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McLean
CONNECTION

New Dominion Woman's Club (NDWC) Board and Committee members (from left): Kitty Gonzalez, Monica Gibson, Jessica Faust, Kimberly Briggs, Jennifer Salopek, Kim Marinus, and Lori Carbonneau at the Arts Night Out event last Thursday in McLean.



Woman's Club Holds Arts Night Out

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Wrapped in Family, Faith and Anguish

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School Board Adopts FY 2020 Advertised Budget

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OPINION, PAGE 6 ♦ ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8 ♦ CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10

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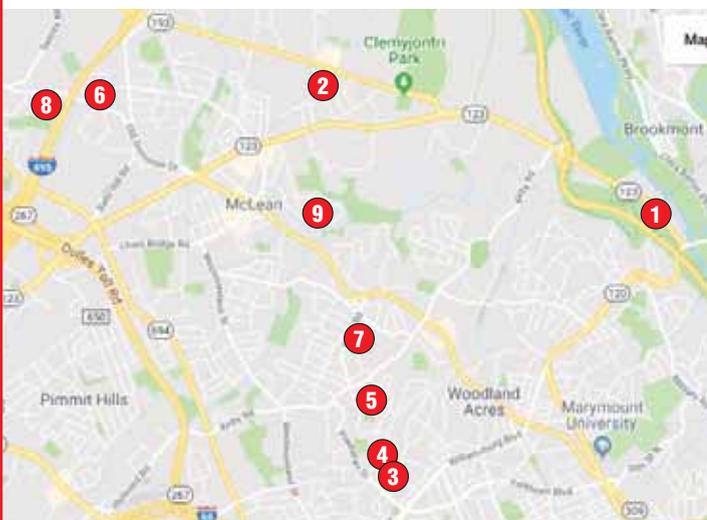
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— \$2,300,000



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5 1917 MACARTHUR DR	5	5	1	MCLEAN	\$2,300,000 Detached	0.46	22101	KENBARGAN 12/19/18
6 7325 WESTERLY LN	6	5	1	MCLEAN	\$1,975,000 Detached	0.43	22101	BEDFORD ACRES 12/07/18
7 6425 DIVINE ST	5	5	1	MCLEAN	\$1,975,000 Detached	0.50	22101	DIVINE DP 12/03/18
8 7521 OLD DOMINION DR	5	6	2	MCLEAN	\$1,923,750 Detached	0.87	22102	LAURELMONT 12/13/18
9 1415 JULIA AVE	6	7	0	MCLEAN	\$1,855,000 Detached	0.36	22101	SALONA VILLAGE 12/20/18

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E-bikes: Friend or Foe

Parks agencies present proposed changes allowing e-bikes on their trails.

By **MERCIA HOBSON**
THE CONNECTION

“Electric-assist bikes are not coming, they are here,” said Chris Pauley, director of park operations, Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority (NOVA Parks). The recent popularity in electric-assist bicycles, e-bikes and the fact they are not allowed on trails in Fairfax County and NOVA Parks prompted NOVA Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority to take steps to understand the issues and then share facts with the public and listen to their comments.

On Thursday, Feb. 7, NOVA Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority Northern Virginia came together at a joint public meeting in Lorton to present their proposed recommendation to modifying §1.14 B. (3) of the Park Authority Regulations. “Because both state law and technology changes, we have to update our regulations, and that’s why we are here tonight,” said Michael Nardolilli, chairman and representing Arlington on the board of directors for NOVA Parks, addressing the gathered crowd of approximately 80 individuals. “We are seeing a positive shift in society where bikes are not just for fitness and fun, but increasingly for transportation,” he said.

As the presenter for the public meeting, Pauley described to the crowd how e-bikes are replacing traditional bicycles for both recreation and transportation. “(They) create an inclusive environment from the recreation perspective. People from all ages and abilities are being reintroduced to riding ... As a transportation option, people are riding further and riding more often if they have an e-bike,” Pauley said.

PAULEY EXPLAINED the steps taken on the issue as it relates to the parks. NOVA Parks worked with Toole Design Group, a consulting agency with 16 years of experience. Its stated focus is “... developing creative yet practical solutions that move people more efficiently while improving the quality of life of the community.”

According to Pauley, one of the most critical issues was to look at user and safety behavior, as it was not something other localities had done yet. “We are on the cutting edge,” said Pauley.

Fairfax County Park Authority took a different approach, Pauley said. They established a staff led e-bike study team, which, among other things, reviewed jurisdictional



PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Attendees at the NOVA Parks and Fairfax County Park Authority joint public meeting listen to Presenter Chris Pauley as he describes the proposed changes.

VIEWPOINTS

Comments from the Public



Alexis Glenn,
Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling (FABB)

“It is my position as a resident of the county and position of FABB to support NOVA Parks proposal to permit Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes in the same parks anywhere traditional pedal-powered bikes are allowed ... Safety on bicycles will always come down to education and culture and not the types of bikes we ride ... Bad behavior is equated to the individual, not the equipment.”

Anne Mader,
Co-owner, The Bike Lane, Reston

“We see a story-a-day about e-bikes. How they take down the barriers for many people ... The mountain bikers we’ve seen as customers are just like any other person on a bike. They learn to ride; they respect the trails ... The only thing I would push for is user education on the trail. I’d love to see more speed limit signs on the trail, the W&OD.”



practices. It also “... looked at local bike associations and talked with them about what they saw. . . (and) the different impacts on their facilities,” said Pauley. H

e added that the county developed recommendations in concert with state law by working with the county attorney. “A pretty involved process from both ends,” he emphasized.

