

# CONNECTION

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Fairfax High Advanced Musical Theater students, (from left) Maddie Tyler, Julia Stein, Judah Widzer and Lauren Farley, dance to "The Nicest Kids in Town" from the show, "Hairspray."

## Dance Day In Fairfax

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PHOTO BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

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SCAN ME

# Two Fatal Crashes

A 62-year-old woman died Oct. 4 following a crash that occurred around 1:56 p.m. at the intersection of Franconia Road and Guilford Drive in the Alexandria area of Fairfax County. Detectives from the crash reconstruction unit preliminarily determined Jeanette Shifflet, of Alexandria, was the driver and lone occupant of a 2015 Buick Encore traveling east on Franconia Road when the vehicle left the roadway and struck two utility poles. Shifflet was taken to an area hospital, where she succumbed to her injuries.

The cause of the crash remains under investigation. Preliminarily, detectives do not believe speed or alcohol were factors in the crash.

Anyone with information about this crash is asked to contact our Crash Reconstruction Unit at 703-280-0543. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through Crime Solvers by phone – 1-866-411-TIPS (866-411-8477), by text – Type “FCCS” plus tip to 847411.

This is the 12th non-pedestrian related fatality in the County to date in 2021.

Year to date, in 2020 there were 8 non-pedestrian related fatalities.

## Fatal Crash on I-66

At 2:37 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 1, Virginia State Police responded to a multi-vehicle crash on west-bound I-66 just east of Route 29.

A 2011 Hyundai Sonata was traveling west on I-66 in the left center lane when it moved into the right center lane, striking a 2018 Dodge Journey. The Sonata continued into the right lane, striking a 2015 Freightliner box truck. It then moved back to the left, crossing all lanes of traffic and striking the ditch on the left side of the road.

The driver of the Dodge and the driver of the box-truck were uninjured and both were wearing seatbelts.

The driver of the Hyundai, Charles N. Ullman, 70, of Haymarket, Va., was transported to Reston Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. He was wearing a seatbelt.

The crash remains under investigation.

## NEW DATA REVEALS MASSIVE LEARNING LOSSES IN FCPS (SCHOOLQUALITY.VIRGINIA.GOV)

READING

↓ 8 POINTS

SCIENCE

↓ 19 POINTS

MATH

↓ 25 POINTS

Meanwhile, Democrats are focused on pushing their divisive “woke” ideology on kids.

Had enough? Vote Republican.

SOL SCORES EXPOSE THE TRAGEDY OF A LOST YEAR (SUN GAZETTE, 09/02/21)

Fairfax Students Back to School Amid COVID-19 Chaos, CRT Protests (Washington Examiner, 08/23/21)

Fairfax Schools Pay New York Consultants for Critical Race Theory Curricula (The Federalist, 05/07/21)



SCAN ME

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# Lords and Ladies Fairfax 2021 Twenty individuals honored.

BY MERCIA HOBSON  
THE CONNECTION

**T**wenty honorees who were named Lord and Lady Fairfax of their magisterial districts and at-large for 2021 were celebrated at last week's Board of Supervisors meeting. Each of the nine elected members of the Fairfax County Board Supervisors selected two outstanding individuals from their districts to receive the prestigious award as did the Chairman. The honorees demonstrated exceptional volunteer service, heroism or other special accomplishments to receive the award.

The tradition of the Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards program began in 1984 to recognize the outstanding volunteer leaders of Fairfax County and is usually held in conjunction with the Celebrate Fairfax Festival. However, Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. canceled the 2021 festival due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Lords and Ladies

At-Large: Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay  
Pamela Montesinos  
Andres Jimenez  
Braddock: Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw  
Leeann Alberts  
Robert Cosgriff  
Dranesville: Supervisor John W. Foust  
Janie Strauss  
William Canis  
Hunter Mill: Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn  
Brenda Irons-LeGesne  
Alvarez LeGesne Jr.  
Lee: Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk  
Renee Grebe  
Keith Foxx  
Mason: Supervisor Penelope A. Gross  
Dr. Nancy Joyner  
Mr. William Lecos  
Mount Vernon: Supervisor Daniel G. Storck  
Ms. Lisa Sales  
Dr. Keary Kincannon  
Providence: Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik  
Mercedes Dash  
Ken McMillon  
Springfield: Supervisor Pat Herry  
Christy Hudson  
Evan Draim  
Sully: Supervisor Kathy L. Smith  
Debbie Kilpatrick  
Carlos Carrero

## Chairman Jeff McKay Pamela Montesinos

and her teammates at Western Fairfax Christian Ministries have been a beacon of hope for so many in Fairfax County as the COVID-19 pandemic has created a crisis unlike any that most of us have seen before. WFCM has been a trusted partner, and provider, for our Fairfax County community since the start of the pandemic. This support has not wavered, and Pamela continues to lead the Client Operations and Programs at WFCM at "full steam ahead" to ensure that our residents at risk for hunger and homelessness are cared for with grace and dignity.

**Andres Jimenez** is a model of citizen involvement in local government. Through multiple avenues, he has found a way to speak up for causes important to him and in support



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Pamela Montesinos**



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Andres Jimenez**

of the most vulnerable members of our community. As an environmental advocate, he has been a crucial voice to serve as the Chairman's appointee to the Planning Commission. In this role, he has dedicated countless hours and long evenings to thoroughly vetting land use policies to ensure each one meets the needs of our community. He has committed to bringing an equity lens into every decision he makes in this role. Notably, Andres stepped up to serve on the Chairman's Task Force for Equity and Opportunity this past year, to further advocate for a future in Fairfax County where all community members are able to thrive

## Braddock Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw

**Leeann C. Alberts** is a retired attorney with more than 40 years of professional experience primarily in Federal Government and commercial contract law. Born and raised in Massachusetts, she is a 1981 graduate of Suffolk University School of Law in Boston and also holds a Masters of Business Administration from Western New England College. Her undergraduate degree is from Boston College. Ms. Alberts is the Braddock District Representative for the Fairfax County Health Care Advisory Board (HCAB), and the immediate past Chair of the Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (FADSB). She currently also consults on the All Abilities Activities Center project (AAAC). She has previously served on the Northern Virginia Training Center Task Force, the Long Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC), and the Community Consolidated Funding Pool (CCFP) evaluation team for Fairfax County. Her volunteer work outside of the Fairfax County Government umbrella includes holding the position of Vice President of the Board of Directors for the ENdependence Center of Northern Virginia (ECNV), as well as Membership Vice President for the Kings Park Civic Association Board (KPCA). A person who has had significant disabilities since childhood, she is a longtime disability rights advocate, having served as a member of the Board and President of the Center for Living and Working in Worcester, MA in the mid-1980s. She was also a member of the State of Massachusetts Commission for the Developmentally Disabled. Leeann and her husband Brian live in Springfield, VA. In her spare time, she has sung with the Metropolitan Chorus and the Vienna Choral Society performing at the Kennedy Center, as well as at the Lincoln Center, Alice Tully Hall in New York City, the Boston Symphony Orchestra, at Tanglewood and with the Boston Lyric Opera Company.



