

Great Falls CONNECTION

Express Services Open at Fairfax County Libraries

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Arnav Ketineni, 13, of Great Falls and a student at Cooper Middle School in McLean checks out a book at the Great Falls Library, with the help of Sandy Souleles Information Assistant Fairfax County Library.

Possible Tower of Trouble Ahead for Wireless Developer

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Honest, Moving Stories of Our Time

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Arnav Ketineni, 13, of Great Falls and a student at Cooper Middle School in McLean, prepares to check out "The Missing: Torn, Book Four" by Margaret Peterson Haddix with the help of Sandy Souleles, Information Assistant Fairfax County Library. Rebecca Wolff, Librarian II Fairfax County, stands to the side.

Express Services Open at Fairfax County Libraries

Patrons back to browsing the stacks.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Library (FCPL) reopened for interior Express services Monday, March 22. Customers throughout the County can once again visit FCPL branches, like the one in Great Falls, for up to 30 minutes Monday and Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Social distancing and capacity limits will be in place. At any given time, up to 30 members of the public may be in community branches and up to 60 in regional branches. Library programming remains virtual, and meeting rooms are closed.

Monday morning Arnav Ketineni, 13, of Great Falls and a student at Cooper Middle School in McLean lingered outside the library, watching for his friend. Hearing the library would open in a few moments, Arnav waited for the doors to be unlocked. When they were, he went inside, making a direct line to the juvenile section.

"I hope to be back reading books from the library and coming to pick them out," Arnav said at the check-out counter with his book in-hand.

According to the Fairfax County website, curbside pickup of materials on hold will remain available to customers Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ask Your Library via the website and text messaging will continue to be open from 10 a.m.



Rebecca Wolff, Librarian II Fairfax County, places an A-frame sidewalk sign near the Great Falls Library's front doors on the morning of March 22, announcing the return to Express services.

to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday.

"We are very pleased to be open to the public once again," said Rebecca Wolff Librarian II Fairfax County. "We are really looking forward to welcoming our Great Falls community back into the library."

Great Falls Library at 9830 Georgetown Pike is a gathering place for local residents. The library houses a collection of more than 50,000 items. Call 703-757-8560 | TTY:711 or visit the library website for more information.

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Possible Tower of Trouble Ahead for Wireless Developer

Sides clash over Rt. 7 Vienna-Great Falls area proposed telecommunications facility.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

How best for everyone concerned to correct cellular coverage holes in the Vienna-Great Falls Route 7 area is one issue. A second rising issue that may dictate the means to enhance residents' and travelers' connectivity is a purported County commitment not to use a specified Fairfax County Board of Supervisors-owned property in an R-2 residential district for a commercial operation. Intertwined is the possibility of settling for now at least "less than the very best," in 5G technology.

No one at the Great Falls Citizens Association's March 15 Webinar featuring a presentation by Milestone Towers and a community-wide call-in about a proposed 114-foot height monopole at Fire Station #42-Wolf Trap at 1315 Beulah Road, Vienna at the intersection of Leesburg Pike (Rt. 7) denied the need to fill in coverage holes between existing Verizon towers in the area.

Caller Lon Waters of the Spring Ridge subdivision in Vienna said he supported the tower since he could not make or receive reliable calls. "That's a problem when we're trying to work from home," he said. Glenn Rosenbluth is a resident of the Wolftrap Meadows subdivision in Vienna, a neighborhood south of the proposed tower. According to LinkedIn, he is Director of Construction and Property Management at Milestone. Rosenbluth said he was paying, "God knows what for wireless; it's three, four hundred dollars ...I completely support this project." Naod Desta, Radio Frequency Design Engineer at Verizon Wireless, confirmed rolling terrain and tree density negatively impact cellular coverage.

Many callers voiced common wireless woes over aesthetics, residential property values, radio frequency (RF) emissions exposure levels, macro vs. small cell technology, and 5G preference, knowing other infrastructure would be required beyond the proposed monopole to handle the high-band spectrum of 5G. A few callers, though, brought forth information that could threaten approval of the Special Exception required for the project.