Pauley circled back to user behavior. He quoted key monikers stated in comments

provided by people who were opposed to e-bikes on the trails: “The trails are too crowded; these bikes are too fast.” Pauley disputed the concerns. He stressed their white paper studies showed e-bike cyclists and traditional cyclists behave the same. “They don’t behave any differently. They don’t behave any better, but also don’t behave any worse,” Pauley said.

Pauley confirmed that on the roads e-bikes tend to go a little faster than tradi-

Proposed Amendment

The Altered Sections of the Proposed Amendment Read:

1.14 Motor Vehicles and Traffic:
B: Prohibited Vehicles.

(3) Mopeds are permitted only in areas where motor vehicles are permitted.
(Added)

E. E-Bikes. Electric power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes) equipped with pedals that allow propulsion by human power are considered bicycles and non-motorized vehicles for the purpose of these regulations and are allowed in the same places that traditional, pedal-powered only bicycles are allowed.

tional bicycles but he surprised many in the audience when he said, “On multi-use trails, they are a little slower.” Crash rates are similar he added. As for other people on the trail, Pauley revealed people did not recognize when an e-bike was on a trail with them. “Studies showed that most people if you didn’t tell them there was an e-bike on the trail, didn’t know that it was there,” he said.

Pauley highlighted the Virginia Code authorizes the park authorities to regulate uses of all land and facilities under control of the authority. “But there is a caveat. We can’t create any regulation that is in conflict with state law ... state law is at the top; it’s the king of everything,” said Pauley. “Park regulations fall in the middle ... The way it works is our park regulations are enforceable by law. It is a Class IV misdemeanor. So technically someone riding an e-bike yesterday could be cited with a Class IV misdemeanor. That’s probably not where we want to be.”

STATE LAW is pretty wide-open, said Pauley. He cautioned, “That might not be the best fit for some of our trails from the perspective of safety.” Pauley said the proposal they were presenting that evening was to strike the motor-assist piece to clearly define mopeds are not permitted on trails, only where motor vehicles are allowed to go.

Pauley stated that they added a section that would define what a power-assist or e-bike would be. “That’s basically operable pedals, with an assist motor,” he said. “The proposal would be to discount the e-bike as a motorized vehicle thereby allowing it to travel any place a traditional bike would be able to go,” Pauley said.

In the draft guidelines, Pauley said they defined an e-bike, its performance level, where e-bikes can be operated and how it can be used. “This is a significant first step, a positive step to get these people back on the trails, get them into the parks, get them to be inclusive in their recreation, help them with the lifestyle they want to live and get them back on the bike to enjoy themselves,” said Pauley.



Guests peruse the Silent Auction items during the NDWC's Arts Night Out. Guests mingle during the NDWC's Arts Night Out Gala.

Woman's Club Holds Arts Night Out

With about 70 guests, fundraiser hopes to raise about \$5,000 for NDWC's four beneficiaries.

BY STEVE HIBBARD
THE CONNECTION

About 70 guests attended the New Dominion Woman's Club's Arts Night Out fundraiser last Thursday, Feb. 7 at the McLean Project for the Arts' (MPA) Gallery located next to Giant on Chain Bridge Road. The event included works of art by two artists, a social gathering, wine and appetizers, as well as a silent auction with 30 donated items. With guests donating \$25 each, they hoped to raise \$5,000 for four local beneficiaries.

The evening offered a curated tour by MPA Exhibitions Director Nancy Sausser of MPA's latest exhibition, "Intention/Invention: Works by Delna Dastur and Maryanne Pollock." These two abstract painters both make works created through a blend of intentional, planned process and improvisational experimentation.

According to NDWC President Jennifer Salopek: "Arts Night Out is one of New Dominion Women's Club's most treasured fundraisers. We do it in partnership with MPA every year and our members really look forward to it. It's a lovely evening of



MPA Executive Director Lori Carbonneau addresses the crowd during Arts Night Out.

PHOTOS BY STEVE HIBBARD/THE CONNECTION

art, wine, hors d'oeuvre, and a silent auction and it's all to benefit NDWC's four beneficiary organizations this year." Those include: MPA, SHARE of McLean, the Safe Community Coalition and the Falls Church McLean Children's Center.

Arts Night Out Chairman Kimberly Briggs added: "This is a wonderful opportunity to bring the community together to celebrate art as well as many small businesses who are represented as either sponsors or donors through our silent auction.... This in-

cludes two wonderful groups – the New Dominion Woman's Club who does charity work throughout the community as well as the McLean Project for the Arts who is, in fact, one of their charitable organizations that they support on an annual basis."

She added: "This event is an opportunity to highlight McLean Project for the Arts by holding a charity fundraiser at their actual location, exposing everyone to their wonderful art, and giving awareness to everyone as to where they are, and that they're available to the community on a regular day-to-day basis as a premiere spot to see modern art."

According to Lori Carbonneau, Executive Director, McLean Project for the Arts: "What's special about the Arts Night Out for New Dominion Women's Club, for MPA, is that it celebrates both the community that MPA creates as well as the art that we are able to exhibit and bring to the community....For MPA, what this night means is it is a way for us to convene in our space, under our roof, with many thanks to McLean Properties for helping us be here, a celebration of that unique confluence of community and art."



(From left): Arts Night Out Sponsors Florencia Segura, M.D.; Al Damavandy, M.D.; and Marianne Prendergast.



(From left): NDWC members Debbie Witchey, Kimberly Briggs and Jennifer Salopek.

NEWS

School Board Adopts FY 2020 Advertised Budget

Budget prioritizes employee compensation with \$55.2 million more for teacher salary scales.

