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Fairfax CONNECTION

From left, friends Michelle, 8, and Hunter, 6, enjoy white-chocolate gelato and chocolate-covered marshmallows at Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers Festival 2017.



Calling All Chocolate Lovers

News, Page 3

Guest Violinist At Mason Stage

News, Page 9

Local Teen Charged: Child Pornography

News, Page 5

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PHOTOS BY BONNIE HOBBS/THE CONNECTION

Vendor Hanadi Eljari of Le Papiyon Chocolatier will return this year.



Michael Pearce and Dinah Herring of The Wine House pour Italian dessert wine at a previous Liquid Chocolate event.

Calling All Chocolate Lovers

Fairfax's 27th annual festival is Feb. 1-3.

BY BONNIE HOBBS
THE CONNECTION

Calling all chocolate lovers: For chocolate treats in pretty much every form imaginable, Fairfax City's 27th annual Chocolate Lovers Festival is the place to be.

Set for Friday, Feb. 1, from 6-8 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 3, from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., it offers everything from candy to cupcakes, cookies, fudge, ice cream, cakes and even a chocolate fountain.

"The festival, as always, will be a blast for anyone who has a sweet tooth," said Mike McCarthy, City communications and marketing director. "Not only is Liquid Chocolate back this year – think everything from chocolate wines and beers to cocktail-and-dessert pairings – but it'll be two days, starting Friday night and rolling into Saturday."

"We'll have the Taste of Chocolate in Old Town Hall, and our silent auction on Sunday promises to be bigger and better than ever," he said. "The best part is that admission to everything is free; attendees simply pay for the sips and sweets as they go."

In fact, for six years in a row – every year this survey has been held – Fairfax's Chocolate Lovers Festival has placed first in the category, Best Food Festivals in the Northern Region, by readers of Virginia Living magazine.

The highlight is the Taste of Chocolate, where attendees purchase samples of delicious chocolate treats from two floors of vendors in Old Town Hall. Another showstopping event is the Chocolate Challenge, in which both professionals and home cooks compete to see who can make the most beautiful and creative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes. (Website: ChocolateFestival.net).

But that's not all. Throughout the festival, there's a full slate of fun-filled activities for children and adults alike. There'll be magic, juggling, musical performances,

face-painting, fairy tales, a cake walk, fire-safety puppet show, Chocolate Caper mock trial, cupcake-decorating and open houses in historic buildings.

All venues are handicap-accessible, but only certified service animals are allowed inside any event site.

Liquid Chocolate, Barbecue Lunch

The Feb. 1, Liquid Chocolate event goes from 6-8 p.m. and features an intriguing assortment of chocolate libations. It'll be held inside a heated tent on Old Town Square's upper parking lot, 3999 University Drive. And because it's so much fun, it'll return on Saturday, Feb. 2, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

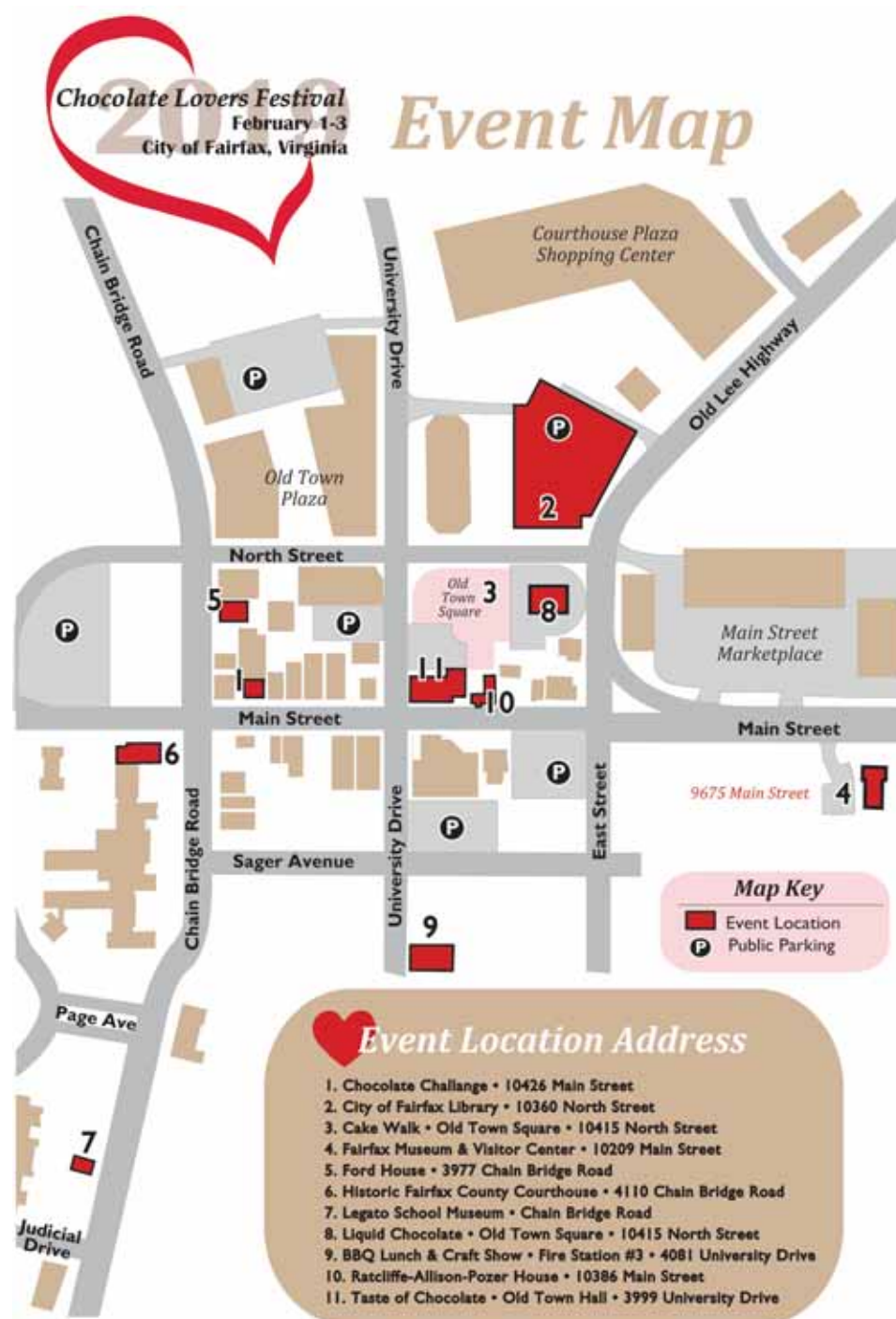
There'll be beverages for all ages, ranging from chocolate soda, hot chocolate and chocolate tea for children to chocolate wines, beers and martinis for adults. Admission is free; alcohol tastings are \$2 each, nonalcoholic tastings, \$1 each.

