



Update on State Session

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Metrorail Phase 1 Nears Completion

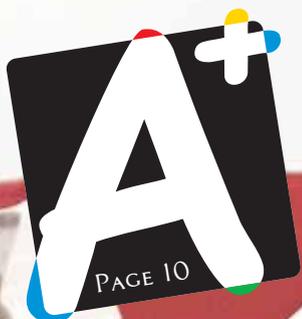
NEWS, PAGE 3

From left, Langley High School junior Rebecca Pifer, Potomac School senior Britt Nelson, McLean Rotary Club President Jan Auerbach and McLean High School senior Jung Wook Choi. Pifer, Nelson and Choi were awarded the Rotary's annual Youth Service Awards Tuesday, March 12.



Rotary Presents Youth Service Awards

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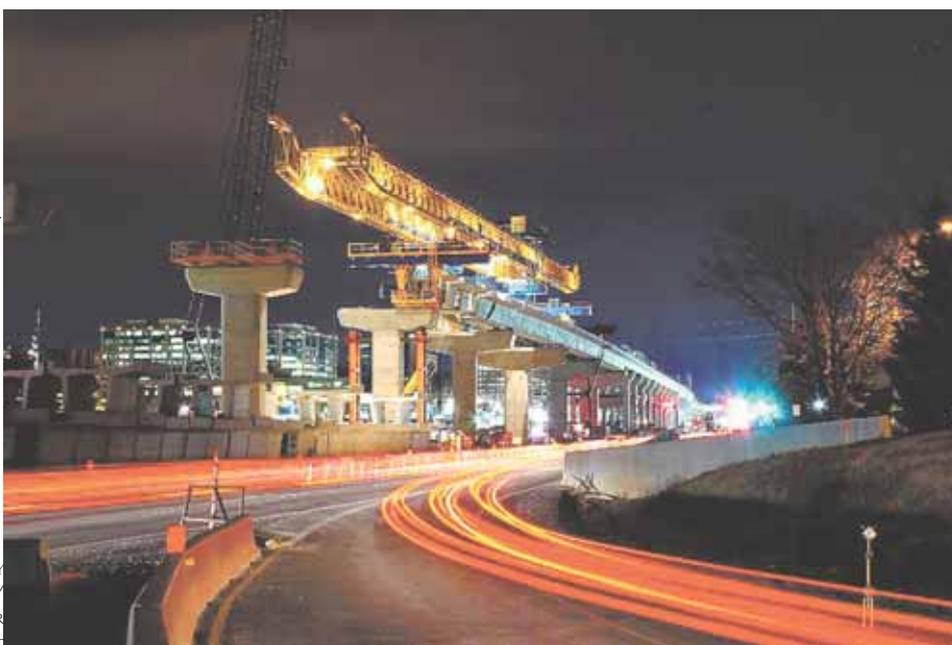
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NEWS

Route 7 along the Tysons West Guideway near Spring Hill Road, looking east.



PHOTOS BY CHUCK SAMUELSON/DULLES CORRIDOR METRORAIL PROJECT

Metrorail Phase 1 Nears Completion

Phase 1 of the project 89 percent complete.

Four years ago this month, construction of Phase 1 of the Dulles Corridor Metrorail Project began. Today project construction is 89 percent complete.

Station structures are in place at the four stations in Tysons Corner and one at Wiehle Avenue in Reston. Track work is virtually complete. Tunnels to carry trains below the Route 7/123 intersection are done. Pedestrian bridges to carry passengers and pedestrians across Routes 7 and 123 and the Dulles Airport Highway Corridor have been installed.

What remains are the finishing touches: installing the systems that will make stations accessible to users and ensure that the trains run safely, including intensive work where the new line, now called the Silver Line, will merge with Metro's existing Orange Line near I-66 and the Dulles Connector Road. That work is extremely dangerous because it is taking place next to the operating Orange Line.

Testing is well under way, starting with the December running of the first WMATA clearance car along the alignment from Wiehle Avenue to East Falls Church.

Project Director Patrick Nowakowski says he expects construction to be completed in late summer and then the project will be turned over to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) for additional testing. WMATA will set the actual opening date.

Meanwhile, between now and opening, train cars will be visible in the corridor as testing continues. Some weekend disruptions of Orange Line service will be needed to complete the Orange Line tie-in.

Where are the stations?

- ❖ McLean Station (aka Tysons East) along the northwest side of Route 123 near Scotts Run and Colshire Drive and Capital One;

- ❖ Tysons Corner Station (aka Tysons Central 123) on the northwest side of Route 123 at Tysons Boulevard near Tysons Corner Center and Tysons Galleria;

- ❖ Greensboro Station (aka Tysons Central 7) in



Preparing for the installation of the second segment of pedestrian bridge at McLean Station along Route 123.

the median of Route 7 near SAIC, Marshalls and Pike 7 Plaza;

- ❖ Spring Hill Station (aka Tysons West) in the median of Route 7;

- ❖ Wiehle-Reston East Station in the median of the Dulles Airport Access Highway/Dulles Toll Road Corridor just west of the Wiehle Avenue overpass.



Crews complete the installation of the last segment of the pedestrian bridge that connects the Tysons Corner Station with the pedestrian pavilion near Tysons Corner Center. Framework for pavilion escalators is pictured on the right.



PHOTO BY ALEX MCVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) and Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) speak at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, March 12.

Update on State Session

BY ALEX MCVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

State Sen. Barbara Favola (D-31), Del. Barbara Comstock (R-34) and Fairfax County Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville) addressed a crowd at the Great Falls Grange Tuesday, March 12, on the results of the latest General Assembly session.

The main topic of concern to local residents was the recent transportation bill passed, and the impacts of the new taxes the bill calls for.

Favola said she supported the transportation plan because it represents a way to bring transportation money to the area, particularly for the Dulles Metrorail project.