Applicant Milestone Tower Limited Partnership IV and the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County filed in the fall of 2020 a Proffered Condition Amendment to amend RZ 78D060 for modifications and development conditions to allow telecommunications facilities. Since the proposed site, public property Fire Station #42 is in an R-2 Residential District, per Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance, monopole structures require a Special Exception approval.

LEESBURG PIKE is considered the gateway to Great Falls, according to Jennifer Falcone
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of GFCA. Vienna and Great Falls residences face Station #42, each on different sides of the pike according to MapQuest. The Planning Commission hearing on the Special Exception is May 5 and the Board of Supervisors' hearing with the tentative final vote on the matter is on June 8.

According to Chris Harold, Vice President of Milestone Towers beyond the monopole, Milestone plans to install a 50 by 50-foot fenced compound, remove five trees and plant fifteen to twenty trees and install an access road. The tower will initially hold Verizon antennas but likely AT&T and T-Mobile as well. 5G technology will not be on the tower now, according to Harold.

Harold said "macros" is what Milestone calls towers typically 100 to 200 feet in height. They have a range of one to two miles and are meant to overlay coverage in an area. On the other hand, small cells are shorter structures. They are generally positioned in more dense urban areas—a canister on top of a light pole, traffic light, or on the side of a building. Each has a coverage range of approximately 300 to a 500-foot radius and enhances the macro site, offloading its traffic. "(A small cell) fills in spots where the macro site is unable to reach," said Harold.

Desta added that when Verizon identifies coverage holes in its capacity, it deploys a small cell to offload traffic. "At this time, we do not have any proposal or request for funding to deploy small systems in this area," Desta said.

Harold disputed most caller concerns, citing data and endeavoring to mollify residents opposed to the tower. When he did not, Milestone consultants and callers on the line affiliated with Milestone weighed in.

Caller John Callahan, a resident of A Country Place, the neighborhood south and adjoining adjacent Fire Station #42, said a proposed telecommunications tower at Andrews Chapel United Methodist Church on Rt. 7 received a rejection a few years ago by the Board of Supervisors. "Why should it not be rejected now?" "We're not trying to kick this pole down the road to the next community, which was what was done to us here," he said. Callahan asked, "How can this



PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Fire Station #42- Wolf Trap at 1315 Beulah Road, Vienna is in an R-2 Residential District, and the proposed site for a 114-foot height monopole, part of a telecommunications facility. Since a monopole is not permitted in an R-2 District Applicant Milestone Tower Limited Partnership IV and the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County filed for a Special Exception.

"How can this (monopole) not impact and crush property values in our small community?"

— John Callahan,
a resident of A Country Place

(monopole) not impact and crush property values in our small community?"

Harold acknowledged studies citing antennas as problematic to buyers. He rebutted, saying, "There are conflicting studies that say there are no effects on property values." Harold cited his informal study as a licensed broker. Harold said he pulled home sales data near Matchless Body Works, Inc. on Rt.7 where a tower is located. According to Fairfax County, the zoning description for the Matchless site is I-5 industrial-general.

"Sixty-two transactions have happened from 2007 until today...Property values have increased...by 29 percent," Harold said. Meanwhile, a one-third mile away near Sta-

tion #42, 96 homes sold in the same timeframe and property values decreased 16 percent, according to Harold.

John Nelson, President of Ciara Estates Homeowners Association, said, "This (seeing an image of the monopole superimposed on a photo of the neighborhood) is an eyesore...visible from most of the homes in our homeowners' association." Harold proposed an alternative to the planned 114-foot telecommunications monopole tower, a 122-foot-tall tree pole monopine tower, with its additional 8 feet of faux tree branches "to make it with a crown, not a flat top toilet brush style."

Som Venkatanarayan of Vienna said, "This is industrial power, not (appropriate) in an R-2 zone. It is a huge health hazard." Caller Paul Dougan responded. He is a telecommunications consultant for Milestone and a Registered Professional Engineer in Virginia specializing in RF safety electromagnetic energy FCC compliance. "No areas at ground level will exceed or approach 1 percent of the federal safety standard, which contains a substantial margin of safety," he said.

