



Burke CONNECTION

Children's & Teens' Connection 2018

By Isabella Sevier, Grade 4,
Cherry Run, Art Resource
Teacher Melanie C. Rodas

DECEMBER 27 - JANUARY 2, 2019

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

*Writing with prefixes, submitted by
Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Sixth Grade
Teacher.*

the calendar's indescribable quality?

— LUCAN COHEN

The anti-happy underground tritoothed hippo and his cohippo disagreed about forecasting the underground weather so instead they got into their underground submarine and drove it in a semi-circle. As the duo drove their underground submarine the aqua dog, a famous underground superstar, transported the anti-happy underground tritoothed hippo and his cohippo to the land above the underground.

— ELIZABETH SO

My multicolored pinkish-blue pet has duobows on each of her ears. She was happily eating multichipped cookies. She made a mistake and spilled the milk. So then she repoured the milk into the polyspotted cup. Then she semi-dipped her chocolate chip cookies and started to eat them nonstop. She was midway in her "eating the cookies the fastest" challenge when her friend came in and said those were her cookies! My pet said it was a misunderstanding and that the whole class got cookies. After that her friend and she ate the cookies together.

The end.

— CHRISTIE BAE

The prehistoric, multiheaded, polyeyed purple octopus repaired his irreplaceable calendar. He uses his calendar to predate the past apocalyptic resurgence of man. Do you think he'll finish before his pregame warmup? And if he can will our octopus be able to replace

My grandmother said she had a pet worth multi-million dollars. I told her that was impossible so she invited me over to her house. I knew my grandma was a former biology student and loved animals, but what I saw when I walked in was insane! It was a hexahorned, trilegged, deca-eyed dog looking right at me. The prehistoric-looking thing was looking right at me. The prehistoric-looking dog marched back to his bed – which could be misjudged to be a throne – and started to drink water out of his semi-filled wine glass.

— GRACE HEBERER

My pet is a pre-human animal. He is a uni-headed, quad-eyed, octo-legged, tri-armed cat. He is writing a report on why the Cat Council should intercept midway a group of enemy submarines transporting unfriendlies undersea. He is thinking about the injustice and how it was impossible that the Council had overlooked his first report. When they read it they disagreed, dismissing it as nonsense. He is writing another report about anti-Cat beings, saying that they will use the atmosphere to send encoded messages to each other and also saying that they will use a mind-controlled singing superstar to defrost the tension between the beings and the Dogs.

— CHRISTIAN YOON

Glasses

I have lost my glasses,
I need them to see
I cannot think of what will become of me,
For I am nearsighted
And not so delighted
Yes, my pair of glasses ARE LOST!

— SARAH CHAYKIN, 9, OF BURKE
GRADE 4, KEENE MILL ELEMENTARY

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



By Oliver Glas, Grade 4, Cherry Run ES, Art Resource Teacher
Melanie C. Rodas

Welcome

Dear Readers:

This week, the Burke Connection turns over its pages to the youth and students.

We asked principals and teachers from area schools to encourage students to contribute their words, pictures and photos for our annual Children's & Teens' Issue.

The response as always was enormous. While we were unable to publish every piece we received, we did our best to put together a paper with a fair sampling of the submitted stories, poems, drawings, paintings, photographs and other works of art.

We appreciate the extra effort made by school staff to gather the materials during their busy time leading up to the holidays. We'd also like to encourage both schools and parents to mark their 2019 calendars for early December, the deadline for submissions for next year's Children's & Teens'

Connection. Please keep us in mind as your children continue to create spectacular works of art and inspiring pieces of writing in the coming year.

The children's issue is only a part of our year-round commitment to cover education and our local schools. As always, the Connection welcomes letters to the editor, story ideas, calendar listings and notices of local events from our readers. Photos and other submissions about special events at schools are especially welcome for our weekly schools pages.

Our preferred method for material is email, which should be sent to burke@connectionnewspapers.com, but you can reach us by mail at 1606 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314 or call 703-778-9414 with any questions.