"It's not perfect, but my job is to solve problems the best way I can, and I determined the plan was good enough to vote for," she said. "It's a new and dedicated source of revenue, which every business group in Fairfax has been begging the General Assembly for."

Comstock said she had some big picture concerns about the plan, particularly in several areas that she felt taxed the Northern Virginia region specifically.

"The first .3 percent of the increase in the sales tax will go to the state, so we will be disproportionately contributing to that, not until you get from .3 up to 6 percent that we get to keep that," she said. "The car sales and hybrid sales is a Northern Virginia tax too. Those were pieces of the bill I was concerned about."

Foust called the bill a "heck of a compromise," and said it would help out with many local issues, including money to widen Route 7 from Tysons Corner.

"We're going to get Route 7 widened because of this bill," he said. "The other thing that this

bill did, which is important to those of us who use the Dulles Toll Road, is put \$300 million into the Dulles Rail project which I expect will be used directly to keep tolls down. The only ones in this funding mechanism who didn't get a voice into who was going to pay what, is the drivers ... we've been working on ways to reduce the burden on users, and this is a huge win for them."

Another chief area of interest was the state's expansion of Medicaid to reach more low-income residents with assistance from the federal government. Comstock said she would like to see larger scale health care reform in order to get costs down.

"If we're going to get good healthcare for people, we've got to have fundamental reforms, and that's what we're trying to do," she said. "Our budget has gone from 5 percent for healthcare to 21 percent, the biggest growing area of our budget. If we want to have money for healthcare, for colleges and for roads, we've got to get healthcare spending under control. If you want to expand it, even with whatever money comes from Washington, we're going to have to have reforms. Right now a third of doctors don't participate in Medicaid because it's a nightmare."

Favola called the plans for the state's participation in expansion "a very attractive framework." If states want to expand Medicaid population, the federal government covers 100 percent of cost for three years and no less than 90 percent for a 10-year period, which has been estimated at around \$23 billion over the 10 years. The current plans involve around a 50-50 split between state and federal government.

Favola also estimated the expansion would create around 30,000 jobs around the state.

10th District Academy Day Set for April 6

Area students interested in attending one of the nation's service academies are encouraged to attend the 10th District Academy Day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, April 6, at the Loudoun County School Board Office in Ashburn, Rep. Frank Wolf (R-10) announced.

Representatives from the U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy will be in attendance. In addition, representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, Virginia Military Institute and the Virginia Tech Corps of Cadets have been invited.

Students and parents will have the opportunity to meet with these representatives, as well as participate in panel discussions.

The 2018 Academy nomination season is now "open" for inquiries from students considering attending one of the U.S. service academies. For more information about the congressional nominating process or Academy Day, contact Ann Potocnak in Wolf's Herndon office at 703-709-5800, or go to wolf.house.gov and click on "Academy Nominations" to complete an online Candidate Registration form.

The address of the Loudoun County School Board Office is 21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20146.

MCA to Host Conversation on Education

The McLean Citizens Association (MCA) invites area residents concerned about local public education to a Conversation on Education on Monday, April 8, from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at McLean High School.

Speakers will include Cluster I Assistant Superintendent Marty Smith, School Board member Jane Strauss, and Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville). They will be followed by an extended public question and answer period. The meeting is free and open to the public.

More information can be found at www.mcleancitizens.org.

MCA Seeks Nominations for Board of Director

The McLean Citizens Association (MCA) has announced that applications for seats on the MCA Board of Directors may now be submitted for one-year volunteer terms. MCA's Board of Directors consists of six officers and 34 directors, who are elected annually at MCA's May membership meeting to guide the work of the MCA. MCA would like to invite any member of the MCA interested in serving the community by being a member of its Board of Directors to submit an application. There will be openings in the group of Board Members representing Homeowners Associations as well as at-large positions and officers. Applications are available on the MCA website, www.mcleancitizens.org.

Six McLean Organizations Receive Grants

At its late February meeting The Mclean Community Foundation awarded grants to six organizations that serve the greater McLean community. A substantial portion of the support took the form of challenge grants designed to leverage the Foundation's resources and to encourage other donors to participate in the projects.

The grantees are: Falls Church-Mclean Children's Center, \$3,500 (challenge); Traveling Players Ensemble, \$5000 (challenge); Alternative House, \$1,800; Specially Adapted Resource Clubs—"SPARC", \$3,760; McLean Orchestra, \$2,500; and Share, Incorporated, \$1,695.

The foundation is seeking proposals that build the infrastructures and capacity of community organizations. Information on the application process is available on the MCF website www.mcleancommunityfoundation.org.

NEWS



PHOTOS BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

From left, Langley High School junior Rebecca Pifer, Potomac School senior Britt Nelson, McLean Rotary Club President Jan Auerbach and McLean High School senior Jung Wook Choi. The McLean Rotary awarded the three students \$250 scholarships Tuesday, March 12, for their service to the community.

Rotary Presents Youth Service Awards

Three local students honored for "service above self."

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

The McLean Rotary Club presented its annual Youth Service Awards to three local students at their Tuesday, March 12, meeting. McLean High School senior Jung Wook "James" Choi, Langley High School junior Rebecca Pifer and Potomac School senior Britt Nelson were each awarded \$250 scholarships in recognition of their efforts serving the community.

"James is the type of student who is always dedicated to excellence, he has a profound thirst for knowledge and a genuine love of learning. He's also a highly principled individual, warm and caring and well loved by all who know him," said Jill Divine, a counselor at McLean. "He's is the type of young person that's going to accomplish great things in his life."

Choi has extensive volunteer experience around the world. He volunteers every weekend at the Milal Mission Association, where he works with children with mental disorders. He also volunteered as a translator at the Samsung Hospital in Korea for two summers.

