

C'VILLE DEMS

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Newsletter



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Website

News and Updates from the Cville Dems (5/25/2023)

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](#) and Summer Picnic (below).

[See the whole issue as a PDF](#)

You May *Only* Be Seeing Half of Our Newsletter!

Gmail has a size limit (maybe other email programs do too) and is only showing you part of this newsletter; to see the whole thing, click [here](#) to see this latest issue.

And please let us know if you have any problem reading this on your phone or tablet; we've heard there may be some issues!

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Now through 6/17** — Early Voting in Democratic Primary (see below)
- **5/27 8-11pm** — NAACP "[Spring Fling](#)" at The Center

at Belvedere

• **6/02 6-8pm** — Cville Dems 2023 Summer Bash fundraiser (see below)

• **6/04 4:00-6:30pm** — Martha Jefferson Neighborhood Assoc. Candidates Forums (4pm House of Delegates VA54, 5pm City Council). Info [here](#)

• **6/10 10:30-11:30am kids, 11:30am-6:00pm adults**— “Celebration of Tales” storytelling at The Center at Belvedere. Info: celebrationoftales@gmail.com

• **6/12 7pm** – NAACP forum for State Senate candidates (Zoom only)

• **6/20 6am-7pm** – June Primary election (see registration info below)

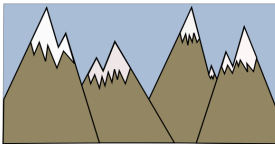
• **6/23 6pm** – DPVA's [Blue Commonwealth Gala](#) with speakers Rep. Bennie G. Thompson and Paul Begala

• **6/26 5:30pm** – Picnic with Albemarle Dems (see below)

• ~~6/26 Executive Committee meeting (to be rescheduled)~~

• **7/29** — Chihamba Festival at Washington Park

• **9/30** — 5th District Dems Extravaganza (details coming soon)



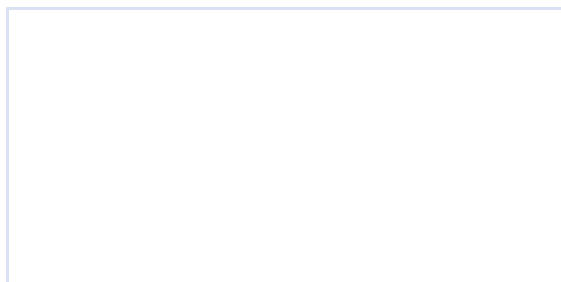
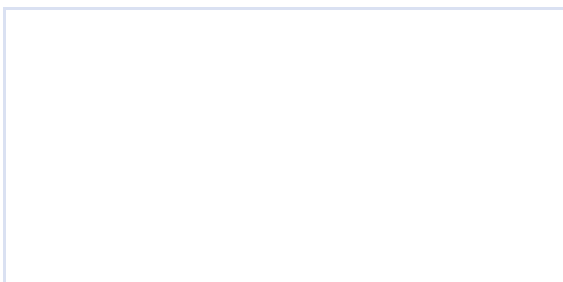
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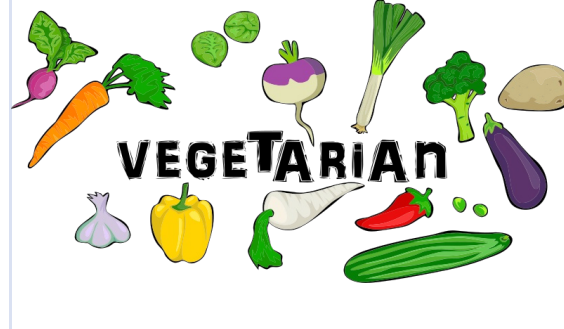


2nd Annual Summer Bash Fundraiser is just 8 Days Away!

The 2023 Summer Bash, our annual fundraiser, will be an outdoor event with Lynlee Thorne, Political Director of Rural GroundGame, as our guest speaker. 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 Summer Bash!)
- **Location:** on the lawn of the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center (JSAAHC), 233 4th St. NW
- **Food:** fried chicken or vegetarian dinner options
- **Signup:** <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2023summerbash>





Event sponsorships by our members are our main source of funding for everything we do: supporting campaigns, writing to newly registered voters, providing scholarships, and generally encouraging people to exercise their rights as citizens.

There's still time to be a sponsor, at a level of your choice:

- \$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! And you can always donate purchased tickets so some newcomers can afford to come.

