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# Burke CONNECTION

Brothers Alex and Thomas Bateman are born to be wild while sitting on a shiny Harley Davidson in the Pohick Library parking lot during the library's 'Motorcycle Show and Tell' event, featuring Harley Davidson motorcycles from the Fairfax Harley Owners Group.

## Chrome and Comradery At Pohick Library

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Burke Centre  
Festival is Sept. 8-9

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Back to West  
Springfield High

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**SECOND  
SATURDAY®**

## Join us for coffee & conversation. Fairfax Divorce Workshop.

### Support. Information. Hope.

**Date:** Saturday, September 8, 2018  
Saturday, October 13, 2018  
Saturday, November 10, 2018

**Time:** 9:00-9:30a.m.-Registration  
9:30-1:00 p.m.-Workshop

**Place:** Duff & Kronfeld, P.C.  
Fair Oaks Commerce Center  
11320 Random Hills Road/Suite 630  
Fairfax, VA 22030

Please join us for coffee at our Second Saturday Divorce Workshop and get the information and support from professionals: a family law attorney, a financial advisor, a family therapist, a private investigator, an estate planning attorney and other professionals who will help guide you through the divorce process. Speakers vary for each workshop.

Registration at the door; however, pre-registration is recommended as space is limited.

Online Registration: [www.secondsaturdaynova.com](http://www.secondsaturdaynova.com)

Email: [nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com](mailto:nancy@secondsaturdaynova.com)

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## News



PHOTO COURTESY OF G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

### Promoting Youth Protection Training

Steve Smith, District Chairman, Patriot District, National Capital Area of Boy Scouts of America, discusses Adult Training for Cub Scout Leaders at the District Round Tables. He noted the Youth Protection Training and Wood Badge. Smith's Wood Badge beads are on the leather necklace seen in this photo.



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Join us for our **Second Saturday Art Walk** from 6p-9p on the second Saturday of each month. It's the perfect time to meet nearly 100 Resident and Arches Gallery Artists who create art in their studios and exhibit in our galleries. Enjoy thrilling performances of dance, cabaret, comedy, big band, jazz, and theater. Indulge in unique classes in the art of mixology or cuisines from around the world. And explore art exhibitions featuring the region's finest sculpture, painting, glass, ceramics, and fiber art.

All this excitement and more is tucked away at the Workhouse Arts Center, a 55-acre visual and performing arts center in Lorton, VA, located on the historic grounds of the former DC Correctional Facility at Lorton.

### September Featured Artists

W5: Hsi-Mei Yates

W8: Brian Grow

W6: SJ Paik

W9: Sandra McClelland Lewin

W7: Cheryl Peasley

W10: Nadine Thola

**9518 Workhouse Way Lorton, VA 22079**

**Wed-Sat 11a-6p, Sunday 12p-5p**



**WorkhouseArts.org**



Flags and blue jeans are part of every HOG event.

PHOTOS BY  
MIKE SALMON/  
THE CONNECTION



## Chrome and Comradery Follow the Local HOG Chapter

**Kids love the Harley Davidsons at Pohick Library.**

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

**B**rothers Alex and Thomas Bateman were sitting on a shiny Harley Davidson in the Pohick Library parking lot with big smiles as mother looked on. “My youngest loves motorcycles,” she said.

Kids on bikes was the highlight of the library’s “Motorcycle Show and Tell,” event, featuring Harley Davidson motorcycles from the Fairfax Harley Owners Group (HOG), based at Patriot Harley Davidson in the City of Fairfax. Thomas Bateman, 6, describes his experience gripping the handlebars. “It was kind of cool,” he said.

It was that kind of laid back event with about 15 motorcycles parked in shady spot of the parking lot, flags flying and bike talk going on amongst the riders. The local HOG chapter has about 700 members who mostly live in the City of Fairfax and the surrounding county, and visit several of the libraries, doing these kind of events throughout the summer.

“We stand for the fallen heroes that have died for this country, we take pride in it,” said Frank Proctor.

Since 1999, the HOGs have ridden in Rolling Thunder, a motorcycle event on Memorial Day that starts in the Pentagon parking lot, and heads across Memorial Bridge into the mall area of Washington, D.C. The Fairfax HOG group calls their part of it “Ride of the Patriots.” Traffic on I-66 is stopped momentarily and there is a police escort for the motorcycles into the Pentagon parking lot.

Steve Fred is a Vietnam Veteran who served in the Air Force on a refueling jet. “We refueled the fighters over the combat zone,” he said. After the Vietnam War, some of the veterans coming home took up motorcycle riding as a way of dealing with the trauma. “It clears your head,” Fred said.

The HOG chapter does benefit rides all year for other groups such as Jill’s House, Boldercrest, Operation Atlas and the Officer Down memorial ride. On Sept. 30 this year, they are scheduled to ride in a benefit for the Children’s Museum in Prince William County.



**Alex and Thomas Bateman are born to be wild on one of the motorcycles in the library parking lot.**



**HOG member Larry Larson helps library employee Caroline Lachance onto the motorcycle.**



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

**The 41st annual Burke Centre Festival will have about 150 booths, including 20 food vendors.**

## Burke Centre Festival Is Sept. 8-9

**Attractions include 150 booth exhibitors, 80 arts and crafters, and five live bands.**

BY STEVE HIBBARD  
THE CONNECTION

**B**etween 8,000 and 12,000 visitors are expected to attend the 41st annual Burke Centre Festival scheduled for the weekend of Sept. 8-9, 2018, at the Burke Conservancy Festival Grounds off Burke Centre Parkway in Burke. The hours are Saturday from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The after-hours Wine Garden hours are from 5-10 p.m. with last call at 9 p.m. It is free to attend.