Participating will be: Twin's ACE Hardware, offering chocolate soda; The Wine House; Adroit Theory Brewing Co., chocolate stout beer; MurLarkey Distilled Spirits; Freddy's, chocolate milkshakes; and River-Sea Chocolates, chocolate tea and cacao juice.

A new, food event will be held Saturday, Feb. 2, when the Kiwanis Club of Fairfax offers barbecue lunches and ice cream sundaes, from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., at Fire Station 3, at 4081 University Drive.

Taste of Chocolate

The festival's signature event, the Taste of Chocolate, will be held Feb. 2, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 3, from noon-4 p.m., in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive (corner of Main Street and University Drive). Strollers may be left on the front



The 2019 Chocolate Lovers Festival event map

SEE CHOCOLATE LOVERS, PAGE 10

OPINION

'My Hopes Have Already Been Dashed'

Current General Assembly session generates frustrations.

There were big changes in the Virginia House of Delegates after last year's elections, but Democrats fell one coin flip (actually name out of a hat) short of controlling the legislative body.

No doubt the electoral swing delivered one of the most important changes in recent history, the expansion of Medicaid to cover hundreds of thousands of Virginians who had previously lived without health coverage.

But as Del. Ken Plum (D-36) wrote in his column this week: "In light of the last election for House seats, I approached this legislative session with the hope that there might be more flexibility in the House leadership that might result in the consideration of bills that had been summarily defeated in past sessions. My hopes have already been dashed."

A groundswell of public support for Virginia being the 38th and final state needed to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment led to the Senate passing a resolution for ratification.

The subcommittee of the House Privileges and Election Committee Tuesday morning defeated a resolution to ratify the Equal Right Amendment on a vote of 4 to 2. Four members of the House are blocking a vote by the 100 members of the House.

"A major struggle seems to be looming be-

tween the two houses on the ERA which might need to be resolved by the voters at election time," Plum wrote.

Yes, that time is November, with primary voting likely in June.

The question of nonpartisan redistricting is too important to leave until after the next election.

The Senate has passed a bill to establish such a process while House leadership is expressing opposition. Since the legislation is a constitutional amendment, it is important that a resolution be passed this year and next to go to a popular referendum in 2020 in time for redistricting after the 2020 census results are known.

Be Part of the Pet Connection

The Pet Connection, a twice-yearly special edition, will publish the last week of February, and photos and stories of your pets with you and your family should be submitted by Friday, Feb. 22.

We invite you to send stories about your pets, photos of you and your family with your cats, dogs, llamas, alpacas, ponies, hamsters, snakes, lizards, frogs, rabbits, or whatever other crea-

tures share your life with you.

Tell us the story of a special bond between a child and a dog, the story of how you came to adopt your pet, or examples of amazing feats of your creatures.

Do you volunteer at an animal shelter or therapeutic riding center or take your pet to visit people in a nursing home? Does your business have a managing pet? Is your business about pets? Have you helped to train an assistance dog? Do you or someone in your family depend on an assistance dog?

Or take this opportunity to memorialize a beloved pet you have lost.

Just a cute photo is fine too. Our favorite pictures include both pets and humans.

Please tell us a little bit about your creature, identify everyone in the photo, give a brief description what is happening in the photo, and include address and phone number (we will not publish your address or phone number, just your town name).

Email to editors@connectionnewspapers.com or submit online at www.connectionnewspapers.com/pets.

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— MARY KIMM

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PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

VIEWPOINTS

Shutdown: Local Perspective

George Becerra, Burke

"I'm a furloughed federal employee, home with no pay. I've been proactive; paid all bills up to date in December. I limited holiday spending, didn't splurge. I'm not paying annual memberships due in January to organizations and my HOA. My wife is a government contractor. The solution would be Lindsey Graham. Reopen the government for three weeks. Get people back to work and politicians can hash it out."



Kathryn Oakley, retired Coast Guard, Town of Herndon

"Our active duty members in the United States Coast Guard get paid every two weeks. The last time was Dec. 31, 2018. For Coast Guard retirees, it is not clear if we will get a check because funds are tied to Appropriations Funding. The Coast Guard is under the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. I went to Navy Federal Credit Union, and they shared information about their Government Shutdown Assistance, 0% APR Loan. I'm not worried about myself. I'm worried about the young men and women in the Coast Guard, working without pay. They cannot get a part-time job."



There are two bills introduced. In the Senate, Bill 21, "Pay Our Coast Guard Act" and in the House of Representatives (HR) 367, "Pay our Coast Guard Parity Act." We are small and do not have visibility."

