

THE Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

Volume 17, Number 5

www.fairfaxdemocrats.org

May 2008



Message from the Chair

By Scott Surovell,
Chair, Fairfax County
Democratic Committee

When I was born in 1971, Fairfax County had 450,000 residents. When I went to college in 1989, it had 800,000. Today, we are approaching 1,100,000. We are living in a changing and dynamic county. Fairfax County is changing and FCDC should change with it.

My daughter's soccer team is a vivid example of this. Last year, Ginny Peters asked us to report back with some demographic information regarding our districts. I did a sort for the entire county and discovered that I live in the most non-diverse precinct in Fairfax County – Hollin Hall which is 95% Caucasian.

This type of de-facto segregation was formerly ubiquitous throughout Fairfax County. Not any more. My daughter's soccer team has girls from all over the Mt. Vernon and Lee Districts. Of the nine girls – two are Caucasian, two African-American, three Latino, one Asian, and one Indian. This is not only just our future, but it is our new community today. It is an amazing transformation.

Prince William County provides a stark contrast. While that county has embraced hatred, and to respond with a quintessential Republican reflexive rejection of change, the results are dramatic. Spiking foreclosures and short sales, plummeting property values, declining budget revenue, long-standing businesses with no customers, an explosion in incarceration expenses, and a Board finding itself needing a 28% tax increase to balance the budget.

In Fairfax, we have found a better way to embrace change. This change is also what has helped to strengthen the Democratic

Party in Fairfax County. The CNN exit poll for the Virginia Democratic Primary showed that 38% of Virginia Democratic Primary voters were not white, 75% were under age 60, and 37% had never voted in a primary election before.

Needless to say, as Democratic Party members we need to keep in mind that FCDC's current membership does not reflect the Democratic Party's current or future electorate in Fairfax County – in terms of its race, age, or its interest in political participation. To reach out and bring our voters into our Party, our events, communications, strategies, and methods need to evolve with our supporters. I hope you continue to embrace change not just in our race for the Presidency, but also in how we do business here at FCDC. ☺

Welcome to *The Democrat*

– City of Fairfax Democratic Committee

The City Committee is very excited to join in with FCDC's *The Democrat* newsletter. The City Dems have started a new outreach program we call "Stay Connected – Be Informed." The overall message we are trying to convey is that we want our local Democrats and like-minded folks to be as involved as they want to be with us.

To that end, we have started a few new program initiatives, which I will quickly outline. First, we are excited to announce that our first monthly Open Your Eyes video series presentation was held in March. The next presentation will be on May 21st at the Fairfax City Regional Library. We will continue the series each month on the 3rd Wednesday.

The Open Your Eyes video series will be about topics that are relevant to our society today with an eye toward a progressive per-

spective. The videos are about 45 minutes and we'll follow-up afterwards with an impromptu discussion about the topic. What is the topic you ask? Well, the title of our April video was Faux Food. It's all about our food supply in America today.

Also, being the conservation-conscious group that we are, we had a couple of events lined-up in observance of Earth Day, which as you know, was April 22nd. We started with having as our special guest Mr. Norbert Pink at our April Committee meeting. Mr. Pink is with the Great Falls group of the Sierra Club. He presented an overview of the Sierra Club and how the organization impacts our local environment.

Then, after our breakfast on Saturday, April 19th, the City Dems joined in and helped clean-up our City parks. What breakfast, you ask? Each month on the

3rd Saturday of the month, the City Dems hold a breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at the Old Country Buffet. This is simply a good time to get together and talk politics. In April, our special guest was State Senator Dick Saslaw.

There are many other opportunities to join your neighboring City Dems, just check out our website at www.fairfaxcitydemocrats.org. ☺

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The Democrat
The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

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About The Democrat

The Democrat is the monthly publication of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee. The purpose of The Democrat is to provide information to Committee members and other interested persons through district reports, committee reports, news articles, campaign notices, and flyers. Views expressed do not necessarily represent those of the FCDC unless specifically approved by an appropriate Committee Resolution.

How to Submit Material:

Material may be submitted in the following ways, listed in order of preference: (word limit: 300 words)

1. **E-mail.** Send to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. Attach text file (any word processing program) or photos (.jpg,.eps,.tif); or copy the article in the e-mail message.
2. **Mail CD/Scanned Photos.** Include a hard copy of text, your name and telephone number. Mail to Mark Richards, 18108 Camdenhurst Drive, Gainesville, VA 20155

Deadlines

Articles must be received by 5:00 pm on the second Tuesday of the month. Articles received after the deadline may not make it into the issue. Material may be included as flyers inserted into The Democrat for a charge of \$35. You supply the printed flyer. Call FCDC at (703) 573-6811 for the quantity of flyers to be printed. Also, please supply a volunteer to help collate on Friday, for 1-1/2 hours.

Advertising

Ads are very much welcomed and accepted; however, we reserve the right to reject ads for any reason. No product, service, or event advertised herein is endorsed by The Democrat or the FCDC, unless otherwise noted. Rates are:

Size	Price	Dimensions	Size	Price	Dimensions
1/6	\$35	2.25"w x 4.5"h	1/2	\$100	7.25"w x 4.5"h
1/3	\$70	4.75"w x 4.5"h	Full page	\$200	7.25"w x 9.5"h

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12 months for only \$25! What a deal! Make checks payable to FCDC and mail to: FCDC, 2815 Hartland Road, Suite 110, Falls Church, VA 22043

Let Us Hear From You!

Write articles! Send photos! See details above, under "How to submit material."

