



# The Banner

An Online Monthly e-Newsletter for the Democratic Party

By Authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

March 2020

## Central Committee

(Front Row L – R)

Deb Reynolds, Josh Cramer,  
Deborah Carter – Chair, Mari Lee  
– Vice Chair, Lauren Beacham -  
Secretary, Tom Slater

(Back Row L-R)

Renee Knapp, Gabe Cassutto,  
Tony Soltero - Treasurer, Bill  
Reid, Antonio Bowens

Not Pictured: Regan Riley



## Chair's Corner

Welcome to the Party!

For those keeping track, there are now 703 more registered Democrats than Republicans in Frederick County, a trend analyzed by Tom Slater later in this newsletter. But here's an interesting tidbit: That represents an increase of 290 more Dems than we had last month, while both Republican and unaffiliated numbers have decreased during that same time – so it's not just that more new Dems are moving into the county or that more new voters are registering as Dems; people are actually changing their party affiliation.

In less pleasant news, our office opening has been delayed in part because the space was vandalized last month. Nothing was stolen or destroyed (other than the front door), but everything was coated with fire extinguisher foam. It's all been cleaned, and we're in the process of installing more security at this very moment, so expect to see us up and running soon. Plan to stop in at 1080 W. Patrick Street, suite 4, in the corner next to ALDI.

If you want to help, be on the lookout for our announcement of Painting and Pizza Day later this month. We'll need people to wield rollers and brushes! Physical labor not your style? There will be a donation link so that you can "sponsor" a can of paint. If everyone pitches in, we can get this done quickly – and without dipping into the funds we should be spending on getting our candidates elected.

Other get-togethers are already on the agenda this month. On Tuesday, we're holding our March happy hour in Middletown. Please join us at Fratelli's at 5:00 before the Super Tuesday primary results start coming in.

Saturday, March 14, is the first forum for the 2020 Frederick County Board of Education candidates. There are seven candidates running for three openings; six of them will go on to the general election. We're at the Urbana library starting at 1:00 (see the ad elsewhere in this newsletter for more details).

And our regular DCC meetings are back on the third Thursday at 6:00. This month's meeting is going to be held at the office on March 19 – painted or not!

The next day is the start of the Western Maryland Democratic Summit at Rocky Gap. The reception on the evening of March 20 is hosted by Congressman David Trone; the Summit goes from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Speakers include Maryland Attorney General Brian Frosh, Maryland Democratic Party Chair Yvette Lewis, and Frederick's own County Executive Jan Gardner.

The theme of this year's Summit is Uniting to Defeat Trump. Panels will feature local representatives from organizations that will welcome your activism, as well as leaders from the Pennsylvania and Virginia Democratic Parties. A few tickets are still available at [dems Summit 2020.eventbrite.com](https://dems Summit 2020.eventbrite.com).

Deborah Carter

### The BIG Picture Elected Official Infograph



Frederick County residents:  
Confused about who your  
elected officials are?

Click [here](#) for a complete  
breakdown.

March 2020 At-a-Glance



**United Dems of Frederick Co. (UDFC) Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 2nd at 7:00 p.m.**

Cafe 611 Restaurant, 611 N Market St, Frederick, MD 21701  
Social Hour from 6:00-7:00 p.m.

**South Frederick Co. Dems (SFCD) Meet-Up**  
**Tuesday, March 10th at 8:00 a.m.**

IHOP Restaurant @ Westview Promenade  
5277 Buckeystown Pike, Frederick

**Young Democrats of Frederick County Monthly Meeting**  
**Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 p.m.**

C. Burr Artz Library CBA Room, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick.

**(NFCD) North Frederick County Dems Meet-Up**  
**Saturday, March 14th at 10:00am**

Thurmont Regional Library, 76 E. Moser Rd, Thurmont (please bring a non-perishable food item for the area food bank.)