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the FY 2020 Advertised Budget of \$3.0 billion, an increase of 4.1 percent, or \$117.4 million, over the FY 2019 Approved Budget. The FY 2020 budget prioritizes employee compensation with a \$55.2 million investment in teacher salary scales that includes a 1.0 percent market scale adjust-

ment. The budget also includes \$46.8 million for a step increase for eligible employees, and \$8.2 million for a 1.0 percent market scale adjustment for non-teacher salary scale employees.

"The School Board's Advertised Budget fulfills the Board's commitment to bring teacher salaries to the market average," said School Board Chair Karen Corbett Sanders.

"The impact our teachers have on the lives of our students is immeasurable and we recognize that competitive compensation is a critical component in our effort to provide equity and excellence across our school division. Together with our energized recruiting strategy, offering competitive compensation should enable us to hire and retain the best teachers for our students. In

doing so, we can keep the focus on our students, teachers, and classroom instruction."

The School Board has scheduled two work sessions on April 29 and May 2 to further evaluate the budget amendments and follow-on motions.

The FY 2020 budget includes \$46.8 mil-

SEE BUDGET, PAGE 11

CALENDAR

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OPINION

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 22.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other creatures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your busi-

ness have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

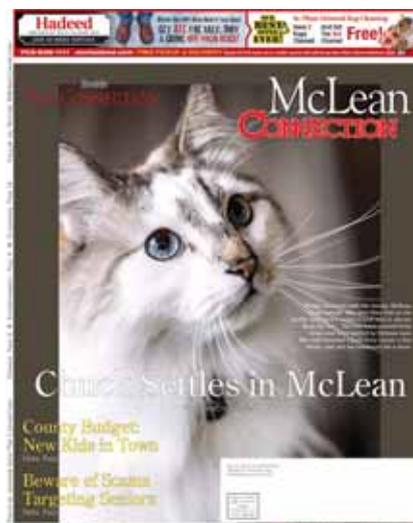
Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

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EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Film Celebrates Diversity

To the Editor:

The Baha'is of Vienna are sponsoring a showing of the award-winning film, "Me-The Other" at the Angelika Theater of the Mosaic Shopping Center in Vienna/Fairfax, on Thursday, Feb. 21,

between 7 and 10 p.m. Following the showing of the film, there will be live discussion of the film with the film's director and co-producer, Shidan Majidi. Light refreshments will be served. "Me, The "Other" is a documentary film created in less than five months about a diverse group of students living in Washtenaw County in Southeast Michigan. Through their struggles, we find ourselves in each of them.

In words of Mr. Majidi, Director/Co-Producer:

"I believe that at this critical juncture in our journey as a human race, we need a radical paradigm shift in our approach to the preservation of our collective home by starting to view our planet as one country and humanity its citizens. Elimination of prejudice is one of the fundamental principles in establishing this goal. Storytelling is a powerful tool in raising awareness and bridging the gaps. With this film, we set out to tell stories of a diverse cast of characters who are on some level experiencing prejudice in their lives. They come from various backgrounds but in that deep place inside, they are all essentially one and we are one of them. My personal hope for this film is to expose that sacred place inside where beyond the clouded isms of race, religion, class, gender, age, sexual orientation, physical appearance—lies a place of

light, warmth, hope, and pure love called the human soul."

The film has won a few awards:
❖ March 2018 - The Washtenaw County Commissioners honored the film with a special Proclamation as it "voices an urgent message that our diversity should be the cause of unity for our communities in these challenging times."

❖ March 2018 - University of Michigan honors the film's producer and cast member with the Ida Gray Award for its celebration of diversity.

❖ June 2018 - The film wins the Best Documentary Award at the Buddha International Film Festival in India.

John Russo
Vienna

Re-think Spraying

Dear Editor,

On Jan. 24, Fairfax and Prince William County spokesmen urged a Virginia House of Delegates subcommittee to allow localities to continue to kill caterpillars with broadcast spraying. At issue is *Alsophila pometaria*, the inchworm or fall cankerworm, a native insect that in its larval stage is a caterpillar, a major food source for spring breeding and migrating birds. Some view this caterpillar as a "nuisance" when it spins down from trees on a silken thread.

A coalition is trying to stop this spraying, which kills not just the target species but all butterfly and moth caterpillars exposed to the spray, *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk). "This collateral damage is much too high a price to pay, when the focal animal is a natural element of Virginia's forest ecology," wrote the University

of Connecticut's Dr. David Wagner, a world caterpillar expert.

Some spraying advocates contend that inchworms defoliate and kill trees. Opponents argue that it takes several years of severe defoliation to kill a tree, which is rare; that most trees releaf in one season; and that tree mortality has many, often undetermined causes.

Del. Kathy Tran (D-Fairfax) offered a compromise to her original bill to require residents to opt into the spray program, a reversal of these counties' current opt-out programs. The subcommittee rejected the bill on a party-line five to four vote.

The inchworm is a native insect, part of the natural ecosystem, not a destructive invasive like the gypsy moth. Government officials at all levels should understand the value of native insects and their role, critics that noted biologist E.O. Wilson said are "the little things that run the world." Killing caterpillars without documentation of real harm or without understanding their importance is inexcusable.

Ashley C. Kennedy, MS
PhD Candidate, Tallamy Lab
Dept. of Entomology and
Wildlife Ecology
University of Delaware

Extremely Disappointed

To the Editor:

I graduated from college in 1986. I went to the University of Mississippi my freshman year and half of my sophomore year. My freshman year (1982), the school was still waving Confederate flags at football games and was in the process of transitioning to using a flag that just said, "Ole Miss" in red on a blue background. To protest, the Ku Klux Klan showed up at at least one football game. It was terrifying. The KKK is not funny. Not even a little bit.

I am extremely disappointed to discover that Mr. Northam participated in photo wearing Blackface with someone in a KKK outfit. He knew better. I voted for Mr. Northam, so this makes the discovery even more painful.

