

The Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

March 2014 Volume 1, Issue 1

Governor McAuliffe: It's All About Jobs

Governor McAuliffe's fulfillment of his campaign pledge to Virginia is going strong.

In Daleville, Virginia, when visiting Botetourt's Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics plus History (STEM-H) academy at the Greenfield Education and Training Center, Governor McAuliffe announced initiatives and continued support for ensuring a trained workforce.

On February 24, 2014, Governor McAuliffe informed *The Washington Post* that he would join the coalition of governors from other mid-Atlantic and Gulf Coast states to push for offshore drilling: the first Democrat to do so. Why? Virginia has been promised the potential of "tens of millions" of dollars in royalties on both leasing agreements and production. In addition to the royalties, strong opportunity exists for jobs for Virginians, both offshore and in the ports.

On February 25, a local government bill was approved in the General Assembly to finance a Fredericksburg baseball stadium and parking lot, but the bill did not address a proposal for a publicly funded shopping center in Bristol, whose supporters proclaim, would create 2,000 new jobs and create additional tax revenue for the region. Even though this part of the commonwealth did not overwhelming support the governor in his bid for office, Governor McAuliffe proposed allowing Bristol to continue financing the project. According to the March 2 *Richmond News Dispatch*, "It was the first time since taking office in January that the Democrat availed himself of a gubernatorial privilege anchored in the state constitution: to introduce legislation."

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Inside Washington: Report from Congressman Gerry Connolly

This July, our nation will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. To commemorate this landmark piece of legislation and the positive changes it has wrought, I am sponsoring an archival history project to collect and record testimonials from Northern Virginians about the sacrifices and victories of the civil rights era and the impact they have in today's society.

I invite you to join me in commemorating this important milestone by participating in the Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive: Personal Histories of Struggle and Achievement.

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Governor McAuliffe: It's All About Jobs

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Governor McAuliffe knows that the Commonwealth's economic base must be diverse in the companies and industries it attracts and in the skills of its workforce. The workforce must be educated, trained, and be in good health, both in the small towns and the large urban areas.

Beyond jobs, the governor has been actively pushing for Medicaid expansion. In Richmond, Governor McAuliffe fights the Republicans in the General Assembly continually on this issue, drawing a line in the sand when, according to the February 26 *Virginian-Pilot*, he stated that accepting a budget bill without Medicaid expansion is "not a negotiating strategy for me."

Message from the FCDC Chair

On January 7, I was honored and humbled to be elected FCDC chair when nearly 600 FCDC members braved record cold to participate in our biennial reorganization. I want to thank Cesar del Aguila for his two years leading this organization.

The first months of 2014 have been busy and successful for FCDC. Thanks to our members, friends, and family for making our first fundraisers of the year—the *Road to Richmond* brunch and the *Blue Jeans Ball*—were great successes. Lieutenant Governor Ralph Northam, Senator Mark Warner, and many other elected officials joined us to celebrate our 2013 victories.

On January 21, FCDC volunteers' and members' hard work paid off when Jennifer Wexton won a special election to fill Attorney General Mark Herring's 33rd District Senate seat. Without this win, the Virginia State Senate would have been in Republican hands, without the possibility of a tiebreaker vote. Thank you to all who helped with phone banks, canvasses, Election Day coverage, and post-Election Day work. It really does take a village! Your work delivered a decisive win in Fairfax County, where Jennifer Wexton won nearly 61 percent of the vote.

We have exciting work ahead of us. With the retirement of Congressman Jim Moran, we are losing an icon. Jim has served Fairfax County and Northern Virginia with distinction for the past 30 years. While his shoes will be hard to fill, we must and will do so.



*Sue Langley, Chair,
Fairfax County
Democratic Committee*

Congressman Frank Wolf's announced retirement from the Northern Virginia congressional delegation gives us the best chance in more than 30 years to put the three members of Congress who represent Fairfax County in the Democratic column. President Obama and Governor Terry McAuliffe fell short of winning Wolf's district by only 1 percent. With hard work and dedicated resources, we will win that seat. The 10th Congressional District nominee will be selected at the April 26 Tenth Congressional District convention (more details at www.FairfaxDemocrats.org).

While we have two open seats to fill, we must also send Senator Mark Warner and Congressman Gerry Connolly back to Congress to continue their excellent representation of Fairfax County and Virginia.

With this important work ahead of us, let us come together at our signature event, the **Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner**, on May 4, to celebrate our accomplishments, recognize our volunteers, and embrace the challenges that lie ahead.

Thanks to all for everything you do!

Inside Washington: Report from Congressman Gerry Connolly

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"Our local heroes in Northern Virginia often remain anonymous to the communities that stand on their shoulders."

All across Virginia, the fight against institutionalized discrimination brought about stories of hope and courage and, unfortunately, injustice and inequality. While much of the history of the civil rights movement in Virginia has been well documented, our local heroes in Northern Virginia often remain anonymous to the communities that stand on their shoulders.