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**Leeann Alberts**

**Bob Cosgriff** is the incumbent Braddock District representative and Vice-Chair on the Trails, Sidewalks and Bikeways Committee. He was initially appointed by then-Supervisor John Cook in 2017 and reappointed by Supervisor James Walkinshaw in 2020.

Current Community Service: Fairfax County Medical Reserve Corps (since 2012); completed Incident Response System certification, Safety Officer certification, and several other training requirements, and participated in a number of full-scale field training exercises as well as real-world mobilizations, including for COVID-19 support

Mr. Cosgriff is a graduate of Villanova University (BA, Honors Program—Humanities,



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Robert "Bob" Cosgriff**

magna cum laude) and earned an MA in Education from Pepperdine University. He served on active duty in the U.S. Navy for 24 years, retiring as a commander, and subsequently worked in higher educational administration and defense contracting.

## Lee Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk

As a 20-year resident of Lee District, **Renee Grebe** works to connect residents with the value of their local ecology. She is an active resident of Loft Ridge HOA, having helped to install a rain garden, a native plant meadow, and is currently the co-chair of the Conservation Committee. Since 2012, she has been a Fairfax County Invasive Management Area (IMA) Volunteer Coordinator at Clermont and Loftridge Parks, working with volunteers throughout the year to remove invasive plants. In 2014, she became a Certified Virginia Master Naturalist and has since contributed over 600 volunteer hours to the program. Since 2016, she has served on Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors on diverse environmental policies. Since 2019, she has been the Northern Virginia Conservation Advocate for the Audubon Naturalist Society, leading efforts in Northern Virginia to protect watersheds and respond to the climate emergency. Most recently she served as a Lee District representative on the County's Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) taskforce. She looks forward to leading Fairfax County towards a more sustainable, equitable future.



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
**Renee Grebe**



PHOTO BY JOAN BRADY/THE CONNECTION

**Keith Foxx with mentee Travis Parnell in 2016.**

**Keith Foxx** has been mentoring youth in the County's FairfaxFamilies4Kids program, continuously, now for nearly 20 years. He nurtures and guides mentees, making sure they are on the right path, helping them to be the best version of themselves. This successful Howard University-trained civil engineer continues to advise and mentor a 31-year old that he first met when the man was 14 years old. Keith has served for four years on the PTSA at Lewis High School, and similarly volunteers with the Key Middle School PTA. He will tell you that his deep commitment to youth stems largely from his own early experiences growing up in difficult, often dangerous surroundings in Boston. His parents were both employed; his Dad was also a Vietnam veteran. Keith was a very good student, especially in mathematics. He played varsity basketball and varsity football. Yet violence was always near for him and other young Black youth. His mom worried about possible gang involvement and packed Keith off to a private school in Cambridge. When Keith returned home after his first year at Howard, he and a cousin returned their dates to their homes, finding an ex-boyfriend raging and firing a bullet that hit Keith in his abdomen. The

following summer Keith learned that his cousin had been murdered. The pain, hurt and sense of guilt endure. Foxx is driven and compelled to intervene and redirect this pattern of lost opportunity, failure, likely violence, and possible death. He is fully dedicated to the mentoring work of modeling responsible behavior and interventionist engagement.

## Mount Vernon Supervisor Daniel G. Storck

**Lisa Sales** has worked in both public and private sectors and served as a consultant for numerous nonprofit organizations. Over the course of her career, she has worked for the Executive Office of the President, two New York State Governors, a California Congressman, and multiple state and local officials. However, she pours her heart into her volunteer efforts and is a trailblazer in women's equity, domestic and sexual violence prevention and victim support, and racial equality. Lisa was a very vocal member of the Commission on Women, especially for issues in disenfranchised or marginalized communities. Due to Lisa's advocacy, the Commission's bylaws are the first in the county to include an equity statement. She was a driving force behind the Virginia General Assembly ratifying the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) last year and continues to work to get Congress to fully ratify the amendment. Lisa was also one of the "Three Musketeers" who was determined to bring a domestic violence shelter opened in the South County area in 2019. Understandably, Lisa's initiatives, strong drive for equity, and mindfulness makes her a formidable and well respected advocate in the community.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Lisa Sales**

## Reverend Dr. Keary Kincannon

is a leader and innovator in the Mount Vernon community. Keary earned his doctoral degree from Wesley Theological Seminary and began his career as a community organizer. Knowing he did not want to serve a traditional church, in 1996, he founded Rising Hope Mission Church to support the community of the least, the lost, the lonely, and the left out, along Route One. Under his leadership, Rising Hope provides 125,000 direct services to 6,000 individuals, operates a food pantry serving 1,000 families, a kitchen serving 16,000 hot meals and a hypothermia shelter serving 125. Keary is also a founding pastor of V.O.I.C.E. (Virginians Organized for Interfaith Community Engagement) a broad-based, multi-racial, multi-faith, multi-issue, non-partisan citizens' organization dedicated to social justice issues of low/ middle-income residents. After 26 years of ministering, Keary is officially retiring, but he has left an indelible mark on the lives of so many residents and he will remain an active leader in our community.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Dr. Keary Kincannon**

## Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry

**Christy Hudson** was working as a fitness instructor when the pandemic struck and quickly grew concerned that her children's access to education was at risk.



