

# C'VILLE DEMS

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## News and Updates from the Cville Dems (10/26/2023)

### 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.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [X/Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [Mastodon](#), and like some of our posts!
- [Make a contribution](#) to cover the cost of postcards and stamps for new voter mailings

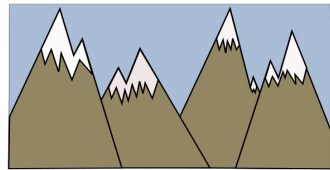
### In This Issue:

- Upcoming Events (mark your calendars!)
- 4 Ways to Work for Victory in November (including Sunday Canvass with Sen. Mark Warner, "Donut Forget to Vote" 11/4 event, but no more Thursdays at Ix)
- Report: 10/23 Executive Committee Meeting
- Voter Protection for the November Election
- More 2023 VA Film Festival Flicks
- Voter Registration Team is Already Thinking about Next Year!
- Preaching BEYOND the Choir

Note: if Gmail isn't showing you all of this newsletter, look near the bottom of the email for a link reading "[Message clipped] View entire message". Or... read the complete issue [on our website](#) once we upload it (usually within an hour of mailing).

## Upcoming Events!

- **now-Nov 4** — Early Voting!
- **10/26** 4:00-6:30 — "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" at Brazos Tacos (see below)
- **10/28** 8:30am-5:00pm — Saturday Early Voting
- **10/29** 11:30-1:00pm — Senator Mark Warner at Pen Park to launch coordinated canvass, lunch provided (see below)
- **10/29** 1:00-2:30pm — Senator Creigh Deeds and Katrina Callsen hold open "Office Hours" at C'ville Coffee
- **11/02** 4:00-6:30 — final "Turn Out the Vote Thursdays" at Brazos Tacos (see below)
- **11/04** 8:30am-5:00pm — Saturday Early Voting
- **11/04** "Donut Forget to Vote" event by the Registrar's Office (see below)
- **11/07** 6am-7pm — Election Day!!!
- **11/23** Thanksgiving
- **11/27** 6:30pm — Full Committee Meeting



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		

## 4 Ways to Work for a November 7 Dems Victory!



### Local Option #1: Early In-Person Voting

Early Voting is happening now through November 4 at the Registrar's Office in the City Hall Annex, 120 7th St. NE, Room 142. Be sure to bring a valid-for-voting ID (see this [overview](#) and [list of acceptable forms of ID](#)).

Hours of operation:

- Monday – Friday, 8:30am to 4:30pm (Thursdays until 7:00pm)
- Next Saturday, October 28, and also Saturday, November 4, from 8:30am – 5:00pm

Note 1: When you do vote (whether Early or 11/7), be sure to wear the "I Voted" sticker they give you, to remind others to also vote!

Note 2: Curbside voting from a car is available to anyone with a disability, limited mobility, or who is over age 65; just call 434-970-3250 when you arrive at the Registrar's Office.

Whether you're voting early or voting on Election Day, [check now to make sure you're registered](#); botched Republican "voter security"

efforts mistakenly purged thousands of eligible voters. Check your own registration, and warn friends and family to check theirs too!

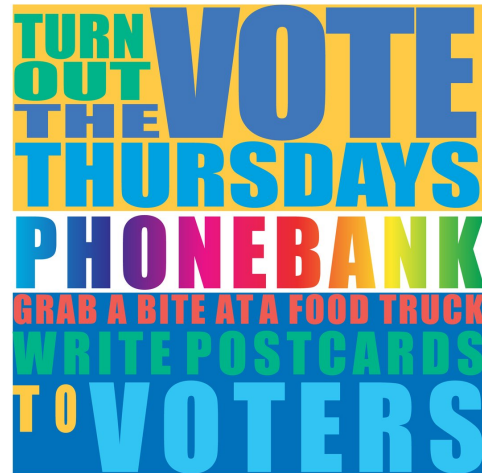
Helpful website pages:

- [Voter Registration and Voting Information](#)
- [City of Charlottesville's Interactive Precinct Map](#) to find your polling place
- [Upcoming Local Elections](#)

## **Local Option #2: "~~Turn Out the Vote Thursdays~~"**

No more Option#2 efforts needed; we wrote and mailed approximately 7,500 postcards! This is far more than we've ever done before, and it happened due to:

- Superb organizing by Mary Ann Harris, Nancy Damon, and Suzanne Michels – huge kudos!
- Sincere gratitude to everyone who pitched in throughout the summer and fall by writing postcards and/or donating money to buy postcards and stamps.



