

McLean
CONNECTION

PET CONNECTION
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Artist Christine Walters paints to music
at Color Wheel Gallery 65 in McLean
Thursday, July 18.

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PHOTO BY ALEX McVEIGH/THE CONNECTION

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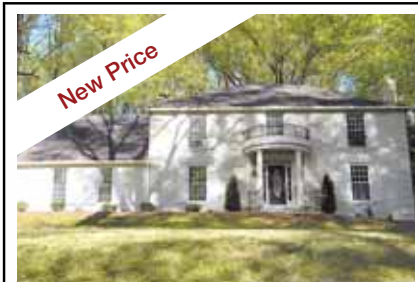
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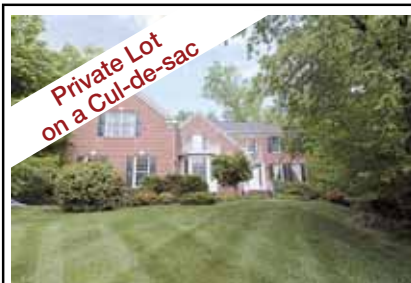
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NEWS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Louise Archer Elementary School in Vienna is one of the schools benefiting from Our Daily Bread's summer food program, an extension of the nonprofits Food4Thought weekend program.

Making Sure Children Don't Go Hungry

Our Daily Bread provides meals for children during summer break.

BY VICTORIA ROSS
THE CONNECTION

For most children, summer means the end of homework and tests, and the beginning of cookouts and carefree summer vacations.

For thousands of children from low-income families, summer can also mean going hungry.

Free and reduced food programs—which provide children access to nutritious breakfasts, lunches and snacks—end along with the school year, leaving many students at risk for hunger over the summer months.

“Summer is a very difficult time for parents who are depending on the school’s free or reduced lunches,” said Lisa Whetzel, executive director of Our Daily Bread, a Fairfax County volunteer-based nonprofit. “As a community, it’s important to make sure that children have access to the healthy food they need during the summer months.”

To help meet that need, Our Daily Bread launched a new program this summer to provide healthy meals and household supplies to 42 families whose children attend three local elementary schools—Marshall Road, Cunningham Park and Louise Archer.

According to Fairfax County Public Schools, 47,874 students—more than 26 percent of the school system’s total student population—received free and reduced lunches during the 2012-2013 school year.

Whetzel said the program is an extension of ODB’s Food4Thought program, which began in 2011 in partnership with concerned parents at Marshall Road Elementary School. Volunteers created packages of non-perishable food and drinks to send home each weekend with 19 children in the school who participated in the federal food subsidy program. Volunteers collected donations within the school and



Volunteers and staff of Our Daily Bread, a volunteer-based nonprofit that helps low-income residents in Fairfax County, collect food at its Vienna pantry.

supplemented it with food from Our Daily Bread’s Vienna Pantry.

“This new partnership with Marshall Road is successful because there is a champion within the school,” Whetzel said. “If there is not a willing social worker and PTA, it cannot work. We applaud Jean Wyman and the PTA for seeing the need in their school and reaching out to ODB to make this work.”

Our Daily Bread is also working with Daniels Run Elementary School in Fairfax City, and hopes to expand Food4Thought and its summer extension program to more local schools as they gain more funding, community support and resources.

“We welcome working with as many schools as request our assistance. We can help them get started by explaining the process,” she said.

For more information on Our Daily Bread’s programs, go to www.odbfairfax.org. To donate to the Vienna food pantry, contact Christina Garris at 703-273-8829.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Mohammed Kadasi, County Capital Facilities Department, Shahla Zahirieh, County Department of Transportation, Supervisor John Foust and Knut Ryerson and daughter dedicate the new walkway on July 18.

Safe Sidewalk Installed On Powhatan Street

FCDOT, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services provide concrete trail.

McLean residents in the area of Powhatan Street are now walking safely on a sidewalk recently completed by the Fairfax County Department of Transportation and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES).

The concrete trail, completed on May 20, is approximately 900 linear feet and runs along the east side of Powhatan Street, between the Powhatan Nursing Home and Overbrook Street, close to the Fairfax County and Arlington County border. Supervisor John Foust (D-Dranesville), residents and county staff dedicated the new trail at an event held on July 18 at the corner of Powhatan Street and Orland Street.

Resident and neighbor Knut Ryerson had difficulty pushing a stroller with his young son along Powhatan Street. He brought the need for a sidewalk to the attention of the

Dranesville District Supervisor’s office in 2007. Supervisor Foust then obtained funding for the project in 2009 using Commercial and Industrial Tax revenues.

The project was managed by Shahla Zahirieh, of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation. Sam Lim from the County’s DPWES Capital Facilities Division was construction manager.



Resident Knut Ryerson walks with his daughter on the new sidewalk.

Artist Christine Walters and DJ Cosmo Lubertazzo, aka DJ Cosmo, talk during Walters' performance art event at Color Wheel Gallery 65 Thursday, July 18. Walters painted while Lubertazzo kept a steady stream of music going.

PHOTOS BY
ALEX McVEIGH/
THE CONNECTION



Gallery 65 Hosts Performance Art

Artist Christine Walters paints two pictures to music during live art event.

BY ALEX McVEIGH
THE CONNECTION

A steady thump of electronic drums could be heard at the Langley Shopping Center Thursday, July 18. The sounds were aimed to draw people into the Color Wheel Gallery 65 to get a glimpse of live art being created.

The gallery, which opened in December of last year, hosted performance artist Christine Walters, who created two paintings during the evening, while dozens of visitors observed.

"We were looking for an outside-the-box type of art event, and that's exactly what Christine brings," said Gail Roberts, director of the gallery. "Along with the music and the painting, guests are able to see an example of how art is created. We're always looking for new ways for people to experience the arts in McLean."