**Women's Democratic League (WDL) Monthly Meeting**  
**Monday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m.**

Location TBA

**Frederick Co. Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) Meeting**  
**Monday, March 19th at 6:00 p.m.**

C. Burr Artz Library, 110 E. Patrick Street, Frederick

**Frederick County Dems at the Food Bank**  
**Every Friday in March from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

Contact: Maureen Grayzeck – [mgrayzeck2016@gmail.com](mailto:mgrayzeck2016@gmail.com)

Frederick Food Bank Program operated by  
Community Action Agency, 14 E. All Saints St, Frederick



Senator Ron Young- District 3

We have reached the halfway point of the 2020 Maryland General Assembly Legislative Session. While there is still a lot of work to be done, we have made significant progress with several of our bills, as well as on some of the other major legislative priorities for the State.

I'd like to start by discussing the progress of some of my bills. First, SB264 - Frederick County – Elderly or Disabled Renters – Grants. This bill came to us as part of the Frederick County Government's legislative priorities package. The bill authorizes, instead of a property tax credit, the governing body of Frederick County to provide, by law, a grant to certain elderly or disabled renters of property. The legislation, if enacted, will be of tremendous help to elderly or disabled residents in Frederick County struggling to keep their homes during times of financial difficulty. The bill passed out of the Senate with a 45-0 vote.

Secondly, our bill prohibiting the purchasing for, distributing, or selling kratom to an individual under the age of 18 years of age has passed the Senate with a vote of 35-11. Kratom comes from a plant grown in Southeast Asia and has been

known to be adulterated with lethal drugs such as opioids. Our original bill called for a total ban of kratom. This faced stiff opposition from the American Kratom Association and several in the addiction recovery community, who argue kratom can be used to help people break their addiction. After several weeks of consulting with them and users of kratom, we were all in agreement that the product should not be available to children. I will report on other of my bills as they pass.

One of the major issues the General Assembly is addressing this session is education. The Blueprint for Maryland's Future will require the State and each county to distribute to county boards of education funds, based on a formula, so that education is properly funded state-wide. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation and served on the Kirwan Commission for a short time. While there seems to be widespread agreement that education needs to be better funded, the question before us is how best to fund it. While the cost is very high, the purpose is to make Maryland one of the world's best educational systems. The goal is to offer equal education opportunity to every child in Maryland no matter where they live.

Maryland has tens of thousands of vacant high-paying jobs and tens of thousands of under educated and under qualified residents. We need to make these match. While the cost for the Blueprint for Maryland is high the cost of not providing better education may be higher. Statistics show that the lifetime earnings of someone with a college degree or vocational training is much higher than those without it. The taxes on this could more than cover the cost of the program. Leadership is working on how to fund the program. In addition, individual legislators are submitting legislation that address the costs. However, just because a piece of legislation is submitted, that does not mean it will be passed. Don't hesitate to respond to proposals as they are proposed. We want to hear from you.

Final decisions on legislation have not yet been made.

Senator Ron Young

[Ronald.Young@senate.state.md.us](mailto:Ronald.Young@senate.state.md.us)

Frederick office: 301-662-8520

Annapolis Office: 410-841-3575

-Ron



Tom Slater- Frederick County Democratic Party Historian

**The Rest of the Story**

The Rest of the Story

In January Democrats received the good news we were looking for – Democrats finally passed the Republicans in voter registration in Frederick County. The News-Post reported there were 67,751(37.76%) Democrats, 67,735 (37.75%) Republicans and 43,923 (24.48%) voters who were either unaffiliated or chose a party other than Democrat or Republican (referred to as “other” later in the column) for a total of 179,409 registered voters in Frederick County. To put this in a historical prospective, I asked my son, Stephen, to produce the graph to the right which tracks voter registration in Frederick County from 1966 to the present as well as who was President of the United States, Governor of Maryland, and Chair of the Frederick County Democratic State Central Committee. In 1966 there were 30,804 total registered voters in Frederick County, 17,580 (57.1%) Democrats, 12,470 (40.5%) Republicans, and 754 (2.4%) “other.” The total number of registered Democrats has steadily increased over the years, but the Republicans increased at a slightly higher rate until the early 1990s when Republicans surpassed Democrats in Frederick County. The more striking increase was among the “other” who went from

2.4 percent in 1966 to 24.48 percent currently. Why these changes?