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.

Meet the June Candidates (6/20 Primaries!)

Here are the candidates in all three races:

House of Delegates District 54

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



Charlottesville City Council (3 seats)

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

State Senate District 11

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

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 and graphics.



REPORT: May 22 Full Committee Meeting

The Full Committee met at the Forest Hills Park's picnic shelter. The highlights:

- 1) A number of candidates came early to meet and chat with members pre-meeting: Dave Norris, Bellamy Brown, Katrina Callsen (House of Delegates candidates), Michael Payne, Lloyd Snook (City Council candidates), and Amanda Burns (School Board candidate).
- 2) We had a quorum and were able to approve two bylaws changes necessitated by the City's changed precinct lines (see last issue for explanation). Thanks to Dave Chapman and Erin Monaghan for crafting the approved amendments.
- 3) Jason's Treasurer's Report focused on our June 2 Summer Bash Fundraiser (more above!). Lynlee Thorne, Rural GroundGame's Political Director, will be the guest speaker. So far, we've received or have pledges for \$12,000, getting close to our current \$13,000 goal. To purchase tickets, donate, or get more event info, please go to <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/2023summerbash> .
- 4) The voter registration team continues to do registrations and rights restorations at IX Park (Saturday mornings) and other locations (see below).
- 5) Jim Nix reported that the City Registrar's data shows early voting turnout is good: 670 votes already cast and over 1,500 mail ballots sent out.
- 6) Date and location of our Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum (held last night at Buford) was announced. We noted the 6/4 Martha Jefferson Neighborhood Assoc. candidates forum (see calendar above).

7) For our Monday June 26 picnic with the Albemarle County Dems we just have to organize a few games (see below).

8) The 5th District Dems hosted a summit for all committee chairs on April 29, focusing on committees that are operating in a “sea of red”. The 5th District’s Fall Extravaganza is scheduled for September 30 at the University of Lynchburg.

9) The Democratic Party of Virginia (DPVA) will hold its annual fundraiser on Friday 6/23 in Richmond. Rep. Bennie Thompson (of January 6 Commission fame!) and Paul Begala are announced speakers. For info and tickets go to bluecommonwealthgala.com .

10) DPVA has determined that the party will use conventions to select delegates for the 2024 Democratic National Convention, so we can look forward to local committee caucuses next year!



Summer "Fun in the Sun" Picnic with Albemarle Dems

The flyer below has all the details of the joint Cville Dems/Albemarle Dems picnic on June 26 at Darden Towe Park. Food, games, and lots of Democrats attending... what's not to like? Invite your family and friends to join you (just bring your own chairs and non-alcoholic beverages)! RSVP to: karencombs6522@gmail.com



Albemarle & Cville Democratic Party Picnic

Summer Fun in the Sun + Meet all our Candidates!!

- We provide: Hotdogs/Burgers/Vegan food options + games for all ages!
- You bring: a side dish or dessert, 1 chair/person, and your Democratic Spirit!
- Kid Friendly

Come meet all our great candidates and help launch their November campaigns!

- Where: Darden Park Picnic Shelter
- Date: Monday, June 26 2023
- Time: 5:30 PM — ??

RSVP to: karencombs6522@gmail.com

Paid for and Authorized by the Charlottesville Democratic and Albemarle Democratic Committees



Action Item: Don't Forget About Abortion Rights!

The Republicans' debt ceiling brinkmanship and Trump's legal problems are getting all the media attention, but it's vital that we not overlook the Republicans' concurrent state-level attacks (often successful!) on reproductive rights and women's health care. Make sure the people in your life know the human costs of these policies by sharing articles like this:



"...after sending out invitations to her baby shower she began experiencing symptoms, her membranes ruptured, and she was 'told by multiple doctors that the loss of our daughter was inevitable.' However, her doctors 'didn't feel safe enough to intervene as long as her heart was beating or until I was sick enough for the ethics board at the hospital to consider my life at risk and permit the standard health care I needed at that point — an abortion.'...She nearly died from sepsis, which is why the standard of care in such circumstances is to perform an abortion before the woman gets very sick and risks death....Not only did she suffer physical and mental trauma; she might not be able to have children in the future." [Washington Post, 4/28/23](#)



Primary Time = Voter Registration Time

- Early voting for the Democratic Primary (which in Charlottesville more or less determines the winners of the November General Elections!) started Friday May 5 at the Registrar's Office and runs

through June 17 (Mondays-Fridays, and there will be Saturday voting on 6/10 and 6/17).

