St., Fairfax. A four-mile road race in Old Town Fairfax followed by food and entertainment. Proceeds support the Fairfax Police Youth Club. 703-537-0630. www.runpacers.com. \$40.

TUESDAY/JAN. 6

Stories from Strawberry Park. 10 a.m. Mosaic District, 2910 District Avenue, Fairfax. Enjoy a live interactive performance each week taught by a group of unique storytellers. For ages 10 and under. Held outside in Strawberry Park. In inclement weather story time will be held in Angelika Film Center.

Free Estimates Patios, Walkways, Retaining Walls, Paver Driveways, Landscaping! **OFF-SEASON PRICING**

Tree Clearance Sale **30% OFF** All Trees 2013 & Prior

60% OFF Pottery **50-75% Off Pottery** **Lowest Prices Since 2008!**

Playground Chips & Organic Compost **\$29.99** cu. yd. Bagged, Shredded Hardwood Mulch **\$3.49** Bulk Mulch **\$24.99** cu. yd. **FREE Fill**

Fragrant, blooming Citrus Plants 10% Off

Cravens Nursery & Pottery 9023 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax, Virginia 2 miles west of I-495 on Rt. 50. 1 mile from I-66 (Vienna Metro) **703-573-5025** Open 7 days a week **Visit our new Web site: www.cravensnursery.com**

COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP

St. Stephen's UNITED METHODIST CHURCH **Christmas Eve Services**

5:00 PM 6:30 PM
8:30 PM 10:30 PM
Living Nativity: 4:30 - 6:00 PM

ststephensfairfax.org
9203 Braddock Road, Burke VA 22015

Looking for a New Place of Worship? Visit Antioch Baptist Church! All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 8, 9:30 & 11:30 a.m.
Sunday School for Children & Adults 9:30 a.m.
Married Couples Sunday School 11:30 a.m.

703-425-0710 • www.antioch-church.org
6531 Little Ox Road, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Jubilee Christian Center
"Experience the Difference"

Worship Gathering – Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM
Sunday School 10:10 AM
Sunday Evening – Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM
Family Night – Wednesday 7:15 PM
Home Life Groups & College/Young Adult Ministries
Visit our Website: www.jccag.org

4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax
Bill Frasnelli, PASTOR 703-383-1170



To Advertise, Call 703-778-9422

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



Helping Animals Find Their Way Since 2001

Adopt/Donate/Volunteer
www.lostdogandcatrescue.org

Bathroom Remodel Special \$6,850

Celebrating 15 Years in Business!

TWO POOR TEACHERS

Kitchen and Bathroom Remodeling



Free Estimates
703-999-2928



Visit our website: www.twopoorteachers.com

Select your products from our Mobile Showroom and Design Center

Fully Insured & Class A Licensed Est. 1999



ELECTRICAL **ELECTRICAL**

K & D ELECTRIC
COMMERCIAL / RESIDENTIAL SERVICE
Family Owned & Operated

Recessed Lighting
Ceiling Fans
Phone/CATV
Computer Network Cabling
Service Upgrades
Hot Tubs, etc...

Licensed/Bonded/Insured
Office 703-335-0654
Mobile 703-499-0522
lektrkman28@gmail.com

IMPROVEMENTS **IMPROVEMENTS**

The HANDYMAN
A DIVISION OF NURSE CONSTRUCTION

BATHROOM REMODELING, DRYWALL,
PAINTING, CERAMIC TILE, CARPENTRY,
POWER WASHING & MUCH MORE

You have tried the rest - NOW CALL THE BEST!!
Proudly serving Northern VA - 46 yrs. exp.

Licensed **We Accept VISA/MC**
Insured **703-441-8811**

LAWN SERVICE **LAWN SERVICE**

PINNACLE SERVICES, INC.
LAWN SERVICE

**MOWING, TRIMMING, EDGING,
MULCHING & TRIM HEDGES**

Friendly Service for a Friendly Price

703-802-0483

HAULING

ANGEL'S HAULING
Junk Trash Removal,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Garage/Base-
ment Clean Out,
Furniture & Appl.

703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

LANDSCAPING

JUNK HAULING
Junk, Rubbish,
Homes, Offices,
Commercial,
Yard/Construction
Debris, Lot Clear
out, 24 hrs day,
General Hom Work.