FAIRFAX COUNTY

**Christy Hudson**



Children enjoy a carnival ride at a previous festival.



Attendees appreciating a magician's tricks at a past fall festival.



The lumberjack show – a crowd-pleaser in 2019 – will return to the festival.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

# Fairfax Fall Festival: Food, Crafts, Music

45th annual celebration is this Saturday, Oct. 9.

BY BONNIE HOBBS  
THE CONNECTION

The 45th annual Fairfax Fall Festival is this Saturday, Oct. 9, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and the fun includes crafts, food, beer gardens, children's rides and activities, plus three stages of live entertainment. Admission is free, and people of all ages will find lots to see, do and enjoy. (Pets, however, are discouraged).

Vendors and the carnival will end at 5 p.m. But the entertainment revs up again from 5:30-8:30 p.m. with a music concert by 1980s tribute band, The Reflex,

in Old Town Square, at University Drive and North Street.

"The Fall Festival celebrates the best that Fairfax City has to affirm as a community that supports local businesses," said Fairfax Mayor David Meyer. "Our festival is a premier event celebrating the creative vendors who share their talents and products, especially for the upcoming holiday season. For several decades, this festival has attracted new and long-time customers and is a mainstay of the fall season in our City."

More than 400 crafts booths and displays will line both sides of University Drive, Main Street and Sager Avenue. And back by popular demand, there'll be professional lumberjack shows on University Drive, throughout the day, including interactive lumberjack camps for children.

FALL Festival

Fall Festival Activities & Attractions

- ① Main Stage
- ② Children's Stage & Amusement Rides
- ③ Old Town Square Stage
- ④ All American Lumberjack Show
- ⑤ Touch - a - Truck
- ⑥ Business Expo
- ⑦ Old Town Fairfax Business Association & Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce
- ⑧ City of Fairfax Museum & Visitors Center
- ⑨ Scooter Demonstraion



Thank you to our Sponsors



SEE FAIRFAX FALL FESTIVAL, PAGE 5 Official map of the 2021 Fairfax Fall Festival.

## Students Perform During National Dance Day

Fairfax City celebrated National Dance Day on Saturday, Sept. 18, in Old Town Square.

PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/  
THE CONNECTION



Fairfax High Advanced Musical Theater students, (from left) Evie Izdepski, Logan Baker, Maddie Tyler, Julia Stein, Judah Widzer and Lauren Farley, dance to "The Nicest Kids in Town" from the show, "Hairspray."



The finale of a number from Children of the Light Dancers.



Children of the Light Dancers performing.



From left, Fairfax Academy's Madi Butler and Samantha Couture.



Students in the Fairfax Academy's Dance II, III and IV programs performed.



Dance students from the Fairfax Academy.



Fairfax Academy dancers leap for joy during their routine.



The Fairfax Academy's Madeleine Tyler strikes a serious pose.

# Fairfax Fall Festival

FROM PAGE 4

The festival fun also includes a business expo and Touch-a-Truck. Presented by Fairfax City Parks & Recreation and Department of Public Works, Touch-a-Truck will be on University Drive near Armstrong Street and will enable children to see and explore City of Fairfax work vehicles and equipment.

A wide variety of food will be available at two food courts – one at University Drive and Sager Avenue, and the other at University Drive next to the SunTrust Bank parking lot at 4020 University Drive. In addition, three beer gardens will be at the Main Stage at University Drive and South Street, in Old Town Square, and at University Drive and Sager Avenue.

The Children's Stage in the SunTrust Bank parking lot will feature singers, dancers and magicians. Carnival rides and face painting will be in that area, too. (Rides are weather-dependent).

Fun is also on tap, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Fire Station 3 at 4081 University Drive. The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department will host Sparky's Harvest Bash, including

an open house where children can learn about fire prevention and safety, plus an appearance by Sparky the Fire Dog.

A full slate of entertainers will perform at the Main Stage and in Old Town Square, as well as on the front porch of Earp's Ordinary and in the Shoppes on Main Street parking lot. (See Entertainment Schedule for details and addresses).

Open houses will also be at the City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., from 9 a.m.-5 p.m., and the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, 10386 Main St., from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Historic Blenheim and Civil War Interpretive Center, 3610 Old Lee Hwy., will offer an interpretive walking trail from noon-4 p.m., plus tours of the historic home's first floor and a guided tour of the site at 1 p.m.

Festival parking is at The Judicial Center parking garage B on Page Avenue and the Old Town Village parking garage (Chain Bridge Road between Whitehead and North Street). In addition, hand-

SEE FAIRFAX FALL FESTIVAL, PAGE 7



Join Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck for a community bike ride on **Saturday, October 23, 2021** **8:30 a.m.**  
**Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House**

Register online  
<https://tinyurl.com/MTVernonBike>

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- Indoors and outdoors, you are more likely to get or spread COVID-19 when you are in close contact with others for a long time.

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

**Is It Safe To Trick-or-Treat This Year?**

**Some COVID-19 mandates have been lifted, some precautions are still urged.**

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL  
 THE CONNECTION

**A**fter Angela Morgan's father died from COVID-19 earlier this year, she was devastated, and she was moved to change her mind about safety precautions. Before her father died, she was annoyed by mask mandates and refused to get a COVID-19 vaccine. As Halloween approaches, Morgan says she has concerns about taking her daughters, ages three and seven, trick-or-treating.

"Halloween is very popular in my neighborhood," said the Bethesda mother. There are hundreds of kids and their parents out and about, almost every house is decorated and the owners give out loads of candy. It will be impossible to avoid crowds and I probably won't be able to stop my seven-year-old from running up with her friends to every house that's giving out candy. My three-year-old is frightened by Halloween costume masks, so I don't know how I'm going to handle that."

Marked by costumes, trick-or-treating and visiting with friends and neighbors, Halloween is one of the sweetest and most popular holidays of the year. With COVID-19 cases and the Delta variant spreading, navigating this time-honored holiday tradition will be complicated for some parents, especially those with children who are under 12, too young for a COVID-19 vaccination.