Kevin Powell, Reston

NO PHOTO

"It seems like Congress resolved itself to government shutdowns as par for the course. With Trump and a divided Congress, I didn't think it would get better. My action plan has been to limit my spending. As a government contractor, I ran into this in the past. I'm job searching so I can get out of government contracting. The shutdown has impacted my marriage and my family. I wish legislators would think country first, constituents second-those who would vote for them."



Keven Leblanc, Town of Herndon

"Federal employees are no doubt impacted. Federal Contractors suffer significantly. If people on contract can't report, they have to take leave without pay or be furloughed. A shutdown this long can drive small businesses out of business if all their work is tied to Federal contracts. Large companies have shareholders they are accountable to and must maintain a profit. The economic ripples then extend to the larger community, as the economic base no longer has money to buy goods

or services or eat at restaurants. For some who live paycheck to paycheck, whether a federal employee, contractor or private employee in a federal-employment concentration, it can mean defaulting on loans or rent, not eating, not getting required medicines or healthcare or the heat and safety from the cold they require."



Cher Muzyk, Nokesville, Md.

"I'm the wife of a government attorney who has been furloughed but is deemed essential. He will eventually receive the back pay, but there are bills to pay now. We have a two-month nest egg for payments as long as we cut back. We called the credit union. My solution is simple. I don't understand why the border wall has to be coupled with the budget. Separate those two arguments. Resolve the budget. Get working families paid and back to work. I would support anything, even temporary. Eighty-three percent of Americans are not affected, so there is no sense of urgency. There is a need for a human face on it. The uncertainty is terrifying."

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Local Teen Charged: Child Pornography

Fairfax County police have charged an 18-year-old Fairfax resident with five counts of possession of child pornography. He is Ergi Masati, and police say illicit images of teenage girls were allegedly found on a file-sharing account belonging to him.

According to police, a school resource officer at Westfield High School in Chantilly received an anonymous letter, Sept. 10, 2018, providing information about two DropBox accounts that reportedly contained numerous nude images. Police arrested Masati, Oct. 23, 2018, in connection with these accounts after a lengthy investigation by the Child Exploitation Unit.

However, authorities didn't re-

lease any information about his arrest until Jan. 17 because detectives first had to positively identify and notify all the alleged victims. Masati is a 2017 Fairfax High grad. Police say the girls attended several Fairfax County high schools, from 2015 to 2017, and have all now graduated.

Masati was released on \$5,000 bond, the same day he was arrested.

Taking pornographic images of people under age 18 are a crime. So police advice the public, "If you receive unsolicited sexting messages, you should contact our non-emergency number, 703-691-2131."

— BONNIE HOBBS

WEEK IN FAIRFAX

Man Dead after Shooting Himself in Hospital Room

Detectives from FCPD Major Crimes Bureau continue to investigate after a man died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound at INOVA Fairfax Hospital. Officers responded at 8:47 pm Monday, Jan. 22, to 3300 Gallows Road where a patient on the fourth floor of the hospital's Heart

SEE WEEK, PAGE 7

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Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity, center, talks with volunteer Caleen Sullivan of the Educational and Charitable Foundation, right, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, during Volunteer Fairfax's 10th annual Give Together at the at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. Several hundred volunteers took part in the event held in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service.



Volunteers Give Together on Dr. King's Birthday



Volunteer Sydney Harris of Lorton reaches to post her thoughts on the MLK Day reflection board during Volunteer Fairfax's 10th annual Give Together, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. Several hundred volunteers took part in the event held in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. Give Together featured several fun, hands-on projects that will benefit several local nonprofits. After taking part in the projects volunteers were invited to write about their experiences and post them on the giant board.

PHOTOS BY ROB PAINE/
VOLUNTEER FAIRFAX

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Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay and his family take part in Volunteer Fairfax's 10th annual Give Together, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019, at the Jewish Community Center of Northern Virginia in Fairfax. Several hundred volunteers took part in the event held in observance of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service. Give Together featured several fun, hands-on projects that will benefit several local nonprofits.



