American Legion Post 177 Commander Jeff White speaks during Fairfax City’s Memorial Day event on Monday.
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- Jason and Resha Jones, Masons, Silver Line

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Five Vie for Providence District Seat

No shortage of candidates in Providence District Supervisor’s race.

By Andrea Worker

The Connection

F or sixteen years the Providence District, which includes most of Tysons, Merrifield and the Mosaic, Oakton and the Dunn Loring and Vienna Metro stations, has been represented by Linda Smyth on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Smyth was first seated on the Board in 2003 after winning the Demo- cratic caucus held in May of that year. In 2007 she emerged victorious from a June Democratic primary before running unop- posed the following November in the gen- eral elections, and then winning two more four-year terms in office.

In December of 2018, Smyth announced that she would not be seeking a fifth term. Five diverse candidates look to take her place.

While all five list a lack of affordable hous- ing in the county as a top priority nearing crisis status, and all agree that transporta- tion woes need to be addressed, with vary- ing backgrounds, experiences and perspec- tives the quintet seek to differentiate them- selves from each other and offer solutions that will appeal to the Providence constitu- ents and ultimately propel them to victory at the polls.

Smyth herself has endorsed candidate Phíl Niedzielski-Eichner, currently the district’s Planning Commissioner, and one of three candidates who can include public office experience on their resumes.

Niedzielski-Eichner and Smyth have had the opportunity to collaborate as the Commis- sioner was first elected to the Fairfax County School Board at the same time that Smyth began her tenure as a county Supervisor.

Edythe Frankel Kelleher has also held public office, serving seven two-year terms on the Vienna Town Council. She, too, comes to the race with the backing of a cur- rent member of the Board of Supervisors in Mason District Supervisor Penny Gross, for whom Kelleher once served as an aide.

Dalia Palchik is the third candidate who can claim experience as an elected official, having won a seat on the County School Board in 2015, where she chairs the Public Engagement Committee, co-chairs the Women’s Leadership Committee and is lia-ison to the Planning Commission’s Schools Committee among her other duties.

Linh Hoang and Erika Yalowitz don’t have ex- perience in elected roles, but both for- eign-born district residents come to the race armed with significant professional creden- tials and civic involvement, and like Argen- tina-born Palchik, an ability to bring a new and diverse voice to the political table.

Whoever wins the day at the primaries on June 11, and then in the general election on Nov. 5 will have to handle a full plate at that table. The Providence District is one of the fastest growing in the Commonwealth, with a population of more than 133,000, covering some 27 square miles, and prizing some of the area’s most diverse and dynamic landscape, both physically and economically.

To help voters get a better picture of the candidates who are soliciting your voting approval, the Connection asked some ba- sics for background purposes, and for some remarks on their key issues and solutions and how they see themselves as differing from their opponents. Here are their re- sponses, in alphabetical order by last name.

{[Some responses have been edited, sim- ply for space purposes and to maintain a balance of allotted space per candidate.]

Linh D. Hoang
Age: 36
Education: Georgetown Universi- ty, 2004
Native of: Vietnam
Moved to Fairfax County: 2008
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement:
“I work in the private sector as a technology professional to help companies and government agen- cies use new technologies … I also help innovate start-ups and small businesses commercialize and pur- sue federal contracting opportunities.

Political experience:
“I have served on the boards of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee, the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee and the Democratic Asian Ameri- cans of Virginia.

Virginia LGBT Caucus board
DNC LGBT Caucus to engage more Americans in the political process and ensure that our polit- ical institutions are more inclusive, responsive and accountable.”

See Hoang, Page 8

Edythe Frankel Kelleher
Age: 62
Education: John Hopkins Uni- versity, B.A. 1977
George Washington University, MBA. 1981
Native of: New York State
Moved to Fairfax County: 2016
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement:
Current - Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Execu- tive Director
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Economist/Statistician
Legum and Norman, Property Manager
Political experience:
Elected to seven terms on the Vienna Town Council
Worked on staff of Mason Dis- trict Supervisor Penny Gross
Elected by peers state-wide to Virginia Municipal League’s Board

See Frankel Kelleher, Page 8

Phil Niedzielski- Eichner
Age: 66
Education: John Carroll Univer- sity (1970-74); Glenn School of Public Policy, the Ohio State Uni- versity (1977-79)
Family: Wife Chris, retired air- line supervisor, two daughters, both of whom are attorneys, three grandchildren.
Native of: Columbus, Ohio
Moved to Fairfax County: 2001
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement:
Senior executive in Obama and Clinton administrations
Local govt. executive in Co- lumbus, Ohio and Oak Ridge, Tenn.
Fairfax County Public Service: Honored in 2017 as Prov- ince District “Lord Fairfax”
Providence District Planning Commissioner
Chairman of the Use of Force Subcommittee of the Ad Hoc Po- lice Practices Review Commission

See Niedzielski-Eichner, Page 8

Dalia Palchik
Age: 35
Education: Johns Hopkins Uni- versity, B.S. 2004
Tufs University, B.A. Anthropo- logy and French, 2005
Cum Laude
Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alex- andria, 2001
National Hispanic Scholar
Family: Parents Marta and He- tor Palchik, siblings Violeta, Mar- tin, Gabriel.
Native of: Argentina
Moved to Fairfax County: Origi- nally in 1989, returned in 2005, then 2012
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement:
Current Fairfax County School Board member, Providence District Chair, Public Engagement Com- mittee.
Liaison, Minority Student Achievement Oversight Commit- tee
Member, Tysons Regional Chamber of Commerce (TRCC)

See Palchik, Page 11

Erika Milena Yalowitz
Age: 39
Universidad del Rosario & George Washington University, Graduate Studies, Political Management & Governance 2006
Georgetown University, Profes- sional Certificate, Business Admin- istration, 2009
Family: Husband Neil, daughter Antonia, and dog Tito.
Native of: Bogota, Colombia
Moved to Fairfax County: 2010
Prior and current professional, political and civic experiences, community involvement:
Court Officer, Arlington JDR Court, 2014-2019
Office for Women and Domes- tic and Sexual Violence Services, Fairfax County, 2011-2014
Hispanic College Fund, 2008-
2010

See Yalowitz, Page 11
**NEWS**

‘These Are Our Heroes, and Today We Honor Them’

City of Fairfax remembers the fallen during Memorial Day ceremony.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

For many people, Memorial Day is simply a holiday from work and school, as well as the unofficial start of summer, complete with barbecues and pool parties. But the opportunity to enjoy such happy times was made possible by all those in the American military who died to protect their country’s freedom.