— EDITOR KEMAL KURSPAHIC



My Desk by Jean Seo, Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.



Drawing by Allison Bieron, Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.



By Christie Bae, Grade 6, Cherry Run ES



My Thanksgiving by Josephine Bronson, Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.

CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Sixth Grade Teacher.

Give

I had a friend that loved to win and she would win a lot and brag about it! She was very competitive but other than bragging about her wins she was pretty nice. Whenever she would win not too many kids would congratulate her because she would already congratulate herself. One day she won first place and I got second. Out of all people she definitely thought I wouldn't say anything, but I told her "Good job! You deserve that and your teachers are so proud of you." I walked away, but I walked away knowing that she really appreciated what I said – because no kid would say that to her and she would definitely not have said that to me.

— ELIZABETH SO

Thank You

There are lots of things I'm thankful for but one stands out the most. For a long time I hated to read. My mom had to beg and plead to get me to pick up a book. She finally got tired of this and she made some strict rules on reading. The rule stated that my sister and I had to read for thirty minutes a day to earn our electronics on the weekend. I hated the rule but it forced me to read a lot more than I did before. I think my mom is a secret genius because now I love to read and I thank her for that.

— BRYCE WILLIAMS

Once upon a Thanksgiving, my family and I were going up to New York when I said I would like to say the prayer. At my uncle's house, before we ate, I was eyeballing him so hard that my eyeballs were going to fall out. And finally he said, "Walter, would you like to say the prayer?" I was screaming in my head and I ate turkey so fast and so much and it was a great Thanksgiving.

— WALTER RIZZARDI

I am thankful for our dog, Ruby. We adopted her from an animal shelter. She is comforting for times when I am not feeling good. She makes me lift up my spirit so then I feel bet-

ter.

— DANIEL MAGANA

My grandma has a cabin in West Virginia. It takes about four hours to drive there. I really love it. You can ski – Snowshoe is near there. You can also fish because there's a pond near and a river, too. I love the cabin.

— CALEB DUFF

Being a kid comes with some parental restrictions. Adults have it MUCH worse than kids, but our problems are still frustrating. It's good to have someone to relate to when you're frustrated like this. And therein lies one of the best parts of a sister: company. When I'm frustrated, it's good to have someone I can relate to. I just really appreciate that.

— LUCAS COHEN

I am very thankful for my ramp on our Honda Odyssey van. After my dad died, it was so hard for my mom to load me into our black car. I am thankful for my van because my wheelchair can fit in it. The van was made in Waynesboro, WV, 2 ½ hours away from here. I remember going to look at it. We got to test one of the ramp vans that was there. My mom got locked in the van after I got out. I thought it was funny. (The man opened the ramp door manually so she could get out.)