- Register now through 5/30 at your Registrar's Office, or online, or at a registration drive.
- Do same-day registration when you early vote 5/31-6/17 at your Registrar's Office.
- Vote on Election Day 6/20 any time from 6am-7pm 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).

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 May 1 the Registrar's Office sent postcards to all registered Charlottesville voters**; if you didn't get one, or if you have any questions about voting or your voting status, call the City of Charlottesville Registrar at 434-970-3250 (Albemarle readers should call the County Registrar at 434-972-4173).

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.

Voter Registration Time = VR Team Time!

Our wonderful voter registration team, led by Suzanne Michels and Barbara Shenefield, will table at events at least once every weekend between now and

Election Day: registering new voters (including those who've recently moved to or within our area), helping voters figure out where they can vote, and helping folks who need to have their voting rights restored file the necessary paperwork.

There are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! You can visit 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.

We're looking for some extra volunteers for the June 20 primary so we can staff a table at each polling location (and the two discontinued ones, Tonsler and Alumni Hall), to thank voters for coming out and



hand out information about upcoming events, newsletter, volunteer opportunities, etc.



Report: Cville Dems' Charlottesville City Council Candidates Forum

The event went very well, with approximately

75 people attending in-person or via Zoom. The five candidates (Michael Payne, Lloyd Snook, Dashad Cooper, Natalie Oschrin, and Bob Fenwick) made opening statement and then addressed questions and shared their thoughts on a wide variety of topics, e.g. top priority if elected, fuel efficiency and carbon emissions reduction, affordable housing, transportation, housing development in the Rivanna River floodplain, gun violence, and more.

The recording of the forum is available [here](#) (welcoming remarks end at 3:30).

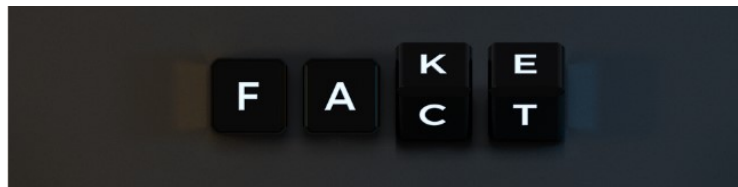
Thanks to the candidates for showing up for another forum, to Lewis Combs for nicely moderating, and to Buford Middle School for hosting!

Note: last night's forum was the last one we're sponsoring before the June 20 primary. We held a House of Delegates Forum on April 26 (recording is online [here](#)) at the Jefferson School, co-sponsored by the Albemarle Dems, and the Executive Committee decided in April that a Cville Dems State Senate forum wasn't needed since quite a few others were already scheduled.

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

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HIRING**
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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 cvilledechair@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...

SALLY
HUDSON
STATE SENATE

PAID FOR BY SALLY FOR VIRGINIA STATE SENATE

DEEDS

STATE SENATE



Paid for by Deeds for State Senate



A proven leader
with a bold vision
for positive,
progressive change.

www.VoteforDave.org

Paid for by Norris for Delegate



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

paid for by Bellamy Brown for Delegate

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 learn more: [See her new video!](#) To show your support, please [request a yard sign](#) and volunteer with the campaign. You can Meet Katrina:

- Saturdays 9am-Noon @ the [Ix Art Park Farmers](#)

Market

- Friday 6/2 @ 9am [Moms "Running Against Gun Violence" Roundtable Discussion](#)

Paid for by Katrina Callsen for Delegate

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>

Paid for by Michael Payne for Cville

DASHAD COOPER

 FOR CITY COUNCIL

Paid for by Dashad for Charlottesville



**NATALIE
OSCHRIN**
CITY COUNCIL

DEMOCRAT

NAT4CVILLE.COM

PAID FOR BY NATALIE OSCHRIN FOR CITY COUNCIL

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!

**Our Informational Zoning
Plan Forum is a GO!**

The Cville Dems will host a post-primary informational forum, likely a late summer or early fall in-person event, about the City's upcoming Draft Zoning Plan (Modules #1 and #2 of 3 are [now available](#)). Our party hasn't taken a position on the issue yet.