It’s something Fairfax City Councilman Sang Yi never forgets because, for him, Memorial Day is intensely personal. A friend with whom he attended the Merchant Marine Academy died in Iraq at age 24. He was Army 1st Lt. Aaron N. Seesan, and Yi wears a silver bracelet engraved with his name in remembrance.

“He died on May 22, 2005, with burns over 80 percent of his body from an IED,” said Yi. “I think about him all the time. I wore his bracelet when I got married; and when I was elected to City Council, I thought, ‘Aaron, you’re here with me.’”

Yi was also among the residents and dignitaries who gathered Monday morning, May 27, at the Fairfax City Hall portico for the City’s annual Memorial Day ceremony. Hosting it were American Legion Post 177 and VFW Post 8469.

“We pray for those who gave the last, full measure of devotion, put the welfare of others before their own and made the ultimate sacrifice for their country,” said Chaplain Marcus Keiper, who gave the invocation. “Bless their widows and families and fill their homes with love, strength and peace.”

U.S. REP. GERRY CONNOLLY (D-11) said being in battle is “horrific,” but America’s fighting forces have been courageous and willing to risk their lives.

“Throughout our history, more than 1.1 million American men and women have died in combat,” he said. “And Memorial Day is to remember all the soldiers who fell, and their families.”

“Today we honor the memory of the people who had that heroic courage to face the enemy, and we honor the country for which they died,” he continued. “Throughout all our wars, there were people who answered the call so that we could enjoy the freedoms we have today.

“When we pledge allegiance to the flag, we take an oath of allegiance to abstract ideals about freedom – individually and collectively – to think, pray and believe what we want and to express our opinions. We don’t always live up to them, but that’s what we push toward. May the memory of those who fell always be honored by our country.”

State Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34) recalled the “Bedford Boys” – a group of WWII soldiers from the small town of Bedford, Va. Among the National Guard’s 29th Infantry Division’s regiments was the 116th Infantry, whose Company A was home to nearly three dozen men from Bedford – all of them volunteers. And on D-Day, June 6, 1944, they landed at Omaha Beach in Normandy and were among those who perished.

“The history of this nation isn’t perfect, but it’s a great history of striving to be better,” said Petersen. “The U.S. has been consistently a positive force for good, and those who died did not die in vain. Their efforts had a great impact on this country.”

Noting that next week is the 75th anniversary of D-Day, Del. David Bulova (D-37) said, “We honor those sacrifices by not only remembering those who gave their lives for us, but also their wives, husbands, children, parents, sisters and brothers.”

Also referring to the “Bedford Boys,” he said that, “As they were landing in Normandy and left their landing crafts, most of them were shot down. But the rest kept coming – and they had to be scared and terrified. And most of them didn’t make it, so those are the ones we honor today.”

Besides large-scale efforts, however, said Bulova, “There were many individual acts of heroism throughout other wars. These are our heroes, and today we honor them by making sure their names are never forgotten.”

Speaking next was City Councilman Michael DeMarco. “I would like to recognize all those among us who have served or are currently serving, as well as any here who have lost a loved one in service,” he said. “We are humbled by your sacrifice.

“On Memorial Day, we ground ourselves to the reality every Gold Star family knows: Our way of life has been shaped and made possible by those who have served, and by those who were wounded or lost. We’re able to be here today, largely thanks to those who are not. Keep our military men and women close to your hearts, not only today, but every day.”

Following DeMarco to the podium, Councilman Yi spoke about his own, fallen friend and noted that, to those joining the military, it’s not just a job. “It’s signing their name on a blank check to 330 million Americans, most of whom they’ve never met,” he said. “And on Memorial Day, we ask why they died – why do people show up to the military and say, ‘I’ll go where I need to go and do what I need to do?’”

“It’s because they love their fellow man and their country,” continued Yi. “It’s a pledge to serve the people next to them – their fellow soldiers and shipmates. It’s also for an ideal of freedom and to preserve the principles of this country. So we honor them for the bravery in their hearts, their patriotism and their love of country.”

FAIRFAX COUNTY SHERIFF Stacey Kincaid praised those who have had a “willingness to serve.” She also said 25 percent of the Sheriff’s Office staff are veterans who understand “tight deadlines, limited resources and team playing.”

American Legion Post 177 Commander Jeff White explained that, on Memorial Day, “You fly the flag at half-staff, from sunrise until noon. Then you run it up the pole to

See City Honors, Page 14
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Saturday, July 13, 2019
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Place: 11220 Random Hills Road/ Suite 630
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Help the Class of 2019 Celebrate Graduation Safely

By Supervisor
John C. Cook
Braddock District

The last month of Senior year in high school is an exciting time for students and their families. Our children are moving on to a new stage in life after four years of hard work and intensive studies. When one considers the caliber of our schools, graduation is an even more impressive milestone.

Amidst these great achievements, I urge parents to talk to their teens about the dangers of alcohol and to prohibit teens drinking in their own homes.

The Fairfax County Police Department will arrest parents who knowingly host teen parties with alcohol. This may seem harsh to some, but this is a public safety issue. Teens are not yet ready to make good choices about alcohol. When adults serve it to them they send the wrong message and encourage the wrong choices.

