FREE, take one! VOTE TUESDAY, NOV. 5 from 6AM-7PM

Help us grow wisely & well . become an MBRA member!

Marshall *Minute*



NOVEMBER 2019

Come one, come all ~ See old friends & meet new ones 7:30 pm, Tuesday Nov. 12th

MBRA Community Meeting

Hear from our guest speakers!

Van Metre Corporation
Mr. Roy Barnett, Vice President
&

Marshall Ruritan Club

Mr. Jan Sickel, President

Free refreshments & raffle
ticket for donated door prizes!
(Join us for our last one of 2019
and see us at
our parade December 7th!)
Marshall Community Center
4133A Rectortown Road, Marshall, VA

MBRA's Annual

Make Marshall Merry
Main Street Christmas
Decorating Contest!

Decorate your place in time for: MBRA's 2nd Annual Small Business Saturday
Sidewalk Stroll, 11am-3:30 pm
Nov 30th; Prize Drawing @4pm
the Saturday after Thanksgiving!
~Shop local, shop Marshall~

Also: The MBRA's Marshall Christmas Parade is Saturday, December 7, 2019

Contact Brenda Payne for entry forms. Brenda's # is 540-270-1795 or email: marshallchristmasparade@gmail.com

Have questions or speaker suggestions? Contact Mary Wilkerson, MBRA President (540) 364-3400; mbraeditor@gmail.com Editor: Mary Wilkerson ~Copyright Nov. 2019

Marshall voting takes place 11/5/19 at the Marshall Ruritan Club, 8400 Salem Avenue; Bring your ID

On Saturday, November 9th, dance to the music of "Southern Persuasion" and support your local Ruritan Club in their newly built event room. One ticket for \$125 includes dinner, dessert, & cocktails for 2, plus an entry in the cash drawing! Call 540-718-3177 for more details.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CANDIDATES:
INCUMBENT MARY LEIGH MCDANIEL AND
CHALLENGER PAUL PETRAUSKAS, RUNNING FOR THE SEAT OF
MARSHALL DISTRICT SUPERVISOR FOR THE NEXT 4 YEARS



Hello, I am Paul Petrauskas and I am running for County Supervisor-Marshall District. I am running on a platform of taxpayer advocacy. I am running to make changes that will lessen the stressful burden of Property Taxes that affect most homeowners . . . >



It has been a privilege to serve the Marshall District as your supervisor for the last four years. I have gotten to know and work with many of you during that time, and together we have accomplished a lot. This includes the new Orlean fire station, the Hume cell tower . . . >

The MBRA has now gotten our 501(c)4 tax-exempt status back! After diligently compiling 14 years of the financial data needed to regain the tax-exempt status that we were originally granted in 2005, but which was then allowed to lapse by previous leadership, the IRS has reinstated our 501(c)4 tax-exempt status! We now look forward to vibrantly continuing our mission.

Have you felt like your voice has not been heard? We're here for you! This is your town, and we feel you can make it better with your input.

We would like to know how you feel about the planned Main Street improvement project (which is not a "done deal") vs. the alternative improvement plan. Let us know your opinion! Simply email mbraeditor@gmail.com or message our official Facebook or call us at 540-364-3400. For more info, go to www.MarshallVirginia.org, and click on the "Main Street" tab.

Message from Paul Petrauskus, Continued:

I am running for tax fairness. I am running for fiscal prudence.

I want to identify the Needs of the county versus the Wants and adjust priorities accordingly. For example, the county Needs experienced teachers. The county Wants a central sports complex. The current Board of Supervisors borrowed money to build the sports complex but teachers still earn less than 100% of market rate. The next budget will be more tension between taxpayers and teachers.

I support a change in direction of county policies that will be business friendly. By helping current business expand and new business take root the business base will grow. The additional revenue collected from a more robust business base will reduce Property Tax on a one-to-one basis.

Both agri-business and agri-tourism generate benefits to the county. Both can fit within the rural characteristics of the county. Both can help preserve the rural characteristics of the county that we all appreciate. This is a win, win, win, situation.