"Although trick-or-treating occurs outside where the risk of COVID-19 transmission is less, if kids go in groups, there is likely not to be social distancing and there will be contact with people in a lot of different households handing out candy," said Lucy H. Caldwell, director, communications, Fairfax County Health Department. "While some COVID-19 measures are no longer mandatory, it's still important to take precautions to prevent COVID-19 as disease transmission is still happening in our community at a high level. Wearing a mask would be a good thing to do. The CDC has the Halloween Activity Checklist for Parents." <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/downloads/daily-life-coping/Trick-or-treating.pdf>.

Like Morgan's daughter, there are young children



CONNECTION FILE PHOTO BY SHIRLEY RUHE FROM 2020  
**One way to avoid close contact for Halloween trick or treating: Arlington homeowner sends candy or a stuffed animal down one of the two Halloween chutes he built out of leftover heating pipe for Halloween last year.**

who are frightened by Halloween masks that can offer a layer of protection, says Glenda Hernandez Tittle, PhD. education professor at Montgomery College. "If children are afraid of Halloween, it is important to acknowledge those feelings," she said. "Consider selecting fun and interesting costumes for children. Make the connections that Halloween is about pretending and costumes allow us to do that on this day."

Of all the Halloween traditions, trick-or-treating is one of the riskiest because it often means large groups of children crowded around a neighbor's front door grabbing for candy.

"Even though we all love candy, it's not worth putting yourself or others at risk," said Kurt Larrick, Assistant Director, Arlington County Department of Human Services. "Masks, distancing, handwashing, testing, and vaccinations are all important layers of protection when it comes to COVID safety."

Though COVID might be at the forefront of conversations about Halloween safety, Larrick advises the public not to forget other safety measures. "Drive and bike slowly and take precautions at intersections," he said. "There will be many more people of all ages walking around on Halloween than your typical weekday evening, so be sure to take extra care."

"Wear reflective clothing, have a flashlight ... don't pet dogs you don't know [and] don't eat foods that are not wrapped," added Caldwell.

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**Special Connections Calendar 2021**

Advertising Deadlines are the previous Thursdays unless noted.

**OCTOBER**

- 10/6/2021.....Wellbeing: Senior Living Focus
- 10/13/2021.....HomeLifeStyle
- 10/20/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 10/27/2021.....Senior Living
- Connection Families: Safe for Halloween
- 10/2/2021.....Election Preview

**NOVEMBER**

- 11/3/2021.....Wellbeing
- 11/10/20.....HomeLifeStyle
- 11/17/2021.....A+ Camps & Schools
- 11/24/2021.....Senior Living
- Connection Families: Celebration & Gratitude
- Holiday Entertainment & Gift Guide I

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- Oak Hill/Herndon Connection
- Potomac Almanac
- Reston Connection
- Springfield Connection
- Vienna/Oakton Connection

# Fairfax Fall Festival

FROM PAGE 5

icap-accessible shuttle buses will travel to the festival from Fairfax High, 3501 Lion Run, and GMU's Rappahannock Parking Deck, 4400 University Drive, and back again, from 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

Handicapped parking is at City

Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessed via Chain Bridge Road) and Old Town Village parking garage on Chain Bridge Road.

First Aid stations are at the entrance to Old Town Hall and at Fire Station 3. For more festival information, go to [www.FairfaxFallFestival.com](http://www.FairfaxFallFestival.com).

## Entertainment Schedule

### MAIN STAGE

University Drive and South Street  
Sponsored by Fair City Mall  
Emcee: Marc Goldman  
11 a.m. - Lesson Zero  
2:30 p.m. - Hypnotic Willie

10:30-11:30 a.m. - Dirty Gold Brass Band  
Noon-2 p.m. - Cat Janice and Cathy DiToro  
2:30-4:30 p.m. - Justin Suede

### OLD TOWN SQUARE STAGE

University Drive and North Street  
Sponsored by HB Home Services  
10:30 a.m. - Main Street Community Band  
12:30 p.m. - Brian Sanders  
2:30 p.m. - Scott Kurt & Memphis 59

### SHOPPES ON MAIN STREET PARKING LOT

Haus Marzipan Show  
Forever Marzipan Circus combines dazzling aerial choreography, comedic acrobatics and whimsical dance in this 25-minute, two-woman show.  
Show times are 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

### CHILDREN'S STAGE

SunTrust Bank parking lot, 4020 University Drive  
Sponsored by Lidl  
10:30 a.m. - Mr. Gabe & the Circle Time All-Stars  
11:40 a.m. - C4 Performing Arts  
12:30 p.m. - Bach2Rock  
1 p.m. - McGrath Academy of Irish Dancers  
1:25 p.m. - Kids' Nature Show  
2 p.m. - McGrath Academy of Irish Dancers  
2:25 p.m. - Drew Blue Shoes  
3:45 p.m. - Groovy Nate

### ALL AMERICAN LUMBER-JACK SHOW

University Drive  
Sponsored by JL Tree Service  
This popular, All-American Lumberjack Show is back at the festival. Watch competitors throw axes, race across floating logs and wield a variety of sharp saws.  
Show times are 10:30 a.m., noon and 3:30 p.m., with an interactive camp at 1:30 p.m.

### EARP'S ORDINARY PORCH

10420 Main St.

### AFTER FEST CONCERT

Old Town Square  
5:30-8:30 p.m. - The Reflex

# Lords and Ladies Fairfax 2021

FROM PAGE 3

Together with other Fairfax County parents, she was a co-founding member of the Fairfax County Parents Association, who organized to demand accountability and transparency from their School Board and the county school system. Previously an introverted and private person who had dedicated time to volunteering with her children through their schools, sports, and scouting, Christy found herself in the limelight as she became one of the visible faces of FCPS in the pursuit to reopen the schools safely to ensure children did not fall behind. Through her work with the Fairfax County Parents Association, Christy has been a vocal and successful advocate on behalf of parents and children who attend our schools. Having spoken to over a thousand individual parents and listening to their stories, Christy finds motivation in being able to share the stories and hardships of those who struggled with FCPS during virtual instruction.