It is a secret that teen drinking is wrought with dangerous consequences. Since teens who drink are more likely to binge drink, they are also more likely to make poor choices, such as drunk driving. In fact, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports that every year hundreds of young people get behind the wheel intoxicated and cause deadly accidents: 648 people aged 16-20 were involved in a fatal accident with a BAC higher than .08 in 2017. Furthermore, teen drinking can also lead to sexual assaults and other crimes.

I cannot remember one year without hearing of a tragic local teen death caused by drunk driving. It is up to us as parents to do everything we can to encourage smart choices and safe celebration. That starts with clearly setting the boundary with your children that no alcohol will be served at any parties your family is hosting.

This is a community-wide problem and will require community support. If you suspect there is underage drinking happening in your neighborhood, you can call the West Springfield Police Station at 703-644-7377 (or your District station).

Graduation season should be a time of merry making, reveling, and kudos for all the hard work our children have done. It should not include jail cells, ambulances, or coffins. Please join me in promoting a safe environment in our community by keeping alcohol out of teen parties.

Mental Health Awareness Month

By Kenneth R. “Ken” Plum
State Delegate (D-36)

Before we tear off the remaining couple of pages on the May calendar, I want to address the important recognition of May as Mental Health Awareness Month. While Virginia is credited with having the first mental health hospital, or asylum as they were called in the eighteenth century, the Commonwealth has had difficulty in recent times coming to grips with the enormity of the need and the provision of funds to respond to those needs.

In fact, Virginia is ranked 40th in the nation in mental health care according to the results of a national study of the issue. It took a state senator’s mentally ill son attacking his father with a knife to shock the state to greater action. That father now chairs the Joint Subcommittee on Mental Health Services in the 21st Century, or the Deeds Commission, that includes Senator Janet Howell as a member and has made critically important recommendations on which the state has made significant progress.

A special thanks goes to the The Commonwealth Institute (thescommonwealthinstitute.org) for documenting recent progress and remaining opportunities in behavioral health in a recent edition of The Half Sheet. The Institute which is a nonprofit organization focusing mostly on human service needs used the term “behavioral health” to be more comprehensive than “mental health” to include mental health services and supports such as substance abuse treatment. The Institute recognized accomplishments this past year to include a 21 percent increase in Medicaid reimbursement to encourage more licensed mental health professionals to accept Medicaid thus increasing access to services for people with low income.

Addiction funding for emergency opiods will expand the access to and availability of Naloxone which is used to reverse the effects of an opioid overdose. The General Assembly also passed and the Governor signed my bill to expand the health care providers authorized to dispense Naloxone to make it more readily available.

Increased funding was provided to increase staffing at state mental health facilities that are struggling to keep up with demand. Funding was also approved to replace the aging mental health facility Central State Hospital.

The Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Services indicates that there is a need for 5,000 permanent housing units for those who need supportive housing in the state. This year’s funding along with an increase last year will provide 1,300 units of supportive housing. Obviously, there is a severe need to do more in this area with a price tag of about $47 million.

Challenges remain to be addressed in providing greater access to programs and services for those who live in rural areas and to those who have experienced the trauma of having been exposed to the immigration and refugee system. A task force is looking at ways to increase the number of mental health professionals in the state.

Our awareness of mental health needs cannot end with the month of May. More needs to be done!

Health Insurance Tax: An Attack on Seniors?

To the Editor:

Regarding The Connection’s recent article on health disparities in Virginia (March 25, 2019, “Report Shows Geographic Disparities in Health in Virginia”), I want to highlight another parities in Health in Virginia (“Report Shows Geographic Disparities in Virginia (March 25, 2019, recent article on health disparities in Virginia).”)’

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To the Editor:

Regarding The Connection’s recent article on health disparities in Virginia (March 25, 2019, “Report Shows Geographic Disparities in Health in Virginia,”) I want to highlight another threat to care in our region: the Health Insurance Tax (HIT).

As a senior who depends on Medicare Advantage for affordable health care to help manage debilitating chronic migraines and back pain, I am appalled by the lack of congressional action on the Health Insurance Tax (HIT).

Medicare Advantage coverage has helped me get my life and my health back, but the HIT is nothing short of an attack on seniors. It would raise annual costs for more than 22 million Medicare Advantage beneficiaries by as much as $241 per person annually, imposing a huge burden for those living on fixed incomes.

Seniors on Social Security often live on significantly less than the mean income in Appalachia. Key legislation before Congress (H.R. 1398 and S. 172) would stop the HIT and protect seniors, but Senators Kaine and Warner and Congressman Connolly have refused to sign on as co-sponsors. It seems like Congress has forgotten we are here.

If Congress allows a tax on my healthcare premiums, I won’t be able to afford coverage. If costs go up, I’m out of the game. Senior health isn’t a game – and the HIT is a multi-billion-dollar tax on health insurance premiums that will go into effect in 2020 unless Congress acts soon.

It’s time for congressional action to stop the HIT and protect our care.

Carol Frysinger
Herndon

Correction

In the paper of May 23, 2019, in an article and questionnaire about candidates for the Braddock member to the Board of Supervisors, the name of one candidate, Irma Corado, was misspelled. Corado will be on the ballot in the June 11 Democratic primary. We apologise for the error. The corrected version can be seen here www.connectionnewspapers.com/news/2019/may/23/corado-v-walkinshaw-braddock-district-nomination/
NEWS

Pancake Breakfast Helps Children with Cancer Fundraiser for Ellie’s Hats, this Saturday, June 1.

By Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

In 2013, teacher Jay Coakley began Ellie’s Hats to cheer up one of his students, a then-5-year-old named Ellie, who’d been diagnosed with leukemia. When she lost her hair from her treatments, she wore hats to school every day, so Coakley organized a hat drive to get her more.