703-520-3205 N-VA

GUTTER **GUTTER**

GUTTER CLEANING
Gutters and Downspouts Cleaned
Small Repairs • Gutter Guards

PINNACLE SERVICES
lic/ins **703-802-0483** free est.
email jamie@lawnsandgutters.com
web: lawnsandgutters.com
Friendly Service with a Friendly Price!

R&N Carpentry

◆BASEMENTS ◆BATHS ◆KITCHENS
Foreclosure specialist/Power washing
◆Exterior Wood Rot More!
Deck & Fence repair, Screen Porches

No jobs too large or small
Free est. 37 yrs exp. Licensed, Insured
703-987-5096

MASONRY **MASONRY**

BRICK AND STONE
Custom Masonry
703-768-3900
www.custommasonry.info

Patios, Walkways, Stoops, Steps, Driveways
Repairs & New Installs • All Work Guranteed

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

TREE SERVICE

ANGEL'S TREE REMOVAL
Brush & Yard Debris
Trimming & Topping
Gutters & Hauling
Angeltreeslandscaping-hauling.com
703-863-1086
703-582-3709
240-603-6182

HANDYMAN **HANDYMAN**

RCL HOME REPAIRS
Handyman Services
Springfld • Burke • Kingstowne
Light Electrical • Plumbing •
Bathroom Renovation • Ceramic Tile •
Drywall Repair

703-922-4190
LIC. www.rclhomerepairs.com INS.

R.N. CONTRACTORS, INC.

Remodeling Homes, Flooring,
Kitchen & Bath, Windows,
Siding, Roofing, Additions &
Patios, Custom Deck, Painting

We Accept All Major Credit Cards
Licensed, Insured, Bonded • Free Estimates • Class A Lic

Phone: **703-887-3827** Fax: **703-830-3849**
E-mail: rncontractorsinc@gmail.com
www.rncontractors.com

PAVING **PAVING**

**GOLDY BRICK
CONSTRUCTION**
Walkways, Patios, Driveways,
Flagstone, Concrete
FREE ESTIMATES
Licensed, Insured, Bonded
703-250-6231

ZONE 2: • BURKE
• FAIRFAX • SPRINGFIELD
• FAIRFAX STATION/CLIFTON/LORTON

EMPLOYMENT

SPRINGFIELD HANDYMAN

► Small Home Repairs
► Good Rates
► Experienced

703-971-2164

**Picture Perfect
Home Improvements**

(703) 590-3137

Remodeling Bathrooms, Kitchens & Basements

Exterior & Interior Repair, Painting, Carpentry,
Wood Rot, Drywall, All Flooring, Decks

- FREE Estimates
- EASY To schedule
- FAST & Reliable Service
- NO \$\$\$ DOWN!

Handyman Services Available
www.pphionfine.com
"If it can be done, we can do it" **BBB**
Licensed - Bonded - Insured

TREE SERVICE **TREE SERVICE**

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured

**Leaf Removal
Gutter Cleaning**

25 years of experience
Free estimates
703-868-5358
24 Hour Emergency Tree Service

BUSINESS OPP **BUSINESS OPP**

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

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

Find us on Facebook
and become a fan!
[www.Facebook.com/
connectionnewspapers](http://www.Facebook.com/connectionnewspapers)

THE CONNECTION
Newspapers & Online
The Connection to Your Community
www.connectionnewspapers.com

Educational Internships

Unusual opportunity to learn many aspects of
the newspaper business. Internships available in
reporting, photography, research, graphics.
Opportunities for students, and for adults consid-
ering change of career. Unpaid. E-mail
[internship@connec-
tionnewspapers.com](mailto:internship@connectionnewspapers.com)

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

IMPROVEMENTS **IMPROVEMENTS** **IMPROVEMENTS** **IMPROVEMENTS**

CRESCENT HOME SERVICES

Your Home Handyman since 1999!
Call or email us today for a fast, free
estimate on any home maintenance or
improvement project. **No job too
small—we do it all!**

- Gutter cleaning & repairs
- Kitchen/Bath remodeling
- Exterior/Interior painting
- Rotten wood replacement
- And way too much to list here!

703-953-7309 • crescenthomeservices@gmail.com
www.crescenthomehandyman.com

FAST, RELIABLE & AFFORDABLE.
Call Crescent today! Your "friend in the business," we're
owner-operated, licensed and insured.
We're on Angie's List! ID# 8088426
www.facebook.com/crescenthomeservices

Fall Special!
10% off
For a limited time, Connection readers can take 20%
off labor costs on any home maintenance or
improvement project when they mention this ad.

