

Race for County's Top Spot Heats Up

'Vote like your life depends on it.'

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

In a rare shake-up of the county's Board of Supervisors, at least five of the 10 seats – four magisterial district representatives and the chairman – will change hands as current Chair Sharon Bulova retires at the end of this term, and Supervisors Cathy Hudgins (Hunter Mill), John Cook (Braddock), and Linda Smyth (Providence) have all declined to seek re-election. Voters will choose likely successors on Primary Election Day, Tuesday, June 11.

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay, who has served on the board since 2007, will vacate his seat to seek the chairmanship. Both Supervisor Penny Gross (D-Mason) and Supervisor Pat Herry (R-Springfield) face challengers in the fall. Incumbent Supervisors Kathy Smith (D-Sully), John Foust (D-Dranesville), and Daniel Storck (D-Mt. Vernon) are running unopposed.

Democratic candidates will be on the Primary ballot for other seats on the Board of Supervisors – and there are a lot of them. Five for the Providence District, five for Hunter Mill, four in Lee and two in Braddock.

Incumbent Commonwealth's Attorney Ray Murrough faces a Democratic challenger in the primary, Steve Descano.

Jeff McKay is currently a Board Member, representing the constituents of the Lee District. Even with his years of immediate experience with the workings of Fairfax County government, McKay is being given a run for his money by Ryan McElveen, the At-Large Member of the Fairfax County School Board since 2012, Reston-based businessman Tim Chapman, and Georgetown law professor and founder of a public interest law center, Alicia Plerhoples.

The debates, forums and meet-and-greets featuring the four are coming fast as the Primary date approaches.

ON MONDAY, MAY 13, they



PHOTO BY ANDREA WORKER/THE GAZETTE

The Democratic candidates for the chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, heading for the June 11 Primary election, debate at a live, televised event, hosted by the Fairfax Healthy Communities Coalition. Moderator Pastor Sarah Scherschligt is flanked by candidates Tim Chapman and Alicia Plerhoples on the left, and Jeff McKay, Lee District Supervisor, and Ryan McElveen, At-Large member of the FC Public Schools Board on the right.

participated in a televised debate at the studios of the Fairfax County Public Access Television station, hosted by Fairfax Healthy Communities Coalition and moderated by Pastor Sarah Scherschligt of Peace Lutheran Church. Scherschligt is also a board member of the nonprofit Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions. Her Faith Alliance colleagues Scott Peterson and Meg Mall were in attendance at the live event to act as timekeepers for the debaters.

The candidates were each given a few minutes for opening and closing statements, which bookended 50 minutes of questions posed by Scherschligt on topics ranging from their proposed actions to reduce greenhouse gases in the county, to how to address the affordable housing shortage, and from how to ensure implementation of the county's One Fairfax equity directive to solutions for multi-modal transportation improvements in the region.

Throughout the event, McKay, a life-long resident of the county, emphasized not only his experience, but the relationships that he has built locally, regionally and in Richmond and beyond during his

terms, citing them as one key factor separating him from his opponents.

"This is not the time to take the chance on people who don't have the experience to run, to govern," said McKay, insisting that those relationships and his working knowledge of the complexities of running a diverse county of more than a million residents are vital to our continued growth and success.

In addition to representing the Lee District on the board, McKay also chairs the Budget and Legislative Committees and has held leadership roles with a number of the region's committees and task forces on transportation, revitalization and health planning, among others. McKay admits the county has problems – "Big ones that we need to solve quickly and for our future" – but he remains proud of Fairfax County and the accomplishments that its residents, businesses, nonprofits and government have created. He cites the many areas in which the area sets the example for the state and the country.

McElveen emphasized his background on the School Board — a

key driver of the county's economy and an attraction for current residents and those considering relocation of residence and/or businesses — and on the fact that he is "the only one running who has represented the entire county," elected to the School Board at Large. He also touted his international ties through his "day job" with the Brookings Institute and other avenues, as ways in which he can expand the solutions pool and bring additional energy to the county's affairs.

McElveen enumerated climate change initiatives he has spearheaded at school facilities from installation of solar panels, to championing school gardens and salad and other healthy items on school lunch menus.

Plerhoples and Chapman both emphasized resumes as players in

the private sector, able to understand the needs of that sphere and how to bring a partnership of government, nonprofits and business to the table to create solutions to the region's challenges, Plerhoples leaning on her legal background, and Chapman as a real estate developer.

While the tone of the debate remained civil and the format did not allow for rebuttal comments, both Chapman and Plerhoples made it clear that they see the present leadership by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors as "followers, not leaders," in Plerhoples words, and having failed on too many of the issues and taken too long to address others like affordable housing, according to Chapman.

Adding one person and \$5 million to the county's FY2020 Budget isn't really tackling the problem of a lack of affordable housing in Chapman's opinion.

"We need speed and agility ... the board has been more focused on large developments" rather than on the affordable developments needed by working families, county personnel and other vulnerable citizens. Chapman says it's an issue that should have been addressed "more boldly years ago."

Like Chapman, Plerhoples recounts that "housing instability" was something she, too, experienced growing up, and she agrees that more needs to be done and with immediacy. "This is an issue that has reached crisis level."

On the subject of transportation in the area, all agreed that more needs to be done. McKay has been involved in all of the county's efforts to improve roadways, expand safe biking lanes, and support Metro rail and bus transit and development around transit hubs to give more people the ability to "live, work, and play" without a

SEE CANDIDATES, PAGE 10



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Meet Candidates for County Board Chairman

Four to contend in June 11 Democratic Primary to seek to replace retiring Sharon Bulova.

BY ANDREA WORKER
THE GAZETTE

As chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Sharon Bulova prepares to retire at the end of the year, four Democrats have come forward, looking to fill her spot

as the county's top elected official. With multiple candidates, election rules call for a Primary Election to decide a winner who will go on to the Nov. 5 ballot, when all of the Board member seats will be up for grabs. Vying for the position are:
❖ Current Lee District Supervisor Jeff C. McKay, who has served on the board since 2007.

❖ Ryan McElveen, at-large member, Fairfax County Public Schools board since 2012.
❖ Tim Chapman, Reston-based real estate developer and businessman
❖ Alicia Plerhoples, tenured law professor at Georgetown Law.
Connection Newspapers, which includes

the Mount Vernon Gazette, sent out identical questionnaires to all four, asking each to provide voters with some basic information about themselves, and then to explain why they are running, what they see as the top issues facing the county, and in what key ways they differ from their opponents. Here are their responses:

Jeffrey C. McKay

Age: 43
Education: James Madison University (1996), Sorensen Institute for Political Leadership (1998)
Family: Wife, Crystal, children Leann and Aidan, retired racing greyhound Pascal.



Native of: Fairfax County
Moved to Your District: Lifelong Lee District resident
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement, etc.:
❖ Fairfax County Board of Supervisors – Lee District
❖ Chairman, Budget Committee, Board of Supervisors
❖ Chairman, Legislative Committee
❖ Co-Chair, Revitalization Committee
❖ Member, Successful Children and Youth Policy Team
❖ Member, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
❖ Member, Virginia Railway Express Board
❖ First VP, Virginia Assoc. of Counties Board of Directors
❖ Two-time former Chair, current Member, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission
❖ Coach, Woodlawn Little League, Pioneer Baseball League, Mount Vernon Sports Club

Q: Why are you running?

A: I am a lifelong Fairfax County resident, proudly born and raised along the Route One Corridor. From an early age, my grandmother instilled in me the importance of helping others, especially those less fortunate than ourselves. Those teachings, combined with my own experiences ... are the reasons why I ultimately sought public office.

I am running for Chairman this year to build on the successes we've had and to push us forward ... I'm proud of Fairfax County and the community we've built together. Now, more than ever, those values we've instilled and the work we've done are at risk. We need to fight for all residents and communities throughout our county.

Q: What are the top issues in your

SEE MCKAY, PAGE 10

Ryan McElveen

Age: 33
Education: Columbia University, Master of International Affairs in Human Rights (2011); Univ. of Virginia, B.A. Anthropology and East Asian Studies (2008); George C. Marshall High School (2004)



Family: Wife Xuan, daughter Sierra
Native of: Raised in the Vienna-Tysons area
Moved to Your District: Lifelong resident of Fairfax County
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement, etc.:
❖ At-large Member, Fairfax County School Board 2012-Present
❖ Assoc. Director, John L. Thornton China Center, the Brookings Institution, 2013 - Present
❖ International Operations and Policy, the Boeing Company
❖ Co-Chair, Revitalization Committee, FC Board of Supervisors.
❖ Communications, Clinton Foundation and Clinton Global Initiative
❖ Researcher, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, U.S. Senate
❖ Asst. Director, Univ. of Virginia Center in Shanghai, China

Q: Why are you running?

A: After spending the better part of my time on the School Board as witness to chronically underfunded school system budgets, I decided to run for Chairman when I realized that there was no one else in the race who would be as strong an advocate for our schools and children as I would be.

Since January, I have been saying that we are two Fairfaxes. The development patterns that have been promoted by past Boards of Supervisors have led to the stark divides between the "haves" and "have nots" in Fairfax County. ...

We need to turn our attention to the areas and populations that will benefit from neither Amazon and a growing tech sector nor higher property values. All of our residents need to have a voice. I will purposefully work to narrow that gap and provide more seats at the table, making sure that our diverse community is better represented

SEE MCELVEEN, PAGE 10

Alicia Plerhoples

Age:
Education: Harvard College (B.A.); Yale Law School (J.D.); Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School (M.P.A)
Family: Daughters
Native of:



Moved to Your District:
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement, etc.:
❖ Tenured law professor, Georgetown Law
❖ Founder of a public interest law center, advising small businesses, social enterprises, startups and nonprofits
❖ Formerly a corporate finance attorney at Cooley LLP
❖ Formerly a real estate finance attorney at DLA Piper LLP
❖ Recipient of the American Bar Association's 2017 Outstanding Nonprofit Lawyer Award
❖ Elected member of the Governing Board of the McLean Community Center
❖ PTA president at daughters' public school
❖ Member, FCPS Board's Human Resources Advisory Committee

Q: Why are you running?

A: I am running to improve the quality of life for every Fairfax County resident. I see other municipalities passing us by, whether on environmental action, public transit, living wages, affordable housing, or educational investment.

Q: What are the top issues in your district and what solutions do you propose:

❖ To foster liveable, affordable communities where people who work here can afford to live here
❖ To develop a vibrant economy that creates quality jobs and restores a clean, sustainable environment
❖ To ensure our high quality public schools meet the needs of students in every part of the county, no matter one's zip code.

Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents?

SEE PLERHOPLES, PAGE 10

Tim Chapman

Age:
Education: Emerson High School
Family: Wife, Julianna, 5 children
Native of: Maryland
Moved to Your District: 2005



Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement, etc.:
❖ Real Estate developer
❖ Appointee to Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA) by Gov. McAuliffe
❖ Elected Chair of VHDA. During my tenure at the VHDA, I helped invest billions of dollars into affordable housing projects, and helped thousands of families buy their first homes.
❖ Board member homeless shelter in Washington, D.C.
❖ Veteran United States Army Presidential Guard

Q: Why are you running?