— CHRISTOPHER BOEHM

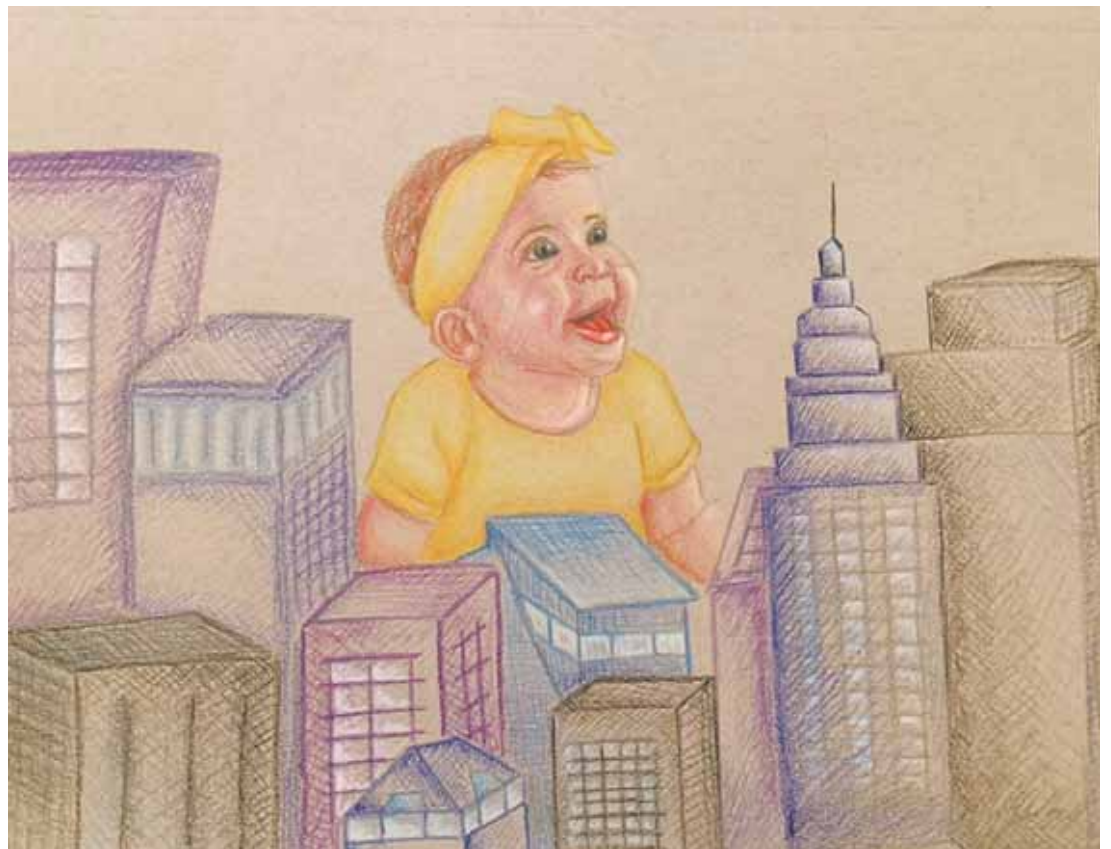
I have always had super thick hair and I have always had curly hair. My hair was never that thick pretty hair that would be shown on TV when women advertise for shampoo. I never felt confident about my hair because it was different and no one had hair as thick as mine. Everyone had straight, thin hair that was easy to put up in cute styles.

In fourth grade, I took my hair out of a pony tail, but just when I was about to put it back up, a mom came up to me and said "No! Leave your hair down. You are so lucky to have wavy hair that no one else has. My daughter is probably jealous!" That really changed me. I feel more confident about my hair because of her.

— ELIZABETH SO

ART CLASSES IN BURKE

Artwork submitted by Art Classes in Burke with Instructor Carol Zeitlin.



Color Pencil Drawing by Amanda Bohn



Drawing by Calvin Ashley



My Thanksgiving by Josephine Bronson



Animal Collage, Color Pencil Drawing by Audrey Reese

Drawing by Leah Brinkley

CHILDREN'S & TEENS'

POETRY CORNER

Short poems by Maya Tirado of Springfield.

A Tree

I love different colors
my hair changes each season.
It changes each time
when the sun is high
and wind is breezin'.

Earth

The earth is green, the earth is blue.
The land, sea and everything around you.
The tides, the waves come from the moon!
The grass, the green comes from the clouds.
The rain, the sun, everything on earth,
helps each other for you!

Thanksgiving

Delicious food
brings gratitude.
For family and friends
they bring love to the heart and
gratefulness to the mind.
Enjoy and relax
for your heart
to say HOORAY.

Clouds of Wonder

Clouds are mysteries
What do they do?
Where do they come from?
They help the environment
and I hope you do too!

NEWINGTON FOREST ELEMENTARY



By Stanley Liang, Grade 1

Wind

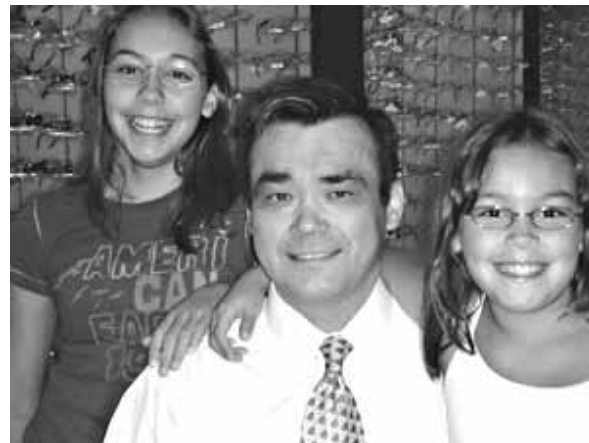
The wind is magical
the wind is cool
the wind dances with the big blue sea,
it dances with the little happy you.