Every election is an opportunity for change. On November 5th, each person is not measured by the amount of money in their bank account or the number of horses they own.

On November 5th, each person is measured as a citizen equal to all others and having one vote. I am asking that you vote for change. I am asking that you vote for me, Paul Petrauskas, on November 5th.

Find us on Facebook: Friends of Paul Petrauskas

Email: PaulPetrauskas@yahoo.com

Message from Mary Leigh McDaniel, Continued:

the Baker well to stabilize the Marshall water system, progress on the Marshall Main Street improvements, including raising \$1.2 million in funds to underground the utilities, and the opening of the first public access to the Rappahannock River at the River Preserve near Orlean.

The Board of Supervisors has also made progress in the County overall on access to broadband and encouraging economic development in the service districts. Through our budget process, we have addressed teacher salaries and school safety, and have funded the hiring of additional deputies and fire and rescue personnel to support public safety, while balancing this with the need to keep taxes low.

I am running for a second term to focus on issues that include completing the Marshall Main Street project, working on long term water solutions for Marshall, and increasing broadband coverage in Marshall District.

I am honored to have received endorsements from, among others, Sheriff Bob Mosier, School Board member Duke Bland, Commissioner of Revenue Ross D'Urso, and Harry Atherton, former Marshall Supervisor.

Thank you all for the opportunity to serve as your Supervisor, and I ask that you support me with your vote on November 5th.

Mary Leigh McDaniel

Marshall District Supervisor



Oct 8th Community Meeting Notes:

The meeting was called to order at 7:33PM by Mary Wilkerson, President. She spoke about the MBRA, which is a 501(c)4 action, advocacy group, and shared our mission statement. Announcements: Our October Marshall Minute is on the back table, and please visit our YouTube channel, listed on the front page. Past MBRA meetings and Marshall Minute newsletters are on our website: www.MarshallVirginia.org. Also, if you would like to make sure you are at an actual MBRA meeting, just look for our logo! Mary then gave a rundown of the candidates attending this evening and introduced our first one of the night, Duke Bland.

*Secretary's note: Some candidates running Nov. 5th were unable to attend our Candidates Night. We encourage all to reach out directly to candidates for their info. The MBRA does not endorse any candidates, but we provide this as a service to the community. Watch complete video of Candidates Night for FREE at www.MarshallVirginia.org

Our first candidate of the night was current Marshall District School **Board Member Duke Bland, who is** running for another term. Duke is a product of Fauquier and Fauquier County Public Schools (FCPS). He grew up near The Plains and graduated Class of 1971 from Fauguier High School. His wife and sons all graduated from F.H.S., and Duke has grandchildren currently in F.H.S. He currently serves as Vice Chair of the School Board, as well, and has chaired a number of committees. How & Why Duke got involved in the School Board: He and his wife were always involved in their kids school activities. He has always been involved over the years, and was the spokesperson for Save Claude Thompson Elementary School years ago. Duke shared the story behind serving on the Board. He has a passion for education, for the kids, and a passion for his community. Safety is his #1 priority; Duke has worked diligently to make sure that funding is there for an officer at each of the schools. Furthermore, he just found out yesterday that all of our schools are

fully accredited. Also, FCPS Elementary schools received the top honors of Virginia Department of Education for significantly improving outcomes with students with disabilities. Duke reported that FCPS has just received a \$149,740 grant from the Virginia Department of Education. He also mentioned the Bland -Graham Learning Den that opened at the Marshall Community Center last year. Duke said he his our representative; he serves us, and he is not a politician. Q&A followed.

