

C'VILLE DEMS

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Newsletter



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Website

News and Updates from the Cville Dems (3/17/2023)

2 easy ways you can support Cville Dems today:

- Forward this to friends who aren't politically engaged but might want to know what the Cville Dems do and stand for
- Like/Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Mastodon](#), and [Instagram](#) (and like some of our posts!)

Mark Your Calendars!

- **3/20 - 4/6** time period for candidates to file for state & local primary elections
- **3/23 6pm** Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention meeting (see below)
- **3/27** Cville Dems Full Committee meeting (see below)
- **3/28 7pm** "Act Justly, Love Mercy" — Bryan Stevenson (Equal Justice Initiative founder) and UVA President Jim Ryan in conversation at John Paul Jones Arena
- **3/31** deadline for public comments to save Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) (see below)
- **4/25 9am** (rescheduled) Rally at Charlottesville Circuit Court, 315 E. High Street to support Swords into Plowshares, court support afterwards
- **5/05 - 6/17** Primary Election Early Voting (see registration info below)

- **6/02** Cville Dems 2023 *Summer Bash* fundraiser (see below)
 - **6/20** June Primary election (see registration info below)
 - **9/30** 5th District *Dems Extravaganza* (details coming soon!)
-

Wishing everyone a good St. Patrick's Day!

Many of us need a little pickup after UVA Basketball's disappointing NCAA exit yesterday...but congratulations to the Hoos on another very successful season.



Meet the June Candidates (6/20 Primaries!)

We'll be tracking the local primary electoral races on our [website](#), but when this newsletter was finalized, here's what we knew about the candidates in 2023 Charlottesville primary election races.

Virginia Senate District 11

Senator Creigh Deeds (<https://www.senatordeeds.com>)

Delegate Sally Hudson (<https://sallyforvirginia.com>)

Virginia House of Delegates District 54

Katrina Callsen (<https://www.katrinacallsen.com>)

Bellamy Brown (<https://www.bellamybrownfordelagate.com>)

Dave Norris (<https://votefordave.org>)

Note: David Brown withdrew 2/22 from the House race, Dashad Cooper on 3/14.

Charlottesville City Council (3 seats)

Michael Payne (michaelpayneforville@gmail.com)

Lloyd Snook (<https://www.lloydsnookforcouncil.com>)

Dashad Cooper - information pending

In addition to what's on the web and in our social media, we're giving each candidate some space near the bottom of each newsletter to communicate with you.

Note: as a matter of policy, the Cville Dems don't take sides in primaries, but we'll continue to share information about these races

through June in an even-handed way.



Full Committee Meeting: Monday 3/27 6:30pm

We'll email the agenda and meeting details a day or two before the meeting.

[In each issue we're flagging an Action Item for our members to do something concrete; show up, contact people, make a donation, whatever feels right to you. Let us know your ideas for future items!]

Action Item: Save Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) from Gov. Youngkin!

Gov. Youngkin continues to work on gutting the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI), a crucial and highly popular multi-state cooperative effort to rein in greenhouse gasses. He couldn't get the General Assembly to change the law that brought Virginia into RGGI, so now he's trying to use changes to administrative regulations to get what he wants.

We need to stand up for RGGI! Between now and the end of March, please post a comment opposing the governor's actions on the State's [feedback portal](#).

Some background information:

"...RGGI is one of Virginia's top global warming solutions and is currently under attack. We need you to show your support for RGGI and protect this critical program." [Environment Virginia, 3/15/23](#)

"Gov. Glenn Youngkin wants to remove Virginia from the initiative, also known as RGGI — pronounced “Reggie” — a consortium of 12 East Coast states where energy producers trade emission reductions for credits, or buy credits to emit carbon dioxide past the capped amount." [Richmond Times-Dispatch, 3/16/23](#)

"At a press conference organized by the League of Conservation Voters



Thanks to RGGI, for the first time ever localities all across the Commonwealth have access to dedicated state funding to perform critical flooding resiliency planning and projects.