Storm

A storm is mean,
a storm is powerful.
A storm is as stable as a house,
as mean as a fire-breathing dragon
and a slithering snake, and
as powerful as a viper bite sting.

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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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CHILDREN'S & TEENS'



By Aaron Platt, Grade 4



By Lucas Cohen, Grade 6

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Sixth Grade Teacher.

By Christie Bae

Our class read the book The Wild Robot by Peter Brown. Christie Bae made this turn-the-crank model of a scene in which the otters accidentally bring the robot, Roz, to life.

CHERRY RUN ART GALLERY

Artwork submitted by Melanie C. Rodas, Art Resource Teacher, Cherry Run ES.



By Abi Schuettler, Grade 5



By Lily Longenecker, Grade 6



By Henning Gehrmann, Amelia Soltren, Kaitlyn Cyre and Jaithin Landau (Grade 1).



By Andrew Fthenos, Grade 6



By Haley Inscoe, Grade 6

By Caroline Crook, Grade 3

A printed mandala banner by Victoria Shea, Grade 5

By Braden Hodge, Grade 2

By Kyla Tran, Grade 5

CHERRY RUN ELEMENTARY

Submitted by Mary Ellen Zavaleta, Sixth Grade Teacher.



>Cling<I gently placed the paintbrushes on a pile of leaves. Suraya Sultana was on the plaque on the bench. We were at burke lake,coating my grandma's bench with weather protection.While my dad slathered it on the bench.It looked so shiny and the light sparkled on it,I stared in awe.I started to make a sign because it was wet.A young woman past us and said,"Thank You."The words smoothly fell out of her mouth like a song. I gave her a wide grin, and she did the same.



By Ameera Ali

THANK YOU!

What!"My eyes widen and a "burst of excitement ran through my body. How? When? Why?!"I pounded at my mom. She got me my ultimate dream,a stand-mixer!Yes,most children would not dream of having that, but I did.I really started to love baking around 8 years old. I thought that having a stand mixer would make me more of a professional chef. I feel like she didnt only get it for me, because I always wanted it but to show me that she thought I was a good baker so I could handle fancier things.I felt very professional.

By Ameera Ali

By Ameera Ali

Gary Kramer, D.D.S.

Sara Bunin, D.D.S.

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6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Presentation starts at 7 p.m.

Inclement Weather Date: Monday, January 14, 2019

Robinson Secondary School

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Find out about plans to widen Fairfax County Parkway (Route 286) from four to six lanes between Route 29 (Lee Highway) and Route 123 (Ox Road). The proposed project design also includes an interchange at Popes Head Road and the future Shirley Gate Road extension, improvements to the existing trail in the Fairfax County Parkway right of way and construction of a new shared-use path to make the trail continuous within the project limits.

Stop by between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. to view displays and learn more about the project and its preliminary design, including Popes Head Road interchange options under consideration. VDOT will hold a presentation beginning at 7 p.m. Project staff will be available to answer your questions.

Review project information at the VDOT project website (www.virginiadot.org/projects), at the information meeting, or during business hours at VDOT's Northern Virginia District Office at 4975 Alliance Drive in Fairfax. Please call ahead at 703-691-6710 or TTY/TDD 711 to ensure appropriate personnel are available to answer your questions.

Give your written comments at the meeting, or submit them by **January 22, 2018** to Mr. Sitaram Kodali, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or email meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Fairfax County Parkway Widening" in the subject line.