Realizing he could bring similar happiness to other young cancer patients – as well as raise awareness about the disease – he founded the nonprofit Ellie’s Hats. And this Saturday, June 1, from 8-11 a.m., the fourth annual Ellie’s Hats Pancake Breakfast fundraiser will be held at American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St. in the City of Fairfax.

An extensive breakfast-buffet menu will be offered, including a pancake bar with toppings such as whipped cream, chocolate chips, blueberries and strawberries. Attendees may also feast on eggs, bacon, sausage, ham, hash browns, biscuits and gravy, fruit, juice and coffee. Cost is $15, adults; $5, children, ages 4-12; $35, family. Tickets are going fast, but they may still be purchased at https://birdaseapro.com/ElliesHatsPancakeBreakfast.

Each year, the Sons of the American Legion donate their time and efforts to prepare the meal. The event also features a raffle with a variety of gifts donated by various businesses and individuals.

The proceeds will enable Ellie’s Hats to continue donating hats to children battling cancer. But that’s not all it does. Ellie’s Hats also finds other ways to help pediatric cancer patients and their families by donating gas cards or gift certificates or even making monetary contributions. And when one child in a family receives hats and toys from Ellie’s Hats, so do his or her siblings.

For more information about the organization – plus photos of some of the many children it has helped – go to https://ellieshats.org/.

—Bonnie Hobbs

Lee High Graduate Completes Basic Military Training

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Muhammad U. Khan graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Khan is the son of Tariq Khan and Sadaf Tariq and brother of Umair and Mahawish Khan of Springfield. He is a 2013 graduate of Robert E. Lee High School, Springfield. He earned an associate degree in 2018 from Northern Virginia Community College, Annandale.

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Fairfax Connection ❖ May 30 – June 5, 2019 ❖ 7
Civic/Community involvement?
“Serving on the Virginia Small Business Financing Authority I helped level the playing field by providing small businesses with access to capital, helping create thousands of new jobs here in Fairfax.”

Why are you running?
“Because I believe Fairfax County is at an important crossroads. Business is growing and communities becoming more diverse. We should celebrate that growth. The question is what do we want that growth to look like in the next five, ten, twenty years? What kind of leaders should we choose today to get us to the Fairfax of tomorrow? ... I believe in a Fairfax that offers opportunities for all ... one that competes in a Fairfax that offers opportunities.”

Hoang
From Page 3

Frankel Kelleher
From Page 3

❖ Appointed to Virginia’s Real Estate Appraiser Board
❖ Volunteered for many Democratic candidates
Civic/Community involvement:
❖ Appointed to the Fairfax County Economic Advisory Commission, Merrifield Task Force and the Affordable Housing Resource Panel
❖ Lions Club, American Legion Auxiliary, Virginia Girls State, Mosaic Homeowners’ Association, Lifelong Girl Scout
❖ Participation with several charitable groups, including A Simple Gesture and Good Shepherd Housing

Why are you running?
“I am running for Providence District Supervisor because I believe our county has amazing potential to be a thriving, prosperous community where people from all backgrounds can live, work, and play.

After more than 20 years of local government service, I still believe that government works best when people are informed and engaged. Passionate about the democratic process and my goal is to allow every voice in the district to be heard.”

What do you see as the top 3 issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?
“Building our tax base: Smart new development ... and the creation of walkable, transit-oriented neighborhoods (to) increase the tax base, keep rates lower, help sustain traditional suburban neighborhoods, fund the excellent school system, public safety, parks, and other services.

Improve/expand affordable housing: Denise new development offering bonus density to developers in exchange for affordable units within the projects. Look to vacant office buildings for potential conversion to affordable housing... and consider affordable housing possibilities in every county project. We should make it easier for places of worship and other organizations to provide affordable housing.

I served on the Affordable Housing Resource Panel which recommended many financial tools, as well as dedicated $25 million toward construction of new affordable housing.

Reducing traffic congestion: More affordable housing will help people live near their work and spend less time driving. Transportation must be multi-modal.

Buses must be easy to ride with GPS for tracking to create schedules.”

See Frankel Kelleher. Page 11

Niedzielski-Eichner
From Page 3

❖ Twice-elected Providence District School Board member; selected by peers to be Chairman
❖ Park Authority Board at-large member
❖ Economic Development Advisory and Implementation Committees
❖ Chairman, Master Planning Committee, Laurel Hills (Lorton) Sire Development
❖ PTA President, Rocky Run Middle School and Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology
❖ Budget VP, County Council of PTAs

❖ Soccer Coach: Chantilly Youth Association
Why are you running?
“To serve my community and help preserve and protect our quality of life.
Come 2020, five of the ten-member Board of Supervisors will be new to their jobs, including a new Chair.
I am best qualified to step into the role of District Supervisor and will be ready to lead on day one.”

What do you see as the top 3 issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?
“Affordable housing: ensure equality and opportunity for all residents regardless of immigration status and sexual orientation. I intend to end unconstitutional and voluntary collaboration with ICE, provide due process for all residents, and end housing and workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and identity.”

Key ways you differ from your opponent(s)?
“An immigrant, a millennial, and LGBTQ person, diversity and inclusion have played an important role in my life. I believe my experience reflects the rich diversity and potential of Providence District and the United States.
I hope to bring my experience in management consulting, technology innovation, and working with small businesses to the Board of Supervisors to ensure our policies encourage investments in Fairfax businesses and communities.”

Del. Filler-Corn
Awarded for Legislative Excellence

On Wednesday, May 22, Del. Eileen Filler-Corn (D-41) was honored by George Mason University’s Antonin Scalia Law School with the Dean’s Medal for Legislative Excellence at their 22nd Annual Judicial and Legislative Reception. Since 1998, the Judicial and Legislative Reception (JLR), seeks to honor and recognize those who serve the people of Northern Virginia, whether as a legislator, judge or attorney. Many GMU alumni, attorneys, judges as well as a few elected officials attended the evening event.