HE FOUNDED Silent Outcry of Students, which conducts research and collects information about Korean War veterans. The group interviewed Korean War veterans for a book they published.

"I think every person, regardless of origin, deserves the opportunity that other people get in order to succeed and contribute to the wellness of this society," Choi said. "As students who are able to receive a great education in the United States, I think it's our duty to share our wealth and knowledge with others."

Choi will attend Duke University in the fall to major in a pre-med discipline as he hopes to go on to med school.

Pifer is involved with many local charities in a leadership capacity. She volunteers at Jill's House, a center in Vienna that serves boys and girls ages six through 17 with intellectual disabilities, for the past four years.

She is a board member of Youth Inspire, an organization that provides support to children suffering from cancer. The group visits patients at Fairfax Inova Hospital, makes them cards and brings them other gifts.

"In the last few years, we've developed the con-



Choi

Pifer

Nelson

cept of 'Saxon Country' where we're trying to get the students to think of themselves not as individuals, but as members of a community. Becca has epitomized what that concept is meant to be from her first day at Langley," said Sonya Williams, Langley's director of Student Services. "She's an inspirational leader, full of energy, integrity, passion and does her best to try and make a difference."

Pifer is also co-chair of Entertainment Relay for Life, an overnight walk that benefits the American Cancer Society. She is working to help bring a Relay to McLean.

"We're trying to get a huge event that Langley has never done before," she said. "And it's one that can do a lot of good."

NELSON IS THE CO-LEADER of the Potomac School's Community Service Club, organizing events, collecting donations, setting up fundraisers, finding projects for students and working with other organizations to hold events for Potomac students.

"She's covered the full spectrum of services in our community and internationally as well," said Jason Dwyer, Nelson's advisor at Potomac. "I've always been wrapped up wondering if there is such a thing as a truly altruistic act with no ulterior motive. With Britt, I've come to believe that there can be a completely altruistic act, I've seen plenty of them."

Nelson has spent several summers tutoring underprivileged elementary school students in math and English, participated in the Poder program, which is a big brother-big sister program that works with the Culmore Safe Youth Program.

"A lot of these kids would be falling behind in math or reading skills during the summer, so I really like being able to help them stay on track while also having some fun," she said. "We're always trying to improve our curriculum and come up with fun ways to teach, and it's fun to try and come up with new worksheets and activities."

Nelson said she hasn't decided where she will attend college next year.

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Say Yes to Health Coverage

Governor, state panel must accept coverage for 400,000 Virginians without health insurance.

More than 140,000 residents of Fairfax County have no health insurance. That's more than 13 percent of the slightly more than 1 million people who live in the wealthiest county in the nation. Arlington and Alexandria have similar percentages of uninsured residents.

These are some of the 400,000 people in Virginia who could receive health coverage under an expansion of Medicaid if only officials in the commonwealth are gracious enough to accept on their behalf.

Virginia's current eligibility requirements for Medicaid are so strict that although it is the 11th largest state in terms of population and seventh in per capita personal income, Virginia ranked 43rd in Medicaid enrollment as a proportion of the state's population and 47th in per capita Medicaid spending, according to a 2013 Fairfax County report.

Virginia has the option to add new coverage, at least 90 percent funded with Federal dollars, that would extend to individuals earning less than about \$15,000 per year and families earning less than about \$31,000 per year, to low income teens who lose Medicaid when they turn 19, and adults with disabilities not currently eligible.

It isn't as if there is no health care cost for these currently uncovered residents. Right now, they access health care when they are very sick by going to an emergency room, where the hospital spreads the cost of care around. But this is inefficient, expensive and unhealthy. Expanding Medicaid coverage would allow far less expensive preventative care and lead to better health outcomes. Uninsured people don't receive preventative care; they seek treatment later in illnesses when the costs are much higher, and the consequences in terms of lost days at work and other productivity are also much higher.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Transportation Bill: Possibly Unconstitutional

To the Editor:

The Connection on February 27, 2013, reported that former State Delegate Margaret Vanderhye said she was "outraged" that some Northern Virginia legislators had voted 'no' on the \$6.1 billion comprehensive transportation funding plan (HB 2313) because of an alleged no-tax-increase pledge. However, bipartisan opposition to the bill by Northern Virginia legislators was prompted by fundamental flaws in the bill. Vanderhye's earlier letter to The Connection on January 22, 2013 ("Getting Back to Business"), shows she too was against the bill before she was for it, for some of the very same reasons:

- ❖ It replaces the 17.5 cents-a-gallon tax at the gas pump in part by imposing an additional sales tax that shifts the burden from road users (including from out-of-state) to Virginia shoppers. (Note that the gas tax also is replaced by a tax on gasoline wholesalers of 3.5 percent for unleaded and 6 percent for diesel fuel, costs likely to be passed on to consumers.)

- ❖ It assumes tax revenue from an Internet Tax bill that is languishing in the US Congress, and if not passed by January 1, 2015, will result in automatic tax increases for Northern Virginia.

- ❖ It punishes good practices aimed at achieving energy independence by imposing a new \$100 fee on hybrid vehicles, alternative fuel vehicles, and electric motor vehicles.

State Senator Chap Petersen called the bill, which adds some 11 new or additional taxes, a "train wreck" and a "grotesque combination of tax cuts, tax rebates, tax increases, and new taxes, old taxes which are phased out and reappear elsewhere ..." He and State Delegate Scott Surovell, both attorneys, also question the constitutionality of essentially imposing a two-tiered tax system:

- ❖ In Northern Virginia and Hampton Roads the state sales tax increases from 5 percent to 6 percent, while in the rest of the state it increases only to 5.3 percent.

- ❖ A new "regional congestion-relief fee" of 0.25 percent is imposed on home sales in Northern Virginia, amounting to a tax of \$1,250 on the sale of a \$500,000 home.

- ❖ A hotel tax of 3 percent is imposed in Northern Virginia.