Everyone does stupid things in college. This was not stupid. It was mean and it wasn't funny. Mr. Northam should resign in order to show respect for his Black constituents and, really, all Virginia voters.

Amy Dickson
Springfield

Write

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

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McLean CONNECTION

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

Published by
Local Media Connection LLC

1606 King Street
Alexandria, Virginia 22314

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'Living Coral' Named 2019 Color of the Year

“... can help to brighten a space lacking natural light.”

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

A breeze of warm air to heat the winter chill is how some designers are describing one of the trendiest colors on tap for this year. “Living Coral” was selected as the 2019 Color of the Year by the Pantone Color Institute, the self-described global authority of color. It’s a shade that is expected to have a prominent presence in interior design, home accessories and fashion this year.

“It works well with most of the foundation colors everyone has in their homes including white, taupe, gray, and brown,” said designer Amanda Mertins of Patina Polished Living in Alexandria. “If you choose to paint, it can help to brighten a space lacking natural light.”

Described as a nurturing color that can be found in nature, Living Coral is a shade of orange with a golden undertone. “It can be used as a wonderful accent color,” said Mertins. “Introduce it with artwork, toss pillows, rugs and throws.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF NICELY DONE KITCHENS AND BATHS

Life-affirming and reminiscent of coral reefs, Living Coral is credited with the ability to breathe life into any space in one’s home. “[It’s] is vibrant, energizing shade ... that can be incorporated as a light accent or bold statement in both a kitchen or bath,” said designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths in Springfield. “As the timeless trend of white kitchens continues, Living Coral offers the perfect pop of color an all-white kitchen may need.”

“Coffee mugs, dish towels, trays and trivets are an easy and inexpensive way to introduce the trending color of the year into your kitchen,” added Fabisiak.

Home accent pieces are the way that de-

When used on a wall in a kitchen or bathroom, Living Coral can make a bold statement, says designer Natalia Fabisiak of Nicely Done Kitchens and Baths.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATINA POLISHED LIVING
Living Coral can be introduced into one’s home through art, says designer Amanda Mertins.

signer Julie Ackerman of Home Polish in Bethesda recommends using the Pantone pick. “Dishware, serveware or decorative accent pieces and porcelain figurines, like those by Herend are a great way to incorporate Living Coral into your home,” she said.

For a more long-term commitment, Fabisiak says, “In a bathroom, Living Coral can be used as a wall color that can be easily paired with neutral tile and fixtures. If painting the walls is too drastic, bath accents like coral towels or a rug can brighten up the space beautifully as well.

In announcing the selection, Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, said, “Color is an equaliz-

ing lens through which we experience our natural and digital realities and this is particularly true for Living Coral. With consumers craving human interaction and social connection, the humanizing and heartening qualities displayed by the convivial Pantone Living Coral hit a responsive chord.”

Each year, the Pantone Color Institute makes a prediction about the color that will be on trend for the upcoming year. The selection process, which takes about nine months, has color gurus at Pantone spanning the globe, taking note of the trends in industries that run the gamut from ranging from film and entertainment to art and interior design.

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ONGOING

Camp Grow Registration Open.

Camp Grow at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, in Vienna, invites children to explore nature through hands-on activities, gardening, discovery walks, crafts, music, storytelling, and animal programs. Camp Grow is designed to engage, challenge, educate and encourage a sense of community. Camp Grow values and encourages inclusion of all campers in every activity. Visit www.novaparks.com/things-to-do/camps/.

Winter Golf. Through Feb. 28, skip the traffic with the Afternoon Drive special at the heated and covered ranges at Burke Lake Golf Center and the newly renovated Oak Marr Golf Complex. All buckets are \$2 off, Monday-Thursday, 4 p.m. until closing. Or try the indoor studio at Pinecrest Golf Course's Valis Family Golf Learning Center, featuring three indoor hitting bays or a private session with the TrackMan Golf Simulator Suite (five person max.), both reserved by the hour. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/golf.

The Golden Girls of Northern Virginia, a senior women's softball league, is looking for players. Any woman over the age of 40 is encouraged to join. All skill levels are welcome. Games are on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings in Vienna, April-October. Other activities during the year. Visit www.goldengirls.org.

Free Tai Chi. Saturdays through March 30, from 7:55-9 a.m., Introduction and Beginners' Practice, meet in the Langley Hall at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean. All are welcome. Call 703-759-9141 or visit www.FreeTaiChi.org.

Trivia Night. Tuesdays, 7 p.m. at Lost Dog Cafe - McLean, 1690 Anderson Road, McLean. Trivia featuring multiple winners and fun door prizes. Free to play. Visit www.facebook.com/EarthTriviaDc/.

The Freeman Store & Museum Wednesday through Sunday noon-4 p.m. 131 Church St. NE, Vienna. The Freeman Store & Museum is dedicated to Preserving and promoting Vienna's heritage through the identification, preservation, and interpretation of history significant places, events, and persons. Historicviennainc.org

Bingo Night. Sundays. 4 p.m. Flame Room, Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St. S, Vienna. \$10. www.vvfd.org/bingo.html.

Gentle Yoga. Thursdays, 6:30 p.m. Emmaus United Church of Christ, 900 E Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax, 2709 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Gentle Kundalini Yoga, one free introductory session, senior discounts. Increase flexibility, improve breathing and health, reduce stress. \$15 per session. Call 571-213-3192 or visit edimprovement.org.

