

The Alexandria Democrat

Message from the Chair

Dear Alexandria Democrats:

Congratulations to the Democrats elected to the Alexandria City Council on May 5. Mayor **Bill Euille** and his fellow members of Council, **Kerry Donley**, **Rob Krupicka**, **Del Pepper** and **Paul Smedberg** will serve us well. They understand how this city works and they know how to continue to build on the successes of our past Councils.

The loss of Council members **Tim Lovain** and **Justin Wilson** will be felt throughout the city. Both of these men have contributed so much to leading Alexandria down positive paths. Both are known for their innovative proposals, their thoughtful discussions and their total dedication to Alexandria. We know that they will continue to contribute to Alexandria in many ways.

The loss of Democratic seats on City Council is a blow in a Democratic city. We can and should engage in a frank dialogue to make sure that we learn as much as we can from this election and to make sure that we put the lessons learned to good use in future campaigns. On Saturday, June 13, City Council will hold a Public Hearing to discuss changing the City Council elections from May to November. I encourage you to attend and speak at this hearing.

In our never-ending Virginia election cycle, we still must get up on the 9th of June and vote in the Democratic primary for Governor and Lieutenant Governor. Our candidates for Governor, **Creigh Deeds**, **Terry McAuliffe** and **Brian Moran**, and our candidates for Lt. Governor, **Mike Signer** and **Jody Wagner**, will probably be happier than you to see this primary over so that they can join our Attorney General candidate, **Steve Shannon**, on the road to Richmond. It has been a long haul, but we can be certain that our candidates will be far superior.

PLEASE – if you have not yet, please volunteer for the candidate of your choice. This will be a VERY low turnout primary and every vote is crucial. You should also take the time to spread the word on eligibility to vote **absentee in**

person. The rules are at: <http://alexandriava.gov/elections/info/default.aspx?id=1720> or you can call the Alexandria Registrar's office at 703-838-4050.

The ADC will be providing rides to the polls for any Democrat who needs one. We also need a few more drivers for June 9th. If you either need a ride or can provide one, please call 703-549-3367.

And, last, an upbeat note: Make plans now to join us on Sunday, June 28th for our **Jefferson-Jackson Dinner** at the **Holiday Inn on First Street** for an elegant experience. Weather permitting, we will dine on the roof-top terrace. Watch for an email within the week for full details. This will be one HECK of a dinner.

See you June 15th at Minnie Howard for the ADC meeting!

Susan Kellom

Alexandria
Democratic
Committee

June 2009



The road to the
Virginia Governor's Mansion

Democratic Primary
Tuesday, June 9, 2009
Governor:

R. Creigh Deeds
Terry McAuliffe
Brian Moran
Lieutenant Governor:
Michael Signer
Jody Wagner

Absentee Voting in person:
last day, Saturday, June 6,
8:00-5:00 pm Call 703-838-
4050.

For Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia:

[R. Creigh Deeds](#) - [Terry McAuliffe](#) - [Brian Moran](#)

Why Am I Supporting Terry McAuliffe for Governor?

by Hazel Rigby

During the past couple of months I've been asked this question many, many times by Alexandrians both on and off the Democratic Committee. By now I'm tempted to say, "because I'm old enough that I've earned the right to wear purple and sit on the curb and spit if I want to." In addition, over the years I've made enough phone calls, canvassed, door-knocked, got out the vote, and leafleted for so many Democratic candidates that I haven't always been as enthusiastic about as I am about Terry McAuliffe and his qualifications--I'm entitled!!

However, the more important reason is that I've seen Terry in action. I know him. We all know of his success as Finance Chair and Chair of the Democratic National Committee, but I worked with him at Hillary Clinton's National Headquarters in Arlington. He has so many business and political contacts across America and the world that he will be able to call on to help bring jobs and attention to Virginia.

I saw him in action at many local events and on stage in New York City when he "roused" the huge, sold-out crowd at the Radio City Music Hall concert Elton John held for Hillary. I saw the respect the interns and volunteers had for his enthusiasm and optimism. Many are here in Virginia working with us in his campaign as are a large number of Obama interns and volunteers.

Of course, of great significance to me, he helped Hillary Clinton put 18,000,000 cracks in the glass ceiling!

When Hillary met with us at the Denver Convention she told us she was releasing all of us to vote as we wished but that after her name was put in nomination she would be withdrawing and moving on to work hard to elect Senator Obama. She asked us all to do the same!