According to Jeannie Winslow, Director of Administration: “I think what makes the Burke Centre Festival special is it attracts everybody from all walks of life from the community. We all come together and look forward to this event and try to showcase local talent. We try to find something that will appeal to all ages, all groups. We also offer a lot of affordability for families; there’s a lot of things they can do here for free.”

With a total of 150 booths in all, this year’s festival includes an Arts and Crafts Show with 80 exhibitors, and 30 community outreach booths. There will be Karaoke, Fairfax County Police, Fire and Rescue displays, an emergency preparedness area, and dance and other entertainment. There will be exhibitors displaying photography, furniture, glass, ceramics, jewelry, art, handmade soap, candles, knits, as well as interactive booths like henna artists and sand art. Some of the ro-

ing characters for the children include: PJ Masks, Unicorns, Pikachu from Pokémon, and McGruff the Crime Dog.

In addition, there will be amusement rides, pony rides, interactive wildlife shows, high-quality face painting, a hypnotist show, a nursing mom’s private tent, basketball toss, Midway-style games, giveaways and drawings, and more. No pets are permitted on the festival grounds.

Five bands will be performing, including local bands Sub-Radio and Roanoke. “We try to get new features every year. We have new music that’s coming on the stage this year. They’re young and very much online and they have an internet presence so we’re hoping a lot of people will be drawn to the shows,” said Winslow.

There will be 20 food vendors including the Burke Lions and the Springfield Rotary Club. There are two different Asian food options; one out front and one in the back. In addition, there will be North Carolina Ribs, funnel cakes, Kettle corn and shaved ice cream.

At 9:30 a.m., the Flag-Raising Ceremony opens with the Burke VFW and Boy Scout Troop 1345. Legacy Brass Band will be the opening band. Ticket sales, rides, shows, etc., do not start until the opening ceremony has ended at 10 a.m.

A free shuttle bus service will pick up riders along Burke Centre Parkway; parking will be available at all five BCC community centers. The venue will be at 6060 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Call 703-978-2928.



# OPINION

# America Needs Unions

BY DAVID BRODER  
PRESIDENT,  
SEIU VIRGINIA 512



Broder

**T**his Labor Day, while some of us attend barbecues or spend quality time with our families, millions of Americans will go to work.

Americans are now working longer hours for lower wages. Despite an increase in our educational attainment, fewer of us have paid sick days, parental leave or employer-based healthcare. Even fewer of us have retirements we can count on.

Unions are a solution to our broken economy. Working people who form unions with their co-workers earn higher wages, have better health care, have more secure retirements, and are safer on the job.

The statistics are overwhelming. Working people in unions earn 30 percent more than their non-union counterparts, and are nearly five times more likely to have a guaranteed pension.

Women workers who are union members earn nearly \$9,000 a year more than their non-

union counterparts. For African-American workers, the union differential is also about \$9,000, and for Latino workers the yearly advantage is more than \$11,000.

Unions have made all the difference in my family's life.

I'm the great-grandson of eastern European Jewish immigrants, who fled anti-Semitic violence, and came to this country with nothing. Thanks to my grandparents' union, my father was able to go to college. Thanks to my mother's teachers union (in which she was a powerful leader), our family never had to choose between seeing a doctor and putting food on the table, and my parents can now retire and live with dignity.

It's no wonder that more people are speaking out, organizing and voting for the rights to form a union.

Across the country, in deeply-conservative states like Oklahoma and West Virginia, union teachers and community allies have successfully mobilized for improvements to our education system, teacher pay and workers' rights.

Here in Virginia in 2016, a bipartisan majority of voters rejected the anti-worker constitutional amendment known as "right to work," while last month, voters in Missouri rejected the state's right-to-work law by a 2:1 margin.

Across the country, 61 percent of Americans

support unions, according to a recent Gallup Poll. Young workers are even more supportive, and are joining unions in record numbers, in order to fix a broken economy.

When workers join together to form unions, we all benefit.

Strong unions raise wages, improve health care, and expand retirement security for all workers, union and non-union. Unions have played important roles in the civil rights movement and women's rights movement, and continue today to fight for racial, immigrant and environmental justice.

Here in Northern Virginia, unions have helped lead fights to raise wages, increase mental health funding, create jobs, and ensure health care for up to 400,000 people through Medicaid Expansion.

So, this Labor Day, whether you're enjoying a burger with family and friends or you're hard at work at your job (or maybe your second or third job), I invite you to join us.

Let us all unite together on our jobs, in our communities, and at the polls this November, to demand a better economic future for all people!

Learn more at [AmericaNeedsUnions.org](http://AmericaNeedsUnions.org)

*David Broder of Vienna is president of SEIU Virginia 512, a union of home care providers, and county employees in Fairfax and Loudoun.*

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Time to Fix Rigged Voting Districts

To the Editor:

Our society doesn't allow citizens to choose juries for their own court cases, or scientists to pick their own peer-review committees, and we shouldn't let legislators cherry-pick their own voters. Letting legislators draw their own voting districts is a serious fox-guarding-the-henhouse problem because possibly as much as party politics, personal career interests drive legislators to lock in their

seats by gerrymandering.

To correct racial gerrymandering in our House of Delegates voting districts, Governor Northam has called a special session of the Virginia legislature. But Virginia legislators have a poor track record for correcting gerrymandered voting maps. In 2015, a federal court had to appoint a special master to remedy a similar situation because our legislators couldn't adequately resolve it.