Fairfax County Democratic Committee (FCDC)

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info@fairfaxdemocrats.org
 Web site: www.fairfaxdemocrats.org

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Lee: Steve Bunn (703) 339-1882
 Hugh Robertson III (703) 924-1433
Mason: Rachel Rifkind (703) 941-9574
Mt. Vernon: Janet Myhre (703) 780-5952
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Women's Rights: Kristin Cabral (703) 448-0944

Secretary State Party of Virginia:

Pixie Bell, Secretary (703) 971-3541
8th Cong. District: Susie Warner (703) 971-2731
10th Cong. District: Rich Galecki (540) 347-5550
11th Cong. District: George Burke (202) 288-2104
Fairfax Young Dems: Rafael Arancibia (703) 869-3037
Headquarters: Bill Lahue (703) 577-6339

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White House (202) 456-1111
 U.S. Senate and House (202) 224-3121
 DNC (202) 863-8000
 Democratic Party of Virginia
 FAX: (804) 343-3642; Toll Free (800) 322-1144

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**Deadlines for the
 NEXT issue
 of The Democrat**
JUNE 2008

Articles:

Tuesday, May 13, 10:00 a.m.
 (see above for more details)

Flyers:

Thursday, May 22, 3:00 p.m.
 (due at headquarters, printed
 and ready to collate)

Collating:

Friday, May 23, 9:30 a.m.

**Deadlines for the July 2008
 issue of The Democrat:**

Articles:

Tuesday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.
 (see above for more details)

Flyers:

Thursday, June 19, 3:00 p.m.
 (due at headquarters, printed
 and ready to collate)

Collating:

Friday, June 20, 9:30 a.m.

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Alexander for Congress Campaign Report



Lori Alexander

Major endorsement received from the American Physical Therapy Association:

I am honored to have received the endorsement of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). The APTA is a national professional organization representing more than 71,000 members nationwide. The goal of the APTA is to foster advancements in physical therapy practice, research, and education. As many of you are aware, I have been a license physical therapist for over 12 years and have been an active member of the APTA since 1993. I currently serve as the Membership Chair for the Virginia Physical Therapy Association and am thrilled at the prospect of being the first physical therapist in history to be elected to the U.S. House of Representatives. This country is currently facing critical health care issues. This is the time for an experienced health care professional who has worked with and understands those with special health care needs to be involved at the highest level in the process of debating and enacting any federal legislation related to health care. Unfortunately, most politicians rely on insurance and pharmaceutical company lobbyists to educate them about health care issues. I will rely on my experience and advanced education to improve the quality of health care for all people, not just the few served by special interests. My stance is to always place the needs of my constituents above all others.

Brian Trompeter has written a wonderful article about me in the March 21, 2008 edition of the "Sun Gazette Newspaper" which serves McLean, Vienna, Oakton, and Great Falls. I urge you to read this article and let me know your thoughts on the issues. Please feel free to contact me through my website at www.lorialexan-derforcongress.com.

My lawn signs and bumper stickers have finally arrived. If you are willing to place a bumper sticker on your vehicle or post my lawn sign in your yard, please contact me at 703-216-9867 or lori.alexander@lorialexan-derforcongress.com and I will send you a bumper sticker or deliver a lawn sign to your home.

When elected to congress, I promise to each of you that I will work harder than any other congressperson to serve you and your interests. Any assistance you are willing to provide to my campaign would be greatly appreciated - volunteers of all abilities are welcome. Please call me at 703-216-9867 to let me know your availability.

Best, Lori Alexander ☺

Byrne for Congress Campaign Report



Leslie Byrne

The Byrne Campaign continues to build support among voters. We had a great fundraiser featuring our own Senator Jim Webb at the home of Bob and Mary Ann Hovis. Over 200 folks turned out to give our campaign a real boost. My personal thanks to Bob and Mary Ann, Sen. Webb, State Senators Chap Petersen and Donald McEachin for making it a wonderful evening. To all who turned out including our wonderful list of co-hosts, I couldn't do this without you.

April 7th was our open house for volunteers. We had 50 people who were very interested in our high tech phone banking and canvassing. And as always, we had wonderful food donated by those same volunteers. If you would like to join us in these efforts and mix some fun with your politics, call Sara John at 703-537-0470.

I will be out on the campaign trail and hope to see you. If you have any questions you can call me at the number above, drop by our headquarters at 11216 Waples Mill Rd. #100, Fairfax, Va or you can drop me an email at: leslie@lesliebyrne.org

Kindest regards, Leslie ☺

Connolly for Congress Campaign Report



Chairman Gerry Connolly

We're proud to announce that the following individuals have all joined the Connolly Team! A recent addition is former Virginia State Senator Joe Gartlan. Thanks Senator Gartlan!

Virginia Senate

- Richard Saslaw -- 35th, Senate Majority Leader
- George Barker -- 39th
- Janet Howell -- 32nd
- Patsy Ticer -- 30th
- Joe Gartlan -- 36th (former)

Virginia HOD

- Ken Plum -- 36th
- Jim Scott -- 53rd
- David Bulova -- 37th
- Vivian Watts -- 39th
- Dave Marsden -- 41st
- Chuck Caputo -- 67th
- Paul Nichols -- 51st

Fairfax Board

- Sharon Bulova -- Braddock
- Penny Gross -- Mason
- Gerry Hyland -- Mt. Vernon
- Jeff McKay -- Lee
- Linda Smyth -- Providence
- Cathy Hudgins -- Hunter Mill
- Dana Kauffman -- Lee (former)
- Jean Packard -- Fairfax Chairman (former)

Fairfax School Board

- Ilryong Moon -- At-Large
- Tina Hone -- At-Large
- Phil Niedzielski-Eichner -- Providence
- Brad Center -- Lee