- ❖ For Northern Virginia only, if the above mentioned Internet Tax is not enacted by Congress, the wholesale gas tax for unleaded gasoline automatically increases from 3.5 percent to 5.1 percent.

In The Connection on February 28, 2013, Delegate Surovell wrote, "Balkanizing Virginia into regions of haves and have nots is dangerous policy, illegal under the Con-

stitution of Virginia, and antithetical to the concept of a commonwealth which is premised upon addressing statewide problems collectively and not regionally. We help downstate schools and the rest of the state helps with our roads."

In a February 25 jointly-authored op-ed in the Washington Post, Paul Goldman, former Democratic Party chair in Virginia and Norm Leahy, a Republican, argued that Virginia's transportation bill cannot survive a legal challenge because Article X, Section 1 of Virginia's Constitution requires that all taxes "levied and collected under general laws" be "uniform upon the same class of subjects within the territorial limits of the authority levying the tax." Article X, Section 4 of the Virginia Constitution also requires that real estate taxes be subject to "local taxation only"—and the 0.25 percent tax on home sellers was imposed by the General Assembly in Richmond, not local Boards of Supervisors.

Everyone agrees that Northern Virginia desperately needs more transportation funding. However, this was not the way to do it. I appreciate that our Delegate Barbara Comstock stood with a bipartisan group of other Northern Virginia legislators, including State Senators Adam Ebbin and Chap Petersen, plus Delegates Tim Hugo, David Ramadan, and Scott Surovell in voting against this bill. Virginia needs transportation so-

Expanding Medicaid to 133 percent of the poverty level would generate state general fund savings and new revenues that would total more than \$2 billion and more than offset the state's share of expansion costs over the next eight years, plus provide significant numbers of new jobs and economic growth, according to multiple reports including the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association. Expanding health care is a job creator, and would add tens of thousands of new jobs.

Virginia stands to lose more than \$9.2 billion in federal funds over the first five years of the new law if it opts out of the provision that expands Medicaid.

Turning away federal money to provide healthcare to uninsured Virginians makes no more sense than declining federal funds for transportation because you don't like the feds telling you to wear your seatbelt.

If Gov. Bob McDonnell and members of a General Assembly panel considering whether to accept funding to expand Medicaid decide against this benefit for 400,000 Virginians, perhaps they and their families should go for a year without health insurance as well.

— MARY KIMM,

MKIMM@CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM

lutions that are sound, equitable, and constitutional. Unfortunately, this transportation bill does not meet that test.

Anne C. Gruner
McLean

An Overlooked Aspect of Homelessness

To the Editor:

Thank you for the well written article, "Putting a Face on Homelessness," by Victoria Ross (The Connection, March 6-12, 2013). There were also articles and stories in local media, including The Washington Post, local radio and TV stations. One thing each of these media left out was that over one quarter of the people surveyed by the army of volunteers were over age 55. Much was said about the 23 percent of those surveyed that fell into the 18-34 age bracket. I think most would agree that people in this age bracket are physically more able to withstand the rigors of being homeless than people over the age of 55—and especially more so than those over the age of 70. People age 18-34 are also much more able to gain employment than seniors. I could go on, but am just curious why not one media outlet (including The Connection) chose not even to

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LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

mention this fact. Like most people, I would like to see homelessness totally eradicated in our county and all counties for that matter.

Seeing senior citizens living on the streets, in their cars and in county homeless shelters is particularly unnerving. Hopefully others will feel the same way.

Robert Paxton
Falls Church

On Lyme Disease Awareness Bill

To the Editor:

I am thrilled to hear that Governor Bob McDonnell signed the "Lyme Disclosure Act," House Bill 1933, into law. Raising awareness about this terrible disease would not have been possible without the help of Del. Barbara Comstock, for introducing this important legislation and that of her colleagues, Delegates Ramadan and Hugo, for co-patroning this measure. The debilitating effects of Lyme Disease are difficult to fathom if you have not seen first-hand, as I have, how this illness affects our community and the ones we love.

I have a family friend, a mother of five, who has been infected by this illness on three separate occasions. One of the only chances for recovery is an early diagnosis.

Current testing methods don't always provide this opportunity. There is a high rate of false negatives in testing for Lyme because the testing mechanism is based on the evidence of anti-bodies, which are not always present and vary based on the date of infection. Not only that, the test is administered in such a way that the patient may not understand the test's shortcomings. It's not as simple as placing a disclaimer on a box because the test is conducted at a medical facility and not at home while purchased over the counter.

A greater understanding of the test can help with making early diagnoses, increasing opportunities for treatment when necessary, and planning for long term care. While this bill will not help cure those already infected, it will help inform patients of the propensity of high false negative in testing for Lyme, and will encourage a patient to re-test if their symptoms persist. Many patients who live with these symptoms are misdiagnosed as a result of the false negative test and are led to believe their symptoms do not exist or are the cause of another medical ailment. I appreciate the initiative that Delegate Comstock took in getting behind this issue after learning about it from members in our Vienna community. I also hope my letter will continue to further awareness of Lyme Disease so that beyond testing, possible prevention opportunities can be taken moving forward.

John Dowd
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Mediterranean Gets Behind Local Arts

Restaurant launches in-house art exhibition series with Frank James Ellis' paintings.

By CHelsea H. BRYAN
THE CONNECTION

The new owner of Mediterranean is kicking off a series of local art exhibitions at his restaurant with a painter whose work features scenes from Great Falls and other nearby parks.

The vibrant colors in Frank James Ellis' landscapes drew the eye of Ashraf Hussein, the Mediterranean owner responsible for the series of in-restaurant exhibitions. The first is a solo exhibition featuring eight of Ellis' impressionistic, modern paintings. Among the pieces on display are "Hazel Mountain Overlook," a vibrant Skyline Drive scene done in fall colors, and "The Flute Player," a contemplative piece with impressionistic, bold color depicting a flautist performing alone in nature at a cabin.