In 1970 I wrote a thesis for a Master’s Degree from The George Washington University, entitled “Frederick County Politics, 1950-1970: A Study in Rural Conservatism.” As a part of my research, I read every issue of the Frederick News-Post and interviewed many of those who were elected to office during the period 1950 to 1970. While the Democrats had an edge over the Republicans in voter registration, the Republicans were very competitive in local elections and Republican candidates for statewide office, Congress and for President of the United States often carried Frederick County. I concluded that Frederick during that period was essentially a rural/small town county with rural and small-town values. Charles Adrian and Charles Press described the small-town dweller in this way: “his ideas are now only a reflection of America’s past. They are minority views. Perhaps more important, the small-town dweller often sees himself as surrounded by the hostile world of the big-city urbanite, a world he does not approve of or understand. His views represent a blend of those of Calvinism, the lower middle class, and the small-business man. They extend the blanket of legitimacy only over politics that are inadequate or inappropriate for present-day metropolitan America.” I concluded that the politics of the 1950s and 1960s in Frederick County, despite being a majority Democratic county, reflected those ideas.

My belief in 1970 was that Frederick was headed to a new, more progressive direction. I was encouraged by the election of Ron Young to the Frederick City Board of Aldermen in 1969 and the emergence of an active group of young Democrats. I thought that as Frederick grew in the 1970s and 1980s, Democratic values would prevail especially with people moving up from areas such as Montgomery

County into Frederick County. Alas, I was wrong. If anything, Frederick grew more conservative heading to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century as reflected in the Republicans catching up and passing Democrats in voter registration. While anecdotal in nature, my suspicion is that those who did move to Frederick from Montgomery County moved to get away from the increased taxes and liberal policies of Montgomery County. A big factor, in my assessment, for the increase in Republican registration was the presidency of Ronald Regan. President Regan’s conservatism, popularity, and likeableness shaped a whole generation. The sons and daughters of long-time Democrats living in Frederick registered as Republicans, and many became disillusioned with both parties, and the number registering as “other” began to rise. I must confess that when I was Chair of the Central Committee, the Republicans passed the Democrats in registration and had their greatest surge in registration and thereby developed the biggest gap between Democrat and Republican registration. As mentioned above, I do not think that those developments had anything to do with the local efforts that were made by the Democratic Party, but where the product of national trends. So why have the Democrats had a comeback? Again, without any hard evidence but only anecdotal, my theory is that the demographics of the country and of Frederick County are becoming more in line with Democratic values, i.e. less rural/small-townish and the newcomers to Frederick are more accustomed to reasonable taxes and want the services that they expect from their government. I predict that the trend of Democratic resurgence in Frederick County will continue.

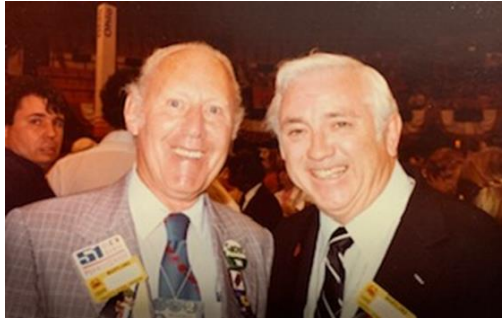
(See graph on next page)

Democrats mourn the recent deaths of Meade Felton, Catherine Burall, Paul Gordon, and Alison Gansler (Doug Gansler's mother). A new and recurring feature of this column will be a look back at the Banner 40 years ago (1980) when I was the editor: The Jefferson-Jackson Day Dinner was held at the Sheraton Inn with Congressman Beryl Anthony from Arkansas as the featured speaker.

The Central Committee of Maryland recommended temporary members of the committees for the upcoming Democratic Convention, including Maryland Comptroller Louis Goldstein for the Platform Committee and Pat Cushwa, from Washington County, for the Credentials Committee.