Walters put a cloth, two easels and two canvasses in the front of the store and Cosmo Lubertazzo, aka DJ Cosmo set up nearby and kept the music going throughout the entire evening.

"My friend and I were picking up a few things at the nearby dry cleaners and heard the music, we couldn't help but wander in," said Mary Clarke of McLean. "Definitely a fun time, the music was lively, and it seemed like a lot of people were enjoying the experience."

WALTERS, who often creates her art live, and almost always has music playing, said she was excited to show art aficionados how a painting is created.

"What people saw was basically what a lot of artists do all the time, but they're usually in the privacy of their own studio," she said. "This is a much more open experience, there are the people, the music, the interaction with the DJ. Of course, he gets to interact much more with the people and gauge the flow of the room. I'm focused primarily on the painting. People could be right behind me making faces, and I wouldn't notice."

Walters said she was a little nervous painting around Gallery 65's sculptures and painting, but is used to performing in spaces big and small.

Leigh Balks of McLean said that she enjoyed the atmosphere of the performance, as well as seeing an artist compose a painting.

"It was fascinating to see how the music went through her head, and how she decided to put it



Color Wheel Gallery 65 hosts performance artist Christine Walters Thursday, July 18. Walters painted two pictures while a DJ played music and an audience watched.

down on the canvas," she said. "The music was sort of frenetic, but had a steady beat, and I think she was able to capture the chaos of the music with the colors and strokes she used."

She performs often with Lubertazzo, and will soon branch out with other DJs for future performances.

"I love painting that way. The DJ changes songs, changing the flow, and that just allows me to go a different direction," she said. "With Cosmo, he'll tell me the genre, then just take off and do his thing. If I get in a rut or something, I'll tell him, and he'll change it up."

Soon she will perform a benefit for survivors of human trafficking, and will work alongside a DJ that is herself a survivor of trafficking.

"That's going to be a much more intense experience. The DJ was a runaway who was eventually taken and sold to a sex trafficker, where she was turned into a prostitute, developed a heroin addiction, and eventually escaped when her pimp was arrested," Walters said. "It's definitely going to be a challenge."

THIS IS THE LATEST performance art by Walters in McLean. She created a piece at last summer's Painting in the Park event, hosted by the McLean Project for the Arts.

Walters will also have a live performance at the McLean Central Park gazebo Saturday, Aug. 3. She will don a kimono and decorate the gazebo while painting to the entirety of Puccini's "Madame Butterfly" opera.

The live art event was part of Gallery 65's "third Thursday" events, which are held on the third Thursday of every month.

Thursday, Aug. 15 will feature a talk that will cover every aspect of framing, from matting to museum glass, and September's event will be Saturday, Sept. 21 and feature a plein air demonstration by painter Robert Thoren.



PHOTOS BY SANDY CHO/THE CONNECTION

David Ludwinsky explains the process of collecting tobacco to an audience inside the tobacco farm.

Claude Moore Farm Holds Market Fair

Visitors of all ages enjoyed activities at the annual fair.

BY SANDY CHO
THE CONNECTION

The sounds of violin and shouts of laughter filled the air as people explored the grounds, played games and listened to live music. This weekend, July 20-21, the annual Summer Market Fair was held at the Claude Moore Colonial Farm at Turkey Run.

Located in McLean, the Claude Moore Colonial Farm reenacts the typical farm life of Virginia in 1771, just before the American Revolution. Visitors can walk on a stone path that leads to a tobacco barn, tobacco field, a typical colonial house, and even live animals that were kept during that time.

The Market Fair Grounds, however, is where the fair is held, where visitors can eat roasted chicken, watch plays and try activities that were typical of the time. The admission was \$6 for adults and \$3 for children and senior citizens.

"We've been here several times and my wife wanted to go to the Market Fair," said Ryan Phillips, who is a Human Resources (HR) manager. "We really enjoy this place. It's good for our girls to see the history."

There were also many activities for children. They were able to use watercolors to paint fans, create little dolls and play games, such as bobbing for apples.

"I like the painting," Elinor Sonnet, 4, said. "I painted a girl with her dolly."

The fair was a good way for visitors to be acquainted with history and see how life was back then. Even some British visitors were interested to see what America was like back then.

"We just wanted to try something American," said Jo Greening, who moved to this area about a year ago from England. "It was a good way to see something historical and special."



Lydia Olson, 2, shows her father Morgan Olson the colors she has painted on her fan.

BULLETIN BOARD

To have community events listed in the Connection, send to mclean@connectionnewspapers.com. The deadline for submissions is the Friday prior to publication.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

NVTA Final Public Hearing on 2014

Projects. 6 p.m., at Council Chambers at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax. The Northern Virginia Transportation Authority holds a public hearing on the proposed FY2014 project list to gather public input and share info; hearing followed by an official NVTA meeting. Speakers must sign-in at 5:30 p.m., prior to 6 p.m. start. www.thenovaauthority.org/.

Friends of the Town Green meeting. 7:30 p.m. Vienna Community Center, 120 Cherry St. S.E., Vienna. Individuals interested in becoming a Friend or learning more about the program are welcome to attend. <http://www.viennava.gov/index.aspx?NID=108>.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Lifetime Leadership Program Information

Session. 11 a.m.-noon, Leadership Fairfax offices, 8230 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 350, Vienna. This program helps those with a lifetime of leadership skills help the community. 703-752-7504 or <http://www.leadershipfairfax.org/lifetimeleadersprogram>.

MONDAY-FRIDAY/AUG. 5-9

Oakton Church of the Brethren Vacation

Bible School. 9:20 a.m.-12:30 p.m. 10025 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Registration is now open for "Kingdom of the Son" Vacation Bible School where children will go on a prayer safari, enjoy stories, songs, skits, crafts and snacks as they learn prayers. Children ages 3 to rising 6th graders. \$30 per child; \$50 per family. www.oaktonbrethren.org or 703-281-4411.