Ellis' work is held in private collections throughout the United States, United Kingdom, Europe and Japan.

The paintings will be part of a yearlong series at the restaurant featuring the work of local artists. "As a community restaurant—and as members of the community—we really feel it's important to support local culture," said Hussein's business partner Eddie Marine.

"Ellis' paintings really give you a flavor of the community," Hussein said. "We're excited to have his work on display."

Born in Washington, D.C., and raised in Southern Maryland, Ellis is a product of the informal art classes of public education. He studied the works of great impressionists like Monet, Van Gogh and Cezanne while at-



"The Flute Player," a painting by Frank James Ellis.

tending the local community college. Mostly self-taught since, this emerging contemporary artist maintains his studio in the Parkview area of Washington, D.C.

Prior to this exhibit, Ellis had a show at MOCA Gallery in the district. Mediterranean serves American bistro cuisine with Mediterranean

influences—and lots of art on the walls to go with. The menu features seasonal ingredients and local produce. All Ellis' work will be for sale. Prices range from \$300 to \$900.

Mediterranean Restaurant is at 123 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls.

ENTERTAINMENT

Send announcements to greatfalls@connectionnewspapers.com. Deadline is Thursday for the following week's paper. Photos/artwork encouraged. For additional listings, visit www.connectionnewspapers.com

WEDNESDAY/MARCH 20

Our Feathered Friends. 10:30 a.m., at Dolley Madison Library, 1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean. First day of spring stories and activities; ages 2-3 with an adult. 703-356-0770.
Book Discussion Group. 10:30 a.m., at Great Falls Library, 9830 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Call branch for title. 703-757-8560.

THURSDAY/MARCH 21

Computer C.O.R.E. Business to Business Networking. 5-7 p.m., at DaDomenico Ristorante, 1992 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. A networking event with light appetizers and door prizes and a cash bar; two hours of networking and meeting new people. \$10 (cash or check). Gina@ComputerCORE.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

"Never the Sinner." 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

SUNDAY/MARCH 24

29th Annual Children's Spring Festival. 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre, 768 Walker Road, Great Falls. Adeler Jewelers and the Great Falls Optimist Club put on the fest with games, ride, food and more. info@adelerjewelers.com.

TUESDAY/MARCH 26

Stick Figure, Jordan Miller & DUB Campaign. 8 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Stick Figure, Jordan Miller and Dub Campaign bring the IRIE vibes with the live bands. \$13 advance, \$15 door. <https://jamminjava.com/events/stick-figure>.

THURSDAY/MARCH 28

Catie Curtis With Jenna Lindbo. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The 12-album-deep International Songwriting Competition award-winner with a penchant for singing about the highs and lows of life welcomes singer/songwriter and storyteller Jenna Lindbo. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

FRIDAY/MARCH 29

The Iguanas. 8 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. A progressive Americana trio plays their mix of rock 'n' roll, roots, jazz, blues and Mexican conjunto music. \$22. www.wolftrap.org.

SATURDAY/MARCH 30

America's Next Top Dog Fashion Photo Contest. Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Bring in a photo of your dog (real or plush) decked out in the latest fashions, and your pooch could be awarded the title "America's Next Top Dog." 703-938-0405.
Friends of Nottoway Easter Egg Hunt. 9:30 a.m. (registration), 10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. and noon, at Nottoway Park Picnic Shelter, 9357 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Egg hunt times arranged by age of child participants (1-2 years at 10:30 a.m.; 3-4 years at 11 a.m.; 5-7 years at 11:30 a.m. and 7-9 years at noon); bring your own basket. \$8, cash only; cost to benefit Nottoway Park improvements. 703-324-8566.

FRIDAY/MARCH 22

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

Sean Rowe. 7 p.m., at Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Singer Sean Rowe promotes his album *The Salesman and the Shark*. www.jamminjava.com.

John Eaton. 7:30 p.m., at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap regular returns to perform the final segment of his three-part jazz piano series; Eaton together with bassist Tommy Cecil will improvise Great American Songbook numbers and take audience requests. \$25. www.wolftrap.org.

SUNDAY/MARCH 31

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

FRIDAY/APRIL 5

2013 Asian American Chamber Gala. 6-10 p.m., at The Westin Tysons Corner, 7801 Leesburg Pike,



As a leading interpreter of music, a jazz enthusiast and nationally-recognized pianist, John Eaton has been performing across the country for over 40 years. He will be performing on Saturday, March 30, at The Barns at Wolf Trap, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

Falls Church. AACCC Chamber Award Gala recognizing businesses and leaders of Asian & Pacific Island descent who have made outstanding contributions to the D.C.-area business community and economy; cocktails, dinner, auction and cultural performances included. www.asian-americanchamber.org/2013gala.

"Never the Sinner." 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

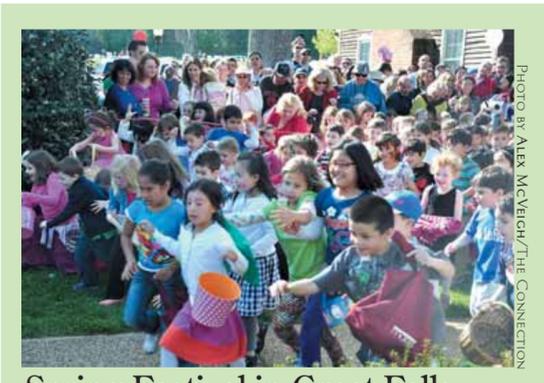
A Night of Music with Peter Kolkay. 8 p.m., at The Barns, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna. The Wolf Trap National Park presents the bassoonist and first-prize winner of the Concert Artists Guild Competition, Peter Kolkay. \$35. http://purchase.tickets.com/buy/TicketPurchase?agency=WOLF_TRAP&pid=7295869.