CALLER Katherine Chalmers questioned Verizon not deploying 5G technology on the proposed tower. Harold answered, "At some point, they will...as all towers will be."

The Federal Trade Commission voted unanimously on March 17 to open the mid-range, 3.45 GHz for 5G flexibility making it available for auction and deployment in next-generation 5G networks. The FCC is planning to start the auction in October.

One of the final callers, Doug Lovejoy, is a resident of A Country Place. He said in 1989 when the fire station was first proposed, the County said there would be no commercial development on the fire station's acreage. In 1995, a similar cell power company proposed similar power, with citizens voicing the same concerns. With the session videotaped, Lovejoy said he filed a Freedom of Information Act request and received a copy of the tape in which there's an eight-minute segment that described "the County's commitments to our community."

"That cell phone tower was defeated for a number of purposes but also because that commitment did not provide access to that site to commercial ventures," Lovejoy said.

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A year later, Covid continues to be the most compelling, most local issue that we face.

Here at Local Media Connection LLC, Covid has posed an existential threat to continue the community service that has been ongoing since 1784.

Every family has faced unprecedented disruption between schools being closed and the advent of distance learning; work is remote, except for those people who must go out to jobs and the risks that entails. Every business has been challenged; many have closed; some have been mortally wounded. Thousands of local people have died, with tens of thousands having been ill with Covid. We have produced dozens of stories about struggles of food insecurity, learning to “pivot,” obituaries, how to get vaccinated and beyond. We bring you details about covid, testing and vaccination with a local and personal view. Recent column: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/03/-person-and-home-class-one-community-reston/>

www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/johnson-and-johnson-jab-lubber-run-arlington-count/

An election critical to Virginia is coming up this fall. Do you know that the Democratic primary is June 8? That Republicans choose their candidates for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and some delegates at a May 8 convention?

If you think state elections don't matter, we'll try to convince you how important they are between now and then. Recent story on the race for Governor: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/12/mcauliffe-picks-support-alexandria/>

Perhaps you are more concerned about schools, teachers, students and holding elected officials accountable for your children's education, teacher safety and returning to the classroom. Recent story on schools: <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2021/mar/03/-person-and-home-class-one-community-reston/>

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You need local newspapers. Local newspapers still need your help.

We at the Gazette Packet/Local Media Connection are so grateful for the 500 people who have pitched in more than \$38,000 to get us this far. It has made all the difference. Many more people have helped by sharing our appeal, by telling us why our efforts matter to them. You send a letter to the editor here: www.connectionnewspapers.com/contact/letter/

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— MARY KIMM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

In Fairfax County, the Pandemic Shows that Workers Need a Voice

To the Editor:

County employees work tirelessly to provide essential services, often behind the scenes, to make sure our county continues to run and families get what they need during this difficult time. As the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors discusses the budget for the next fiscal year, county employees find themselves in the same position; wringing their hands hoping that the county will hear their concerns, respect their hard work and invest in them. Every year, county employees must testify to justify the pay, resources and support we need to do our jobs and maintain the services that Fairfax county families depend on. If this pandemic has taught us anything, it's that we must listen to each other. Fairfax county employees deserve a voice and a seat at the table.

So, here's my testimony...

When the pandemic hit, like many people, I was filled with worry and uncertainty. Worried about my job and my fellow childcare providers in the School Age Child Care (SACC) program in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). Worried about the well-being and safety of the kids in my care. The safety of my wife and me was also a major concern, since we are both considered high risk for COVID-19 for medical reasons. Fortunately, I was able to be temporarily reassigned as part of a job match program, but many of my colleagues weren't as fortunate.

We are essential workers who provide af-

fordable childcare before school, after school and during school breaks for school-aged children in Fairfax, including children with special needs. For many parents, including essential workers, we are their only source of childcare and the only way they can actually go to work. We are here, even when schools are closed. But

despite the importance of our work, we are often left behind. For county childcare providers, the daily struggle to get information about protocols and worksites is stunning--we've resorted to relying on the FCPS website and informal networks among co-workers for information and updates, not our supervisors. Plus, the apathy towards employees' concerns continues to be demoralizing.