Upon arriving home I learned that Hillary's staff, at the direction of Terry McAuliffe, was holding an instructional meeting for Northern Virginians at her Arlington Headquarters to rally our support to elect Senator Obama and turn Virginia blue. He told us that at Senator Obama's request he and Hillary would be making several appearances in Virginia to raise money and support for him. He urged us to follow their lead. Along with the other more than 200 Virginians there, I did.

While working on the Campaign, I've met and become friends with Dorothy, his very smart, caring wife and five wonderful children all born and raised in McLean Virginia. They are absolutely devoted to him and very proud to be diligently working for his election. Dorothy will be an inspiring, capable first lady.

Terry McAuliffe is the most positive, enthusiastic, delightful, well-qualified candidate running for Governor. Given the fact that he courageously managed and raised a lot of money for Hillary's campaign, then when she lost, quickly rebounded and did the same for President Obama makes him worthy of my support and more important, my vote.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hazel Rigby

Terry McAuliffe -- <http://www.terrymauliffe.com/>

For Governor:

R. Creigh Deeds - Terry McAuliffe - Brian Moran

I am proud to support Brian Moran as our next governor.

by Rob Krupicka

Brian began his career in public service here in Alexandria. He started as a member of local civic organizations while working his way through law school, tending bar here at Ramparts.

Brian rose to represent us in Richmond and then lead the Democrats in the House of Delegates as the Caucus Chairman.

I support Brian Moran because, for over twenty years, Brian has devoted himself to a life of public service, fighting for public safety, education, and equal rights for all Virginians.

I know Brian can beat Bob McDonnell in the fall because he was able to help recruit candidates and win elections all over the commonwealth as the House Caucus Chairman. During his tenure, we picked up twelve seats in the House of Delegates and it is why we are now within striking distance of a majority.

I know Brian Moran will continue the excellent leadership of former Governor Mark Warner and current Governor Tim Kaine because he has already been working with them to make sure we keep Virginia moving forward.

I hope you will join me in supporting Brian Moran for Governor in the June 9th Democratic Primary.

Rob Krupicka

Brian Moran -- <http://www.brianmoran.com/>

Editor's Note regarding R. Creigh Deeds: At "press" time, we had not received a personal letter from a Deeds supporter so therefore we regret the omission.

Creigh Deeds -- <http://www.deedsforvirginia.com/>

For Lieutenant Governor:

Michael Signer -- <http://www.mikesigner.com/>

Jody Wagner -- <http://www.jodyforva.com/>

Greetings and Appreciation from Newly-Elected Alexandria City Council Members

Dear Alexandria Democrats,

Thank you for your generous help and support in the City Council election. Although two fine councilmen, Tim Lovain and Justin Wilson, were defeated, we need to also remember that Democrats continue to hold five of the seven Council seats, and that Democratic candidates received 65.7 percent of the citywide vote. The Alexandria Democratic Party is strong and, with your continued efforts, will grow even stronger as we win future elections.

We have our work cut out for us, but Democrats always meet challenges with optimism, vigor and hard work. I feel both humbled and privileged to represent you and all Alexandrians as we move into the next phase of our great city's history.

Thanks again for all your support, and let's get working toward 2012.

All the best,
Kerry Donley

Dear ADC members and friends:

I am writing to thank everyone who voted for me, contributed to my campaign, or volunteered. A number of you served on my campaign committee and I am very grateful for your hard work. Thanks to one and all for your confidence in me and for your support. I am delighted to have been reelected to the City Council and I look forward to the next three years.

The new Council will be installed on July 1, 2009 at T. C. Williams High School at 7 p.m. So, be sure to save the date and attend.

I am really sorry that Council members Justin Wilson and Tim Lovain were not reelected, and I hope that they will run for office again. I know that I will miss them. The fact that they were not reelected has nothing to do with their policies or with them. It had everything to do with the low voter turnout and the bulleting that the Republicans did.

There's always another election, so on to June 9th.

Sincerely,
Del Pepper

Dear ADC Members and Friends,

Thank you for your help and support. I want to especially thank Julie Jakopic, Marcia Quinn, Bryan Porter, Jonathan Krall, Lauren Smith, Susan Butler, John Humphrey, David French, Tina Games Evans, Jim Larrison, Sabrina Detlef, Jessica Taylor, Kelly and Scott Maconomy and the many other dedicated volunteers who worked with us.

The next few years will be a challenge for our community as we struggle with the economy and strive to make smart choices to help our community pull out of the recession. We are going to rely on the talent and energy of everybody in Alexandria to make this work and I am looking forward to working with you. Each of us has a part to play to keep Alexandria moving forward.