Prince William Board

- Frank Principi -- Woodbridge
- Hilda Barg -- Woodbridge (former)
- John Jenkins -- Neabsco
- Kathleen Seefeldt -- Chairman (former)

Arlington Board

- Walter Tejada -- Chairman
- Jay Fiset
- Chris Zimmerman

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Connolly Campaign Report

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Other Officials

- Pixie Bell, Secretary, DPVA
- Ray Morrogh -- Fairfax Commonwealth's Attorney
- Stan Barry -- Fairfax Sheriff
- Earnie Porta -- Occoquan Mayor
- Gary Rasmussen -- Fairfax City Council
- George Lovelace -- Vienna Town Council
- Edythe Frankel Kelleher -- Vienna Town Council
- Bill Euille -- Alexandria Mayor
- Del Pepper -- Alexandria City Council
- Paul Smedberg -- Alexandria City Council
- Paul Ferguson -- Arlington County Clerk of Court
- Michael O'Reilly -- Herndon Mayor (former)

11th CD Members

- Sharon Stark
- John Jennison
- Peg Kugler
- Reed Stockman
- Ernestine Jenkins
- Rachel Rifkind

FCDC Leaders

- Ginny Peters -- Chair (former)
- Kevin Cook -- Springfield Chair (former)
- Rachel Rifkind -- Mason Chair; DPVA Women's Caucus, Chair
- Walt Mika -- Braddock Chair
- Rafael Arancibia -- FCYD, President
- Peg Kugler -- Braddock Chair (former), Vice Chair Central (former)
- Steve Bunn -- Lee Co-Chair
- Eileen Manning -- Vice-Chair (former); DPVA Central Committee
- Emilie Larson -- Hunter Mill Chair (former)
- Linda Byrne -- Providence Chair (former)
- Holly Hambley -- Providence Co-Chair (former)
- Jim Mazur -- Providence Co-Chair (former)

Democratic Leaders

- Dan Drummond -- CFDC, Chair (former)
- Ernestine Jenkins -- PWCDC, Vice Chair
- Jane Blechman -- Democratic Activist
- Jane Barker -- Democratic Activist
- Harry Wiggins -- PWCDC, Finance Chair
- Ron Seward -- NVDBC, Chair (former)
- Grant Herring -- GMU Democrats, President

Candidates

- Andrew Hurst -- 11th CD
- Ken Longmyer -- 11th CD
- Bill Ryland -- PW Clerk of Court
- Rex Simmons -- 40th HOD
- Mike McClanahan -- Springfield Supervisor
- Bill Day -- 31st HOD ☺

Denneny for Congress Campaign Report



Doug Denneny

Symbolizing his run for congress and his commitment to effecting real change, Doug will hold a "March for Change" on Saturday, April 12. He will walk from the Veterans' Memorial on Route 123 in Vienna to the United States Capitol, approximately sixteen miles away.

Also, Doug was honored to announce recently the endorsement of Rep. Gene Taylor from Mississippi. Taylor is the fourth sitting member of congress to endorse Doug's candidacy. This is just once facet of the momentum that Doug Denneny is picking up.

The campaign is rolling forward and as the media turns its focus to the important congressional races of 2008, Doug has had the opportunity to address a variety of issues. He has offered solutions to the housing crisis, veteran's issues and continued to discuss his plans for a smart, phased withdrawal from Iraq. For a collection of recent news articles, visit the website at www.DougForCongress.com.

We are going door-to-door and making phone calls every day and having visibility activities several days a week. Please stop by our office at 11094A Lee Highway in Fairfax or call (703) 352-DOUG. ☺

Surprise and delight your family and friends!

Give them an unexpected and useful gift – a subscription to The Democrat.

Cost? Only \$25 for a year's subscription! And that \$25 provides needed income to finance FCDC operations.

Help spread the good word on our Democratic activities and concerns.

Feder for Congress Campaign Report



Judy Feder

Fairfax Democrats, thanks to your support we're now in the strongest position a challenger to Frank Wolf has ever been. We've raised nearly \$1,000,000 – a level of fundraising strength we didn't reach until after Labor Day in 2006.

Our success, our strength, is because of you -- and it's starting to get noticed. Just last month, Marc Fisher of the Washington Post said that, "the strong challenge that Rep. Frank Wolf is facing this year from challenger Judy Feder illustrates the party's increasing sense that the Washington suburbs are a lost cause for the GOP."

In 2006, Frank Wolf and his Republican allies largely ignored us - confident in their ability to hold on to this seat. Together, we surprised everyone and gave Wolf his toughest race in 24 years. According to the Winchester Star it was Judy's "close showing" in 2006 that "galvanized the Democrats," into believing that Wolf was beatable. Building on that race, and with your help we're ready to take it all the way in 2008.

But, the stronger we get, the more Frank Wolf and his allies will rev up the Republican attack machine. It's already begun to happen as Wolf has outsourced his dirty work and had the Republican Party of Virginia launch a negative attack on our campaign for change in Virginia's 10th district.

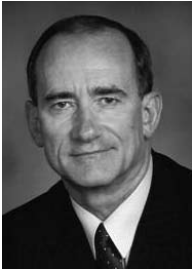
We need your help to fight back! We have to knock on tens of thousands of doors, make hundreds of phone calls per night, and yes, raise another million dollars or more. With your help and the hard work of thousands of supporters who are hungry for change, we know can get there. Join our campaign today at JudyFeder.com or call us at 703-286-9208 to find out how you can help turn VA-10 blue in 2008. ☺

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**Moving?
Let us know.
(703) 573-6811**

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Turner for Congress Campaign Report



Mike Turner

The Mike Turner for Congress campaign message continues to excite Democrats across the 10th District. You can sign up for my weekly E-newsletter "Soaring to Victory" with the latest campaign events and debates – and view videos of

my detailed positions on the major issues at www.MikeTurnerforCongress.com

The key for success for our next President and Congress is to end the war in Iraq. While bringing our troops home safely is paramount, the end of the Iraq war will unleash more than \$10 billion/month for urgent domestic programs and enhanced national security. With 28 years of national and international experience in the military and non-profit world, I have been developing practical solutions for ending the war that I will be sharing with you on my website, at our frequent Meet Mike events, and at the upcoming debates in May.