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
**Evan Draim**

School of Law who has always been drawn to Public Service. Interested in the intersection of public policy and education, he sought ways to be an advocate for individuals with disabilities. He became an Employment Development Specialist where he worked to advocate on behalf of those on the autism spectrum. Leveraging his connections in the community to increase the presence of Service Source, his work included connecting Service Source with local business and political leaders. In his work as legal and public policy fellow, he is continuing to promote the organization. Through his work with veterans in ServiceSource, he learned about the Navy JAG Corps. Evan decided to serve in the Navy JAG Corps following Law School to help gain legal knowledge and be able to advocate for underrepresented communities. In addition to his work with ServiceSource, Evan has served as a volunteer with the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, on the board

SEE LORDS AND LADIES, PAGE 8

Evan Draim is a graduate of Princeton University and George Mason University  
[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

# COMMUNITIES OF WORSHIP



Worship Gathering - Sunday 8:45 & 11 AM  
Sunday School 10:10 AM  
Sun. Evening - Realtime Worship & Youth 6 PM  
Family Night - Wednesday 7:15 PM  
Home Life Groups, College/Young Adult Ministries, and Living Free Support Groups  
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# Why I Walk to End Alzheimer's

Walker Name: Jill McCarroll

Hometown: Fairfax, VA

Team Name: Helen's Hikers

Participating in the Reston Walk on Oct. 24

How many years have you been involved with the Walk?

I first walked with the DC walk in 2007, did it twice there, then switched to the Reston walk. I've walked every year since 2007, so this year is my 15th Walk.

I am doing volunteering this year on the day of the walk, with my parents who live in Reston who are also volunteering with me this year! I also volunteered in 2019.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Team Helen is small but mighty! For years, it's been me, my parents, and my friend Rose Aquilino. Left to right: Dianne Carlivati, Peter Carlivati, Rose Aquilino, Jill McCarroll

What is your Walk Team name?

Helen's Hikers. We're named after my maternal grandmother who passed away from Alzheimer's in 2002.

Q: If known, how much money did you raise last year?

Since you've been involved?

A: I know I raised over \$1500 in 2020, over \$1500 in 2019, over \$1500 in 2018, over \$1000 in 2017, over \$750 in 2016, and over \$1000 in 2015. I think I've probably raised at least \$500 each year in the earlier years, so I'm confident it's been well over \$10,000 over the full 15 years, or you could say over \$6,000 for the past 5 years (this year I'm already over \$800). My donors - all family and/or friends - have been tremendously generous.

Q: Why do you support the Walk and the Alzheimer's Association?

A: Alzheimer's disease has — and continues — to touch my family. For over a dozen years I've walked in memory of my grandmother, Helen, supporting the Alzheimer's Association and the services and research they provide to my family and others'.

Q: Please share a favorite memory of your loved one.

A: My grandmother had a long battle with Alzheimer's. Even when she was struggling, she still clearly enjoyed her time with her family. She and my grandfather (who took

such wonderful, patient care of her) would visit us in Reston fairly regularly. My grandmother loved puzzles, and so during her visits she, my mom, my sister, and I would come together to complete huge ones on our dining room table. Those are happy memories of our time together.

Q: What would you say to someone to encourage them to join the Walk?

A: Alzheimer's touches so many of us. I sometimes wear my Walk shirts when I'm running errands, and you wouldn't believe how often people strike up a conversation with me about their loved ones with Alzheimer's when they see the shirt. You hear so many great stories and memories. The Walk is an opportunity to do this on a grand scale. You come together with a shared community, those of us who know what this disease is about and what it can do to families. The stories you'll hear at the event are touching, and they are coupled with promising news of developments we're making toward a cure. It's always a moving event, with the associated fundraising for a great cause.

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's

Held annually in more than 600 communities nationwide, the Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is the world's

largest event to raise awareness and funds for Alzheimer's care, support and research. Since 1989, the Alzheimer's Association mobilized millions of Americans in the Alzheimer's Association Memory Walk; now the Alzheimer's Association is continuing to lead the way with Walk to End Alzheimer's. Together, we can end Alzheimer's.

Walk to End Alzheimer's - Washington, D.C.

[https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr\\_id=14365&pg=entry](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=14365&pg=entry)

Saturday, Oct. 9

National Mall

Registration opens at 8 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Faith Anderson at 703.766.9035 or [fanderson@alz.org](mailto:fanderson@alz.org)

Walk to End Alzheimer's - Northern Virginia

[https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr\\_id=14363&pg=entry](https://act.alz.org/site/TR/Walk2021/DC-NationalCapitalArea?fr_id=14363&pg=entry)

Sunday, Oct. 24

Reston Town Center

Registration opens at 8 a.m.

Ceremony starts at 9:30 a.m.

For more information, contact Shiri

Rozenberg at 803-371-9793 or [shrozenberg@alz.org](mailto:shrozenberg@alz.org)

Registration information

Sign up as an individual, team member or Team Captain. While there is no fee to register for Walk, all participants are encouraged to raise critical funds that allow the Alzheimer's Association to provide 24/7 care and support and advance research toward methods of prevention, treatment and, ultimately, a cure. Learn more and register at [alz.org/walk](http://alz.org/walk).

The Promise Garden

The poignant Promise Garden ceremony is a mission-focused experience that signifies the solidarity of the Walk participants in the fight against the disease. The colors of the Promise Garden flowers represent people's personal connection to Alzheimer's.

Blue: Someone living with Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Purple: An individual who has lost someone to the disease.

Yellow: A person who is currently supporting or caring for someone living with Alzheimer's.

Orange: A participant who supports the cause and the Association's vision of a world without Alzheimer's and other dementia.

Safety information

Walk to End Alzheimer's is happening — and you can join us at your local event or Walk From Home in your neighborhood. With the health and safety of participants, staff and volunteers as top priorities, the Walk will implement safety protocols including physical distancing, masks (where required), contactless registration, hand sanitizing stations and more. Per CDC guidelines around crowded outdoor settings, we ask that all Walk attendees be vaccinated against COVID-19 or wear a mask when in an overcrowded area. Masks will be available on-site.

Alzheimer's Association

The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Visit [alz.org](http://alz.org) or call 800.272.3900.

## Lords and Ladies Fairfax 2021

FROM PAGE 7

of directors of the McLean Citizens Association, as a mission committeeman with St. John's Episcopal Church, and as volunteer specialist with the Virginia Defense Force. While he cannot predict where his future career with the Navy JAG Corps will take him, drawing inspiration from his grandparents on each side, Evan is committed to continue his work in public advocacy and giving back to the community.