I also want to thank Justin and Tim for their hard work and service. The Council will greatly miss Tim's transportation and budget expertise and Justin's budget skills, boundless energy and hard work. I know both of them have great things ahead of them and I look forward to doing all I can to help them.

Thank you again. It's an honor to serve this city.
Rob Krupicka

Dear Fellow Alexandrians,

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you for your support of my reelection to Alexandria City Council. I am humbled and honored to represent you as a member of Council and I promise to work hard and bring a balanced, thoughtful approach to Council's deliberations as we address fiscal challenges while maintaining the City's core services and a first-rate education for our children.

It goes without saying that I will miss working with Councilmen - and my friends - Tim Lovain and Justin Wilson. I saw first-hand how committed they are to their Council work and as representatives of the City. I applaud them for all they have done in the past and all they will do in the years to come.

In closing, please contact me if I can be of service to you in anyway.

Gratefully,
Paul Smedberg

SOME RANDOM THOUGHTS ABOUT THE MAY ELECTION

by Tom Osborne

- Since the election, I've been told by several of my neighbors, "If I'd had any idea that a Republican might win, I would have voted." Proving the old adage: All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good folks to do nothing.
- We have too many elections in Alexandria. I wake up on Tuesdays and think to myself, "Shouldn't I be voting for something today?"
- Is it really democracy when 7.5% of the registered voters can pick a winner?
- Putting aside the personal nature of calls for resignations following the election, those of us in leadership positions in the Alexandria Democratic Party – and I include all members of the Democratic Committee – need to do some introspection. Anyone who feels they are unwilling or unable to do a better job in the future should step aside and let someone else step up to the plate.
- Republicans might not have been the only ones "plunking" on election day. While I've heard of no concerted effort in this respect, our system of naming the highest vote-getter as Vice Mayor encourages plunking by the devotees of individual Democratic council candidates – vote only for your favorite, to improve his/her chances of being Vice Mayor.
- Turnout was down – from 15,365 voters in 2006 to 14,419 voters this year, even with a significant increase in voter registration (up by some 16,000!) That, combined with plunking (not using all 6 of your votes), meant a total dropoff of about 13,000 total votes cast – and our candidates needed a total of just over 1,000 of those missing votes to have all come out winners!
- In 2006, the average voter cast 5.13 of his/her 6.0 possible votes for council members. This time, the average voter cast 4.57 of the possible 6 votes. Whole lotta plunkin' goin' on!
- I believe both Fannon and Hughes were heard to claim that their elections were the result of a "revolution" against the Democratic establishment. If it was a revolution, it was the world's first revolution by apathy! Voter turnout was dismal – worse than 3 years ago or 6 years ago, when Democrats won a "clean sweep"!
- We need to bring our elections into the 21st Century. It was physically easier to vote for Kris Allen for "American Idol" -- or even for Susan Boyle on "Britain's Got Talent" – than it was to vote for school board members. Also easier for most folks to make an informed choice!
- Although officially non-partisan, political parties can and do get involved in making endorsements in school board races elsewhere. Why not in Alexandria? I could have used the guidance of my fellow Democrats before casting my votes.
- If we elected our City Council by district rather than at-large, there would be no such thing as plunking. Yes, I know, there might be other drawbacks, like pitting one neighborhood against another, but we don't see that among our state legislators, who are elected by district.
- There was a perception, right or wrong, that our slate lacked diversity. The perception was certainly right in terms of gender. I hope to see more than just a single Democratic woman preparing to run the next time around. What about Hispanics and Asians? Our party doesn't need to be perceived as the white men's party (as one voter – a white man like me – told me outside the polls on election day).

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Random Thoughts (Continued)

by Tom Osborne

- Can the new City Council vote right away to shorten their terms of office to have the next council election in Nov. 2011 rather than May 2012, and then have 4-year terms after that? That would coincide with state House/Senate elections – not overshadowed by statewide or national races, but still an election with somewhat higher turnout. Higher turnout is always good for Alexandria Democrats!
- Better yet, could the state legislature work together with city council to move ALL elections to November of even-numbered years? It's hard to get really psyched up about an election more frequently than that – and also very hard on the pocketbook.
- Weary though we may be of elections – and disappointed about losing 2 seats on Council – it's time to move on. It is vital that we re-elect all 3 of our current members of the Virginia House of Delegates this fall; that we rack up big margins in Alexandria to help elect Democrats as Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General; and that we help some nearby legislative districts elect Democrats so we'll have a Democratic majority in the House of Delegates in Richmond when re-districting comes around in 2 years!