So our Thursday at Ix work is done for this cycle; no more meet-ups at Ix Park this fall!

Now for the details about those 7500 postcards:

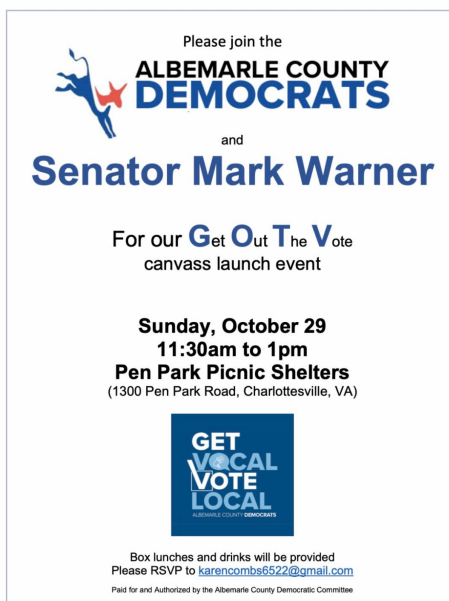
- 700 to new City of Charlottesville voters
- 1,800 to new Albemarle County voters
- 2,000 to City residents
- 500 for Rachel Levy in Louisa County
- 500 for Michael Feggans in Virginia Beach
- 1,000 for Susanna Gibson in Henrico County
- 1,000 for Lily Franklin in Montgomery County

It was a pleasure spending time with old friends and getting to meet new friends — spending our Thursday afternoons together working to help elect the best candidates locally and statewide! We're most definitely looking forward to sitting around the picnic tables in the spring when the BIG 2024 presidential election cycle begins.

We hope most of you will join us to do canvassing, including this Sunday's (10/29) big event with Sen. Mark Warner at Pen Park (see below)!

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**Local Option #3: Canvassing**



This Sunday, 11:30am-1:00pm, meet up at Pen Park to join Sen. Mark Warner and the Albemarle Dems/Cville Dems as we canvass for our Democratic candidates. Lunch is provided; this canvass is one of our last big opportunities to reach lots of voters to bring home a November 7 victory! RSVP (optional but helpful) to:

<https://www.mobilize.us/amylaufer/event/589511/>

The Charlottesville and Albemarle parties are partnering to ensure we win *all* our local races; with several uncontested City races, it makes sense to shift some of our energy and resources their way.

Here's who we're canvassing for:

- State Senate: Incumbent Senator Creigh Deeds is favored to win our crucial Senate District 11, but the district has some very conservative areas, and we can't be complacent if we're going to keep this seat. His opponent, Philip Hamilton, is quite a piece of work; among other claims to fame, he's publicly misgendered his own 12-year-old, claiming that school teachers had [poisoned his child's mind into being non-binary](#). And he favors schools outing gay students to their parents (see below in "Preaching Beyond the Choir"). This is *not* someone we want representing us; please donate to or canvass for (or both) the [Deeds campaign!](#)
- House of Delegates: [Amy Laufer](#) (our Albemarle County neighbor running in a competitive District #55 race, recently endorsed by Gabby Giffords's Gun Safety PAC) and [Katrina Callsen](#) (running unopposed in our District #54).
- Charlottesville City Council: Natalie Oschrin, Michael Payne, and Lloyd Snook (running unopposed).
- Charlottesville School Board: Amanda Burns, Shymora Cooper, Chris Meyer, and Nicole Richardson (four candidates running unopposed for four open seats).
- Albemarle County Board of Supervisors: Bea LaPisto-Kirtley, Ann Mallek, and Michael Pruitt.
- Albemarle County School Board (ACSB): Rebecca Berlin, Judy