SATURDAY/SEPT. 21

Taste of Tysons. 11 a.m.-8 p.m., 8829 Boone Blvd., Vienna. The Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce presents a day of food, wine and

beer, community vendors, entertainment and the Kidz Zone. Vendors are welcome to showcase their businesses. For information regarding restaurant vending, 703-749-3141; exhibitors, 703-281-1333; logistics, 703-286-7735; publicity, 703-876-4848; sponsorships, 703-281-1333. <http://www.tasteoftyson.com/>.

ONGOING:

Historic Vienna Oral Histories. Vienna residents can recommend individuals for Historic Vienna, Inc. as interviewees for an archival project of town history, to create an exhibit in the Freeman Store. Email recommendations to hvioralhistory@gmail.com.
Senior Fall Prevention Classes. 1:30-2:30 p.m. and 2-3 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Drive, Fairfax. Classes are held in a heated indoor pool and are designed to work on balance and core muscles. \$10. 703-667-9800.

Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI)

Scholarship Program. Those enrolled in a Virginia college or university who are pursuing a degree in the field of criminal justice are eligible for a Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program; recommendation letter needed. 703-246-3251, shpio@fairfaxcounty.gov or <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>.

Everest College Free GED Test Preparation.

Tysons Corner, Vienna. Free GED test preparation and credential completion program, GED Advantage, open to the public. 1-888-201-6547.

Weekly TIPS Lunch. 12:15-1:30 p.m., at Shula's, 8028 Leesburg Pike, Vienna. Tyson's Regional Chamber of Commerce does lunch. 703-862-4895.

New Neighbors League Club (NNLC) of Northern Virginia. For women, the club includes Bridge, mah jong, gardening, quilting and many other activities. www.newneighborsvirginia.com.

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OPINION

Stemming Gun Violence

BY KENNETH R. "KEN" PLUM
STATE DELEGATE (D-36)

While President Obama in his statement about the Trayvon Martin case reminded us, "we are a nation of laws, and a jury has spoken," he went on to say that "we should ask ourselves if we're doing all we can to stem the tide of gun violence that claims too many lives across this country on a daily basis." Not only are we not doing enough, but we are seeing actions on the part of congressmen and senators and state legislators fearful of the gun lobby that may well result in more gun violence. When handguns used in the commission of crimes were traced to Virginia in such great numbers that the state became known as the "gun-running capital of the east,"



the state legislature put in place a limitation of one handgun purchase per month. This year the General Assembly repealed that law. If 12 pistols were too few a year, one can now buy however many are desired!

According to a USA Today editorial, in 1981 19 states prohibited people from carrying a hidden weapon in public, "but a powerful gun lobby has turned that system upside down." Four states now allow persons to carry hidden firearms without a permit, and in 35 states, including Virginia, officials must issue permits to just about anyone who applies unless they have committed a felony. Hidden guns are now allowed in restaurants and bars and public places.

Most frightening of all are the changes in state law to allow persons to stand their ground and use deadly force in any location one is legally

allowed to be without first attempting to retreat. Florida was the first state to adopt such a law that had been drafted by the National Rifle Association and promoted by the American Legislative Exchange Council to almost two dozen states. The instructions to the jury in the Zimmerman case made it clear that if "he had a right to be where he had a right to be, he had no duty to retreat." Efforts to enact a "stand your ground" law have been made in Virginia and are likely to continue until successful. Not only is there a proliferation of guns, but laws are being rewritten to expand the instances in which they can be used against another.

There were the tragedies at Virginia Tech, Columbine, Newtown and thousands of other instances of gun violence. What will be the tragedy that will cause us to wake up and insist that no constitutional right can be argued that reduces the safety of others and enhances the potential for violence?



PEOPLE AND PETS

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova with Frodo and Sam.

PHOTO
CONTRIBUTED

Meet Frodo and Sam

Lou and I adopted Mister Frodo from Home Alone Cat Rescue about two years ago. We have a soft spot for big orange cats. Frodo is part Maine coon (large with furry feet) and part American bobtail (large with short tail). A description of the American bobtail breed on the internet says they are "born scared"—which sums up Frodo. He is the proverbial "fraidy cat." For the first few weeks after we adopted him, Frodo refused to go into the living room, dining room or master bedroom for fear of our ceiling fans, even when they weren't moving. When he accidentally escapes the house, he comes scurrying right back when birds chirp at him. Despite being timid, Frodo is very playful. He "races us" up and down the stairs and loves to chase Lou's laser toy.

Last year I decided Frodo might benefit from the company of another cat. When I ran into Lee District School Board Representative Tammy Derenak Koufax at the Lee District Bridge Walk last summer, she showed me a photo of three kittens she and her children, Matthew and Halle, were fostering as part of a School Project. They

were less than a month old and adorable. Sam looked like a little tiger cub! Her siblings, solid soot grey, looked like little bears. They had been found living behind a restaurant in Washington D.C. My husband and I fell in love with Sam at first sight.

Once Sam was old enough to come home with us, we introduced Sam and Frodo over a few days, keeping Sam separated in the guest room. It took a few months for them to work out "dominance issues," but now they are chasing each other around the house and amusing each other. Sam has a fascination with water. We have to keep her water bowl upstairs in the tub because she splashes the water all over the place. When she does this, Frodo looks at her as though she is completely uncouth. It's hard to believe Sam was a feral kitten. She is very affectionate and loves to have her head stroked.

Pets definitely add an important dimension to our lives!

—SHARON BULOVA AND LOU DEFALAISE

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wrong Priorities

To the Editor:

We seem to have money for everything these days—bank bailouts, congressional investigations, even potential invasions of Syria. Just not our kids. We slash food stamps and cut early education and our elected officials just whistle past the graveyard. New polling shows Virginians think these priorities are all wrong, and expect our leaders to invest in our kids. We should make those running for office in Virginia this year tell us where they stand on these issues.