Sully Supervisor Kathy Smith

Supervisor Smith values the contributions Debbie Kilpatrick has made to the residents of Sully



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
Debbie Kilpatrick

District through her education advocacy and community engagement. Debbie has resided in Sully District for 22 years with her husband and two sons, both graduates of FCPS and state universities. Supervisor Smith first met Debbie serving on the Rocky Run MS PTA board in 2001. Debbie continues to volunteer within Sully District and the county in community organizations, PTA, and BACs. For the past 20 years, Debbie has been a PTA volunteer serving in her sons' local schools, as the Fairfax County Council President, and as Northern Virginia District PTA Director, while also being employed as a FCPS substitute teacher. Family-school-community advocacy and addressing

our diverse needs, is a passion of Debbie's, and her dedication to children and families within Sully District and throughout Fairfax County, is commendable. In 2019, Supervisor Smith appointed Debbie as the Sully District Representative to the Barbara Varon Volunteer Award Selection Committee with reappointments in 2020 and 2021. Reviewing current practices, the committee held strategy meetings to better define the award and improve processes, and reassignment to Office of Elections. Debbie's experience with team building and strategic planning contributed to positive changes being implemented. Debbie serves as Sully District appointee with the Community Action Advisory Board (CAAB), 2019-2022 term. Debbie has participated in the directives of the board to prioritize the needs of low-income residents and determine resources needed to support them with recommendations of CSBG funding.

Over the past few months, Debbie has participated extensively in strategic planning to revise the vision, mission, and implement meaningful advocacy, education, and funding to support the needs of those in poverty.

This year, on behalf of the residents of the Sully District, Supervisor Smith is pleased to honor the hard work and dedication of Mr. Carlos Carrero. Mr. Carrero has been a resident of Fairfax County since 2001, when he and his wife Marisol, and their two sons



FAIRFAX COUNTY  
Carlos Carrero

SEE LORDS AND LADIES, PAGE 11



# CALENDAR

## NOW THRU NOV. 6

**Workhouse Haunt. 7-11 p.m.** At Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. This year's Workhouse Haunt immerses guests through a highly-themed walk-through experience, as creepy characters deliver contactless scares in multiple scenes. Guests will travel in small groups for a frightening 30-minute experience that brings them next to the site's abandoned, historic buildings and into the dark woods where they will encounter terrifying characters and sights that are not for the faint of heart. Cost is \$25. Occurs Friday, Saturday, and Sunday each weekend from Oct. 3 through Nov. 6. Visit the website: <https://www.workhousearts.org/workhouse-events/2021-workhouse-haunt-the-collection-2/>

## FALL FOR THE BOOK: Oct. 14-31,

2021 Fall for the Book Festival featuring live and recorded events will be held virtually and in-person at George Mason's Fairfax campus. 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA. Fall for the Book events and session are free and open to the public. Fall for the Book is free with the generous support of sponsors including the Fairfax County Public Library, George Mason University, the Fairfax Library Foundation, and the City of Fairfax among others. Fall for the Book returns with a new hybrid format including virtual and in-person events, including lively Podcasts. For complete up-to-date schedule with details visit [www.fallforthebook.org](http://www.fallforthebook.org).

## NOW THRU NOV. 7

**"Wicked."** Open Wednesday thru Sunday 11 - 7 p.m. At 2905 District Ave. #105, Fairfax. There's a "Wicked" new exhibit at Mosaic District, but wicked in a good way. In today's informal slang, the word "wicked" can mean excellent or even awesome. For example, "That's a wicked piece of art," someone might say, referring to a piece in our new exhibit. With Halloween in mind, it is in that spirit that the Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is presenting its newest show titled "Wicked." Gallery artists will demonstrate the theme in a variety of mediums, including painting, fine art photography, exquisite jewelry, fabric art, print-making, ceramics and sculpture. The Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic is a satellite gallery sponsored by the Torpedo Factory Artists' Association, and is located in the upscale Mosaic District shopping area in Fairfax.

## OCT. 7-11

**Disney on Ice Search Party.** At Eagle Bank Arena, Fairfax. Disney On Ice presents Mickey's Search Party is bringing the magic to guests through dynamic moments that take place on the ice and in the air. This adventure delivers compelling storytelling through multi-leveled production numbers and visits Fairfax from October 7-11, 2021 at EagleBank Arena.

Dates and Times of Performances:  
Thursday, October 7 at 7 p.m.  
Friday, October 8 at 7 p.m.  
Saturday, October 9 at 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday, October 10 at 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
Monday, October 11 at 1 p.m.  
For ticket prices and to purchase tickets, visit [www.DisneyOnIce.com](http://www.DisneyOnIce.com)

[WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM](http://WWW.CONNECTIONNEWSPAPERS.COM)

## THURSDAY/OCT. 7

**Wind Symphony Concert. 8 p.m.** At GMU's Dewberry School of Music. The George Mason University Wind Symphony, led by composer-conductor Mark Camphouse is a select ensemble comprised of outstanding wind, brass, and percussion players in the School of Music and the University. The ensemble's mission is to study and perform the best literature available for wind band, while emphasizing soloistic and orchestral performance practice. The Wind Symphony ranks among the finest collegiate wind bands in the Commonwealth and performs the best of new band literature. Programs include world premieres of student and faculty compositions, student and faculty soloists, and more traditional repertoire.

## FRIDAY/OCT. 8

**The Mason Players' Originals. 8 p.m.** GMU Mason School of Theatre. Virtual Event. Tune in for an evening of original new works featuring Mason School of Theater's talented student playwrights and students. Recorded previously and edited for a digital Mason Arts at Home premiere, Originals! offers Mason's creative artists the chance to share their work in a variety of forms. Whether it's a musical, a one-person show, a choreographed devised work, or the traditional ten-minute play structure, explore the brilliant imaginations of our students as they present this year's Originals!