The foreclosure rate in Fairfax County has increased more than 600 percent over the past two years. In response to this crisis, Frank Wolf is supporting the creation of a study group called the SAFE Commission. The Commission's 12-month national tour would culminate with a report to Congress an additional three months later. Typical Wolf – studying the situation while an increasing number of constituents lose their homes. Wolf's proposal should be called "Too Little Too Late -- Again." Read my detailed plan at www.MikeTurnerforCongress.com

Fundraising is going very well. Join our "28 is Enough" club by donating \$28 to commemorate the end of Wolf's 28 years in office. Or better yet, join our "Circle 16" club by donating \$1,000 or more to help us emulate Jim Webb's strategy and overcome the 16-point gap from the 2006 Feder-Wolf Congressional election. Donate online at www.MikeTurnerforCongress.com

The Democratic primary on June 10th will empower you to choose between the well-worn "politics as usual" or substantive, lasting change for our district and our nation. Join our campaign now and make a difference in this historic election year! I will be honored to have your vote on June 10th. ☺

Braddock

Walt Mika, (703) 978-5732
E-mail: wmika@aol.com

Derby Day is Saturday, May 3rd from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at Kilroy's in Ravensworth Plaza. The restaurant is located just outside the Beltway at the Braddock Road exit.

Raffle items include Nationals tickets, dinners at several area restaurants, and lunches with Braddock elected officials. Gretchen Bulova is chairing the event with Liz Griffith.

Thanks to Liz Griffith who took over the caucus process when Marc Greidinger stepped down as co-chair. Janet Carver, Cheryl Fulton and Jan Hedetniemi assisted with slates for the candidates.

Allen Taylor whom many of you know from volunteer days at FCDC is still in rehab after a fall on primary day in February. Initially he was diagnosed with blood clots in his legs, but at the end of March doctors discovered ligament tears in both legs that required surgery. Estimated healing time is another two months.

Walt Mika ☺

Dranesville

Sue Rosenberg, (703) 938-5031
sue.rosenberg@cox.net

Congratulations to everyone who was elected a delegate or alternate to the District and State conventions. The 8th and 10th District conventions are both May 17th, as is McLean Day. With an expected 12,000 attendees, McLean Day is a great time to promote Democrats and sign up volunteers. This year our booth will be amid our fellow Democrats, Supervisor John Foust, Delegate Jim Scott and Senator Janet Howell. If you will be attending a convention, be sure to stop by our DDDC booth at Lewinsville Park that Saturday after the convention. If you're not going to be at a convention, help us set up and staff the booth in the morning.

Our next Dranesville meeting is at 7:30 pm, Thursday, April 24th in the community room of the McLean Governmental Center on Balls Hill Road. John Foust will speak about the Fairfax County budget, Margi Vanderhuyse will tell us what happened in Richmond (unless she's called back for a special session), and Don Mark, the new political director of the Democratic Party of Virginia, will give us a quick update as to what's happening at the DPVA. ☺

Hunter Mill

Bettina Lawton, (571) 215-1563
E-mail: bettinalawton@cox.net
Robert Haley, (703) 716-2339
E-mail: haley@sprintmail.com

The Hunter Mill District Precinct Operations meeting was held at Flint Hill Elementary School on Thursday March 20, 2008, 7:30 pm. The June 10 Primary Coverage, VAN use and training, the Neighbor Leader program, Lasagna Dinner status and support, and Delegate Selection and Caucus status were discussed. The FCDC meeting on March 25th was well attended by Hunter Mill members and new members Josh Lawton, Diane Rice, Janet Frye, Carol Bradley, Ellen Graves, Walter Alcorn, and Khadijah Baltrop were approved.

The next regular meeting for Hunter Mill will be April 17th at the Dogwood Elementary School library, and our next Hunter Mill District Precinct Operations meeting will be held on Thursday May 15, 2008 at the Flint Hill Elementary School. Please refer to the Hunter Mill web site calendar at www.huntermilldemocrats.org for other local area political events, and to the FCDC web site calendar at www.fairfaxdemocrats.org for Fairfax County-wide events.

The Hunter Mill Lasagna Dinner, headed by Dick Shields, was held on March 29th and was a great success. Hats off to key players that include Mark & Lynn Terry, Gayle Rubin, Mike & Kathleen McKee, Ed Robichaud, Rod Paolini, and Meg Coper-noll. Revenue and profit exceeded 2007, and analysis of the results is underway. The event included a Patron/Sponsor Reception, a Silent and Live Auction, Delegate Ken Plum, auctioneer, great food and drink, and the opportunity to talk with many elected officials and candidates. The Martha V. Pennino Community Service Award went to BJ and Marilyn Silvey, and the Ed Herlihy Democratic Activist Award went to former Chair, Emilie Larson. Guest speakers were Supervisor Cathy Hudgins, Chairman Gerry Connolly, Senator Mark Herring, and Democratic Party of Virginia Executive Director, Lavar Stoney.

