

The Alexandria Democrat

Message from the Chair

Dear Alexandria Democrats:

As the post-Holiday, everyday world starts to creep back into our consciousness, the reality of Virginia's perpetual election cycle will once again take center stage.

As we approached the end of the year, we knew that we would be having our Mayoral and City Council Caucus on January 31, 2009. We had no idea that we would have our extra-Special Election on January 13, 2009. To the City Council candidates who thought that they would have the political arena to themselves, I can only say thank you for their gracious ceding of the spotlight to our candidate for the 46th House of Delegates' District seat, **Charniele Herring**.

There is really no way to express my appreciation and admiration to all of the people who sprung into action on Friday, December 12, 2009. At 2:00 PM that afternoon, we were officially notified that **Brian Moran** would resign from the House of Delegates and that we had to designate our nominee by 5:00 PM on Wednesday, December 17th. Add to the mix that the ADC was sponsoring the reception at the Jefferson Hotel in Richmond after the Electoral College voted on Monday, December 15th, and we had one heck of a busy weekend.

It is a tribute to all of you that the early voting began promptly at 6:00 PM on Monday and that the Caucus ended at 9:00 PM on Tuesday without a hitch. Thank you so much to all of you who stopped your Holiday planning and took the time to help. Both Charniele and **Ariel Gonzalez** are to be commended for organizing so quickly.

January will be a blitz of political events. In this newsletter you will find information on the **Special Election**, the **Mayoral and City Council Caucus**, the combined **General Assembly Preview and fundraiser for Charniele Herring** and our **Alexandria Inaugural Dinner Dance** at the Hilton Mark Center. In your spare time, you might want to stop by at our **City Council Candidates' Forum** on January 22nd at Hammond Middle School.

As soon as we wrap up the May election, we can get to work on reelecting **Charniele, David Englin** and **Adam Ebbin** to the House of Delegates, **Randy Sengel** as Commonwealth's Attorney, **Dana Lawhorne** as Sheriff, and the winners of the June Primary as Governor, Lt. Governor and Attorney General.

In all the hustle and bustle, I hope that we do not lose sight of what a truly historic occasion occurred on December 15th when the Virginia Electoral College met in the House of Delegates' Chamber at the Capitol in Richmond to cast their votes for **Barack Obama** and **Joe Biden**. Governor **Tim Kaine** eloquently related the history of a building which has witnessed both the highs and the lows of America's struggle to provide equality for all of our people. I urge you to take the time to read his remarks at <http://www.governor.virginia.gov/MediaRelations/NewsReleases/viewRelease.cfm?id=836>. You will be glad that you did.

Alexandria
Democratic
Committee

January 2009



Happy New Day
Happy New Era...
Happy New Administration!

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Message from the Chair, Continued...

It was stirring to watch our own **Marian Van Landingham** cast her vote for the next President of the United States. Our Alexandria contingent in the gallery had a marvelous time taking each others' pictures, pointing to the people on the House floor and reveling in just being there.

It should go without saying how much we need you to volunteer for our events and our candidates. For me, campaigns are more fun than they are work. I love meeting new people and rekindling old relationships as we work together to support fine candidates who believe in improving life for all of us. So, please -- fasten your seat belts -- it's going to be a Democratic ride in 2009!

Susan Kellom

Charniele Herring wins Democratic Caucus and Becomes Democratic Candidate for Delegate to the VA General Assembly from Congressional District 46.

It all happened quickly: Once Del. Brian Moran resigned his seat to focus on his gubernatorial campaign, a "firehouse" caucus was held so that voters could choose between two hopefuls for the Democratic candidate spot on the January 13 special election ticket. Charniele Herring won the spot and becomes the Democratic candidate. If she wins the Special Election on January 13, she is set to go to Richmond to participate from day one in the 2009 General Assembly session which begins on January 14.

Voters in Congressional District 46, Precincts numbered 207 thru 308 will go to the polls at their regular polling places which will be open for regular voting hours, that is, from 6:00 am to 7:00 pm. If you are in Virginia Congressional District 46, do your part and vote for our Democratic candidate.