Thursday, William and Mary student Philip Ignatoff touted the benefits of the funding RGGI participation is generating and argued Virginia should lower energy bills through electricity rate reform." *Virginia Mercury, 3/16/23*



TOWNHALL MEETING

EMPOWERING FAMILIES:
Keeping Our Community Safe from Gun Violence

Have Your Say

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 - 6PM-7:30PM
AUDITORIUM: BUFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL
1000 CHERRY AVENUE | CHARLOTTESVILLE

Special Guests

Carl Murray
Coast, Student Safety
ACPS

Kim A. Powell
COO, Charlottesville
Public Schools

Herb Dickerson
Exec. Director
B.U.C.K. Squad

Senator Creigh Deeds

Charlottesville
Chief of Police
Michael P. Kochis

For more info:
info@wbupto.org or 434.282.6486

SUPPORTED BY:

Town Hall Meeting (Thursday 3/23) on Gun Violence

The Charlottesville Coalition for Gun Violence Prevention (CCGVP) has organized a Town Hall to be held at Buford Middle School on Thursday March 23 from 6:00-7:30pm.

Speakers will include Charlottesville Police Chief Michael Kochis, State Sen. Creigh Deeds, and representatives from the BUCK Squad and Charlottesville and Albemarle County Public Schools.

If you have ideas to share, or want to know what you can do to help stop the violence, please attend or show your support in other ways!



Community Forums

Long-Range Planning

Candidate Forum (+ Zoning Forum?)

The Cville Dems will definitely be sponsoring one or more candidate forums, probably in coordination with the Albemarle Dems; we'll announce details as soon as they're worked out.

We're also wondering if people (you!?) would find it helpful for us to

sponsor an informational forum about the upcoming Draft Zoning Plan (Module 1 of 3 available [here](#)) that City Council will be voting on in June. The party hasn't taken a position, but it's an important issue and we're wondering if a panel representing a wide variety of stakeholders would be valuable in sharing the many perspectives held within the community.

So:

1. Would you like to see some kind of panel/forum on Zoning?
2. If so, what groups/people would you be most interested in hearing from?
3. Any other thoughts about this that you'd like to share with us?

Please send your thoughts to cvilledemschair@gmail.com



Cville Dems Summer 2023 Bash (Annual Fundraiser)

We've tentatively set Friday, June 2, for our annual dinner/fundraiser.

The plan is to once again have it outside on the lawn of the Jefferson School City Center, this year with chicken and vegetarian dinner options.





We'll share further details as they fall into place. It's not too early to sign up as a sponsor, and it's not too early to be an early bird from your precinct! So sign up today using [ActBlue](#)!!

Election Time = Voter Registration Time

Suzanne Michels and Jim Nix have identified all the ways you can register to vote and some important information about registering/voting this year:



- Now through 5/30 at your Registrar's Office, or online, or at a registration drive
- When you early vote at your Registrar's Office, 5/31-6/17 (same-day registration)
- On Election Day 6/20 at your local precinct (when you use same-day registration at *your* precinct, you vote with a provisional ballot which will be counted unless there's some other problem).

And as for actually voting:

- Early voting for the Primary is done 5/5-6/17 at the Registrars' Office (Monday-Fridays, *and* there will be some Saturday times announced too).
- On (Primary) Election Day, 6/20, go to your local precinct polling place any time from 6am-7pm.

Important:

- City Council approved some changes to precinct boundaries and changed a few polling places. Once these changes take effect on April 7, the Registrar will start sending letters to the 40% of Charlottesville voters who will have new voting locations starting with the June 20 primary.
- Whenever you cast your ballot, bring an ID that meets Virginia's criteria (see lists in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese)!
- For more information, call the City of Charlottesville Registrar at 434-970-3250 (unless you're one of our Albemarle friends, in which case call the County Registrar at 434-972-4173).

NOTE: Our mighty and always-active Voter Registration Team welcomes new members. It's fun to be out talking to people in the

spring, and there are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! If you might be interested, email Suzanne:
suzemichels@gmail.com

Help Wanted: Co-Chair

We have an opening for a party co-chair! Good people skills (we always have bridges that need building) and good organizational skills are two very desirable qualities. If you or someone you know might be a good candidate, please let us know by emailing John at cvilledemschair@gmail.com.



Messages from the June Primary Candidates

We're giving each candidate 1/3 of a page in each issue for ads and/or informational updates, with the candidate sequence rotating each time to be fair. So without further ado...