John Horejsi
SALT Coordinator
Vienna

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. Send to:

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Meet Best Friends of McLean

BY SANDY CHO
THE CONNECTION

When Mark Bollinger returned home from a business trip to Asia, he was surprised to meet Gracie, the newest furry addition to his family, curled up and sleeping in the sink.

Gracie, along with Lizzie and Trouble, has sunk her little claws into the hearts of the Bollingers and still remains an important figure in the family after many years.

Stealthily lurking around the household in McLean, the three cats may be difficult to find at first but they enjoy the company of people.

"They're very loving cats," said Caroline Bollinger, 16. "Trouble can get wild and energetic while Lizzie and Gracie are more calm."

Each of the cats has an interesting history lying behind them. Both Lizzie and Gracie were rescue cats from cat farms, while Trouble was bought from Petco. In fact, Lizzie was facing the possibility of being put to sleep the next day if the family had not rescued her the day before.

"The shelter volunteers told us that Lizzie had been returned multiple times by previous owners, but she's perfect for us," Mark Bollinger said.



PHOTO BY SANDY CHO/THE CONNECTION

Siblings Caroline and James Bollinger of McLean stand with one of their three cats, Lizzie.

Bollinger recalled a funny memory of Trouble during a past Christmas. Trouble kept running into the mirror, thinking there was another cat in the mirror and the family initially believed she was crazy.

"She also chases her tail so we think there's a bit of dog inside of her," Caroline Bollinger said.

The Miracle Dog Of McLean

At the sight of people, an excited small black Scottish terrier happily barked and ran to greet anyone who entered the Blue threshold.

Charly, which is short for Charlotte, has always been a pivotal

member of the Blue family, always being there through laughs and tears since 2005.

Although living in the safe household she is in today, Charly has faced a past of abuse in the beginning of her life. In fact, when the Blues first rescued her, she had the habit of running away. She was even found on the Virginia State Route 123 by friendly strangers who returned her back.

"She was always found safe and returned free,"

SEE CATS, PAGE 12

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ENTERTAINMENT

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

WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY/JULY 24-28

The Mystical World of Tibet. At Unity of Fairfax Church, 2854 Hunter Mill Road, Oakton. Monks from Drepung Loseling Monastery display sand painting and perform as part of The Mystical Arts of Tibet world tour (many events free). In addition, three ticketed performance will be given: Lecture on Tibet Today; Sacred Music, Sacred Dance; lecture of the Symbolism of the Mandala. \$0-\$20. <http://www.unityoffairfax.org/auspicious-event-or-703-281-1767>.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 24

Student Art at Starbucks. All day, at Great Falls Village Center Starbucks, 9863 Georgetown Pike, Great Falls. The 100-plus artist organization Great Falls Studios works with area art teachers and students to create rotating exhibits in the conference room space of the coffee house; the Forestville art student work, currently up, is part of the exhibit on display through October. www.greatfallsstudios.com.

Alastair Moock. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Parents' Choice Award winner sings songs about being a kid. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Brandi Carlile. 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Brandi Carlile performs hits from her debut album to her most recent album, Bear Creek; special guests

include Americana Music Award-winner Justin Townes Earle and Brooklyn-based trio The Lone Bellow. \$30-\$40. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

THURSDAY/JULY 25

Alastair Moock. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Parents' Choice Award winner sings songs about being a kid. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Collecting Art: How to Buy. 7 p.m., at the McLean Project for the Arts in the Emerson Gallery, 1234 Ingleside Ave., McLean. A talk for those who want to buy original art but aren't sure of what they like or where to find it. 703-790-1953 or info@mpaart.org.

Thrillbillys. 7:30-8:30 p.m., Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. Meet Johnny Castle, David Kitchen, Robbie Magruder and Andy Rutherford, four performers with several Wammie nominations under their belt and a ton of singer-songwriter, guitar and bass creds to their name. <http://www.thethrillbillys.com>.

Gordon Lightfoot. 8 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. From Canada, Gordon Lightfoot has original songs like "Early Morning Rain" and "For Loving Me" that have been covered by icons like Elvis and Johnny Cash. \$25-\$42. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.



“PaperScape 1,” watercolor/collage, by Loy McGaughy, is a work by one of the 15 artists whose collages will be at the “Everything Under the Sun” exhibit, open now through Aug. 24 at the Vienna Art Society Gallery on the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. See the exhibit this Saturday, July 27, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

FRIDAY/JULY 26

Peter and the Wolf. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road,

Vienna. Pushcart Players present a twist on Sergei Prokofiev's musical fairytale about a boy who learns to be courageous and resourceful in the face of danger. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Chef's Table. 6:30 p.m., Wildfire, Tysons Galleria, 3rd floor, McLean. Taste the talent of Executive Chef at Wildfire, Eddie Ishaq in a custom four-course menu. \$60. 703-442-9110.

1812 Overture and More! 8:15 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. The National Symphony orchestra performs a selection of fanfare and classical pieces, led by conductor Ankush Kumar Bahl, the NSO will perform snippets from Tchaikovsky's greatest works and piano prodigy Benjamin Grosvenor will perform Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 in C Minor. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

SATURDAY/JULY 27

Everything Under the Sun Exhibit. 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at the Vienna Art Society Gallery on the Village Green, 513 Maple Ave. W., Vienna. Award-winning Reston artist Loy McGaughy's collection of colorful collages are on exhibit through Aug. 24. 703-319-3220 or www.viennaartsociety.org.