General Assembly Preview/Fundraiser for Charniele Herring by Susan Kellom

Since TJ was a lad, Alexandria Democrats have been holding a "General Assembly Preview" before our Delegates and Senators head to Richmond to do the peoples' business. For quite some time, we have had this annual event scheduled as a Wine and Cheese event at the Lyceum just before the Assembly session begins. This year the event is Sunday, Jan. 4.

However, as so often happens in Virginia politics, we have been overcome by events. Because we have a special election on January 13, 2009, this event has morphed into a fundraiser for **Charniele Herring**, our candidate for the 46th District House of Delegates. We will still hear from our delegation, State Senators Dick Saslaw and Patsy Ticer, and Delegates Adam Ebbin and David Englin, who have graciously allowed the focus of attention to be on Charniele.

Please see the invitation on the next page of this newsletter. Then call or email the ADC office at 703-549-3367 or office@alexdem.org to make a reservation for the evening. And, please consider contributing/paying by credit card at ActBlue, <http://www.actblue.com/page/2009preview>. (Even though payments go to the ADC, the proceeds will go to the Herring campaign.)

We hope to see you at this wonderful opportunity to close out the Holiday Season and move forward in the new year.

*The Alexandria Democratic Committee
Cordially Invites You to a Combination
General Assembly Preview*

*&
Fundraiser for
Charniele Herring*

Democratic Candidate for the 46th District House of Delegates Seat

*Sunday, January 4, 2009, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM
Wine and Cheese at The Lyceum
201 South Washington Street, Alexandria, VA*

*\$25.00 per person \$50.00 — Sponsor
\$100.00 — Patron \$250.00 — Benefactor*

*Join Senators **Dick Saslaw** & **Patsy Ticer** and Delegates **Adam Ebbin** and **David Englin** to find out about the 2009 General Assembly Session and to meet their soon-to-be new colleague. Respond on the form below or use ActBlue at <http://www.actblue.com/page/2009preview>*

Please mail or deliver this form, with payment, to: Alexandria Democratic Committee, 618 North Washington Street, Ground Floor, Suite 2, Alexandria, VA 22314. For further information call the ADC office 703-549-3367. Reservations are requested by January 2, 2009

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Home Phone Work Phone Email

Occupation Employer

Employer's Address _____

I (we) cannot attend the Wine and Cheese, but enclosed is \$ _____ to help the ADC elect Charniele Herring.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

_____ Tickets at \$25.00 each _____ Sponsor tickets at \$50.00 each _____ Patron tickets at \$100.00 each

_____ Benefactor tickets at \$250.00 each

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Contributions are not tax deductible for federal income taxes purposes.

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.

The Amazing Ride Continues

by Charniele Herring

Thanks to all of the Herring for Delegate volunteers for the firehouse caucus held on December 15th and 16th, 2008. I am proud to say that new friends and old -- people I have known for over twenty years in this community -- came to my aid when I sent out a call for help on Friday, December 12th. Your skills, whether it be website design, campaign management, fundraising, volunteer coordination and recruitment, voter contact, or media relations was top notch. I could have not pulled out 181 voters in those few days without you.

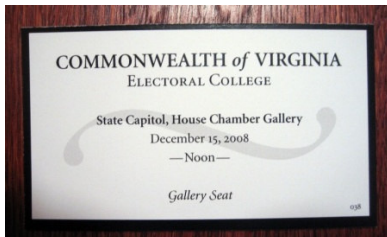
The most heart touching moment during the caucus happened when a voter approached me as I stood outside the poll on December 16th. He told me that he is a new citizen and that it was his first time voting. I will never forget that moment.

We are now working hard to win the special election and we take nothing for granted. While Alexandria is a strongly democratic City, we must work hard to pull out as many voters as we can. Republicans have been able to gain ground in special elections. So, I need your help. We have calling nights every night up to and including January 13th. Please contact me at www.herringfordelegate.com to volunteer.