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness that I pass on the news that Caryl Hughes has died. Caryl was a long time ADC member, a tireless volunteer and a fervent believer that the road to perdition was paved with Republican thoughts.

Caryl and her late husband Jim were our 1993 Alexandria Grassroots Award winners and were the 1994 Democratic Party of Virginia Grassroots award winners. Though her health had been failing for some time, she faithfully volunteered at the ADC office for Barack Obama. On May 5, she called for a ride to the polls to take her from the Woodbine nursing facility to Durant so that she could cast a curb-side vote for our City Council candidates. While we were watching the Preakness a few weeks ago, she asked if we could get her an Absentee Ballot Application so that she could vote in the June 9th Primary.

A native of Long Island, Caryl was thrilled to travel to whatever end of the world Jim's State Department career sent them. No matter what the topic of discussion, she had an appropriate literary reference and /or a clever pun to keep the conversation going. For many years, she and I had a weekly contest to see who could finish the Sunday crossword puzzle first. It is with great affection that I tell you that she was neither a gracious winner nor a gracious loser.

Caryl is survived by her children and grandchildren: Daughter Vicki; son David, his wife Jennifer and children James and Rhiannon; and daughter Hillary, her husband Jeffery and children Benjamin and Joshua.

Cards may be sent to the family care of Vicki Hughes, 5839 Laine Drive, Alexandria, VA 22303.

Susan Kellom

Eighth Congressional District Convention...

...was held on May 16, 2009, at Edison High School. Elected to represent Alexandria on the Eighth District/State Central Committees were PJ Palmer Johnson, Susan Kellom, Richard Hobson and John Biechman. Their terms are for four years, from 2009 to 2013.

Full details about the convention are at <http://www.va8thcddems.org/>

For the Planet

by Carolyn Cason

Water, Water, Everywhere and not a Drop to Drink—unless we conserve it!

1. No drips

A dripping faucet can waste 20 gallons of water a day. A leaking toilet can use **90,000 gallons** of water in a month. Change washers on your sinks and showers or buy washerless faucets.

2. Install new fixtures

New, low-volume or dual flush toilets, low-flow showerheads, water-efficient dishwashers and clothes washing machines can all save a great deal of water and money. Aerators on your faucets can significantly reduce water volume; water-saving showerheads can cut the volume of water used down to 1.2 gallons per minute or less, and some even have a "pause button" to let you stop the water while soaping up or shampooing.

3. Cultivate good water habits

All water that goes down the drain, clean or dirty, ends up mixing with raw sewage. Turn off the water while brushing your teeth or shaving and always wash laundry and dishes with full loads. When washing dishes by hand, fill up the sink and turn off the water.

4. Stay off the bottle

Bottled water is a scam. The water bottle industry is not well regulated and studies have shown that bottled water is not even particularly pure. A four-year study of bottled water in the U.S. conducted by NRDC found that 1/5 of the 103 water products tested contained synthetic organic chemicals such as the neurotoxin xylene and the possible carcinogen and neurotoxin styrene. (Grist) (Coca-Cola adds salt to its Dasani water to make it taste better, just like fast food.). If your water at home tastes funny, try an activated charcoal or ceramic filter.

5. Harvest your rainwater

Put a rain barrel on your downspouts and use this water for irrigation. Rain cisterns come in all shapes and sizes ranging from larger underground systems to smaller, freestanding ones.

6. Harvest your greywater

Water that has been used at least once but is still clean enough for other jobs is called greywater. Water from sinks, showers, dishwashers, and clothes washers are the most common household examples. Greywater can be recycled with practical plumbing systems like the Aqus, or with simple practices such as emptying the fish tank in the garden instead of the sink. The bottom line? Avoid putting water down the drain when you can use it for something else.

7. Don't spike the punch

Water sources have to be protected. Don't pour chemicals down drains, or flush drugs down toilets; it could come back in diluted form in your water.

Alexandria Democratic Committee

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

Phone: 703-549-3367

www.alexdem.org

Upcoming ADC Meetings:

June 15, 8:00pm

July—NO Meeting

August 3, 8:00pm

September 8, (Tuesday) 8:00pm

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 mshlyman@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	rlafond@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
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	fjpepperm@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	jkinney@bakerdonelson.com
305	John Adams School	David Colton	703-256-2911	coltonva@verizon.net
306	Wm.Ramsay RecCen.	Vacant		
307	South Port Apartments	Libby Cooperman	703-370-9064	lcooperm@aacn.nche.edu
308	Cameron Station	Don Buch (acting)	703-647-9132	dnb.adc@live.com

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