In her remarks Filler-Corn recounted the impact of a colleague of the school’s namesake had on her own career, saying, “As I sat down to write my remarks for this award, I reflected quite a bit on women who came before me when it came to the study of law. One that immediately came to mind was a longtime friend, colleague and “opera buddy” of the namesake of this law school. Of course, I am talking about Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.” Filler-Corn went on to quote the Justice, saying, “Ginsburg once said, ‘Fight for the things you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you.’ Though Ginsburg only said that just a few years ago, the way she has lived truth is reflected through her entire career. Her career inspired countless young women and men who went into law, or government after her—myself included.”

Filler-Corn, who holds a JD herself from nearby American University, concluded her speech by remarking how it is this same quote that influences her approach to governance. “It is coming together and finding common ground that truly allows us to get things done. I believe we can solve so many problems in our world if we focus on where we can agree before we focus on where we disagree.”

Del. Filler-Corn receiving the Dean’s Medal for Legislative Excellence.

Del. Filler-Corn speaking


Photos contributed
Nativity Catholic School Competes in Rocketry Challenge

Nativity Catholic School from Burke won 15th place at the Team America Rocketry Challenge, which took place on Saturday, May 18 in The Plains, Va. The finish comes with an invitation to participate in NASA’s Student Launch program. In addition, the team also secured third place in the Aerospace Industries Association/National Association of Rocketry Presentation Competition, earning the team a $200 prize.
Be in the Burgs on Saturday

Fairfax City’s first-ever, craft beer festival, Be In the Burgs, is slated for this Saturday June 1, from noon-5 p.m., in Old Town Square, 14015 North St. This celebration of suds will toast Virginia craft breweries, including hometown beer-makers Chubby Squirrel and Ornerre brewing companies. More than 15 breweries will be show-
case at the free event. Call. The festivities will also feature plenty of food trucks and live music. This year’s theme will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Woodstock.
Frankel Kelleher
From Page 8

Continue to explore light rail options along Gallows Road connecting Tysons and Merrifield. Sidewalk and trail connections and pedestrian improvements to intersections needed.

Key ways you differ from your opponent(s)?

“The only candidate who has served on a legislative body. My 14 years of votes are part of the public record.

As a trained economist/MBA who has worked in revitalization and economic development for most of my career – saw Vienna successfully through the recession while raising bond rating to AAA.

Built relationships throughout the county/state that enable me to work collaboratively to make sure Providence District residents get the most for their tax dollars.

Strong record of bringing together people of differing opinion, hands-on legislative approach.”

Palchik
From Page 3

Previously:
❖ Board member, TRCC
❖ Audit Committee and liaison to the Foundation for FCPS
❖ Board member, Woodburn Village Condo Association

Why are you running?

“I am running because I care deeply about the future of the community I was raised in, and have lived in, for almost thirty years. As the school board member for the past three years, I realize we need to continue to invest in our county services, while working to grow and diversify our economy and focus on smart growth.

We must ... listen to and engage all stakeholders in the decision-making process. We live in a very diverse district and must include more voices at the table that better represent our residents.”

What do you see as the top 3 issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?

“Affordable housing: Finding creative ways to increase affordable housing must be a priority ... this includes public funding, incentives and land use policies to help preserve and increase market-based housing. Just as Arlington County created a plan and a fund to help reach their goals, I believe we need to work more quickly to address our needs.

The Affordable Housing Resources Panel ... proposed allocation equivalent to one penny on the tax rate ... to support the creation of new homes that are affordable (among other recommendations to spur affordable housing development).

School funding and modernization: We only receive 17 cents to the dollar we send to Richmond and Virginia is top ten for GDP but bottom ten for funding public education. I will work with partners across the Commonwealth to reinvest in our public schools. In addition, we must look at the possibility of additional bond funding and partnerships with the private sector to help increase capital funds to renovate our schools on time, and get kids out of trailers.

Invest in multi-modal transportation options: In Providence District, we have six Metro stops and two major economic retail centers. I will work with county and state (and public-private partnerships) to increase support for more efficient bus, rail, trails and connectivity. We must review our street grids and continue to invest in non-car transportation options. I will prioritize making streets safer for pedestrians and cyclists ... focus on traffic calming measures.”

Key ways you differ from your opponent(s)?

“It has been my great honor to represent the residents of Providence District as School Board member for the past three years.

I would be the first Latina immigrant to sit on the Board of Supervisors, and I would view that as a tremendous honor and responsibility. I would work hard to ensure that everyone has a seat at the table when decisions are made and that historically underrepresented populations are engaged in policies to make our community better.”

Yalowitz
From Page 3

Civic involvement:
❖ Vice President, Providence District Council – local organization of homeowners’ associations.
❖ Tysons Partnership, Emerging Leaders Council – to build and prepare Tysons to become “America’s Next Great City.”
❖ Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations
❖ Rotonda Condominium Unit Association, member, Board of Directors – one of the largest and best managed HOAs in the Washington Metro area, almost 3,000 residents and a myriad of services.
❖ Virginia Menstrual Equality Coalition, founding member.
❖ BRAWS (Bringing Resources to Aid Women in Shelters) Advisory Board, member
❖ Other volunteer activities Why are you running?

“I want to answer to the needs of my community. We need alternatives to cars, to improve our stand on environmental issues - use of plastics, carbon emissions, etc. I have implemented some of those changes in my massive HOA.

I have volunteered for 16 years in these causes and realized that instead of changing one thing for one day, I can bring about meaningful and long term solutions with a seat at the table where local decisions are made.”

What do you see as the top 3 issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?

“Growth as a threat: Solution – Smart Growth. Control sprawl, focus density in urban areas, preserve the quality of single family neighborhoods, support land use that requires mixed-use for mixed income residential spaces to help people live near work.