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State Project: 0286-029-259, P101, UPC: 107937, Federal: STP-5A01 (775)

ORANGE HUNT ELEMENTARY

Submissions from Mrs.
Kieffer and Mrs. Rozycki's
students

By Molly
Thorne,
Grade 2



By Elia Mazerolle, Grade 2



By Athena Giannetti, Grade 3



By Sorami Nguyen, Grade 3



By Audrey Smith, Grade 1



By Alexandra MacDonald, Grade 6



By Andrea Dinh, Grade 3



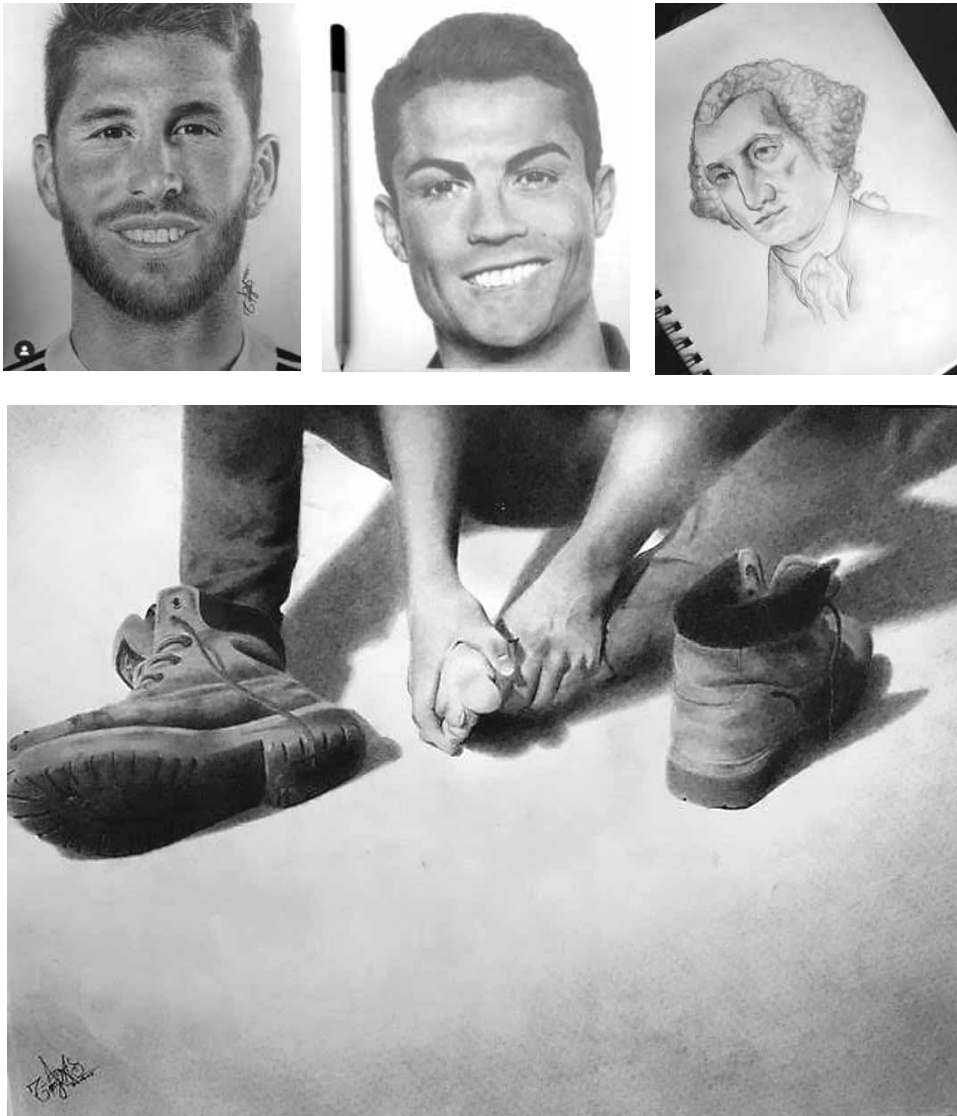
By Ruby
Laden,
Grade 5



By So phia
Orozco,
Grade 5

HAYFIELD SECONDARY

Drawings by Tony (Anthony) Diaz, a senior at Hayfield Secondary, submitted by Math Teacher Danette Short.