A: I am running for Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors because I want to extend the opportunities for success I've had to all of our Fairfax County neighbors. I love living in Fairfax County, but our community, like the bottom side of a pancake, is not perfect. We are one of the wealthiest counties in the United States, but deep-rooted inequality remains.

These inequalities are rooted in a closed political system that for decades has served only the wealthy and well-connected ... stifling competition from outsiders and has relegated the Board of Supervisors to a land use and zoning review board. We can do better.

I want to give a voice to the working class families and underserved communities in Fairfax County, and to address problems that affect everyone. Together, we can create a more equitable prosperity in Fairfax County.

Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents?

A:
❖ Background in business, development and managing large enterprises
❖ I'm no stranger to hard work. My

SEE CHAPMAN, PAGE 10

New Hope Housing's Michell Named Lady Fairfax

New Hope Housing Executive Director Pamela L. Michell was named Lady Fairfax by Fairfax County Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova, in a ceremony at the Fairfax County Government Center on Tuesday, May 14. Lord Fairfax will be Randy Sayles, a retired Denver police officer who has volunteered in numerous roles for the Fairfax County Police Department.

The Lord and Lady Fairfax Awards Program was first instituted in 1984 and yearly honors two volunteer and civic leaders from each magisterial district and two at-large chosen by the chair. The honorees are selected for outstanding service to their home districts or to Fairfax County.

"I'm thankful to Sharon Bulova for selecting me and for recognizing the important work of New Hope Housing, our staff, and our volunteers," said Michell. "I'm humbled to be in a group that has included so many community heroes and kind souls like Barney Barnwell and our founder, Eleanor Kennedy."

Michell joined New Hope Housing as executive director in November 1990 after answering an ad in The Washington Post. In this position she is responsible for the operation of an \$8,000,000 non-profit, community-based agency that provides home-



Michell

less families and individuals shelter, housing, and tools to build a better life. She has led New Hope Housing with a philosophy of dignity and respect for every person and a place that welcomes all.

Under her leadership, New Hope Housing has grown from a program of three shelters in southeastern Fairfax County serving approximately 100 people a day, to a continuum of services that includes six shelters, nine permanent supportive housing programs, rapid rehousing services, and a number of support services providing hope and hospitality to as many as 450 people a day in Fairfax County, Falls Church, Alexandria, and Arlington County. New Hope Housing has received many awards including Best Housing Organization 2004 at the Virginia Governor's Housing Conference, was selected as one of five finalist organizations in The Washington Post 2009 Excellence in Nonprofit Management Award program, and the Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness Housing First Award in 2015.

Michell was named a 2005 Washingtonian of the Year, received the Center for Nonprofit Advancement's 2009 Gelman Rosenberg Freedman EXCEL Award for excellence in nonprofit leadership, and was named the Leadership Fairfax Nonprofit Leader of the Year in 2013.

Michell is an advocate on behalf of homeless adults and families in the community, serving on the boards of a variety of grassroots advocacy organizations and on a variety of work groups and task forces dealing with homelessness, housing, other human services, and equity issues.

Randy Sayles is a retired Denver uniform police officer, detective and federal agent, deputy assistant administrator, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, with over 35 years of experience in use-of-force incidents. His firsthand experience has been valuable in his service to Fairfax County, including as a member of the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission, serving on the Use of Force Subcommittee, the informal implementation group, the internal use-of-force committee at the Police Department and as an original member of the Civilian Review Panel.

New Hope Housing is a nonprofit agency providing shelter, transitional and permanent supportive housing, outreach and support services for homeless families and



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Board of Supervisors Chairman Sharon Bulova and Pam Michell with her daughter Gillian Penn.

single adults in Fairfax County, City of Alexandria, Arlington County, and City of Falls Church. New Hope Housing is committed to finding creative and lasting solutions to end the cycle of homelessness by offering homeless men, women and children the services they need to change their lives and succeed. For more information, visit www.newhopehousing.org.

Pulling Shopping Carts, Trash Out of Creek

This past weekend, state Sen. Scott Surovell (D36) and Del. Paul Krizek (D-44) hosted an annual Little Hunting Creek Cleanup near U.S. 1 in Lee District.

Dubbed "Fairfax County's Trashiest Stream" in 2007 by Fairfax County government, the stream runs through the Lee District area of Fairfax County in the U.S. 1 Corridor before it crosses U.S. 1 and passes George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate on its way to the Potomac River.

In coordination with the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Surovell and Krizek hosted three cleanup sites in the Hybla Valley area at Janna Lee Avenue Bridge, Audubon Mobile Home Park and at the Mount Vernon Shopping Plaza behind the Shoppers Food Warehouse.

More than 35 volunteers turned out to collect more than 3,000 pounds of trash in 100 bags. More than 15,000 pounds of trash have been collected since cleanup of this area started eight years ago.

Volunteers collected primarily plastic beverage containers, discarded food containers, and plastic bags. Other items included:

- ❖ Four shopping carts
- ❖ 10 bicycles and one tricycle
- ❖ Three tires
- ❖ Two children's vehicles
- ❖ One snow shovel
- ❖ One katana (sword)
- ❖ One baby stroller
- ❖ A baby pool
- ❖ One flatscreen television
- ❖ Three computer monitors



State Sen. Scott Surovell and members of the community gathered to collect trash during an annual Little Hunting Creek Cleanup last weekend.

- ❖ One guard rail
- ❖ A grill.

Volunteers included students from West Potomac and Mt. Vernon High Schools and Carl Sandburg Middle School. Volunteers also came from Arlington and Prince William counties.

With the annual assistance of Robert O'Hanlon's Tree Service, cleanup volunteers were also able to extract four grocery carts, bringing the overall total to 220 shopping carts pulled from the creek bed in the past eight years.

"The shopping carts are especially disappointing given that I have repeatedly brought this issue to retailer's attention and

Wal-Mart went through the effort of installing a cart control system. Unfortunately, the recovered carts were not equipped to function with their control system," Surovell said. "One of the carts was outfitted with Aldi's theft deterrent system which clearly did not work. I also warned Costco about this problem before they built their store and asked them to install an electronic cart control system after Fairfax County refused to mandate it through a proffer and they refused, insisting that they had different customers than Wal-Mart. This makes nearly 10 Costco carts we have removed since they opened."

"I am grateful for the many volunteers



PHOTOS FROM WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SUROVELL

More than 35 volunteers turned out to collect over 3,000 pounds of trash in 100 bags.

that gave up their Saturday to help clean up their community," Surovell said. "Little Hunting Creek is still full of trash, but if we can remove a ton of trash one weekend, that's a ton of trash that does not make it to the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay. U.S. 1's retailers continue to show a lack of interest in controlling shopping cart removal, minimizing plastic bag consumption, or disposable containers in the corridor. We are also continuing to raise awareness about the Lee District trash and litter problem in Hybla Valley. If we continue to push this message, I hope we eventually see a reduction in plastic bottle, bag and overall waste in our streams."



PHOTO BY CHARLOTTE HICKS

Bike the US for MS Ten bicycles left St. Augustine, Fla. on April 20 cycling the East coast and planning on finishing May 26 in Bar Harbor, Mass. Their purpose is to raise awareness and funding for multiple sclerosis research and volunteer for patients. The group consists of three women and seven men from as far away as British Columbia, Canada, California, Idaho, Texas, Florida, Virginia, and Pennsylvania coming together to cycle an average of 60- 80 miles a day. Messiah Lutheran Church, at 6510 Fort Hunt Road, had the opportunity to host the cyclists this week. They spend nights at campsites, churches or other organizations that will host them on their journey. To support their efforts, residents can sponsor a rider on Facebook. The members of the group are Richard Ellis, Kelly Wolf, Duncan Moore, Al Francis, Gayle Fothengil, Neil McKellum, Sean McKellum, Stormi Turnbull, Joe Turnbull, Harrison Mak and Joe Fenney. To learn more about Bike US for MS, visit biketehusforms@biketehusforms.

STEM in the Schoolyard

Approximately 100 Whitman Middle students participated in STEM in the Schoolyard, an interactive event that provided students with the opportunity to create, explore, and experiment with how science, technology, engineering, and math are used in everyday life. Students took part in demonstrations centered on disaster-proofing buildings, flying a drone, creating lip balms using chemistry (at left), LED light painting, and building robots.

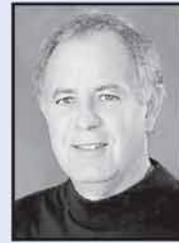


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For more information contact Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce, 703-360-6925 or info@mtvernon-lee-chamber.org



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Alex/Riverside Estates \$594,900
8318 Cherry Valley Lane
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3012 Battersea Lane
 Riverside's popular "Yorkshire" colonial featuring 3 finished lvls, 4 spacious BRs, 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage, all on a beautiful corner lot. Numerous updates include the roof, replacement double pane windows, HVAC system, hot water heater, refinished hdwds on the main lvl w/ Travertine flooring in the family rm. Additional finished space in the basement w/ a rec rm & utility rm. Great location: 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex, & 28 mins to Natl Airport. All this for less than \$580,000.



Alex/Sulgrave Manor \$530,000
4002 Old Mill Road
 Beautiful 3 lvl brick split on a large, lovely .5 acre lot w/ lots of trees & privacy. Spacious kitchen w/ eating area that looks out to a beautiful screened porch & brick patio-perfect for grilling & entertaining. 3 spacious BRs & 2 full updated baths on the upper lvl. The lower level offers a 4th BR, Family room w/walk-out utility room & 3rd full bath. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 minutes to Old Town & 30 mins to National airport. Great price on this Stunning Home!!



Alex/ Riverside Estates \$659,000
8332 Wagon Wheel Road
 \$100,000 + of outstanding renovations in Riverside Estates popular "B" model Colonial w/ garage. New roof, deck, front door & A/C in '18. Kitchen & baths in '17. Kitchen totally gutted & opens to Living & Dining rms, includes: quartz tile counters, six burner gas range by Miele, new hdwd floor, SS appliances & beautiful stained cabinets. All 3.5 baths are gorgeous. MBR combined w/ another bedrm to offer a beautiful suite including a huge walk-in closet to die for. Beautifully finished lower lvl offers a 4th bedrm & 3rd full BA along w/ an inviting Rec rm - perfect for a Nanny or Au Pair. DBL pane windows & 6 panel doors ...of course!!! Totally turnkey, enjoy!!!



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Ft. Hunt/Hollin Hall \$570,000
7923 Jackson Road
 Gorgeous home offers 1 lvl living w/ contemporary open floor plan in sought after Ft. Hunt community zoned for Waynewood Ele. This beautiful home has been completely remodeled & has stunning architectural features including an addition which has a Great rm w/ high vaulted ceiling, a stone FPL, 2 skylights w/ remote controlled shades, & a 2nd full bath, master bedrm, & enclosed washer/dryer area. Kitchen has SS appliances & silestone counters & shaker style maple cabinetry. Both baths renovated. New French doors off of Great rm open to beautiful 2 year old deck made w/ low maintenance composite material, overlooks private, fenced bkdy. This home is a GEM and is in a great location!