Now, in 2018, the Governor should reach across party lines to endorse Senator Emmett Hanger's proposed redistricting commission. This independent, bi-partisan commission would have less interest in rigging elections for our legislators and more interest in bringing Virginia's voting districts into compliance with the Voting Rights Act. It would also provide a pilot study in preparation for permanent reforms to Virginia's redistricting process needed for 2021, when all

voting districts will be redrawn using data from the 2020 U.S. census.

Defending and appealing multiple racial and political gerrymandering court cases continues to cost Virginians millions in tax dollars, and we're still left with rigged voting districts. It's time to find a better solution to the old fox/hen house problem.

**JoAnn Kennedy Flanagan**  
OneVirginia2021 member in Fairfax

### Majority Wants a Secure Border

To the Editor:

It's the cliched language which grates: "breaking up families," "shocked the conscience," "from their mothers' arms" ("Isolating the Children," Connection, Aug. 22-28). Not one to pass up an opportunity to make political capital instead of offering practical solutions, Del. Ken Plum (D-36) inveighs against separation from their presumed parents of children entering the United States illegally. The sincerity here is a tad suspect since we recall nothing of this censure when separation was practiced, to a degree, by the previous administration. I suspect the vast majority of illegal immigrants know that their entry is illegal.

Unfortunate as they are, children who have made it here across considerable land expanse under uncomfortable conditions can probably tolerate clean beds, tasty meals, TV, and recreational facilities while their illegal parents are being detained. It is incontestable that the vast majority of Americans want a secure border. Del. Plum offers no solutions to an insecure-border problem. Practical suggestions in place of overwrought language would be welcome.

Oft-stated administration policy is controlled legal immigration. What otherwise: open borders, abolition of ICE?

**Harry Locock**  
Reston

## 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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Alexandria VA 22314  
Call: 703-917-6444.

By e-mail: [south@connectionnewspapers.com](mailto:south@connectionnewspapers.com)

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## NEWS



PHOTOS BY KHUYEN DINH/THE CONNECTION

Families from the county bring their children to enjoy the 'Summer Entertainment Series: Springfield Nights.'

# 'Springfield Nights' Come to a Close

Summer concerts finale at Burke Lake Park.

BY KHUYEN DINH  
THE CONNECTION

The "Summer Entertainment Series: Springfield Nights" held a final concert last Wednesday. For the end of the season, there was quite the turn out to hear local artists and The Johnny Artis Band. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who hosted the series, said this band holds a special place in his heart as they were the band that performed at his own wedding.

Herrity hoped to encourage local young artists in the community by inviting high school performers to open the concert. For the end of the season concert, performers included Donovan Field from Robinson Secondary School, Conner Field from George Mason University and Herschel Levy from Rosa Parks Elementary School. The event also held tents from companies such as Texas Top Dog and 2 Silos Brewery, serving drinks and Peterson's Ice Cream.

"It was a wonderful opportunity to be able to go to Burke Lake and perform with my brother, Conner," said Donovan Field. "It was so great to be able to open up for a great band. I got the opportunity by being a member of 'The Sophia Music Studio' since I was about twelve years old. My instructor asked if I was interested in performing in the Concert Series and, growing up in Burke, I was so very excited for this opportunity."

Herrity announced each of the artists and greeted the community during the concert as well as had his own tent set up.



**Performing on stage, The Johnny Artis Band entertains families with upbeat music. Supervisor Pat Herrity (R-Springfield), who hosted the series, said this band holds a special place in his heart as they were the band that performed at his own wedding.**

"The Summer Series was an outstanding community event. It really brought people together for a concert in the park with ice cream, hot dogs and beer," said Herrity. "We started a week after The Fourth of July. My favorite part about this event is being able to meet the people and being able to talk to the people in the community in a relaxed form. I learn about issues I need to work and get fixed and it is great to see people getting together to have a great time."

Herrity would like to thank the Fairfax County Park Foundation and Park Authority as well as several others for their help with this event.

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## BACK TO SCHOOL

Teachers Madi McKenna and Jill Blair are out back, looking for their students as the buses unload.



Bill Langloh directs the students to a new entrance that recently opened with the renovations.

PHOTOS BY  
MIKE SALMON/  
THE CONNECTION

## Doors Open at West Springfield on First Day of School

Some trailers are gone but construction continues.

BY MIKE SALMON  
THE CONNECTION

It was a busy summer for the construction crews at West Springfield High School doing the renovation, but now that the summer is coming to an end, the students filed in on the first day on Aug. 28.

"We don't have kids down in the trailers anymore," said Bill Langloh on the security staff. His station last Tuesday morning was out back where the buses unload. That seemed to be the feeling with all the staff. "All of our teachers will finally be under one roof," said photography teacher Dorothea Swaggart.

"We've had 65 new rooms in the last three weeks," said Michael Mukai, the principal.

To some of the students, it didn't really seem like that much of a big deal. Sydney Anderson, 17, and Sam McQuiston, 16, got there



West Springfield Seniors Suzel Rodriguez, left, and Erin O'Brien are looking forward to the coming year.



Biking to school every day is a mission of Mason Melear's.



Catherine Brach, a 16-year-old junior, is taking two languages this year.

early, sharing some of their summer stories with each other. "I want to get out of my house early to get the day over with," said McQuiston.

The \$75 million renovation is more than halfway completed and the trailers that everyone was talking about were in an area called "Sparta," keeping with the West Springfield Spartans theme. Included in the renovation is a new entry, which isn't right on Rolling Road like the old entrance, and new technologically improved classrooms. The renovations are scheduled to be completed in 2021.