Le, Ellen Moore Osborne, and [Allison Spillman](#). A few notes about Allison's race: she's running against Meg Scalia Bryce, the daughter of the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia. Bryce (a) said on 10/15 at an NAACP forum **"not everybody agrees that there is systemic racism. And it has to be OK for people to disagree about that."** (She's also very [offended by the County's anti-racist curriculum](#)), and (b) is very concerned that the ACSB has been treating LGBTQ kids with respect and support. Although Allison has been closing the fundraising gap, Scalia Bryce is still ahead. We can't let extremists like her (e.g. a fan of the Moms for Liberty book banners) start taking over our local schools (per [Forward Albemarle](#), all *her* kids attend private schools). Please help [Allison's campaign](#) any way you can, especially via donations and canvassing help.

**If you'd like to canvass locally (it takes about 3 hours):**

1. On a weekday, please email [karencombs6522@gmail.com](mailto:karencombs6522@gmail.com).
2. On a weekend, sign up via [Mobilize](#) to participate in one or more of these coordinated canvasses:

Date	Start Time	City	Location
Saturday, October 28	10:00 AM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Saturday, October 28	2:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Sunday, October 29	Noon	Charlottesville	Pen Park (w/ Sen. Warner!)
Saturday, November 4	10:00 AM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Saturday, November 4	2:00 PM	Crozet	Mudhouse Crozet
Sunday, November 5	12:00 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office
Sunday, November 5	2:30 PM	Charlottesville	Combs Office

## GOTV Rally w/Sen. Mark Warner

With State Senator  
**Creigh Deeds**

HD55 Candidate  
**Amy Laufer**

School Board Candidate  
**Allison Spillman**



 **Sunday, Oct. 29th**  
 Event time 12:00-2:30 PM

 **Address available**  
**on RSVP**

**Option #4: "Donut Forget to Vote" Saturday**



## Morning 11/4 Event!

On Sat, Nov.4, the last day of Early Voting, we'll be partying 8:30-11:00am near the Cville Registrar's office (City Hall Annex, near the Pavilion). Come join us and a medley of available candidates to entice Democrats to get their vote in. Donuts never hurt, so we'll be offering them, too!

Details are still being worked out, please contact Suzanne Michels

[suzemichels@gmail.com](mailto:suzemichels@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with this event or have any questions.

Sen. Creigh Deeds needs all our Cville blue votes to keep his seat and a Dem majority in the VA Senate. Don't let the City's uncontested races lull you into complacency; we need to work to make sure our neighbors and friends turn out to vote!! So far this cycle, Early Voting is way down, which is worrying...

### **Option #5 Non-local: Help Key VA Races with Time and/or Cash**

Republicans control the House of Delegates and the Governor's mansion, and Dems barely hold the Senate; if Republicans take the Senate, then Virginia will become Florida, which means forced childbirth laws, schools teaching whitewashed history, "don't-say-gay" laws, and other measures to erase LGBTQ youth...we can't let this happen!



Below is a list of the hottest "battleground races" for Senate and House of Delegate seats. Please please please:

1. tell your friends and family who live in these districts how critical it is that they get out and vote for these Democratic candidates!
2. ask them to ask their friends and family too!

Seat	City/County	Dem Candidate	Notes
<b>Richmond area</b>			
SD 16	Henrico (western)	Schuyler VanValkenburg	Flip opportunity!
HD 57	Goochland/Henrico (parts of each)	Susanna Gibson	
HD 58	Henrico (western)	Del. Rod Willett	Incumbent Dem
<b>Western Virginia</b>			
HD 41	Montgomery/Roanoke (parts of each)	Lily Franklin	
<b>Northern Virginia</b>			
SD 30	Prince William (part), Manassas, Manassas City	Danica Roem	
HD 21	Prince William (western)	Josh Thomas	
HD 22	Prince William (part)	Travis Nembhard	
HD 30	Loudoun/Fauquier (parts of each)	Rob Banse	
SD 31	Loudoun/Fauquier (parts of each)	Russet Perry	
HD 29	Loudoun (Leesburg area)	Marty Martinez	
<b>Fredericksburg</b>			
SD 27	Fredericksburg/Stafford/Spotsylvania	Joel Griffin	
HD 65	Fredericksburg/Stafford/Spotsylvania	Joshua Cole	

