

The Alexandria Democrat

Message from the Chair

Dear Fellow Democrats:

After Obama's historic election, our economic malaise, our 46th district delegate special election and with the exciting state Gubernatorial campaign, its easy to forget that we have a critical City Council campaign going on.

Alexandria has been well served by our Mayor and City Council, and that service has given us one of the lowest tax rates and greatest qualities of life, improved our schools and given us some of the most progressive human rights and environmental reforms.

Our Council candidates need your help! Low turn-out caused by focus on all of the other worthy political activities coupled with an economy-induced fundraising slump could give us another campaign as close as Delegate Charniele Herring's, if not closer.

Don't let that happen -- donate online now at <http://www.actblue.com/page/2009citycouncil>.

In the last few debates, the Democratic team of Mayor Eulle, Kerry Donley, Rob Krupicka, Tim Lovain, Paul Smedberg, Del Pepper and Justin Wilson have represented their positions, and Alexandria's values, clearly. And it's clear that there are real, significant differences between our team and our opponents'.

One of our opponents suggested that the solution to drug and mental health counseling positions being eliminated due to budget cuts was to get student volunteers to do the work. **Really?**

Another suggested we sell off our parks and open space to pay for community infrastructure. **Huh?**

A few of them keep saying they want to force more city employees to live in Alexandria, but are opposed to paying them competitive wages and have even said we should cut back on city staff salaries. **How exactly are they supposed to live in the city if they can't afford to?**

All of our opponents have called for increased spending on a number of worthy causes from human services, mass transportation, traffic police, more bike lanes, new parks and more and **at the same time** have called for millions in tax cuts. **What type of math did they learn in school?**

After the last eight years, haven't we had enough of compassionate conservatism that talks a good game but doesn't follow through? In these economic times, don't we need some honest leadership from our elected officials? Shouldn't we have leaders who are working to take care of those most at risk in our city? Shouldn't we have leaders who understand how our budget works and have proved themselves good stewards of our city? Shouldn't we have leaders who share Alexandria's values? **Of course we should.**

We can't take this election for granted. Our republican opponents (and make no mistake the alleged "independents" are republicans, too – they are all organizing and coordinating together) are working hard and are very motivated. They want to use Alexandria to make a case for their resurgence in Virginia and in the country.

Please take the next four weeks and let us show the state and the country that Alexandria is moving forward not backward.

Alexandria
Democratic
Committee

April 2009



Earth Day is April 22
Every day is Earth Day

"Inside"

Forums	2
Absentee Voting	2
April Legislative Wrap-up and meeting	3
St. Patrick's Parade	3
VA House of Del. races in neighboring areas	4
Precinct Captains	4
Elections calendar/offices	5
Sheriff, Comm.Attorney	5
Jim Cisco	5
For the Planet	6
Adopt-a-block	6
Leadership Circle	7
Precinct. Captains, Exec. Board	
Meeting Dates:	back page

continued on page 4

Candidates Forums: Local Democracy in Action

Candidates for the six City Council positions to be voted on in the May 5 election answered audience questions and engaged in debate in the first two of five public forums. Six Democrats, two Republicans, and two independents shared the stage at Minnie Howard Campus on March 18 and 26 for two hours of give and take.



Mayor Bill Euille, Paul Smedberg, Kerry Donley, Justin Wilson, Del Pepper, Frank Fannon, Tim Lovain, Rich Williamson, Alicia Hughes, Rob Krupicka, Phil Cefaratti
(seating order drawn at start of forum)

photo by Jack Powers

You still have opportunities to participate in our local democracy process: On [April 16](#) at Francis Hammond Middle School, focusing on the **West End of the city**; and on [April 22](#), at George Washington Middle School, focusing on the **East End of the city**. The forums run from 7 to 9pm.

Away or Unable to Vote on May 5? Vote Absentee

We will be electing our Mayor, City Council and School Board members on May 5. Make sure your vote is cast. If you know you can't get to your regular polling place at regular polling hours (6am to 7pm) then plan now to vote absentee.

The Office of Voter Registration of the City of Alexandria is ready to help. Call the office at 703-838-4050; go to the website at www.alexandriavoter.org; or go to the office at 132 North Royal St., Suite 100, to get an absentee voter application. You may return your completed application by mail, fax, or in person.