Traffic congestion – diversify our modes of transportation. Widen sidewalks, not roads! Prioritize pedestrian and bike safety. Offer subsidies to students and low income individuals to use bike-share programs and facilitate access to transit.

Environmental vulnerability – Promoting renewable energy. Equal opportunity to charge an electric vehicle as obtain gasoline. Re-evaluate our waste management system and bring academia, non-profit, public and private sectors together to engineer businesses that work with recyclable waste. We need to cash in on waste, or we will drown in it!”

Key ways you differ from your opponent(s)?

“I am gratified to have started this race a year ago, and pushed a narrative that set the priorities for other campaigns.

I am a working mother, an immigrant who uses public transportation – most candidates and decision-makers don’t.

I have stood from the beginning for the preservation of parks (Blake Lane Park) and finding alternative solutions for schools that don’t affect the quality of life in our communities.”

Fairfax Connection  May 30 - June 5, 2019  11 www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
Let the Jury Decide

Incumbent Morrogh and challenger Descano make their cases to serve as Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney.

The Connection invited both to respond to an identical questionnaire.

**Note:** Morrogh did not respond despite repeated requests, so information has been summarized from his campaign website. www.RayMorrogh.com.

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**Name:** Steve Descano  
**Age:** 61  
**Education:** Juris Doctor, George Mason University School of Law, 1982  
**Bachelor of Science, George Mason University, 1979**  
**Native of:** Philadelphia, PA  
**Moved to Fairfax County:** 2010  
**Professional Experience:**  
❖ COO/General Counsel, Paragon Autism Services, 2016 - present  
❖ Federal Prosecutor (Trial Attorney), US Dept. of Justice, 2010 - 2016  
❖ Aviation Officer, US Army, 2002 - 2004  
**Civil/Civic involvement:**  
❖ Member, Fairfax County Democratic Committee, 2015 - present  
❖ Member, Fairfax County Police Civilian Review Panel, 2017 - 2018  
❖ Board of Directors member, NARAL Pro-Choice Virginia, 2016 - 2018  
❖ Member, Fairfax County NAACP Criminal Justice Committee, 2016 - 2018  
**Why you running?**  
“I am running for Commonwealth’s Attorney to create a modern criminal justice system so that no one, no matter how powerful, is above the law. I’ll work to ensure that systemic discrimination based on race, wealth, status, and zip code is in the past. I’ll take a holistic approach to justice that builds up our communities. Reforming our system means that we will break the cycle of decreased opportunity, increased poverty, and increased crime that is the story of far too many of our neighbors.”

**Top 3 issues in your district and what solutions do you propose?**  
“Transparency and accountability – Currently there is no publicly available data or measures for holding the elected Commonwealth’s Attorney accountable during times of crisis. I will invite an outside organization that will, for no cost to the taxpayer, generate demographic, socioeconomic and geographic data to compare outcomes of cases. This will help identify sources of systemic discrimination. To improve accountability, I will hold regular in-person and electronic town halls to inform constituents about policies and progress towards goals set by the data collected.

Cash Bail – Currently in Fairfax County, 45.9 percent who are eligible for pretrial release have cash bail as a stipulation. These people are deemed not dangerous to themselves or others, but must sit in jail because they cannot pay a system that unfairly penalizes poor people simply for being poor and increases recidivism.

Treatment, not incarceration – People who are addicted to drugs are ill and need our help we need to help them overcome their addiction and come out the other side without the type of criminal record that limits their opportunities in the future. To do this, I will overhaul our diversion programs which currently only address the first part of the equation. I have written a 20-page plan for reform called “Progressive Justice” that goes further into depth about specific policies and procedures I will implement while in office. (The Plan is available on the candidate’s website at www.stevedescano.com)”

“Key ways you differ from your opponent(s)?  
“First, I am committed to ending a two-tiered system of justice that disproportionately affects people based on race, wealth, and zip code. My opponent signed on in 2016 to the Republican lawsuit to stop then-Gov. Terry McAuliffe from restoring good time credit. In 2014, as the Executive Director of the conservative National District Attorneys Association, he was a member of the county Police Civilian Review Panel. On the other hand, my opponent, in 2014, as the Executive Director of the conservative National District Attorneys Association testified against the Obama Administration’s plan to reduce mandatory minimum sentences and curtail the War on Drugs.”

**Name:** Ray Morrogh  
**Age:** 61  
**Education:** Juris Doctor, George Mason University School of Law, 1982  
**Bachelor of Science, George Mason University, 1979**  
**Native of:** Philadelphia, PA  
**Moved to Fairfax County:** 2010  
**Professional Experience:**  
❖ Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney, 2017 - present  
❖ Fairfax County Assistant/Chief Deputy Commonwealth’s Attorney, 1988 - 2007  
❖ Prosecutor, Fairfax County, 1983 – 1988  
**Civil/Civic involvement:**  
❖ Chairman, Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Action Program  
❖ Board of Directors – Fairfax County Bar Association and Bar Foundation  
❖ Member – Fairfax Criminal Justice Advisory Board  
❖ Faculty – Virginia State Bar’s Harry L. Carrico Professionalism Course  
❖ Adjunct Professor – George Mason University  
❖ Board of Directors & President – Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys  
❖ 2018 & 2014 Robert F. Horan Award – Virginia Association of Commonwealth’s Attorneys  
❖ 2004 Director’s Award – U. S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, for the prosecution of sniper Lee Boyd Malvo.

According to his campaign website, Morrogh lists continuing improvement to diversion programs for drug offense individuals, Veterans Treatment in the Fairfax County court system to help veterans get treatment for substance abuse or mental illness rather than be incarcerated, continuing support for the Diversion First Program, support of Supervised Release Programs for pre-trial defendants who are not deemed dangerous, protection of seniors from abuse and crime, and continuation of SafeSpot Children’s Advocacy Center of Fairfax County that provides a safe community for child victims of sexual and physical abuse.