SATURDAY/APRIL 6

"Never the Sinner." 2 p.m., 8 p.m., at 1st Stage in Tysons, 524 Spring Hill Road, Tysons Corner, McLean. Playwright John Logan's riveting first play about the 1924 "crime of the century." General: \$25; students: \$15. or 703-854-1856 or www.1ststage.com.

ASPHALT ORCHESTRA

8 p.m., at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The street band that plays processional music from Frank Zappa, David Byrne, Annie Clark, Tatsuya



Children are unleashed to the Great Falls Village Green to hunt for Easter eggs on April 1, 2012, during the annual egg hunt. This year's 29th Annual Children's Spring Festival will be held on Sunday, March 2, 1:30-4:30 p.m., at Great Falls Village Centre, 768 Walker Road, Great Falls.

Yoshida and the like performs in their Virginia debut. \$25; \$18 for MCC residents. 703-790-0123, www.asphaltorchestra.com or www.aldentheatre.org.

GUSTAFAER YELLOWGOLD'S ROCK MELON TOUR

10:30 a.m., at the Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Equal parts pop rock concert and animated storybook, Gustafer Yellowgold concerts are a truly different multimedia experience. \$10. 703-255-1566 or <https://jamminjava.com/events/gustafer-yellowgold-april6>.

DEDICATION CELEBRATION

10 a.m., at the Freeman Store and Museum, 131 Church St. N.E., Vienna. Celebrate the placement of the store on the Virginia Landmarks Register and in the National Park Service National Register of Historic Places; the Civil War 150 HistoryMobile, a nation-wide, mobile artwork display and interactive exhibit, the "Roads to Rails to Trails" exhibit and the Little Library and Caboose are open while the James Madison Madrigals and the Vienna Community Band play until the 2 p.m. dedication, to be followed by an old-fashioned picnic. www.vienna.gov/index.aspx?NID=1024.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Hearing on the McLean Community Center's FY 2015 Programs
Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 p.m.

The Governing Board of the McLean Community Center is seeking input from residents of Dranesville Small District 1A at its Public Hearing on Programs for FY 2015, which runs July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015.

The Board is interested in hearing residents' ideas for classes, community events, theatre programs, exhibits, tours and youth and teen activities.

If you would like to speak at the hearing, call the Center to have your name placed on the speakers' list. You also may submit comments in writing to: ellen.barial@fairfaxcounty.gov

The McLean Community Center
1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean VA 22101
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www.mcleancenter.org

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The Sound of Music

Enhancing your child's music education during Music in Our Schools Month and beyond.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL
THE CONNECTION

From the powerful sounds of a high school band to the soothing melodies sung in a kindergarten music classroom, local music educators are using the month of March to raise awareness of the benefits of learning music.

In fact, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) designates March as Music In Our Schools Month, and local music educators echo the significance of the annual celebration.

"The reason Music in our Schools Month is so important is because it heightens awareness ... that school music programs help provide important and healthy musical alternatives to the sometimes disturbing messages that children inadvertently hear in the ... music they may encounter in popular culture," said Brian C. Wuttke, Ph.D., director of music education at George Mason University in Fairfax.

Even if formal music lessons are not an option, local musicians and music educators say that parents can encourage and

inspire their children's musicality with simple activities at home. "Research suggests that parental involvement in a child's music activities can not only pique a child's interest in music, but it can positively impact motivation and achievement in music," Wuttke said.

So how can parents support a child's musical talent or interest? "I think playing music with your kids would be the number one way to enhance their musicality," said Elizabeth Lasko of the National Association for Music Education. "Of course, a parent may not play an instrument, but there is always singing."

Lasko encourages parents to allow children to experiment with instruments. "As kids, we used to sing with our grandmother's player piano," she said. "Singing with recorded music is another option. Learning songs from different eras and genres can open up new worlds to kids." According to Lasko, inexpensive percussion instruments like shakers or tambourines can help children develop rhythm while having fun.

Shannon Melideo, Ph.D., chair of the Edu-



PHOTO BY MARILYN CAMPBELL/THE CONNECTION

Local musicians and music educators say parents can encourage and inspire children's musicality with simple activities at home.

cation Department at Marymount University in Arlington, says exposure to music should be a priority. "[It] is critically important," she said. "Sure, you want them to listen to 'your music' as a parent, but listen to as much diverse music as possible and talk about it informally."

Lasko agrees and encourages parents to look for local performances that are designed for young audiences. "Lots of children love to attend musical performances that are geared toward their own age, especially if there is fun interaction between the performers and the audience," she said. "Many communities offer inexpensive performances. Some [are offered] at schools. Seeing kids their own age or slightly older perform music can be very inspiring for

children."

Parents don't even have to leave home to find musical inspiration. "For young children, simple, everyday household items can be used to make a functional musical instrument that the child can decorate and compose a song on," said Wuttke.

He added that parents should encourage their children to participate in school music programs. "Praise the student for their efforts," he said. "Ask the student to sing or play a song on an instrument they are working on in school for family members."

Finally, technology offers convenient options. "There are many iPad applications, for instance, that are musical in nature and help kids learn about different instruments and how to record music," said Lasko.

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PHOTO BY KIM MORAN

With the help of parent Ann-Marie Thrasher, Churchill Road students Arielle Moore, Lindsay Muangman, Kate Walter, Heather Hughes and Paige Cowan make sandwiches for Martha's Table in Washington, D.C.

Sandwiches for the Homeless

On Wednesday, March 13, more than 75 Churchill Road kindergarteners, third and fourth graders and family members made more than 1,700 sandwiches for Martha's Table, a Washington, D.C.-based organization which helps feed the homeless. This third and final sandwich-

making event of the year brought the total number of sandwiches donated to Martha's Table above 5,000. CRS PTA Community Service Committee Co-Chairs Marta Bascomb, Robin Hoeymans and Sarah Walter organized the service events.