Colvin Run Mill open 11-4 p.m. daily, closed Tuesday. 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. Fairfax County's operational 19th century water powered gristmill, offers recreational and educational activities for all ages through daily tours, school programs and special events. Fees: \$7/adult, \$6 students 16+ with ID, \$5 children & seniors. Admission to park is free except for some special events.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 13

Movie Series: New Disney



The Okee Dokee Brothers

As childhood friends growing up in Denver, CO, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing were always exploring the outdoors. Now, as the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana Folk music and hope that it will inspire children and their parents to get outside and get creative. Saturday, Feb. 23 at 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. at The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Cost is \$20/\$15 MCC district residents. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Classics. 12:30 p.m. at The Alden Community Hall, McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. The Alden is kicking off a new film series with "new Disney Classics" – those that were loved during the 1990s. The films will be shown at 12:30 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month through June. Free admission. Visit mcleancenter.org/performing-arts.

SATURDAY/FEB. 16

Model Railroaders Open House. 1-5 p.m. at the Vienna Depot, 231 Dominion Road NE, Northern Virginia Model Railroaders hold an open house at the Vienna Depot each month and on Vienna celebration days, including Viva! Vienna and the Vienna Holiday Stroll. Free admission. Call 703-938-5157 or visit www.nvmr.org.

Spice Up Your Life. 3:30-4:30 p.m. at Oakton Library, 10304 Lynnhaven Place, Oakton. Learn from Nutritionist Kristin McGill why spices/herbs are important in a healthy diet. Food samples and recipes are included. Free. Visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov.

Astronomy Festival. 6-9 p.m. at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. After the sun sets, soak up some starshine at an "Astronomy Festival" that will include guided stargazing and telescope viewing. Listen to ancient stories about the constellations around the campfire, and participate in other activities and games throughout the evening. \$8 per person. Hot chocolate and snacks will be available for purchase. Canceled if it rains or snows. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

Art Presentation: Ric Ocsek. 7-9 p.m. at Wentworth Gallery, Tysons Galleria, 1807 U. International Drive, McLean. Ric Ocsek, of the Cars, will appear with his original artwork. Visit www.wentworthgallery.com.

SUNDAY/FEB. 17

Breakfast Buffet. 8 a.m.-noon at Vienna American Legion Post 180, 330 Center St., N. Vienna. Get omelets, scrambled eggs, blueberry pancakes, bacon, sausage, biscuits and gravy and more. Adults \$10, children 12 and under \$4. Call 703-938-6580.

FRIDAY/FEB. 22

Waterfowl Wintering Along the Potomac. 9-11 a.m. at Riverbend

Park, 8700 Potomac Hills St., Great Falls. Fairfax County is an attractive spot for waterfowl that don't mind a little cold. Take the "Winter Waterfowl Hike" at Riverbend Park to see what avian creatures are making their residence here over the winter. Hike with a naturalist at the park to search for winter waterfowl along the Upper Potomac River. Bring binoculars and spotting scopes. Designed for participants age 14-adult. \$8 per person. Call 703-759-9018 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend.

Genealogy Society Meeting. 7-9 p.m. at Dunn Loring Volunteer Fire Station Hall, 2148 Gallows Road, Vienna. Monthly meeting of Fairfax Genealogical Society with presentation, "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County." Don Hakenson will discuss Mosby's operations in Fairfax County and the stories of the men involved. Free. Call 703-644-8185 or visit www.fxgs.org.

BRAWS Hosts Mardi Bras. At Westwood Country Club, 800 Maple Ave. E, Vienna. More than 500 guests are expected at Mardi Bras, which is the largest annual fundraiser for BRAWS, a volunteer-driven, community-based 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides homeless women and children with necessities including new bras and underwear as well as menstrual supplies. Tickets are on sale now at www.braws.org/mardi-bras-2019.html for \$100, which includes hors d'oeuvres, two drinks, raffles, silent auction, music, photo booth, swag bags, special guests and more. BRAWS is seeking event sponsorships as well as donations of items for the raffles and silent auction. More information can be found at www.braws.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 23

Wolf Trap Tickets On Sale. Tickets go on sale to the public Feb. 23 at 10 a.m.; Wolf Trap members are buying now. Additional shows to be announced in March. Buy tickets online at wolftrap.org; by phone at 877-WOLFTRAP; or in person at the Filene Center Box Office, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna or after Feb. 24, at The Barns at Wolf Trap Box Office, 1635 Trap Road, Vienna.

Touch Visitors from Space. 11 a.m.-noon at Observatory Park at Turner Farm, 925 Springvale Road, Great Falls. "Meteorites: Explore Visitors from Space" will be held in the roll-top observatory classroom. Participants will also have the

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ENTERTAINMENT



Paul Zeitz

Author Event

Dr. Paul Zeitz, activist and author of “Waging Justice: A Doctor’s Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold,” will discuss opportunities to work for social justice. Some of the big-picture advocacy priorities include climate restoration, renewable energy, sustainable development, ending child sexual abuse, and gender equality. 1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org or call 703-281-1767.

opportunity to touch and examine actual meteorites, including specimens from the moon and Mars. Designed for participants age 5-11 and runs from 11 a.m. to noon. \$8 per person. Call 703-324-8618 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/turner-farm.

