

The Democrat

The Newsletter of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee

May 2014 Volume 1, Issue 3

Inside Washington: Report from Congressman Gerry Connolly



Here in Congress we will gavel in yet another week of inaction on one of our most pressing and serious challenges: climate change.

Congressional intransigence cannot be an excuse for inaction. As co-chair of the Sustainable Energy and Environmental Caucus (SEEC), with Representatives Paul Tonko (D-NY-20) and Steve Israel (D-NY-3), we “Green Dogs” understand the urgency to act on climate change. Its effects are felt in every congressional district, whether it is the threat of sea level rise on our coasts, the greater incidence of extreme weather events, or extended periods of drought and longer wildfire seasons.

All told, in 2011 and 2012 there were 25 extreme weather events across our nation that caused more than \$1 billion in damage. And between 2011 and 2013, the federal government spent \$136 billion on disaster relief. That’s almost \$400 per year for every household in the United States. Clearly, we can no longer afford inaction

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Message from the FCDC Chair, Sue Langley

FCDC’s membership approved the 2014-2015 annual budget at the special meeting on April 22. We also elected Rose Chu as FCDC Vice Chair, Outreach. Rose will bring her experience to an area that is very important to FCDC’s future. I also would like to thank Morgan Jameson for running for this important position. Rose and Morgan are already working together reaching out to communities and recruiting activists who will lead us to victory in the fall.

With the passage of the budget, we are moving forward with our 2014-2015 programs, voter registration, Red to Blue campaign, training, and more.

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Deadlines for The Democrat

June 2014 Edition

Friday, May 23, 2014

July 2014 Edition

Friday, June 27, 2014

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

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*Views expressed do not necessarily
represent those of the FCDC unless
expressly approved by an appropriate
committee resolution.*

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Inside Washington: Report from Congressman Gerry Connolly

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Responding to global climate change may appear to be a daunting task, but as elected leaders we can and must make strategic investments to reduce our own emissions and lead by example within our communities.

The president has helped in this effort and I support his climate action plan in setting a goal of 20 percent renewables by 2020, cutting carbon emissions from new power plants, and raising car efficiency standards to 35 miles per gallon with a goal of 54.5 miles per gallon in 2025. But Congress has to work with the president.

As a coalition, SEEC has consistently made the case that we must be will-

ing to make strategic investments across the board in clean and renewable energy sources, in energy efficiency and resilient technology, and in R & D to find future energy sources and better ways to distribute that energy. This is why I have introduced legislation with Congressman Jared Huffman (D-CA -2) that would transition the U.S. Postal Service's aging truck fleet to electric cars, and have supported efforts to expand energy efficiency in federal buildings. But none of this can happen if Congress refuses to be a partner.

(This Opinion Piece was first published in *The Hill* and has been excerpted for *The Democrat*.)

Message from the FCDC Chair, Sue Langley

(continued from page 1)

We are preparing for our annual Jefferson Jackson Day Dinner this Sunday, May 4, at the McLean Hilton. As you know, Congressman Jim Moran is retiring at the end of his term and we are planning a special presentation in his honor. Many other officials will be there as well, including Senator Mark Warner, Lt. Governor Ralph Northam, Congressman Gerry Connolly,

and Fairfax Supervisor and 10th Congressional District nominee John Foust.

We are honored to have Mitch Stewart as our keynote speaker. He is the former National Director of Organizing for America and President Obama's 2012 Battleground States Director.

I hope to see you to see you at the Jefferson Jackson Dinner!

FCDC's 2014 Jefferson Jackson Dinner May 4, 2014, 5:30 – 9:00 PM

Tickets are still available for FCDC's largest fundraiser, the Jefferson Jackson Dinner, Sunday, May 4, at the McLean Hilton (7920 Jones Branch Drive). Reserve your seat (s) today at <http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/JJ-Dinner-flyer-4.0.pdf>



State Senator George Barker,
Member, Virginia State Senate,
39th District

“Don’t worry. We’ll finish it, but serious discussions may not occur before mid-June...”

Inside Richmond: State Senator George Barker (39th District)

Patience. Patience.

Those of us in the General Assembly frequently are asked some version of, “When are you going to have a budget?” I smile. I mix up my responses. “Sometime.” “In a couple of months.” “Not before close to June 30.” “Shortly before or after July 1.”

We’ll get there. But it won’t be until near June 30.

We went into special session March 24. More than a month later, nothing substantive is happening. The House passed the budget it put forth in April, with a few changes to reflect agreements previously reached among the budget conferees. The Senate considered the budget put forth by Governor McAuliffe after a very well attended public hearing; the testimony at that hearing was overwhelmingly supportive of our priorities, including closing the coverage gap. We then passed a budget with what we had included in February and

many of the additional proposals included in the Governor’s proposal.