When our children attend school, we would like them to be aware of the efforts of Fannie Fitzgerald and the Courageous Four, young teachers who integrated Prince William County Schools 10 years after *Brown v. Board of Education*.

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We want them to learn about Robert Gaskill, who was commissioned into one of the last all-black battalions in the U.S. Army and rose to the rank of general.

And we want future generations to remember visionaries like Robert Simon, who founded Reston on the principle that people of all different races and backgrounds could live alongside one another, even in a segregated Virginia.

We are seeking out those who want to volunteer their personal stories about the struggles they faced, the triumphs they achieved, or the experiences of people they know related to equal rights and dignity for all Americans, then and today.

Our archives will be shared with the Library of Congress, George Mason University, and the Fairfax and Prince William library systems on July 2, 2014.

With your help, our community can create a very personal accounting of the civil rights movement in Northern Virginia and preserve an important part of history that will be studied and cherished by future generations.

*(Those who want to provide a testimonial or seek more information about our **Northern Virginia Civil Rights Archive: Personal Histories of Struggle and Achievement** can visit connolly.house.gov or call 703-670-4989.)*

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Inside Richmond: Report from Senate Majority Leader Richard Saslaw



State Senator Richard Saslaw, Virginia Senate Majority Leader

“A major step in the right direction will be the psych bed registry and additional time for patients under Emergency Custody Orders.”

Greetings from Richmond!

Since early January we have been entrenched in the Capital working on reorganizing the Senate, passing hundreds of bills, and debating the biennial budget. Along with Lt. Governor Ralph Northam and Attorney General Mark Herring, we welcomed in Terry McAuliffe as Governor on January 11th. Continuing your steadfast efforts to flip the Majority in the Senate (THANK YOU!), we survived the freezing cold, snow, sleet and a protracted recount to bring Senators Lynwood Lewis and Jennifer Wexton into the Senate Democratic Caucus.

The confluence of these events set the stage for an historic reorganization. I like to think we are the more deliberate body, lacking the ideologue driven obstructionists we see across the hall of the Capitol. Don't mistake me, the Senate also has its challenges.

Key topics at the General Assembly for the past two months have focused around ethics, mental health, Medicaid expansion, adjustments to HB2313 (the 2013 transportation bill), public education, all the way to fox penning and puppy mill laws. Much to the relief of some hybrid vehicle own-

ers, it seems that the \$64 tax is on its way to repeal. Mental health reform has absorbed hundreds of hours in the legislative process. Look for increased revenue to address some of the growing needs of this population. A major step in the right direction will be the psych bed registry and additional time for patients under Emergency Custody Orders.

As of this writing, the most divisive issue still to be resolved is the expansion of Medicaid in the Commonwealth. There are over 400,000 thousand uninsured Virginians that await access to health care. It is so short-sighted to keep emergency room care as the primary resource for our low-income earners. This issue remains the deal breaker between the two Chambers.

It is a pleasure to work with Governor McAuliffe, Lt. Governor Northam and a Senate Democratic Majority. We will continue to lead the legislative fight for hard working Virginians and their families.



Inside FCDC Headquarters

The Headquarters team has been very busy. We've rented additional storage space and huge amounts of stuff has been, recycled, trashed, or placed into storage. Office bulletin boards and handbooks are being updated and recycling bins have been set up.

We continue to host a furniture exchange tables, chairs, office supplies,

phones, computers, coffee makers, microwaves, printers, and clip boards for campaigns. Contact Frank Anderson or Barbara Caputo to arrange for using any of these.

We have interns regularly volunteering in the office so if your committee or campaign needs help with a particular project please contact Frank An-

derson to discuss an intern's assistance. The request should be for a specific project and should include the name of the individual who will be responsible for training and supervision.

The Fairfax Report : Chairman Sharon Bulova

Hello fellow Democrats! I am proud to contribute to the relaunched *Democrat*. Thanks to Sue Langley and her editorial team for bringing back this great publication.



*Sharon Bulova,
Chairman, Fairfax
County Board of
Supervisors*

I would like to give you a quick overview of what's happening in Fairfax County. Our annual budget process is just beginning, although every year it seems to start earlier. We have a new Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent, Karen Garza, who joins us from Lubbock, Texas. I look forward to working with Dr. Garza on investing in our number one priority, a world class education system.

Adopting the budget is the most important thing our Board does during the year. When we adopt the budget, we are investing in the priorities and needs of the community. It is critical that we have the community at the table with us when we are considering changes to the budget that the County Executive will have released by the time you read this. There will be many opportunities for you to learn about the budget, ask questions, and make suggestions at town meetings and forums that will be scheduled throughout the County during the March and April. Online information and material will also be available to you at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>.