The Okee Dokee Brothers. 1 p.m., 4 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. At The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Cost is \$20/\$15 MCC district residents. As childhood friends growing up in Denver, CO, Joe Mailander and Justin Lansing were always exploring the outdoors. Now, as the Grammy Award-winning Okee Dokee Brothers, they have put this passion for the outdoors at the heart of their Americana folk music and hope that it will inspire children and their parents to get outside and get creative. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

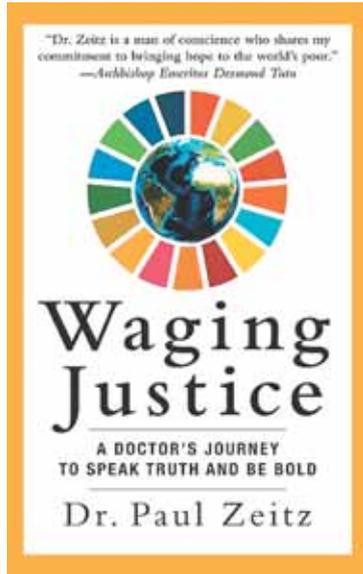
Winter Wine and Beer Tasting. 7-10 p.m. at the Great Falls Grange, 9818 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. Sample a variety of red wines, white wines and selected by Richard Ashton of Classic Wines of Great Falls and four locally crafted beers from Lost Rhino Brewery in Leesburg. \$50. Tickets are available through Feb. 21 (or until sold out). Visit celebrategreatfalls.org.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 23-24

Scrapbooking Weekend. Friday, 6 p.m.-midnight; Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m. at Vienna Volunteer Fire Department, 400 Center St., South, Vienna. The Vienna Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary is sponsoring a scrapbooking weekend. Registration fee includes cropping space, lunch on Saturday, coffee, tea, lemonade, goody bag and a raffle ticket. Dinner available for \$15 for both nights, or \$8 each. \$50 if registered by Feb. 2; \$55 by Feb. 9; \$65 if registered later; \$70 to register at the door, if space is available. Proceeds purchase lifesaving equipment for the fire department. Email lisaemerson3@verizon.net or call 703-981-4504.

SUNDAY/FEB. 24

Maple Syrup Fresh from the Trees. Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See sap dripping into collection pails on the trees, and discover the surprising amount of sap it takes to make just a little syrup. Taste the



combination of maple syrup over cornbread made from the mill’s cornmeal, while supplies last. \$5 per person for visitors age 3-adult. No reservations are required. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Author Event: Dr. Paul Zeitz. 1 p.m. at Unity of Fairfax, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Zeitz, activist and author of “Waging Justice: A Doctor’s Journey to Speak Truth and Be Bold,” will discuss opportunities to work for social justice. Visit www.unityoffairfax.org or call 703-281-1767.

Perspectives Speaker Series:

Walter Mosley. 2 p.m. at The Alden Theatre at McLean Community Center, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Presented in partnership with the Fairfax County Public Library, Author Walter Mosley will give a 60-minute talk followed by a book signing. NAACP Image Award-winning writer of mysteries and crime fiction, in 2016 Mosley was named Grand Master by the Mystery Writers of America (Edgar Award). Free. Pre-registration required. Visit mcleancenter.org/alden-theatre.

The Capitol Steps Benefit

Performance. 7 p.m. at Fairfax High School, 3501 Rebel Run Road, Fairfax. Join in for a SILLYarious evening as the Capitol Steps political satire comedy troupe performs a show to benefit high school theatre for the Cappies of the National Capitol Area. Free parking. Adults, \$30; students/senior citizens, \$20; children 12 and under, \$10; and groups of 10 or more, \$15. Contact Amy.Young@cappies.com or visit www.cappies.com/nca.

MONDAY/FEB. 25

Tyler Hilton w/ Emma Charles. 8-11 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Join singer-songwriter Emma Charles opening for Tyler Hilton. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit jamminjava.com.

WEDNESDAY/FEB. 27

Foreign-Language Film. 1 p.m. At The Alden, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. Free admission. Come enjoy foreign films selected by The Alden staff, then stay after for a discussion backstage in The Alden’s green room. All movies are shown in the original language with English subtitles.

Foreign-language films will be shown at 1 p.m. on the 4th Wednesday of the month through May. These movies are chosen for adult audiences and may contain mature content, language and themes. Visit www.mcleancenter.org.

Holy Happy Hour Recital Series.

6:15 p.m. at Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Featuring Nicholas Quardokus, Organ Scholar at St. Paul’s Parish in Washington, D.C., the 30-minute musical offering will be followed by wine, hor d’oeuvres and fellowship. Free and open to the public; a good will offering to support the music department will be taken. Visit www.Lewinsville.org or call 703-356-7200.

THURSDAY/FEB. 28

Movie Screening: “Angst.” 7-8:30 p.m. at Langley High School Auditorium, 6520 Georgetown Pike, McLean. Join the Safe Community Coalition and Langley High School PTSA for a showing of “Angst: Raising Awareness Around Anxiety.” Free. Recommended for 6th grade and up. Email gina@stationwagon.com.

Burke Historical Society Speaker.

7:30 p.m. at Patrick Henry Library, 101 Maple Ave. East, Vienna. Mary Lipsey will share stories from her latest book, *Aviation: From Curiosity to Reality*. Learn about the early years of flight and some of the less-remembered pioneers. Visit burkehistoricalsociety.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MARCH 1-3

Tyson’s Library Book Sale. Friday, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, 1-4 p.m. at Tyson’s-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church. Large selection of books and media for all ages and interests. Half price and \$10 per bag sale on Sunday. Volunteers needed. Email tysonslibraryfriends@gmail.com or call 703-790-4031 or 703-338-3307.

SUNDAY/MARCH 3

Maple Syrup Fresh from the Trees.

Noon-2 p.m. at Colvin Run Mill, 10017 Colvin Run Road, Great Falls. See sap dripping into collection pails on the trees, and discover the surprising amount of sap it takes to make just a little syrup. Taste the combination of maple syrup over cornbread made from the mill’s cornmeal, while supplies last. \$5 per person for visitors age 3-adult. No reservations are required. This is an outdoor program, dress for the weather. Call 703-759-2771 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/colvin-run-mill.

Live Music: Rebecca Loebe.

7 p.m. at Jammin’ Java, 227 Maple Ave., East, Vienna. Catch Loebe in concert with her full band as she celebrates the release of her fifth studio album *Give Up Your Ghosts*. \$15-\$20. Call 703-255-1566 or visit www.jamminjava.com.