The Senate has been ready to put both budget bills in conference, but the House has not been willing to consider the Senate bill. Consequently, there are not yet any bills to be considered by a conference committee. Don’t worry. We’ll finish it, but serious discussions may not occur before mid-June.

And on that big issue: we will close the coverage gap.

The evidence continues to grow on the wisdom of doing that. More than 300,000 people need it. In other states it’s costing less than projected. An independent analysis shows that Virginia would have net savings of \$1.1 billion over 9 years. It would be good for our economy. It would be good for Virginia businesses. It would help keep several rural hospitals from closing.

We’ll get it done. Patience. Smile!

Archive will Preserve the History of the Civil Rights Movement in NOVA

Over the past nine months, Rep. Gerry Connolly’s office has been working on a year-long living history project to gather testimonials and stories from local residents about the civil rights movement and preserve them for posterity.

Rep. Gerry Connolly states, “Our community can help create a local and very personal archive on the civil rights movement in Northern Virginia that will be

studied and cherished by future generations. It will preserve an important part of the history of our region, our Commonwealth, and our nation.”

There are many stories to tell and Rep. Gerry Connolly invites you and others you may know to share thoughts on how and why the legislation is important and how it affects our daily lives. “Sadly”, Rep. Gerry Connolly said, “we continue to

wrestle with issues of equality to this day and the voices contained in this archive can be an important ally in the fight against discrimination.”

If you are interested in contributing to the civil rights project, email or call Rep. Connolly’s district office at va11.civilrightsact@mail.house.gov or 703-670-4989.

The Fairfax Report : Supervisor, Penny Gross, Mason District

The Value of Diversity

Fairfax County is frequently lauded for its diversity and its positive management of change. What sometimes is unrecognized is that diversity is not new to our community. This area has long been host to the international community – diplomats, students, visitors. During the past three or four decades, Fairfax County has welcomed new residents from around the world, some fleeing conflict and persecution, others seeking the economic opportunities our society offers. And all wanting the same things—clean air and water, safe streets, good schools, freedom to worship, and self-determination—values that Democrats proudly espouse.

As Democrats, we must seize the opportunity to bring our new neighbors into the American mainstream, at the same time respecting their cultural and ethnic heritages. Too often, language and ethnicity become barriers to success, isolating our new neighbors. So we need to take the time to learn about cultural practices, ethnic celebrations and, yes, religions. As Mason District Supervisor, I've learned so much from our diverse community members. A Bolivian dance and music performance is about more than gorgeous costumes and curious instruments. So, too, is a Vietnamese Tet celebration, or a Korean Bell Garden remembrance, or the Muslim observance of Ramadan. All have their connections to centuries of history and custom, stories of battle and heroism, of relationships to the land and to water, of the human condition. And I have found that the similarities among people are always greater than the differences.

Those similarities are what we must build on. The other party is very good at “divide and conquer.” As Democrats, and Fairfax County Democrats especially, our shared beliefs and mutual respect for all people should motivate and propel our outreach to bring more good voters into our big Democratic tent and keep them there. Our future depends on it.



*Penny Gross, Supervisor,
Mason District, Fairfax County
Board of Supervisors*

People in the News

Braddock District—Congratulations to Janyce Hedetniemi for being the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Association, 2013 Fairfax County Citizen of the Year.

Hunter Mill District— Congratulations to Jon Horejsi on receiving Hunter Mill's 2014 Martha V. Pennino Community Service Award and Carrie Bruns for receiving the 2014 Ed Herlihy Democratic Activist Award.

Condolences to the family of long-time Providence District, Falls Church, political activist and photographer Drew Kleibrink . Drew died on April 11 at the age of 56. Drew was a tireless FCDC and campaign volunteer and a generous donor to many Democratic campaigns. Drew founded Kleibrink Photography in 2004 and Nova Benefits in 2007 and was the for the Mid-Atlantic Director of IMSM, a global consulting firm.

Condolences to the family of Marty Farmer, Past Fairfax County YD president. Marty passed away on April 15 at the age of 58. Marty was a tireless campaign worker for Virginia candidates. His career took him eventually to the Senate, where he served on the staff of David Boren (D-OK). At his untimely end, he was a full-time "tech-ed" teacher at Woodson High School and was the Northern Region Director of the Virginia Technology Association.

