

C'VILLE DEMS

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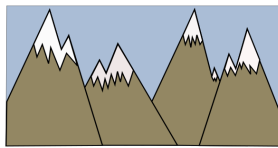
News and Updates from the Cville Dems (4/27/2023)

3 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!)
- Come have fun at our [Summer Bash fundraiser](#) (below).

Mark Your Calendars!

- **4/30** Deadline for [comments](#) on Modules 1 and 2 of the still-DRAFT Zoning ordinance (see informational forum below)
- **5/05 - 6/17** Primary Election Early Voting (see registration info below)
- **5/07** 6-8pm Rep. Jennifer McClellan headlines [Albemarle Dems fundraiser](#) at The Greencroft Club
- **6/02** 6-8pm Cville Dems 2023 Summer Bash fundraiser (see below)
- **6/10** Kids 10:30am–Noon, adults Noon-6pm — “Celebration of Tales” non-stop storytelling at The Center at Belvedere. Information: celebrationoftales@gmail.com
- **6/20** June Primary election (see registration info below)
- **9/30** 5th District Dems Extravaganza (details coming soon)



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Action Item:



Spread the Word about the Republican's Disastrous Proposed Spending Cuts

On April 19, Speaker Kevin McCarthy finally put forward a Republican proposal for cutting federal spending ([though not a full budget alternative](#), a way of masking the harmful effects); he and his Republican colleagues threaten to not raise the debt ceiling and cause the government to default on the obligations past Congresses have approved if their demands aren't met. It's estimated that the Republican proposals would cut domestic spending by an incredible 22%.

Make sure your friends and family know just how much harm such massive cuts would cause, especially to the most vulnerable Americans. Some specific effects:

- "Thirty million fewer healthcare visits. Fewer staff, increased claims backlog, longer wait times for benefits. Almost a \$30 billion shortfall for veterans funding." [Military Times, 4/24/23](#)
- "...kick 300,000 children out of child care and Head Start, slash nutrition services for more than 1 million seniors and turn off the heat in 5 million low-income homes." [MSNBC, 4/23/23](#)
- "...make healthcare more expensive and less accessible for 2 million vulnerable people who rely on community health centers." [MSNBC, 4/23/23](#)
- Education Secretary Miguel Cardona "said the budget cuts would hurt students and student loan borrowers in part by eliminating loan forgiveness, 'pulling 60,000 educators and support staff from schools' and 'derail(ing) the response to the youth mental health crisis in this country.'" [USA Today, 4/25/23](#)
- "...make college more expensive by reducing the maximum Pell Grant award by nearly \$1,000 for the 6.6 million recipients, as well as 80,000 who will no longer receive those grants." [MSNBC, 4/23/23](#)

A good start would be to ["like" and retweet the White House's Twitter comment](#) on this monstrosity.

REPORT: Executive Committee Meeting (4/24)

Our first in-person Executive Committee meeting since before the pandemic (not counting some hybrid meetings) was held in Rives Park, and the weather thankfully cooperated. Highlights:



Jason Vandever gave a Treasurer's Report; we're well within our budget.

We discussed sending a postcard to registered voters in town to make sure that they know about the June 20 Primary.

The precinct lines for Charlottesville have been redrawn, as the City does every 10 years, and when this happens it poses a few temporary but interesting technical challenges we deal with, e.g.:

- two precincts no longer exist;
- there are two new precincts that technically have no one representing them, because the precincts did not exist at the time of our last reorganization (and our bylaws don't address this scenario!);
- some Precinct reps no longer live in the precincts that they represent due to the redrawn lines;
- Mike Cameron and Mary Ann Harris have found a very few errors in the VoteBuilder database that put people in the wrong precinct (we're advising the DPVA's tech team of these).

To deal with this short-term, it was agreed that:

- A proposed amendment to the bylaws will be presented for the May 22 Full Committee meeting.
- In the meantime, precinct leaders will develop an ad hoc reorganization to handle the upcoming election.

We're looking for suggestions on how to schedule the May 22 Full Committee meeting. We need a quorum to approve the change in the bylaws, so turnout is important, and it's possible that a Zoom meeting would get a higher turnout. On the other hand, if we have another park meeting, we can invite the Primary candidates to chat with people before and after, and *that* could help drive turnout. Members are encouraged to share your views with John McLaren: cvilledemschair@gmail.com .