Sadly, in an industry like childcare, where the majority of workers are women and people of color, the work and safety concerns of employees are often dismissed. Pay inequities and lack of benefits are basically ignored. All

workers deserve to be respected, protected on the job, and paid a living wage. As a white man, I've seen the level of privilege that has been afforded to me and denied others, further perpetuating racial disparity and lowering the morale of some of the county's most dedicated and skilled workers. The same issues can be found in other Fairfax county departments. We can and we must do better; for the sake of the county, its employees, and the diverse community we serve.

This is why we are joining together in our

union, SEIU Virginia 512, to win a new tool—called collective bargaining—to push for bigger investments in our jobs and the essential services we provide. By negotiating a contract with the county through collective bargaining, we can lock in our gains and win a seat at the table so we can push for the changes we need to ensure all of us can thrive.

We urge the county to partner with us to pass a collective bargaining ordinance and invest in good jobs so together we can build a stronger Fairfax, no matter where we are from or the color of our skin.

The concept isn't new -- 47 other states have the right to collectively bargain and it's time that Virginia employees have the same rights. Also, recent polling shows 68 percent of Virginia voters strongly support public service employees having collective bargaining rights. Those who know how to do the job should have a seat at the table and be involved in the decisions about those jobs. It simply makes sense and is the right thing to do.

If Fairfax County Employees are allowed to partner with the county, we could save precious time and money, effectively expand and adjust services that families rely on, make responsible choices that invest in workers and create good jobs, reduce turnover in the workforce, improve public services and improve worker morale.

Imagine how much stronger Fairfax County would be if we were allowed to work together? Maybe, county employees won't have to testify every year to justify being respected and paid a living wage for the work we do, because it's recognized in a contract. I and thousands of other county employees look forward to that day coming soon.

Norman Hall
Childcare Specialist



Norman Hall

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Honest, Moving Stories of Our Time

PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



Catherine Knecht

BY ELLIOT BAIRD
LAKE BRADDOCK SECONDARY SCHOOL

“What separates us?” asked the opening line of Langley High School’s “Long Division.” This was the question the show grappled with, and it led to answers both evocative and troublesome, as well as hopeful and uplifting.

“Long Division” was conceived by Langley’s theatre class as a reaction to the storming of the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6. It is a work of devised theatre, meaning the show was conceived, written, and performed collaboratively by an ensemble. It centered on themes of unity and division during the pandemic and our tense political climate.

The student-produced script told honest, moving stories that were incredibly pertinent to our time. They were relatable and spoke very true to the experience of today’s American teen, but also to a broader human experience of the balance between division and connection.

The show was held up by a series of earnest, truthful performances from the large ensemble. Every cast member gave dedicated, polished performances. One notable performance was that of Conard Racich in his voice-over work, using a droning monotone that spoke perfectly to the endless tediousness of online

school. Another was Elizabeth Tippens and Devran Johnson’s chemistry, which made the distance of acting virtually between them seem nonexistent.

What really brought the piece to life was its flawless editing by Conard Racich, Elizabeth Tippens, and Celeste Deale. They used stock footage and clips of news broadcasts to illustrate the events the script discussed, and created a sleek, professional-looking product that was also deeply emotional and moving. They also manipulated the actors’ voices and added sounds and music to incredible dramatic effect. Their work truly took advantage of the recorded form, using it to make a show completely unlike what could be performed live.

Langley High School’s “Long Division” shined a light on the problems facing our society today, but also provided a hopeful look at how we can move forward from here.

The performance can be watched at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmNpfmYQr0o>

CAPPIES REVIEW

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Virtual Public Hearing. 7:30 p.m. Via Zoom. The McLean Community Center (MCC) is asking residents of Small District 1A-Dranesville, who pay a real estate tax surcharge to support the center, to "Fill Us In" on what kinds of new programs and services they would like to see offered and/or improved upon in the planning for the center's FY2023 fiscal year. Residents can access an online survey to submit their ideas, here: <https://conta.cc/3ckvdsU>. In addition, MCC is holding a Virtual Public Hearing on FY 2023 Programs at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, over Zoom (ZOOM Meeting ID: 817 619 39845; Password: 559547). The hearing is the first step in planning for the FY2023 budget cycle, which begins July 1, 2022 and ends June 30, 2023.