Our second candidate of the night was Sheriff Bob Mosier, who is running for another term. Sheriff Mosier said this forum is especially unique for him because in 2015, this was the first forum he attended. He thanked the MBRA for inviting him again. He discussed his record over the past four years serving as Sheriff. In the first 100 days after coming into office in 2016, they achieved what he promised he would do when he ran. Updating social media, being more transparent, issuing daily activity reports, and accreditation, which they worked very hard on from 2016 to 2018. Over 700 proofs of compliance had to be met, and every single one was met. Virginia has approximately 340 law enforcement agencies and only 25% of them are accredited. Sheriff Mosier gave updates on the opioid crisis and shared his approach of prevention, enforcement, and recovery. Q&A followed.

Our next candidate of the night was Angela S. Smith, who is running for Commissioner of the Revenue. She explained that for the first time in over 50 years, we have the opportunity to vote in a new Com. of the Revenue. Ms. Smith is also a product of Fauquier High School. She explained that the Com. of the Revenue 1) oversees all the ways we get money into the County, & 2) is charged to provide meaningful data to the BOS for decision -making. This role impacts your pocketbook, your quality of life, your business, and your kids. Why vote for Angela? Over the past 30 years, she has been in service to this community. She has owned a business here in Fauguier since 1989. She served as Executive Director of the Chamber of

Commerce, served on Fauguier County's Economic Development Committee, the signage task force, was a past president and Board member of the Warrenton Rotary Club, and numerous other activities. She is passionate about her community, and all her family is still here. She is not a politician; the most political she had ever gotten was 10 years ago when the County Board of Supervisors wanted to invoke a County meals tax. On her own, Ms. Smith got signs to oppose the meals tax. The meals tax was defeated, but she fears it may rear its ugly head again in a number of years, and she feels we have a number of other challenges.

Angela Smith is running for Commissioner of the Revenue because she cares about this community, she cares about all of us as citizens, and she wants to make sure that our taxes are fair.

She is running as an independent because she feels strongly that you cannot be beholden to too many groups. This is constitutionally an independent office, and it is most important that the Com. of the Rev. stands up and questions how we can make this better for our citizens. Q&A followed.

Our next candidate of the night was Paul Petrauskas, who is running for **Fauguier County Board of** Supervisors, Marshall District. Paul explained that he had to get 125 qualified signatures to get on the ballot for November. To get those signatures, he and his wife went doorto-door throughout the district from Upperville through to the outskirts of Warrenton. They knocked on over 500 doors. The feedback Paul has received is: #1. Real Estate taxes are too high; #2. The County is spending too much. He is running as a taxpayer advocate and to make changes to policies in the County that will encourage balanced growth between homeowners, landowners, government, and business.

Continued on next page —

Oct 8th Meeting Notes, concluded:

The average annual per capita increase in the cost of County government between 2011 and 2015 was 1.5%. Between 2016 and 2020, that jumped to 2.4% per year, a 60% point increase over the last 5 years, versus the previous 5 years. The County government is getting disproportionately larger, and it is getting more expensive to live in Fauguier County. Paul then spoke about the tax sources that fund County government, financial figures, the shortfalls, and explained that over the last 10 years, the tax base has become less diversified and more narrow. The result of the shortfall in revenue has been to shift the tax burden to the homeowners.

Sources of funds, a broad and diversified tax base for supporting the County budget, and government spending separating the needs from the wants. Paul is the only candidate on the ballot without a special interest group endorsement; his only interest is the general welfare of the people in the Marshall District and Fauquier County. The only endorsement he is seeking is that of the people of the Marshall District - it is the only endorsement that matters.

When asked what he would do about the Marshall Main Street Improvement Project if elected Supervisor, he answered that as far as he knows, the project is almost wrapped up and the funding is already there. The next step is to see how the bids come in compared to the budget we have. He explained that how he would have approached the project is that he would have gone to our neighbors in Middleburg to ask them if their recent Main Street project helped. Did it increase business? He would do a stress test on the Marshall businesses in town and would ask them if they lost 25%

of their business for 6 months because the sidewalks and street were torn up, would you still be here at the end of the year and could you survive the construction process? He would look at it from a business perspective and do a payback calculation for the project. Q&A followed.