Peter and the Wolf. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Pushcart Players present a twist on Sergei Prokofiev's musical fairytale about a boy who learns to be courageous and resourceful in the face of danger. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

America the Beautiful. 8:30 p.m., at 1645 Trap Road, Vienna. The NSO, conducted by Emil de Cou, will perform music from the greatest American composers including Aaron Copland, George Gershwin and John Williams, accompanied by works of photographer Ansel Adams projected on huge screens. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

SUNDAY/JULY 28

Village Jazz Band. 6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. The Village Jazz Band plays traditional soul jazz. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

Callaghan Live. 7:30 p.m., Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave E Vienna. Nashville-based singer-songwriter Callaghan plans to continue on the road this summer. <https://jamminjava.com>

Wicked Divas. 8:15 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Singers Julia Murney and Stephanie J. Block cover an array of Broadway highlights from musicals like Wicked and Spamalot with the NSO, led by Steven Reineke. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

TUESDAY/JULY 30

Timbalooloo. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Oran Etkin, with Clara the Clarinet and Big Mama Tuba introduce children to world music and jazz through storytelling and songs. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Aspen Santa Fe Ballet. 8:30 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Aspen Santa Fe Ballet combines ballet and modern dance

into its contemporary style and will perform original works from emerging and internationally renowned choreographers. \$4-\$40. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

WEDNESDAY/JULY 31

Timbalooloo. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Oran Etkin, with Clara the Clarinet and Big Mama Tuba introduce children to world music and jazz through storytelling and songs. \$8. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

SOJA With John Butler Trio. 7 p.m., at the Filene Center at Wolf Trap National Park, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Reggae-rockers perform tracks from their Bob Marley-inspired album Strength to Survive; the locally-based band that has collaborated with Dave Matthews Band, Matisyahu and more performs with the John Butler Trio, a guitar-drum-bass outfit presenting Celtic, Indian, folk, blues and reggae roots from their latest album, Tin Shed Tales. www.wolftrap.org.

THURSDAY/AUG. 1

Robbie Schaefer. 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Robbie Schaefer performs tunes from his CD, Songs for Kids Like Us, while also performing latest songs. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Mystic Warriors. 7:30-8:30 p.m., at Nottoway Park, 9537 Courthouse Road, Vienna. The mixture of various flutes, string and percussion instruments gives Mystic Warriors a unique sound. www.mysticwarriors.com.

Warner Bros. presents Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II. 8:30 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bugs Bunny and his friends come to life with cartoons shown on the huge screens in-house and on the lawn while the score is played live by the NSO, conducted by George Daugherty. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

FRIDAY/AUG. 2

Doctor Kaboom! 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Science wiz demonstrates explosive comedy in an interactive show that explores scientific process through experiments. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

Clarence Buffalo. 6:30 p.m., at 144 Maple Ave. E., Vienna. Listen to Clarence Buffalo play soul rock on the green. <http://www.viennava.gov>.

Warner Bros. presents Bugs Bunny at the Symphony II. 8:30 p.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Bugs Bunny and his friends come to life with cartoons shown on the huge screens in-house and on the lawn while the score is played live by the NSO, conducted by George Daugherty. \$22-\$55. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

SATURDAY/AUG. 3

Doctor Kaboom! 10:30 a.m., at Filene Center, 1551 Trap Road, Vienna. Science wiz demonstrates explosive comedy in an interactive show that explores scientific process through experiments. \$10. http://www.wolftrap.org/Filene_Center.aspx.

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SPORTS



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Left to right: Micaela Grassi, Maggie Duff, Shannon Sparks, Jessica Hawken, Mat Campet (head coach), Amanda Maruca, Sarah Allen, Pearce Bloom, Chris Blankingship.



River Bend's 13-14 Girls 200M Medley Relay Team defeated Westwood at their dual meet on Saturday and broke a team record; lowering the mark to 2.26.43. Relay team members (left to right): Micaela Grassi (Butterfly), Katherine Allen (Breaststroke), Lauren Bell (Freestyle) and Veronica Merrill (Backstroke).

StingRays Win Fourth Championship

The undefeated River Bend StingRays beat Westwood (300-216) to win their fourth consecutive DCCL Blue Division Championship. After paying tribute to graduating seniors and team coaches, Pearce Bloom and Sarah Allen, the

StingRays went on to break three team records: Pearce Bloom broke his own 15-18 Boys 50M Fly record by lowering the mark to 27.22; The 13-14 Girls 200M Medley Relay Team (Veronica Merrill, Katherine Allen, Lauren Bell and Micaela Grassi) lowered the mark to 2.26.43; and

the 15-18 Boys 200M Medley Relay Team (Bloom, Julian Villacorta, Tommy Rogers and Carter Bennett) lowered the mark to 2:01.65.

Leading the StingRays with four first place finishes were: Aiden Bond, Haley Smith, Will Koeppen and Micaela Grassi.

Winning two events each were Eliza Pastore, Faith O'Connor and Sophia Ambrose. Other blue ribbon winners: Ryan Bond, Connor Smith, Anna Takis, Carter Bennett, Davis Riffe, Olivia McDonnell, Ryan Windus, Sarah Allen and Pearce Bloom.

Langley Club Celebrates Despite Loss

The Langley Wildthings (2-2-1) celebrated this week, despite a 226-194 loss to the Dunn Loring Dolphins. The team set four new club records and honored their graduating swimmers, Kat Owczarski, Chris Paul and Jack Riley.

WILDTHING DOUBLE WINNERS WERE:

- ❖ Luke Watson for Boys 8 & Under 25 M Freestyle and Butterfly,
- ❖ Vincent Watson for Boys 9-10 50 M Freestyle and Breaststroke,
- ❖ Maggie Bellaschi for Girls 11-12 50 M Freestyle and Butterfly,
- ❖ Jack Reilly for Boys 15-18 50 M Freestyle and Breaststroke,
- ❖ Katie Robinson for Girls 15-18 50 M Backstroke and Breaststroke.

Jack Reilly closed out his years as a Wildthing by breaking The Langley Club record for Boys 15-18 Freestyle with a time of 25.25; he set the previous record last week, when he bested a record that had been on top for 42 years.