Nancy Damon updated us on the progress of our upcoming June 2 Summer Bash fundraiser (see below!), on the lawn at the Jefferson School African-American Heritage Center. Our goal is \$10,000; so far we have \$8,000 in sponsorship pledges... please pitch in and help us reach our goal!

There was broad agreement that our party *should* host an information forum on the City's zoning reform process (see below).

Nancy reminded us of the opportunity to once again be a sponsor of (and table at) the Chihamba Festival (7/29). The Festival is also hosting a fundraising ball on June 3, and it would be great if local Dems attended that event too.

Based on feedback from the State Senate candidates, who told us there have already been five informational forums scheduled, we decided *not* to hold another one of our own.

Madison Cummings reminded us of the Albemarle Dems fundraiser May 7, 6-8pm, at Greencroft. In the past, a good number of Charlottesville Democrats have attended this event, and we encourage people to attend this year as well! Rep. Jennifer McClellan will be the guest speaker.



(6/20 Primaries!)

Here are the names as they'll appear on the ballot (for the first and third races, in ballot order):

Charlottesville City Council (3 seats)

- Robert F. Fenwick Jr. — overview info pending from candidate
- John Lloyd Snook Jr. (lloydsnookforcouncil.com) — overview info pending from candidate
- Michael Keith Payne (michaelpayneforville@gmail.com) — [overview info](#)
- Natalie Oschrin (nat4cville.com) — [overview info](#)
- Dashad Lorenzo Cooper (dashadcooper.com) — [overview info](#)

State Senate District 11

(ballot order will be determined later by drawing straws)

- Sally Lindquist Hudson (sallyforvirginia.com) — [overview info](#)
- Robert Creigh Deeds (senatordeeds.com) — [overview info](#)

House of Delegates District 54

- Katrina Elizabeth Callsen (katrinacallsen.com) — [overview info](#)
- David M. Norris (votefordave.org) — [overview info](#)
- Bellamy Warren Brown (bellamybrownfordelegate.com) — [overview info](#) (partial)

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.

We're tracking these races on our website and giving candidates some access to our social media... and we're offering each candidate some space towards the bottom of each newsletter for campaign information/graphics.

2nd Annual Summer Bash Fundraiser!

The 2023 Bash will be an outdoor event, with a guest speaker to be announced later, that's taking the place of the traditional spring pasta supper. Last year we had a great time!!

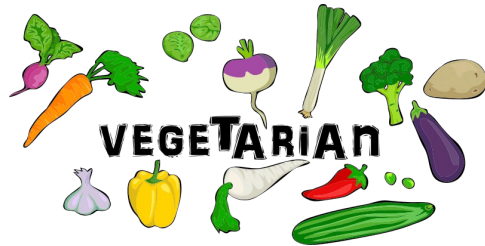
- **Date:** Friday, June 2
- **Time:** 6-8pm
- **Cost (includes dinner!):** \$25 per person (only \$15 if this is your very first Bash!)
- **Location:** on the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC) lawn, 233 4th St. NW
- **Food:** fried chicken or vegetarian dinner options.
- **Signup:** <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2023summerbash>





Having the event right before the June 20 primary also gives us the perfect chance to chat with our City Council, House of Delegates, and State Senate candidates.

Cville Dems members signing up to be event sponsors are our main source of funding for everything we do the entire year: supporting campaigns, writing to newly registered voters, providing scholarships, and generally encouraging people to exercise their rights as citizens.



Sponsorship levels:

- \$100 or \$250 (both include 2 dinner tickets)
- \$500 (includes 4 dinner tickets)

You can also buy two tickets and bring a friend... or bring your whole precinct! If you'll be away, you can donate your tickets so some newcomers can come.

We've started "dialing for dollars" to invite those of you who can afford to become sponsors.

If you'd like to help call people, please contact Nancy Damon: nancycdamon@gmail.com or 434-295-6774 or 434-953-6890.



Biden/Harris Announce Re-election Bids!