National Affairs Committee Questionnaire for Eighth Congressional District Candidates, Sandra J. Klassen, Chair

To help voters, the National Affairs Committee (NAC) has prepared a questionnaire for Eighth Congressional District candidates that focuses on some of the overarching issues that we believe federal elected officials should address to preserve our democracy, safeguard liberty, and ensure eco-

nomie justice for all Americans. Many of our questions focus on issues not frequently examined. The open-ended structure as well as the scope and complexity of the questions may preclude busy candidates from answering ALL of them. However, we believe this is a

useful mechanism to elicit responses from candidates about some of the national issue perspectives and priorities of the Northern Virginia Democrats whom our committee represents.

We've invited all candidates to complete the questionnaire.

Labor Committee Elected Leaders and the Right to Organize Unions Virginia Diamond, Chair

Elected leaders play an important role in whether workers have the right to freely organize. Recent examples in Virginia, Tennessee, and Mississippi illustrate how.

In Mississippi, workers at Nissan launched a union campaign. The company was increasingly using temporary labor from agencies rather than hiring regular production employees. Nissan retaliated against union leaders and implied that the plant would close if workers unionized. Congressman Bennie Thompson demanded that the company respect worker rights, and he helped form

a community organization of clergy and civil rights leaders, called Mississippi Alliance for Fairness at Nissan, to back the workers.

In Tennessee, Volkswagen decided to stay neutral during a union organizing drive. However, Republican state legislators announced that they would withhold state subsidies if workers voted to join the union. Senator Bob Corker stated that workers must vote "no" to receive additional product in the plant. Because of these threats, the union narrowly lost the vote.

Here in Virginia, workers at a Rolls Royce factory began a union campaign like their co-workers in Britain and in Indiana who have union representation. Management responded by warning of negative consequences of unionization at intense one-on-one meetings. The local state Senator and Delegate – both Democrats – told the company to respect their workers' rights.

These examples show why it really matters whether our elected leaders believe in the value of unions and in the right to organize.



Welcome to Lamont A. Harrell, Jr. Interim FCDC Executive Director

Lamont A. Harrell, Jr. will serve as the interim executive director for the period of time that Frank Anderson will be on leave. Lamont is a resident of Washington, D.C. and a graduate of Howard University with a degree in political science. He has managed and consulted for political campaigns in Washington, D.C. and has previously

11th Congressional District Report George Burke

The annual 11th Congressional District Sturdivant Brunch is tentatively scheduled for June 8.

Congressman Gerry Connolly and other elected officials will be joining us to honor some very deserving Democrats from Fairfax, Prince William, the City of Fairfax, and the labor community.

This year's award winners from Fairfax are:

- Kate Hanley, the former chairman of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and former Secretary of the Commonwealth, who contin-

ues to make things happen in Fairfax and the party.

- Peg Kugler, longtime Democratic activist and aide to Senate Minority Leader Dick Saslaw.

Our brunch, named for the late Fairfax activist and national AFGE president John Sturdivant, is a great event with great food and great company. In June, we will be able to spill out of the restaurant and onto the patio to enjoy the warm sunshine.

On a related matter, Congressman Connolly's 20th annual St.

Patrick's Day Fete was a great success, with more than 1,100 Democrats braving the snow and icy roads to join him for what proved to be a great time and a great event.

Gerry sends his thanks to all of you who attended. He also offers his heartfelt gratitude to the dozens of Fairfax Democrats (and the Fairfax County Professional Firefighters and Paramedics IAF Local 2068 who, year after year, devote much of their time and lots of hard work to making this event such a success.

10th Congressional District Report—Patsy Brown, Vice Chair

We are fired up about winning the Tenth.

The Tenth CD has hired Alex Parker as its communications director. Alex has previously worked for Chap Peterson. He will be crafting messages in support of our candidate, John Foust, as well as 'truth telling' about the opposition. In addition, Alex will help the jurisdictions in the 10th CD with

using social media.

Dranesville Democrats have asked Alex to their May meeting to talk about efforts in the Tenth, and to give that committee a quick lesson on the use of Twitter and other social media. If you would like Alex to attend a meeting, please contact him at Communications@10thcdvadems.org.

Book of the Month

Reign of Error: The Hoax of the Privatization Movement and the Danger to America's Public Schools by Diane Ravitch

Review contributed by the National Affairs Committee

From one of the foremost authorities on education in the United States, former U.S. assistant secretary of education, New York University professor and best-selling author Diane Ravitch in *Reign of Error* argues that the crisis in American education is not a crisis of academic achievement

but a concerted effort to destroy public schools in this country. She warns that major foundations, individual billionaires, and Wall Street hedge fund managers are encouraging the privatization of public education. She reveals the shocking lack of evidence behind many of the radical experiments being forced on our public school

children and families by misguided politicians and non-educators. Most important, she lays out a vision of evidence-based, authentic education reforms that hold great promise for America to lead and inspire the world again.