I would be remiss to end this note without thanking Brian Moran for being an amazing representative for the 46th District and being a strong Democratic Party Leader. While he was building the numbers of our party in the House of Delegates over the past years, he took time to meet with members of the community of the 46th District to discuss issues that were of concern to us and take action. This is the kind of leader we need as our next Governor of Virginia.

I would also be remiss if I did not end this note with my favorite reminder-Now, let us continue to be good to each other and remember one of the lessons we learned in kindergarten: "When [we] go out into the world, watch out for traffic, hold hands, and stick together."-Robert Fulghum. Now, on to victory on January 13, 2009.

The Electoral College Meets in Richmond on December 15



Ticket to the Gallery to witness this historic occasion.



Electors enter Chamber
Marian Van Landingham, center
with back to camera.

Reception, Jefferson Hotel



Gov. Kaine congratulates electors.
Marian Van Landingham, left,
Susan Kellom second from left.



Alexandria's contingent witnesses the voting from the Gallery.



Our 8th Congressional District Elector,
Marian Van Landingham, casts her vote
for Barack Obama.



From left, Charniele Herring, Gov.
Tim Kaine; Susan Kellom, right

Alexandria's Fabulous Inaugural Ball

by Susan Kellom

The invitation for our elegant, fabulous and just plain wonderful Alexandria Dinner Dance on January 20th is on page 6.

So that as many people as possible can afford to share in the joy of this event, we kept the basic ticket price as low as we could. If you can, please purchase at a higher level. We have a TON of Democrats to elect this year!

Make reservations by mailing the form below or by going to: ActBlue at <http://www.actblue.com/page/adcinaugural>.

Please act soon as seats are limited.

Please mail or deliver this form, with payment to: Alexandria Democratic Committee, 618 North Washington Street, Ground Floor, Suite 2, Alexandria, VA 22314. For further information, call the ADC office at 703-549-3367. Reservation deadline, December 31, 2008 or until all seats are sold. Reservations first come, first served.

Name(s)

Address

Home Phone

Work or Cell Phone

Email

Occupation

Employer

Employer's Address

/___/ I (we) cannot attend the Dinner Dance, but enclosed is \$ _____ to help the ADC elect the Alexandria Mayor and City Council and General Assembly candidates.

Total Enclosed \$ _____

_____ Tickets at \$125.00 each

_____ Sponsor Tickets at \$150.00 each

_____ Patron tickets at \$250.00 each

_____ Table Sponsors at \$1,500.00 each

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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.

*The Alexandria Democratic Committee
Cordially Invites You
To a Dinner Dance
In Honor of the Inauguration of
Barack Obama
As President of the United States
And
Joseph Biden
As Vice President of the United States*

Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Reception — 7:00 PM Dinner — 8:00 PM

*Dancing throughout the Evening 'til Midnight
Black Tie Optional*

The Hilton Mark Center, Alexandria, Virginia

\$125.00 per person

\$150.00 per person — Sponsor

\$250.00 per person — Patron

\$1500 — Table Sponsor (Ten seats)

Menu

Complimentary Wine Service During Dinner

Arugula and Pear Salad

Choice of:

Herbed Salmon, Flat Iron Steak or Vegetarian Entree

Accompaniments, Rolls and Butter

Dessert & Coffee Buffet

and Chocolate Cappuccino Tort

Authorized and Paid for by the Alexandria Democratic Committee

Local Politics: Democracy's Foundation

Alexandria City Council, and Mayoral, elections will be held this spring, on Tuesday, May 5. Because there are incumbents and challengers running for the six City Council positions, a caucus will be held—on January 31— to select the candidates who will appear on the ballot in May.

We have asked the incumbents and challengers this question: **“Why Should You be Nominated as a Candidate for City Council in the January 31, 2009 Caucus?”** Here are their responses, in alphabetical, last name order :

Kerry Donley for City Council

Fellow Alexandria Democrats:

As you may have heard, I've decided to toss my hat in the ring for the Democratic nomination to Alexandria City Council. I'm excited to be back in the political arena, and look forward to a spirited campaign that focuses on discussing issues of vital importance to all Alexandrians.