Fairfax Commonwealth’s Attorney Candidate Forum. Monday/June 3, 2019 at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Vienna, 450 Orchard St., NW, Vienna. Meet the Fairfax, Va., Democratic candidates for Commonwealth’s Attorney and find out where they stand on key criminal justice issues. This is an opportunity to ask the candidates what they will do to reduce mass incarceration, reduce racial disparities, and de-criminalize poverty. The event is co-sponsored by the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy, the League of Women Voters of the Fairfax Area, the ACLU of Virginia, and the Fairfax County NAACP. Free and open to the public. RSVP at tinyurl.com/fairfaxcandidates.

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**BULLETIN BOARD**

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

**CAMPS**

Art Camp Registration. Summer Art Camp in Burke for 5-8 year olds, 8 years and up, and teens/adults. Camp is held through Burke Centre Conservancy at the Woods Community Center, 10100 Wards Grove Circle, Burke. Camp weeks run July 22-26; July 29-Aug. 2; and Aug. 5-9. Call 703-250-6930 or visit www.czartlessons.com.

Fine Arts & Crafts Camp (8 years & up)  
Drawing Camp (5-8 years & up)  
Drawing Plus Color & Craft Fun Camp (5-8 year olds)

Art Boot Camp for teens/adults  
CAMP WEEKS: 7/22-26, 7/29-8/2 & 8/5-9

See Bulletin, Page 15
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www.ConnectionNewspapers.com
City Honors Fallen

From Page 4

the top, above all other flags. It’s a metaphor for what we do on Memorial Day – we feel sad for a while, and then, later on, we drink a toast to those we’ve lost. So don’t feel bad about your barbecues today – they’d want you have enjoy them.”

Joe Christadore, commander of VFW Post 8469, asked attendees to pause at 3 p.m. for a moment of silence in memory of the fallen. And, he added, “Do something small to better your fellow man, every day. You can give them a smile, hold open a door or even try to change the world.”

Then, one by one, people took turns reading the names of Fairfax City and County’s war dead, from 1917 to the present, and a bell was rung after each name. Hank Roeder of Post 8469 played “Taps” on the bugle to close the ceremony. But before he did, Keiper gave the benediction, praying, “Dear God, we are comforted by the fact that we know you have welcomed them all home. Give us the same strength to guide, lift and inspire us to remember them every day.”

VFW Post 8469’s Hank Roeder plays the National Anthem.

Bonnie Hobbs
The Connection

Let us know about an upcoming event
www.connectionnewspapers.com/calendar

TAX NOTICE
CITY OF FAIRFAX

REAL ESTATE TAX PAYMENTS ARE DUE

Real Estate tax bills have been mailed and are due Friday, June 21, 2019

LATE PAYMENT PENALTY

To avoid incurring a 10%, $10 minimum, late payment penalty and interest of 10% per annum, payment in full must be received or postmarked by close of business on Friday, June 21, 2019

Taxes may be paid online, by mail, or in-person to the City Treasurer’s Office (City Hall, Suite 234)

8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday (excluding holidays)

IMPORTANT

Even if you do not receive a physical bill, to avoid late payment penalties you are still responsible for requesting a copy and remitting payment by Friday, June 21, 2019

For Additional Information, please check the City website at www.FairfaxVA.gov or call (703) 385-7900

We pay top $ for STERLING, MEN’S WATCHES, JEWELRY, COSTUME JEWELRY, FURNITURE, PAINTINGS AND CLOCKS.
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SATURDAY/JUNE 1
Alzheimer’s Disease and Dementia Care Seminar, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 7031 Pender Road, #100, Fairfax. Take the path to certification as a Certified Dementia Practitioner through the National Council of Certified Dementia Practitioners. All health care professionals and front line staff who work in the healthcare industry are encouraged to attend. $200. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group, 2-4 p.m. at Mason District Governmental Center, 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale. The Peripheral Neuropathy Support Group for greater Washington meets the first Saturday of the month. All are welcome. RSVP for available seating. Call 301-263-0616 or visit www.dpnasupport.org for more.

SUNDAY/JUNE 2
Mind and Body Workshop: Travelogue, 11:45-6:30 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. A new session of the Mind and Body Workshop, new multi-session program series for both the caregiver and the diagnosed individual to participate, promoting social engagement and peer support, while adjusting to life with a new diagnosis and learning about the resources that are available to them. Register online at www.insightmcc.org, or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

Phillips Right Response, 6-8 p.m. at Phillips Annandale Campus, 7010 Braddock Road, Annandale. Phillips Programs for Children and Families, a nonprofit helping youth with behavioral challenges and their families. Right Response is a proactive and evidence-based approach for de-escalation, intervention, prevention and positive behavior support. $25 per session or $40 for two. Email Carrie Clark at phillipssprograms.org or visit www.phillipssprograms.org/right-response-training-for-parents.

Deadline Extended, 11:59 p.m. The Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCOT) has posted Frequently Asked Questions about the Fairfax County & Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study, and has extended the deadline for the online survey. The survey was developed based on community input from first round survey results last year. Visit www.fairfaxcounty.org/transportation/study/fairfax-county-parkways.

TUESDAY/JUNE 4
Safe Walking Summit, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at NVRC Safe Walking Summit, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at Insight Memory Care Center, 3953 Pender Drive, #100, Fairfax. Learn from America Walks, local staff, Virginia DOT, and DMV on tools and initiatives that DOT, and DMV on tools and initiatives that can be used to investigate and prevent road safety problems throughout the county. Participants will participate in expert panels, workshops, an interactive game, and much more. The summit also features presentation of the Fairfax County & Franconia-Springfield Parkways Alternatives Analysis and Long Term Planning Study. For more information, visit www.insightmcc.org or call 301-204-4664.