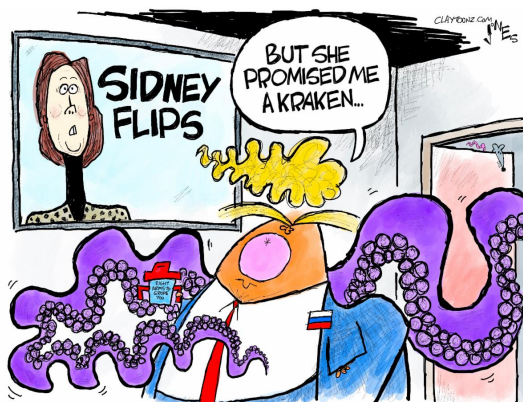
<b>Hampton Roads area</b>			
SD 22	Virginia Beach (part)	Sen. Aaron Rouse	Incumbent Dem
HD 97	Virginia Beach (part)	Michael Feggans	Flip opportunity!
SD 24	Newport News (part), York, Williamsburg, Poquoson, James City (part)	Sen. Monty Mason	Incumbent Dem
HD 94	Norfolk (part)	Phil Hernandez	
<b>Tidewater and Southside</b>			
SD 17	See below	Clint Jenkins	
HD 89	Chesapeake/Suffolk	Karen Jenkins	
HD 84	Suffolk/Isle of Wight (Franklin City)/Chesapeake	Nadarius Clark	
HD 82	Petersburg/Dinwiddie/Prince George/Surry	Kimberly Pope Adams	Flip opportunity!

SD 17 is enormous: Suffolk, Isle of Wight (including Franklin City), Portsmouth (part), Southampton, Brunswick, Greensville, Dinwiddie (part), Emporia, Chesapeake (part).

Please please please:

1. tell your friends and family who live in these districts how critical it is that they get out and vote for these Democratic candidates!
2. ask them to ask their friends and family too!

Note: past newsletters highlighted some of these great candidates, e.g. teacher [Schuyler Vanvalkenburg](#), tech entrepreneur and veteran [Michael Feggans](#), long-time Democratic staffer [Lily Franklin](#) (for Delegate Sam Rasoul and Josh Throneburg), and more!





## REPORT: 10/23 Executive Committee Meeting

- Election logistics – there will be no more Thursday Ix meetings due to the fabulous successes of that group; all 7,500 postcards have already been sent out! See above for details of their great accomplishments!
- Jeremy Jones reported that the Charlottesville Registrar says that Early Voting is very low so far — at half the rate of early voting at the same point in the June primary! Given high projected turnout in Republican-leaning counties of our Senate district, such a low turnout could be catastrophic, i.e. we really could be represented in the VA State Senate by Philip Andrew Hamilton!
- We then discussed ideas for events to boost turnout during the remaining weeks leading up to Election Day 11/7. The two main ideas: (1) a "Donut Forget to Vote" event (which *will* happen on Saturday 11/4, see above) and (2) doing something on the Downtown Mall while the Virginia Film Festival is running.
- There was a lengthy conversation about *Charlottesville Tomorrow* reporting (in its 10/2 [Voters Guide Q&A](#) and at its [10/20 candidates forum](#)) about the four Charlottesville School Board candidates' positions on Governor Youngkin's model policy on transgender students. The policy requires teachers to inform parents promptly if a student at the school is asking for a change in pronouns or a change in the name used in the classroom, which might indicate gender nonconformity; critics and supporters of LGBTQ rights point out that this amounts to a form of forced outing and argue that it could cause harm to the minor involved and disrupt the teaching process. Candidates Amanda Burns, Shymora Cooper, and Chris Meyer opposed that policy, Nicole Richardson did not. Many Dems have strong opinions on this issue, so the Executive Committee wanted to provide these links to the original coverage, in the interest of voter education.