Here are the official campaign website and donation pages:

- <https://joebiden.com>
 - https://secure.actblue.com/donate/web_bfp_launch
-



Primary 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.
- Same-day registration when you early vote 5/31-6/17 at your Registrar's Office.
- 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 5/5-6/17 (starts in 8 days!!) at the Registrar's Office (Monday-Fridays, *and* there will be Saturday voting on 6/10 and 6/17).
- On (Primary) Election Day, 6/20, go to your local precinct polling place any time from 6am-7pm.

Related notes:

City Council approved some changes to precinct boundaries and polling locations that took effect on April 7, in time for the June primaries. Around the end of the month, the Registrar's Office will start sending letters to around 40% of Charlottesville voters whose polling locations were changed.

Whenever you cast your ballot, bring an ID that meets Virginia's criteria (see lists of acceptable IDs in [English](#), [Spanish](#), [Korean](#), and [Vietnamese](#)). If you don't have an ID, or forget to bring one, you can sign a form affirming your identity and you'll still be able to vote a regular ballot.

For more information, call the City of Charlottesville Registrar at 434-970-3250 (Albemarle readers should call the County Registrar at 434-972-4173).

Voter Registration Time = VR Team Time!

Q: Why does our wonderful voter

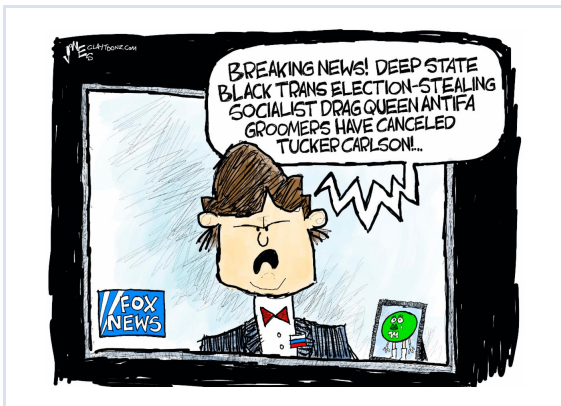
registration team, led by Suzanne Michels and Barbara Shenefield, table at events at least once every weekend (often more) during the spring, summer, and fall?



A: Because Cville has one of the highest Dem percentages and turnout rates in the state! When we register a voter here, the chances are very high that they'll vote Democratic (and yeah, giving everyone a voice *is* the right thing to do!).

At our event tents we register new voters, including those who've recently moved to (or within!) our area, answer questions about the upcoming primary, and help voters figure out where they vote, either early (hint...at their Registrar's Office!) or on Election Day (40% of city residents have had changes made to their precinct locations, so that will require some thought!). We will also help folks who need to have their right to vote restored file the paperwork to start that process.

There are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! Please check out this [online signup form](#) to see what dates we need people; we'd love to have more folks pitch in (and if you're even a little bit of an extrovert, you'll enjoy it!). Or email suzemichels@gmail.com if you might be interested.



Forums for June Primary candidates

Here's where these stand:

House of Delegates — We held one last night (photo left) at the Jefferson School, co-sponsored by the Albemarle

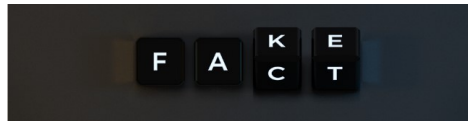
Dems. 40+ people attended, and a welcome from moderator Karen Combs and opening statements by the candidates (Amy Laufer and Kellen Squire in District 55, then Dave Norris, Bellamy Brown, and Katrina Callsen in our District 54) about their priorities, they all fielded a wide variety of questions including health, gun safety, the environment, housing, education, and marijuana policy. As this newsletter goes out, we're trying to confirm that the video came out OK and can go online soon.



City Council — We've started planning a forum for this race; details to be announced soon.

State Senate — The Executive Committee decided *not* to organize another forum (see Executive Committee meeting notes above).

Don't Myth This!



The Virginia Department of Elections has a helpful [Mythbusters](#) page where you can see common misperceptions and misinformation (and get the real facts!).



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 McLaren at cvilledemschair@gmail.com.

Messages from the June Primary Candidates

We're giving each candidate $\frac{1}{3}$ of a page in each issue for campaign information updates, with the candidate sequence rotating each time to be fair. So without further ado...

