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EDITOR'S DESK

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Since Mayor Ned Randolph announced that he would not run for re-election I have expressed my opinion on the Mayor's race only once. In that editorial I pointed out that there were 4 candidates in the race, who would undoubtedly continue the corruption associated with Alexandria City Hall.

It's a well known, but little talked about, fact that sweetheart deals, nepotism, invoice padding, consultant family members, all slosh around in the cesspool that City Hall has become.

I also pointed out that two of the candidates were not part of this cadre of corruption and would probably clean house if elected.

Well here we are folks, one of the house cleaners verses one of the old guard in the run-off. The choice could not be more clear, and the old guard is running scared.

Last week, in an attempt to get people to notice her campaign, Delores Brewer called a press conference to announce that she is still running for mayor. That alone says volumes about the political shape she is in.

At her conference, she read from a prepared statement assuring the gathered faithful that she would indeed keep her word and not "go negative" during the run-off. Then she proceeded to attack her opponent, accusing Jacques Roy of prospering from contracts that others have with the City of Alexandria, something that is factually incorrect. She also attempted to explain away her lying to the City Council by saying she could not speak in confidence to the City's attorney about a meeting with another of the City's attorneys.

Wait folks, it gets better.

In her statement, Ms. Brewer condemns a local attorney for signing a contingency contract with the City of Alexandria. She also says if she is elected Mayor, she will cancel those contracts. The question arises, why didn't she recommend the cancellation of these contracts when she was Chief of Staff to Mayor Randolph? Why the sudden conscience?

It would seem that Ms. Brewer's position on policy changes with her political fortune.

What the media and the public saw last Thursday was desperate posturing at it's best. Her high priced political operative may have come to the game too late to help a campaign in it's final death throws.

Wise political observers believe that Ms. Brewer has gathered all the votes she can and there isn't enough of them to elevate her to the Mayor's chair. Those die hard supporters of Alexandria's ruling elite will eventually be forced to make way for a younger generation of leader.

Will the old guard go quietly? Not a chance. The tide has shifted and voters know that the old guard will do anything, say anything to retain their lofty positions. Over the coming weeks you will see and hear the most outrageous claims as they attack a younger generation of leaders. You will hear the most sincere promises of good government and house cleaning as they attempt to hold on to their power.

The voters don't believe a word of it.

What we are witnessing is no less than a transfer of political power from one generation to another. Like a senile relative who stayed too long at the party, the old guard will have to be shown the door, they won't leave on their own, and they won't go quietly.