Note: The next Full Committee meeting will be on Monday 11/27 (Thanksgiving is 11/23). To suggest something to add to the agenda, please email [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com) .





# Voting in Virginia is: **PROTECTED**

- The Virginia Voting Rights Act provides comprehensive protections against voter suppression, discrimination or intimidation.
- You can't be denied the right to vote if you're legally qualified.
- You may ask an election officer for help to cast your ballot.
- You may ask for a new ballot if you want to change your vote before you cast it.
- You can vote a provisional ballot.
- You can vote if you are in line by 7pm when polls close.



Learn more about secure elections:  
[Vote.Virginia.gov](https://Vote.Virginia.gov)



• VIRGINIA •  
DEPARTMENT of ELECTIONS

## Voter Protection for the November Election

Jeremy Jones and his Voter Protection Team are gearing up for our imminent election and have *two* big needs:

1. There are 2 more virtual (Zoom) training sessions for poll observers, Oct. 24 and Oct. 31. To sign up use this Mobilize.us link
2. Poll Observers are also needed both before and after the election (on Oct. 26, 27, Nov. 2, 3 & 13, generally from 9am to 5pm) to observe the processing of absentee ballots. If you're interested in working on those days, you can use the same sign-up process as above.

If you might be willing to get involved in these very important election security efforts, send any questions to Jeremy: [hijeremyjones@gmail.com](mailto:hijeremyjones@gmail.com)



## More 2023 VA Film Festival Flicks

The 2023 [Virginia Film Festival](#) (started yesterday and runs through Sunday 10/29) features more than 100 films at the Paramount Theater, the Violet Crown, UVA's Culbreth Theater, and the CODE Building.

The films are organized into different [series and themes](#) centered on important issues

ranging from Black excellence and indigenous cinema to the environment and critical conversations.

We flagged four films [last issue](#), here are two more:

[Origin](#)

"Isabel Wilkerson, a pioneering African-American journalist and the first to receive a Pulitzer Prize, found herself confronting the issue of race once again when tasked with writing about the tragic death of Trayvon Martin. Encouraged by her husband, she delved deeper, recognizing the need to understand the roots of racial injustice. Her research took her across the globe, drawing parallels between discrimination in the United States, the Holocaust in Nazi Germany, and the caste system in India, culminating in her New York Times bestseller, "Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents", a compelling examination of race and societal structures. In this dramatic feature, renowned filmmaker Ava DuVernay (When They See Us, 13th), inspired by Wilkerson's journey and insights, weaves Wilkerson's revelations into a poignant visual narrative. "Origin" captures the powerful and intimate journey of a journalist sharing a groundbreaking idea with the world, spotlighting the enduring trauma of discrimination and the healing process that follows." [Friday, October 27, 7pm at the Paramount.](#)

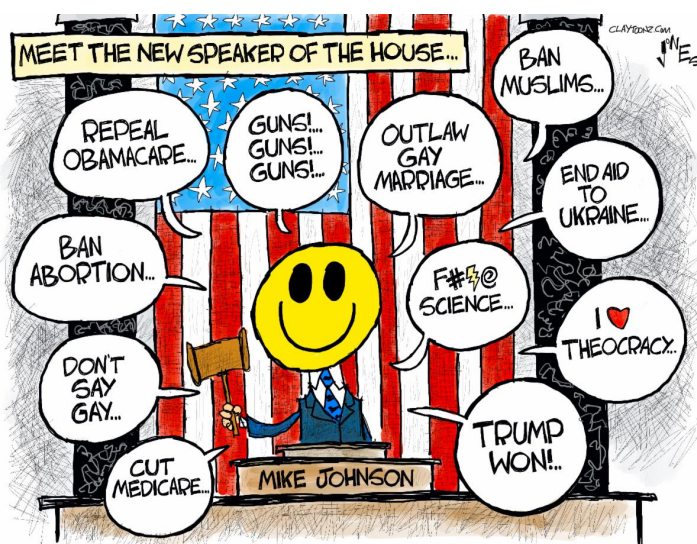
### [Gumbo Coalition](#)