My decision to seek a return to Council after serving from 1988 to 2003 – those last seven years as Mayor -- came after long and deep reflection on Alexandria's future. It is primarily because of the daunting economic challenges I see in our City's future that I decided to return to Alexandria electoral politics. In short, I believe I have the leadership experience and tested judgment needed to help Alexandria weather the coming storm.

We face difficult fiscal decisions and tough budget choices in the coming years and we need proven leaders for these challenging times. I hope you will support my candidacy for City Council as we approach the Democratic Caucus on January 31 and the general election on May 5, and urge your friends to do so as well.

See you on the campaign trail!

Rob Krupicka for City Council

I've been honored to serve you these past six years. I'd be honored to have your vote. Although economic realities challenge us, we'll push forward with the community spirit and ingenuity that makes Lisa and I proud to raise our two daughters here.

As co-chair of our Economic Sustainability task force, I'll keep pushing to improve our government and to help businesses create jobs and bring valuable services and revenues to our community. We'll continue to focus on reducing crime and completing important waterfront and west-end planning. And I'll work to enhance transportation, especially mass transit.

As co-chair of our award-winning Eco-City Alexandria initiative, I applaud Alexandria's emerging environmental leadership. We can and must do more; it saves money, helps our planet and creates green jobs.

Educational excellence is essential to Alexandria's success. As Chair of Governor Kaine's School Readiness Task Force, I led the creation of statewide standards so more children start kindergarten ready to succeed. I've fought and will keep fighting for early childhood services. And we have to focus on math, science, arts and overall student achievement in our schools.

Please join our campaign. Contact me at Rob@krupicka.com. Visit my web site and Facebook group at www.krupicka.com

Local Politics, Democracy's Foundation, *continued*

Tim Lovain for City Council

I am grateful for the honor of serving on City Council for the past 2 ½ years, where I have done what I promised:

- I have used my knowledge of the City budget to make it more fiscally responsible.
- I have used my transportation expertise to help address the transportation challenges facing Alexandria and our region.
- As a father of three school-age daughters, I have fought for programs and projects that benefit Alexandria's kids.
- I have always tried to use my best judgment to do what's right, regardless of the political consequences.

I want to help keep our community moving forward. We need to deal with our budget crisis thoughtfully and responsibly. I want to bring the streetcar back to Alexandria and be a leader for regional transportation solutions. I want to fight for more playing fields for our kids and curtail the use of flimsy plastic bags. I want to strengthen the City's partnerships with the schools, neighboring jurisdictions, the business community and nonprofit organizations.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and the entire community to address all the challenges we face. Together, we can make a great city even better.

Del Pepper for City Council

I am a candidate for re-election to the City Council and I would very much appreciate one of your 6 votes at the January 31 Democratic unassembled caucus.

During my service on Council, I have supported responsible budgets, excellence in our public schools, affordable/workforce housing, the preservation of open space, and appropriate development. I have been an early and strong supporter of mass transit, and the creation of a pedestrian/bicycle friendly city. A redeveloped and high performing Landmark Mall is vital to our City and I will do all I can to ensure that this project becomes a reality. Finally, small businesses are the lifeblood of our community, and I am committed to helping them thrive.

I know that Alexandria's residents are concerned about protecting the environment and to that end I co-sponsored the initiative to create an environmental action plan for the City. As the co-chair of the Mirant Community Monitoring Group, I have been a leader in the effort to close down the Mirant power plant and, for the short term, to get a cleaner running operation

As co-chair of the Norfolk Southern Community Monitoring Group, I have championed the efforts to close down the Norfolk Southern Ethanol Transloading Facility, which is located close to an elementary school and to two densely developed residential neighborhoods.

Local Politics, Democracy's Foundation, continued

Paul Smedberg for City Council

I am proud and honored to have served you as a member of Council and promise to work on strengthening the tradition of good government in Alexandria. I respectfully ask you to support my reelection campaign with your vote in the upcoming caucus.