Alex/Riverside Estates \$548,000
8525 Wagon Wheel Road
 Looking for primarily one level living? You've Found It!! This lovely 2 level Rambler has been beautifully updated: roof, windows, kitchen, baths, HVAC, painted interior, & stunning refinished hdwd floors. The main lvl offers the kitchen, dining & living rms, along w/ a family rm, 3 bedrms & 2 beautiful baths. The lower lvl has a rec rm, large den, utility rm & has a walkout to a large fenced bkdy, complete w/ a lovely slate patio & detached shed. An asphalt driveway offers side by side parking plus a spacious 1 car garage. 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Towne, Alex & 28 mins to National Airport. A beautiful & rare Rambler!!

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Changing Political Landscape

Don't miss vote June 11 or before to have a say in the biggest political change in years.

On June 11, 2019 a revolution is scheduled. There will be no blood. Change, massive change, is inevitable, but its effects won't be fully in place for months.

Many of the powers that be in Fairfax County will step down at the end of the year, taking with them decades of historic understanding and institutional knowledge. Voters will choose their replacements, for the most part, on June 11.

It's a huge opportunity for voters in Virginia to enact the change they want to see.

First any Virginia voter can participate in the Democratic primary because voters in Virginia do not register by party.

Second almost every candidate is describing

themselves as progressive. There are of course degrees of progressive. You'll have to tease out for yourself what matters to you. Is the county on the right track in the things that matter? If you think the county has done enough in affordable housing, is on the right path in terms of criminal justice reform and racial and economic equity, then voting for the few longtime incumbents might be right for you.

If your vision of a progressive county is a bit beyond the status quo, then you have other choices.

Every Democratic primary voter in Fairfax County will choose candidates for two critical county wide positions, Chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and Fairfax County Commonwealth's Attorney.

Early voting has begun already, but the cut-off to register to vote is in less than a week, May 20. You have to register (at your current address) and actually vote to have a say in choices that could define the direction of the county for the foreseeable future. With four or five candidates vying for quite a few seats, a small number of votes could decide.

Don't miss out.

— MARY KIMM

Upcoming Elections

June 11, 2019 Democratic Party Primary Election Information

On Election Day Vote at Your Usual Polling Place, Open From 6 a.m. until 7 p.m.

To confirm that you are eligible to vote in this election, visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website at <https://vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation..>

GENERAL INFORMATION

❖ **Now:** Absentee Voting is underway at the Office of Elections, 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Conference Rooms 2/3, Fairfax, VA

❖ **May 20:** Voter Registration Deadline to vote on June 11. In-person: 5 pm, online: 11:59 p.m.

❖ **June 4:** Deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail, 5 p.m.

❖ **June 8:** Final day to vote absentee in-person, 5 p.m.

❖ **June 11:** Primary Election Day. Polling Places open 6 a.m. until 7 p.m. Deadline to return ballots to the Office of Elections, 7 p.m.

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/upcoming for more and to find your sample ballot for Tuesday, June 11.

EDITORIAL

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unacceptable Status Quo

To the Editor:

During April, I received a mass e-mail from my Virginia state senator, Dick Saslaw, reminding me that it was National Child Abuse Prevention Month. I was shocked upon reading further in his e-mail about the prevalence of child abuse in our area.

According to Saslaw, "SCAN (Stop Child Abuse Now) reports that in 2017, more than 11,500 children were involved in reported cases of child abuse and neglect in our region." And these are just the reported cases. We can all imagine that there are many more such cases that never go reported and in which children live sad, desperate, terrorized lives.

Also last month, national stories coming out of Illinois were detailing the beating death of five-year-old Andrew "AJ" Freund of Crystal Lake. Indicted on 41 criminal counts, as reported by the Chicago Tribune, the parents' charges stated that "the murder was accompanied by exceptionally brutal or heinous behavior indicative of wanton cruelty." What this poor soul must have endured; he deserved so much better.

Imagine the complete and total living hell experienced by a child experiencing such horrific abuse. What was this little boy thinking

while he was being beaten to death, knowing he had no hope of anyone rescuing him from such unjust torture?

Simultaneously, I was seeing several news stories about the measles outbreaks occurring in discrete U.S. communities. According to the CDC website, more than 700 cases were reported in the first four months of 2019.

The comparison of numbers made me think. If 11,500 children were mistreated in just our region in one year, then how many experience such terrible anti-parenting across the country? We would be talking about hundreds of thousands of children nationwide. Why is this not more of an epidemic or emergency along the lines of measles? Why are our elected leaders not focusing on this more in an effort to help suffering kids?

"Unfortunately, this issue can often fall under the radar in the Northern Virginia region," Saslaw's email says. Why? If the magnitude of child abuse is as great as SCAN reports — and there's every reason to believe the scope is, in fact, even broader — then stopping child abuse should be a top priority. Yet, I don't know that I've ever heard it discussed in a political debate.

I don't know the answer to proactively solving child abuse, other than encouraging people to report it if they suspect it.

Lately, I've been questioning

whether we as a society are doing as much as we could be doing to protect children from the parents whose duty it is, ironically, to be protectors of their offspring. The status quo is completely unacceptable, albeit easy to ignore if it's not taking place in one's own home.

Rob Blizard
Springfield

Support Local Venues

To the Editor:

I'm the executive director of Pawfectly Delicious Dog Treats, a local nonprofit in the Fort Hunt/Mount Vernon Community. Our nonprofit provides job training and meaningful work to young adults with disabilities. Our team of differently-abled young adults support daily operations of making all natural ginger dog treats.

Recently we applied to become a vendor at the Fairfax County sponsored farmer's market at the Sherwood Hall library. Despite the lack of encouragement from the office that facilitates the application process, I went ahead and submitted and application. Our application was denied, and we were offered a slot at the Oakton Farmer's Market, approximately 20 miles away from where our young people reside. I am perplexed at the lack of support for

an organization such as ours, that wants nothing more than to have our special needs population to have connection within the community where they live. The next time you choose to "shop local" take note of all where all of the vendors at the county sponsored markets come from. You will see that room is made for vendors from Pennsylvania, Maryland, and localities further away in the state of Virginia, but few from right in our own community. You might want to consider supporting independent farm stands where local churches such as St. Luke's Episcopal Church have provided support and an opportunity for our organization to sell our treats in the community where our workers and volunteers work and live.

Anne Tuccillo
Alexandria

Remedy for Supremacist Thinking?

To the Editor:

In the May 6 Mount Vernon Gazette publication, Capital News Service writer Saffeya Ahmed reported her investigation of hate crimes and quoted Professor David Webber (VCU, emergency preparedness) to inform responsible

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 9

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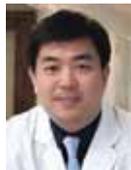
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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known

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OPINION

Progress through County Budget

BY DAN STORCK
SUPERVISOR, MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT
FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

I was pleased to support the FY 2020 Budget Plan which allows us to address many of the board's priorities from One Fairfax to affordable housing, new environmental initiatives to fully funding our schools, all without increasing the real estate tax rate. This is a great accomplishment and indicative of the strength of our current economy, business development and development in general. Even as things are going strong, the budget provides for additional growth and revitalization opportunities, including on the Richmond Highway Corridor and in the Lorton area.

One important addition to this budget was raising the county employees minimum wage to \$15/hour and increasing the proposed county employee Market Rate Adjustment (MRA) to 2.1 percent. These elements are critical to attracting and retaining talent, while ensuring that those who live, work and play in our county can continue to do so. An added piece of this puzzle is the funding of a new Workforce Attraction Program through the Economic Development Authority (EDA). We have many unfulfilled job opportunities, which if not addressed, will dampen our vitality and reduce future job growth. Attracting the talent to fill these positions is critical to our re-development and continued economic growth.

Housing, frankly, is our Achilles heel and the county has been slow to respond to this need.

With the third quarter budget adjustments and new funding in the FY 2020 Budget, we have made great strides, but still must do more. We are suffering the consequences of a regional lack of supportive housing and a decrease of affordable housing in surrounding jurisdictions, which has hurt current Mount Vernon District residents by causing rents and home prices to increase. As our corridor redevelops, I am committed to ensuring that no one gets left behind. While this includes the neediest among us, it also includes our teachers, first responders, recent graduates and young families. If you live or work in our community now, you should have an opportunity to continue to live here, or to move here.

We all, the county, private sector and I, must be working closely together every single day to retain our quality existing housing and build new housing along our highways.

As the grandson of an undocumented immigrant, I supported the pilot funding for legal services for Fairfax County immigrant residents. I have heard from many constituents both for and against this pilot funding which helps some immigrants who are facing deportation receive legal services. We face an unprecedented challenge of children and families in our community that need and should receive due legal process and proper representation.

One of my proudest moments on this board came in February when I brought forward my Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter to more quickly, broadly and systematically address our growing environmental challenges. My col-

leagues on the board joined me in unanimous support and county staff has moved forward expeditiously. The budget now includes funding for a new Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination and two new positions to support development of a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP).

Last here, but first on my priorities, we are fully funding our schools for a second year in a row. We have funded needed teacher pay increases and additional support for our students. Needs-based staffing makes a big difference with our lowest income students and those not excelling as quickly as they can. This funding is critical for keeping Mount Vernon District students and schools competitive.

While I worked hard for this year's budget outcomes, we still need to work with our state legislators to change the state funding formulas and return more of the tax dollars generated in Fairfax County to Fairfax County. Currently, the county only receives 2.3 percent of its funding from the state, with the state returning to us only 23 percent of what Fairfax County residents contribute in state taxes. (These taxes are principally contributed through the fairest and most progressive form — income taxes.) Even just returning a few percentages more of our income tax dollars could significantly lower our real estate tax rate. In addition, if the county had the same taxation options as the nearby cities of Alexandria, Falls Church or Fairfax, we could also lower our real estate tax rate by diversifying our funding options.

Alternatives During Station Closures

BY PAUL KRIZEK
STATE DELEGATE (D-44)

In case you've been too wrapped up in the final Game of Thrones season or wondering when the rain will finally go away for more than just a couple of days, you might be unaware of the impending Metro station closures and the significant impact this will have on the commutes of residents in the 44th district whom I represent. Well, here's an important reminder. In just two weeks, from May 25, the Saturday before Memorial Day, through Sept. 8, six Blue and Yellow Line Metro stations south of the Ronald Reagan National Airport will be closed in order to complete Phase 1 of what Metro is calling the "Platform Improvement Project." This includes Huntington Station which many of us use on a daily basis to commute to work, go to events and sightsee in DC, generally avoid traffic, and do our part for the environment by lessening the number of cars on the road.

Much of this work is desperately needed due to poor construction and maintenance from as far back as 35 years ago as is the case of Braddock Station. Complete closure of these stations, as opposed to limited service such as single-tracking, will expedite the project, save money, and reduce expected completion time by up to 94 percent. In trying to make lemonade from these lemons, the good news is that, though we will be without service for 107 days, Metro is working very hard to give travelers alternatives which I want to share with you.

