Race for County’s Top Spot Heats Up

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By Andrea Worker
The Gazette

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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 chairperson – 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 Herrity (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 Murrogh 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 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 non-profit 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 than a million residents are vital to the county’s FY2020 budget.

When asked what he would do differently, McKay said he would collaborate with the professional staff, involved in all of the county’s efforts. McKay also emphasized that more needs to be done and 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 roads, expand safety 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 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 numeredated climate change initiatives he has spear-headed 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.”

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#WeAreAlexandria

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www.EstherDrourr.com

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**News**

Meet Candidates for County Board Chairman

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

By Andrea Worke
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.

**Jeffrey C. McKay**

Age: 43
Education: James Madison University (1996), Sorenson 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, Pioneeer 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 Chair 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 district?**
A: After spending the better part of my time on the School Board as witness to chronically underfunded school system budget shortfalls, I decided to run for Chair 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.

Our 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 as the county’s top elected official. With multiple candidates, election rules call for a primary election to decide 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 Plerhlopse, 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:

**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: I am running for Chair of the Fairfax County School Board to 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?**
A: ❖ Background in business, development and managing large enterprises
❖ I’m no stranger to hard work. My

**Alicia Plerhlopse**

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: 2005

Q: **What are the top issues in your district?**
A: 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
❖ FBI 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 it’s on environmental action, public transit, living wages, affordable housing, or educational investment.

Q: **What are the top issues in your district?**
A: 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: **Key ways you differ from your opponents?**
A: ❖ Background in business, development and managing large enterprises
❖ I’m no stranger to hard work. My

**Tim Chapman**

Age: Education: Emerson High School
Family: Wife, Julia, 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...
New Hope Housing’s Michell Named Lady Fairfax

ew 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 am 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 homeless individuals and families with 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 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 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

his 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:

❖ 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 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.”
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 McElmurry, Stormi Turnbull, Joe Turnbull, Harrison Mak and Joe Fenney. To learn more about Bike US for MS, visit biketheusforms@biketheusforms.com.

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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Alex/Riverside Estates $859,900
8318 Cherry Valley Lane
Popular updated “B” model Colonial with 4BRs, 2.5BAs, a gas FPL and a single car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates: refinished hardwood floors on main and upper levels, freshly painted interior, double pane windows and a delightful screened porch overlooking a beautiful backyard. Family rm on main level with a gas FPL and a 2nd gas FPL in the finished basement. 10 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Towne, Alex, & 28 mins to National Airport. This market is hot so come on over and take a look.

Alex/Riverside Estates $579,850
3012 Battersea Lane
Riverside's popular "barkersdale" colonial featuring a 3 finished blds, 4 spacious Bds, 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage, all on a beautifully landscaped lot. Numerous updates include the roof, replacement double pane windows, HVAC, system, hot water heater and a 1st floor laundry. The main lvl w/Travertine flooring in the family rm. Additional finished space in the basement w/ 2 rec rm & utility rm. Great location. 7 mins to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Towne, Alex, & 28 mins to National Airport. All this for less than $580,000.

Alex/Suburban Manor $830,000
4022 Old Mill Road
Beautiful 3 bd split on a large, lovely 3 acre lot w/ lots of trees & views. Spacious kitchen w/ eating area that looks out to a beautiful screened porch & brick patio perfect for grilling & entertaining. 3 spacious Bds & 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 Summit Home!!

Alex/ Riverside Estates $859,000
8322 Wagon Wheel Rd
$300,000 + 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 aprt tile counters, 6 burner gas range by Miele, new hdwd floor, SS appliances & beautiful stained cabinets. 3 finished levels, 4 BRs, 3.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage. This home is a GEM & is in a great location!

Alex/ Riverside Estates $809,900
8334 Blowing Rock Rd
Start with Riverside Estates Popular "B" Model Colonial. Add a 2 car garage, above that large garage add a huge addition consisting of 2BRs, A & 3 full baths, not due yet, there is a large laundry & eating area & a huge hot tub, both updated in 2014, but last but not least build a beautiful 12 ft covered screened porch looking out at the pool & hot tub. Also, freshly painted interior, refinished hdwds & updating porch & decks, master bedrm & a 3rd full bath. What you have…a once in a lifetime home which is expanded to offer a wonderful in-law/Nanny’s suite, & lastly on a wonderful, quiet cul-de-sac!!