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS WERE:

Audrey Wallach for Girls 9-10 50 M Freestyle
Jack Hoeymans for Boys 11-12 50 M Freestyle
Brady Quinn for Boys 8 & Under 25 M Backstroke
Matthew Buchanan for Boys 9-10 50 M Backstroke
Nate Johnson for Boys 15-18 50 M Backstroke

Kelly Crittenberger for Boys 8 & Under 25 M Breaststroke

Maria Grazia Favro for Girls 8 & U 25 M Breaststroke

Ellie Ryan for Girls 11-12 50 M Breaststroke

Jinwon Bailar for Boys 13-14 50 M Butterfly

Kat Owczarski for Girls 15-18 50 M Butterfly

Blue ribbon relay races were won by the teams of:
Boys 8&U 100 M Freestyle: Luke Watson, Collin Troy, Peter Kaldes, Gardiner Tyler

Boys 9-10 100 M Medley: Matthew Buchanan, Benjamin Scott, Vincent Watson, Sean Mullery

Girls 11-12 100 M Medley: Adair Sand, Ellie Ryan, Maggie Bellaschi, Samantha Feldman

Boys 15-18 200 M Medley: Nathan Johnson, Nathan Robinson, Chris Paul, Jack Reilly

Boys 18&U 200 M Freestyle Mixed Age: Jack Hoeymans, Vincent Watson, Jinwon Bailar, Jack Reilly

Maggie Bellaschi beat her own Girls 11-12 50 M Butterfly record with a time of 34.14; she set the previous record of 34.34 earlier this summer.

Jinwon Bailar broke his own Boys 13-14 50 M Butterfly record, set five days earlier, with a time of 27.33.

Nathan Johnson bested the Boys 15-18 50 M Backstroke record, previously set by himself on July 1 with a new time of 29.34.



From left—Langley Wildthings seniors Jack Reilly, Kat Owczarski and Chris Paul.

PET CONNECTION



This is Jill, a former “lost dog” who joined the Howell family and inspired their volunteer work with Lost Dog.



Princess is one of many foster dogs taken in by Marcia Tiersky, president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, over the past 10 years.



This kitten, fostered by Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation volunteer Beth Stevens, is “a polydactyl,” meaning she has extra toes.



Parker, formerly a “lost dog,” was adopted by Beth Stevens before she became a Lost Dog volunteer.



This dog, called Batman, was a foster in Lisa Marie Czop’s home.

PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Helping Save Lives, One Pet at a Time

Area residents explain their dedication to the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.

BY AMBER HEALY
THE CONNECTION

Behind every adoption successfully completed by the Arlington-based Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, there’s a volunteer with a happy heart.

There’s a small volunteer army across Northern Virginia that turns out every weekend to help cats and dogs find homes, but there’s never a shortage of others looking for a safe place to be fed, sheltered and loved. Volunteers are what make the organization run, from walking dogs at adoption events to petting cats to making sure adoptable animals have safe transportation from rural shelters to this area for medical care.

These volunteers are playing, and will continue to play, a major role in Lost Dog

and Cat Rescue Foundation’s participation in the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, an ongoing competition in which the rescue group and others across the country are trying to surpass the number of animal adoptions recorded between June 1 and Aug. 31.

But why do people agree to share their limited free time with animals? What brings them in, and what makes them stay?

Here are a few of their stories:

CALL HIM THE CAT MAN. Harry Shubin and his wife, Julie, know what it’s like to get sweet-talked into taking on more responsibility.

“Always a cat person,” Shubin, a Fairfax resident, was introduced to Lost Dog through a secretary at work when his family was looking to adopt a kitten after the loss of a cat he’d had for 16 years. He was

more interested in adopting an older cat, but his family had other ideas. So they went to an adoption event. Within a little time, he had “managed to convince everyone that we should come home with an adult cat too.”

It took a while to find the right cats, and Friday nights became the family’s time to go to adoption events, chat with volunteers and spend time with the animals. During an adoption event about six months after they started going regularly, someone asked Shubin if he was interested in adopting.

“Before I could say no, someone opened up and said no, they’re just volunteers,” he said.

A year later, Shubin, offi-



PHOTO BY AMBER HEALY/ THE CONNECTION

Barbara Hutcherson and Marcia Tiersky help dogs out of the transport crates loaded into a van used by the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation to bring them to the 11 adoption events the rescue group hosts each weekend.

The Challenge: Joining Together to Save Animals

There are dozens of animal welfare organizations across the country working to secure “forever homes” for dogs and cats of all ages. And while there’s a general camaraderie amongst them, stemming from their common cause, what’s a little friendly competition among peers?

For the past few years, the ASPCA (American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals) has sponsored a nationwide contest to challenge shelters to see how many more animals they could adopt between June and August beyond the total the year before.

The idea was to “spur innovation, increase public support, empower staff and, most importantly, save more lives,” said Bert Troughton, ASPCA’s vice president and a leader of what has become the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100K challenge.

The organizations that adopt the most animals above totals from June to August the year before wins not only in terms of putting cats and dogs in loving, happy homes, but a sizeable chunk of change to save even more.

“We know that the contest can help save more lives in the long-term too, because all of

the added attention and support contestants earn during the contest can be harnessed for continued life-saving,” Troughton said.

ASPCA started the challenge in 2010, and in 2012, TV personality and animal lover Rachael Ray joined up with the organization, as she did again this year, allowing the organization to offer more than \$600,000 in prize grants:

A \$100,000 grand prize grant will be awarded to the organization that reports the largest increase in adoptions over the total from the year before. Other awards include a \$25,000 “community engagement award,” and \$25,000 to the first place finisher in each of five divisions, as well as \$15,000 to the second place finishers. Lost Dog is in eighth place overall and second place in their division as of Monday, July 22.