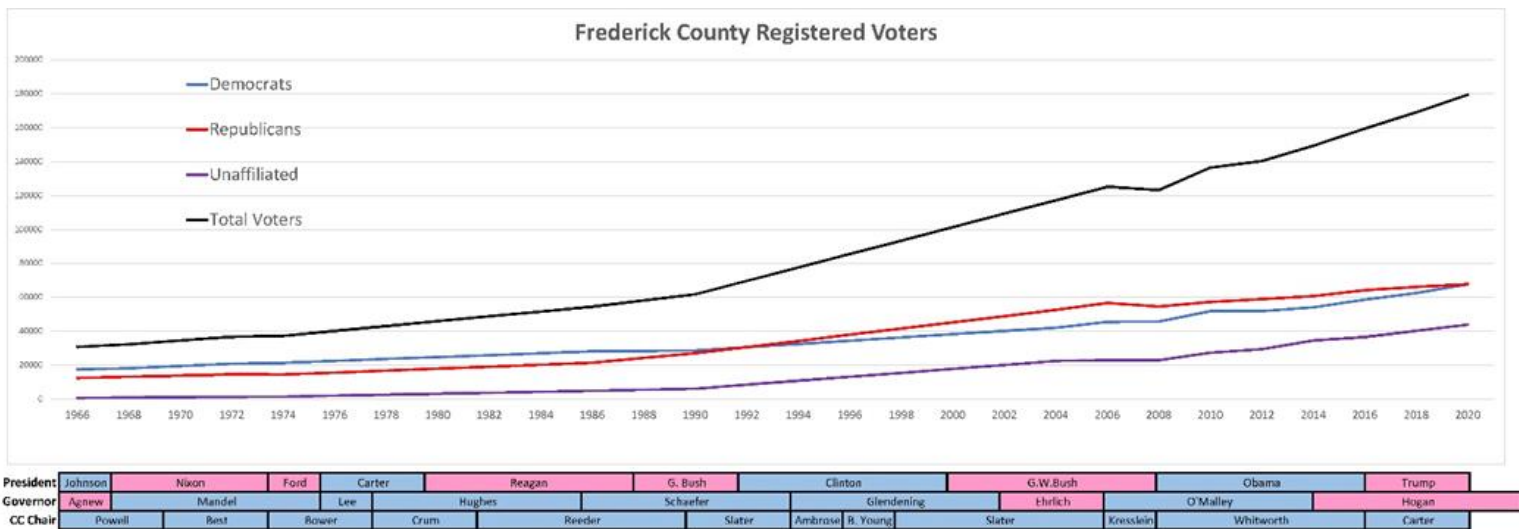


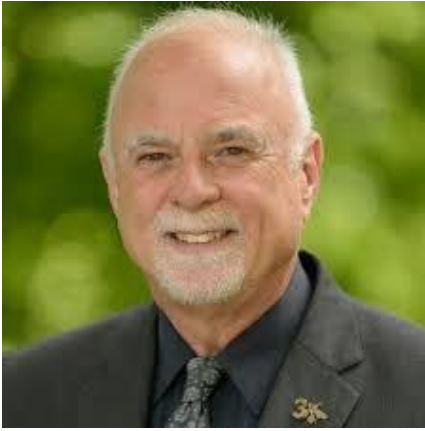
Congressman Beryl Anthony (Above)



Maryland Comptroller Louis L. Goldstein and State Senator Ed Conroy at the Democratic Convention in 1980. (Above)

The Central Committee recommended Chris Mathews to continue to serve on the F.C.C. Board of Trustees.





Delegate Ken Kerr

Frederick residents, I have been hard at work in Annapolis, representing Frederick and my constituents of District 3B. This year I have proposed bills addressing a number of topics ranging from combating the opioid crisis to opening up market access for local businesses. The following is a summary of several of those bills.