First day to vote absentee in person: April 6. Hours are: Monday thru Friday, 8am to 5pm. (If you vote in person, you may fill out the absentee application, get it verified, and vote, all in one visit) The Voter Registration Office will be open for extended hours on April 20, 21, 28 and 29, until 7:30. On Saturdays, April 25 and May 2, the office will be open from 8am to 5pm.

Deadline for returning mailed or faxed absentee applications is Tuesday, April 28 at 5pm. Once you receive and complete the ballot itself, deadline for the mailed return of the absentee ballot is Election Day, May 5, 2009.

But First: Virginians 18 and older may apply to register to vote by mail or in person. (See the ways and means to register above.) Registration deadline is Monday, April 6, at 5:00pm.

Local/State Politics: Reporting In

Legislative Wrap-up and ADC Meeting April 6, 7:00 pm

George Washington Middle School Cafeteria, 1005 Mt. Vernon Avenue

Come be a part of the high-calorie, high-information session—in a different location from our regular monthly meetings—as we enjoy many sweet treats and our Virginia state legislators bring us up to date on the highs and lows of the general session — beginning at 7:00pm — then the regular meeting begins at 8:00pm.

At 7:00, partake of some sweet treats (please bring some treats so that all may share the joy — chocolate always welcome!) and settle in for the hour-long update from **State Senators Patsy Ticer and Dick Saslaw** and **Delegates David Englin, Adam Ebbin and Charniele Herring**.

At 8:00, the regular monthly ADC meeting begins. The “treats and info session” and the meeting are in the cafeteria of the George Washington Middle School. Please make a note of the location.

Scenes from the St. Patrick's Parade



March 7, 2009
A glorious
70 degrees for the
Irish!



Photos by
David Kolm



Continued from page 1: Message from the Chair

Lets make it clear that NOVA is not backsliding on its tradition of good government and progressive values. These local elections are being watched. **What happens on May 5 will be used as a gauge for our Delegate and Gubernatorial elections.**

Please donate to the joint campaign (see page 1) or to the individual candidates at <http://www.alexdemocrats.org/candidates.shtml>.

Alexandria will not and cannot be a symbol of hope for backwards, dishonest policies that don't mesh with reality. If we stand together, we can be a symbol of hope for good government, honest leadership and progressive politics.

I hope that you will be inspired to give generously of your time and money. Through emails from me and from our Precinct Operations Deputies, Matt Harris and John Irvine, you will be receiving a call to action. Please heed it!

Thank you,
Susan Kellom

Take Back the House—the Virginia House

by Tom Osborne

Democrats currently hold 45 seats in the 100-member Virginia House of Delegates. Simple math tells you we need to pick up 6 more seats to have a majority. But more than math is needed to tell you *why* it is important or *how* we can do it.

The “why” can be answered in many ways. Progressive legislation is routinely being killed by Republican majorities on all House committees and subcommittees. Alexandria’s delegation – Adam Ebbin, David Englin, and Charniele Herring – would have much more impact and influence in a Democratically-controlled House. Perhaps most significantly, the House of Delegates elected this fall will be in charge of redistricting following the 2010 Census ; without a Democratic majority, Republicans will be able to gerrymander us out of many districts for the next decade, like they did last time. In other words, this November’s election will be about more than just the next 2 years.

The “how” doesn’t have as many answers. We of course need to hold all the 45 seats we currently hold, but where can we pick up 6 more? Not in Alexandria – we’re already 100% represented by Democrats. Not in much of downstate Virginia – where districts are drawn with extremely heavy Republican majorities in the 70% to 80% range. That leaves only about 12 to 15 seats where we could have any realistic chance of a pickup. Eight of those seats are in Northern Virginia, with the rest largely in exurban counties beyond Loudoun and Prince William, and in Tidewater. We have strong candidates in many of those races, but not all. Realistically, there are probably only about 10 races from which we could pick up those 6 seats. Thus, every such competitive race becomes extremely important.