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I support affordable housing, walkable/bikeable communities with safe sidewalks, and putting resources towards underlying causes of housing, food, and job insecurity. Please visit my website, www.Nat4Cville.com, to learn more or get in touch.
I look forward to meeting and working for you!

MICHAEL PAYNE
Charlottesville City Council 

You can connect with our campaign at:

- twitter.com/MPayneCville

- [Facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville](https://www.facebook.com/MichaelPayneCville)
- michaelpayneforville@gmail.com
- donate at <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/michaelforville>

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KatrinaCALLSEN
DELEGATE



**Building a Brighter Future
for Virginia District 54
Deputy City Attorney and
Albemarle County School Board
Chair, [Katrina Callsen](#) is running
for the seat being vacated by
Delegate Sally Hudson. To show
your support, please [request a yard
sign](#). To learn more about Katrina,**

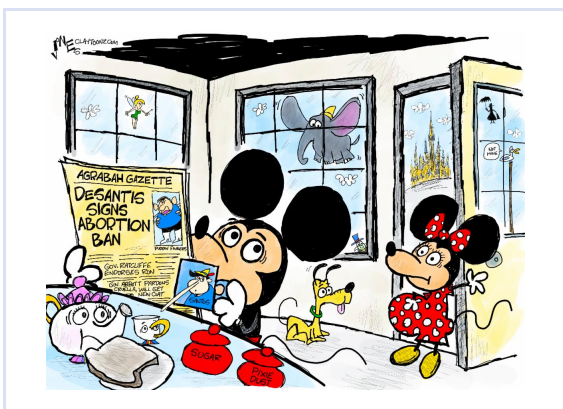
her recent endorsements or to volunteer, [visit her website](#).

Paid for by Katrina Callsen for Delegate



Visit the Bellamy Brown [Campaign Facebook page](#)

paid for by Bellamy Brown for Delegate



Cville Dems Zoning Plan Informational Forum is a GO!



At the April 24 Executive Committee meeting, we decided to move ahead and sponsor a June/July (post-primaries!) informational forum, likely an in-person event, about the City's upcoming Draft Zoning Plan (Modules #1 and #2 of three are now available). Our party hasn't taken a position on the issue yet.

Dan Doernberg is looking for a few volunteers to help him organize the event; if you would like input into how the event is organized and pitch in a bit on the logistics front, please contact him:

communications@cville Dems.org .

So far, most of the informational events have either been the City presenting the plan or presentations from local activist group Livable Cville; there's not been an event where people can directly hear the

perspectives of multiple stakeholders.

We're thinking that, in addition to being useful in and of itself, such an event can be part of our agenda of increasing outreach to the community. Working class and minority families are increasingly being priced out of the local housing market, and as Dems we want to make sure those concerns, and other concerns people may have, are fully addressed."



Volunteer Profile: Lyle Solla-Yates

Charlottesville's current Planning Commission Chair grew up in South Florida (Miami area) and at an early age became a passionate environmentalist; while in high school he started a group "Pals of Wildlife" (the name "Friends of Wildlife" was already taken!) that did recycling, fundraising for environmental groups, and other

projects. He arrived in Charlottesville in 1999 as a UVA first-year studying Urban and Environmental Planning, unknowingly joining the substantial cohort of students who came here and never left.

After four studious undergraduate years, he took a few years to bounce around exploring "the real world", which included jobs in retail and the wine industry and becoming *Charlottesville Tomorrow's* first intern. In 2005 he returned to his environmental and urban planning interests/roots and got a job with local architectural firm William McDonough + Partners, nationally-known for its innovative green architecture work. Soon after, while working there, he started work on a UVA Master's degree (again in Urban and Environmental Planning). Over the next two years he:

- Met his future wife Katherine Yates, a recently-graduated UVA English and theater major.
- Was part of the team that submitted successful applications to the federal National Register of Historic Places, and its Virginia equivalent, to qualify the Woolen Mills complex for historic preservation tax credits.
- Got his Masters! One high point: he found it fascinating to be digging into the history of what came to be the 2008 housing market crash with Prof. Bill Lucy and Satyendra Huja, the City's former director of strategic planning.