**HB0167 Unserved Student Populations**

Education is a worthwhile investment, however, the cost of education continues to rise and many students struggle to attend more affordable public institutions due to long commute times and limited coverage of public institutions.

HB0167 will allow community college completers to attend nearby private universities and finish their degrees at a lower cost when the mileage of commuting to a public four-year university is a significant impediment to completing their degree.

**HB0675 – Seizure Safe Schools – Brynleigh's Act**

Brynleigh's Act requires employee training in every Maryland public school for recognizing signs and symptoms of seizures and requires there to be at least two employees in every Maryland public school trained be able to administer

seizure first aid and medication when necessary.

This provides security to students, parents, and teachers by requiring trained staff on site to help in the case that a person in the school experiences a seizure. The Act would be named after Brynleigh, a resident of Frederick and constituent in District 3B.

**HB0880 - Healthy Working Families Act – Family Member-Definition**

I am proposing HB0880 to defend employee rights in the workplace. This bill would expand the scope of the Healthy Working Families Act, a landmark piece of legislation passed in 2017 that ensures paid sick and safe leave for employees in Maryland. HB0880 would expand the definition of family to include legal wards and wards of spouses to extend protections to more people who don't fall into the traditional family structure.

**HB0882 - Abandoned Property**

If you are an owner of a mutual fund, investment account, or several other types of financial accounts, you could be vulnerable to escheatment by your financial institution if you were to miss a first class mailed letter, and there had been no contact with the account holder for 3 years. For certain types of accounts, it is likely that the owner may indeed intend not to touch the account, but to let it grow, as they save for retirement.

HB0882 requires financial institutions to send a letter through registered mail that requires a signature from the account owner before an account may be deemed abandoned property, for accounts over a certain value amount.

**HB0156 - Sale of Harvested Cover Crops**

This bill would allow farmers to grow rye or two-row barley, remain in the current State cover-crop program, and also allow those farmers to sell the crop to local malting facilities and craft beverage manufacturers. This bill would help two major industries in Frederick: the farming and craft beverage industries.

I have also been working and meeting with many groups. Some of those groups have included the Maryland Consumer Rights Coalition, United Way of Frederick, Boys and Girls Club, Frederick County Public Libraries, Moms Demand Action, Frederick Arts Council, CASA de Maryland, The Sierra Club, ACLU of Maryland, and students from Frederick Community College.

I am privileged to represent Frederick County and District 3B and encourage you to stay in contact with my office.

Thank you,

Delegate Ken Kerr

[ken.kerr@house.state.md.us](mailto:ken.kerr@house.state.md.us)

301-858-3240

Lois Jarman- Board of Education

Greetings!

It is hard to believe that it has been more than a year since I was appointed to the Frederick County School Board. Much has happened, and I have learned a tremendous amount! I am please to announce that at our last BOE meeting, the board unanimously passed the Superintendent's proposed budget for 2020-2021.

I am very happy that we were able to include in this budget funds to improve our schools for our students, teachers, and staff. This budget begins to increase funding for mental health services for our students and to reduce class size. One of my goals since joining the board has been to work towards meeting the needs of the whole student, not just the academic student. Our FCPS students come to the classroom from a myriad of experiences and backgrounds and we need to provide an environment for them that enables them to learn.

I believe that providing more in terms of mental health care and reducing the number of students in a classroom will enable us to meet the social and emotional needs of our students. I think that FCPS is beginning a move in the right direction. It is my fervent hope that with the implementation of the Blueprint for Maryland's Future, the result of the Kirwan Commission Study, that we can continue to improve our schools. This is the beginning of the work.

I am running for another term on the BOE so that I can continue to work towards offering the best environment for our students, teachers, and staff. Please follow my Facebook page, Lois Jarman for Board of Education, or my website at [www.loisjarman.com](http://www.loisjarman.com)





Frederick Community College Professor Sue Johnson has announced she is running for a seat on the Frederick County Board of Education.