THURSDAY/MARCH 7

Mah Jongg Lessons. 6:30-9:30 p.m. at Temple Rodef Shalom, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church. Three-session Mah Jongg class for beginners taught by Iva Gresko. Plan to attend all three sessions (March 7, 14, 21). \$85, includes nine hours of lessons and includes the 2018 National Mah Jongg League Playing Card. To register, send a check made out to WoTRS to Iva Gresko, 2100 Westmoreland St., Falls Church, VA 22043. Include your email address, home address, and home and cell phone numbers. Your check is your registration. Contact Iva Gresko 703-532-2217.

Here’s What’s Happening at MCC!

Presented by The Alden



Movies for Kids & Families
Wednesday, Feb. 13, 12:30 p.m.
Free admission

Presented by The Alden



The Okee Dokee Brothers
Saturday, Feb. 23
Three shows: 1, 4, and 6:30 p.m.
\$20/\$15 MCC district residents



Passport Series
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Taberna Del Alabardero,
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Saturday, Feb. 23
4:45-10 p.m.
\$105 per person

Perspectives Speaker Series



Presented by The Alden in
partnership with the Fairfax
County Public Library
Meet Author Walter Mosley
Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m.
Free. Preregistration required.

The McLean Traveler



2019 Philadelphia Flower Show
Thursday, March 7, 6:45 a.m.-8 p.m.
\$138/\$133 MCC district residents

The Old Firehouse Friday Night Trip



Captain Marvel Night
Friday, March 8, 4-11 p.m.
1440 Chain Bridge Rd.
\$45/\$35 OFC Members



The McLean
Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of the Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org
703-790-0123, TTY: 711

1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean, VA 22101

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THEATRE

**Wrapped in Family,
 Faith and Anguish**

1st Stage presents 'The Brothers Size.'

BY DAVID SIEGEL
 THE CONNECTION

Expanding its artistic reach with another bold play selection, 1st Stage is producing the local premiere of "The Brothers Size" written by Tarell Alvin McCraney. McCraney is co-creator of the Academy Award-winning film "Moonlight" and at age 38, a recipient of a MacArthur genius grant.

Under the guiding hands of director Jose Carrasquillo, director of artistic programming, Ford's Theatre, "The Brothers Size" is unforgettable. It is wrapped in family, faith and anguish. Know that there is decency, dignity and redemption that unfolds becoming the heart of "The Brothers Size" message.

The play takes place somewhere deep in the Louisiana bayou. Living is not easy for African-Americans even if someone is hardworking and owns a car repair business as older and "Alpha" brother Ogun Size (Gary Kayi Fletcher) does. His less rooted, younger brother Oshoosi Size (Clayton Pelham, Jr.) is just out of prison; home to live with his older brother. Oshoosi is trying to figure out what is next in his so-far sketchy life. Also recently out of a prison is a close, local friend and prison mate of Oshoosi. He is a "brother in need" named Elegba (Thony Mena). Elegba is also adrift.

Joined together the three characters become enmeshed in the mundane of day-to-day existence, along with the detritus of memories, and profound issues of what is next in lives seeped with both West African tradition and American Southern attitudes. Playwright McCraney uses first names of the three characters as taken from prominent Yoruba (Southwest Nigeria) deities.

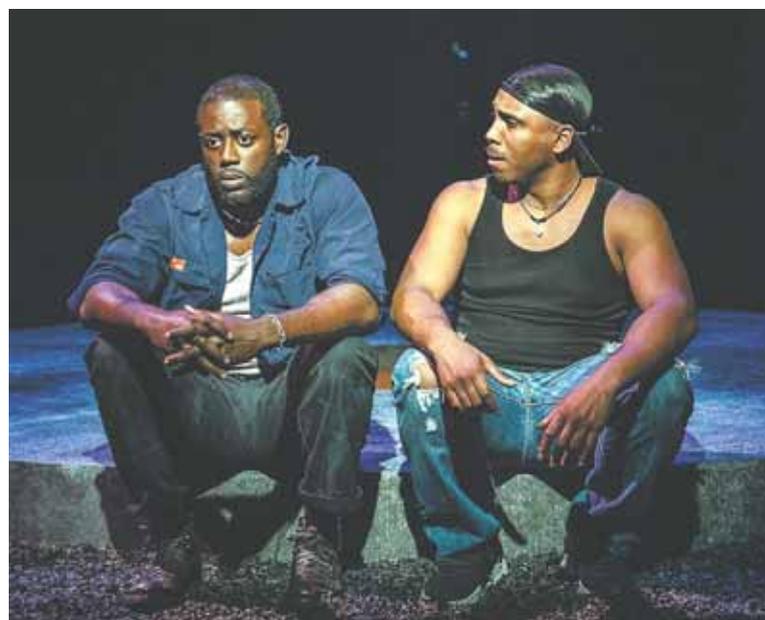
Be aware as the tensions in the play mount, the initial language in "The Brothers Size" can be very raw for some. The delivery of words is full frontal and real. As the play progresses the language transitions to something else again; first less bombastic, then into poetic words of brotherly devotion and understanding.

Giroros Tsappas' set is inspired by elements drawn from Yoruba cosmology. There is a sizable elliptical "eye" shape surrounded by shredded rubber tires upon which performance takes place. The actors are in near constant motion over the rubbery surfaces not unlike boxers in a ring. A strategic musical selec-

PHOTOS BY TERESA CASTRACANE/COURTESY OF 1ST STAGE



From left, Gary-Kayi Fletcher, Clayton Pelham, Jr., and Thony Mena in "The Brothers Size" at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. The show runs through Feb. 24.