Delegate Selection planning for the CD/State/National Conventions is underway. The Hunter Mill caucus (if required) is scheduled for April 19th at the North County Government Center Community Room. The 8th, 10th, and 11th CD Conventions are scheduled for May 17th, and the State Convention is scheduled June 14. ☺

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Lee

Steve Bunn, (703) 339-1882
Hugh Robertson, (703) 924-1433
E-mail: lee@fairfaxdemocrats.org

Our Annual Lee District Luau is coming up soon! Join us on Saturday, June 7th from 6:00pm-10:00pm in the home of Susie Warner at 6229 Edison Drive, Alexandria, VA 22310. Tickets start at \$35 per person and \$25 for Senior Citizens and Young Democrats. You can also be a Queen/King (\$500), Big Kahuna (\$250) or Surfer (\$100) and get special recognition at our event. We will feature a Hawaiian feast and music, silent auction and lots of fun! This will be a great event to meet our candidates for U.S. Senate, the 11th Congressional House District, and the 8th Congressional House District before the primaries in June. Check out our website at www.LeeDems.org for updated information and directions.

If you would like to help out with food or beverages, set up and decorations, or silent auction items, please contact Kathy Robertson at (703) 924-1433 or Luau@leedems.org. We still need people to help with the fundraiser and to provide silent auction items, so please volunteer today!

Our next Lee District Democratic Committee meeting will be on Thursday, April 24th at 7:30pm in the Community Room of the Franconia Governmental Center. Come join us as we prepare for our voter registration drive, the June primary, Luau Fundraiser planning, and other special events. We hope to see you then. ☺

Mason

Rachel Rifkind, (703) 941-9574
E-mail: rrifkind@gmail.com
Andrew Hunter, (703) 916-0942
E-mail: aph7294@fastmail.fm

The Mason District Democratic Committee will hold its annual Thank You Party on April 27. Many thanks to our host, Candy Butler, who has so graciously agreed to host us. In advance I also want to thank all of our committee members for their help.

As we go to press, Mason will have held its caucus and plans are underway for the Congressional District Conventions (the 8th and 11th Districts on May 19) and for the State Convention on June 13-14 in Hampton. Thanks to all who participated in the Mason caucus and congratulations to everyone who won.

At our last meeting in March, Joe Montano, our regional DNC man on the job,

presented the DNC Neighbor to Neighbor program. He is as excited about the DNC Neighbor to Neighbor Program as I am. This program requires you to take "ownership" of 25 names and promise to contact them at least three times between now and November. The DNC even provides the names and the tools you will need to make your contacts and report results. Please let me know if you are interested and we will get you connected to your neighbors!

Don't forget the FCDC JJ is on May 18 at the McLean Hilton. Mason is doing well in selling ads for the JJ program and we have nearly two tables: lets work to make it three! Thanks to Mary Tycz and Norma Jean Young for working on the silent auction baskets and for Barbara Kreykenbohm for contributing one of the baskets.

Preliminary planning has begun for the Crab Feast. Judy White, our Crab Feast Committee Chair, will be in touch. When we meet again we will set ticket prices and begin the process of recruiting volunteers for all of the various tasks that go into making this the event not to miss.

The FCDC will be meeting on May 27 (place to be determined). The Mason committee will caucus briefly to elect new members who have recently filed. Mason meets on May 14 at the Mason Governmental Center. ☺

Mt. Vernon

Janet Myhre, (703) 780-5952

Save the date of Saturday, May 31 for the annual Mt. Vernon Spring BBQ and candidate's forum. The time and location will be announced on our website www.mvdemocrats.com. Candidates for the 11th Congressional District will make presentations and answer questions. As always there will be food, drink, and fun for the whole family.

We were pleased to have guest speaker George Burke, chair of the 11th Congressional District, brief about 30 MVDDC members at our last monthly meeting March 27 on how the election of delegates process works.

Mt. Vernon will hold its election of delegates on April 19 from noon to 2 p.m. at the Mt. Vernon Government Center. Delegate pre-filing forms continue to come in and we are close to filling the allocated number of slots. A final count will be made on the filing deadline of April 14, and if there are no more candidates than slots, the election will be cancelled. If there are more candidates than slots, the election will be held.

The next MVDDC meeting was moved to May 1 at the South County Center on Richmond Highway. The April meeting was moved from its normal date of the fourth Thursday of the month by vote to accommodate travel schedules. The May meeting will be held as usual on May 22.

Currently we are scheduling and completing district-wide training on the VAN. Many thanks to Chris Ambrose and Sue Langley for managing this project

The MVDDC executive committee meets April 10 to finalize a draft workplan to present to members. One element of the plan will be to hold get-togethers to draw new volunteers modeled after a successful event in which about 50 people turned out at the Glory Days Grill in Lorton to watch the results on Texas-Ohio primary night (March 2). Most came from Lorton Center, a precinct that has been difficult to organize in the past, but there were people from every precinct south of Fort Belvoir except Belvoir.

Chris Ambrose, MVDDC operations vice chair who organized the event, said "most of the people were for Obama, some were for Clinton, but a good number were just Democrats who wanted Democratic unity so we could win in November."

Greg Werkheiser, who ran against Del. Dave Albo R-44 a couple years ago, attended. More than half of the attendees signed up to volunteer. ☺

Providence

Rick Dotson, (703) 319-9010
Cell : (703) 785-3850
E-mail: Rickdotson@aol.com

Providence Democrats are supercharged this year. We have stellar candidates for our congressional district races and exemplary candidates for president. With our passion and our energy, we have many opportunities to conduct outreach, fundraise and get out the vote. Each of these steps is vital to promoting a successful Democratic agenda in the U.S. Congress and the White House through electoral victories this November.