“It’s a whole lot of work and a whole lot of fun because every single life saved is a victory — regardless of who wins the grant prizes for the biggest increases,” Troughton said.

This year, 49 organizations in 30 states are competing for the grants, he said. To see the challenge details, visit challenge.aspcapro.org.

— AMBER HEALY

cially a volunteer with cat adoption events at the Tysons Corner PetSmart, was asked to help find a cat volunteer coordinator for the center in the store, where cats sometimes live before they’re adopted.

“We had about 30 volunteers at the time,” and Shubin said he made it clear — at least to him — that he was not interested in being responsible for keeping track of which volunteers had which cats at which time. But something happened and, before he knew it, Shubin was put in charge of the cat volunteers, a team he now counts at about 400 people.

“I refused twice,” he said with a laugh. He’s not alone in being drafted to help out. His wife and daughter are both cat adoption counselors, meeting with prospective cat owners before paperwork is signed and formalized.

He credits PetSmart for being a great partner with Lost Dog, hosting many of the adoption events throughout each weekend. He frequently checks in with the store to make sure the cats that are there have been

fed and checked in on by volunteers, and the managers make sure to receive copies of all adoption paperwork as well.

Other rescue groups might cringe at the thought of allowing an adoption to be made the same day people meet a cat, but Shubin believes that’s the best way to go.

“We’d rather adopt more cats to 85 percent perfect people than wait for that 99 percent perfect house,” he said. “We can always take an animal back” if the situation doesn’t work out for some reason. And there are always more cats to adopt, looking for good homes.

HER DAUGHTER’S DOING. Judy Haynes of Herndon was trying to help her daughter find a way to complete her volunteer requirement for an eighth grade civics class. Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was one of the few groups that would allow 14-year-olds to help out with parental supervision, so the mother-daughter

SEE VOLUNTEERING, PAGE 13

PET CONNECTION Cats, Other Pets Find Home in McLean



The Blue family of McLean sits on a sofa with their Scottish terrier Charly, who has been a part of the family for about eight years.

FROM PAGE 7

said Martha Blue of McLean.

However, she was able to overcome the difficulties of adjusting well and is now one of the cheeriest dogs the Blues have ever seen.

One remarkable reason for her happiness is about one year ago, Charly was diagnosed with bladder cancer and was told that she had only a few months to live. However, she stumped the veterinarians by overcoming the odds and her tumor even shrunk.

Despite the adjustments to accommodate her health, such as taking her outside to use the bathroom at night due to her three-hour bladder, the family is glad to see Charly

livelier than ever.

"The vets are so baffled," Blue said. "But Charly is just as happy now and much better fed."

Rats Make a Good Pet

When it comes to keeping pets, dogs and cats may be the norm but in one household, two rats have stolen their way into the hearts of the Close family.

Nicole Close, 11, was inspired to get rats as pets after seeing them at a zoo for a school field trip. Due to her brother and mother's allergy to other pets, rats seemed as a better alternative for the family.

"Both of them love people," Close said. "Whenever someone comes to the cage,



Nicole Close, 11, of McLean, holds her pet rat Coco, who passed away last year. She also has another rat, Little Rat, who is currently sick.

they sniff their fingers."

Although rats may not be able to play fetch or go on walks, they are able to learn fun tricks and play with small toys, such as sticks. Her family spent a lot of time with them, letting them run around the room and climb on them.

"You can definitely teach them a bunch of tricks," she said.

Both of the rats were bought on eBay. However, one of Close's rats, Coco, unfortunately died last year and her other rat, Little Rat, has a tumor. Although her rat may be sick and her family is in the process of moving, Close is still looking forward to a future of keeping more rats.

"I would like another rat," Close said. "It's really fun watching them play around and explore their cage."

Surrounded by Pets

Unlikely friendships have always been one of the staple tropes in movies and books. But that doesn't mean such friendships can't exist in real life too.

Even in the Ewing household of McLean, a giant Leonberger named Biffle and a tiny pug named Boo Radley get along together well, showing that size does not matter.

"They're good friends with each other," Ruanne Ewing said. "Although Boo is kind



Ruanne Ewing stands with her son Christopher, their giant but gentle Leonberger Biffle, and pug Boo Radley.

of pesky with Biffle."

Boo is currently five months old while Biffle is seven years old.

"Boo is very much a puppy. He's very curious and energetic," Christopher Ewing said. "He enjoys making new friends. Biffle is like the annoyed big brother."

Surprisingly, the dogs even get along well with the four cats that live in the house: Stella Blue, Princess, Millie and Cruiser.

"One of the cats like to egg Boo on but all the cats adore Biffle," Christopher Ewing said.

Both Biffle and Boo were bought from breeders while the cats were all adopted. In fact, Cruiser was a stowaway, found as a kitten inside the hood of Martha Ewing's car.

"We've always had pets for all I can remember," he said.

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PET CONNECTION

Volunteering Saves Lives

FROM PAGE 11
team signed up.

That was four years ago. "We started out holding leashes for the dogs," Haynes said. When their own dog passed away, they thought about fostering from the organization.

That led to a "foster failure," as the family soon adopted a "20 pound terrier who doesn't tolerate dogs bigger than she is. Now we foster a lot of Chihuahuas," Haynes said. The family has fostered at least 20 dogs in four years.

The power of knowing a dog has found the right home is awesome, Haynes added. She recalled one woman and little boy who came in to look at dogs during an event. Through the course of chatting with them, Haynes learned that the boy was in a foster home, and the woman wanted to help him feel more comfortable and safe.

"They were made for each other," she said.

Staying with Lost Dog now that her two teenagers have surpassed their eighth grade civics obligations was an easy decision. "It's very rewarding to do this," she said. "The volunteers, Barb and Pam, there are so many great people involved."

A SECOND JOB, A LABOR OF LOVE. Marcia Tiersky was just looking for a way to share her time.