Alexandria Democrats have a lot on their plates between now and November. We have a mayor to re-elect and 6 City Council seats to defend in May. We’ve got a vigorous primary for Governor and Lt. Governor in June, and a very important general election in November for those offices plus state Attorney General, city Sheriff, Commonwealths Attorney, and our own three House of Delegates seats. I don’t want to detract from any of those races – and I have been vocal that we should not *ever* take *any* election for granted.

That said, though, we do have an easier time electing Democrats than some of our neighboring jurisdictions do. To the extent possible, I believe Alexandria Democrats should reach out – particularly to those nearby areas – to help give our Alexandria delegates some allies in the General Assembly. We’ve done it in the past, and we need to do it again this year. For some of us, it will mean doing some volunteer work in areas 15 to 30 miles from home. For others, it may mean financial contributions. Maybe you can do both!

I’ve been asked by Susan Kellom to coordinate this effort this year. I don’t yet have a title for my position – suggestions will be welcomed. (“Outreach Chairman” is already taken, with a different meaning in ADC. “Chair of the Foreign Missions Board” has too much of a religious ring.) But whatever the title, I’ll be coming to you over the next several months – in future newsletter articles, in calendar announcements, and in introductions at ADC meetings – with names, faces, and details about these “outside of Alexandria” races where you can be of assistance.

No one of us can do everything. But if all of us do at least a little something, a Democratic majority in the Virginia House of Delegates can become a reality!

(Election) Life After May 5

by Marianne Anderson

Lest you are concerned that your political calendar will be empty after the May 5 election of Alexandria’s mayor, city council members, and school board members, please be reassured that your time, thought, energy and work will be needed through November.

Now is the time to fill in your calendars with the next set of deadline dates and offices:

June 9: Primary: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General
Virginia House of Delegates

November 3: General Election: Governor
Lieutenant Governor
Attorney General
Virginia House of Delegates
Commonwealth’s Attorney
Sheriff



Getting an early start:

Sheriff Dana Lawhorne speaks to a group of supporters at his kick-off event in late February.

At right, Commonwealth’s Attorney Randolph Sengel, shares his thoughts at the event.

Both will be on the ballot on November 3.

Photos by Jack Powers



In Memoriam, In Appreciation, for Jim Cisco

recollections by Susan Kellom

Alexandria has lost one of her finest citizens. It is with great sadness that I inform ADC members and friends that Jim Cisco, former Deputy Chair of the ADC for Precinct Operations West, died on Saturday, March 21, after a long illness.

Jim was one of the kindest, most generous and thoughtful men in the world. He had a real knack for dealing with people and always brought out the best in everyone. He had a talent for recognizing talent in other people. He could spot a potential Precinct Captain a mile away, convince them that they had the time and ability to do the job, and VOILA -- another precinct off the endangered list.

It is an understatement to say that Jim was a pillar of this community. He mentored young people. He served on City Boards and Commissions. He supported many charities. He fought for the rights of all Alexandrians and he helped elect Democrats at all levels of government. He will be deeply missed and long remembered.

We have had an influx of new people into our Democratic Community over the years that Jim has been ill and not an active member of the community. I wish that you had known him. He would have inspired you as he inspired us throughout his lifetime of service.

For the Planet

by Carolyn Cason

Earth Day is April 22 (the official/calendar date). What better way to get started reducing your carbon footprint than following some of these easy-to-do steps? These tips do not require modifying the house and many of the items can be moved from place to place.