## OCT. 8-11

**Folklore Society Online Getaway. 12 to 5:30 p.m.** Online. Folklore Society Online Getaway. Imagine a party with some of the finest singers from the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Australia, and the farthest parts of the globe—that's the Getaway. Visit the website: <https://www.fsgw.org/getaway>

## SATURDAY/OCT. 9

**Lesson Zero. 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.** At the Fall for Fairfax Main Stage, South Street and University Drive, Fairfax. Fairfax City presents the music of Oasis recording artist Lesson Zero. For additional information see: [www.youtube.com/lessonzero](http://www.youtube.com/lessonzero) or [www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero](http://www.reverbnation.com/lessonzero).

## SATURDAY/OCT. 9

**Fairfax Symphony Orchestra. 8 p.m.** Presents Bernstein, Saint-Saëns, & Beethoven. At Capital One Hall, Tysons Corner. Join the FSO in its season opening concert on October 9 at the newly constructed Capital One Hall in Tysons. Israeli cellist, Amit Peled returns to perform Camille Saint-Saëns's Cello Concerto No. 1, with an explosion of emotion from the first note. Regarded as the first, "well-known" romantic concerto written in 1872 for the cello, the composition places this beautiful instrument front and center right from the start. Many composers, including Shostakovich and Rachmaninoff, considered this concerto to be the greatest of all cello concertos.

Peled is a musician of profound artistry and charismatic stage presence. He is acclaimed worldwide as one of the most exciting and virtuosic instrumentalists on the concert stage. Peled strives to break down barriers of the concert hall with his amiable and inviting personality.

# THESE FLOWERS HAVE A LOT OF FIGHT IN THEM.

The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's® is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something's in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia.

It's time to add your flower to the fight.



JOIN US AT  
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**Jeanne Dumas Smiley** of Culpeper, Virginia passed away peacefully at the age of 77 on June 24, 2021 in Alexandria, Virginia. She had been receiving hospice care at the home of her daughter after battling colon cancer for the past two and a half years.

Born in Washington, DC, Jeanne Elmere Dumas grew up in Alexandria, Virginia, graduated from Hammond High School and was married to Andrew Carl Apperson from 1961 to 1971. Jeanne worked and raised her family in Alexandria and married William Donald Smiley in 1972. Over the years, she was a Cub Scout & Girl Scout Leader, an avid Alexandria Youth Recreation League baseball, basketball & football parent and a T.C. Williams Titan Band Booster & chaperone. She also enjoyed visiting her extended family in Davis, West Virginia. After her children were grown, Jeanne relocated to Culpeper in 1985.

Professionally, she began her career working for Cappel Corporation of Alexandria, VA where she developed her interest in pet care. She later went on to own and operate two retail pet stores, The Pet Barn in Oxon Hill, MD and Pet Carnival in Culpeper, VA. In later years, Jeanne worked for Peebles in Warrenton, Virginia, where she made several lasting friendships.

Upon her retirement from retail, Jeanne pursued her true passion of collecting and selling antique china and glassware. Jeanne was most happy scouring hole in the wall places in search of that one perfect piece or that one incredible bargain. She was a proud member of the Homer Laughlin China Collector's Association, frequently attending their annual conferences and she thoroughly loved the wonderful friends she met through the HLCCA. She also enjoyed crocheting, gardening and catching up with her cherished high school friends during their many reunions and regular get-togethers.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Alfred James & Reta Calvert Dumas. She is survived by her children and grandchildren; James Bentley Apperson, his wife Mary & their children Kathryn Lynn & Reese James of Clifton, VA; Margaret Suzanne "Suzy" McQuilkin & her husband Jeffrey of Alexandria, VA and Andrew "Drew" Carlyle Apperson, his wife Katie & their sons Kevin McNally & Jarett Thomas of San Antonio, TX. She is also survived by her siblings, Reta Ann Dumas of Mesa, AZ, Jackson Calvert Dumas of Atascadero, CA and Margaret Dumas Worden & her husband James of Springfield, VA. She was also preceded in death by her brother James William Dumas, her former husband, William Donald Smiley and her beloved dog, Jackson. She leaves behind many dear cousins, nieces, nephews and treasured friends who loved her and will miss her greatly.

The family will be hosting a celebration of life at Grace Episcopal Church, 3601 Russell Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22305 on Saturday, October 16, 2021 at 1:00 pm. To honor Jeanne, the family kindly requests that donations in her memory be made to: Capital Caring, (www.capitalcaring.org) 3180 Fairview Park Drive, Suite 500, Falls Church, VA 22042, 1-800-869-2136 or the Charlottesville Albemarle SPCA (www.caspc.org) 3355 Berkmar Drive, Charlottesville, VA 22901, 434-973-5959.

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# Discover the Power of Music to Bring People Together

## Innovative Sphinx Virtuosi's 'Tracing Visions' at Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL  
THE CONNECTION

**T**ransforming lives and connecting with the wider community beyond campus boundaries is a critical mission of the George Mason University essential Artist-in-Residence program.

"The Arts have the power to bring people together, who may or may not have a similar background, or the same skin color, or the same religious beliefs. Artistic experiences afford us the opportunity to reflect on the past, or to imagine what the future could look like," said Adrienne Bryant Godwin, Center for the Arts (CFA), Director of Programming.

The inspiring performing arts music ensemble Sphinx Virtuosi, dedicated to increasing racial and ethnic diversity is the current Mason Artist-in-Residence. The ensemble will not only be performing a program entitled "Tracing Visions" on the CFA stage, but will reach out to make classical music accessible to communities historically underrepresented in the field

"Tracing Visions" sets out to challenge and evolve our view of what the "classical canon" is by spotlighting new pathways for listening, sharing, and artistic expression. The Sphinx Virtuosi will trace visions of the past to bring forth the sounds of America's rich history and celebrate a wide range of music.

What can patrons expect at the "Tracing Visions" performance?