Mason Melear locked his bike up by the new front door, and plans to ride to school every day like he did last year. Biking to work is faster than the bus, he said. "Did the same thing last year, I'll do the same this year," he said.

Catherine Brach, a 16-year-old junior, is setting her sights high and studying French. "I'm taking two languages this year, I'm looking forward to learning a new language," she said.

### Planning Troop 1131 Activities

Adults from the Troop and Troop Committee of BSA Troop 1131, St. Stephen's UMC, Burke, reviewed the Annual Schedule Plan created by the Patrol Leaders in a recent camping trip, to offer suggestions back to the Troop's Boy Scout Leadership. The meeting was held at Kilroy's Restaurant on Port Royal Road in Springfield. From left: Bob Klugiewicz; Scott Whitfield; Dan Peck, new Scoutmaster; Chris Gagne; Kevin Dunlop; Penny Dunlop; Mark Blanchard, former Scoutmaster; not in photo, Gary Black, III.



PHOTO BY G.C. 'GARY' BLACK, III

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### SCHOOL NOTES

#### Area Schools Honored as Unified Champion Schools

For their commitment to inclusion, four Fairfax County public schools have been named Unified Champion Schools by Special Olympics International. Students and staff members were praised for working to make their communities more inclusive of individuals with intellectual disabilities. FCPS' Unified Champion Schools are Bush Hill Elementary School, Frost Middle School, Lee High School, and Robinson Secondary School. Only six schools in Virginia were named Unified Champion Schools.

"Your school community has shown impressive determination and is helping us move towards our collective goal of creating a truly 'Unified Generation' of young people who embrace differences and lead social change," said Special Olympics Interna-

tional chairman Timothy Shriver and regional president and managing director Marc Edenzon. "You are literally redefining the future as you make your communities more inclusive of people with intellectual disabilities, and in doing so, making the world a more accepting place for all."

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement, and respect for all members of the student body and staff. Schools demonstrate their commitment to inclusion by meeting ten standards of excellence. The primary activities within these standards include: Special Olympics Unified Sports (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), Inclusive Youth Leadership, and Whole-School Engagement.

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# ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at [www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/](http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/). The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

## ONGOING

**Art Exhibit: Free Beer (and other lies).** Through Sept. 2, at Arches Gallery at Workhouse Arts Center, Building 9, 9518 Workhouse Way., Lorton. Featuring works by John Hartt, who is known for his quirky oil paintings which have been described as strangely comforting. His latest kooky collection, “Free Beer (and other lies),” explores some of the concepts and stories surrounding beer, drunkenness and lies as only Hartt can interpret them. Visit [www.workhousearts.org](http://www.workhousearts.org). For more information about John Hartt, visit [www.jortt.com](http://www.jortt.com).

**Art Exhibit.** Through Sept. 5, Monday-Thursday, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at The Fairfax Art League, Fairfax Old Town Hall – Upstairs Gallery, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Featured artist Yelena Svecharnik presents “My Journey - A Retrospective,” bringing together early watercolors, acrylics and mixed media paintings, linoleum block, printmaking, collages and more. Svecharnik will be in the gallery Wednesday Aug. 22, 29, and Sept. 5. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) for more.

**Sunday Farmers’ Market.** Through Oct. 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank and adjacent to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsundaymarket.com).

**Saturday Farmers’ Market.** Through Oct. 27, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. at 10500 Page Ave., Fairfax — one block from West and Main streets behind the Wells Fargo Bank next to the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse. Visit [www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com](http://www.fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com).

**Farmers Market.** Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Springfield Town Center, 6699 Spring Mall Drive, Springfield. Visit [www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/](http://www.facebook.com/SpringfieldFoodworks/)

**Thursday Farmers Market** at Fairfax Government Center, 2:30-6:30 through Oct. 25. 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax

**Burke Farmers Market**, Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, through Dec. 22! VRE parking lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway, Burke

**Kingstowne Farmers Market**, Fridays, 4-7 p.m., through Oct. 26, in Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

**Lorton Farmers Market**, Sundays 9 a.m. -1 p.m. until Nov. 18. VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.

## THURSDAY/AUG. 30

**Evenings on the Ellipse with The United States Air Force ‘Celtic Aire’.** 5:30-7 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The Evenings on the Ellipse summer concert series is a family-friendly event featuring a wide range of musical genres. Paradise Springs Winery and The Winery at Bull Run will be providing complimentary tastings; glasses of wine and full bottles available for purchase. A Farmers Market (2:30-6:30 p.m.) will also be on site selling fresh fruit and savory snacks. Rain or shine. Free. Visit [fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances) for more.

**Art and Poetry Event.** 7-9 p.m. at The Fairfax Art League, Fairfax Old Town Hall – Upstairs Gallery, 3999 University Drive, Fairfax. Featured artist Yelena Svecharnik presents “My Journey - A Retrospective,” bringing together early watercolors, acrylics and mixed media paintings, linoleum block, printmaking, collages and



more. Visit [www.fairfaxartleague.net](http://www.fairfaxartleague.net) for more.