11 Inexpensive Ways to Save Energy and Water in Your House or Apartment: Part 1

1. **Install a low-flow showerhead**
2. **Displace water in your toilet tank:** Fill a plastic bottle with gravel and place it in your toilet tank.
3. **Put up insulated drapes or curtains/blackout or cellular blinds:** They reduce cold and heat coming through windows and reduce your energy bill.
4. **Add foam insulating gaskets:** Putting these behind your outlets is a cheap way to reduce heat loss. Sold in multi-packs at hardware stores for less than \$2.
5. **Use a composting box:** You can build a compost box inside. Keep it under your sink. This saves garbage disposal energy and landfill space.
6. **Grow food indoors:** If you're looking for something to do with that compost, why not grow some food inside your house? This will ensure that some of your fruits and veggies are grown super-locally, saving transportation energy.
7. **Use draft stoppers:** Place mobile draft stoppers in front of drafty doors and windows. They cost about ten bucks. Or, make them yourself.
8. **Plastic Window Insulation/Bubble Wrap:** Insulating windows with plastic in the winter can save you up to \$270 annually. Bubble wrap is another way to insulate some of your windows.
9. **CFL Bulbs:** I'm waiting for the day when they are just called light bulbs and old pear-shaped light bulbs are a thing of the past. Also, turn off lights when you are not in the room.
10. **Shade Your A/C:** If your A/C is window-mounted, save energy and money by shading it from the sun. The cooler the unit, the more efficiently it runs.
11. **Pay Attention to Your Fridge:** Up to 25% of your electric bill may go towards the fridge. Keep its compressor coils clean to ensure your energy bill stays low. Cover food. Check the fridge's seal. Fill your fridge with water jugs to keep it full and colder.

Source: <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/>

One Morning—One Block—One Small Step for the Planet

by Mark Feldheim

It is that time of year again for the ADC Adopt-a-Block clean-up project. Please join us for some conversation, coffee and donuts on **Saturday April 25 (Earth Day)** at 8:00 AM at the parking area of Sears Automotive at Landmark Mall. Gloves, safety vests and trash bags provided.

Candidates and their supporters are welcome! A great photo op and a chance to make a difference!

Please contact Mark Feldheim @ 703.851.0241 or mark.feldheim@verizon.net if you can help. Thank you. I hope to see you there.

Leadership Circle Needs You

by Pat Mulloy

We need your help to keep our Washington Street ADC Headquarters Office open. Membership in the Leadership Circle means you are helping to do that since all contributions are designated for that sole purpose. Contributions give you membership for the calendar year in which you give. Thank you one and all.

Alexandria Democratic Leadership Circle

618 North Washington Street, Ground Floor, Suite 2

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

703-549-3367 www.AlexDems.org

Pledges for 2009 as of March 21, 2009:

Benefactors (\$1,000 +)

David Englin Ludwig/Crystal Gaines P. J. Palmer-Johnson

Patrons (\$501 - \$1,000)

Mark/Micki Feldheim Peter Newbould Julie Jakopic Kevin/Lee Posey

Sponsors (\$251 - \$500)

Lucelle O'Flaherty Redella Pepper Richard Saslaw Bruce Gilson
 Matt Harris Dick Moose Kathleen/Lauren Smith Liz Campbell
 Ben/Susan Kellom

Members (\$101 - \$250)

Bill Dickinson Jacqueline Meeks Patrick Mulloy Dorathea Peters
 Jim/Martina Lay Randy Sengel Rossie Kelly Dana Lawhorne
 Paul Smedberg

Supporters (\$50 - \$100)

Marge Theil Ellen Bohon

Alexandria Democratic Committee Leadership Circle

Name _____

Address _____

Primary Phone _____ Alternate Phone _____ Email _____

Occupation _____ Employer _____

_____ \$50-\$100: Supporter _____ \$101-\$250: Member _____ \$251-\$500: Sponsor

_____ \$501-\$1000: Patron _____ \$1000+: Benefactor

Payment Options: _____ Annual _____ Semi-Annual _____ Quarterly _____ Monthly

Please make checks payable to ADC, indicate for Leadership Circle, and mail to 618 N. Washington Street, Ground Floor, Suite 2, Alexandria VA 22314.

Credit card contributions may be made at <http://alexdem.org/leadership.html>

Authorized and Paid for by the Alexandria Democratic Committee. Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income taxes purposes. Your contribution may be used in connection with federal elections and is subject to the limitations and prohibitions of the Federal Election Campaign Act. State law requires political committees to report the name, address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions aggregate in excess of \$100 in a calendar year. Federal law requires the Alexandria Democratic Committee to use its best efforts to collect and report the name, address, occupation and employer of individuals whose contributions exceed \$200 in a calendar year.

