**PAUL DENT**

Novel combinations of old drugs make for potent cancer fighters in Paul Dent’s laboratory, the Institute of Molecular Medicine at the VCU Massey Cancer Center. The goal is to take existing drugs and make them even more toxic to the cancer cells than either alone. The lab is an especially busy place: Dent has seven clinical trials ongoing and another four planned, awaiting funding and grants. While other researchers revel in pure research, Dent takes satisfaction in repurposing existing products to benefit others. “To me, doing this job is like the ultimate kick,” he says. “Everything I do in the lab is going to patients.” —TG

**WATERFORD PARK**

Developers floated their concept multiple times in 2016 for a proposed waterpark off Genito Road across from Clover Hill High School. Sweet Frog founder Derek Cha and his partner in the project, Brett Burkhardt, want to build the park as the focal point of a mixed commercial and residential development that will be called Waterford Park. They have 105 acres of Genito that back up to state Route 288, with initial plans calling for a 17-acre lake for activities including wakeboarding and cable skiing. Long-range plans call for $185 million in development over 15 years. —TG

**GLASS SMITH**

I was in a restaurant when my phone—seemingly safe in its case—fell and shattered. According to Blue Crump, CEO of Glass Smith, mine wasn’t the only one. “There’s a little over 40,000 phones that break in the U.S. every day,” he says. Enter Glass Smith, the mobile repair startup. The concept is simple: Visit glasssmith.com and specify your broken iPhone, Android or iPad model, and your problem, and a certified technician will meet you at a coffee shop, your home, you name it, and fix your device in roughly 20 minutes at a competitive price. The Manchester-based company, which launched in September, is already in eight markets; next year it hopes to add 10 to 15 more. —SB

**BRT PULSE**

The 2017 Dominion Christmas Parade is expected to feature a most anticipated rolling unit: the first bus rapid transit vehicle for the Greater Richmond Transit Co.’s Pulse service. By then, work on 26 new platforms at 14 stops, and a new fiber optics system buried under Broad Street’s median, are scheduled for completion. The project’s price tag totals almost $65 million in federal, state and regional funds. Pulse will provide express travel between Rocketts Landing and Willow Lawn. A separate group, RVA Rapid Transit, meanwhile seeks to make the first leg of Pulse part of an extensive overhaul of Richmond’s laggard transit system. —HK

**HEATHER WATERS AND RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL**

When the Sixth Annual Richmond International Film Festival (RIFF) unveils some 133 films from Feb. 27 to March 5, the roster of events created by founder Heather Waters widens to include music. The RIFF Music Fest will feature about 60 bands competing at venues including Sound of Music, the Broadberry and the Camel. Waters, president of the Virginia Production Alliance, says, “RIFF is about bringing together artists and influencers that share a common vision. This promotes tourism, and economic development, and I’d like to see Richmond as a music and film incubator arts hub for the mid-Atlantic region.” —HK

**CHICKAHOMINY FALLS**

Once it’s built in Hanover County, Chickahominy Falls will boast a unique amenity: a 10-acre organic farm. Intended primarily as a community for residents 55 and older, the development also will offer homes designed for millennials and young families. Roger Glover, owner of Cornerstone Homes, says site development should begin in spring 2017 with construction of the marketing center and work to ready the farm. The first homes should be completed in spring 2018. More than 400 people have expressed interest in the community thus far. “I want to put together something that is a good model that can be done in other communities and that is sustainable,” Glover says. —JRH