A 24 year resident of resident of Frederick County, Sue Johnson has taught over 3,000 students (most of them FCPS graduates) over her 23 year career in the Computer and Information Science department at FCC where she focuses on providing opportunities for underrepresented students in STEM fields. Prior to teaching, she worked in Chicago and overseas for Andersen Consulting, Lotus Development, and IBM designing large scale information systems for Fortune 100 companies.

Sue lives with her husband, Ed Johnson, a retired career firefighter on their crop and livestock farm in Jefferson along with their son Matt, a 2nd grader at Valley Elementary. Both Ed and Sue are volunteer firefighters and EMTs. Ed has been Chief or Assistant Chief for 36 out of the last 40 years at Carroll Manor Fire Company. Sue also takes her teaching skill outdoors to the baseball fields in Brunswick where she is a youth baseball coach and member of the Board of the Brunswick Railroaders Little League.

Sue is passionate about education and has a strong desire to ensure all students in Frederick County have access to a world class education. With big changes being proposed to the entire public education system in Maryland, Sue feels Frederick County needs strong leaders, now more than ever, who can navigate those changes to ensure Frederick County is poised to fulfill the promise of excellence in education.





Life has handed us A LOT of lemons with this current administration. Let's take democracy back one seat at a time! How can you help? Join **CLUBBLUE** with as little as \$5 a month and let the Frederick County Democrats do all the work. Click [here](#) to learn more, and to join!



Frederick County Democratic Party Podcasts

Be sure to listen in as we discuss all things of interest to local Dems.

Listen on [Soundcloud](#), [iTunes](#) or on your podcast app. Be sure to follow us too!



**Editor's Corner**

**Gmail** users – Our mail server may cause *The Banner* to be delivered to your email "Promotions" tab instead of your inbox. If you do not receive your monthly edition, please check for it in that tab. If it isn't there, please send me an email and I'll check your subscription. You may also view *The Banner* on our website by clicking [here](#).

**Banner Newsletter Ideas?**

Send me an email with your ideas, materials, or feedback for consideration.

Hope you enjoyed reading!

*Gabriel*

*Cassutto,*

[gabe.cassutto@gmail.com](mailto:gabe.cassutto@gmail.com)

or

Central Committee -

[info@frederickdemocrats.org](mailto:info@frederickdemocrats.org)



and



with

**Frederick County Democrats**

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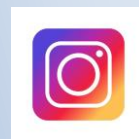
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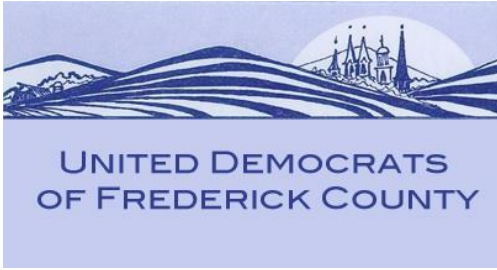
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**Check us out on YouTube too!**





Our February meeting was an introduction to the seven people running for the three Board of Education vacancies. We heard from Andrea Pilon Artman, David Bass, Rae Gallagher, Lois Jarman, Jason Johnson, Sue Johnson and Dean Rose. They told us about their backgrounds and reasons for running. We are very fortunate to have such a diverse and passionate group of candidates to choose from. There will be a more in depth discussion of the issues at the Before The Ballot event on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Urbana Library from 1-3pm. The event will be a co-hosted by the Women's Democratic League, the North County Democrats, the Young Democrats of Frederick County, the UDFC and the Frederick County Democratic Central Committee. We hope you can join us!

The March meeting will be on Monday, Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>. There will be combination of a Voter Registration training lead by members of the County Board of Elections and a separate business meeting discussing recent laws enacted to prohibit employers from asking job applicants about their criminal history on initial job applications.

The doors open up at 6pm with the program starting at 7pm. If there are any weather issues, we will post updates by noon Eastern Time on the Facebook page and send out an email. Per our policy, if the meeting is cancelled, we will move it to the next Monday evening at the same time.