Quality Tree Service & Landscaping
Reasonable prices. Licensed & insured.

Fall Cleanup...
Tree removal, topping & pruning,
shrubby trimming, mulching,
leaf removal, planting, hauling,
gutter cleaning, retaining walls,
drainage problems, etc.

25 years of experience - Free estimates
703-868-5358

**24 Hour Emergency
Tree Service**

An expert is someone
who knows some of the worst
mistakes that can be made in his
subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

For a free digital sub-
scription to one or all
of the 15 Connection
Newspapers, go to
[www.connectionnews-
papers.com/subscribe](http://www.connectionnews-
papers.com/subscribe)

Complete digital rep-
lica of the print edition,
including photos and
ads, delivered weekly
to your e-mail box.

Questions? E-mail:
[goinggreen@connec-
tionnewspapers.com](mailto:goinggreen@connection-
newspapers.com)

**THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS**

SPORTS

Parent Coaches Searching for Balance

FROM PAGE 11

way tie for first on vault as a freshman, and setting a state record on bars as a sophomore.

At the high school level, Molly rarely needs coaching help, allowing Overstreet to focus her attention on the team's less-experienced gymnasts.

"Molly is so knowledgeable that she can coach herself,"

Overstreet wrote in an email. "She knows the corrections she needs to make. I just remind her to have fun and do her best. She is also a great coach to the younger/newer girls. She demonstrates skills and gives them cues for making skills easier for them.

"I love working with the Hayfield girls. We have nine girls who have never competed in gymnastics before and they improve daily. They usually need my time at practice more than

Molly does, but I am always watching her out of the corner of my eye. I rarely have to set limits on her. She knows what is expected and she does it."

Molly struggles with back pain "from years of overuse, training up to 25 hours a week and the constant pounding and hard landing," her mother wrote. The pain is to the point that Molly might have to walk away from gymnastics this year, according to Overstreet.

Molly said one of the greatest benefits of having her mom as a coach is when it comes to dealing with pain.

"Some benefits for having my mom as a coach are that she knows me the best, so when I'm in pain or anything like that, she can tell," Molly wrote. "My mom is a very understanding person and her being my mom and coach, it makes it that much easier to communicate with her about what's going on, or if I don't want to do something."

Jack earned all-state honors during his time at 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 All-American at Randolph-Macon and was inducted into the university's athletic Hall of Fame.

Hayfield assistant gymnastics coach Kristin Overstreet started coaching her daughter, Molly, at a young age, as well, but it didn't take long for Molly to surpass her mother's teachings.

"I also coached Molly when she was Level 3 at Cardinal Gymnastics," Overstreet said. "She quickly surpassed my coaching abilities and moved up through the Level system in club gymnastics and became a Level 9."

Molly gave up club gymnastics prior to her sophomore year, but still competes at the high school level for Hayfield. Now a junior, Molly has already captured a pair of state championships, finishing in a three-

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

— Sport psychologist **Keith Kaufman, Ph.D.**

An expert is someone who knows some of the worst mistakes that can be made in his subject and how to avoid them.
-Werner Heisenberg

21 Announcements

ABC LICENSE
Kumkang, Inc trading as Delicioso, 7863 Heritage Drive, Annandale, VA 22003. The above establishment is applying to the VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL (ABC) FOR A Beer on Premises license to sell or manufacture alcoholic beverages. Sun Hee Lee, President.
NOTE: Objections to the issuance of this license must be submitted to ABC no later than 30 days from the publishing date of the first of two required newspaper legal notices. objections should be registered at www.abc.virginia.gov or 800-552-3200.

26 Antiques

We pay top \$ for STERLING, MEN'S WATCHES, JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
Schefer Antiques
703-241-0790
theschefer@cox.net

Give me where to stand, and I will move the earth.
-Archimedes

26 Antiques

26 Antiques

FALLS CHURCH ANTIQUES

Best Kept Secret of The Metro Area!

Unique collection of antiques and collectibles, including furniture, jewelry, glassware, pottery, sterling silver, paintings, prints and more!
Fun home and gift ideas!

Christmas Shop Now Open!