Also, they are doing their best to keep you informed, including personal outreach at Huntington Station six times between now and when the shutdown starts, along with station specific brochures that are being handed out to customers. In addition, the WMATA communications teams will be present at all of the affected stations during the first two weeks of the shutdown period to answer any questions and provide direction to commuters. WMATA bus staff will also be available throughout the entire shutdown period to assist commuters.

First, it is important to note that regular service will continue throughout the rest of the system from National Airport north with near-normal service during this summer. Parking at the Huntington, Franconia, and Van Dorn stations will be free all summer, and there will be a number of free shuttles providing travel alternatives. The best bet for commuters will be to jump on the free non-stop shuttle from Huntington Station to the Pentagon Station, about a 30-to 35 minute ride. For those going to a Nationals or DC United game, it may be best to drive across the Woodrow Wilson bridge and hop on the Green Line at Branch Avenue, only six stops from the stadium. And, for local traffic, you are encouraged to take the free local shuttles stopping at each closed metro station, acting almost as a surrogate train for local use. And, the popular 11Y bus service will be expanded during construction to include midday service plus more of the regular peak period service. If more buses are needed, WMATA will be monitoring the service and making adjust-

ments. Here is a link to the bus timetables for the enhanced Metrobus service: <https://www.wmata.com/schedules/timetables/upcoming-changes/index.cfm?state=VA>.

Free shuttle buses will replace Metro service throughout the shutdown. The Blue Line Shuttle will operate between the Franconia-Springfield, Van Dorn St, King St-Old Town, and National Airport stations. This Blue Line Shuttle will not stop at the Braddock Road station. The Yellow Line Shuttle will operate between the Huntington, Eisenhower Ave, King St-Old Town, Braddock Road, and Crystal City stations. The Yellow Line Shuttle will not stop at National Airport. Free express shuttle buses will also be available that run directly from the Franconia-Springfield Station to the Pentagon Station, and from the Huntington Station to the Pentagon Station. Additionally, an express shuttle will run from the Landmark Mall to the Pentagon Station. These shuttle buses will run every five minutes during rush hours and every 10 minutes midday and evenings, except the Blue Line Shuttle (every 12 minutes during midday) and Landmark-Pentagon Express (weekdays only). The shuttles will operate during all hours the rail system is open, seven days a week, except the Landmark-Pentagon Express, which will only operate on weekdays. All shuttle buses will meet the first and last trains at their terminal stations.

For more resources and ways to stay informed on Fairfax County travel alternatives, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/travel-alerts/metro-platforms. For information on the WMATA Platform Improvement Project, visit www.wmata.com/platforms.

LETTERS

FROM PAGE 6

citizens in The Commonwealth of Virginia. Are Gazette readers concerned that faculty at VCU encouraged the student to conduct an ethnographic study of supremacists?

What is the remedy to supremacist's toxic thinking of deceptive self-interest that threatens all nations? Would Gazette readers find such hateful supremacists in Africa, China, Mexico, South America, Middle East, Far East, Europe, or Australia? I have never met or spoken to a supremacist. The Rule of Law in America has protected people who have migrated to the United States from all over the world. The tolerant American society has enabled legal immigrants to become productive citizens able to thrive within the American dream of liberty and justice for all.

Did the writer conduct her social science investigation of the

human condition through qualitative interviews of various cultural supremacists to analyze and validate her theoretical framework and unbiased findings? Did her research include visiting and discussing perspectives with the children and grandparents of these criminals and their victims? Did she become familiar with supremacist cultural anthropology by offering food, clothes, shelter, jobs, and transportation if they need a hospital? My professors required students "to demonstrate academic integrity" by conducting a systematic review to consider anticipating, monitoring, mediating, and mitigating risk.

Did she investigate the cultural distrust, fear, and anger that motivates a supremacist's method of operating in society? She does not define or diagnose a remedy to supremacist's toxic thinking of deceptive self-interest that threatens all nations. She brings forward

questions by quoting Raha Batts, imam of Masjid Ash-Shura in Norfolk, who claims that we can coexist with such groups, because "we all have the same goals in mind." Did Mr. Batts consider distinctively different goals such as a citizen's duty under oath to defend our United States Constitution against all threats foreign and domestic? Do Batts and Ahmed reconcile their claim to coexist with the traditional norm to "love your neighbor and do to them as you

would want them to equally do to you?" Dr. Martin Luther King called citizens to expand our circle of love and understand those who provoke disagreement and retaliation. Citizens are responsible for discerning subtle agendas by groups who plan to occupy, replace, and undermine civil rights laws. To what extent is it practical for communities to accommodate a movement that consumes benefits from an established infrastructure and yet refuses to adopt

healthy cultural habits of safe predictable interaction?

I am thankful every hour of the day for the millions of men and women from all ethnic backgrounds and religions who have given their lives through the military and other public service to protect American citizens and our U.S. Constitution from all threats both foreign and domestic.

David Harrison
Alexandria

BULLETIN BOARD

TUESDAY/MAY 23

UCM Toastmasters Open House. 7-9 p.m. at South County Building, 8350 Richmond Highway, 2nd floor. Toastmasters International, an organization devoted to helping individuals develop/improve leadership and communication skills. Refreshments will be served. Free. Visit ucm.toastmastersclubs.org/ for

more.rsdaily.com/ May 30

THURSDAY/MAY 30

Interfaith Ramadan Dinner. 7:30 p.m. (registration); 8 p.m. (program starts) at Fairfax County Government Center - Cafeteria, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. Call to prayer and dinner are at 8:30 p.m. Register at bit.ly/fxcounty2019.

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Saturday, May 18, 3:00 pm
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Candidates for Board Chairman in Televised Debate

FROM PAGE 1

painful commute.

Again, Plerhoples and Chapman argued that the county is behind on the issue and that regional partnerships need to be employed to tackle the situation more rapidly.

“We’re imprisoned in our cars ... we need to look at other jurisdictions” to help solve this problem, said Chapman.

Plerhoples wants “more creative thinking on transportation.” She does not think that enough attention is being paid to solving “that first mile and the last” that keep commuters from using public transportation. She also cautions that the “transit development model” where major development takes place around transit hubs has to be monitored to avoid “gentrification” of an

area that could, in turn, further exacerbate the affordable housing shortage.

Along with more multi-jurisdictional planning and fighting for the state and federal funds needed, McElveen sees the need to expand the reach of the current Metro rail system as part of the solution.

SCHERSCHLIGT QUESTIONED how each candidate would see that the One Fairfax initiative for equity is implemented, and how “good intentions turned into actions” in projects like the Route 1 corridor Embark amendment to the Comprehensive Plan.

“One Fairfax has no teeth,” was Chapman’s response. “The chair needs to work with developers” to ensure the principles of One Fairfax are put into place.

McKay

FROM PAGE 3

district and what solutions do you propose?

- A:
- ❖ Creating a Fairfax County that works for all (One Fairfax)
 - ❖ Investing in people by supporting the environment, affordable housing, transportation infrastructure, and education
 - ❖ Creating jobs and economic opportu-

nities in all areas of the county

Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents.

A: Having served on the Board of Supervisors for the past 11 years, I am the only candidate with Board experience and who has been a state, regional and countywide leader. I’ve balanced budgets and created countywide legislative agendas that have made us a progressive national leader in

Plerhoples says a “radical shift” is needed and is skeptical of the county’s commitment when there is only “one person on county staff dedicated to One Fairfax. Every department should have an equity officer” or the like to bring the initiative to life.

The attorney noted her own experience running a public interest law center.

McElveen applauds the One Fairfax declaration but noted that in the schools, despite the wealth of the area, there are still many children in poverty and families that struggle. Fairfax County is also home to one-third of the state’s English-as-a-Second Language students, reported McElveen, and the intentions of One Fairfax don’t always translate into meeting their needs.

As one of the architects of One Fairfax, McKay defends the doctrine as the first

steps, and more than what many other jurisdictions have taken. By adopting the plan and working to add accountability and measurable results, McKay sees Fairfax County as leading the way for others, while acknowledging that “our work is still unfinished.” As chairman, McKay wants to continue that work so that “all county residents share in the equal opportunity of One Fairfax.”

The candidates will meet again on May 24, hosted by the Fairfax County Democratic Committee as they work to express their views to the voters and to differentiate themselves from each other.

With so much change at hand, and so much at stake, as Scherschligt urged at the conclusion of the televised debate, get informed and “vote like your life depends on it.”

education, job growth, human services, and quality of life, while also ensuring we’re protecting our environment and fighting for affordable housing.

I have the knowledge, experience, and relationships it takes to be a successful chairman, and I am excited for the opportunity before us.

McElveen

FROM PAGE 3

by our leadership.

Q: What are the top issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?

A: The three most important issues and opportunities that Fairfax needs to address are in the areas of education, innovation and opportunity.

❖ Education: We need to fully fund our schools and implement universal pre-Kinderergarten so that our students enter school ready to succeed.

❖ Innovation: We need to connect all residents to the internet; create transportation networks that accommodate expanded public transit and electric and autonomous vehicles; and preserve green space while investing in a green infrastructure that pushes Fairfax toward a carbon-neutral future.

❖ Opportunity: We need to prepare our community members for the jobs of the future by creating apprenticeships and building innovation labs in schools; develop small-business incubators in vacant office space; and build affordable housing throughout our community.

Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents.

A: I am the only candidate in this race who has experience as an elected official representing all Fairfax residents and overseeing 53 percent of the county budget as a School Board member. I am also the only candidate who, through years of working in international business and think tank environments, has built global networks

that can help our county become a model for international business development and investment. Perhaps most importantly, I am an outsider to the Board of Supervisors.

My roles as a FCPS graduate, a Fairfax parent, a School Board member, a global thinker and candidate for Chair have one thread: a dedication to the county that I love. I want to make sure everyone who calls this place home is able to give back to it as I have sought to do and achieve the American Dream.

Plerhoples

FROM PAGE 3

A: I am the only candidate committed to putting voters first by refusing to accept political contributions from real estate developers. That is a conflict of interest.

I am the only lawyer, experienced in bringing private sector, small business to the table.

Chapman

FROM PAGE 3

mother and I were homeless for a portion of my childhood. You don’t go from youth homelessness to managing a \$13 billion agency overnight. I have spent my life building things, solving problems, and serving my community.

❖ I have the real world experience that it will take to help Fairfax County move forward, and I am prepared to take my service to a new level as Chair of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

❖ I have spent my career building affordable housing ... with the VHDA we made it possible for thousands of moderate income Virginians to buy a home. These experiences uniquely position me to lead Fairfax County towards a brighter future.

Note: Tim Chapman’s responses to the questionnaire were not received by press time. The information above is taken from his campaign website at chapmanforchair.com.

Choosing Swimming Lessons

What can parents do if child is afraid of the water.

BY MARILYN CAMPBELL

The start of summer just around the corner and for some, warm weather is synonymous with trips to a pool or beach. swimming lessons are one the minds of many parents. May is National Water Safety Month, an effort designed to prevent illness, injury and death as a result of contact with the water. Part of a parent's role in ensuring safety for their children is knowing the factors to consider when looking for swimming lessons.