Become a member! Dues are \$20 individual or \$35 family. As a reminder, dues are payable in January of each year. You can contact us at [UnitedDemsFrederick@yahoo.com](mailto:UnitedDemsFrederick@yahoo.com), by phone at 240-630-4280, or by mail

at P.O. Box 3882, Frederick MD 21705. We're also on [Facebook](#), so please "like" the page and interact with us there!

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[https://secure.actblue.com/donate/fcdp-gt-2020-drive?fbclid=IwAR338SNOuepfj0\\_WNHf4sqNtMc0kB1b4ySLMsVbj7Yv7n1W57nf0MeD0sXo](https://secure.actblue.com/donate/fcdp-gt-2020-drive?fbclid=IwAR338SNOuepfj0_WNHf4sqNtMc0kB1b4ySLMsVbj7Yv7n1W57nf0MeD0sXo)



**Tuesday, March 10th  
@ 8:00 A.M.**

IHOP Restaurant  
5277 Buckeystown Pike,  
Frederick  
(Westview Promenade)

**Come to the South Frederick  
County Democratic Meet-Up  
on the second Tuesday of the  
month for breakfast, lively  
conversation and discussion.**

**Need more information?  
Please contact Rolan Clark,  
[rolan.clark@comcast.net](mailto:rolan.clark@comcast.net).**

All are Welcome.  
Come when you can and leave  
when you must.

Hope to see you there!

## Join us for our March 2020 events



### **March 2** - Voter Registration Training

Hosted by UDFC at Cafe 611 @ 7:00pm

### **March 14** - Board of Education Forum

FREE and public event at Urbana Library  
Community Room @ 1:00 p.m. (doors open 12:30)  
ASL Interpreter provided by the Democratic Clubs

### **March 16** - Get Out the Vote activities & Legislation Update

Cafe 611 @ 7:00 p.m. (doors open at 6:30 p.m.)

**REMINDER** - Please pay your 2020 DUES online at [www.WDLFrederick.org](http://www.WDLFrederick.org) or at March meeting

You Are Cordially Invited to



# Before the Ballot

*A Non-Partisan Board of Education Candidates Forum*

*with*

Andrea Pilon Artman, David Bass, Rae M. Gallagher,  
Lois Jarman, Jason "Mr. J" Johnson, Sue Johnson, Dean Rose

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

12:30 p.m. Doors Open | 1:00 p.m. Program  
Urbana Regional Library Community Room  
9020 Amelung Street, Frederick

**Free & Open to the Public**

ASL Interpreter available

(The Community Room is on the ground floor in the back. Parking behind the library.)

The Urbana Regional Library does not endorse the views of the program sponsors or promoters.

Co-hosted by



The Frederick County Democratic Central Committee (FCDCC) and the local Democratic clubs and meet-up groups do not endorse candidates in a contested primary.

By authority: FCDCC, Tony Soltero, Treasurer

# Save The Date!

THE FREDERICK DEMOCRATIC PARTY

## Gala

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
**CONGRESSWOMAN  
MADELEINE DEAN**



Congresswoman Madeleine Dean represents Pennsylvania's Fourth Congressional District, a seat she flipped from red to blue in 2018.

In Congress she has been working hard to address issues that affect Americans deeply, including stopping gun violence and guaranteeing health care for all.

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22, 2020**

6 PM SOCIAL HOUR | 7 PM DINNER | 7:45 PM PROGRAM

**SPRINGFIELD MANOR**

MORE INFO COMING SOON AT [FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG](http://FREDERICKDEMOCRATS.ORG)

BY AUTHORITY: FCDCC, TONY SOLTERO, TREASURER





WE'RE SAVING FOR A SUNNY DAY!

# BE A MONTHLY SUSTAINER!

Your monthly contribution of \$5 or \$10 supports  
local Democratic candidates!

**SUSTAINERS ENJOY DISCOUNTS TO  
DEMOCRATIC EVENTS AND A  
FREDERCK DEMOCRATS TOTE BAG**

To join, visit [www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute](http://www.frederickdemocrats.org/contribute)  
By Authority: FCDCC Tony Soltero, Treasurer