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News and Updates from the Cville Dems (7/2/25)

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Paul Riley is Running for the Fifth District Next Year

On Wednesday, July 2, longtime Crozet resident and retired U.S. Army officer Paul Riley formally [announced his candidacy](#) for the U.S. House of Representatives in 2026, for Virginia's 5th Congressional District. [Paul](#) is a pro-business moderate, focusing on restoring economic security, and making government work for working Americans,



not just the wealthiest. A Bronze Star Awardee, he aims to protect earned benefits and healthcare for all, and will help veterans receive the support they have earned.

Election Results from the Va. Primary

It's exciting to be on the other side of the primary election. Now we can work together to get these candidates elected for a better Virginia!

Governor: [Rep. Abigail Spanberger](#)

Lieutenant Governor: [State Sen. Ghazala Hashmi of Chesterfield](#)

Attorney General: [Former Va. Delegate Jay Jones of Norfolk](#)

Charlottesville City Council (in ballot order):

- Juandiego Wade
- Jen Fleisher



“Thursdays at Ix Park” Every Week, 5-7pm

Thursdays at Ix this year began with a couple dozen volunteers on June 26, 2025.

"I was surprised we had so many volunteers on our first night, considering the heat and the *Disappearing in America* rally occurring at the same time" says Mary Ann Harris, who coordinates all of our Ix activities. "I'm very encouraged, and I invite everyone to participate when they can."

Every Thursday, we will meet at Ix Park from 5-7pm, on the grass outside of Brazos Tacos. Please bring a chair or blanket to sit on and, if needed, something to write on. If you'd like a drink or bite to eat as you write, you can sit under the umbrellas at Brazos Tacos. If the

weather is bad, we meet inside Brazos Tacos. This year you'll only need to sign in once, not each time you come out to lx.

The Cville Dems are working together with the Coordinated Campaign (Abigail for Governor and other statewide races), and activities include canvassing, calling, and writing postcards. Texting banks may begin soon, too. We'll also be helping Lily Franklin in the Blacksburg (VA-41) House of Delegates District with cards, calls, and texts. She lost by only 183 votes last time.

For anyone who doubts we're serious this year, see the photo above of the 10,000 stamps we have at-the-ready! The only stamp choice the day we bought them was the red maple leaves – is someone at USPS having fun?

We'll write postcards for Lily the first week of July because staff for the Coordinated Campaign will be attending a training and can't be with us to provide materials. If you can help more, go to mobilize.us/spanbergerforgovernor.



Knock on Doors for Abigail for Governor

Turn out to canvass for the important governor's race:

- **Saturday, July 5, 10am and 1pm**, meet at 2407 Jefferson Park Avenue. We'll be talking to Lean Democrats and Strong Democrats who don't always vote.

Check [here](#) for other dates and times.

**Summer Bash will be
August 23, 5-7pm**

Save this date — Saturday, August 23, 5-7pm, for our big night of the year, the Cville Dems Summer Bash. This year, tickets for the festive night with speakers and a fine meal from Pearl Island Catering in the (air conditioned!) Carver Rec Center will be \$40 per person, and sponsorships are available at the levels of \$125, \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$5,000.



Whether as a sponsor or as an individual, [go to ActBlue now](#) to get your tickets, and stay tuned for more information! This is our only fundraiser of the year, so we really appreciate all the support you can give us.



Meet our New Intern, Tyler Heron

Tyler is a rising junior at James Madison University studying English. He's already helped us organize materials in our storage unit. He's also worked with our communications group and will start up again in August (after completing another intervening internship in July!) to help our Dem candidates to victory in the fall.

A lifelong Charlottesville resident, he's passionate about youth engagement in Democratic politics. His favorite novels include Robert Penn Warren's *All the King's Men* and Pat Conroy's *My Losing Season*. His favorite TV show is *Arrested Development*, and he loves lasagna (and hates Mondays).

Tyler has previously worked for the JMU English department with the Digital Yoknapatawpha Project and at the Federal Executive Institute. After graduating from JMU, he hopes to pursue a career in law or teaching. He's very excited to help elect Democrats up and down the ballot, and looks forward to helping out in any way he can. Thank you, Tyler!!

Stay tuned, we may have another intern on board soon.

Read About New Laws in Virginia that Affect You

July 1 was the day that many of the laws

passed in the 2025 General Assembly Session went into effect. The Virginia Division of Legislative Services prepares a report called "[In Due Course](#)" each year that lays out "a selection of legislation passed by the 2025 Regular Session of the General Assembly that is likely to affect the daily lives of the citizens of Virginia." Thanks to Erin Monaghan, who keeps us updated on statehouse activities.



"Hands Off UVA!!" Friday 1pm July 4 Rotunda Rally

The public is invited to gather in urgent *interdependence* on the 4th of July at 1pm, at the University of Virginia Rotunda Jefferson statue (University Avenue side) for a peaceful rally demonstrating our collective dismay at the forced resignation of UVA President Jim Ryan.

His ousting was an attempted hostile takeover of the University by the federal government that flies in the face of historically struggled-for ideals, values, and civil rights that began 250 years ago.

A range of University and community stakeholders will speak briefly, and then there will be an open mic for public expression (2-minute limit per person). The rally was organized by UPRISE! Creative Collective C'ville and co-sponsored by Indivisible Charlottesville.

Reminders of Upcoming Events

- Every Thursday in July – volunteer at Ix Park, 5-7pm
- **July 4** – Public gathering at the Rotunda to protest the forced resignation of UVA Pres. Ryan others! (see above)
- **July 5** – Knock on Doors for Abigail, 10am & 1 pm, from 2407 Jefferson Park Avenue (see above)
- **Aug. 23** – Summer Bash, 5-7pm, Carver Rec Center (see above)

Partner Organizations

Our friends the [UVA Dems](#), [Albemarle Dems](#), [Greene County Dems](#), [Nelson County Dems](#), and the [Charlottesville Area Young Democrats](#) are doing good things too, check them out!

<https://cville Dems.org>

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Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

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