Falls Church Antique Co.
250W. Broad St. Falls Church, Va • 703-2419642

101 Computers

101 Computers

HDI COMPUTER SOLUTIONS

JENNIFER SMITH ♦ Serving the Area Since 1995

- Speed up Slow Computers
- Troubleshooting
- Virus Removal
- Computer Setup



(571) 265-2038

jennifer@HDIComputerSolutions.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Ocean Pines



Dr. Donald Anthony Flegler, age 85, passed into eternal rest at Atlantic General Hospital on Sunday, December 14, 2014. Born November 21, 1929, in Cleveland, Ohio, he was the son of the late Anthony A. and Mary Nemeec Flegler. He is survived by his beloved wife of 59 years Mary K. Flegler and children, Kathleen Mary Tracy and her husband Patrick of Pittsburgh, PA, Dwayne Edward Flegler and his wife Marti of Reston, VA and Stephen Anthony Flegler and his wife Melanie of Herndon, VA. There are nine grandchildren, Patrick Tracy, Christopher Tracy, Timothy Tracy, Cassie Jackson, Kirstie Flegler, Kalla Flegler, Katherine Flegler, Andrew Flegler, Jordan Flegler, and four great-grandchildren, Madison Flegler, Lilliane Flegler, Andrew Flegler, Jr., and Evelyn Flegler.

His family moved to Washington, DC in 1940 when his father was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. During that tenure, Don attended Capital Page School where he served two years as a Page in the US House. He attended University of VA and was a 1955 graduate of the Georgetown University School of Dentistry. He then served as a dentist in the US Army for two years as a Captain while stationed at Fort Meade, MD. Following his discharge, he moved his family to Virginia and opened a dental practice. After 30 years he retired to Ocean Pines in 1988. There he served as an active member of the Environmental Control Committee for approximately 20 years.

Donald was an affectionate husband and caring father who adored his grandchildren and great grandchildren. In his spare time he enjoyed boating, wood working, model building and watching the Washington Redskins. Above all, he will be remembered for his love of family, optimistic outlook and tenacious drive to never give up.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Friday, December 19, 2014 at 11:00 AM at St. John Neumann Catholic Church. Friends may call on Wednesday, December 17, from 3:00 until 6:00 PM at the Burbage Funeral Home in Berlin. Prayers will be said beginning 4:00 PM by Rev. William Porter. A donation in his memory may be made to: St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital 262 Danny Thomas Place, Memphis TN, 38105. Letters of condolence may be sent via: www.burbagefuneralhome.com

21 Announcements

21 Announcements

Restaurant Maint. Tech

w/ HVAC & Kitchen Equip. EXP. Light building and electrical knowledge. Must be at least 21 years of age and have valid DL and a good driving record, and able to pass a bkground check. Please put your salary requirement. Send resumes to mbyrne@janjer.com or call Mike Byrne at 301-370-8434.

HOW TO SUBMIT ADS TO

THE CONNECTION

Newspapers & Online

CLASSIFIED

DEADLINES

Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon

Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to:
classified@connectionnewspapers.com
or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

EMPLOYMENT

DEADLINES

Zones 1, 5, 6.....Mon @ noon

Zones 2, 3, 4.....Tues @ noon

E-mail ad with zone choices to:
classified@connectionnewspapers.com
or call Andrea @ 703-778-9411

ZONES

Zone 1: The Reston Connection
The Oak Hill/Herndon Connection

Zone 2: The Springfield Connection
The Burke Connection
The Fairfax Connection
The Fairfax Station/Clifton/Lorton Connection

Zone 3: The Alexandria Gazette Packet
The Mount Vernon Gazette

Zone 4: Centre View North
Centre View South

Zone 5: The Potomac Almanac

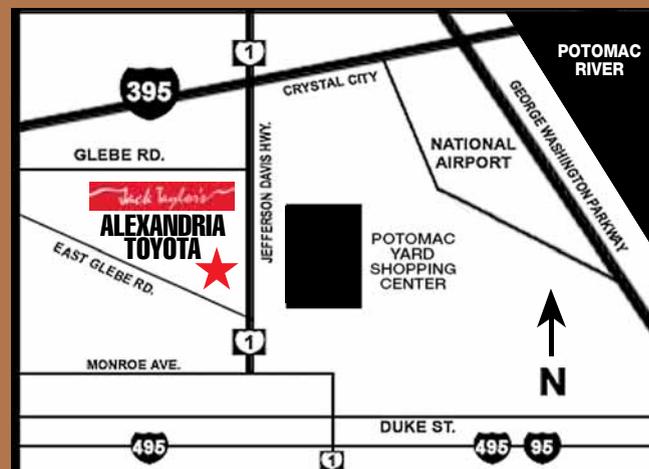
Zone 6: The Arlington Connection
The Vienna/Oakton Connection
The McLean Connection
The Great Falls Connection

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy.
Alexandria, VA 22305

703-684-0710

www.alexandriatoyota.com



NEW! Extended Service Department Hours:

Monday – Friday, 7 am to 9 pm

Saturday, 7:30 am to 4:30 pm

Sunday, 10 am to 4 pm

Sunday by appointment only.