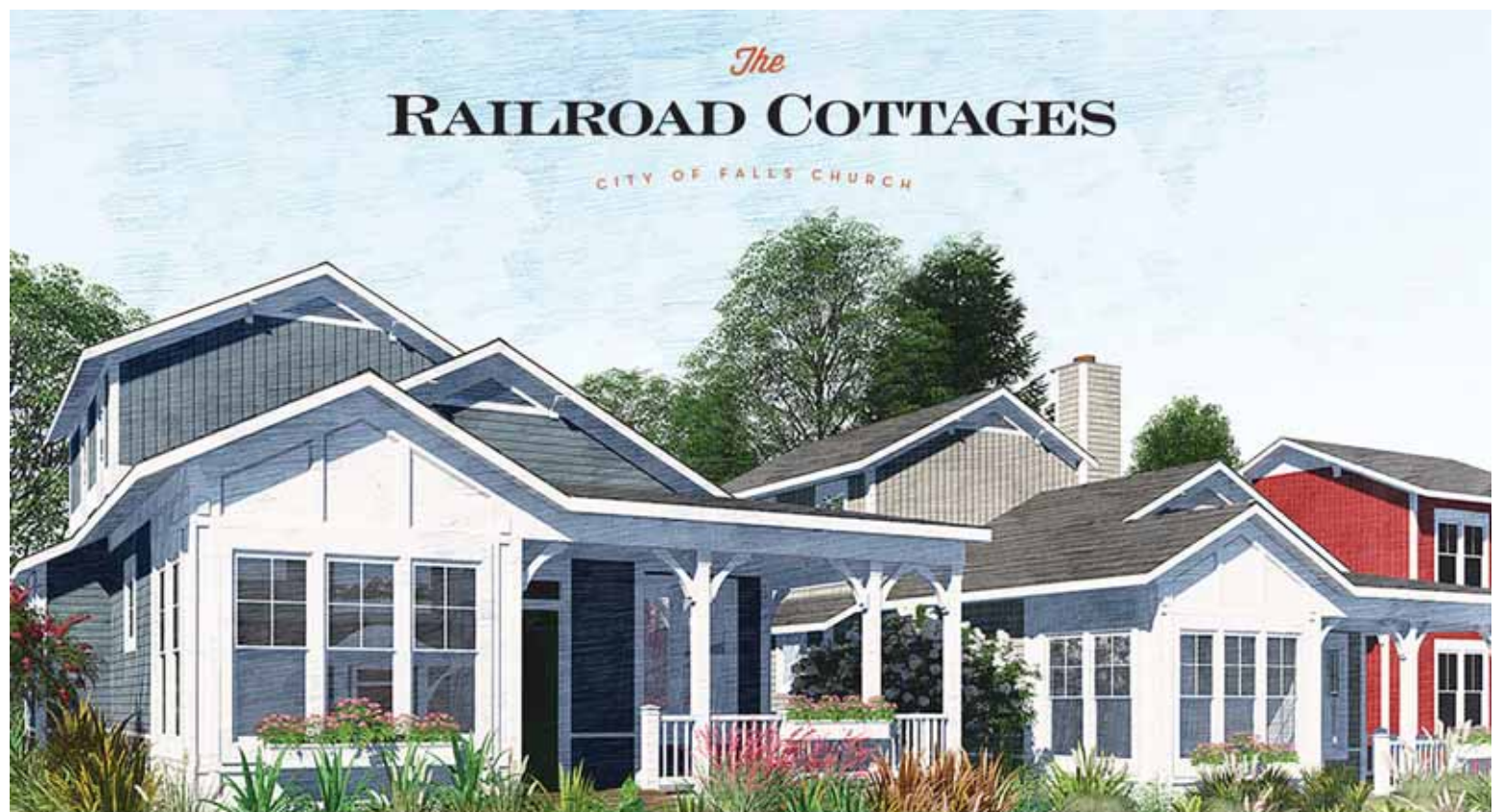
WEEK IN FAIRFAX

FROM PAGE 5

and Vascular Institute was reported to have a gun. Prior to officers' arrival, the patient, 64-year-old Thomas Wimmer, of Ashburn, shot himself at-least once in the upper body. Officers arrived on-scene a short time later and found Wimmer alone in his hospital room. He was initially responsive but non-compliant to officer commands and refused to surrender his firearm. Approximately an hour later, officers were able to safely enter Wimmer's room and immediately rendered medical aid. Wimmer was taken to the hospital's trauma center where he died a short time later. The Office of the Chief Medical Examiner will be conducting an autopsy to confirm cause of death. No other injuries were reported as a result of this incident - according to FCPD Media Relations Bureau.

Town Hall Meeting Feb. 2

Del. David Bulova (D-37) and State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) will hold a Town Hall meeting Saturday, Feb. 2, from 9-11 a.m. It will be at Fairfax City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St. in Fairfax.



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ENTERTAINMENT

Submit entertainment announcements at www.connectionnewspapers.com/Calendar/. The deadline is noon on Friday. Photos/artwork encouraged.

ONGOING

Founding Artists Exhibition.

Through Feb. 3 at The Workhouse Arts Center, Vulcan Muse Gallery, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center presents a group exhibition highlighting Studio and Arches artists that have been a part of the organization for its 10-year span. In honor of their dedication and support, the exhibition will survey their works in various mediums including painting, sculpture, fiber, glass, precious metals, and mixed media. Visit www.workhousearts.org.

Workhouse Student-Faculty Exhibition.

Through Feb. 10 at Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. The Workhouse Arts Center Student and Faculty Exhibition will survey works from course instructors, faculty and their students. Explore the numerous paintings, drawings, glass works, clay works and fiber art created in Workhouse's classes and workshops. Call 703-584-2900 or visit workhousearts.org.

Art Exhibit: Amazing Art Jam.

Through Feb. 24, gallery hours at the Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center hosts the third iteration of the Amazing Art Jam. This pop-up exhibition offers fresh perspectives by exploring several young, contemporary themes including street art, anime, Marvel iconography and hip-hop culture. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/amazing-art-jam.

Exhibit: Purchased Lives.

Through Feb. 28, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily (except major holidays) at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St., Fairfax. Purchased Lives is a traveling exhibition from the Historic New Orleans Collection. The exhibit examines a complex and divisive period of American history and educating about the far-reaching economic and heartbreaking personal impact of the domestic slave trade. Look for The Washington Home of the Philippine Suffrage Movement March 3-31. Call 703-385-8414.

Fine Arts Enrichment Camps.

The Youth Arts Camp & Education Outreach (ages 13-17) programs at the Workhouse provide rich experiences in fine arts year-round. Campers work alongside professional artists and professional educators to excel in different mediums, learning various techniques, and creating quality artwork with every visit. Find upcoming camps at reservations.workhousearts.org.

FRIDAY/JAN. 25

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 or call 703-273-3638.

Bonita Lestina Performance Series.