Why not support PDDC outreach efforts by volunteering to lend a hand with our precinct parties? We need people for everything from organizing party details and staffing the parties to phone banking to invite our Democrats. PDDC will be hosting parties in the west from April until June

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and in the east from June to August. To volunteer, please contact Regional Precinct Chair (West) Carrie Nixon at carrienixon@yahoo.com.

PDDC is also making a big effort to get young people involved in the political process. If you are interested working with the future of the Democratic Party, please contact Young Democrat Coordinator Lainie Singerman at esingerman@gmail.com.

Fundraising is the lifeblood of any organization. Get involved and help PDDC raise money to fund our GOTV and precinct letter campaign by e-mailing Vice Chair, Finance & Fundraising Mary Dotson at marydotson@gmail.com. Speaking of fundraising, please note that we have changed the date of our Mayfest fundraiser to June 22. The party will be held at the beautiful home of Providence District School Board Member Phil Niedzielski-Eichner. This timing will allow us to invite all of our new friends from upcoming precinct parties.

And last, I hope to see you all at the next PDDC meeting on April 22nd at FCDC Headquarters, 2815 Hartland Road, Suite 110, Falls Church, VA, 22043 (703-573-6811).

Thanks for everything you do. It is a real pleasure working with such a talented and dedicated group of people.

Rick Dotson ☺

Springfield

Ruth Miller, 703 913-0487
E-mail: ruthkmiller@gmail.com

Springfield Democrats gathered on March 29 for a fun afternoon of grilling and mingling. We were joined by more than 20 neighbors who are new to committee activities, as well as congressional candidates Leslie Byrne and Doug Denny and senate candidate Julien Modica. State Senator George Barker and Delegate Chuck Caputo also joined us and reminded us of the successes we can achieve together.

On May 17 from 4 to 7 pm, Springfield is hosting our annual Smoke and Roast, and we're determined to make this the best yet! Join us for outstanding barbecue from BBQ World in Burke. We are gathering terrific items from local donors for our silent auction. At the Dumbo Dunk tank, you can try to dunk some new "targets!" Kids may want to spend the whole afternoon in the moonbounce. All this, and great Democratic fellowship, as well! There's no better way to spend a beautiful May afternoon. Hope to see you there! ☺

Sully

Mary Lee Cerillo, (703) 830-3435
E-mail: MLCerillo@aol.com

It is a great time to be a Democrat in Sully! Attendance at meetings is up and we continue to have a standing room only crowd. Many guests, new members, and potential new members are taking the opportunity to join us. Plans for the Annual Sully Barbeque are being finalized under the watchful eye and guidance of our own Bridget Martin. The yearly fundraiser will be held on June 1, 2008 from 5 pm until 8 pm at the Centreville Firehouse. It promises to be lots of fun for all. We have set an ambitious goal and want your help in meeting it. Ken Plum will host the silent and live Auction. Auction items will be fantastic this year! For the near future, look for our baskets to be auctioned off at the JJ Dinner. We are also actively planning for the call to caucus. Volunteers have been recruited and we are moving full speed ahead on selection process of delegates for the State and Congressional Conventions. On a solemn note, Sully wishes to extend our sympathies to Frank Ojeda and family. We will greatly miss Georgette Kohler, her laughter, her enthusiasm and dedication to the Democratic Party. Our next scheduled meeting will be held on May 6, 2008 at the Sully Government Center located on Stonecroft Blvd. in Chantilly starting at 7:30 pm. ☺

8th CD Report

Susie Warner, (703) 971-2731

The 2008 Eighth Congressional Democratic District Convention will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2008, at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, 4646 Seminary Road, Alexandria, VA 22304, beginning at 10 a.m.

The 2008 Eighth District Convention will select seven delegates and one alternate to the 2008 Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colorado. The District Convention will also nominate three members of the state permanent Credentials and Rules Committees and select a Presidential Elector representing the Eighth Congressional District in the 2008 general presidential election. The District Convention will also consider resolutions.

Our Eighth District Congressman Jim Moran will address the convention. We

have invited our Democratic candidate for the United States Senate, former

Governor Mark Warner, to also address the convention.

The 2008 Eighth District Delegates are allocated as follows: 2 male Obama Delegates, 1 male Clinton Delegate, 2 female Obama Delegates, 2 Clinton female Delegates, and 1 male Obama alternate.

There will be a total of 252 Eighth District Convention delegates and 126 alternates from Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and Fairfax County, including the magisterial districts of Hunter Mill, Dranesville, Lee, Mason, Mount Vernon and Providence.

For a resolution to be considered at the 2008 Eighth Congressional District Democratic Convention, please mail or fax the resolution by Friday, May 2, to the following address: Eighth Congressional District Democratic Committee, Margo Horner, Chair, c/o Arlington County Democratic Committee Headquarters, 2009 North 14th St., Suite 612, Arlington, VA 22201 (phone: 703-528-8588; fax: 703-528-2321). You may also mail a copy of the resolution to the Temporary Chairman of the Resolutions Committee, Dick Hobson, 99 North Quaker Lane, Alexandria, VA 22304 (o) 703-712-5437; (h) 703-370-1858.

Anyone who wishes to file as a delegate or alternate to the 2008 Democratic National convention may secure the filing form at <http://www.va8thcdems.org>. The Eighth District website also has a filing form for presidential elector as well as a filing form for the State Credential and Rules Committees. All filing forms must be submitted to me at the Arlington County Democratic Committee Headquarters' address by Friday, May 2, 2008, at 5:00 pm

The Virginia Democratic Party's website at www.democrats.org has additional information on the delegation selection process, as well as a National delegate and alternate filing form.