"People are starting get out and enjoy the water," said Aleatha Ezra, of The World's Largest Swimming Lesson, an event on June 20 designed to raise awareness of the importance of knowing how to swim. "We want to emphasize the importance to learning to swim, finding lessons and taking them seriously."

When looking for lessons, parents should inquire about the training of those who will be in charge of teaching their children. "We require all of our swim instructors to pass a certified lifeguard course," said Tommy Hamilton, Regional Manager at Goldfish Swim School of Reston, Falls Church and Alexandria. "In addition to this course all of our instructors also go through at least 40 hours of hands on training on our proprietary curriculum."

In order for lessons to be effective, the student teacher ratio should be as low as possible, advises Hamilton. "We believe that this gives them suitable time in the water practicing their skills as well as enough rest in between each skill," he said. "The small class sizes also allow us to maintain a high standard for safety."

The swim school should assess a child's ability and have a curriculum with a clearly defined plan that allows a child to advance as they gain skills. "For example, we have a progressive curriculum. Our beginner swim classes start with basics like teaching kids to put their face in the water," said Jamel Wright, a swimming instructor for SafeSplash Swim School in Bethesda. "It moves through [phases] like stroke development and advances through competition level as the children are assessed and their swimming skills improve."

Parents should be allowed to observe their child's lessons, said Hamilton. "We love when parents get involved in the progress of their children," he said. "We believe this to be crucial to their growth. We keep our pool deck at a warm 90 degrees so we have large glass windows in our lobby so parents can be comfortable and watch the entire lesson."

Another factor to consider is whether or not there is a lifeguard on duty who can watch those in the water at all times. Water quality should be another concern. "Smell to make sure there are no strong chemical smells, which is not a sign of proper chlori-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOLDFISH SWIM SCHOOL

An instructor at Goldfish Swim School teaches young children how to swim. Lessons can help ensure water safety.

"We want to emphasize the importance to learning to swim, finding lessons and taking them seriously."

— Aleatha Ezra, of The World's Largest Swimming Lesson

nation but rather contamination," said Shannon McKeon, Environmental Health Specialist. "Ask to see water quality reports that should be posted at every public pool."

There are times when a child has an extreme fear of water, but safety experts advise continuing the lessons with an instructor who is able to assist parents in helping a child overcome that fear.

"To cope with swimming fears, we should first relax with slow, deep, nose breathing," said Jerome Short, Ph.D. Licensed Clinical Psychologist and Associate Professor of Psychology at George Mason University. "We can close our eyes briefly and go to a quiet, comfortable place. After we are relaxed, we should watch others who enjoy swimming and imagine doing it ourselves successfully. Then move forward in small steps to shallow water, slowly submerge the body, and practice floating with someone close by to support you. Take a break if there is discomfort but try again soon to make more progress."

Read story books on children who were afraid to swim but were successful, advises Carol Barnaby, LCSW I. "Scared children are already tackling emotional burdens and don't need to see, hear, or feel their parents frustration, she said. "Take your child's fear seriously and acknowledge it. Let them know that you understand that they are scared. Start swim lessons out of the water so that there can be trust established this will make them feel safe and ready to learn."

Barnaby continued, "Let your child know that you believe in them and that you have confidence they will succeed at their goal. Praise all efforts and offer physical reassurance when they leave the water. Children who receive positive reinforcement will try harder even when they are scared. Give your child frequent reassurance that they are safe and help is there."

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ENTERTAINMENT

Meet Chef Alam Méndez Florián at Urbano 116

BY SHIRLEY RUHE

Chef Alam Méndez Florián carries a 40-kilo whole lamb in from the refrigeration room. He takes a hefty, carefully placed whack with his cleaver at the hind leg joint. In 20 minutes he finishes with the ribs and has butchered the entire lamb. Méndez will cook the pieces of lamb in its own juices for 12 hours at 120 degrees Celsius with a marinade.

“We prefer to cook it with the bones because it tastes better.” Méndez remembers when he was growing up in Mexico that lamb was special for weekends when they would go have a “strong breakfast” and the lamb broth was good for hangovers “or so they told me.” Méndez buys his lambs from Maryland, at least two a week.

Méndez has boiled (blue) cónico corn and then cooked it for 25 minutes at 92 degrees before letting it soak overnight in limestone water. He brings this corn from Oaxaca in Mexico as well as the bolita and the belatove. He says other kinds of corn are different than cónico and some soak less and take less limestone water.

This corn will translate into masa for tortillas. The corn he uses is 100 percent GMO free but he says in Mexico few pay for the certificate that states it is organic. “We

try to keep seeds and not lose them. GMO is less productive and more expensive so farmers don’t like to grow that way.”

Méndez pushes the corn down a funnel into a large grinder, pouring from a pitcher of water to keep the mixture moving. A steady stream of cónico falls into the container below. “You have to watch your fingers or they will grind up with the corn.” He says, “We don’t add salt; we just pat this into tortillas. The 8 kilos of corn will make about 600 tortillas. We go through more than that in a day.”

The tortillas are stacked high and, just before serving, the tortilla will be cooked on a hot grill for 45 seconds. “The tortilla has a thin side and a thicker side, and we put the filling on the thin side.”

The kitchen is bustling as 11 workers rub shoulders passing through the maze between work areas and stovetop. One pours custard into small glass bowls; another marinates pork and another chops cucumbers and tomatoes. Méndez says the prep time early in the morning is the busiest as

they ready everything for the day. “We make everything fresh here ourselves.”

Méndez has prepared a marinade of red chilies, onion, garlic, cumin, oregano, cloves, salt and pepper. “Just to show you.” He rubs nearly a quart of the marinade into several pieces of lamb and adds a little bit of water to steam it in the oven.

Urbano 116 has been open on King Street only a few months. Méndez says, “This isn’t the same as what Americans call Tex-Mex but most of them like it.” He says it is very different in Alexandria and Mexico, which is the food capital of the world and people come from all over to eat there. “They know the flavors of the different corn in their tortillas.” But he does find in Alexandria that people who have been in Mexico want to experience that food again and others are willing to give it a try. Customers’ favorites are the varieties of tacos and ceviches on the dinner menu.

He likes to combine local Oaxacan ingredients with what he can find here, and he creates daily or weekly specials. “I learned to cook from my mom. Her almond mole, her black and yellow mole — half of the menu items are my mom’s recipes.”

For the final touch Mendez arranges a purple and a white taco with edges wedged up against



Cónico corn has been soaked and is ground to make masa for tortillas.

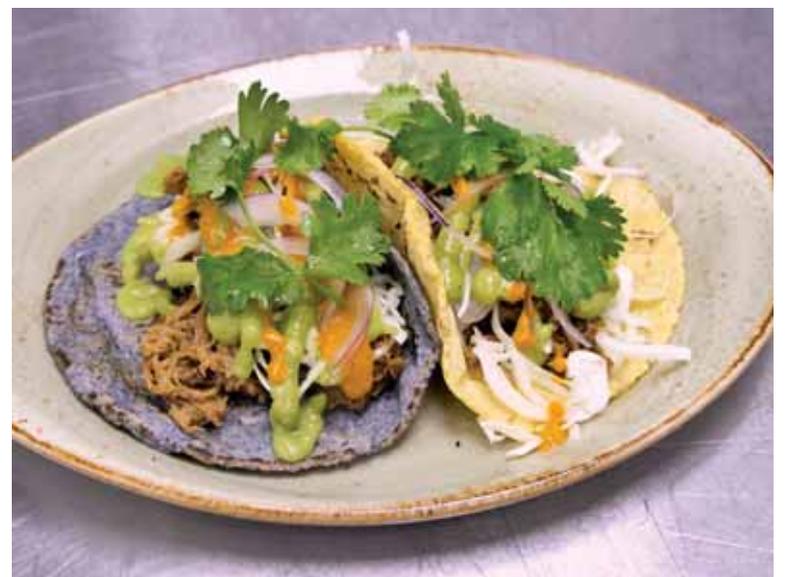


Four steps to cónico tortillas.

each other on the plate. Each is filled with a generous portion of shredded lamb and topped with shredded cabbage. A drizzle of avocado sauce, a drizzle of morita sauce (a little hot) and a bit of parsley for garnish.

Méndez received his culinary degree in 2012 and since then his culinary adventures have taken

him to Spain, Guatemala, Denmark, Chile and back and forth to Mexico City. His restaurant in Mexico City received the award for the best restaurant in Mexico. “My idea with my culinary knowledge is to bring the Mexican flavors and the culture here.”



Lamb tacos with drizzle of morita and avocado sauce.



Tacos stacked high ready for filling.



Chef Alam Méndez Florián butchers a whole lamb for the lamb tacos, a customer favorite.



Rubbing the lamb with marinade to cook overnight.

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

CALENDAR

ONGOING

Juried Show: “East Meets West.”

Through May 19, gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Ikat weaving, Batik, Sashiko embroidery, Shibori dyeing, hand stamping, and other Eastern techniques and clothing styles are integrated with Western designs and techniques. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work will also be exhibited. Free admission. Call 703-548-0935 or visit www.potomacfiberartsgallery.com for more.

The “Weekends” Kiln Club Show.

Through May 26, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Artisan creations are as unique as that match

made in heaven, ideal as an anniversary gift, engagement congratulations or to commemorate the hoopla of getting hitched. Capture a moment in clay, recall a scene with ceramics and upgrade important goings-on with Scope Gallery. Call 703-548-6288 or visit www.scopegallery.org for more.

Kathryn Coneway Exhibit.

Through May 31, at Huntley Meadows Visitor’s Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria. Coneway’s mixed-media art combines collage and photographic transfers, and it expresses her observations of nature. She uses mulberry paper to create a ground of color and texture. A reception will be held Sunday, March 10 from 2-4 p.m. Students from Kathryn Coneway’s winter class at Huntley Meadows will also display work. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

Creative Aging Festival. Through May 31, in locations around Fairfax County. The Creative Aging Festival supports Fairfax County’s 50+ Community Action Plan’s Arts Initiative to promote arts programming for and by older adults. Core objectives include encouraging older adult participation in the community’s many public and private arts program; promoting public understanding of the benefits of older adult participation in the arts; and providing awareness to the broader community about the existing arts services for older adults in Fairfax County. This year’s Creative Aging Festival is presented by Fairfax county Neighborhood and Community Services in collaboration with ARTSFAIRFAX. Visit the Creative Aging Festival site at bit.ly/FairfaxCreativeAgingFestival.

Art Exhibit: “Transcend.” Through

June 2, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory Artists @ Mosaic Gallery, 2905 District Avenue, #105, Fairfax. Featured work by juried artists from the Torpedo Factory Art Center represent a variety of media including painting, printmaking, photography and 3-D mediums explore the theme of transcendence. A reception is planned for Thursday, May 9, 6-9 p.m. Visit www.torpedofactoryartists.com for more.

Art Exhibit: “Sacred Feminine.”

Through June 2, gallery hours at Del Ray Artisans Gallery, 2704 Mount Vernon Ave. This show explores female energy, the power of life and birth; it connects that energy to ideas, expressions, dreams, life and all of existence. Tap in to your Sacred Feminine and channel the goddess. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Art Exhibit: “Re-Connecting Threads.”