But... bad timing... he graduated into the depths of the 2008

recession and found limited opportunities. He worked as a cashier for a while and then got a job at The Nature Conservancy doing IT and procurement work, which he enjoyed, and stayed with them for 8 years. In 2019 he joined UVA's School of Architecture as Software Platforms and Technology Lead, managing and supporting hundreds of the school's 3rd party software packages.

In addition to helping us as Venable Precinct Chair, he spends long hours on his other volunteer gig, chairing the [Charlottesville Planning Commission](#). Taking that position was an outgrowth of his perennial interest in urban planning but also was motivated by personal experience: with his parents' help, he was able to buy a home on 10th Street at the bottom of the crash. Though he greatly benefitted from the property's subsequent appreciation, he's troubled that so many others have been hurt so badly by the housing market and regulatory policies:

- Many of the area's long-term homeowner and renters have been forced out by rising property taxes or rising rents.
- Many of his peers are no longer able to afford starter homes.

Lyle thinks that the zoning changes that City Council will be voting on this summer are the most far-reaching in our city's history, even greater than the 1964 changes that were part of the national turmoil around civil rights and "urban renewal"), that, surprisingly recently, prioritized single family zoning and parking capacity ("downzoning" that limited how property owners could use their properties) and led to the destruction of the Vinegar Hill community.

When not busy with Katherine and their 4-year-old daughter, or work and volunteering, Lyle enjoys biking, walking, acting (he's had one part with the Four County Players), and contributing to open-source software projects (don't ask him how many hours he's spent playing and contributing to the game *Cataclysm: Dark Days Ahead*).

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



Thanks to Sen. Schumer and the Senate Dems:

"The Senate will vote this week on a measure that would seek to remove a barrier to enshrining the Equal Rights Amendment in the U.S. Constitution, more than a half-century after Congress overwhelmingly passed the proposed amendment... [and] a century after the Equal Rights Amendment was first

introduced in Congress." [NBC News, 4/25/23](#)

"The Republican-controlled Montana House voted Wednesday to discipline Democratic state Rep. Zooley Zephyr, the state's first transgender lawmaker. Zephyr is barred from participating on the House floor for the remainder of the 2023 session, but will be allowed to vote remotely. Zephyr had been prevented by Republicans from debating a bill that would ban gender-affirming care for minors after telling her colleagues that they would have blood on their hands if it passed." [CBS News, 04/26/23](#)



Now that Montana is borrowing Tennessee Republicans' abuse-of-power techniques (with a side of transphobia), here's the latest Tennessee news about a Republican leader heavily involved in the very temporary (!) expulsion of two young black Democrats from its House of Representatives (for not following the rules... of decorum!!!):

"a non-profit watchdog group, the Campaign for Accountability (CFA), sent a letter to the United States Attorney in Nashville requesting a criminal investigation of Tennessee House Speaker Cameron Sexton (R). The request, which was also sent to the Tennessee District Attorney, centers on whether Sexton sought and received excessive per diem expenses....Sexton's secret purchase on a \$600,000 home in Nashville. CFA also notes that Sexton has admitted his family is based in Nashville, and not the Crossville district he represents two hours away." [Popular Information, 4/26/23](#)

"The Virginia Employment Commission has laid off nearly 160 employees because of anticipated loss in federal funding to support their jobs,



despite an ongoing effort to recover from a record number of claims for unemployment benefits during the COVID-19 pandemic....Youngkin proposed to include \$30 million in the revised two-year state budget as a line of credit for the VEC to use in future emergencies, but the assembly remains deadlocked over the spending plan because the Democratic-controlled Senate and Republican-controlled House of Delegates are divided over \$1 billion in tax cuts that the governor proposed in December." [Daily Progress,](#)

4/25/23 [Ed— in other words, the VEC is a victim of Gov. Youngkin's quest for yet more tax cuts]



"Bed, Bath & Beyond made plenty of mistakes that led to this week's [bankruptcy filing](#). Among the most consequential was the \$11.8 billion it has spent since 2004 to buy back its own shares... the money could have been better spent....share buybacks are also increasingly under fire.

President Joe Biden, a frequent critic of share repurchases, included a 1% tax on share repurchases in the Inflation Reduction Act passed by Democrats" [CNN, 4/25/23](#)

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>

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Contact us: cvilledemschair@gmail.com

Add me to the [mailing list](#)

Thank you for your support!

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