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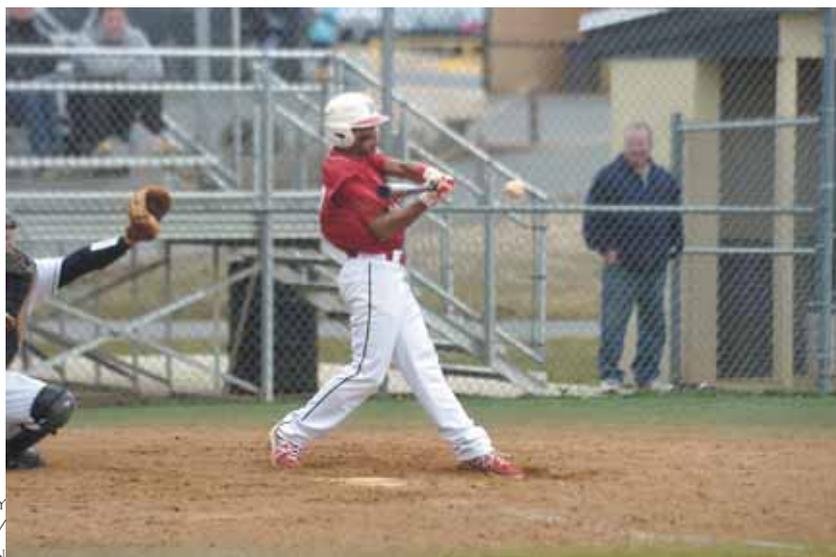
Sean Rizzo

YOU WILL BE ASKED TO BRING A THIRD PARTY TO YOUR APPOINTMENT.

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SPORTS

McLean freshman outfielder Matt Collins went 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI against Westfield on March 16.



PHOTOS BY
CRAIG STERBUTZEL/
THE CONNECTION

Sullivan Leads McLean Baseball to Victory

Highlanders beat Westfield for first victory.

BY JON ROETMAN
THE CONNECTION

The McLean batting order isn't loaded with sluggers, but the Highlanders showed Saturday that strong pitching and putting the ball in play is enough to get the job done.

The McLean baseball team earned its first win of the season on March 16, beating Westfield 4-1 at Westfield High School. The Highlanders totaled seven hits—including six singles—and struck out just three times. Meanwhile, the Bulldogs committed five errors, including four in the third inning, which led to three McLean runs.

Four runs were plenty for McLean starting pitcher Joey Sullivan. The junior right-hander allowed one earned run and five hits while walking one and striking out eight in six innings. Westfield put two runners on base in the bottom of the sixth, but Sullivan got out of trouble with a strikeout and a fielder's choice.

"Joey Sullivan has got a big-time arm," McLean interim head coach Ray Zdancewicz said. "He just came out and did a super job. Getting him on the mound, throwing strikes, kind of putting them on their heels a little bit and getting that run early kind of set the tone a little bit.

"We just did what we've been preaching pretty much from day one ... to put the ball in play. Be tough two-strike hitters because we don't have anybody that's going to knock the ball out of the park—we have maybe one guy that even has the chance—so we need to be a little tougher and be productive."

McLean took a 1-0 lead in the top of the second. Senior Jack Fant led off the inning with a single and, two batters later, freshman outfielder Matt Collins delivered a two-out, run-scoring single.

McLean added three runs in the third, thanks to four Westfield errors.

"[McLean] put it in play, that's the biggest thing," Westfield head coach Chuck Welch said. "They put it in play and we didn't. I give them a lot of credit for [what] they did. I thought they did a tremendous job. We certainly didn't make all the plays, but in high school, if you put the ball in play hard, your chances are pretty good of something happening ..."

Fant had two singles for McLean. Sullivan, senior center fielder Hunter Eckrod and junior Sam Pierce each had one single.

Collins finished 2-for-3 with a double and an RBI.

"I think the sky is the limit for this kid, I really do," Sullivan said about Collins. "I've never seen anyone that likes baseball more than he does."

Fant is McLean's number one pitcher. Sophomore catcher Caleb Beatty will be looked upon to provide the Highlanders with power in the middle of the order.

McLean opened the season with a 3-2 loss to Chantilly on March 13. The Highlanders were scheduled to face South Lakes on Tuesday, after The Connection's deadline. McLean will travel to face Stone Bridge

at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22.

"We know Westfield's real good," Sullivan said after Saturday's game. "The past couple of years, we've gotten our butts kicked by them, so we came in a little bit more focused today than we did [against] Chantilly. When we played Chantilly, our team wasn't in it. We weren't focused. Today, I could tell we were much more focused and we were ready to play and we knew we wanted it."



McLean pitcher Joey Sullivan struck out eight in six innings during a victory against Westfield on March 16.



PHOTOS BY CRAIG STERBUTZEL/THE CONNECTION

Oakton junior Alana Peters pitches against South County on March 15.

Oakton Softball Drops Season Opener

The Oakton softball team lost its season opener to South County, 4-0, on March 15 in a rematch from last year's Northern Region semifinals. Oakton head coach Ray Gordon resigned on Friday due to an "irreconcilable differing on staffing," Director of Student Activities Pat Full said Tuesday.

Sam Newman, a Fairfax County Public Schools employee, is the new Oakton head softball coach and met the team for the first time on Monday, Full said.

With 2012 Northern Region Pitcher of the Year Allison Davis recovering from an injury to her pitching arm, junior Alana Peters pitched for Oakton. Peters was perfect through three innings, but South County catcher Haylea Geer delivered a two-out, run-scoring double on a 0-2 pitch in

the fourth inning, giving the Stallions a 1-0 lead. South County added three more runs in the fifth on a three-run triple by freshman Jade Williams.