In addition to Dr. Garza, we have many new leaders serving the Fairfax County community this year. New Police Chief Ed Roessler, Fire and Rescue Chief Richie Bowers, and newly elected Sheriff Stacey Kincaid have taken the reins at their organizations. I am excited to work with them to keep Fairfax County safe.

I hope you had an opportunity to tune in to my 2014 *State of the County* program, released last month on Channel 16. It is available to watch on YouTube and my County website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman.

Thank you for your service to Fairfax County and to the Democratic Party. I look forward to working with you to keep Fairfax County the great place it is to live, work, and play.

Remembering Shirley Carson

Tuesday, November 6, 2012 ... will be remembered as the day the United States held its 57th quadrennial presidential election, the day President Obama was reelected and Tim Kaine was elected U.S. Senator, and the day Shirley Carson cast her last ballot.

Shirley Carson is one of our unsung Democratic heroes. A dedicated poll worker, FCDC member, campaign contributor, and volunteer; and a teacher who, after retirement from FCPS, regularly volunteered at FCDC Headquarters. Shirley Carson's contributions will be remembered by many. However, it is what Shirley did in the last moments of her life that should be remembered by all.

A poll worker at Greenspring knew that Shirley was weak and could not wait in the long lines to vote. Arrangements were made: Shirley would receive a call to come down when there was a lull in voter activity, most likely sometime in the afternoon. In the morning of November 6, 2012, Shirley must have known that her time was on this earth was coming to a close. She wheeled down to the Greenspring voting area. The poll worker was surprised to see her. "Shirley," she said. "What are you doing down here?" Shirley answered, "I had to come down and vote now, I might not be around later." That afternoon, Shirley Carson took a nap to make sure she was able to watch the evening returns. Shirley never got to watch the returns. Sometime during that nap, Shirley died.

To the many loyalists who work and vote for Democrats and who passed quietly like Mrs. Shirley M. Carson, we salute you.

Volunteers Needed

Headquarters needs additional volunteers to staff the front desk, answer phones, and provide some office support.

Training will be provided. There are openings on Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday afternoons from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM or 4:00 PM.

If you are interested, contact
Barbara@caputo.com.

Deadlines for The Democrat

April 2014 Edition

Friday, March 28, 2014

May 2014 Edition

Friday, April 25, 2014

Articles/ photos must be submitted via email to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org as attachments. All submissions are subject to a word limit. For more information, contact thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Income Equality in America: How We Can Help Solve the Problem

Sean Barnett, National Affairs, Mason

Income inequality in the United States has become severe and it has been aggravated by policies driven by a 40-year campaign by corporations, wealthy individuals, and the Republican Party to acquire power and wealth. As Democrats we should change those policies to promote the economic security of all Americans.

Many prominent economists, political scientists, industry leaders, and elected officials have studied income inequality and identified policies that could help reduce it. This is a summary of what they have offered.

- Raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour and link it to the growth of U.S. labor productivity.
- Strengthen the enforcement of U.S. labor laws. Revitalize unions and strengthen workers' bargaining power.
- Rebuild America's infrastructure. Improvements will boost economic growth. New workers will buy more of what businesses make.
- Stem the undue influence of corporations and money in our politics. Amend the Constitution to overturn *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and establish that corporations are not people and money is not speech.
- Make the tax code fairer. Close loopholes and treat capital

gains and wages similarly. Have the wealthy pay their fair share for benefitting from the society that we all create.

- Strengthen and enforce laws supporting competition, like the anti-trust laws. Eliminate unfair advantages for big business over small business and workers.
- Reform the financial services sector. End "too big to fail" and "too big for trial" for banks. Limit the use of risky financial derivatives. Limit excessive interest rates and fees. Make the bankruptcy laws fairer to small debtors.
- Insist on fair trade and protect American jobs.
- Improve access to education to allow all Americans to become productive citizens and realize their dreams.
- Reform corporate governance to give shareholders more control over corporate expenditures and executive compensation.

Economic security is vital today for almost all Americans and it has been a core Democratic value since the time of Andrew Jackson. We, as Democrats, should support economic security for all Americans, not only because it will help us win elections, but because it will make our country a better place and it is something in which we believe.

8th Congressional District Report

Pixie Bell

The Eighth District Democratic Congressional Committee held its first monthly meeting of 2014 at the Atlantis Restaurant in Alexandria on January 20. The highlight of the meeting was a visit and brief address by Eighth District Congressman Jim Moran, who had announced that after 23 years of dedicated service he would not be seeking another term in November. The Congressman will be working on his priorities such as education, the environment, and immigration reform up to the end of his term.

The Committee decided on the process to use to select the Democratic nominee to run in the election in November. There will be a Democratic primary election. A spirited primary is ex-

pected. Any candidate who wants to run must collect 1,000 qualified signatures by the end of March.