WEDNESDAY/JUNE 5
New Volunteer Orientation, 7:30-9 p.m. at Providence Community Center, 3001 Vaden Drive, Fairfax. Join Fairfax Pets on Wheels, Inc. Learn about volunteering to make a difference in the community by visiting residents of nursing homes and assisted living facilities with a pet dog, cat or bunny. Visit www.fpow.org.

FRIDAY-SUNDAY/JUNE 7-9
White Elephant Sale. Friday, 8 to 11 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-7 p.m.; Sunday, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. at St. Mary of Sorrows Catholic Church, 5222 Sideburn Road, Fairfax. St. Mary’s White Elephant sale will feature furniture, antiques, household, garden, toys, books, jewelry, china and more. Admission: Friday, $5; Saturday-Sunday, free. Call 703-978-4141.

SATURDAY/JUNE 8
Caregiver Workshop, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. at Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria. Join this Caregiver Workshop with Pete Shrock, nationally known grief and crisis responder, focusing on building resilience through caregiving challenges. Free. Caregivers and family members are invited to attend. Lunch will be provided. Visit insightmcc.org, to register or contact Lindsey Vajpeyi at 703-204-4664 or lindsey.vajpeyi@insightmcc.org.

The Weak That Was

By KENNETH B. LOURIE

All’s well that ends well. The fortuitous or so from you-know-where has fi- nally ended and I am here to write that my warrant has been (so far) for another six months. The CT scan showed no tumor growth or movement. The “promise” of immunotherapy so far is keeping its “promise” of managing the tumors of stable. Throughout my extremely fortunate cancer experience, I have felt reasonably well and manifested fewer compromised effects; at least the kind of symptoms/side effects: shortness of breath, coughing, expectorating blood, mind-numbing neuropathy, and headaches, among others, about which my oncologist regularly inquires. Generally speaking then, my health status has also improved. I was finally able to sleep – to invoke a boxing reference – meaning the diagnostic scans: brain MRI, CT scan of the neck/lower abdomen, PET scan and the initial X-raysDate.

Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays, in the early morning.

On one occasion, back in late July 2013, I was hospitalized for a week when my lungs accumu- lated 4.5 liters of fluid, among more significant internal problems (lung collapsing). As a matter of humorous fact, when my long-time oncology nurse saw me that inflation day, he thought I was a “goner,” since my oxygen level was so low. Within a few hours, I was a “goner” in an ambu- lance to Holy Cross Hospital in Silver Spring, Md where I was eventually admitted. Two days later, a thoracic surgeon operated, and a day or two after that, my lung was noticeably inflated.

As a result, in my head and in my gut, (though I’m no Jethro Gibbs from NCIS), when I show up for my next scan, I will be quite confident. As my poor doctor and for my poor nurse’s appointments, there’s always a part of me that thinks I might not be spending that evening in my own bed.

When you’re a cancer patient/survivor, and this kind of thinking rather than to Buffalo but instead to the local hospital affiliated with you’re waiting for the plug has happened once, it’s only a matter of time (it’s im- possible not to believe it’s inevitable when you’ve been staged a TV before it will happen again. I’m not being negative, I’m just saying.

As we sit and wait at home for my oncologist to email us the scan results, or whether we sit and wait in the on-site exam room, I wouldn’t say our respective lives pass before us, but I will certainly admit to the total unpleasantness of it.

That being said, we’re the lucky ones. There are not too many long cancer patients who succumb to this terrible disease every year who aren’t nearly so lucky.

So when I hear the words “stable” from my on- cologist, I am humbled as much as I am relieved, that I have lived to fight another eight weeks until my next scan is scheduled and my next fortuit is fought.

And that’s how I live my life: in increments.

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.
A Call For Peace

By Nick Soto

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Hundreds gathered at U.S. Capitol on Saturday, May 25 to mark the 6th Annual Commemoration of the Declaration of World Peace. The anniversary was marked by a peace walk that began outside the U.S. Capitol, where participants urged heads of state from 193 countries, political leaders, and community leaders to support the Declaration of Peace and Cessation of War, or, the DPCW.

A diverse group of over 500 citizens from the D.C. metropolitan area and representing 21 countries walked for peace in conjunction with 32 other major cities including Boston and Atlanta. Volunteers from the D.C. Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL) have also been working in various countries within the Caribbean such as Haiti, Belize, Guyana and Grenada to help host local peace walks in each respective country.

Many participants wore traditional clothing to display their cultural differences and to convey that many countries, cultures, and ideologies are actively working together to achieve peace through the DPCW. Individuals from countries such as Madagascar, Guatemala, and India held large, colorful peace signs and props, and chanted, “The people, united, will never be divided!”

Sara Fawn, an HWPL volunteer, said she attended the event to ensure she could be part of a movement that is bigger than herself. “That’s why we have all come together today to urge our elected officials — the public servants that have been put in position by the people and for the people — to support the DPCW. We all want the same thing.”

The DPCW serves as the solution for worldwide peace and conflict resolution, and is a legal framework for spreading the culture of peace on a local, national and international level.

“I think our differences are what unite us - it’s our strength. There is no religion, no nation that doesn’t want peace” says local Woodbridge native, Michael Sarpong.

The DPCW has already been enacted as a National Declaration in various countries around the world including Antigua, eSwatini, and Seychelles. It is currently being presented to pass as law through the United Nations, and citizens around the world are urging their legislators to support the DPCW on a local and national level.

The group sponsoring the event is the “Heavenly Culture, World Peace and Restoration of Light (HWPL)”. The organization was founded in 2013 to build a worldwide network of people dedicated to achieving global peace in communities around the world.

HWPL is a peace NGO associated with the United Nation's Economic and Social Council (UNESC), as well as the UN Department of Global Communications. Amidst rising global tensions, HWPL is engaging political and community leaders, journalists, and young people draw attention to its cause.