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Submitted by
 art specialist
 Leigha Pehlivan.

**By Mia
 Gutierrez
 Zeballos,
 Grade 1**



**By
 Dennise
 Garcia
 Argueta,
 Kinder-
 garten**



**By Daniel
 Hendricks,
 Grade 4**

**By Gelila
 Wasyihun,
 Grade 2**



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**By Diana
 Clavijo,
 Grade 5**

CHILDREN'S

Native

If the valleys
and seas
would answer
our pleas

All would be
withheld and
withdrawn

The echoes
in the hills
of the bird's
sweet, short song

Guiding us all
slowly along

My children
They laugh
They sing
They dance

Praying along
with no
second glance

If the
civilized ones
knew how
peaceful we can be

They'd leave us
alone and
answer our
plea

— SARAH EWELL, 12,
WEST SPRINGFIELD
GRADE 7
AT WASHINGTON IRVING
MIDDLE SCHOOL
ENGLISH TEACHER
EMILY ROSS

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Back to Abnormal



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Now that the drama of the last five weeks – and the last three columns – is mostly over, life can return to its previous/usual ebb and flow of cancer highs and lows.

For the moment, what I don't know: the effect on my "Adam's Apple" tumor (as I will call it) of the aggressive, every-three-week-infusion-schedule I've been on since early October, is definitely not hurting. Though I am under no delusions about what my next CT scan might show, I also have no confusion as to the road ahead: stay positive and remain engaged and live life with the least amount of focus and conversation on the dominating fact that I was diagnosed with an incurable form of cancer: non-small cell lung cancer, stage IV, almost 10 years ago. A diagnosis which came with a "13 month to two year" prognosis.

By most accounts, I shouldn't be writing this column – or doing anything else for that matter. I should be somewhere else – doing absolutely nothing, so far as we know, anyway. And I don't mean lying on a chaise lounge somewhere soaking in the local culture as I try not to sunburn in the midday sun. I mean... well, I presume you know what I mean.

But here I am, alive and reasonably well; not boasting, just saying.

Because, as amazingly fortunate as I am to still be anywhere nearly 10 years post diagnosis, there's a part of me that believes not so much in what I've done to support my chemotherapy/conventional treatment (non-Western alternatives) as in thinking I've fallen through some crack somewhere and have been forgotten by whatever reaper is sowing these things.

Granted, he/she/it has a lot of work to do and an incredibly long list to get through; still, as the centuries have confirmed, eventually, everyone's die is cast.

Having survived so long when so few of the thousands of similarly diagnosed cancer patients have not, certainly gives this one pause. But the pause passes quickly and is taken over by positivity; as in I must remain positive about the negative and not allow any semblance of "woeing" about me or moaning and groaning about what I'm able to do or disabled and unable to do. Never!

I have been given the gift of life and I see no point in looking that gift-horse in its mouth. It is my job, if it could even be characterized as such, to keep my head down and keep moving forward, figuratively speaking. There is no point in thinking backwards or wondering who, what, where, when and how. The point is the future, not the past.

Unlike the country music song by Tim McGraw, "Live Like You Were Dying," I don't want to live like I'm dying. I want to live like I'm living. A living which takes into account the good, bad and the indifferent.

If I stray from what I perceive to be my usual path, I will know that I'm doing so for a reason: cancer.

And since I never want to reinforce a negative, let alone give it room to roam, I will continue to try and take it all in stride and be grateful along the way for the life I've been granted and try not to weaken in my resolve to not let others be adversely affected or diminished by my situation.

I pretty much do whatever I want to do anyway. Though there are many things I can't do (particularly, bending), there are still many activities I am able to enjoy.

To quote Spock from Star Trek: "The good of the many outweigh the good of the few." A bit of a stretch I know, but I hope you get the association.