8 p.m. in Old Town Hall, 3999 University Drive. With IONA Celtic Fusion. Doors open 7:30 p.m. Free. Visit fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts or call 703-352-ARTS.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/JAN. 25-26

Chinese Food Fest. Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. at Wegmans Fairfax, 11620 Monument Drive, Fairfax. Attendees can taste Peking duck Wegmans-style, fresh



PHOTO BY DEBI DELOOSE

Woodbury aka Silas Burke House

‘If These Walls Could Talk’

Burke Historical Society President Jon Vrana will give a presentation called “If These Walls Could Talk,” examining the 19th-century history of Woodbury—also known as the Silas Burke House. Sunday, Jan. 27, 3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

dumplings, Chinese hot pot, and bubble tea. Wegmans chefs will do cooking demonstrations throughout the event. Dumpling-making classes for children will be held at 5 p.m. on Friday and noon and 3 p.m. on Saturday. Free admission; dumpling classes cost \$10 per child with parent, and tickets are available at Customer Service. Class space is limited. Visit www.wegmans.com/events/2019/01/chinese-food-fest.html.

SATURDAY/JAN. 26

Book Event: “The War Outside My Window.”

2 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Editor Jan Croon, will be presenting and signing copies of The War Outside My Window: The Civil War Diary of LeRoy Wiley Gresham, 1860-1865. As a young child, Gresham suffered a horrific leg and back injury that left him an invalid. Educated, inquisitive, perceptive, and exceptionally witty, the 12-year-old began keeping a journal in 1860 – just before secession and Civil War tore the country and his world apart. Visit www.fairfaxva.gov/government/historic-resources/civil-war-interpretive-center.

Reminiscences.

7-8 p.m. at Providence Presbyterian Church, 9019 Little River Turnpike, Fairfax. After winning first prize at the Golden Classical Music Awards International Music Competition and making his debut performance at Carnegie Hall, concert pianist Mark Irchai returns to the DC-metro area. He will offer “Reminiscences” – a solo piano recital of music written by composers in reflection on their pasts. Free. Visit markirchai.com.

Opening Reception: Amazing Art Jam.

7-11 p.m. at the Vulcan Gallery, Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Workhouse Arts Center hosts the third iteration of the Amazing Art Jam. This pop-up exhibition offers fresh perspectives by exploring several young, contemporary themes including street art, anime, Marvel iconography and hip-hop culture. Visit www.workhousearts.org/event/amazing-art-jam.

SUNDAY/JAN. 27

Reading Circle and Craft Day.

1-4

p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. “My Little Book of Trains” will be featured in a reading circle. Train locomotives and tenders will be explored during the activities that day. Participants may make their own ongoing journal for the year’s reading circles and information learned about trains and railroading. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

Burke Historical Society.

3:30-5 p.m. at Pohick Regional Library, 6540 Sydenstricker Road, Burke. After a brief review of the Society’s activities over the past year, BHS President Jon Vrana will give a presentation called “If These Walls Could Talk,” examining the 19th-century history of Woodbury—better known today as the Silas Burke House. Free. Email slawski_brian@yahoo.com or visit www.burkehistoricalsociety.org.

TUESDAY/JAN. 29

Fairfax Gratefulness Gathering.

8:30 p.m. at Richard Byrd Public Library, 7250 Commerce St., Springfield. A program of Gratefulness.org. Bring gratitude to life in the community, be present to opportunities always available; opportunities to learn and grow and extend oneself with care and compassion. Free. Email joanne.spahnrd@gmail.com.

THURSDAY/JAN. 31

Adults’ BYOG Night. 7-8:30 p.m. at Kings Park Library, 9000 Burke Lake Road, Burke. BYOG = Bring your Own Game – come to the library with your favorite board game or card game to share. Adults only. Free. Call 703-978-5600 or visit librarycalendar.fairfaxcounty.gov/event/4741919.

FRIDAY/FEB. 1

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

or call 703-273-3638.

SATURDAY/FEB. 2

Dog Park Grand Opening.

9 a.m. at the Fairfax City Dog Park, 11000 Berry St., Fairfax. City residents, both two-legged and four-legged, are invited to the grand opening ceremony for the Fairfax City dog park on the former Westmore Elementary School site. All dogs with current licenses are welcome. The park will include a fenced exercise/run area (fence is a gift from Affectionate Pet Care), park benches, and trash and recycling receptacles. Waste bags and a receptacle will be provided at the dog park. Call 703-385-7858.

Chinese New Year Festival.

10 a.m.-6 p.m. at Luther Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church. The 12th Annual Chinese New Year Festival hosted by the Asian Community Service Center featuring live performances, including Dragon and Lion dances, Han Costume Fashion show, Asian food, the writing of Chinese names, language, craft and business booths, children world, and also a lunar new year dragon parade. Free admission. Visit ChineseNewYearFestival.org.

Winter Music and Dance Festival.

7:30-9:30 p.m. at Workhouse Arts W3 Theatre, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Next Reflex Dance Collective presents the Winter Music and Dance Festival featuring performances from area musicians and dancers. \$10-\$25 (reserved seating). Visit insidenovatix.com/events/next-reflex-dance-collective-winter-music-and-dance-festival for tickets.

SATURDAY/FEB. 3

Author Event: Tiffany Foo-Garcia.

Noon-3 p.m. at Barnes & Noble-Fair Lakes, 12193 Fair Lakes Promenade Drive, Fairfax. Tiffany Foo-Garcia will be holding a reading and signing for the first book of her new middle grade culinary adventure series, “Ruby Foo and the Travelling Kitchen: Finding the Foo Identity.” Visit rubyfookitcheen.com.

Make a Valentine Card Craft.

1-4 p.m. at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum, 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station. The Fairfax Station Railroad Museum will have a Valentine’s Day Make and Take event. Visitors will create their own

Valentine’s cards to take home with them. The cost of supplies is included with admission.. Ages 16 and older, \$4; 5-15, \$2; 4 and under, free. Visit www.fairfax-station.org or call 703-425-9225.

TUESDAY/FEB. 5

Parktykes: Explore the Natural World.