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NAACP Hosts Women Who Lead. 6-7 p.m. Virtual. This virtual conversation will feature six women in Fairfax County who are leaders in their respective fields. This event is an opportunity to honor six inspirational Black women who provide invaluable leadership right here in our community.

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PANELISTS
Michelle Leete, 1st Vice President, Fairfax County NAACP (Moderator); Karen Keys-Gamarra, Member at Large, Fairfax County School Board; Valencia Martin Wallace, Deputy Commissioner, International Patent Cooperation; Evelyn Spain, Co-Chair, Women in NAACP, Fairfax County NAACP; Judge Jane Reynolds, First African American Female Judge, Virginia's 15th Judicial District. Dr. Uchechi Wosu-Isirimah, Medical Director, MedStar; Owner, Brighthope Home Health Care. Visit the website: tinyurl.com/fairfax-naacp-womenwholead

FRIDAY/MARCH 26
Gavin Glakas, a well known local artist and the recipient of awards from The Portrait Society of America and the Butler Institute of American Art, will be the featured presenter on the Friday, March 26 meeting of the McLean Art Society. Mr. Glakas attended Washington University in St. Louis and The Slade School of Art in London. He teaches locally at The Yellow Barn Studios. As an adjunct to his portraiture he will focus on painting technique for hair. The meeting will be conducted on ZOOM with the business portion starting at 10a.m. to be followed by the artist's demonstration. Visitors are welcome and can contact M.A.S. President Ray Goodrow at raygoodrow@aol.com to be given the link enabling them to join.

Past issues of

THE CONNECTION
NEWSPAPERS

back to 2008
are available at
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TUESDAY/MARCH 30
Lunch 'n Life. Noon to 2 p.m. Shepherd's Center of Northern Virginia. Join them for the 1st virtual Lunch 'n Life, sponsored by One Neighborhood Foundation. Chef Patrick Bazin, owner of Bazin's on Church, will prepare a delicious lunch for drive-by pick up. The speaker is Lydia Russo, co-founder of Vienna Foodies and founder of One Neighborhood Foundation. Cost: \$20 pp. To register, call the SCNOVA hotline at 703 281-0601 or visit scnova.org/announcements

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



Scouts and families gather for the October 2020 cleanup.

Celebrating Earth Day in Great Falls

Cub Scout Pack 55 in Great Falls has adopted Utterback Store Road from Georgetown Pike to Leesburg Pike. To celebrate Earth Day, children and families of Cub Scout Pack 55 will meet at Forestville Elementary school

and pick up trash on April 24. "This service project allows us to show respect for the Earth," said Pack 55 Cubmaster Darius Sarraf, "and we're glad that we can help make our home school look good too."



Forestville first grader Hasan Khawaja and third grader Finn Sarraf.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

CALENDAR

MARCH 20 TO APRIL 11

The Science Behind Flowers. Join the Children's Science Center virtually to explore the chemistry at work behind the petal and witness how capillary action can help flowers become acid-base indicators. Hear from a celebrity scientist to learn more about invasive and native plants, and the science of ecological restoration. Then, join in on the fun at home by trying out an experiment of your own. Program will be streamed online from March 20 - April 11. (<https://childsci.org/>; 703-648-3130)

In addition, visitors can plan self-guided tours of the region's splendid gardens, including these sites:

Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, a 90-acre oasis featuring more than 100 cherry trees surrounding a lovely lake, plus an extensive shade garden, native wildflowers, gazebos, birds, butterflies, seasonal blooms and the very unique Korean Bell Garden.

Green Spring Gardens, an outdoor classroom, national historic site, and museum featuring a wooded stream, a valley with ponds, a native plant garden, over 20 thematic demonstration gardens, and a greenhouse filled with tropical plants.

George Washington's Mount Vernon, the home to America's first president, features four bountiful gardens to explore and enjoy. In addition, experience wide-open spaces, wooded landscapes, and a quarter-mile long forest trail - not to mention the vast educational resources available on site.