Now the president of the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation board, Tiersky, who started volunteering with the organization in 2002, helps oversee quarterly board meetings in addition to interview-

ing potential adopters, answering questions from anywhere and everywhere, fostering dogs and updating the website when new animals arrive for adoption.

The organization has grown from three adoption events per week, averaging 20 adoptions each week, to 11 adoption events each week, averaging 50-70 adoptions each weekend. In her 10 years as president, the number of volunteers also has expanded, now numbering in the thousands.

"It's amazing," she said. "And it's all because of our wonderful volunteers. We could not do what we do if we did not have people to hold the dogs, show the cats, conduct interviews, do paperwork, answer adopter questions, respond to emails and calls on the phone line, and generally spread word of mouth about the rescue."

MONEY WON EQUALS LIVES SAVED. All volunteers interviewed were asked what Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation's winning the \$100,000 challenge would mean to the organization, and the response was unanimous.

Winning that money would mean more animals could be saved.

Editor's note: Writer Amber Healy is an occasional cat volunteer with Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation.



Mason, a Lost Dog cat, strolls on a leash during an adoption event.

Lost Dog: For the Love of Animals

In 2001, there were too many dogs without homes and too few people to help them.

That wasn't acceptable to Pamela McAlwee and Ross Underwood, lifelong animal lovers who wanted to save dogs and cats alike from shelters where their futures were non-existent if they weren't adopted.

McAlwee and Underwood were a few years into running a gourmet take-out pizza deli on Washington Boulevard in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington, when McAlwee went to help a friend find a dog to adopt. While visiting a shelter, she saw six dogs that were about to be put down within a few days. She promptly took all six home that night. She got them spayed or neutered and cleaned up and put a classified ad in a newspaper, and in between orders for pepperoni and cheese and vegetarian pizzas, she worked to find good homes for them all. She did this several times, adopting dogs about to be euthanized and finding homes for them.

That's how the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation was born, out of the take-out phone number for what's now the original location of the Lost Dog Cafe. McAlwee had worked with other rescue groups before, but she wanted to focus more on finding good homes for the animals instead of waiting for a "perfect" placement. The rescue group started with 25 dogs.

Now there are 150 dogs at a ranch in Sumerduck, Va., owned by Lost Dog, as the rescue organization is known, along with 20 cats and an assortment

of other animals, including a horse. Other dogs and cats live with fosters — more than 100 dogs are currently in temporary homes until they're adopted.

"It's amazing what we accomplish with an all-volunteer base," said Barbara Hutcherson, Lost Dog's adoptions coordinator.

Lost Dog is the only organization in Northern Virginia participating in the ASPCA challenge. The rescue had to verify its numbers and qualify in order to

participate, proving the volunteer base and "the commitment to really take this challenge and run with it," Hutcherson said.

If Lost Dog wins one of the grants provided through the challenge, the winnings likely will be used for vet bills. "It's difficult when you're looking at a list of shelter animals and you have to ask if you can afford the big vet bill for one animal" compared to smaller fees for multiple animals, Hutcherson said. "We want to take them all. It's uncomfortable, but we want to do every single thing we can."

Funding for the rescue comes from adoption fees, donations, and from proceeds from the four Lost Dog Cafe locations across Northern Virginia and the Stray Cat Cafe, next to the original Lost Dog Cafe in Westover.

— AMBER HEALY

How to Help

To learn more about the ASPCA/Rachael Ray \$100,000 challenge, find a new pet, donate or volunteer with the Lost Dog and Cat Rescue Foundation, go to www.lostdogrescue.org.

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A Delicate Balance – At Home



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

How appropriate is it to tell a cancer patient something negative (that he likely doesn't want to hear) – yet needs to know, and which might ultimately quash his fighting spirit and adversely affect his day – and night? Moreover, would withholding certain discouraging observations intermittently along the cancer-treatment way, in order for said patient to feel good and positive about himself – and better prepare him for any and all news/results which might upset his precariously imperfect life and moreover, likely chip away at his emotional wherewithal as well – cause more harm than 100-percent honesty all the time? If this sounds as if I'm splitting philosophical hairs, the tool I would need to do so in any possibly effective way has yet to be invented, literally or figuratively. Yet this is the life I live as a terminal cancer patient, alive and reasonably well, reliant on my wife, primarily, for a kind of support one rarely anticipates providing and for which either one is hardly prepared.

If this quandary were a line, it wouldn't exactly be a line of demarcation, more like a line of decapitation (figuratively speaking of course). These are lines which are clearly not defined. You couldn't find them on a map even if you were a cartographer with 20 years' experience making maps. These are lines which are blurry at best and if seen at all, likely seen from a satellite snooping high in the sky that neither the government says exists, or the reason for its existence, exists. This is a line, to invoke a well-known Ken Beatrice-ism (Ken hosted a sports talk radio program called "Sports Call" for over 20 years in the Washington, D.C. area) on which you wouldn't want to live (meaning the difference between talent and circumstances was impossible to quantify).

But this is the line of my life on which I try to live, balance, navigate, manipulate and delude myself as the various cancer-driven emotions and circumstances arise. It makes the 3.9-inch width of a balance beam seem more like 39 inches. However, there are striking similarities between this apparatus and life as a cancer patient: the falls can sometimes be devastating, physically, but more often, it is the emotional toll which disrupts the most. When I lose my balance and fall, it's as if I actually can't get up.

Most days I can manage this sort of co-dependency. Other days, I can't. Living in the past at the same time as you're trying to live in the present and plan for the future and trying as well to take both positives and negatives in the identical stride are challenges I really didn't anticipate having to overcome at such a relatively early age: 54 and a half.

Nevertheless, life goes on, for which I'm extremely grateful. Some days/circumstances are definitely worse than others, but at least I'm still in the game. For how long, though? (See, I can't even finish a column without stumbling over myself.)

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

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