Through June 2, at VCA Alexandria, 2660 Duke St. Gallery Without Walls celebrates fiber in a re-visit to last November’s “Connecting Threads” gallery exhibit. “Re-Connecting Threads” features traditional and non-traditional fiber-related art by Del Ray Artisans members while highlighting narratives that trigger nostalgia or comfort, and in doing so communicate meaning that goes beyond the literal definition of the materials. Visit DelRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww/.

Art Exhibit: Lyrical Flight.

Through June 2, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Barbara Januszkiewicz’s luminous and elegant paintings evolved out of her early work in watercolor, a progression evident in the almost liquid flow of colors across her large compositions. On June 2, Small

ENTERTAINMENT

Glass Harp Concert Arriving on DVD

By Gerald A. Fill

This year, veteran Glass Harp Musician Jamey Turner is completing 35 years performing classical music — including Beethoven, Bach, and Mozart — using glassware and water to create a unique musical sound.

This summer he will be making available to the public a DVD of a concert he performed at the Washington National Cathedral.

When Turner is not performing a concert he is frequently found performing his classical musical compositions at the front entrance to Alexandria's Torpedo Factory Art Center. When asked why he does this, rather than, for example, playing his favored woodwind musical instrument, the clarinet, he responded by saying that the glass harp sound is the most "beautiful, unique, and elegant sound," and he enjoys the response he receives from his audiences.

According to Turner, this includes a prison where the inmates spontaneously stood and applauded after his performance of playing Mozart. In the past he has performed on national television programs, and at the Smithsonian institution, among other venues, large and small.



Jamey Turner and his wife Mary in front of the Torpedo Factory.

PHOTOS BY GERALD A. FILL/GAZETTE PACKET



Jamey Turner performs in front of visitors in front of the Torpedo Factory.

CALENDAR

Creatures Dance Project will perform Light Exists, a piece choreographed in response to Januszkiwicz's Lyrical Flight exhibit. The performance is free and will occur at 1 p.m., prior to the gallery talk at 2 p.m. Visit nvfaa.org or call 703-548-0035.

Photography Exhibit: "Tonal

Visions." Through June 15, gallery hours at Multiple Exposures Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center #312, 105 N. Union St. Featuring work by Alan Sislén. The highly graphic, black and white architectural images in this exhibit explore the range and beauty of tones that might or might not have existed, but were visible in the mind

of the photographer. Whether it's the darkest tones that convey a sense of mystery, the brightest tones that attract attention, or the mid-tones that provide the connecting tissue, it is this range of tonalities that shapes the lines, curves, volumes and objects to give the structures life, beauty and meaning. This exhibit is an exploration of tonalities. Visit www.MultipleExposuresGallery.com or call 703-683-2205.

Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists.

Through July, Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe St. Living Legends of Alexandria: African American Activists highlights the work of African American men and women who have made important contributions to the growth and productivity of the City of Alexandria. Call 703-746-4356 for more.

Mount Vernon Farmers Market.

Wednesdays (through Dec. 18), 8 a.m.-noon at Sherwood Hall Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market opened May 1 with an array of farm-fresh produce and local foods, plus some new features (fresh brewed coffee!). 17 local farmers and producers will sell fresh, locally grown vegetables and fruits; meats; Chesapeake Bay seafood; breads and pastries; honey, jams and jellies; milk, cheese and eggs; herbs and plants; and more. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets.



1959 Mercedes

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

The single-day free event will be span across three blocks on lower King Street and will feature approximately 60 rare and unusual supercars from around the world such as Ferrari, Jaguar, Porsche, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin and Cobra for up close viewing enjoyment. A fashion exhibition (noon-1 p.m.) will feature spring looks from Old Town Boutique District stores that pair with the themed cars on display. The event will also feature live music, street vendors, and provide festival goers an opportunity to explore Old Town shops and restaurants. Sunday, May 19, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on King Street near Old Town Waterfront. Free admission. Visit www.festivalspeedstylealex.com for more.

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Jeyifous Named as 2020 Artist in Waterfront Public Art Series

Olalekan Jeyifous will be the next artist to create a public art installation in Waterfront Park in Spring 2020.

Waterfront Park currently hosts the interactive installation *Mirror Mirror*, created by SOFTlab, a design studio led by Michael Szivos. Jeyifous will create the second work for the park as part of "Site See: New Views in Old Town." Selected by a task force and approved by the Alexandria Commission for the Arts, he's been commissioned to create a new and original site-specific work inspired by Alexandria.

"Through the Site See series, we're bringing engaging contemporary art to Alexandria's burgeoning waterfront," said



Olalekan Jeyifous

Diane Ruggiero, director of the Alexandria Office of the Arts and deputy director for the Department of Recreation, Parks and

Cultural Activities. "The public reception to *Mirror Mirror* has been so positive and we're thankful to Michael and SOFTlab for helping build a strong foundation. We can't wait to bring Olalekan to Alexandria for this next chapter."

Based in Brooklyn, Jeyifous has spent more than a decade creating large-scale artwork for public spaces. He was recently commissioned, along with Amanda Williams, to create the forthcoming monument for Shirley Chisholm in Brooklyn. He previously created public art at the 2017 Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California, Cleveland's Public Square, and Starbucks' flagship store in Chicago.

As the first part of the process, Jeyifous

Meet the Artist

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 7 P.M.

Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St., Alexandria

will visit Alexandria and meet residents, gathering inspiration for a design to come in Fall 2019. The public is invited to meet the artist and learn about his creative process on Wednesday, May 22, 7-9 p.m. at the Crow's Nest at Blackwall Hitch on 5 Cameron St. in Alexandria. The event is free, but RSVPs are requested.

More information is available at alexandriava.gov/publicart and sitereealx.com.

CALENDAR

MONDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 13-19

National Public Gardens Week.

Come by Green Spring Gardens and celebrate National Public Gardens Week with tours, displays, programs and annual Spring Garden Day plant sale highlighting some of the interesting and exciting plant and history projects that Green Spring has to enjoy. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/green-spring or call 703-642-5173.

TUESDAY-SATURDAY/MAY 14-18

Sailing on String. Tuesday-Friday, 10:30 a.m.; Saturday, 10 and 11:30 a.m. at The Lab at Convergence, 1819 N. Quaker Lane. Arts on the Horizon produces original work exclusively for children ages 0-6 and their families. Follow two curious explorers on a voyage into a world made of string. This gentle, engaging performance features object transformation, movement, live string music, and captivating design. Best for children ages 0-2 and their families. \$7. Visit www.ArtsOnTheHorizon.org or call 571-549-1270.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

Bike to Work Day 2019. Pit stop times vary, all over the region. Join more than 20,000 area commuters for a free celebration of bicycling as a fun, healthy and environmentally-friendly way to get to work. There are 115 Bike to Work Day pit stops to choose from. The first 20,000 to register and attend will receive a free Bike to Work Day T-shirt, enjoy refreshments and chances to win prizes. Visit www.biketoworkmetrodc.org.

History by the Glass. 7-9 p.m. at Historic Congressional Cemetery, 1801 E St., SE, Washington, D.C. Enjoy an evening of history and cocktails on the 175th anniversary of John Gadsby's interment at his final resting place, tour the newly restored Gadsby vault, learn more about this historic cemetery, and sip inspired cocktails. \$25 per person, includes one drink ticket and light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased through alexandriava.gov/Shop or by calling the Museum at 703-746-4242.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/MAY 17-19

Spring Wine Festival & Sunset Tour. 6-9 p.m. at George Washington's Mount Vernon, 3200 Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Mount Vernon. Join Mount Vernon

for its most popular event of the year. Celebrate the history of wine in Virginia with exclusive evening tours of the mansion and cellar and appearances by George and Martha Washington. Bring a blanket, relax on the east lawn overlooking the scenic Potomac River and sample wines made in Virginia. The event takes place rain or shine and all sales are final. Admission: Friday, \$48; Saturday, \$52; and Sunday, \$42. Visit www.mountvernon.org/springwine or call 703-780-2000.

THROUGH MAY 18

"The Savannah Disputation."

Thursday-Saturday, 8 p.m. at The Little Theatre of Alexandria, 600 Wolfe St. The subject is damnation, but "The Savannah Disputation" is as light and sweet as the iced tea served by the odd-couple sisters in their proper southern home. But the sisters quickly lose their southern charm when a young door-to-door evangelist comes knocking to save their souls. Tickets from \$21. Visit www.thelittletheatre.com or call 703-683-5778.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

Green Spring Garden Day and Big Plant Sale. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. The Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV) and the Potowmack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society will be joining over 40 vendors selling plants at Green Spring Gardens. There will be a bake sale and food trucks. This event is hosted by Friends of Greens Spring Gardens (FROGS) and proceeds help purchase plants for the gardens and support educational efforts at Green Spring. Free. Visit www.friendsofgreenspring.org/programs-a-events/spring-garden-day-2019 or call FROGS at 703-642-5173.

Becoming American. 10 a.m.-noon Alexandria's History Museum at the Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Carefully curated, *Becoming American* is a selection of documentaries representing a selection of diverse immigration experiences drawn from both the past and present. Each of the sessions is moderated followed by discussion after the viewing. Light refreshments will be available. This program is designed for adults, high school students may attend with an adult. Free, pre-registration is required at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Silly Goose and Val. 10 and 11:15

a.m. at Durant Arts Center, 1605 Cameron St. Award winning artist, Valerie Leonhart Smalkin, ventriloquist, musician, composer, and performer. Her Parents' Choice award-winning songs and her Maryland State Arts Council award-winning solo performance are guaranteed to delight tots, tweens, and teens...and the timeworn, as well. \$6 per person. To buy online, visit alexandriava.gov/Arts click on Durant Arts Center.

Pillars to Pavers. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. \$35. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Fort Tours in Honor of Armed Forces Day. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Fort Ward Museum & Historic Site, 301 West Braddock Road. Dressed in Union uniform, Museum curator Brian Briones will present an orientation to the Defenses of Washington and a guided tour of historic Fort Ward, one of the largest of the forts that guarded the Federal capital during the Civil War. The tours are free, and begin in the Museum. No reservations are

required. Tours are weather dependent. Visit www.fortward.org, or call 703-746-4848.

Canine Cruise. 11 a.m. Departs from the Alexandria Marina, 1 Cameron St. Calling all dog owners or dog lovers, with or without a four-legged friend, join this 45-minute cruise of Alexandria's seaport — a favorite spring activity for locals. Dogs are free, but must be on a six-foot non-retractable leash. Admission: \$24.99 adults (ages 12+); \$15.75 children ages 2-11; free for children under 2 and dogs. Call 703-684-0580 or visit www.potomacriverboatco.com.

If Trouble Don't Kill Me. 2 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Virginia author Ralph Berrier will present on his book, *If Trouble Don't Kill Me*, which follows the lives on Berrier's family from the mountains of Virginia to the Grand Ole Opry. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

The Alexandria Kinderchoir Spring Concert. 3:30 p.m. at Convergence, 1801 N. Quaker Lane. The Alexandria Kinderchoir, founded in 2015 as The Del Ray Kinderchoir, is Alexandria's only children's community choir, with choristers now heralding from across the city. The non-profit is celebrating its

growth with a name change, coinciding with a move to Convergence for its larger rehearsal and performance space. Visit www.alexandriakinderchoir.org for more.