Editor's Note: Each month, primarily, the National Affairs Committee will offer a short review of a recent book worthy of our attention.

FCDC South Regional Report— Matthew Bell

Yes, veterans are Democrats! At the April 8 FCDC Steering Committee meeting, Providence member and DPVA Veterans and Military Families Caucus secretary Howard Foard addressed how Vets are Democrats and spoke of ways we can reach out to Vets in our Fairfax County community. Greg Brandon, who spent 17 years as a surface warfare officer in the Navy, moved to form an FCDC Veterans and Military Families standing committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Around the Region

- The Mount Vernon District Democratic Committee hosted the first 8th Congressional District Candi-

dates Forum in Fairfax County on April 12. Held at Mt. Vernon High School, the event was attended by over 300 people. All Democratic primary candidates participated in the debate. Visit <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VnS0dnrk7cs> to view the debate.

- The Lee District Democratic Committee's Opening Day event was a success! Over 100 people attended the annual event, including outgoing Congressman Jim Moran. Congressman Moran was recognized at the event by Supervisor Jeff McKay and others for

his decades of service to the community. Visit <http://www.leedems.org/>

- The Springfield Democrats have started knocking on doors for John Foust! On the first Saturday of April, Springfield Democrats knocked on hundreds of doors in the South Run precinct. They found out that many voters were excited to elect a Democrat from the 10th Congressional District for the first time since 1978! Silverbrook and Fairfax Station precincts are the next ones scheduled for door-to-door attention by the Springfield Dems.

The Democrat Monthly Trivia Contest

How to Enter: The promotion (contest period) begins at 8:00 AM on May 9, 2014, and ends at 11:59 PM on May 23, 2014. To be entered into the random drawing, all questions must be answered correctly. Submit your name, email address, and your answers to thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org. Limit one entry, email, per person per email address.

Eligibility Requirements: The contest is open and offered only to legal residents of Fairfax County over the age of 18 who are current FCDC members. Any FCDC employee and/or FCDC Steering Committee member and their immedi-

ate family members are not eligible to win the contest. To be eligible for the random drawing, entries must contain the correct answers to all five trivia questions.

Winner Selection and Criteria:

One winner who meets all the eligibility requirements will be selected randomly.

Prize: The donkey prize is valued at up to \$10.00.

General Rules: Click the link and read the rules before submitting .

<http://www.fairfaxdemocrats.org/about/thedemocrat/the-democrat-monthly-trivia-contest-fags/>

The Democrat Monthly Trivia Contest May 2014

May Contest Theme:
30 Years Ago (1984)

1. Who was the FCDC Chairman in 1984?
2. How many magisterial districts were there in Fairfax County in 1984?
3. How many Democratic Supervisors were on the Fairfax County Board in 1984? What were their names?
4. Who was our Lt. Governor in 1984?
5. Who was the U.S. Democratic VP candidate in 1984?

Submit your name, email address, and your answers to

thedemocrat@fairfaxdemocrats.org.

Limit one entry, email, per person per email

FCDC Sustainers Honor Roll

Join FCDC's Sustainer Society...

and make a commitment to support the ongoing operation of the Fairfax County Democratic Committee with monthly or annual contributions. FCDC needs you as a long term sustainer to assure future Democratic victories. Take a moment today and pledge your financial support.

[Click here to join today.](#)

Champion Level

\$166 per month/
\$2,000 per year

Winners Circle Level

\$100 per month/
\$1,200 per year

Benefactor Level

\$50 per month/
\$600 per year

Leadership Circle Level

\$25 per month/
\$300 per year

Friend Level

\$10 per month/
\$120 per year

(Please note FCDC membership is not included in sustainer contribution.)

Champions

Burma Bochner. Rick Bochner. Tom Greeson . Nancy & Edward Rice . Donna Rostant . Marie Ridder

Winner's Circle

Cesar Del Aguila . Nancy & Omar Kader . Sue Langley . Hon. Scott Surovell . Hon. Patricia Ticer

Benefactors

Bill Ackerman . Nancy & Ron Bleeker . Dana & Ron Cimino . Rick & Mary Dotson . James Ebbitt . Jerrold Foltz . Robert Haley . Janyce Hedetniemi . Bob & Mary Ann Hovis . Hon. Gerry Hyland . Molly & Bill Lynch . Cathleen McCabe. Mary Lou Melley . Senator Toddy Puller . Stanley Richards . Lynda Robb . Hon. Jim Scott . Nancy & Rex Simmons . Jehanne Arslan & Robert Tsien

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