Alexandria Democratic Committee

618 N. Washington Street
Ground Floor, Suite 2
Alexandria, VA 22314

Phone: 703-549-3367

www.alexdem.org

No May ADC Meeting (regular monthly meeting would be May 4, day before election of city officials—get out and work for your candidate)

June Meeting, Monday June 2

Chair:

Susan B. Kellom SusanBKellom@aol.com

Deputy Chair for Finance & Administration

Mark Feldheim mark.feldheim@verizon.net

Deputy Chair for Precinct Operations – East

Matt Harris matsharris@hotmail.com

Deputy Chair for Precinct Operations – West

John Irvine john@tugboatpr.com

Clerk

Mary Lyman mslyman@verizon.net

Treasurer

Elisabeth Campbell campfair@comcast.net

Public Information Officer Marianne Anderson

marianneanderson@verizon.net

Technology Officer

Holly Wallace hjw@radix.net

Resolutions Officer Richard R.G. Hobson

rhobson@mcguirewoods.com

Community Outreach Officers

Diana Bedoya dbedoya67@yahoo.com

John Chapman j.taylor.chapman@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinators

Amanda Ruff amanda.ruff@verizon.net

Scott Price saprice@vhtp.org

Leadership Circle

Patrick Mulloy Pamulloy@aol.com

Parliamentarian

Craig Fifer craig@fifer.net

Legal Counsel

Jim Lay jim@laymoore.com

Young Democrats Liaison

Georgina Owino georginaowino@gmail.com

Immediate Past Chair

Paul Smedberg SmedbergPC@aol.com

Precinct Operations East: Matt Harris, 703-549-7965, matsharris@hotmail.com

Pct.	Name	Precinct Captain	Phone #	Email address
101	Ladrey Senior Bldg	Ron Lafond	703-586-2145	rdlafond@gmail.com
102	City Hall	Hazel & Ron Rigby	703-548-2422	hrigby@aol.com
103	Lyles Crouch School	Karen Hayes	703-549-1236	nmsdkh@aol.com
104	Durant Center	Mark Feldheim	703-739-9772	mark.feldheim@verizon.net
105	The Lee Center	PJ Palmer-Johnson	703-566-0856	drepj@aol.com
106	Cora Kelly Rec Center	Ed Walters	703-863-3278	ed.walters@gmail.com
107	Mt. Vernon Rec Center	Paul Cox	571-332-6474	dragon2eden@gmail.com
108	Geo.Washington Sch.	Tania Blagrove	703.519.7973	tania@magallon.info
109	Fire Dept. HQ	Marianne Anderson	703.548.0295	marianneanderson@verizon.net
		Trish Curran	703.549.9064	pdclkg@msn.com
201	Maury School	Mark Schofield	703.517.7510	marklynnschofield@gmail.com
202	George Mason School	Pat Butler	703.549.0177	phbraven@msn.com
203	Agudas Achim Cong.	Paul Friedman	703.671.3843	paulfriedman@comcast.net
204	Blessed Sacrament	Barbara Brenman	703.548.9485	bbrenman@verizon.net
205	MacArthur School	Dick Hobson	703.370.1858	rhobson@mcguirewoods.com

Precinct Operations West: John Irvine, 703-887-7643, john@tugboatpr.com

206	Chinquapin Rec Cen	Bill Dickinson	703.370.3089	wdickin953@aol.com
207	Temple Beth El	Paul Vogel	703-823-6457	pvogel@hotmail.com
208	NOVA Arts Center	Paul Wilmot	571-220-7754	paulewil@yahoo.com
209	James K. Polk School	Doratheia Peters	703.399-5654	doratheapeters@aol.com
210	St. James Church	Vacant		
302	St. Martin Rec Cen.	Dr. FJ Pepper	703.751.0770	fjpeppermd@aol.com
303	Beatley Library	Jacqueline Meeks	703.823.0961	jackiemeeks@comcast.net
		Jamal Awamleh	703-786-4198	jawamleh@msn.com
304	Tucker School	John Kinney	202-714-2022	johnkinney@bakerdonelson.com
305	John Adams School	David Colton	703-256-2911	coltonva@verizon.net
306	Wm.Ramsay RecCen.	Carolyn Herring	703.658.2305	cherringlaw@yahoo.com
307	South Port Apartments	Libby Cooperman	703.370.9064	lcooperm@aacn.nche.edu
308	Cameron Station	Derek Hyra	703.751.2725	hyra.home1@verizon.net

Authorized and Paid for by the Alexandria Democratic Committee