1:30-2:15 p.m. at Lake Accotink Park, 7500 Accotink Park Road, Springfield. Adults with toddlers are invited to join a naturalist in the classroom and outdoors to discover the wonders of the natural world. Designed for young explorers, age 1-3, and an adult. \$9 per child. Meet at the visitor center. Call 703-569-3464 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-accotink.

Burke Historical Society.

7-9 p.m. at Burke Centre Library, 5935 Freds Oak Road, Burke. Local authors, Mary Lipsey and Cindy Bennett, will share their experiences and tips on the process of researching, writing, and publishing a historical book. Free. visit burkehistoricalsociety.org or mail slawski_brian@yahoo.com.

TUESDAYS/FEB. 5-26

Try Girl Scouts.

6-7 p.m. at West Springfield Elementary School, 6802 Deland Drive, Springfield. Make new friends, learn about Girl Scouts, and meet the requirements for two new cybersecurity badges. \$25 for four weeks. Email cosborne@gscnc.org or call 703-372-4341.

FRIDAY/FEB. 8

Gunston Hall Game Night.

6-9 p.m. at Gunston Hall, 10709 Gunston Road, Mason Neck. Gunston Hall is opening its doors after-hours to welcome game enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a variety of 18th-century card, board, and dice games. \$35 registration includes beverages and heavy hors d’oeuvres, including some items made from 18th-century recipes. Visit www.gunstonhall.org.

B-I-N-G-O.

7 p.m. at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive, Fairfax. Visit www.fairfaxvfd.com or call 703-273-3638.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY/FEB. 8-9

Small Plates Choreography Festival.

8 p.m. at Building W-3 (Theatre), Workhouse Arts Center, 9518 Workhouse Way, Lorton. Small Plates creates a growth environment by holding guided Q&A feedback sessions with the audience after each performance. The Friday performance will feature pre-professional dance created by student choreographers, or by professional choreographers performed by students. Saturday’s performance will mainly feature professional artists. \$15-\$20. Call 703-584-2900 or visit workhousearts.org.

SATURDAY/FEB. 9

Animal Sweetheart’s Dance.

2-4 p.m. at Hidden Pond Nature Center, 8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield. Dance, laugh, and learn at the social event of the winter season. Space limited, register online (tinyurl.com/y9nz9q48) or call 703-451-9588 to save a spot. \$9.

Winter Wonderland Family Dance.

5-8 p.m. at Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax. Bring the whole family for an evening of magic and wonder with dinner, special guest characters, crafts, dancing and more. All families are welcome. \$30 per adult, \$20 per child. Visit fairfaxva.gov/parksrec or call 703-385-7858.

NEWS

Guest Violinist at Mason Stage

Chee-Yun joins Fairfax Symphony Orchestra for a performance at the Center for the Arts.

BY DAVID SIEGEL
THE CONNECTION

Sumptuous music from composers Mendelssohn and Schumann, will create an evening “rich in emotional and intellectual music content,” said Christopher Zimmerman, Conductor, FSO. The FSO evening event includes guest violinist Chee-Yun performing Mendelssohn’s “Violin Concerto” and the FSO orchestra playing Mendelssohn’s “Hebrides Overture” and Schumann’s “Symphony No. 2.”

“To my knowledge, the FSO has never focused on these two contemporaneous composers in one concert. They are towering figures of the early Romantic period in music who set the 19th century ablaze in the wake of Beethoven,” added Zimmerman.

Mendelssohn and Schumann are “composers who characterize the essence of ‘romanticism’ in music.

Where and When

Fairfax Symphony Orchestra performing Mendelssohn and Schumann with guest violinist Chee Yun at George Mason University, Center for the Arts, 4400 University Drive, Fairfax. Performance Saturday, Feb. 2, 2019 at 8 p.m. Tickets: \$65, \$43, \$39, and \$25, with \$15 student tickets. Purchase tickets online at www.fairfaxsymphony.org or by phone 703-993-2787. Note: Before the concert at 7 p.m. a discussion with the artists and FSO music director Christopher Zimmerman.

Both were prodigious geniuses with an unrelenting need to write music,” added Zimmerman.

“Audiences should come to the performance because the music is wonderful,” noted Zimmerman. “And Chee-Yun has an extraordinarily mesmeric stage-presence and engaging personality matched, frankly, only by the brilliance and virtuosity of her playing.”

Mendelssohn’s “The Hebrides Overture” was inspired by a visit he made in 1830 to the barren and windswept Hebrides islands off the Northwest coast of Scotland. Later that year he wrote this piece, evocative of what he

experienced: “the power of the sea that surrounded him and its constant ebb and flow, at times threatening.

Schumann’s music is very different in emotional content according to Zimmerman. “Schumann was severely manic-depressive, ultimately dying at the age of 45. His music often reflects the virulent bouts of torment alternating with joy that he experienced. “Symphony No.2” has abrupt and ever-shifting changes of mood, sometimes serene, sometimes combative. “It is a dramatic journey from despair to euphoria-against-the-odds,” said Zimmerman.



Chee-Yun, guest violinist performing Mendelssohn’s Violin Concerto with Fairfax Symphony Orchestra.

PHOTO BY
CHEHO LEE/COURTESY
FAIRFAX SYMPHONY
ORCHESTRA

Chee-Yun’s first public performance at age eight took place in her native Seoul after she won the Grand Prize of the Korean Times Competition. At 13, she came to the United States to perform. Since then she has performed with many of the world’s foremost American and international orchestras and conductors. Chee-Yun teaches master classes as well.

Playing her flawless 350 year old violin for the virtuoso three move-

ment, nearly 30 minute concerto, Chee-Yun said, “I want to transport audience with a journey of emotions with the much beloved Mendelssohn ‘Concerto.’ I want the audience to have a great experience. To be enthralled and transported as I play.”