Peters surrendered four earned runs on five hits while walking two and striking out seven in six innings.

Oakton finished with two hits. Second baseman and co-captain Becky Cerva's third-inning single was the first hit of the game for either team. Junior Marleigh Hall had a double in the sixth inning.

Davis and shortstop Emily Krisanda are also co-captains.

Oakton defeated South County 3-0 in eight innings during last year's region semifinals. The Cougars finished region runner-up to Stone Bridge.

Oakton will travel to face Battlefield at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, March 22.



Second baseman Becky Cerva is an Oakton softball co-captain.



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47721 Sandbank Sq.....\$410,000..Sun 1-4.....Rita Desai..Samson Props..703-896-5775
128 Avondale Dr.....\$348,000..Sun 1-4.....John Baird..Samson Props..703-609-1501

Vienna
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21 Announcements

VDOT CHANGE IN LIMITED ACCESS CONTROL ROUTE 244/27 INTERCHANGE NORTHWEST QUADRANT CLOVERLEAF ARLINGTON COUNTY

The Route 244/ Route 27 Interchange is a limited access facility whereby its use is for through traffic and its access is restricted. Washington Headquarters Services (WHS) has requested that the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Transportation (VDOT) transfer to the Department of Defense a parcel of land located within infield of that part of the cloverleaf in the northwest quadrant (approximately 1.7271 acres) of the Route 244/Route 27 interchange.

The purpose of this request is to improve safety security and traffic flow in and around the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial (Pentagon Memorial) and South Parking. The Pentagon Memorial is located in the southwest corner of the Pentagon Reservation and is visited by hundreds of thousands of members of the public each year. The requested land located within the cloverleaf would provide additional support for the Pentagon Memorial and would be accessed only by pedestrians, with restricted vehicular traffic permitted during off-peak hours. This request will require changes in the limited access control for the northwest quadrant of the Route 244/Route 27 interchange.

Written public comments regarding this proposed change in limited access control must be submitted by March 29, 2013 to the Northern Virginia District Administrator, Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030.

The Commonwealth Transportation Board will consider the proposed limited access change at a future meeting.

VDOT ensures nondiscrimination and equal employment in all programs and activities in accordance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Acts of 1964. If you need more information or special assistance for persons with disabilities or limited English proficiency, contact VDOT at 800-367-7623 or TDD/TTY 711.

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Just Wondering



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having never attended medical school (and not really having had the grades or commitment to do so), and having only completed 10th-grade Biology and freshman-year Astronomy, and rarely even driven by a medical school growing up, my understanding and/or instincts regarding how a medical professional plans and/or prepares for his day is as foreign to me as sugar-free chocolate (if I'm going down, I'm going down swinging; in truth however, considering the anti-cancer, alkaline diet I'm following, I do need to swing a little less frequently).

Nevertheless, having had multiple appointments with doctors/health care professionals over these last four cancer-centric years, I've often wondered how much preparation occurs before each appointment. There's a schedule certainly, but does the doctor review it daily/weekly - in advance, to determine the course of his possible action/discussion with the patient? And if so, does he review/study/research said patient's medical chart/history to better prepare for these discussions or does he sort of "wing it," professionally speaking, and instead wait to hear what the patient has to say? Moreover, if there's been lab work, diagnostic scans, etc. completed previous to the appointment, does the doctor receive indications - electronic or otherwise, before the appointment, with enough time to evaluate the results/read the reports or does he see it for the first time sometime during the day of the appointment? And while this curiosity exists in my head, is the doctor likewise preoccupied (even a little bit) with my ongoing health situation beyond the 30 minutes or so we spend together every few months or his time too precious, respectfully speaking? I realize he's busy, but do I rank in his file? And if so, what does he know and when did he know it?

Not that I've ever felt unknown or disrespected when visiting either my primary care doctor or my oncologist, but I have felt a little distance when I've seen specialists: pulmonary, thoracic, nephrology, surgery, to whom I've been referred, who previous to seeing me face-to-face had never met and/or spoken to me. Now I never took it personally; I took it professionally, as in: I suppose this is the process. However, how do they know a patient they don't know, let alone advise with proper consent?

Over time though, my thinking has evolved. Now I'm thinking/wondering if they are even supposed to prepare for me - and not by reading my file for the first time when I'm sitting on an examining table directly across from them or through study the night before, but at all? Perhaps my situation - as serious as it is to me, is not as serious to the doctor? And by that I mean, he's not ruled by his emotions - he's not terminal, that I know of, anyway. It's just another day at the office - so to speak. I understand that he likely has many patient histories on his mind/in his head and focusing/preparing too much for one somehow has adverse consequences for the others. Maybe the treatment protocols, as complicated as they are to me, are fairly mundane to the doctor and don't require that much homework, so discussing my chart as he reads it for that first time is no big/complicated deal and standard operating procedure?

I've actually experienced this sensation a couple of times with my oncologist. When I was a more frequent visitor to the Infusion Center - every three weeks, occasionally I would see him tending to other patients; he didn't seem to know I was going to be infused that day (in fairness, the infusion appointment does not directly involve the oncologist), even exhibiting surprise at my presence. Still, I would more often than not ask him a question about my specific health situation. However, if I didn't have a non-infusion appointment scheduled that day, he wasn't comfortable answering my questions. He would say: he wasn't prepared to answer the question. Apparently, he couldn't pull my information out of thin air. I came to understand and accept that if it wasn't my day to be examined, it wasn't a good day to ask him health-related questions about yours truly.

Still, I wonder, as much from lack of knowledge as anything: are my expectations unreasonable? I know, in my head anyway, as concerns my cancer treatment, it's all about me. But what about in my oncologist's head? Am I on his radar or am I out of sight, out of mind? And if so, is there any harm in that, or is it just me wondering too much about too much (the bane of this cancer patient's existence)?

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

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