Committee members also reported on the process and results of local committee reorganizations:

- In Alexandria, Clarence Tong is the new chair.
- Kip Malinosky is the new chair of the Arlington Committee.
- Fairfax County's new chair is Sue Langley.
- In Falls Church, Betty Coll was reelected Chair.

11th Congressional District Report

George Burke

Dust off your shamrocks and join Congressman Gerry Connolly on the evening of Monday, March 17—the “holiest day of the year”—for his 20th annual St. Patrick’s Day Fete at Kena Temple.

Along with some of the best corned beef, salmon, and cabbage in Northern Virginia and appropriate victuals served by our Fairfax firefighters, we’ll have great company, great music, and a touch of politics.

This year, we will hold straw polls for the congressional seats in the 8th and 10th Districts, where Democrats are vying to replace Jim Moran and Frank Wolf, respectively.

From its humble beginnings as a small gathering in the backyard of Gerry and Smitty’s home two decades ago when he first ran for Providence District Supervisor, the St. Patrick’s Day Fete

has grown to become the largest annual political event in Northern Virginia.

Not Irish? No problem, because everyone is Irish for the day at Gerry’s annual St. Patrick’s Day Fete. I hope you can join me and friends and political leaders from across Northern Virginia for this special event on Monday, March 17, from 7-9:30 pm at Kena Temple, 9001 Arlington Blvd., Fairfax.

To purchase your tickets, please click [here](#). If you would like to RSVP and pay by mail or at the door, please email Eileen at fete@gerryconnolly.com or contact us by phone at 703-375-9374.

We hope to see you there, and don’t forget to wear a bit ‘o green.



10th Congressional District Report

Charlie Jackson

A Tenth Congressional District Nominating Convention will be held at 10:00 AM on Saturday, April 26, 2014 at Park View High School (400 W. Laurel Avenue, Sterling, VA 20164). The doors to the Nominating Convention will open at 10:00 AM. For more details on the Call to Convention, visit <http://www.10thcdvadems.org/>

County and City Democratic commit-

tees shall elect their delegates and alternates to the Tenth District Nominating Convention. The caucuses shall be unassembled.

The Fairfax County Democratic Committee will hold unassembled caucuses between 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM on Saturday, April 5, 2014 for the purpose of electing 99 delegates and 20 alternates from Fairfax County to the

Tenth Congressional District Democratic Nominating Convention. In-Person Absentee voting for all Fairfax County magisterial districts will be held on Thursday, April 3, 2014 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Fairfax County Democratic Committee Headquarters. (2815 Hartland Road, Suite 110, Falls Church, VA 22043) For complete information on the call visit, <http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/>

FCDC South Regional Report—

Matthew Bell

What happens the weekend before Mardi Gras? The Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee's 6th Annual Mardi Gras! On Saturday, March 1, 2014, hundreds of persons attended the Mount Vernon district celebration which included a live band, southern favorites including fried chicken and king cake, and the first straw poll of the 2014 8th CD Democratic primary. Results of the straw poll were: Former Lt. Gov. and Ambassador Don Beyer finished first in the straw poll (25%), followed by ac-

tivist Lavern Chatman (20%), and state Del. Patrick Hope (19%).

On Thursday, February 27, 2014, the Lee District Democrats Meeting/ 8th Congressional District Candidate Forum was attended by nine of the eleven candidates running for the Democratic Nomination. Visit, <http://www.youtube.com/user/FairfaxCountyDems> to see the candidate's speeches filmed by our FCDC Vice Chair for Technology Todd Smyth.

The Springfield District Democratic Committee had their 2014 Volunteer Kick-Off event this past Sunday, March 2, 2014 at the home of Springfield Chairman Ed Deitsch. The Springfield Dems are focusing on turning out voters from the Springfield precincts in the 10th Congressional District in hopes to ensure Democrats win that seat for the first time since 1978. "Springfield 10th District Day of Action" will be on Saturday, March 29, 2014.

Message from Providence District, Paul W. Jameson

At the Providence Democrats' reorganization in December, Paul Jameson continued as Chair, but all other PDDC officers are new:

Secretary: Alex Dixon

Treasurer: Jim Carey

Vice Chair Finance: Jennifer Oh

Vice Chair Technology: Walt Carlson

Vice Chairs Precinct Operations:

Senora Avery, Jay Bhandari, Frank Lapensee

Providence has restarted its Dinner & Discussion series, with meetings planned for every third Tuesday of most months this year. Our first Dinner & Discussion was held on February 19, with Christian Dorsey of the Economic Policy Institute discussing income inequality with us. We had over 40 people come, so we are off to a great start!

We also will be starting our series of local house parties again, beginning with March 23 for Merrifield precinct. Once again, we will have house parties for all precincts or groups of precincts this spring, with the goal to get together people interested in building up our precinct organizations.