For me to survive the ordeal of cancer requires taking the emotion out of it. The highs and lows must become evens. And the levels and test results which occasionally have become odds, merely moments in time and subject to change.

If I am to finish this race, time cannot be of the essence, time must be what I make of it.

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

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**WELCOME TO ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA'S
PERSONALIZED CAR CARE EXPERIENCE**

**BUY 3
TIRES
AND
GET
THE
4TH FOR**



\$1

**See Service
Advisor for details.**

GOT TIRES?

INCLUDES ROAD HAZARD PROTECTION, TIRE
WARRANTY, AND FREE COURTESY INSPECTION.

**BONUS: ADD A 4 WHEEL
ALIGNMENT FOR \$39.95**

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER OR COUPON. TOYOTA
VEHICLES ONLY COUPON MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF
WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND
SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/18

**CHECK ENGINE
LIGHT DIAGNOSIS
NO
CHARGE**

INITIAL DIAGNOSIS

**WE WILL RETRIEVE
VEHICLE CODES
& GIVE YOU
AN ESTIMATE
OF REPAIR COSTS.**



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SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/18

Jack Taylor's
**ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA**

3750 Jefferson Davis Hwy • Alexandria, VA 22305



SERVICE & PARTS DEPT HOURS:

Monday - Friday, 7:00am to 7:00pm
Saturday, 8:00am to 5:00pm

**YOU HAVE SATURDAY OFF.
THAT'S EXACTLY WHY WE DON'T!**



**ToyotaCare
Customers**

Don't Forget Your **FREE** Service.
5,000 • 10,000 • 15,000 • 20,000 • 25,000



Mile Services
Call your ASM for details

ToyotaCare Plus \$329⁰⁰

Covers up to 4 years/45,000 miles

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

\$29⁹⁵

NON-SYNTHETIC

\$44⁹⁵

SYNTHETIC

Includes: Genuine Toyota oil filter, up to 5 qts of conventional oil*,
inspect windshield wipers, check tire condition, check battery (with
print-out), inspect and adjust all fluid levels, inspect air & cabin air filters.

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ALIGNMENT SPECIAL

\$69⁹⁵

Your car's alignment suffers, and can
cause uneven tire wear and steering problems.
INCLUDES: Inspect suspension, ball joints, struts
& shocks, tire condition and set tire pressure.

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BRAKE SPECIAL

\$79⁹⁵

Includes: Install Genuine Toyota front brake pads,
inspect front & rear rotors & drums, check tire
condition and inspect all hardware. Pads only.

MACHINE ROTORS ADDITIONAL

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**SIGHT LINE
WIPER BLADES**

\$10 OFF

Sight Line only.

NOT VALID WITH ANY OTHER OFFER. TOYOTA VEHICLES ONLY. COUPON
MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF PURCHASE. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA
TOYOTA PARTS CENTER ONLY. GOOD THRU 12/31/18

VARIABLE DISCOUNT

\$15.00 OFF when you spend \$100.00 - \$199.99

\$30.00 OFF when you spend \$200.00 - \$299.99

\$45.00 OFF when you spend \$300.00 - \$399.99

\$50.00 OFF when you spend \$400.00 or more

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AT TIME OF WRITE-UP. VALID ONLY AT ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA. TAX AND SHOP SUPPLIES ADDITIONAL. OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/18



ALEXANDRIA TOYOTA

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FREE

BATTERY CHECK-UP

Check cold cranking amps and visual inspection of
battery condition. Includes battery condition print out.

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TRUESTART™ BATTERIES



\$99⁹⁵

INCLUDES BATTERY INSTALLATION

Includes: 84 month warranty, 24 month free replacement,
24 month free roadside assistance.
Does not apply to hybrid batteries.

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Check your windshield. Does your sticker say **12/18, 1/19,**
or **2/19**? If so, your VA Safety Inspection is now due

VIRGINIA STATE INSPECTION

FREE

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CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AT **703-684-0710** OR SCHEDULE ONLINE AT **ALEXANDRIATOYOTA.COM**