A planning group has started meeting to organize the forum and would like to know:

1. What issues are you most interested in (e.g. affordable housing, parking, density requirements, trees and environmental impacts)?
2. What are some of the takeaways and/or fears people have shared with you (in person or online)?
3. If you'd like to join our group!

For any or all of these, please reach out to us: communications@cville Dems.org .



Helping Dems Outside Our District

If your stomach churns when you only see red campaign signs in the surrounding counties, there's something you can do about it!

Rural GroundGame (RGG) provides services and support to brave candidates in conservative rural areas who are usually minimally funded and swimming

upstream in every way. RGG is currently talking with almost 30 campaigns that need assistance and intend to expand that number over the summer. In 2019, rural campaigns across the Commonwealth saw a 3-point increase in votes on average, but the campaigns that RGG helped (in its first year of operation!) saw an increase of 11 points!

And note:

- Even when rural candidates don't win, their presence in a race boosts Democratic turnout, and that can make a big difference in statewide races.
- As Dems start competing meaningfully everywhere, Republicans

have to divert some money from more competitive races.

RGG's political director, Lynlee Thorne, will be our guest speaker at the June 2 Summer Bash; come out and hear from her directly about why this work is so important!

Let your friends in the Northern Virginia area know that Sen. Tim Kaine will be headlining a special RGG "Evening to Support Rural Democrats" tomorrow (Friday) evening; info and tickets are [here](#).

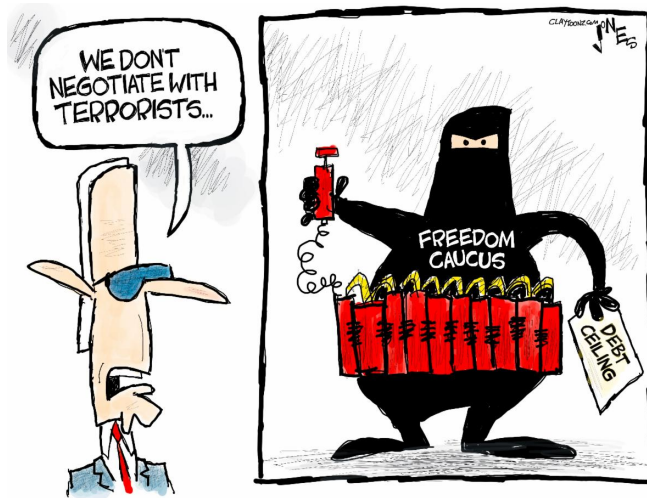
In addition to our ongoing out-of-district support of Rural GroundGame:

- We're also soliciting advice from district and state party leaders and others about which November races throughout Virginia are most important and winnable... we'll share the results here soon!



- The Biden/Harris reelection campaign has begun!
campaign website: <https://joebiden.com>
donation page: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/web_bfp_launch

Preaching BEYOND the Choir (Why electing Dems matters!)



As the debt ceiling irresponsibility/catastrophe continues: "On Tuesday, Gaetz told Semafor's Joseph Zeballos-Roig that his "conservative colleagues for the most part support Limit, Save, Grow, and they don't feel like we should negotiate with our hostage." Bear in mind that "Limit, Save, Grow" involves

instating work requirements for Medicaid and food stamps, reducing newly introduced funding for the IRS that has already led to massively faster call times for Americans, repealing green energy programs, and blocking Biden from relieving 43 million Americans from crippling student debt." [TNR, 5/23/23](#)

"The Supreme Court on Thursday cut back on the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to regulate wetlands under the Clean

Water Act, with a 5-4 majority rolling back federal safeguards...The decision continues a trend in which the conservative-leaning court has narrowed the reach of environmental regulations, this time with Justice Amy Coney Barrett apparently providing the decisive vote for the majority." [CNN, 5/25/23](#)



"On Tuesday, North Carolina's Republican-led state legislature overrode a veto by its Democratic governor of a bill to ban abortions after 12 weeks of gestation, which will make Virginia the least restrictive state in the South for abortion access." [Daily Progress,](#)

[5/18/23](#)

"During every Pride Month in June for the past decade, Target has sold merchandise for LGBTQ customers, employees and allies. But this year, Target faced an anti-LGBTQ campaign that went viral on social media.... In the end, Target opted to protect employee safety by removing certain items that it said caused the most "volatile" reaction from opponents." [CNN,](#) [5/25/23](#)



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>

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

Paid for and authorized by the Charlottesville Democratic Committee

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