Hope UCC Luau. 4-9 p.m. at Hope UCC Luau, 6130 Old Telegraph Road. Hawaiian dancing, authentic Polynesian food and crafts for sale, bar and kid's activities: lawn games, face painting and a bounce house. \$15-\$30 (under 2, free). Tickets at hopeucc.org/store.

Bharatanatyam: Classical Indian Dance Program. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. Join Sangeetha Agarwal, director of HastaSwara Performing Arts, and learn about Bharatanatyam. Bharatanatyam is a form of Indian classical dance originating in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

An Infinite Universe. 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Convergence Arts Initiative, 1801 N. Quaker Lane, Alexandria. Alexandria Choral Society presents *An Infinite Universe*, a concert celebrating space and exploration. Featuring new commissioned works "That's one small step" by Tawnie Olson and "Partial Lunar Eclipse" by Lori Laitman. \$20 adult, \$15 senior/



Alexandria Choral Society Performs New Commissions

Alexandria Choral Society (ACS), led by artistic director Brian J. Isaac, will present its final concert of its 2018-19 season, *An Infinite Universe*, at Convergence Arts Initiative. The concert will also feature a performance from a student group selected as the recipient of ACS's Sing-Off Grant Program. The selected group will also perform with ACS for two works at the conclusion of the concert. Saturday, May 18, 7:30 p.m. at Convergence Arts Initiative. Tickets are available online at www.alexandriachoralsociety.org/boxoffice and are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, members of the military, and students. Children 13 and under are admitted free. (Tickets are also available at the door for an additional \$5 from the online price.)

ENTERTAINMENT

military/student, 13 and under free. Tickets \$5 more at the door. Call 703-951-7849 or visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org.

Country-Western Dance. 7-9:30 p.m. at Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 North Chambliss St. The Northern Virginia Country-Western Dance Association will hold a dance with lessons, 6-7 p.m. and open dancing, 7-9:30 p.m. A DJ provides music. Couples and singles of all ages welcome. Admission for members \$10; non-members \$12; children under 18 accompanied by a paying adult \$5. Smoke-free, alcohol-free. BYO refreshments. Visit www.nvcwda.org for more.

SUNDAY/MAY 19

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style. 10 a.m.-3 p.m. on King Street near Old Town Waterfront. The single-day free event will span across three blocks on lower King Street and will feature approximately 60 rare and unusual supercars from around the world such as Ferrari, Jaguar, Porsche, Lamborghini, Aston-Martin and Cobra for up close viewing enjoyment. A fashion exhibition (noon-1 p.m.) will feature spring looks from Old Town Boutique District stores that pair with the themed cars on display. The event will also feature live music, street vendors, and provide festival goers an opportunity to explore Old Town shops and restaurants. Free admission. Visit www.festivalspeedstylealex.com for more.

Women Authors Bookreading. 2-3:30 p.m. at Ivy Hill Cemetery, 2823 King St. Authors H.L. Brooks, and Dea Schofield, will conduct readings and a book signing: The Red August Series, and The Vitaortus Series, in the cemetery vault. Not recommended for children. Free. Call 703-549-7413, ext. 1112, or visit www.ivyhillcemetery.net.

MONDAY/MAY 20

Intro to the Bonsai Tree. 7 p.m. at Beatley Central Library, 5005 Duke St. The president of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society will share an overview of the ancient art of bonsai,

Campagna To Host Annual Bright Futures Benefit

BY SHIRLEY RUHE
GAZETTE PACKET

Feel the breezes of the Potomac outside on the patio at United Way Worldwide for the Campagna Center Bright Futures Benefit on Friday, June 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The auction includes something for everyone including a private charter plane ride, a pair of diamond stud earrings, a round of golf at the Kinloch Golf Club and a week in New Orleans. The \$20 raffle tickets can win you a three-day trip to Atlantis

introduce some basic bonsai techniques, and dispel some common myths. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1702.

TUESDAY/MAY 21

Researching German Ancestors. 1-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road. "Finding a German Heimat (Hometown or Village)." Genealogist James M. Beidler will speak about researching German ancestors online. Free, open to the public.

Twilight & Tipple Tours. 6-9 p.m. at Pope-Leighey House, 9000 Richmond Highway. Experience Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House by twilight. This tour series is a rare chance to see one of Wright's houses illuminated against a night sky. Grab a drink, included in the price of the tour ticket, and walk through the house on a leisurely, open house style tour with plenty of time to take stunning photos. \$35. Visit www.woodlawnpopeleighey.org/ for more.

Bahamas.

Catering by Seasons will provide the food with wine from VA imports. You won't be able to take your ears off the Campagna Kids who will perform a selection of songs from their spring musical, "Disney's Aladdin Jr."

Campagna Center equips children and families with a comprehensive set of tools they need to thrive.

The Campagna Center provides high quality early learning experiences, health and nutrition awareness, before-and after-school programs, enrichment learning and guidance through high school and classes

MAY 21-JUNE 23

Juried Show: "Environmental Elements."

Gallery hours at Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery, Torpedo Factory Art Center, Studio 29, 105 North Union St. Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery announces the opening of its juried show "Environmental Elements." Our artists and their creations are influenced by environmental elements such as air quality, noise, climate, fish and wildlife migration routes, and unique animal species – the list goes on and on. Themed work will be eligible for recognition by the jurors. Non-themed work may also be exhibited. Visit www.Potomacfiberartsgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

THURSDAY/MAY 23

Garden Tour & Tea. 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adult) Tour the demonstration gardens with master



Katelin Moomau, Brittany Patterson-Hill, and Suzanne Carlough at Bright Futures Benefit 2018.

gardener docents. \$32. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Simpson Garden Family Night. 6-8 p.m. at Simpson Park Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Enjoy a bee- and butterfly-friendly seed planting for kids. Take home a kit to create a Butterfly Puddler in the yard, and plenty of plant ideas for pollinator gardens, herb gardens, and container gardening. Come learn why planting native plants are the best choices for the home garden. Extension Master Gardeners will be there to answer your questions. A fun evening for all ages! Free. Questions? Telephone 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

Why Old Places Matter. 7 p.m. at Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, 201 S. Washington St. Tom Mayes, Vice President and Senior Counsel at the National Trust for Historic Preservation, discusses his new book Why Old Places Matter. Although people often feel very

SEE ENTERTAINMENT. PAGE 18

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Grand Opening

Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay joined Dunkin' franchisee network Dekk Group for a ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, May 10. The new restaurant will be open from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday. To learn more about Dunkin', visit www.DunkinDonuts.com.



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Dunkin' mascot Cuppy participated in the grand opening celebration at the company's newest store at 7710 Telegraph Road. The 1,600 square-foot location employs approximately 20 crew members and features a drive-thru and free Wi-Fi.

Make Boat Safety a Habit

National Safe Boating Week is May 18-24.

"The most important thing people can do to help save their own life and the lives of family and friends while boating is to have everyone wear life jackets," said Jeff Burt, Flotilla Commander of U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08. "This should be a habit like wearing a seat belt while driving, not just a Safe Boating Week resolution."

Though wearing life jackets is recommended, in states where no children's life jacket law is in place a USCG interim rule requires children under 13 on moving boats to wear a USCG-approved life jacket that fits. Virginia, Maryland and District of Columbia regulations follow the USCG interim rule.

The Coast Guard's most recent Recreational Boating Statistics found: "Where cause of death was known 76 percent of fatal boating accident victims drowned. Of those drowning victims with reported life jacket usage, 84.5 percent were not wearing a life jacket."

Besides promoting life jacket use, the Auxiliary invites boaters to take advantage



PHOTO BY LT. DAN SWENEY, U.S. COAST GUARD

Youngster wears a USCG-approved life jacket.

of its free Vessel Safety Checks for power boats, sail boats, jet skis and paddle craft, and to enroll in a one-day Boating Safety class if they have not already done so.

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.

FRIDAY/MAY 17

NEXUS 2019: Fussy Minds Forum. 1-3:30 p.m. at Fairfax County Public Schools Virginia Hills Center, 6520 Diana Lane, Alexandria. Today more than ever, stress wears people out. Stressed-out youngsters, tweens and teens may seek harmful ways to relieve stress. During this forum, participants discuss the effects of stress on the brain-ways of the young and how to build the resilience needed for successful learning into adulthood and beyond. Space is limited; register

at www.eventbrite.com/e/community-conversation-addressing-irritability-stress-fussiness-in-todays-youth-tickets-60314231490.

SATURDAY/MAY 18

Boating Safety Classes. 7:30 a.m.-5 p.m. at the Washington Farm United Methodist Church, 3921 Old Mill Road. Prepare for boating season by taking one of the Boating Safety classes offered by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 25-08. Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia have varying requirements for boaters before they may legally operate certain motorized vessels on their respective waterways. Register with Jeff Burt at jdburt@verizon.net or 703-307-6482.



Mary Barnett, greenhouse organizer, shows some of the plants cared for by volunteers.

Church's Spring Plant Sale Underway

For garden plants and flowers, try the spring plant sale at the Mt. Vernon Unitarian Church Old Decco Greenhouse which is ongoing through mid-June every weekend Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 1909 Windmill Lane, 22307.

The greenhouse has 40 different heirloom and hybrid tomato plants, 20 varieties of sweet and hot pepper plants, and seven eggplant varieties. There are Cherokee purple and sungold tomatoes, shishito peppers, and japanese style egg-

plants. A full range of herbs and old-fashioned flowers not commonly sold in garden shops, such as nigella, rose campion, four o'clock, and tassel flower are available. Also sold are native plants including coneflower, rudbeckia, and milkweed, which attracts Monarch butterflies.

The plants are grown from seed and cuttings are tended by volunteers. Plant sale income goes into maintaining the historic 1930 Lord and Burnham greenhouse.

Announcements

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Announcements

Obituary



Joan Marguerite Peterschmidt (Schmitz), 82, of Alexandria peacefully passed away on April 14th, 2019. As a long-time community activist, library volunteer, donor of 134 pints of blood, and sports fan, Joan would like everyone to know that she never colluded with Russia. Joan graduated Phi Beta Kappa from St. Catherine University in St. Paul, MN, was a lifelong member of the Catholic church and a fan of Vatican II. She raised six children to follow in her footsteps as independent, questioning adults who love flowers, birds and justice.

Joan is survived by her two sisters, Dorothy Thalhuber and Rita Guild both of St. Paul, MN; her 6 unindicted co-conspirator children - Monica Ettinger (Peter), Molly O'Boyle (Patrick), Amy Peterschmidt, Nora Honken (Jeff), Matthew Peterschmidt (Katie), Luke Peterschmidt (Lynnette), 10 apparently faultless grandchildren - Brady, Dorothy, Claire, Thomas, Bridget, Rose, Nathanael, Kara, Lilianne and James, as well as hundreds of giraffes and cardinals.