From left, Gary-Kayi Fletcher and Clayton Pelham, Jr. in "The Brothers Size" at 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. The show runs through Feb. 24.

Where and When

1st Stage presents "The Brothers Size" at 1524 Spring Hill Road, (Spring Hill Business Center), Tysons. (Two blocks from north exit, Metro's Silver Line Spring Hill Station). Performances through Feb. 24, 2019. Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. & 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets: General Admission \$39, Senior (65+) \$36, Student and Military \$15. Call 703-854-1856 or visit www.1stStageTysons.org. Note: Wheelchair accessible.

tion from Ben E. King is splendidly evocative as is the percussive rhythm of fists on chests.

Under Carrasquillo's vision, McCraney's "The Brothers Size" at 1st Stage captures lives likely unknown by area audiences. It is an opportunity to find oneself absorbed into new stories and territory.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before event.

WINTER SHELTERS

Find homeless and cold weather drop-in centers and shelters that serve Northern Virginia at www.novaregion.org/174/Homeless-Shelter-Lists.

INPUT SOUGHT

Shaping the Future Together. Fairfax County Government is beginning a strategic planning process with the community to shape the future together. The goal is to hear all voices and reach all segments of the community. This effort will span most of 2019, but in this first phase, the community is being asked to visit fairfaxcounty.gov/strategicplan and:

- Take a short five-question online survey
- Join a community conversation in person: Feb. 25 – Alexandria; Feb. 26 – Fairfax; March 6 – Falls Church.
- Share the survey and conversation invitation with neighbors, co-workers and county family and friends.

Budget

FROM PAGE 5

lion for a step increase for eligible employees; \$8.2 million for non-teacher salary scale employees; \$4.3 million to expand the FCPSOn program, providing one-to-one computing devices to high school students; an increase in substitute pay for retirees; and expansion of the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) program at Key Middle, Herndon High, and a Title I elementary school to be named. The board also approved an additional \$2.9 million for student mental health, student safety, and substance abuse prevention.

The budget assumes a slight decrease in student enrollment which will result in savings of \$6.3 million. The Advertised Budget supports more than 188,000 students, nearly 200 schools and centers, and staffing of approximately 24,000 employees — with more than 93 percent of employees school-based.

The FCPS budget relies on the Fairfax County general fund transfer to provide the majority of the revenue needed; this year, FCPS is asking the county to provide 71.3 percent of the total revenue. This reliance on county funding is due to FCPS only receiving approximately half of the average state funding other Virginia jurisdictions receive. FCPS expects to receive 23.8 percent of its FY 2020 budget from the state in the form of state aid and sales tax revenue. Federal funding provides less than 2 percent of FCPS' annual operating revenue.

The School Board will present its FY 2020 Advertised Budget to the Board of Supervisors on April 9, and is scheduled to take action on the FY 2020 Approved Budget at its May 23 meeting. FCPS' FY 2020 begins July 1, 2019.

Information about relevant budget dates, along with updates and budget news, is available online at www.fcps.edu/about-fcpsbudget/budget-development-calendar.

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So Far, So Good



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

This column will be the definition of premature.

After subjecting you regular readers to multiple columns discussing my anxiety – and fear – about the potential/presumptive and possibly debilitating and life-changing/life-ending side effects of immunotherapy, I am here to say that after my first pair of bi-weekly infusions – occurring over the past three weeks, I am no worse for the experience.

I'm feeling better than I felt while undergoing chemotherapy: No eating issues, less fatigue, less shortness of breath and more energy. The only caveat to this empor is whether the infusions are actually shrinking my Adam's Apple tumor, which was the primary reason for making the medicine change we did.

Now whether the side effects are still coming; I certainly don't know, but should they still be on the way, I can't help but wonder: Will they change the quality of my life – for the worse? Because, for the bi-weekly moment, I am less impacted by my treatment than I have been for years.

I can't say with any degree of certainty however, or recall what my oncologist might have said concerning the likely onset of the "over 30 percent report some side effects" as the reprint from "chemocare.com" indicated. Generally speaking, my oncologist would rather not discuss future scenarios: What happens when? What do we do if? When do we do what? And so I don't ask nearly as many questions as I used to.

It's not that I'm less curious, it's that I'm more experienced. And I have learned through my experience, that part of being a cancer patient is unfortunately, waiting and seeing – and of course, hoping. Talking/anticipating/being told what to expect is helpful – up to a point.

The point which is most helpful is when something actually happens. Knowing what to expect is less important than knowing what to do/how to manage expectations should they manifest. It may be something or it may be nothing. Trying not to make matters worse is the key.

Being a cancer patient/survivor is a series of challenges – both emotional and physical. Finding a stride in which you can take the ups and downs and all-arounds will help you live life in the cancer lane. And just because the road is bumpy, doesn't preclude you from smoothing it out.

Actions and reactions, plan "A" and plan "B" are par for the course. So be grateful for today because tomorrow the course may play much more difficult. Being positive about the negative offers the path of least resistance.

Today, I am not experiencing any side effects, thankfully.

"Tomorrow" however, as Scarlet O'Hara said at the end of "Gone With The Wind," "is another day." Worrying, as I had been admitting to in previous columns, about something which as yet had not happened, is especially unhelpful and wastes precious time.

As a cancer patient, there's plenty of actual bad news, generally, so there's no benefit in rushing it along. Let it happen naturally, or not at all; and occasionally, you might be pleasantly surprised, as three weeks into my new immunotherapy regimen, I am, as what side effects I anticipated/feared have not affected.

I realize I'm probably early in assessing the likely side effects of my treatment but, for the time being, I can find some peace and quiet; and when you're a cancer patient diagnosed originally as "terminal," "peace and quiet" is never to be taken for granted.

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



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