"Powered by a mutual determination to empower Black and Latin American communities, two visionary civil rights leaders join forces to fight social injustice and the rise of white supremacy in the United States. Marc Morial of the National Urban League and Janet Murguía of UnidosUS work to influence high-power political figures, bring justice to marginalized communities, and inspire the next generation to fight for a more equitable America. Directed by two-time Academy Award-winning filmmaker Barbara Kopple (Harlan County, USA, American Dream), "Gumbo Coalition" explores the arc of the racial justice movement. The powerful documentary emphasizes the myriad and distinctive challenges that social justice leaders face at this moment in US history: the global pandemic, the murder of George Floyd, and the 2020 presidential election and its aftermath." [Sunday, October 29, 8:15pm at Violet Crown 3](#)

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## **[Voter Registration Team is Already Thinking about Next Year](#)**

Our wonderful voter registration team, led by Suzanne Michels and Barbara Shenefield, would love to have even more folks pitch in next year; there are few things more satisfying than signing up a new voter! Email [suzemichels@gmail.com](mailto:suzemichels@gmail.com) if you might be interested or have questions!



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

Republican members of the House of Representatives finally elected a Speaker yesterday after causing nearly three weeks of total paralysis. Their

choice, Rep. Mike Johnson (R-La.), who the [Washington Post](#) called "the least-experienced speaker in a century and a half", sums up what all undecided voters need to know about today's Republican (really Trump) Party:

- Christian Nationalism** — "...the 51-year-old Johnson was first elected to the House in 2016. Before then, he cut his teeth trying to erode the separation of church and state and abortion and LGBTQ rights as a lawyer for the Alliance Defense Fund – the Christian right legal powerhouse now known as the Alliance Defending Freedom." ([MSNBC, 10/25/23](#)) Johnson is an advocate of "covenant marriage" which makes getting a divorce difficult, and in 2002 in Louisiana defended an organization which called for "students to read the Bible as a history book." He wrote editorials in the mid-2000s saying that "homosexual relationships were inherently unnatural and, the studies clearly show, ultimately harmful and costly for everyone." ([Judd Legum/Popular Information, 10/26/23](#))
- Anti-Abortion** — Elizabeth Warren calls him "a staunch anti-

abortion rights extremist who's supported nationwide bans. After Roe fell, he tweeted this message for abortion providers in Louisiana: "Perform an abortion and get imprisoned at hard labor for 1-10 yrs & fined \$10K-\$100K." ([email, 10/25/23](#))

- **Election Denial/Voter Suppression** — "Not only did Johnson support Trump's unfounded legal basis to challenge the 2020 election and disenfranchise 20 million voters across those four key states, he has also opposed meaningful voting rights legislation and fair maps. He voted for a sweeping voter suppression bill rooted in conspiracy theories, voted against recent federal voting rights legislation like the For The People Act and John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act and defended Louisiana against having to draw a second majority-Black congressional district. In 2020, he led the House's effort to overturn the election and now he leads the House as speaker — a reminder of how Trump and his election denying allies have become mainstream in the Republican Party." ([Democracy Docket, 10/25/23](#))
- **Weaponization of Government** — Johnson supports Jim Jordan's "weaponization of government" subpanel, included governmental efforts to stop disinformation/misinformation via social media ([Washington Post, 10/25/23](#))

Note that every single Republican house member, including the so-called "moderates", voted for this guy; caucus pressure pushes any elected Republican toward extremism.

Today, in response to the horrific shootings in Maine, the new Speaker offered.... you guessed it... [hopes and prayers](#).

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## Partner Organizations

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

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**Charlottesville Democratic Party ("Cville Dems")**

<https://cvilledems.org>

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**Contact us: [cvilledemschair@gmail.com](mailto:cvilledemschair@gmail.com)**

**Add me to the [mailing list](#)**

**Thank you for your support!**

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