## FRIDAY/AUG. 31

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**A.R Rahman Live in Concert.** 8 p.m. at Eagle Bank Arena, George Mason University, 4500 Patriot Circle, Fairfax. The “Slumdog Millionaire” actor will entertain fans of his composing, acting, and performing skills. Rahman is an Oscar and Grammy award winner. Visit [www.eaglebankarena.com](http://www.eaglebankarena.com) or [www.arahman.com](http://www.arahman.com) for more.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 2

**Lego/Potomac Module Crew HO Model Train Display.** Noon-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. Lego/Potomac Module Crew HO Model Train Display. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

**BBQ and Beer.** 5 p.m. at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way Lorton. New Orleans Funk band Bonerama is performing in the Rizer Pavilion on the Workhouse Arts Center’s newly remodeled center Quad. There will be food trucks and beer/wine/soft drinks available for sale. Early bird pricing: \$20 per person. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/event/bbq-beer-bonerama/](http://www.workhousearts.org/event/bbq-beer-bonerama/) for tickets.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 4

**Farm to Fairfax Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

## WEDNESDAY/SEPT. 5

**Singers Needed.** Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at Burke United

Methodist Church, 6200 Burke Centre Parkway, Burke. Singers wanted for the Celebration Singers, a women’s show choir performing at various community sites in Northern Virginia. Weekly rehearsals September-May. Free. Call Gayle Parsons at 703-644-4485 or email [gparsons3@cox.net](mailto:gparsons3@cox.net).

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 6

**History of Belvoir Manor.** 7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. Learn about the fascinating history of Belvoir Manor with Patrick O’Neil from the Burke Historical Society. Discover the mansion’s past from its Fairfax family ties to its role in the War of 1812 and creation of Fort Belvoir. Adults and teens. Free. Call 703-978-5600 or visit [librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4454036](http://librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4454036).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 7

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 8

**Marketing for Writers.** 8 a.m.-3 p.m. at Jubilee Christian Center, 4650 Shirley Gate Road, Fairfax. Join Capital Christian Writers for a one-day writers marketing conference. Aspiring writers have their own track to learn the nuts and bolts of getting published. \$75-\$115. Email [ccwriters@gmail.com](mailto:ccwriters@gmail.com) or visit [capitalchristianwriters.org/index.php/2018-conference-marketing-for-writers/](http://capitalchristianwriters.org/index.php/2018-conference-marketing-for-writers/) for more.

**Annual Crab Feast Dinner.** 3:30-6 p.m. at Historic Pohick Church, 9301 Richmond Highway, Lorton, in the Common Room. The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Crab Feast, sponsored by the Brotherhood of St Andrew, will include crabs, fried fish, steamed shrimp, potato salad, pork and chicken barbecue sandwiches, and hot dogs for children. \$30 per adult (ages 18 and older), \$15 for children ages 12-17, and children under the age of 12 are free. For tickets and more information contact Rodger Jones, [rodgerjns125@gmail.com](mailto:rodgerjns125@gmail.com), or Fred



## Fall Art Classes

Lessons for children, teens and adults with instructor Carol Zeitlin explore drawing, watercolor, Chinese Brush and portfolio development. At Woods Community Centre, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Visit [www.czartlessons.com](http://www.czartlessons.com) or call 703-250-6930.

Crawford, [fcrawford205@comcast.net](mailto:fcrawford205@comcast.net), or call the church office at 703-339-6572.

## SEPT. 8-16

**Workhouse 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.** At Workhouse Arts Center, 9601 Ox Road, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center invites the residents of Fairfax County and guests from throughout the region to visit for a week of free and low-cost events and activities in celebration of its 10th anniversary. Experiences include classes and presentations, films and music, special tours, and more. Visit [www.workhousearts.org/events/category/10th-anniversary/](http://www.workhousearts.org/events/category/10th-anniversary/) for more.

## TUESDAY/SEPT. 11

**Farm to Fairfax Market.** 10 a.m.-2 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. The market, will be producers-only – meaning that all vendors at the market may only sell what they raise on their farms or make from scratch using local ingredients as much as possible. May-September, weather permitting. Call 703-385-7893.

**Singers Wanted.** At the United Baptist Church, 7100 Columbia Pike, Annandale. Wakefield Chorale is looking for men and women who like to sing. The chorale welcomes singers of all voice ranges. No audition is required. Rehearsals are held on Tuesdays at 7:15 p.m. beginning Sept. 11. Call Johanna Droel at 703-569-0214 or email [jdroel@gmail.com](mailto:jdroel@gmail.com).

## FRIDAY/SEPT. 14

**B-I-N-G-O.** 7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Enjoy free coffee, entertaining callers, a friendly atmosphere, \$1,000 guaranteed jackpot, treasure chest progressive raffles, and good food available for purchase. All proceeds go to purchasing fire and rescue equipment. Visit [www.fairfaxvfd.com](http://www.fairfaxvfd.com) or call 703-273-3638 for more.

**Movies Under the Moon: Matilda.** 8 p.m. at Van Dyck Park, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Enjoy a night under the stars in Van Dyck Park with family and friends with a movie for all ages to enjoy. Free admission, bring chairs and blankets.

## SATURDAY/SEPT. 15

**Pet Adoption Event.** 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at Pet Supplies Plus, 11054 Lee Highway, Fairfax. Find a new forever

animal friend with the help of the City of Fairfax Animal Control and Animal Shelter. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/police/programs/animal-control/adopt-a-pet) for more.

**14th Annual Merrifield Fall Festival.** 11 a.m.-6 p.m. at Mosaic District. Presented by the Greater Merrifield Business Association (GMBA), in conjunction with URBNmarket and Mosaic, and held will be in the heart of the Mosaic District with food vendors, a beer garden, music and entertainment, as well as a pre-holiday handmade and vintage market. Children’s activities including: Vienna Singing Princesses, pumpkin painting, face painting, hair braiding, sack races, karate, peace mural painting, carnival games and more. Visit [greatermerrifield.org/merrifield-fall-festival](http://greatermerrifield.org/merrifield-fall-festival) for more.