MARCH 20-APRIL 17

The 2021 Vienna Photo Show will be on display at the Vienna Community Center March 20 through April 17. The exhibit will be open 8 a.m.-9 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturdays. Applications to the annual photo show will be accepted 3-8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, March 19. The entrance fee is \$5. Assigned drop-off times will be staged in 10-minute intervals to allow for social distancing and to keep the number of people in the Vienna Community Center at one time to a minimum. Due to space limitations, only 62 photographers will be accepted into this year's competition, and each photographer will be limited to one photo in the exhibit. Applications to the annual photo show will be accepted 3-8 p.m. Thursday, March 18, and 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday, March 19. The entrance fee is \$5. Assigned drop-off times will be staged in 10-minute intervals to allow for social distancing and to keep the number of people in the Vienna Community Center at one time to a minimum. All participants are asked to wear a face covering and practice social distancing at all times when in the community center. Ribbons will be awarded in seven categories: animals, architecture, nature, pictorial, photojournalism, portraiture, and scenic. Visit viennava.gov/photo to register and for additional instructions and details.

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Time Will Tell



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Ordinarily I'd be writing this column this weekend - after this week's events. Events, and I use that term loosely, that will either sustain my good fortune - or change it for the worse. What I'm referring to are results from my bi-monthly/quarterly diagnostic scans. This week I'll be CT-scanned from the pelvis to the neck and will have had my bones' scanned as well. The associated lab work and blood pressure check required pale in comparison to the significance of the findings from these two scans. Scan results which will tell me how I feel, a day or two later when I will receive electronically the radiologist's assessment/interpretation of the scans. But since I'll be out of town, with limited computer access and only a "stupid" phone (no internet capability), not a smart phone to use, I'll be left to my own devices - literally, until I return home Sunday afternoon.

Since I'll likely not receive any results before we leave on Friday, and moreover, not have the time to write a column this coming weekend (last weekend when the paper publishes on the 24th), I am minding my own business six days earlier than usual in hopes that what I don't know now won't hurt me later. And given that I take my avocation/column writing seriously, rather than reprint an old column, I am writing a new/current column in advance to continue to lead you regular readers down my garden's path.

The path to which I refer hopefully will be a path of least resistance that will enable me to assimilate all my forthcoming medical data into some coherent assessment of where I am, healthwise. Will I be able to maintain my status quo: 10 MG of levamisole or will I have to change protocols and no longer stay on the horse that brought me? I have to hope I can continue on at my present pace because the 14 MG and 24 MG doses each had unpleasant side effects which lead to the reductions in the first place. And to complicate the dose possibilities, each of the higher doses lead to stable/some shrinkage on the CT scan and a significant reduction as well in my cancer markers, down from 200 to 4. This will be my first scan since I've taken the smaller dose. To say I'm somewhat invested in the outcome of this week's scans would be the understatement of the universe.

Unfortunately, none of this information will likely have been emailed to me - at home before we leave town, and I'll not have time and place to write a column this weekend while out of town. Therefore, I am submitting this column, written six days ahead of my typical deadline, with the best of intentions. In effect, today becomes just another day ("the daze of my life") of a person undergoing treatment for an incurable form of cancer; that type being papillary thyroid cancer stage IV versus the original/indisputed diagnosis: non small cell lung cancer, stage IV.

It will definitely be awkward knowing that diagnostic information about my health/presumptive welfare is in an inbox waiting for my log-in information. It's hardly ideal, but as a long-time cancer survivor, I have been here before and have done that. I'm not thrilled about being away when my life might possibly be hanging in the balance. I guess that's what cell phones are for: reaching out and sort of touching someone. If my doctors really need to talk with me, they are welcome to call. You can be sure my phone will be fully charged and with me at all times. After all, it might be good news, too. I mean, stranger things have happened: being diagnosed with "terminal" lung cancer after never having smoked cigarettes. Granted, upwards of 25% of new lung cancer cases are never-smokers, but still, with no history of cancer in my family and never having been a smoker, I kind of figured I had a fighting chance to avoid this disease. I guess my reward is 12+ years after my initial "13 month to two year" prognosis, I'm still alive and writing.

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



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