Alex/ Riverside Estates $699,900
8332 Wagon Wheel Road
Looking for primarily one level living? You’ve Found It! This lovely 2 level Rancher has been beautifully updated: roof, windows, kitchen, baths, HVAC, painted interior, & stunning refinished hdwd floors. The main lvl offers the kitchen, dining & living rooms, along w/a family rm, 3 bedrooms & 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage. 5 minutes to Ft. Belvoir, 15 mins to Old Town, Alex & 28 mins to National Airport. A beautiful & rare rambler!!

Alex/ Riverside Estates $548,000
8323 Wagon Wheel Road
Looking for primarily one level living? You’ve Found It!! This lovely 2 level Rancher has been beautifully updated: roof, windows, kitchen, baths, HVAC, painted interior, & stunning refinished hdwd floors. The main lvl offers the kitchen, dining & living rooms, along w/a family rm, 3 bedrooms & 2.5 updated Baths & a large 2 car garage. The lower lvl has a rec rm, large den, utility rm & has a walkout to a large fenced bkyd, 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 rancher!!

For more information: www.RexReiley.com

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated
OPINION

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 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 country 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 critical justice reform and racial and economic equity, then voting for the few long-time 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 the 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

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 with 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 live and work.

Anne Tuccillo

Alexandria

Remedy for Supremacist Thinking?

To the Editor:

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

Unacceptable Status Quo

To the Editor:

During April, I received a mass e-mail from my Virginia state sena- tor, 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 — and great as SCAN reports — and actually vote to have a say in the 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.”

Rob Blizard

Springfield

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Progress through County Budget

By Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

I
t 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. 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.

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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 supremacists’ 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.

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. RSVP at bit.ly/fxcounty2019.
 Candidates for Board Chairman in Televised Debate

Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents.
A: The three most important issues and opportunities that Fairfax needs to address are in the areas of education, innovation and opportunity.

McElveen
Q: What are the top issues in the district and what solutions do you propose?
A: Creating a Fairfax County that works for all (One Fairfax)
Investing in people by supporting the countywide legislative agendas that have made us a progressive national leader in education, job growth, human services, and quality of life, while also ensuring we're protecting our environment and fighting for affordable housing.

Plerhoples
Q: Key ways you differ from your opponents.
A: I am the only lawyer, experienced in running a public interest law center.

Chapman
Q: What is the most important issue you think Fairfax County faces and what solutions do you propose?
A: I have the real world experience that it takes to be a successful chairman, and I am excited for the opportunity before us.

McKay
Q: What is the most important issue you think Fairfax County faces and what solutions do you propose?
A: I am the only lawyer, experienced in running a public interest law center.

Elected to strive for the future

Green living provides region with a healthy environment

*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.

McElveen
Q: What are the top issues in the 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.

Chapman
Q: What are the top issues in the district and what solutions do you propose?
A: 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; 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.

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Q: What are the top issues in the district and what solutions do you propose?
A: We're imprisoned in our cars ... we need to look at other jurisdictions to help solve the problem, said Chapman.

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

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Choosing Swimming Lessons

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

By Marilyn Campbell

T he 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 of the 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.

“We are starting 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 all times. Water quality should be another concern. “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. “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.”
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-pressed wheel of Mexican mojo 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 put 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 mixture 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 Méndez arranges a purple and a white taco with edges wedged up against 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 culture here.”

Entertainment

Lamb tacos with drizzle of morita and avocado sauce.

Four steps to cónico tortillas.

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., Blowing, Bark! Sashiko embroidery, Shibori dying, 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.PotomacFiberartgallery.com for more.

The “Weekends” Kilo Club Show. Through May 26, gallery hours at Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., ground floor Studio 19 of the Scope Gallery, 105 North Union St., Alexandria. This show examines the almost liquid flow of colors across her large compositions. On June 2, Small 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 programs, 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 ARTSFUNFAIR. Visit the Creative Aging Festival site at bit.ly/ FairfaxCreativeAgingFestival.

Art Exhibit: “Sacred Feminine.” Through June 2, Wednesday-Sunday, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. at Torpedo Factory-Artists @ Masonic 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. Visit DeiRayArtisans.org/exhibits.