**Citizen Naturalization Ceremony.** 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at George Mason’s Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Lorton. George Mason’s Gunston Hall will partner with the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, Washington Office, in naturalizing candidates. Before the ceremony, guests may enjoy activities and explore Gunston Hall’s grounds. Ceremony is followed by reception, an opportunity to register to vote, and Gunston Hall’s performance, “Mason and his Legacy,” performed inside the mansion. Admission is free until 1 p.m. to all visitors. Call 703-550-9220 ext. 240 or visit [gunstonhall.org](http://gunstonhall.org) for more.

## SUNDAY/SEPT. 16

**NTRAK Scale Model Train Show.** 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Northern Virginia NTRAK members will hold a N gauge model train show. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit [www.fairfax-station.org](http://www.fairfax-station.org), [www.facebook.com/FFXSRR](http://www.facebook.com/FFXSRR), or call 703-425-9225.

## THURSDAY/SEPT. 20

**Hometown Thursdays: Sudden M-Pac.** 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Old Town Square, 10415 North St., Fairfax. Third Thursdays in May-September. The new series will host local bands from the Fairfax area. Meet up with friends, grab dinner downtown, and listen to great music. A free, family-friendly event for all ages. Visit [www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays](http://www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/special-events/hometown-thursdays).



## NEWS

# Schools Provide Ombudsman for Parents, Students

FCPS Office of the Family and Student Ombudsman up and running.

BY ANDREA WORKER  
THE CONNECTION

**T**he Family and Student Ombudsman is a new position in the Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) system. Last May, announcing the establishment of the office and the selection of then-principal of Pine Spring Elementary School Armando Peri Jr. as the first ombudsman, FCPS Superintendent Scott Brabrand said, “We are committed to providing an unbiased point of contact for all student issues. We believe the creation of this new position will provide families another resource to assist in positive outcomes and resolutions of concerns.”

“Armando will bring a wealth of invaluable experience as both principal and counselor to this role,” Brabrand said.

In addition to a bachelor of arts from Saint Charles Seminary, a Psy.S. in school psychology, and a master of arts in developmental psychology, Peri also brings more than 23 years of experience as an FCPS employee.

Peri has worked as a school psychologist at all levels with the FCPS, and as an educational specialist in the former Office of Minority Student Achievement before his appointment as assistant principal at Parklawn Elementary School, then Irving Middle School, and most recently as principal at Pine Spring before accepting the ombudsman position.

“Actually, I applied for the role,” Peri said. “I truly see how valuable this office can be. As an FCPS parent for 16 years, if I am still learning and have to do some research for resources on occasion, I’m sure there are parents out there who could use our help in navigating the system from time to time.”

So what will the ombudsman bring to FCPS parents, students, teachers and faculty and staff?

“It’s important that people understand just what an ombudsman is, and what an ombudsman can and cannot do. In our first encounter with anyone who contacts us, we will first listen carefully and respectfully to their issues, and then make clear what the strengths and the limitations of our office are. In any case, we will always seek to provide information, resources and options,” he said.

The International Ombudsman Association lists four key elements in its Standards of Practice: independence, neutrality and impartiality, confidentiality, and informality.

As applied to the new FCPS office, Peri says those four principles mean that his office is a safe place to bring concerns, complaints or issues that will remain as confidential as the parent or student wish them to be.

Unless failure to disclose information could pose an imminent risk or danger to students or others, “we will only share information with the permission of those who ask for our assistance,” Peri said. “And no topic is off the table.”

The ombudsman does want to make clear that his office does not have the power to make appeal decisions, change policies or take specific actions on behalf of families or students. “We can’t do those things



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE CONNECTION

**“We’re open for business,” said Armando Peri, ombudsman for the newly created Fairfax County Public Schools’ Office of the Family and Student. School opens this week, but Peri and Carla Dallas, the department’s administrative assistant, have already been handling calls.**

**“Our number one priority is really to give parents the knowledge to be confidently active in their kids’ education.”**

**— Armando Peri, FCPS Ombudsman**

or directly advise, but we can help both navigate the system and connect them with the right people. Our goal is to educate and help people find options and make decisions being well-informed.”

The office will analyse trends to assist the FCPS in developing future strategies and improve systems and communications, But Peri is adamant that nothing about the Ombudsman’s Office is to be a “blame game,” but to work in tandem with all involved to secure the best, most positive outcomes.

Of course, Peri added, “If we recognize problems through our work, we will help address them, but our number one priority is really to give parents the knowledge to be confidently active in their kids’ education.”

**PERI’S OFFICE** is prepared to help with whatever parents or students need. “It doesn’t have to be a major issue. Sometimes parents just need help with a form, or information about resources for their children. We are here to help with things like that, as well.”

Peri will be assisted by administrative assistant Carla Dallas, who also brings years of FCPS experience to the new venture, including a tenure in the Superintendent’s Office.

To get better acquainted with the ombudsman and learn more about the Office of the Family and Student, check out Peri’s “Meet the Ombudsman” YouTube video and visit the website at [www.fcps.edu/ombudsman](http://www.fcps.edu/ombudsman). Reach Peri Dallas at 571-423-4014.

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**News**

## Alzheimer's Conference to Be Held in Fairfax

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America's (AFA) national Educating America Tour will visit Fairfax on Thursday, Sept. 27, for a free Alzheimer's and caregiver educational conference. The conference is open to family and professional caregivers, individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and the general public, and will be held at the Waterford at Fair Oaks, located at 12025 Lee Jackson Memorial Highway, in Fairfax, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The conference is designed to connect people with information about Alzheimer's disease, brain health, healthy aging and caregiving, as well as to give them a place to have their questions answered. Guests will hear from dementia and caregiving experts who will share their research, services and stories and teach attendees about dementia, practical steps on how to be a better caregiver, and improving quality of life for those with Alzheimer's disease.