Look forward to seeing you at the Eighth District Convention on May 17th. ☺

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Moving?
Let us know.
(703) 573-6811

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11th CD Report

George Burke, (202) 288-2104
Email: georgeburke@cox.net

We hope you will join the 11th Congressional District Democratic Committee in recognizing former state Senator Joe Gartlan's many years of service to our community at the 11th CD's Sturdivant and Community Service Awards reception at the Old Fairfax Town Hall on April 13 from 5:30 to 7:30 pm.

We will also be recognizing honorees from Prince William County and Fairfax City and we will be bestowing the prestigious Sturdivant Award, named after the late AFGE President, civic activist, and Fairfax Democratic leader John Sturdivant, on a worthy member of the labor community. The name of the Sturdivant Award recipient is kept secret until it is presented at the event, but rest assured that the recipient has earned this award through hard work and dedication to Democratic principles.

The 11th CD Committee continues to plan the 11th CD Convention, set for noon on Saturday, May 17 at Robinson High School. I hope every Democrat who has filed as a delegate for the 11th CD and state conventions wins a slot at the April 19th caucuses in their respective jurisdictions and gets to participate in this exciting process.

To better understand the role of the 11th CD Convention, read the 11th CD's Convention Call on our website -- www.11thdistrictdemocrats.org. If you plan on filing as a Clinton or Obama delegate or alternate to the Democratic National Convention, you must file a national filing form with me no later than 5 pm on May 2. The 11th CD Convention will elect four Obama national delegates, two Clinton national delegates, and one Obama national alternate.

The caucus and convention process can be confusing to newcomers to the Party (and to some of the old-timers, too). If you live in the 11th CD and have any questions about the process, please don't hesitate to contact me at the phone number listed above. But please read the 11th CD's Convention Call before you call. It answers a lot of questions.

I hope to see many of you at the April 13th reception and at the 11th CD Convention on May 17th. ☺

Diversity Committee

Rose Chu, (703) 998-5539
E-mail: fc4018@iname.com
Lina Orr, (703) 281-0985
E-mail: lina.latino.dems@cox.net

The Diversity committee will be hosting a reception on May 31, 2008, 5pm to 7:30pm in Vienna with wonderful ethnic appetizers. The reception will raise funds for the committee to register voters and help with voter outreach and education in different communities.

The suggested donation is \$25 per person. Our next Diversity committee meeting is Monday, May 5th 7:30pm at FCDC. ☺

National Affairs Committee

Sandra J. Klassen, (703) 620-9723
E-mail: sjkintl@aol.com
Dan Walsch, (703) 978-5667
E-mail: dwalsch@cox.net

Call To Arms

This presidential year will in all likelihood be as historic as any in our nation's history. The fact that our country is on the verge of electing its first African-American president or its first woman president is unprecedented. But running a close second is the seemingly overwhelming number of significant issues that our next president must address if the United States has any chance of remaining healthy and vibrant and a respected world leader. They seem to be as plentiful as the cars on the Washington Beltway during rush hour. These issues, of course, range from the nation's economy, the war in Iraq and the environment to our nation's eroding infrastructure, the lack of confidence in our elected officials and health care. But there are many more, each of which can only be tackled by a chief executive who is honest and competent and caring and who leads by building bridges rather than by tearing them down. Yes, the two remaining Democratic candidates are exciting. Despite that, we on the National Affairs Committee agreed at our most recent meeting that the primary focus of the 2008 presidential election should be about the issues. Consequently, our committee's

energies in 2008 will be two-fold: (1) help inform readers of The Democrat and everyone else we can on important issues that face our nation; and (2) motivate everyone we can to become actively involved in the presidential campaign by volunteering their services and, of course, ultimately voting for our party's nominee in November.

Our committee is initiating an active letter-writing campaign to regional media, including blogs, on issues on which all of us should be informed and working to address. Further, we are looking for volunteers to help us in this ongoing effort. If you wish to find out more and possibly even participate, then please contact one of the chairs of the National Affairs Committee. This year's presidential election is ours to win, but we can only do that with well-informed and active members. ☺

Senior's Committee

Charisse Espy Glassman,
(703) 206-0090
Charisseglassman@yahoo.com
Danielle Wight, (571) 309-2824
E-mail: danielle.wight@gmail.com

The next meeting will be held in July. We are skipping the June meeting because many magisterial districts are preparing to hold their caucuses at that time. We will have the report from the April meeting printed in the May newsletter. If you are interested in joining the committee, we meet every other month. We try to rotate venues to accommodate all magisterial districts. If you would like to address any senior issue with the Obama or Clinton campaign, please email one of the co-chairs. ☺

Surprise and delight your family and friends!

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Cost? Only \$25 for a year's subscription! And that \$25 provides needed income to finance FCDC operations.

Help spread the good word on our Democratic activities and concerns.

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State Affairs Committee

Fred Shwaery, (703) 451-4877
E-mail:

Angel Fund

Lu Ann McNabb met with the committee in February to discuss issues related to gun violence and efforts to enact common sense solutions to Virginia’s weak gun safety laws. McNabb is a member of the Sully Democratic Committee and also volunteers for the Angel Fund (www.angelfundva.org) established by the Samaha family after their daughter, Reema, lost her life in the Virginia Tech shootings on April 16, 2007. Thirty two students and faculty were gunned down that day, and

Reema and four other students were from Fairfax County.

The Angel Fund seeks to create good out of evil and to educate and advocate for changes in public policies so no other family has to suffer a fate similar to the Samaha’s. The fund will sponsor panel discussions throughout the state to discuss solutions to various issues that contributed to the Virginia Tech tragedy including those laws and policies that address privacy, mental health, campus safety and security, and guns.