Our next candidate of the evening was Laura Galante, who is running for House of Delegates, 18th **District.** She ran the annual meeting of the Marshall Cloverbud 4-H Club of children ages 5 to 9. Ms. Galante lives about 4 miles outside of town with her husband and son on their small farm. She has been in cyber security for 12 years and runs a cyber security business that consults for governments, business councils. and other entities. She has been here in Marshall loving our sense of community. She is focused on building trust in our politics about what is in front of us, and building partnerships between small and big businesses. Ms. Galante spoke about healthcare costs and the state having an effective role in that. She discussed rural internet needs, and education. She is a product of Fairfax County Public Schools. In Virginia, and particularly in Fauguier, we are suffering from a teacher pay gap. Q&A followed.

Our final candidate of the evening was Ronnie Ross, who is running for State Senate, District 27. He started with the topic of CTE, as both of his in-laws are in CTE and will always out-earn him. Virginia is about to build the east coast's largest wind farm off of Virginia's coast. CTE is in many ways the future. Mr. Ross grew up on the Ohio side of Wheeling, WV. His roots are in Appalachia. He always knew he wanted to teach, and he followed a job to Virginia 10 years ago. His focus in education funding.

He spoke about per-person education funding in VA, rural Virginia broadband, and healthcare. He shared that he has a rare vocal cord disease, so healthcare is very near and dear to him. Mr. Ross also spoke about gun rights. He supports universal background checks for guns; 21% of gun sales in Virginia occur without a background check. so that is something he would like to see closed. He also believes inhome daycares in VA should be required to lock up their firearms. He shared that suicides comprise the majority of gun deaths, and he would like to see a 48-72 hour waiting period when purchasing a firearm. He supports a tax holiday for gun safes \$1,000 and under. Q&A followed.

The meeting was closed with the Pledge of Allegiance at 8:50 pm and the Candidate Meet and Greet time followed. Minutes by Mary-Elizabeth Wilkerson, Secretary

See MBRA video at www.marshallvirginia.org.

Did you know we have a YouTube
Channel? Have you missed some of our
meetings? Catch up on all of them by
going to YouTube.com and searching:
"Marshall VA MBRA"

Or click link below

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P8apq-2C1Hk

To be notified of our future video postings, simply click "Subscribe" to enter your email address and subscribe for free!

When the weather's cold, sit down with your favorite beverage and keep up on the latest info from our speakers!

Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

The Marshall Ruritan Club



A Community Organization Serving the Marshall Area is accepting New Members!!

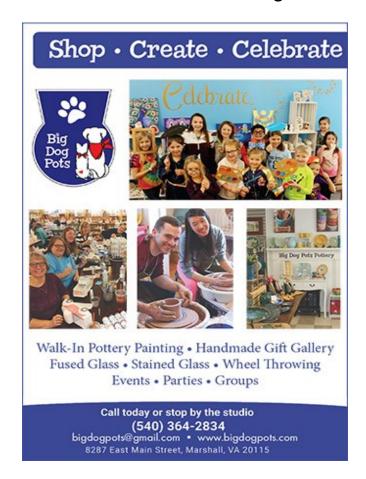
Come to our meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7pm

8400 Salem Avenue, Marshall, VA 20115 Come Hungry - We have a nice supper waiting for you!

~ Fellowship, Goodwill & Community Service ~

The Ruritan building is available for community events, birthdays, weddings & funerals.

For inquiries, please call Brenda at 540-270-1795



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~ Laure Carter ~

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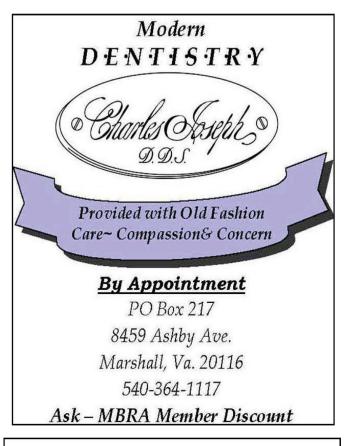




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