"Knowledge is a powerful tool. We want to equip as many people as possible with important information that will help them," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's president and chief executive officer. "With more than 140,000 people in Virginia living with the disease, and many more serving as caregivers, we aim to help individuals understand Alzheimer's disease and improve their quality of life through education and empowerment."

**THE KEYNOTE SPEAKER** will be Dr. Peter Davies, director of the Litwin-Zucker Center for Alzheimer's Disease & Memory Disorders at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research. Davies is also a professor of pathology and neuroscience at the Donald and

Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra/Norwell. For more than 35 years, Davies' research has been focused on the biochemistry of Alzheimer's disease, with a specific interest in the development of new treatments and diagnostic tests for Alzheimer's disease. He will provide an update on Alzheimer's disease research, its symptoms, and the steps researchers are taking to find a better treatment and cure.

The next session will be a panel discussion on long-term care strategies and options. Learn the different types of care plans available, and their benefits. Find out how to ensure a better quality of life for loved ones by providing dependable and affordable care.

There will also be a discussion in the five pillars of brain health, led by Sarah Lenz Lock, senior vice president of Policy, Research and International for AARP. She is also the executive director of the Global Council on Brain Health. Lock will educate people about how to improve and maintain brain health as they get older while reducing risks.

**THE CONFERENCE** will conclude with a session on tips to improve a difficult caregiving day. Led by Lindsey Vajpeyi, BA, ADC/MC, director of education and outreach for the Insight Memory Care Center, the session will offer strategies to help caregivers reduce their stress and improve their health, while providing the best possible care for their loved ones.

Free, confidential memory screenings will be conducted throughout the day.

For more information or to register, visit: <https://alzfdn.org/event/afa-educating-america-tour-fair-oaks/>.

## Using the Libraries for Successful School Year

Fairfax County Public Libraries provided a few suggestions for using the libraries to help students succeed this school year.

- ❖ Get support and guidance from library staff. Library staff are trained to help students find legitimate information sources online including historical newspapers, speeches, reference databases, trusted websites and more.

- ❖ Use the library branches to read and study. There are reading nooks, tables and chairs, quiet study rooms and small group study rooms.

- ❖ Take advantage of free online tutoring sessions with a Virginia certified teacher.

- ❖ Free homework help research.fairfaxcounty.gov/c.php?g=758032&p=5455538 is available 24/7 through the library. Among the online resources, there's live homework help with a teacher through Credo Reference, a service for students in grades 3-12.

- ❖ Students can also sign up for GIVE tutoring in multiple branches throughout the academic year.

- ❖ The library also has a variety of Online Resources separately tailored for Grades K-8, and for Grades 9-12.

- ❖ Writing a paper? Check out "Crediting Online Resources" to find the correct way to properly cite your sources.

- ❖ And then there's "Homework Related Websites" categorized by subject.

- ❖ Whether you're studying classics, history or current events, the library has over 2.2 million items in its collection including digital material and print material. Use library resources to prep for fall SATS AND ACTS. Several different online sources offer test preparation for SAT, AP, ACT and SOL exams. Visit [Learning Express](#) to get started.

- ❖ Access free Wi-Fi and computers.

## Girls on the Run Gains Two New Board Members

Girls on the Run of NOVA has two new members on its board of directors: Chris Holland and Christine Klein.

"Chris and Christine have greatly supported our organization in a number of ways prior to their appointments to our board. They bring experience, expertise and new energy to the table. We are excited to continue to work with them in this new role as we work to inspire every girl across the Northern Virginia region to be strong and confident," said Katey Comerford, GOTR NOVA's executive director.

Klein is currently senior vice president, meetings and business partnerships at the National Defense Industrial Association. She is a past coach for Girls on the Run and currently serves at the chair of Strong Girls Celebration for GOTR NOVA. "The opportunity to be involved and contribute to an organization that

promotes a healthy lifestyle and an environment for girls to be strong and confident is extremely gratifying and a pleasure," said Klein.

Holland comes to GOTR NOVA's board as a service area manager for Wegmans Food Markets at the Chantilly store. He also leads the company's community outreach in the Northern Virginia area. Holland has been an active supporter of GOTR NOVA programming in recent years as someone who believes in giving back to one's greater community. Holland said, "I personally and professionally work hard to help families live healthier, better lives. I am excited about the opportunity to further these efforts through my new role with GOTR NOVA."

For more information about the Fall 2018 registration and team sites for Girls on the Run of NOVA, visit [www.gotrnova.org](http://www.gotrnova.org).



# BULLETIN

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

## VOTER REGISTRATION AND ID EVENTS

**The Fairfax County Office of Elections** (12000 Government Center Parkway Suite 323, Fairfax) is open daily during normal business hours to provide county residents the opportunity to register to vote or obtain a free voter photo ID if needed. Applicants will need to complete a photo voter ID application, have a photo taken and sign a digital signature pad. Call 703-222-0776.

The following special events will also provide opportunity to register to vote and/or get a photo Virginia Voter card.