Make your next service appointment at:
alexandriatoyota.com

You Have Saturdays Off

That's Exactly Why We Don't!

TOYOTA ServiceCenters Keep Your Toyota a Toyota

TOYOTA Owners ToyotaOwnersOnline.com

TOYOTA LIFETIME GUARANTEE
Mufflers • Exhaust Pipes • Shocks • Struts
Toyota mufflers, exhaust pipes, shocks, struts and strut cartridges are guaranteed to the original purchaser for the life of the vehicle when installed by an authorized Toyota dealer. See us for full details.

TOYOTA Let's Go Places



<p>BUY 3 TIRES AND GET 4TH FOR \$1.00</p> <p>& GET A 4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95</p> <p>PRICE MATCH GUARANTEE ON ANY OEM TIRES</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>4 WHEEL ALIGNMENT \$89.95</p> <p>PREVENT UNEVEN WEAR</p> <p>Your car's alignment suffers, and can cause uneven tire wear, steering problems and decreased fuel economy.</p> <p>INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts & shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>TRUE START BATTERY SPECIAL \$139.95</p> <p>INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION</p> <p>Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month FREE replacement, 24 month FREE roadside assistance, 60 month prorated, PLUS we'll check all battery cables & connections.</p> <p><small>Does not apply to hybrid batteries. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p>WINTER DETAIL SPECIAL \$119.95</p> <p>Prepare your car's paint for the harsh winter road conditions. A full exterior buffing, paint sealant and wax, along with a vacuuming of the interior. Vans & SUVs add \$20.00.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>5K, 10K, 20K, 25K, 35K MILE MINOR FACTORY RECOMMENDED MAINTENANCE SERVICE \$54.95</p> <p>SYNTHETIC OIL ADDITIONAL \$10.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>BRAKE SPECIAL \$79.95 PADS</p> <p>Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads, inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire condition and inspect all hardware. TCMC pads only.</p> <p>MACHINE ROTORS AN ADDITIONAL \$199.95.</p> <p><small>DOES NOT APPLY TO ALL VEHICLES PLEASE SEE SERVICE ADVISOR FOR DETAILS. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>
<p>OIL & FILTER SERVICE SPECIAL \$5.00 OFF</p> <p>Includes: Change oil, install Genuine Toyota oil filter, inspect & adjust all fluid levels and complimentary multi-point inspection with print out.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>	<p>WINTERIZATION SPECIAL \$59.95</p> <p>Includes: Drain and fill radiator with genuine Toyota anti-freeze inspect belts hoses and water pump. Lifetime anti-freeze \$10 more</p> <p><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p>DETAIL SPECIALS</p> <p>\$39.95 Wash & Vacuum</p> <p>\$139.95 Hand wash, wax & interior cleaning</p> <p>\$295.95 Full premium detail</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>15% OFF WIPER INSERTS & WIPER BLADES</p> <p><small>SOME MODELS HIGHER. NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY.</small></p>	<p>NITROFILL SPECIAL \$39.95</p> <p>We will purge the tires of air and refill them with nitrogen.</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL.</small></p>	<p>EXTEND THE LIFE OF YOUR VEHICLE! BG FLUID EXCHANGE SPECIAL</p> <p>TRANSMISSION FLUSH \$189.95</p> <p>POWER STEERING FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>BRAKE FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>FUEL INDUCTION FLUSH \$139.95</p> <p>FOR TRANSMISSION FLUSH, TYPE T OR WS FLUID ADD \$50.00</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>
<p>WE WILL MEET OR BEAT ANY LOCAL TOYOTA DEALERSHIP'S CURRENT ADVERTISED SERVICE SPECIALS</p> <p><small>NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/14. COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA.</small></p>		

Jack Taylor's
ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA / SCION

ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA/SCION
3750 JEFFERSON DAVIS HWY. | ALEXANDRIA, VA 22305
1-866-616-8420 | ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM
JUST MINUTES FROM REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT!

TOYOTA Let's Go Places