In times of personal and community stress, Zimmerman added that “classical music can provide great meaning and satisfaction, even perhaps be a healer.”

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NEWS

Chocolate Lovers Festival Returns Feb. 1-3

FROM PAGE 3

porch; a fully accessible entrance is at the door on Main Street.

Admission is free; visitors buy pogs for \$1 each and then browse vendors' tables to see the wide array of chocolate treats being offered. They purchase them with pogs and may buy as many pogs as they want from roaming volunteers in red aprons.

Heaven for chocolate lovers, the variety of goodies includes chocolate candies, bars, brownies, cakes and fudge, chocolate-covered strawberries and ice cream. And one of the biggest hits each year are the chocolate fountains into which customers may dip fruit, cream-filled doughnut holes or marshmallows.

The vendors will be: Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates, The Capital Candy Jar, Capitol Chocolate Fountains, Chocotenango, Confection Connection, Dave's Candy Kitchen, El Ceibo/Diestro, HB+M Chocolate, Le Papiyon Chocolatier, Marinucci's Gelato & Pastry, Mike's Fudge, Pacari Chocolate, Schokolat, Sugar Mama's Ice Cream and The Sweet Life Cakery. Chocolate Moonshine, Cardinal Chocolates, River-Sea Chocolate and The Dough Jar.

Chocolate Challenge, Cake Walks

The Chocolate Challenge is a display of creative and imaginative chocolate sculptures, cakes and cupcakes. It runs Feb. 2, from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., and Feb. 3, from noon-4 p.m., and is in a new location this year at 10426 Main St. Admission is \$1/adults; children under 18 are free. A designated stroller-parking area is outside the building.

Both professionals and amateurs participate, and entries are judged in various categories. This year's judges include Cathy Salgado, Megan DuBois, Dawn Hicks and Jennifer Rose. And visitors may use their admission ticket to vote for the People's Choice Award winner and participate in the silent action of challenge entries, plus items from local businesses.

In addition, cake walks will be held Saturday at 1, 2 and 3 p.m. in Old Town Square, but may be moved indoors if there's inclement weather. Participants will have the chance to win cakes.

Cookbooks and Valentines

Chocolate Lovers Festival Cookbooks (\$10) may be purchased at both the Kiwanis barbecue lunch and the Taste of Chocolate. Or get them at the Fairfax

This tower of cupcakes was in last year's Chocolate Challenge.



BONNIE HOBBS/
THE CONNECTION

Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. (703-385-8414). Commemorative T-shirts will also be sold at the festival.

The official, 2019 festival valentine features American Legion Post 177. Drawn by local artist Jackie Liedl, these limited-edition valentines cost \$5. Each includes a coupon for five, \$1 pogs to use at the Taste of Chocolate. Or buy the valentines in advance at City Hall, 10455 Armstrong St., room 123 (Parks and Recreation Dept., 703-385-7858); Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. or from any member of the Independence Day Celebration Committee.

Golden Ticket Contest

The City of Fairfax Office of Economic Development and the Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce are sponsoring the Golden Ticket Contest. Inspired by the book and movie, "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory," three golden tickets will be hidden within 1,500 chocolate bars made by local chocolatier, Cameron's Coffee & Chocolates. Some 27 businesses in the Old Town area will sell the chocolate bars for \$2 each from Feb. 1-10. Lucky finders of the golden ticket will be rewarded with a Chocolate Lovers Gift Basket and a tour of the Cameron's facility.

Grant Recipients

Each year, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee chooses a charitable organization to receive part of the festival proceeds. The honorees are entities that contribute to the common good and the community at large. This year, three recipients were selected: The Northern Virginia Therapeutic Riding Program, Fairfax Law Foundation – Northern Virginia Pro Bono Law Center, and the City of Fairfax Band Assn.

Where to Park for Festival

Free parking is available at the following locations, with handicapped parking offered at all sites:

- ❖ **Bank of America**, 10440 Main St. (accessible from Route 236 and North Street).
- ❖ **City Hall**, 10455 Armstrong St. (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and George Mason Boulevard).
- ❖ **City of Fairfax Regional Library**, 10360 North St. (accessible from University Drive and Old Lee Highway).
- ❖ **East Street parking lot** (accessible from Route 236/Main Street and East Street).

- ❖ **Fairfax County Courthouse Garage B**, 4400 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Page Avenue).
- ❖ **Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center**, 10209 Main St.
- ❖ **Fire Station 3**, 4081 University Drive.
- ❖ **Old Town Plaza**, 3955 Chain Bridge Road (accessible from Route 123/Chain Bridge Road and University Drive).
- ❖ **Old Town Village** (behind Pacer's, 10427 North St.) Open at noon Saturday and all day Sunday; (accessible from University Drive).
- ❖ **Sager Avenue parking lot** (accessible from Sager Avenue and University Drive).

BULLETIN BOARD

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

NEW

Prescription Drug Take Back Box Program.

Fairfax County announced the expansion of the Prescription Drug Take Back Box Program Countywide. The boxes are available 24/7/365 at each district police station for any person to anonymously and safely dispose of their prescription medications 24/7/365 - no questions asked. It is important to get unused medicines, especially opioids, out of your medicine cabinets to prevent accidental or illicit use. Several Fairfax County pharmacies also take back unused prescription drugs. For a current list, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/4-ways-to-safely-dispose-of-unused-medications/.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Interested in local Civil War or Railroad History?