- ❖ Tuesday/Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., The Woodlands Retirement Community, 4320 Forest Hill Ct, Fairfax.
- ❖ Monday/Sept. 17, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Heatherwood Retirement Community, 9642 Burke Lake Road, Burke.
- ❖ Wednesday/Sept. 19, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., Greenspring Retirement Community, 7410 Spring Village Drive, Springfield.
- ❖ Tuesday/Sept. 25, 11 a.m.-2 p.m., Burke Health and Rehab Center, 9640 Burke Lake Road, Burke.
- ❖ Thursday/Oct. 4, 10 a.m.-1 p.m., Leewood Healthcare Center, 7120 Braddock Road, Annandale.

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED

**AARP Foundation Tax-Aide** is looking to expand its team of volunteers for the upcoming tax season. Tax-Aide, now in its 51st year, offers free in-person preparation and assistance to anyone, especially those 50 and older, who can't afford a tax preparation service. Volunteers make a difference in their communities by assisting many older, lower-income taxpayers, and their families, who might otherwise miss out on the tax credits and deductions they've earned. To learn about volunteer opportunities, visit [aarpfoundation.org/taxaide](http://aarpfoundation.org/taxaide) or call 1-888-OUR-AARP (1-888-687-2277).

**Docents Needed.** Sundays 1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. Greet museum visitors and tell them about the exhibits, the museum and the its railroad and Civil War history. Ideal for those interested in railroads, the Civil War and Northern Virginia history. Training and orientation provided. Other volunteer opportunities are gardening, publicity and exhibit planning. Call 703-945-7483.

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

**The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Merrifield Center** offers a new stand-up information kiosk. Part of a pilot project, the new feature aims to improve the customer service experience and decrease wait times for individuals who are seeking mental (behavioral) health services. To check in, individuals respond to five simple questions, then the CSB's Patient Track software alerts staff. Based on clinicians' schedules and availability, as well as the needs of the client, individuals are triaged and seen by the next available staff member. For more information on available services, call the CSB at 703-383-8500 (Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). In an emergency 24/7, call CSB Emergency Services at 703-573-5679 or the Fairfax Detox Center at 703-502-7000 (TTY 703-322-9080).

## FRIDAY/AUG. 31

**Survey Deadline.** In an effort to better target opioid and other drug prevention efforts, the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board (CSB) is seeking opinions of young adults between the ages of 18-25. The survey is anonymous and voluntary, and asks questions about use of alcohol, prescription drugs, and heroin. Learn more about CSB's Wellness & Prevention efforts in Fairfax County at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/prevention](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/community-services-board/prevention). Visit [www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Y37BBJ](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3Y37BBJ) to take the survey.

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## Present and Future Danger



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Having recently been infused three weeks after my last treatment, no guarantee given certain lab results, I am now on track to have one more infusion before my Sept. 26 CT scan. The plan is, per my "Progressing But So Am I" column (8/15/18), to triple the amount of medicine I will have received before my next scan. This will compare quite favorably to the one infusion I received prior to my July 25 scan.

Moreover, as I've considered the previous quarter's infusion schedule trying to understand possible reasons for the 10-percent-ish tumor growth which occurred, I've come up with a hopefully plausible explanation. Other than that's what cancer so often does, that is.

As my previous years of scans continued to show "stable," my oncologist and I kept increasing the interval between infusions trying to strike a balance between treating the cause and me living with the effect. Over these years, we've gradually extended those infusion intervals from every three weeks, to every four, to five, to six and most recently to seven-week intervals, all the while maintaining my quarterly CT schedule.

Apparently, we've now struck out, so to speak and for the moment at least, we're in sort of a limbo. (Hopefully the bar isn't set so incredibly low that we can't slide under it.)

As for minimizing the growth, could the solution be as simple as more medicine?

As to what my oncologist thinks of this assessment, I've not mentioned to him as I've only recently theorized it (maybe he knew already and that's what contributed to his suggestion that we follow this course of treatment/action).

We did discuss changing medicines, but he was afraid of the side effects it might cause. We also discussed if he'd had other patients who had experienced tumor growth after a period of stability — like me, who after increasing the frequency of the previously stabilizing drug showed stable once again. He said he had — so, rather than presume all is lost, we've agreed to go forward into the great semi unknown. An "unknown" that will likely end in late September when my next scan's results will be reported.

Now that you know the foundation for this column, let me address the substance behind it. There is a scenario which worries me. It's premature I grant you, but it's difficult to play dumb all the time, especially when it involves cancer/your life.

Still, if I've learned anything from my oncologist, it is that discussing scenarios before the evidence is confirmed is a bit of a fool's errand, so waiting until the actual results are in is better. More accurate anyway.

Despite what I've been told, this patient might not be able to be so patient. Ergo: What if my late September scan shows growth — again? What if, even after tripling the amount of medicine I infuse, the tumors grow, maybe even grow more significantly than ever before?

I'd have to say that development would be a problem and a bit more disappointing than July's scan results. If that result in fact occurs, would that square me at a crossroads? I would think. Would that result obliterate the false sense of security I may have had? Hardly. Cancer patients don't have a sense of security, false or otherwise. We have a sense of inevitability.

Somehow, over the next month, I must find a path forward through this cycle of potentially impending gloom. Right now, nothing has happened. Right now, nothing has been determined. I don't feel any different than before and I don't believe I have any of the symptoms my oncologist has advised me about. I still have an appetite and I'm certainly not losing any weight.

I expect to have one more infusion before this next scan, and to feel the usual post-chemotherapy side effects that I do and then recover and feel as I do today: pretty well. One month, exactly, from the date I'm writing this column, to the date of my next scan and hopefully just a few days later for the results.

What worries me most is, sometimes the human body has a mind of its own, and despite the best of intentions and treatment, it is, to quote my late mother, "Enough already."

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



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