"They may expect to delight in a collection of works that may not be readily recognized," said Sphinx Virtuosi President and Artistic Director, Afa S. Dworkin, "We focus on sharing the vibrant and important voices of living composers, with an emphasis on those of Black and Latinx heritage. "Tracing Visions" challenges the listener to open their hearts and minds to new sounds, learn about important historical and present-day

### WHERE AND WHEN:

Center for the Arts presents Sphinx Virtuosi: "Tracing Visions" on Sunday, Oct. 17, 2021 at 3 p.m. at Concert Hall, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, Tickets: \$29, \$41, \$48. Sphinx Virtuosi is a Family-Friendly event. Children and youth through grade 12 can get half-price tickets when accompanied by an adult. For information and tickets go to: [www.gmu.cfa.edu](http://www.gmu.cfa.edu) or call 703-993-2787. Expected program to include: Xavier Foley: "Ev'ry Voice," Florence Price: Andante Cantabile from String Quartet No. 2 in A minor, Jessie Montgomery: Banner!, Ricardo Herz: "Mourinho," Andrea Casarubios: "Seven," Alberto Ginastera: Concerto for Strings IV. Finale furioso.

composers of color, find joy in new sounds and experience a connection to what is traditionally heard as classical music.

"Visually, it is a compelling array of virtuosity by the nation's most dynamic professional ensemble of artists of color. Listeners can expect to hear the artists speak to the curation of the program, what it means to them and why they chose to share this music today," added Dworkin. "We are excited to share our vision with our audiences."

Inviting patrons to the CCEA performance Dworkin said; "We hope that each patron may relate to the music they hear, connect to the artistry of the Sphinx Virtuosi, and support the concept of promoting artistic excellence through inclusion and diversity. We hope to change hearts and minds through a common language that unifies all of us."

### Note: health and safety requirements.

Beginning October 18, 2021, proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test result is required for all audience members. Everyone, even those who are fully vaccinated, must wear a face covering when inside university property (buildings and vehicles). Seating will be at full capacity for indoor performances except for Family Series events. Outside fresh air supply has been increased by 50% and ventilation systems are running continuously to increase the exchange of air. Up-to-date details at [www.cfa.gmu.edu/plan-your-visit/what-expect](http://www.cfa.gmu.edu/plan-your-visit/what-expect)

## Lords and Ladies Fairfax 2021

FROM PAGE 8

Timothy and Matthew moved from New Jersey. Since that time, Carlos has been heavily involved in youth sports, through coaching, organizing, and officiating. During that time, Mr. Carrero has racked up 18 sporting titles and championships. While he is undoubtedly a successful coach, Mr. Carrero views his victories off the court as his benchmark of success. "With sports, you can give any kid an outlet. And if you coach them the right way, you give them a chance." Mr. Carrero is still fondly referred to as "coach" by many of the children he previously coached, who are now grown adults. Even when he's not coaching, Mr. Carrero is instructing the youth off-the-field in the lessons of life. He is commonly sought after for advice by the youth in the

Meadows of Chantilly. The COVID-19 pandemic proved quintessential for Mr. Carrero, as he stepped up to work with various County agencies and community groups to secure weekly food shipments and toiletries for his neighbors in the Meadows while many of them were out of work. Through his collaboration, Mr. Carrero provided spaces for trucks to unload produce, the Health Department to pass out hand sanitizer and for church groups to distribute staple commodities. Because of Mr. Carrero and his outreach within the community, the residents of the Meadows of Chantilly did not go hungry when the virus presented very real and very serious challenges. Mr. Carrero continues to advocate for his community by serving on Fairfax County's Manufactured Housing Task Force.

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## News I Don't Want to Use



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

But I doubt very much I'll be able to bury the lead. The lead being the start date for the lenvima, the thyroid cancer medication I've been "pilling" once a day since Sept. 3rd, 2020, and more/most importantly, the end date. The end date being the presumptive time frame, two to three years from start to perhaps my finish. The finish being the date in the future when the medication I've been taking for a little over one year eventually stops working, according to medical opinions. And why is this medication's effective life so relevant? Because at this time, it's the best/only alternative to treat my stage IV papillary thyroid cancer. What happens after I can only guess because my oncologist rarely discusses scenarios. It's likely somewhere between a wait and see and why worry - about a set of circumstances years off and a definite maybe at that. Plus cancer research continues.

However, as much as I've benefited from lung cancer research that extended my life so long when I was taking tarceva, avastin and alimta - in that order, "miracle drugs" as my oncologist called them; the underlying reality may have been that I didn't have stage IV non small cell lung cancer at all, but rather slow growing papillary thyroid cancer. A cancer that was neither helped nor hindered during the years I was treated for lung cancer. Unfortunately, I was hindered.

Hindered in that after years of receiving heavy-duty chemotherapy - perhaps for the wrong cancer, I've suffered kidney damage which is irreparable. Specifically, my kidneys are functioning at approximately 50-percent efficiency. Though this deficiency doesn't seem to manifest itself in everyday activities/life, it does affect what cancer medications I can take and even some non-prescription drugs available. As an example, I can't take nsais (ibuprofen/advil) and when I lie down for my quarterly scans, I cannot be given "contrast," an injection given to sharpen the details of the scan. The reason being that I can't take anything that is filtered through the kidney for risk of making a bad situation worse. A situation that perhaps has occurred unnecessarily because of years of receiving lung cancer chemotherapy when I should have been receiving thyroid cancer medication. And as a result of this infusion of toxic chemotherapy into my body, it has affected the treatment of my thyroid cancer.

When my thyroid cancer first appeared as a growth above my adams apple, subsequent biopsies confirmed that it was in fact thyroid cancer, not a "clone" of my lung cancer. These biopsies lead to a thyroidectomy which surgically removed both my thyroid and parathyroid. But since the uncontained tumor had grown under my collarbone for approximately nine months since it first appeared, the surgeon - after seven hours of trying, was unable to get all the cancer. No real problem. There was another procedure scheduled to eradicate the remaining cancer. It required that I receive an injection of nuclear isotopes and an overnight stay in the hospital.

A procedure, that is generally successful for a cancer that is called "the friendly cancer" because of its curability, was unsuccessful. Why? Because I was only given one third the required dose of the isotope because - the isotopes are filtered through the kidney and my pre-existing kidney damage from the nine-plus years of lung cancer treatment impacted the use of the proper dose. The result? I now have incurable stage IV papillary thyroid cancer and am taking a medication that likely stops working in the next year or two with at present no new options in the medical pipeline. Moreover, the combination of factors that lead to my present situation is not exactly a regular occurrence which would lead to a clinical trial of similarly-affected patients. I'm not entirely on my own, but I'm not on too many others either.

(There's nothing funny in this column because there's nothing funny about my situation.)

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

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