Consider volunteering at the Fairfax Station Railroad Museum. The Museum offers a variety of volunteer opportunities in Museum events, programs and administration. The Museum is also seeking an individual to coordinate the scheduling of the volunteer staff. Training will be provided for all positions. Email volunteers@fairfax-station.org or call 703-945-7483 for opportunities. The Museum is located at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station. It is open every Sunday, except holidays, from 1-4 p.m. Visit www.fairfax-station.org, www.facebook.com/FFXSRR, or call 703-425-9225.

The Shepherd's Center of Fairfax-Burke

needs volunteer drivers for trips to medical appointments (Monday - Friday) and companion shopping (Tuesday, Friday) within the Fairfax-Burke area and in the South County area (west of Route 1, Alexandria). Office volunteers are also needed to work in the SCFB (Olley Glen) office to schedule rides. Bilingual volunteers (English and Spanish) are needed as drivers and office volunteers. Email Shavaun Wall at recruiter@scfbva.org or call 703-323-4788.

INPUT SOUGHT

Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Program.

Fairfax County is developing a comprehensive Public Safety Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program and would like to hear from residents. Each of six public information meetings will include a static display of unmanned aircraft followed by a presentation outlining the program. After the presentation, there will be an opportunity to ask questions. The formal presentation will begin at 7 p.m. To find out more about the UAS program go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/uas. Send feedback or questions to uas@fairfaxcounty.gov or through the link located on the UAS webpage. Written comments on the draft program must be received by the close of business Feb. 8, 2019, to be included in the official public record.

- Wednesday, Jan. 23, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at McLean District Governmental Center, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean.
- Thursday, Jan. 24, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Sully District Governmental Center, 4900 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly.
- Monday, Jan. 28, 2019, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Reston Community Center - Hunter Woods, 2310 Colts Neck Road.
- Wednesday, Jan. 30, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at Braddock Hall - Kings Park Library, 9002 Burke Lake Road, Burke.

TUESDAYS THROUGH FEB. 19

Workshop Series: Mind in the Making.

6:30-8:30 p.m. at Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services, 2334 Gallows Road, Entrance 1 - Room 100, Dunn Loring. Mind in the Making: The Seven Essential Life Skills Every Child Needs by Ellen Galinsky, encompasses an evidence-based list of life skills that are essential for children to succeed socially, emotionally and intellectually in the short and long term. Participants may register for one or all of the workshops and do not need to attend the previous class. Registration is limited. Call 703-204-3941 or visit www.fcps.edu/resources/family-engagement/parent-resource-center for more or to register.

- Tuesday, Jan. 29 - Making Connections (part 4)
- Tuesday, Feb. 5 - Critical Thinking (part 5)
- Tuesday, Feb. 12 - Taking on Challenges (part 6)
- Tuesday, Feb. 19 - Self-Directed, Engaged Learning (part 7)

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Good is not good, where better is expected.

-Thomas Fuller

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Worried About What Awaits



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Not that there's anything wrong with me - other than having cancer that is - but I've been going to see doctors - other than my oncologist - fairly regularly in the past few months: internal medicine, three times; otolaryngologist, two times.

The reason/symptoms vary, but in general, nearly 10 years into my "13 month to two-year" prognosis, I am finally erring on the side of taking a precaution and scheduling appointments with doctors as often as I see fit. Apparently, waiting isn't the hardest part after all, it's the dumbest part - if you have cancer.

So far, in all five instances, the various symptoms were not cancer-related, they were life-related. Meaning, they had nothing to do at all with my have cancer and/or its progression, and everything to do with living life outside of the bubble.

However, surviving life inside the cancer world for as long as I have has now made me a bit trigger happy, so to speak. At the drop of a hat or for most any other reason, I am scheduling an appointment with my primary care physician to confirm or debunk any medical suspicions that I might have.

Henceforth, I am going to let the professionals tell me what I need to know and what I need not worry about. It has become time for me to no longer fool around with my health presuming that whatever ails me is merely a blip when in fact it could be a sign of things potentially to follow.

Sort of like the oil warning light illuminating on your car's dashboard - it likely means the damage has already occurred. And the next steps you take might even be too little, too late.

As concerns my health, there is no warning light as such. Knowing there's only so much I can do to preempt (some of which I've been doing) what trouble possibly awaits, at the very least I shouldn't be stupid or stubborn anymore. Instead I have to be vigilant and proactive.

Since my life is at stake here, I can't worry too much about what the doctor might say when I show up at my appointment with less-than-life altering/cancer-connected symptoms. Until they tell me otherwise, which they haven't yet, I will continue to overreact to any symptoms I experience because for all I know about such matters, it just might matter.

And lately, when my exams have indicated there was nothing to matter, I've often felt the need to apologize for taking up the doctor's time. Time which I realize is very valuable. But they would hear none of it. Instead, they have encouraged me not to hesitate making future appointments should the need arise.

And I suppose that's the issue: 'should the need arise.'

But how will I know when the need arises? How will I know if the need is genuine? How will I know if the need is cancer-related or merely life-related, and should I act differently depending on the answer? Or should I not care about any of these questions and simply schedule appointments as soon as possible because, as I was advised years ago when I was first diagnosed: "It's all about you now, Kenny."

In thinking about where all this anxiety is coming from, I believe it has something to do with my switching to an immunotherapy drug - which we've been discussing for a few months, and being aware of the many possible side effects. Side effects which, should they manifest, I am to contact my oncologist immediately.

My concern is however, will I know and will I be too early or too late. Or maybe it won't matter, and that's what scares me. Moreover, I'm afraid we might not be able to stop what we've already started.

Granted, it's all speculation, and it's all pre-ture.

Either the side effects prevent me from infusing the drug or it doesn't. And if I am able to be infused, the tumors, especially the "Adam's Apple" tumor, shrink in the process. And if I have to see multiple doctors during my treatment, so be it.

This is no time to wait and see. It's time to be seen without waiting.

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



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