If elected, I will work to insure that our community remains one of promise, with safe and healthy neighborhoods, excellent schools, efficient and responsive local government, and responsible development and redevelopment. I will focus on:

Addressing Economic Challenges. I will continue to champion initiatives to prioritize spending, encourage economic growth and establish sustainable programs.

Making Government More Effective. I will continue to push initiatives that define and refine the role of government consider the bottom-line for all programs and initiatives.

Improving Quality of Life. I have worked with community leaders to deal with the Mirant power plant's hazardous operations. I will continue efforts to insure that Alexandria's children receive a first-rate education. I support initiatives that protect our historic assets and balance our tourism interests.

Please join me on Sunday, January 11th from 1 to 3PM at the Del Merei Grille on Mount Vernon Avenue for my campaign kick-off. Best wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy New Year.

Boyd Walker for City Council

Preserving our community needs to be our top priority and I will be a steadfast advocate for what makes Alexandria a special place to live. I will stand with our residents and strengthen our small businesses, which employ so many.

New leadership with new ideas will bring us through this economic downturn. Investments in transit, businesses, and city employees and fully funding our school will help Alexandria prosper.

In addition, we must make our waterfront attractive, historic sites more engaging, and use Eco-City Alexandria as an incentive to visit, live and work in Alexandria. At the same time, we need to make strategic decisions on the budget that will keep property taxes low, so that homeowners stay in their homes, and residents stay in Alexandria.

Moreover, if elected, I will carry out the work on transit begun by my Hon. Campaign Chair Lois Walker and I will continue former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald's efforts in making sure we are good stewards of the environment. I will also offer the compassion and commitment, especially to those less fortunate, which have been the hallmark of Councilman Ludwig Gaines.

I ask for your vote on Saturday, Jan. 31 in the Democratic caucus.

Local Politics, Democracy's Foundation, continued

Justin Wilson for City Council

Only 18 months ago, Alexandria voters awarded me their trust with a seat on the City Council. Throughout that short campaign, I spoke of a desire to hit the ground running, and with the support of the community I have done just that.

With a full term on City Council, I can continue my efforts to make Alexandria a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

During my time on Council, I have been a leader as the Council has grappled with our worsening budgetary environment—offering creative answers to ease the burden on our taxpayers and protect critical services.

I have pushed for new solutions to our transportation challenges—knowing that the development patterns and transportation answers of the past will only give us more of the problems of the present.

As a parent of two young children and a leader statewide in Juvenile Justice, I know the important role the City plays in nurturing the educational and physical development of our children. I will continue in my efforts to ensure that Alexandria is a place for children to thrive.

Please check out my website at www.justin.net. I need your vote in the Democratic Caucus!

Candidates Forum — January 22, 2009

Make an informed decision before you vote in the January 31 caucus. Come to the Candidates Forum at:

**Where: Francis Hammond School, 4646 Seminary Road,
Alexandria, VA**

When: 7:30 pm

Note: Filing deadline for potential candidates to be included in the Caucus is 5:00 PM, Friday, January 2. If anyone files after the January newsletter is published, the ADC will forward a statement from that person or persons to the newsletter list.

Unassembled Caucus to Nominate Six Candidates for City Council

Make voting for City Council candidates a priority. Vote in the Caucus.

When: Saturday, January 31, 2009

Time: 12 Noon to 6:30 pm

Where: Minnie Howard School, 3801 W. Braddock Road,
Alexandria, VA

Early voting: at Alexandria Democratic Committee Headquarters
618 N. Washington St., Alexandria, VA

Dates and Times: Saturday, January 24, 3:00—6:00 pm
Wednesday and Thursday, January 28 and 29,
6:00—9:00 pm

Alexandria Democratic Committee

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

Phone: 703-549-3367

www.alexdem.org

First Meeting of the New Year:

Monday, January 5, 2009

8:00 pm

**Minnie Howard School
3801 W. Braddock Road
Alexandria, VA**