Governor Kaine established a panel that made 72 recommendations for changes to Virginia’s laws and policies, including six recommendations concerning guns. The General Assembly acted in some areas, but not others. The General Assembly codified the Governor’s Executive Order

requiring that court orders committing individuals to mental health treatment be included in a state-maintained database searched by licensed gun dealers doing background checks before making sales. However, another panel recommendation requiring private gun sellers at gun shows to perform background checks failed in the General Assembly. These issues will continue to be brought before the General Assembly.

The State Affairs Committee is considering a proposal for an FCDC resolution that expresses support for strengthening Virginia’s gun safety laws. (See proposed FCDC resolution below.)

Anyone interested in volunteering for or contributing to the Angel Fund can contact it by email at contactus@angelfundva.org. ☺

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ **FCDC RESOLUTION** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

WHEREAS, the Democratic Party has adopted in its national platform, that

“We will protect Americans’ Second Amendment right to own firearms, and we will keep guns out of the hands of criminals and terrorists by fighting gun crime, reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, and closing the gun show loophole, as President Bush proposed and failed to do;” and

WHEREAS, two police officers were gunned down with an AK-47 assault rifle at Sully District Police Station by a mentally ill young man on May 8, 2006; and

WHEREAS, 32 students and faculty died by gunfire in the worst mass murder in American history by a single killer, using a Walter-22 and a Glock with a 15-round magazine, at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Virginia on April 16, 2007; and

WHEREAS, five of the students who died were from Fairfax County; and

WHEREAS, 888 Virginians died by firearms in 2005 and 812 in 2006, and many more wounded; and

WHEREAS, the physical and psychological cost to families, communities, and the state is incalculable; and

WHEREAS, despite the recommendations of the Virginia Tech panel, the General Assembly failed to pass a law this past session requiring background checks for private sellers at gun shows even though common sense dictates that background checks be conducted before gun sales between private sellers and strangers at a gun show in order to ensure that the buyer is not a terrorist, convicted felon, under a court order or deemed dangerous to himself or society; and

WHEREAS, the ban on assault weapons expired in 2004, which allowed the aforementioned killers access to such weapons and that assault weapons can kill many in a short amount of time and have no reason to be in the hands of civilians but should only belong in the hands of our military and police officers;

WE, THE FAIRFAX COUNTY DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE, HEREBY RESOLVES THAT THE VIRGINIA STATE DEMOCRATIC PARTY ADOPT AS PART OF ITS PLATFORM THE NATIONAL PLATFORM WHEREBY BACKGROUND CHECKS BE CONDUCTED BY PRIVATE SELLERS TO STRANGERS AT GUN SHOWS AND THAT THE ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN BE REINSTATED.



Calendar of Events

April

4/19/08 4:00 pm VAN Training, FCDC HQ
 4/19/08 12:00 pm Magisterial District Caucuses
 4/19/08 4:00P pm Senator George Barker's First Annual Spring Forward Fest
 4/21/08 8:00 pm 8th CD Monthly Meeting
 4/21/08 8:00 pm 11th CDDC Meeting
 4/22/08 7:30 pm Providence District Democratic Committee Mtg.
 4/24/08 7:30 pm Mt. Vernon District Democratic Committee Mtg.
 4/24/08 7:30 pm Lee District Democratic Committee Meeting
 4/24/08 7:30 pm Dranesville District Committee meeting

May

5/3/08 4:30 pm Braddock District's 27th Annual Derby Day
 5/4/08 11:00 pm VA Partisan's 11th District Candidates Brunch
 5/5/08 7:30 pm FCDC Diversity Committee Meeting
 5/6/08 Submission of Agenda Items
 5/6/08 7:30 pm Sully District Democratic Committee Meeting
 5/6/08 7:30 pm FCDC National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) Regular Meeting
 5/7/08 Drinking Liberally - Mt. Vernon District / Lorton
 5/8/08 Submission of all Officer, Magisterial District, and Standing Committee Reports
 5/8/08 7:00 pm Drinking Liberally - Lee District
 5/13/08 7:30 pm FCDC Steering Committee meeting
 5/14/08 7:30 pm Mason District Democratic Committee Meeting
 5/17/08 10:00 am 10th CD Democratic Convention
 5/17/08 10:00 am 8th CD Convention

5/17/08 12:00 pm 11th CD Convention
 5/17/08 4:00 pm Springfield District Smoke & Roast
 5/18/08 6:00 pm FCDC Jefferson Jackson Dinner 2008
 5/19/08 8:00 pm 8th CD Monthly Meeting
 5/22/08 7:30 pm Lee District Democratic Committee Meeting
 5/22/08 7:30 pm Mt. Vernon District Democratic Committee Meeting
 5/27/08 7:30 pm FCDC Meeting

June

6/1/08 5:00 pm Sully Annual Fundraiser
 6/2/08 7:30 pm FCDC Diversity Committee Meeting
 6/3/08 Submission of Agenda Items
 6/3/08 7:30 pm Sully District Democratic Committee Meeting
 6/3/08 7:30 pm FCDC National Affairs Standing Committee (NAC) Regular Meeting
 6/4/08 Drinking Liberally - Mt. Vernon District / Lorton
 6/5/08 Submission of all Officer, Magisterial District, and Standing Committee Reports
 6/7/08 6:00 pm Lee District's Liberty Luau
 6/10/08 6:00 pm Primary Election Day
 6/11/08 7:30 pm FCDC Steering Committee meeting
 6/11/08 7:30 pm Mason District Democratic Committee Meeting

**Next Regular FCDC Meeting:
 Tuesday, May 21, 7:30 pm
 Location is TBD**