Art Exhibit: “Re-Connecting Threads.” Through June 2, at VCA Alexandria, 2666 Duke St. Gallery Without Walls celebrates fiber in a re-vist 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 DeiRayArtisans.org/exhibits/gww/.

Art Exhibit: “Lyrical Flight.” Through June 2, at the Athenaeum, 201 Prince St. Barbara Ivanuckovic’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 Parks/Huntley-Meadows.

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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.

CALENDAR

Creatures Dance Project will perform Light Exists, a piece choreographed in response to Januzkieziewicz’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 nfas.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 Sislen. 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.

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-3 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.festivalofspeedstylealex.com for more.

1959 Mercedes

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

Old Town Festival of Speed & Style

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Olekan Jeyifous will be the next artist to create a public art installation in Waterfront Park 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 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 Olekan 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 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 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 siteseeralx.com.

Meet the Artist

WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 7 P.M.
Blackwall Hitch, 5 Cameron St., Alexandria

Alexandria Choral Society performs New Commission

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 Stump Off Grand Prize; the selected group will also receive a performance 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 suggested price.)
**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, accompanied by a paying adult $5; non-members $12; children under 18 are 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.nvveda.org for more.

**Old Town Festival of Speed & Style.**

Sunday/May 19

Old Town shops and restaurants. Free admission. Festival goers an opportunity to explore Old Town 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.alexandriachoralsociety.org for more.

**Country-Western Dance.**

7-9:30 p.m. at St. 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.alexandriachoralsociety.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 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. Free admission. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org 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 Vitaerius 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 Bradley Central Library, 9000 Richmond Highway. The president of the Northern Virginia Bonsai Society will share an overview of the ancient art of bonsai, introduce some basic bonsai techniques, and dispel some common myths. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org or call 703-746-1702.

**TUESDAY/MAY 21**

**Researching German Ancestors.** 1-3 p.m. at Herrin 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.

**F**eel 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 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 gardener donations. $32. Call 703-941-7987, TTY 703-324-3988.

**Why Old Places Matter.**

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

**Caderno To Host Annual Bright Futures Benefit 2018.**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

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**Simpson Garden Family Night.** 6-8 p.m. at Simpson Farm Gardens, 420 E. Monroe St. Enjoy a bee- and butterfly-friendly seed planting for kids. Take home a kit to create a Butterfly 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.

**By Shirley Ruhe**

**Gazette Packet**

**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 factors 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.PotomacFiberArtgallery.com or call 703-548-0935.

**TUESDAY/MAY 21**

**Researching German Ancestors.** 1-3 p.m. at Herrin 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.

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**THURSDAY/MAY 23**

**Garden Tour & Tea.** 1-3 p.m. at Green Spring Gardens, 4603 Green Spring Road. (Adult) Tour the garden by twilight. A fashion exhibition (noon-1 p.m.) dispel some common myths. Visit www.alexandriachoralsociety.org or call 703-746-1702.

**By Shirley Ruhe**

**Gazette Packet**

**See Entertainment, Page 18**

**Experience the Nostalgia of an old-time Five & Dime Store**

“I won’t have it, you don’t need it.”

Hollin Hall Shopping Center
7902 Fort Hunt Rd., Alexandria, VA 22308
703-765-4110
hhvs@vacoxmail.com
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 eggplants. 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.

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.

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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 eggplants. 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.

Mary Barnett, greenhouse organizer, shows some of the plants cared for by volunteers.
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or contact Lily Jones, Division of Legislative Services, at (804) 698-1850.
BY KENNETH B. LOURIE

Concerning the three ‘weaks’ 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 lay 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.

So, when I know the results are somewhere and I’ve not received any feedback from my oncologist, within five days or so – it will 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 quo.

And as difficult as hearing that the CT scan showed growth and/or the brain MRI showed something more, at least we get some knowledge which 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 for which knowledge is a powerful tool and the more of it my doctors, particularly my oncologist, have about me, the better.

The one problem? The frequency of these recurring diagnostic scans means nearly every week, bi-weekly immunotherapy infusions not-withstanding. Dammit, 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, if I tell them.

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 what else ever 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 this ‘time/weak’ being, I will enjoy the not-knowing the results and back in the presumptive naiveté. 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 ‘weaks’ 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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