Services will be held at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Alexandria, VA on May 24th at 10:30AM. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider giving blood, donating to either So Others Might Eat (www.some.org) or The Good Shepherd Housing Project (www.goodhousing.org).

Obituary

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The Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program was established by the Virginia General Assembly in 2004 to provide educational opportunities for persons who were denied an education in Virginia due to the closing of the public schools during Massive Resistance between 1954 and 1964. For a limited time, the program is open to new eligible applicants for the 2019-2020 school year. For applications and information on eligibility, visit:

BROWNSCHOLARSHIP.VIRGINIA.GOV

or contact Lily Jones, Division of
Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1850.

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The Weak Of



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

Concerning the three 'weak's during which this arc will publish: last week's "The Weak Before," this week's "The Weak Of" and next week's "The Weak After," this week's "The Weak Of" when I actually lie down for my bi-monthly CT scan (and as it coincides occasionally, my semiannual brain MRI), is the easiest.

The worry of its occurrence is over, since I'm on site and "gowned up" waiting to hear my name called. And the worry of the results has not yet seeped in because the scanning process has barely begun and nothing will happen and/or be expected to be communicated in the next few days anyway.

Next week - when I know the results are somewhere and I've not received any feedback from my oncologist, within five days or so - is when I'll begin to stress for all the reasons with which you regular readers are familiar.

What this "The Weak Of" means to me is progress. And even though that 'progress' could mean disappointing news, it could also mean that my status is quo.

And as difficult as hearing that the CT scan showed growth and/or the brain MRI showed something more, at least we'd gain some knowledge that we didn't have previously, and that new knowledge will be crucial as new treatment options are considered.

However, it's not as if I feel I'm in the dark during the intervals between scans. Hardly. It's more that I'm in a situation where knowledge is a powerful tool and the more of it my doctors, particularly my oncologist, have about me, the better.

The only problem? The frequency of these recurring diagnostic scans means nearly every week, bi-weekly immunotherapy infusions notwithstanding, I'm in some kind of 'weak.'

As you all know, I can compartmentalize but, I'm afraid the compartments are starting to fill up. Ten-plus years of surviving cancer will do that.

The CT scan and MRI appointments, in and of themselves are not compartment-filling though. Having had over 50 of them by now, I'm unaffected. Moreover I drive the same route to the same facility and are tended to by the same technicians; my good luck charms, as I tell them.

They always greet me by name, smile and ask how I'm doing. I likewise reply in a positive way and thank them for the many good results I've had and encourage them to keep up the good work (I realize they have nothing to do with the actual results, good or bad, but I still like to prime the pump, so to speak).

And when the process is complete, I'll leave feeling more upbeat than when I arrived. A feeling which continues until the next week, 'the weak after.' That's when I'll feel the same kind of emotional jitters I experienced during 'the weak before.'

So, as I begin 'the weak of,' I begin it with hope and humor, my stock-in-trade. Hope for all the obvious reasons and humor because whatever happens, I'll likely make some joke about it and try to lighten the weight of it all with as light a touch as I can muster.

But for the time/'weak' being, I will enjoy the not-knowing the results and bask in the presumptive naivete. Because, if and when there is confirmation that my ship has sailed or that it's beginning to take on water, there might not be too much funny that I can say or do at that point to turn the tide.

Nevertheless, I'd like to think I'll be up to the challenge. One never knows. These three 'weak's I can manage. We'll see about the next one.

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

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ENTERTAINMENT

FROM PAGE 15

deeply about the old places of their lives, they often don't have the words to express why. \$10. Register at shop.alexandriava.gov.

Ten Ways to Research Your House. 7 p.m. at Burke Branch Library, 4701 Seminary Road. The Local History/Special Collections Branch has a wide range of resources to help investigate the history of a home. Find information about past owners, property values, alterations and improvements, and, sometimes a photograph. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1704.

Concerts at St. Luke's. 7:30 p.m. at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Ft. Hunt Road. The Marywood Univ. Chamber Singers, a 24-voice ensemble based in Scranton, PA, is featured on an annual PBS broadcast and is presently on tour throughout the mid-Atlantic States. Offering a free concert. A reception will follow. Free. Call 703-765-4342 or visit www.saintlukeschurch.net/events

FRIDAY/MAY 24

Symphony of Frogs. 7:45-9:15 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Join a naturalist for an indoor discussion and a guided walk to listen for serenading frogs and toads. Learn the calls of a bullfrog, southern leopard frog, green frog, tree frog, American toad and more. The weather and time of season will affect what frogs will be calling. Ages 6-adult. \$8. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

SATURDAY/MAY 25

Pillars to Pavers. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. at Lee-Fendall House Museum & Garden, 614 Oronoco St. This walking tour will explore the streets of Alexandria with stops to highlight how buildings have been preserved and reused for future generations to enjoy. \$35. Call 703-548-1789 or visit www.leefendallhouse.org.

Scotch Irish and German Westward Migration Through Virginia. 3 p.m. at Duncan Branch Library, 2501 Commonwealth Ave. Virginian author, and Virginia Tech professor, Dan Thorp discusses his research into the Scotch-Irish and German family migration through Virginia during the 19th century. Learn more about the broader Virginian family during this year's All Alexandria Reads. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1705.

Tips for Selecting Native Plants. 10:30 a.m.-noon at the Beatley Library Reading Garden, 5005 Duke St. Find out which plants are easiest to grow, because they already call this area home. Learn how to select appropriate plants that will thrive best in the conditions. Discuss some best practices for planting and maintenance and some tips and techniques to help attract birds, butterflies and pollinators to a garden. Free. Call 703-228-6414 or email mgaralalex@gmail.com. Reserve a spot at mgnv.org/public-education-events/vce-horticulture-programs-registration/.

SUNDAY/MAY 26

The Crown-Fact or Fiction? 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adults) The lavish British monarchy series, The Crown, portrays the public and private life of Queen Elizabeth II and her family in astonishingly intimate detail, but how much is fact and how much is dramatic license? Programs are by reservation only. \$32 (program + tea); \$12 (program only), Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

Take a Step Back 400 Years. 2-4 p.m. at Huntley Meadows Park, 3701 Lockheed Blvd. How did the Powhatan Native Americans use the plants and animals you see every day for their medicine, groceries, clothing and fun? Grind corn, make a clay pot, master corn darts and go on a guided tour to see the park from the perspective of a Virginia Indian. For participants age 4-adult. \$12 per person. Call 703-768-2525 or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/huntley-meadows.

TUESDAY/MAY 28

Halving the Bones - Diverse Documentaries. 7 p.m. at Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St. Author Ruth Ozeki (A Tale for the Time Being) directs this autobiographical documentary about her family and growing up half Japanese and half American. Visit www.alexandria.lib.va.us or call 703-746-1703.

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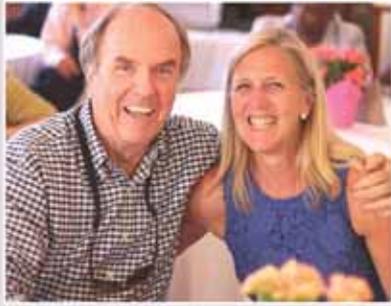
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River Views!**



4296 Neitzey Pl | \$1,994,000

Truly spectacular estate in premier setting near the river in prestigious Oxford on the Potomac. Custom home capitalizes on its location with soaring high ceilings, glass walls and multi-level decks designed to capture sweeping views of the river & adjoining wooded areas. Special features include: multi-story entry foyer, grand room sizes, elegant interior finishes, elevator, truly breathtaking master suite with dramatic river views, and his & hers private baths. Nothing was spared in creating this unique, one of a kind masterpiece!



**Meticulously
Maintained!**

**Near Mt Vernon
Estate!**



3808 Colonial Ave | \$849,500

Updated colonial in prime location on quaint street near Mt. Vernon Estate! Fabulous home features bright, open floor plan and many updated items commonly found in \$1 Mil+ homes! Special features include: high ceilings, open kitchen-family room, stunning master suite, finished lower level, and side load 2 car garage. Large deck overlooks back yard and private conservation land. Gorgeous setting!



**Fully
Updated!**

**Incredible Pool
Scene!**



9316 Heather Glen Dr | \$775,000

Fully renovated and expanded. Idyllic pool scene emphasized by walls of glass allowing views of the pool and tranquil back yard scene from many rooms! Special features include: 3 finished levels, updated kitchen and baths, 4 bedrooms on upper level, incredible pool scene, and 2 car garage. Your own private oasis in Mt. Vernon!



**4706 Tarpon Ln
\$715,000**

One Story luxury-expanded & updated Ranch just steps to Mount Vernon Yacht Club. Prime location on 1/2 Acre Lot Just steps from river, spectacular property, bright, White custom Kitchen, updated

baths, main level master suite, newly finished lower level with direct walkout, 2 Fireplaces, oversized 2 Car Garage, spectacular grounds with large brick patio!

COMING SOON!



**4710 Dolphin Ln
\$629,500**

Exceptional opportunity near river just steps from marina and club house in prestigious Yacht Haven Estates! Imposing home in commanding setting on elevated grounds overlooking neighborhood with some views of water, huge room sizes and very few steps offer great potential for creating

your own estate with close to one level living. Features include 5 bedrooms/4 full baths and amazing oversize two car garage. Rare opportunity to acquire property with true nautical estate vibe in premier setting for remarkably reasonable price!

CONTRACT!



**9505 Lynnhall Pl
\$1,250,000**

Just completed! Top to bottom renovation maintains the stunning Antebellum character and charm! Potomac River views, expansive verandas & half acre lot give this home a

classic Tidewater Virginia feel. Brand new kitchen, baths, fixtures, flooring, the list goes on and on! Great opportunity for virtually new home in desirable Oxford neighborhood!

SOLD



**9112 Volunteer Dr
\$655,000**

Spacious Colonial in the Williamsburg tradition featuring premier setting on large level lot in the desirable Westgate community near Mt Vernon Estate. Features include: 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 baths, huge master suite with 2 large closets

and private bath, 2 fireplaces in family and living room, hardwood floors on both levels, two car garage, & incredible sun room overlooking half acre rear grounds complete with two storage sheds.

SOLD!



**3601 Riverwood Rd
\$785,000**

Nicely situated 4 Bed, 2.5 Bath updated home in lovely Riverwood Community. Home features: updated custom Kitchen with granite countertops, stainless steel appliances, beautiful hardwood floors on main and upper level, master

suite with private bath and custom closet, replacement windows by Pella, gas fireplace, screened porch, fenced rear yard, and side load 2 car garage. Community has serene riverfront walking path and beachy area!

SOLD!



**9416 Old Mt Vernon Rd.
\$789,000**

Incredible opportunity to own a brand new 5 Bed/5.5 Bath home on 4 finished levels! Economical Gas appliances include: fireplace, cook top, heat and hot water. Hardwoods on main level,

open kitchen to family room w/ large island & breakfast area, 4 BR's on upper level w/ 3 baths including luxurious master suite, finished basement w/ rec room, bedroom, & full bath. 10 year builder warranty

SOLD!

LONG & FOSTER
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CHRISTIE'S
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