KatrinaCALLSEN DELEGATE


Katrina Callsen Campaign News:

Deputy City Attorney and Albemarle County School Board Chair, [Katrina Callsen](#) was interviewed on the I Love C'ville show on Friday and [you can watch it here](#):

If you are already on board with Katrina's campaign, you can now [request a yard sign](#)

and if you are still making up your mind, you've got several **upcoming chances to meet her**:

- March, 16 @ 5:30 PM [A North Downtown Wine and Cheese Meetup](#)
 - March, 19 @ 3:00 PM [an afternoon social in Oak Forest](#)
 - April, 1 @ 10:30 AM [Coffee and Conversation at the Northside Library](#)
 - April, 2 @ 4:00 PM [A Get together at the Carriage Hill Apartments Clubhouse](#)
 - April, 8 @ 9:30 AM [A Breakfast and Meetup at the Central Library](#)
 - April, 9 @ 4:00 PM [A Rugby Neighborhood Wine and Cheese](#)
 - April, 14 @ 5:30 PM [A Belvedere Neighborhood Wine and Cheese](#)
-

VOTE FOR 
**DAVE
NORRIS**
FOR DELEGATE



In case you have not heard, we are having our very first **Canvass Launch** with **Sen. Deeds** this **Saturday March 18** in Charlottesville at both **10:00AM & 2:00PM**.

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP NOW](#)



MICHAEL PAYNE
Charlottesville City Council 

You can connect with our campaign at:

twitter.com/MPayneCville

[Facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville](https://facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville)

or email us at: michaelpayneforcville@gmail.com

and donate at: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/michaelforcville> – Michael Payne



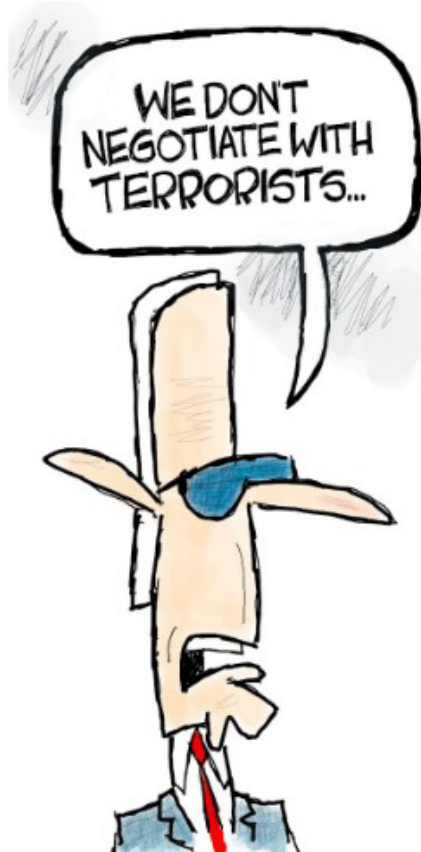
Getting Ready for UVA/Bert Ellis Shenanigans

Bert Ellis, long-time reactionary and new UVA Board of Visitors member, has already telegraphed his intention to shake things up at UVA even if he's restrained from cutting down First Amendment-protected student political speech he doesn't like on Grounds.

The *Washington Post* profiled him as "controversial board newcomer who has voiced skepticism of diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, been protective of the legacy of Jefferson and advocated for a new course for the flagship university. They also underscore mounting political tensions throughout public higher education as Republican governors and their appointees challenge university culture, norms and operations."

We're thinking it might be good to identify some Dems in advance as a quick reaction group that would be ready if/when Ellis and others in his Gov. Youngkin-appointed cohort try to push through changes that threaten academic and/or personal freedom at UVA. We'd coordinate with the UVA Dems on this. Note that there may be pressure from the UVA Administration on faculty and students *not* to speak publicly about Ellis or other Board of Visitor actions.

If anyone's interested in being part of such a group, please contact cvilledemschair@gmail.com



Volunteer Profile: Deborah Arenstein

Deborah Arenstein is new to the Cville Dems, joining our Communications Team last month, but she's been active in the Virginia nonprofit scene for several decades as a Development and Fundraising professional. She spent her early years in Petersburg and then Richmond, graduated from VCU with a BFA in Theater, spent time in NYC pursuing acting, and then returned to Virginia and landed in the nonprofit world. Her formative development job was at the Virginia League for Planned Parenthood (this was in the days when abortion clinics were being bombed) followed by the YWCA of Richmond, raising funds for their domestic violence and sexual assault services, and their preschool for homeless children.

She took a break from the nonprofit world when she moved her family to Free Union in 2006 to live on a small farm; most of her time was spent herding children, chickens and goats. In 2008, she joined the Board of the Free Union Country School, completed the CNE Board Academy program in 2015, and joined the Live Arts Board (2016-2022) as well as performing in a few plays there!

Moving to the City of Charlottesville (Walker precinct) provided opportunities for her to use her nonprofit experience to support a number of local nonprofits in the areas of fundraising, strategic planning, and governance. She and partner Larry Goldstein, the [Board Whisperers](#), continue to offer these services to community groups.

In December 2020, she joined Blue Ridge Abortion Fund as their first Director of Development, and we worked with her there on three 2022 events (May protest when the draft SCOTUS opinion to overturn Roe v Wade was leaked, June online panel on the likely impacts of the overturn, and the September Dahlia Lithwick/Amy Woolard talk).

In addition to her Board Whisperers work, Deborah's currently working part-time with LEAP (Local Energy Alliance Program), consulting with groups who are fighting the Mountain Valley Pipeline, and helping as an occasional poll worker at Walker.

The overt Democratic/Republican divide on the abortion issue, and our local party's work with BRAF, led her to think about participating in party politics. She cares deeply about abortion access, racial and environmental justice, and supporting families of all kinds, so feels deeply aligned with inclusive Dems who care about the health and dignity of *everyone* in the community, vs. Republican-style "angry bumper sticker" demagoguery.

So... here she is! Deborah is very interested in working with us on organizational issues, looking for community-centric approaches to "expand the tent" and share power more broadly.

Now that her two children are off flexing their liberal progressive muscles at college, she has a bit more time for interests like performing improv theater, kickboxing, and gardening.

PS— If you've done a double take on her photo and maybe feel like you recognize her from somewhere... yes indeed, that was her playing a drug addict in Spike Lee's 1991 movie "Jungle Fever" (mystery solved!).



Dues are Due

Treasurer Jason Vandever reminds us that 2023 dues (kept at the same affordable \$15 rate for many years) can be paid via [Act Blue](#), or by mailing a check (payable to Cville Dems) to Charlottesville Democratic Committee, PO Box 916, Cville 22902. If you're already set up in Act Blue for a monthly donation, that recurring donation covers you and you needn't do anything (convenient!).



June 2023 Guidance for Potential Candidates in Primary Elections

Not relevant to most of us, but if you're thinking of/planning to run in a Democratic primary for a local or state elected office, we've compiled a [cheat sheet for most of what you need to know](#). The filing period is between March 20 and April 6, so it's

Preaching **BEYOND** the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)



"Over the course of about four hours of arguments, a federal [Trump-appointed] judge in Texas asked questions that suggested he is seriously considering undoing the US Food and Drug Administration's approval of a medication abortion drug and the agency's moves to relax the rules around its use." [CNN, 3/15/23](#)

"A group of Democratic senators introduced [new legislation](#) Tuesday to repeal Trump-era bank deregulations they say created the conditions that allowed for the dramatic collapse of Silicon Valley Bank and the closure of [Signature Bank](#) since Friday....'The weakened rules permitted banks like SVB and Signature to load up on risks, run up their profits, pay their executives giant bonuses, and eventually blow the banks to pieces," said [Elizabeth] Warren."
[CNBC, 3/14/2023](#)



"Sanofi announces the out-of-pocket cost of insulin will be capped at \$35, becoming the last of the three major drugmakers to cut prices....[Pres. Biden's] Inflation Reduction Act capped out-of-pocket insulin costs for seniors on Medicare at \$35 per month, but did not offer relief to those younger than 65 who rely on the drug...a new Medicaid rebate policy is a driving force behind the cuts. Starting in 2024, the rule will penalize drugmakers that raise the price of their drugs faster than the rate of inflation." [NBC News, 3/16/23](#)

Gov. Youngkin comes up with a murky new (voucher-lite) \$30M education program:

"To Schuyler VanValkenburg, a Democratic delegate from Henrico County running for the Virginia Senate who is among the few teachers in the General Assembly, these grants are, in effect, vouchers — public funds financing private education; in this instance, tutoring for students from comparatively affluent families." *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 3/15/23



Partner Organizations

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

Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")

<https://cvilledems.org>

PO Box 916, Charlottesville, VA 22902

Contact us: cvilledemschair@gmail.com

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

Co-chair: John McLaren

Co-chair: vacant

Newsletter Editor: Dan Doernberg

Newsletter Production: Bo Sacks

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